

National Seniors

AUSTRALIA

Perth Western Suburbs WA

BRANCH NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2026

Meeting Venue: Our Branch meets at 9.30am for 10.00am on the second Thursday of each month, (except December & January), at Mount Claremont Community Centre, 109 Montgomery Avenue, Mount Claremont WA 6010.

Bank Accounts: Westpac Bank in name of National Seniors Australia Perth Western Suburbs Branch;

General BSB: 036 063 Account: 257852

Music BSB: 036051 Account: 649381

Tours BSB: 036051 Account: 649402

When making payment, please identify by your name & type of payment – e.g., “June Meeting”, “Concert”, etc.

Website:

<https://nationalseniors.com.au/about/branches/perth-western-suburbs>

Acknowledgement of Country

The Members of Perth Western Suburbs Branch of National Seniors Australia wish to acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Whadjuk Noongar Nation, on whose Lands we conduct our meetings, and pay our respects to the Noongar Elders past and present.

BRANCH OFFICERS & COMMITTEE FOR 2025/2026

President:	Joseph Lieberfreund	0429 809 080 joseph@airbell.com.au
Vice Pres:	David Thomas	0418 448 933 david@r2rservices.com.au
Secretary;	Rod McLaren	0412 678 050 mclarenr66@g,mail.com
Treasurer:	David Thomas	0418 448 933 david@r2rservices.com.au
Membership:	Marion Laws	08 9387 8383 marion_laws@hotmail.com
Newsletter:	Derek Cockle	0417 939 420 djcockle@bigpond.com
Committee:	Sue Haydon	0487 288 787 sueesther10@outlook.com
Committee:	Peter Ryan	0414 464 826 pdryan43@gmail.com
Committee:	Diana Ryan	0438 622 013 diryan41@gmail.com

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

What a mess the world seems to be in at present – ongoing wars between Russia and Ukraine, USA and Iran, Israel and terrorist groups in Gaza, Lebanon and Yemen, not to mention political upheavals in UK, US and even here at home !! Thank heavens excellent results by Australian athletes at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and for NSA to keep us reasonably sane here in Australia !

You will have recently received a letter from the Australian Bureau of Statistics requesting you complete the 2026 National Census on-line – good luck with that, especially to those of us who aren't particularly computer savvy ! However, you can apply for a paper copy by calling 1800 130 250 - if you can wait long enough to get an answer ! Don't forget Census has to be completed as of night of Tues 11 August.

Derek J Cockle - Editor

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



It seems like yesterday when we had our first meeting for the year, and now here we are already in August ! I hope to see you all at our next Branch meeting on Thurs 13 August when we will host David Hounscome who will talk on the history of Aboriginal Art. David was a former Voluntary Gallery Guide at the Art Gallery of Western Australia and has developed a deep knowledge of Aboriginal art through his years of guiding and study.

In July we heard the brilliant world class pianist Jude Holland perform for us in a recital that was remarkable for its complexity, depth and sheer virtuosity. We used our overhead projector to show Jude's hands while he played via a mobile file link and a connection to the in-situ projector. This very much enhanced our experience.

Our next concert will be on Thurs 20 August with the brilliant young violinist Ellie Malonzo and her quartet. Ellie has a stellar career in music ahead of her and will soon be relocating overseas to the Guildhall School of Music in London. Anyone who wishes to contribute to her overseas study and living expenses can do so via the Australian Cultural Fund website; - <https://artists.australianculturalfund.org.au>

Our AGM is on Thurs 10 September and everyone is encouraged to consider nominating for the Committee. As some of our Committee members are retiring, anybody is welcome to nominate. Our Secretary Rod McLaren will be distributing the nomination forms early next week.

Joseph Lieberfreund Branch President.

TREASURERS REPORT

As of 31 July (unaudited) balances were :-

General Account – “Free” cash available for general expenses, (other than concerts, tours or social events), is \$8,396 with no outstanding invoices.

