

# National Seniors

## AUSTRALIA

### Perth Western Suburbs WA

## Branch Newsletter - November 2025

**Meeting Venue:** Our Branch meets at 9.30am for 10.00am on the second Thursday of each month 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>

Our meetings may be subject to the COVID-19 regulations of the day as imposed by the WA State Government and the City of Nedlands. However, there are presently no restrictions.

### 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  
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**Vice Pres:** David Thomas 0418 448 933  
david@r2rservices.com.au

**Secretary:** Rod McLaren 0412 678 050  
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**Treasurer:** David Thomas 0418 448 933  
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**Membership:** Marion Laws 08 9387 8383  
marion\_laws@hotmail.com

**Newsletter:** Derek Cockle 0417 939 420  
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**Committee:** Sue Haydon 0487 288 787  
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**Committee:** Peter Ryan 0414 464 826  
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**Committee:** Diana Ryan 0438 622 013  
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### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

A willing volunteer will be required to edit future editions of this Newsletter from next February onwards, (no editions in Dec or Jan), so time to give it thought and step forward. Initial assistance will be provided.

Contributions for the February edition will be much appreciated by the new Editor – your recent travel experiences, funny stories, whatever! **Articles please initially to me by Wed 21 January 2026.**

Finally, I wish all members a very happy Christmas and a healthy and enjoyable 2026.

*Derek J Cockle*

Retiring Editor,

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



This is a busy time of year for our Branch with numerous events scheduled from October to December. First and foremost a huge thank you to all our tireless volunteers who operate in various spheres of our Branch's activities. Without them we simply could not function.

The focus in the next two months is to host all our various events seamlessly and smoothly so that we can all enjoy them. The Christmas lunch, the Christmas concert and the Fremantle Port Authority tour and our Branch meeting on Thurs 13 November with guest speaker Geoffrey Thomas.

Already discussions are proceeding for next year's music calendar and guest speaker presentations.

We have entered into an arrangement with Grant Thornton Accountants who will update us with the latest in tax and superannuation news every now and then. They will also have a presence at the back of the meeting hall should anybody want to consult them about these things, which are important to us all. Discussions are afoot with Western Suburbs Cares, a home service provider with the same intention to have their presence at the back of the hall and some updates now and then into age care legislation and services.

Attendance at our meetings are at very good levels, thanks to excellent speakers, again the result of hard work and effort by our volunteer cohort.

Your queries or questions are always most welcome, so please email or phone me, your calls and ideas are always valued.

Page 2 of 6

*Joseph Lieberfreund* Branch President.

## RECENT EVENTS

**Tues 30 September– Seminar - “Wills and Estates”** presented by Simon Gow of Grant Thornton, Chartered Accountants and McLane Edinger of Hall and Wilcox, Solicitors.

Copies of their screen presentations have been sent out; copies are available from Joseph Lieberfreund or Derek Cockle.

**Branch Meeting Thurs 9 October** – Following our usual business announcements, John Palmer gave a short talk on his “Affordable Photo Restoration Service” with some “before and after” examples of his work.



If you would like to avail your self of his services, he can be contacted on mob:

0416 504 980, email:

[johnsphoto restoration@gmail.com](mailto:johnsphoto restoration@gmail.com) or his website <https://johnsphoto restoration.com>

Our guest speaker was Alex Jenkins, Director, W.A. Date Science Innovation Hub and Chair of Curtin University “AI Research Group” who explained the mysteries of “Artificial Intelligence” illustrated by many examples.



**Sun 26 October - Concert - "On a Sunday in October"** was held at Paul Latham Auditorium at Churchlands Senior High School attended by about 200 members & guests. The NSA Chamber Orchestra of 32 talented young musicians was conducted by Daniel Corvaia. Great music, superb orchestra, brilliant conductor and a world class 15-year-old solo violinist Ellie Malonzo.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Thurs 6 November - Sabrina Hahn –**  
Meeting will commence at 10 am at Mount Claremont Community Centre, finishing about midday with a refreshment break.



