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Good morning and welcome to this special day on our calendar. This is a first for our club, to "launch a book". We have Don Talbot to thank for asking us if he could bring his new book **There's Money in Pigs** to this meeting and along with that we have many visitors who one way or another have been involved in the Pig Industry. **Welcome everyone!**

Numbers were disappointing for our bus trip to Oakey Aviation Museum last month but those who were on the trip had a very informative tour followed by a delicious lunch at Bernborough Tavern.

There is a waiting list for our Christmas in July Luncheon on Tuesday July 23 to the Fox and Hounds Country Inn. Please make your payment of \$60 today to secure your seat on the bus. Pick up times are Clifford Gardens 7am and Carey Street 7.15am. Some time is being allowed for you to wander around Mt Tamborine Village and have a Cuppa before we go to lunch.

Thank you to the fifty volunteers who have added their names to the **Volunteers List** for the **Seniors Expo** on **August 22, 2019** at the **Clive Berghofer Recreation Centre, 20 Baker Street**. Please mention this day to any club or organisation you may belong to. Entry is free! Bring your friends.

We have names of people who want to order blue shirts to wear at the Expo. Before you leave today we need to know what size you require. Joyce has a tape measure to check your size. We are hoping that as many of you as possible will be able to come to the Recreation Centre about 1.30 to 2pm the day before to look at where you will be volunteering, listen to the safety drill. and learn what you will be doing on the day. Exhibitors will be coming to set up after 3pm.

All committee positions will be declared vacant at the AGM next month. [Nomination forms are available today.](#) We cannot operate without an executive and committee! **Please help.**

**Outings to mark on your calendars:**

Sunday August 18	First Day of SENIORS WEEK
Monday August 19	Garden City Branch AGM
Thursday August 22	<b>SENIORS EXPO</b>
Tuesday Sept 24	Texas Rabbit Works Cost \$75

Quote: *If you don't know where you are going, any road will take you there.* George Harrison

## CONNECT EXTRACTS July 2019.

### **An Independent Pension Tribunal to set the deeming rate?**

Last week there was another interest rate cut and talk of more to come. That's bad news for anyone with a savings account, and doubly so for those being assessed for aged pension eligibility.

While actual rates have dropped like a stone, 'deemed rates' have remained fixed. And it's those rates – set at 3.25% for assets above \$51,800 and 1.75% below that figure – which affect the amount of pension you receive.

It's time this absurdity - this inequitable, punitive situation - was addressed. Because don't we all wish we were achieving 3.25% interest on our savings? When Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg, demands that the banks pass on the full interest-rate cut, he should be embarrassed by Government's failure to take the same equitable approach in-house.

The deeming rate tracked alongside the reserve bank cash rate from 1997 up until about 2010. It was either the same as, or slightly below, the cash rate.

Then in March 2010, that all changed; there was a clear policy decision to place the deeming rate above the cash rate. It's time to reverse that appalling decision. The last time the deeming rate was lowered was back in March 2015 when Scott Morrison was the Social Services Minister.

Since then we've witnessed a 1.25% drop, with pundits expecting more to come.

### **Good and bad – Home Care packages update**

The latest release of the Australian Government's home care packages waitlist has revealed the queue has grown. There are now more than 129,000 older Australians waiting for subsidised home care.

However, the rate of demand outstripping supply has slowed, which could be explained by additional packages announced last year, coming on stream.

National Seniors continues to press the Morrison Government to do more to meet demand and stop the situation where at-risk people, who qualify for a package are dying or moving into aged care facilities before getting care support

*There is much more in each weeks **Connect** emailed from National Seniors.*