

National Seniors

AUSTRALIA

Perth Western Suburbs WA

BRANCH NEWSLETTER - MARCH 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
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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

With help from our hardworking President Joseph, I've been able to complete another Newsletter, which we hope you will find interesting. However, **we do need articles from you our members** – your interesting past or present occupation, travel experiences, etc. Please email to me before end of each month for publishing in following month's edition.

If ringing my mobile below, due to so many scam & rubbish calls, I please leave an SMS with your name & number & I'll ring you back.

Derek J Cockle Editor

Email: djcockle@bigpond.com

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Our first meeting on 12 February was well attended and supplemented by energetic opening speakers and a well stocked morning tea. Our committee meeting held the week before was the first we have held using Microsoft Teams as a medium which allowed attendance from home and avoided the sometimes long distances committee members have to travel.

The committee is going to be considering our catering costs with a view to deciding whether these costs should be allowed to run high in order to provide a variety of food at morning tea, or whether we should just provide modest fare.....

We have a wonderful group of volunteers who provide sterling service in many areas. We are still searching for a magazine editor so if any of you feel up to this job, please contact me.

Meanwhile I look forward to seeing everyone in March where we shall hear whether the Vikings were just marauding mayhems or perhaps something more.....

Joseph Lieberfreund

Branch President.

TREASURES' REPORT

Treasurer David Thomas reports that our cash balances are healthy with \$8,400 in the general account and \$840 in the music account. The cost of meetings is almost at break-even given our catering costs, while other overheads are under control and covered by our door fees.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thurs 12 March – Branch Meeting

Initial speaker is being organised

Following on from our tea break, we will be addressed by our guest speaker **Neil Dahl** who is a retired geologist who grew up in Denmark hearing tales of Norsemen, collectively known as the Vikings. He studied at Copenhagen University and worked in Greenland, Norway and Sweden before migrating to Australia where he worked in exploration and later became a teacher.



Neil will give an overview of the Viking Age which was during the Middle Ages from about 800 to 1050 BC. The Vikings launched large-scale raids to conquer, colonise and trade throughout Europe and were also the first Europeans to reach North America where they settled in Newfoundland.

Thurs 9th April Branch Meeting

Initial speaker is being organised.

Our main guest speaker will be **Professor Alan R Harvey** (picture below) who will be addressing us on ***Music, Movement and Healthy Aging.***



Professor Alan R Harvey, our Speaker on 9 April.

RECENT EVENT REVIEWS

Thurs 12 February – Branch Meeting

Initial speakers were **Maureen Frankham and Megan Bagworth** who brought us up to date on the State Government proposals for the new ferry terminal on Matilda Bay and the many objections from the public and boating clubs using the bay, including Royal Perth Yacht Club disability sailors who would probably be unable to continue due to the ferry traffic.

Most objectors supported the use of existing jetty, parking & other facilities at Jo-Jo's but apparently the government minister will not listen. The speakers urged members to attend a public meeting at Matilda Bay next Friday 19 Feb to support attempts to get the government to change their mind on ferry location.

Our guest speaker was **Denise Beer**, (photos below),



who gave us a presentation on *“The Beatles: Yesterday to Today”*. This included the “Fab Four” Beatles story from its formative days through the Beatlemania phase, their breakup and experiences through until today, including

playing recordings of some of their most popular songs & music, (after overcoming problems with her tape recorder !!)

SOCIALS

Thurs 19th March - Afternoon tea at T Box Café at Mt Claremont Golf Course from 2 pm. This gathering gives us time to chat and get to know new people, so everyone is welcome, especially newcomers to our group. Come alone or bring a friend.

ECONOMICS CORNER

Data Centres – How Big is This Industry, what are they and who owns them?

Data Centres are a modern day phenomenon. The estimated current value of the dedicated data centre industry is estimated to be US \$300 billion. Estimated revenue into this industry in 2026 is slated to be \$US 400 billion. The investment in data centres worldwide in 2026 is estimated to rise to US\$ 1 trillion, driven mainly by artificial intelligence, know as AI.

A data centre is “a large group of networked computer servers, typically used by organizations for remote storage, processing and distribution of large amounts of data.”

Most businesses and government departments use data centres. The thing called “the cloud”, which you hear so much, about is exactly that - it is a data centre – or rather whole groups of them, where data is stored and where a lot of computing takes place.

So nowadays when a business sets up its systems, or when you personally buy your subscription to Microsoft or Apple, your data and all the processing can, as part of your subscription, be “saved to the cloud”. In other words, saved to data centres somewhere. Nowadays less and less data is stored on your hard drive which is sometimes actively discouraged, especially in business. Data centre storage is seen as much more secure, and in many ways much more useful, because through those centres data can be shared and

used whether you are physically in that business or whether you have moved on or, as is so popular these days, working from home.

