

National Seniors

AUSTRALIA

Perth Western Suburbs WA

BRANCH NEWSLETTER – MAY 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

At our recent March Branch meeting three of our members gave brief talks on their careers and experiences, which seem to be well received. I'm sure there are many members who have enjoyed an interesting life, career or a recent holiday that they may like to share with us.

If you think this is a good idea and would like to give short 10 - 15 talk on any subject which you may think would be of interest, please let me know.

Derek J Cockle

Editor,

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



The next few months will be busy for us as we will soon be hosting two concerts – one on June and one in August with a further one probably in November, before the annual Christmas Concert.

As well we have a host of interesting speakers and presentations and in September our AGM.

We have an important budget being handed down on 12 May, so by the time we meet on 14 May this will already have happened. Our young people see owning a house as a distant wish, which is a shame and a chronic imbalance brought about by fierce competition for labour services of all kinds from Asia putting downward pressure on salaries and wages while an influx on new immigrants is continuously putting pressure on available housing stock.

The government is between a rock and a hard place and we must be vigilant that plundering baby-boomer savings does not become too enticing to solve these problems....

Joseph Lieberfreund

Branch President.

TREASURERS REPORT

Our General Account to end of April has a healthy balance of \$9,215 with no outstanding invoices, Music Account \$1,517 including prepayments for upcoming 7 May concert & Tours & Social Account \$1,040 including prepayments for Bentley Restaurant.

THURS 7 MAY – MUSIC CONCERT

Our first concert for the year was held at our usual venue at Mount Claremont Community Hall and was attended by over 80 members and guests. We welcomed back and were entertained by the very talented young Ryan Lee on violin and Gladys Chua on piano, playing music by Brahms, Mozart, Bach and others.

If you missed the concert, it was videoed by our resident member photographer Jeane-Pierre Hericher and will shortly be available on YouTube – details to be advised.

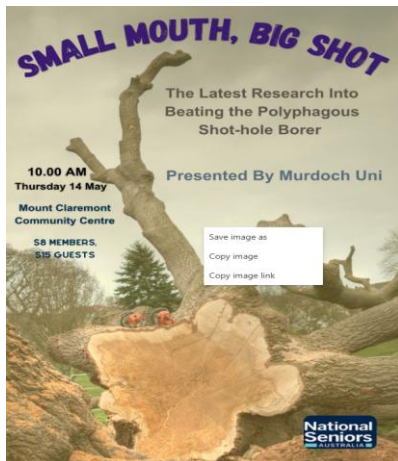


ORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thurs 14 May – Branch Meeting

Our initial speaker will be **Judith Hatton** of Western Suburbs Cares who will bring us up to date on latest news on home care and services that her company offer.

Following our usual sumptuous tea break, we will be addressed by members of a Murdoch University research team on their breakthrough work to produce a cure to hopefully eliminate the polyphagous shot hole borer, which has had disastrous effects on many trees throughout W.A. and interstate.



Thurs 11 June - Branch Meeting

“Rethinking Funerals.” - Guest Speaker - **Cara Walker**, Director of Walker Family Funerals which is one of Perth’s newest independent funeral companies, offering unique, transparent, and cost-effective services for families.

Their mission is to break down barriers around end-of-life and funeral care by opening up honest, engaging conversations in the community.

With experience as a Funeral Director, Death Doula, Grief Counsellor, and Celebrant, Cara offers a broad range of expertise to support and guide the community through life’s most tender moments. Whether you have questions about end-of-life care, funeral planning, or the grieving process, she will share her insight and practical advice with compassion and understanding.

Her talk explores modern funeral options that are personalised, reflecting the life and individuality of each person, sustainable, including eco-conscious and natural approaches and affordable – with clear, transparent pricing and planning choices.

The session is not morbid or heavy – it’s an uplifting and practical discussion that encourages people to think about living fully, planning wisely, and embracing the many choices now available.



Thurs 18 June – Piano Recital by Jude Holland

Thurs 9 July – Branch Meeting
Watch this space - details to be advised !

Thurs 20 Aug – String Quartet with Ellie Malonzo

Thurs 10 Sept – Branch and Annual General Meeting.

Yes, I know some way ahead, but please give early consideration to nominating as President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer & Committee for the ensuing year.

Our ever-popular guest speaker **Geoffrey Thomas** has again offered to bring us his light-hearted and often amusing up-date on all things travel and aviation, which you can look forward to and enjoy !