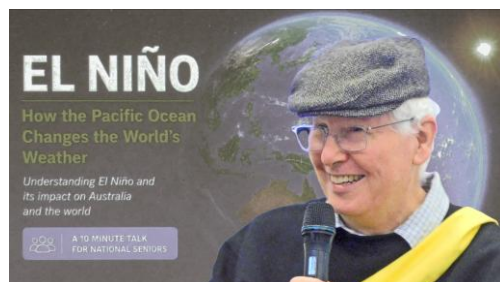
Music Account - \$488. Joseph has applied for donations and grants for future concerts and will report at our next Branch meeting.

Tours & Social Account - Nil. (No activities)

RECENT EVENTS

Thurs 9 June - Branch Meeting

Our initial speaker was none other than our President Joseph who provided an interesting exposition on El Nino and its effect on the Pacific Ocean and weather across Australia, and eventually on W.A. in particular.



President Joseph Lieberfreund

A strengthening El Nino is tightening its grip on Australia with the Bureau of Meteorology warning a warmer, drier stretch is about to bite across much of the country with much of the Southwest Land Division of W.A., southeast South Australia and most of the eastern states likely to miss out on the usual seasonal rain. Part of the north, including the Top End, are expected to be drier than normal.

Interestingly, his PowerPoint slides used to illustrate this weather phenomenon were developed using AI – artificial intelligence !

Our guest speaker was **Judith Amey** who addressed us on “Togo, Benin and Ghana”.

Judith's talk was about her visit and tour that she made to Ghana, Togo and Benin, exploring their peoples and culture. She described their unique local traits, including such things as burial caskets fashioned like sneakers, cars, soda bottles and crocodiles !



Judith Amey

Religions are varied and colourful. There is engagement in Voodoo, Christianity and Islam, all of which are practiced in these countries. Society is tolerant of all religions and often places of worship of different religions are situated alongside each other. The architecture of these building is unique: In Voodoo there are temples in the form of a Chameleon for example, while churches and mosques are marked by a distinctly local form of architecture involving mud structures supported by timber and daubed in whitewash, while the country is dotted with mud huts.

Names of shops and businesses incorporate epic biblical imagery. The use of such names is used to invoke divine blessing, build consumer trust, and outwardly express their faith. Examples are “Thy Will Be Done Spare Parts” and “My Redeemer Lives Pharmacy”.

Ghana developed and uses the British system of government and education, while Benin and Togo uses the French system and language. These states are known to be great traders across Africa.

Judith's talk was vividly enhanced by her excellent photos which were presented in the overhead slides, copies of which are available on request to Newsletter Editor Derek Cockle.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thurs 13 August – Branch Meeting – One of our previous guest speakers **David Hounsomer** will be returning to talk on art “**From Cave to Canvas**” and the origins and changes in Aboriginal Art due to outside influences, materials and technique.

David is English by birth and Australian by choice and having married an Australian in the UK who longed to return home, he migrated to Perth in 1972. He has two children both in Perth, was briefly a teacher before a long career in disability services where he was a director with the Disability Services Commission. He has also managed the Perth Theatre Trust. He is a graduate of the UWA and a long-time art lover who on retirement trained as a guide at the Art Gallery of WA while completing an art history course at TAFE.



His talk on Aboriginal art –“From Cave to Canvass will illustrate how cultural practice became a commercial product and much more. From rock art of the Kimberley and Kakadu to the breakthrough international recognition of the Papunya “school”, his talk will encompass a wide range of aboriginal art from many language groups. From Albert Namitjira's imprisonment, the work of the stolen generation at Carrolup (Katanning) to the art on the Yirrakala Petition and the 2017 Statement from the Heart. His talk engages with many aspects

of colonial settlement's impact on Aboriginal life and "art".

Thurs 20 Aug – String Quartet Concert featuring **Ellie Malonzo**, violin virtuoso, one of Australia's most remarkable young musical talents, who performed for us on a previous occasion. The program will include **Handel-Halvorsen** - Passacaglia (1894), **Arensky** - Piano Trio No. 1 in D Minor, Op. 32 (1894), **Ysaye** - Sonata for Two Violins, op. posth. (1915).