One obvious advantage is that when you change your computer or iPad or mobile phone, all the data you have, (photographs for example), are stored remotely in data centres, and you lose nothing when you make the change.

You can think of a data centre like a vast warehouse full of filing cabinets filled with your files and those of everybody else. All the filing cabinet drawers are labelled, and so your files are kept secure just for you. You can change your office location, even move from one country to another, but your files are securely kept for you in this vast warehouse where all your files are stored. Storage, retrieval and data security are some of the main key functions of data centres.

They go beyond that however. Data centres instantly retrieve and compute as well. You can access your files and change them. You can copy them and send copies anywhere. You can allow others to access to any file or part of a file; you can delete and archive your files and the more you pay, the bigger is your storage. As a user, the access to your files is seamless. Most users are unaware of the data centre or that it even exists. It is as if the files you are using are kept on your own hard drive.

In Australia we have over 250 data centres, mainly located in the big coastal cities.

They are owned by companies we have probably never heard of, including Vantage, NEXTDC, Equinix, CDC & Digital Realty.



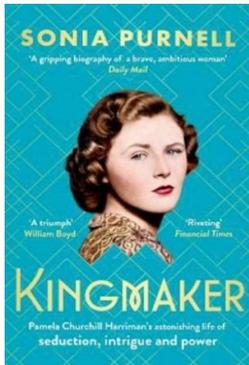
A typical data Centre – Banks upon Banks of Servers and Data Storage Facilities

MAJOR DATA CENTRE PROVIDERS OPERATING IN AUSTRALIA						
Provider Details		Number of Operational Data Centres		World-Wide Electricity Usage		Worldwide Employees
Name	Ownership	AUS	Total	MW	How Many Homes Can This Power?	Approx
Vantage AI	Private. Institutions	1	35	2,600	2.2 million	2,000
Air Trunk	Private. Institutions	5	11	1,800	1.6 million	750
NEXTDC	Public. ASX code: NXT	17	17	165	120,000	285
Equinix	Public. NASDAQ code: EQIX	19	280	3,000	2.6 million	5,100
CDC Data Centres	Private. AU and NZ Institutions.	22	22	372	325,000	375
Digital Realty	Public. NYSE code: DSR	7	300	2,850	2.5 million	3,900

BOOK REVIEW -

“KINGMAKER”. By Sonia Purnell

Published by Virago Press, UK. (2024), ISBN 0349014752. 512pages



Reviewed by Marlene Wilson.

Sonia Purnell has written an amazing biography about Pamela Churchill Harriman, Winston Churchill's daughter-in-law. Pamela was born in 1920 to Pansy and Kenny Digby; her father was the 11th Baron Digby. The family owned a castle in Ireland (later burnt) with 34,000 acres, a Dorset mansion, with a yearly income of 1.8 million in today's money and a home in Belgravia, London.

Pamela was educated at home until she went to boarding school and was part of an elite social circle with servants and holidays abroad. When she met Randolph Churchill, Winston's eldest son, she was warned he was an alcoholic and philanderer who was constantly in debt. It was not a happy marriage but both Winston and Clemantine adored her, and she became Winston's confidant and he often sought her advice. Churchill called her his secret weapon during WWII, seducing Americans to the British side in the fight against Hitler. She had a son to Randolph, but they divorced in 1946 and she had a fractured relationship with her son, Winston.

After her divorce she had many affairs and was involved with Prince Ali Khan, Gianni Angnelli and Baron Elie de Rothschild, which earned her

the title of the greatest courtesan of the century. She moved to America and married Heyland Hayward, a Broadway producer, and moved in luxurious circles between New York and a country estate. After his death she married W. Averall Harriman, one of the wealthiest men in America. She became an American citizen and with Averall's money she donated large amounts to the campaigns of JFK and later Bill Clinton. They lived in Washington and entertained lavishly with guests such as the Kennedys, the Clintons and movie stars such as Frank Sinatra. In 1993 Clinton appointed her as United States Ambassador to France. By all accounts she educated herself for the role and did a great job.

However, her many affairs have written her off as a social climber and courtesan, particularly in the UK. Purnell sees Pamela as so much more, and this is a fascinating insight into the life of a very influential woman.

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

REMINDER & PLEA !

Please remember that Branch meeting fees have now increased – **Members \$8.00 & non-member(guests) \$15.00.**

A final plea – able bodied assistance in setting out tables and chairs prior to our meetings

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 & 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 – all much appreciated !