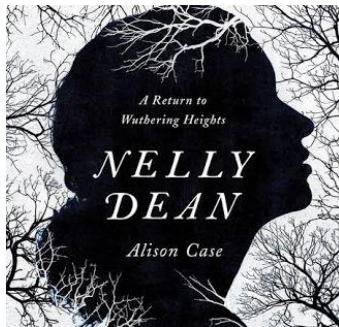
TOURS & SOCIALS

15 May – Bentley Pines Restaurant Lunch – Attendance at this ever-popular event is limited to 40 persons. So far over 26 members and guests have booked, so if you want to go, please don’t delay, register and pay \$40 per person into NSA Westpac **Tours Account** – BSB: 036051 A/C : 649402 (**NOT** General Account), *identifying with “Your name(s) & Bentley Lunch”*

Thurs 21 May - Afternoon tea at T Box Café at Mt Claremont Golf Course – Usually held on third Thurs of each month, will be 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.

BOOK REVIEW - "NELLY DEAN" by Allison Case. Published by The Borough Press, Harper Collins (2016). 460 pages ISBN: 10: 0008123381



Reviewed by Marlene Wilson

Those of us who have read *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte or watched the movie will be captivated by the cleverly reimagined novel by Allison Case. It is narrated in the first person by Nelly a loyal servant at *Wuthering Heights* and we are drawn into the Victorian era by Case's exquisite writing.

This historical novel begins with a letter to Mr Lockwood and tells Nelly's story. Young Nelly is a companion to Hindley, the heir to Earnshaw Estate and her devotion and loyalty to him throughout her life is a theme of the novel. Later as a valued servant, her role in the household is crucial.

When Mr Earnshaw brings the orphan Heathcliff into the home it causes friction. Hindley is jealous and Cathy, his sister, is fascinated by this wild boy and forms a close bond. As illness, death and betrayal sweep through the home Nelly remains loyal, but her love for Hindley is tested.

The novel is fascinating and can stand alone, even if you have never read *Wuthering Heights*. Case is a professor of Literature with an interest in Victorian literature and has captured the era extremely accurately. This interesting tale from a different viewpoint will add to your understanding of Victorian England.

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

AUSTRALIND TRAIN SERVICE

Rita Scaffioti, Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Transport, Sport and Recreation has just announced that the Australind train service between Perth and Bunbury will resume from Monday, 29 June 2026. The W.A. State Government has committed \$45 million in the 2026-27 State Budget to support these increased services.

The service will reconnect Perth and Bunbury, with four new modern Australind trains set to provide passengers with a more comfortable and convenient journey to and from the Southwest.

The new Australind trains will be reintroduced in stages, with the first train entering service from 29 June, and the remaining three trains to follow over the coming months. Some coach services will operate until the second train comes online.

The four three-car trains represent a significant upgrade to the older fleet, replacing the previous railcars which started services in 1987. They will feature contemporary interiors with LED lighting, in-seat USB-C charging, improved accessibility, an onboard buffet and dedicated storage for 14 bicycles per train.

The trains will also feature unique Aboriginal artwork by a local Indigenous artist, celebrating the culture and connection of the Southwest and ensuring each train has its own distinctive identity.

The Australind's stopping pattern will remain unchanged, with services operating on the original route between Perth and Bunbury, stopping at Armadale, Byford, Mundijong, Serpentine, North Dandalup, Pinjarra, Waroona, Yarloop, Cookernup, Harvey and Brunswick Junction.

Here's a chance for us W.A. Seniors to enjoy FREE travel using our travel vouchers but booking has to be made though Transwa.

How about an NSA group outing to Bunbury, perhaps including a visit to the Dolphin Discovery Centre ?

REMINDER & PLEA !

Please remember that Branch meeting fees have now increased – **Members \$8.00 & non-member(guests) \$15.00**. These increases are necessary to cover our increased cost of catering and Branch administration.

If you are an occasional visiting non-member and would like to reduce the cost of 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.

The annual subscription is only \$49.50 per person, \$80 for a couple, or discounted for 2 years to \$88 or \$143, 3 years \$120 or \$180, 5 years \$220 or \$325).

Please make payment for all new subscriptions or renewals **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 card at next Branch meeting.

A final plea – able bodied assistance in setting out tables and chairs prior to our meetings would be much appreciated – we meet at 8.45 am prior to meeting.

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 – all much appreciated !