The concert will be held in the Banksia Hall, Mount Claremont Community Centre commencing at 10 am and concluding at about midday. Entry is \$20 and this includes refreshments in the interval. You can book via Humanitix, by emailing President Joseph or alliteratively, (and preferred), by payment to our bank account, identifying your payment by surname & "August Concert". Our bank details are:-

Bank: Westpac Bank

Account Name : NSA Music

BSB: 036-051 **A/C No:** 649 381

You could pay on the day at the entry door, although if the Hall is full, seats will be reserved for those who have paid in advance.

Thurs 10 Sept – Branch and Annual General Meeting. Guest speaker will be **Prof. John Mamo** speaking on "Diseases of the Brain". Details to follow.

Committee Nominations – In accordance with our Branch Constitution & Rules, all positions will become vacant at this meeting and several of the longstanding Officers and Committee members have indicated that they will not re-nominate for the forthcoming Branch year. It is therefore imperative that we receive multiple nominations for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, BNF Representative, Speaker Co-Ordinator, Tour/Social organiser, Newsletter Editor and three or four more Committee members for the ensuing year.

Secretary Rod McLenan will shortly be issuing Nomination Forms for completion by Branch **financial** members which must be returned to

him **by no later than Wed 26th August** for voting at the AGM.

We can't operate without your help, so unless we have Officers and Committee, our Branch may fold and cease to operate !!

BNF – WHAT IS IT ?

You may have heard mention of BNF which stands for "Branch Network Forum" which is composed of representatives from each of the Perth NSA Branches. They meet every second month at Citi Place, (adjacent to Perth Central Railway Station), for representatives to report on the activities of their Branch and to discuss common problems. When necessary, they report to and enlist the support or action by NSA Head office in Brisbane, for the benefit of Perth and all nationwide Branches.

TOURS & SOCIALS

We urgently need one or more volunteers to organise outings, tours, lunches and dinners – please offer your services to President Joseph or Marion Laws.

Thurs 20 Aug - Afternoon tea at T Box Café at Mt Claremont Golf Course – Usually held on third Thurs of each month, will CANCELLED as it clashes with the NSA concert on the same day. This gathering will resume next month.

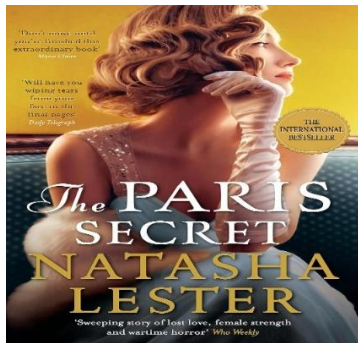
VIDEOS OF BRANCH MEETING SPEAKERS & CONCERTS

Thanks to Jeane-Pierre Hericher, our resident member photographer, his videos of some of our Branch meeting speakers and most the concerts will shortly be available on YouTube. The appropriate references will be advised to all members by separate email in due course.

BOOK REVIEW - "THE PARIS SECRET" by Natasha Lester

Published by Hatchett Pty Ltd Australia and New Zealand in 2020. 452 pages ISBN

Reviewed by Marlene Wilson



Natasha Lester has been voted one of The New York Times bestselling authors and is listed in the top ten Australian novelists. *The Paris Secret* is her fifth historical novel. She lives in Cottesloe with her three children and teaches writing.

The front cover of the novel picturing a glamorous socialite, might give the impression this is a frivolous, light read, but the novel will surprise you. Natasha has meticulously researched her main characters, and some are based on real people. Skye Penrose is one of the first women pilots in the British Royal Airforce in WW II. Her sister Liberty is working for the French Resistance and her childhood friend, Nicholas Crawford is a pilot, with whom she has a romantic meeting. He also has a secret and cannot divulge it, even to Skye.

We move to Paris in 1949 where Christian Dior is showing his new collections. Natasha cleverly weaves in the present day throughout the novel and we meet Kate Jourdan, a fashion conservator in Sydney, who finds Dior gowns in her grandmother's holiday home. Her grandmother is reticent to explain how she acquired them or reveal her past. Catherine Dior, Christian's sister, worked for the French Resistance and was imprisoned in

Ravensbrück concentration camp, after being tortured by the Gestapo. After she was released in 1945, her brother did not recognise her as she was so emaciated. He named his perfume "Miss Dior" after her.

This is an absorbing novel and beautifully written. Natasha's ability to write so eloquently on such contrasting themes: the bravery of the WW II pilots, the horrors of Ravensbrück concentration camp, the resilience of the people who worked for the French Resistance and the British SOE (British Operation Executive) and the descriptions of the beautiful Dior Gowns. I highly recommend this novel.

Editor - Our thanks to Marlene for her monthly Book Reviews.

NSA BRANCH MEMBERSHIP & DOOR FEES

If you are an occasional visiting non-member and would like to reduce the cost of \$15 to attending future meetings, please consider joining NSA – application forms are available at the front desk or online at the NSA website - www.nationalseniors.com.au. Member entry fee is only \$8.00 per meeting.

The member annual subscription is only \$49.50 per person, \$80 for a couple, or discounted for two years to \$88 or \$143, three years \$120 or \$180, five years \$220 or \$325).

Payment for all new subscriptions or renewals payment should be made **direct to NSA Head office** in Brisbane via their website to obviate our Treasurer having to make transfers from our account to Head office. However, if you have any difficulty with this please pay in cash or by credit card at next Branch meeting.

Please note – Payment for seats at all our music concerts should be made into our **separate Music Account** at Westpac Bank - BSB: 036051 Account: 649381 and not to our General Account.

A FEW JOKES

IN A SHOE REPAIR SHOP : “We will heel you. We will save your sole. We will even dye for you”.

AT A CAR DEALERSHIP : “The best way to get back on your feet – miss a car finance payment”

OUTSIDE A MUFFLER SHOP: “No appointment necessary – we will hear you coming !”

IN A RADIATOR SHOP : “Best place in town to take a leak !”

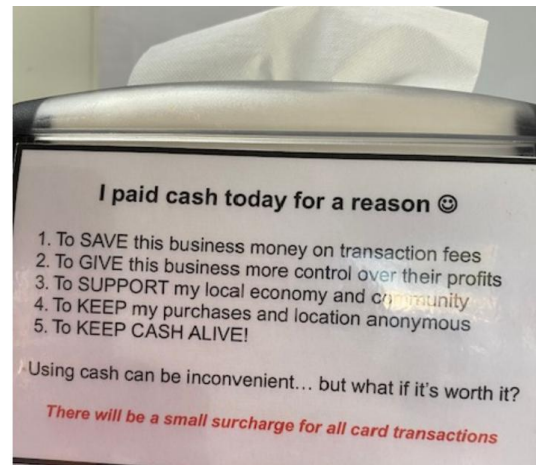
AT A VETINARIANS WAITING ROOM: “Be back in 5 minutes – Sit, Stay !”

AT THE ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY : “We would be delighted if you send in your payment on time, however, if you don't, you will be de-lighted”.

IN FRONT OF A FUNERAL PARLOUR: “Drive carefully – we will wait !”

ON THE BACK O A SEPTIC TANK TRUCK : “Caution – This truck is full of Political Promises”

Recently seen by a member at a bakery shop in Queensland – KEEP CASH campaign !!



PHOTOGRAPHY AND PRINTING OF OUR NEWSLETTER

In conclusion, we would acknowledge and thank our photographer member Jeane-Pierre Hericher for his tireless work videoing our concerts and taking photos of speakers, etc. at our Branch meetings.

We also thank the office of Churchlands MLA Basil Zempilas for printing our monthly

Newsletter and Branch meeting flyers !