Sabrina will speak on how to:

- maintain your garden when your knees and back are wearing out.
- make changes to the garden so that your garden looks beautiful without physical strain.
- deal with pest and disease issues in a changing climate.
- keep what looks great in the garden in summer and how to keep it that way.

Questions are most welcome, but *please wait for the microphone to come to you so that everyone can hear your question !*

Registration is essential to Joseph Lieberfreund, whose contact info is on first page. Entry charge is \$8 for members and \$20 for non-member guests. Pay at the door.

**Branch Meeting Thurs 13 November –**  
Guest speaker will be the ever-popular **Geoff Thomas**, former West Australian aviation & travel journalist and former editor of [airlineratings.com](http://airlineratings.com), who will be bringing us up to date with an illustrated talk on *"All things Travel & Aviation"*. Refer to separate notice.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Sunday 21 December – Christmas Concert**  
will be held at the Taryn Fiebig Concert Hall. Commencing at 7 pm. Cost \$25. A2 Orchestra and the Winthrop Choir. Refreshments will be provided. Refer separate detailed notice. Bookings on Eventbrite and Humanitix are open and tickets can also be purchased at the next Branch meeting in November.



## TOURS & SOCIALS

**Fri 31 October – Bentley Pines Training Restaurant Lunch** – This popular event organised by Adolph de Sousa was fully booked with 40 attendees. Congratulations to John Uyen who celebrated his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday with us !



*91<sup>st</sup> Birthday Boy John Uyen with Vice President David Thomas & Christel Bouton*

An additional lunch at the same very popular venue has been organised for those unable to attend. Enquiries to Adolph de Sousa.

**Thurs 20 Nov - T Box Café at Mt Claremont Golf Course** - Afternoon tea will be on from 2pm. 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. Marion Laws will be hosting this gathering, so for more information please call her on mob: 0437 115 751.

## **Thurs 27 November – Tour of Fremantle Port Authority.**

This free 90-minute guided walk will visit many interesting historical features around the port. Members and guests should meet at 10 am at the O'Connor statue in front of the tall Port Authority building. Note that a fair degree of fitness is required, although on flat surfaces. Lunch after the walk will be at a nearby local venue at your own cost.

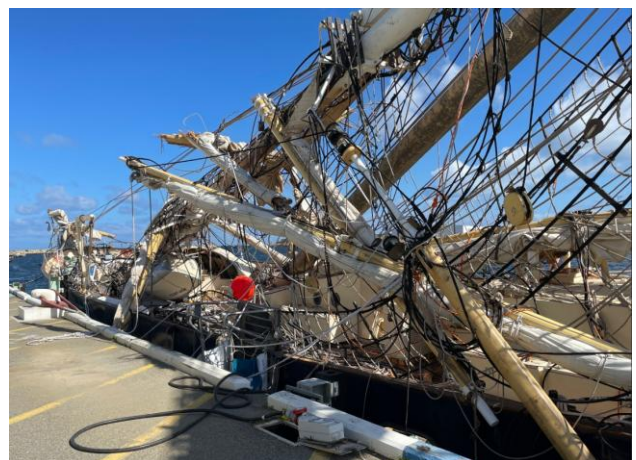
Please register your interest with organiser Jennfer Allan, phone 9384 5863 or email: [johnox1@aapt.net.au](mailto:johnox1@aapt.net.au).

## **Tuesday 9 December – Christmas Lunch**

The Christmas Lunch this year will again be held at the University Club Restaurant on Tues 9 December 2025, commencing at 12.00 pm. Two course lunch plus entrée with house wines and soft drinks complimentary. Cost \$65 per head. Refer to recent circular regarding reservation & payment.

## **STS LEEUWIN II – UPDATE by crew & maintenance volunteer Derek Cockle**

You may recall from many press and TV articles that sail training ship Leeuwin, moored in her usual berth against the wharf in Fremantle Harbour, was badly damaged by an out of control very large container ship in the early hours of Friday 29 August.



The tangled mess of spars & rigging

Whilst all three masts, spars, rigging and most sails were destroyed, fortunately the hull was not damaged. The debris was removed from the ship a few weeks later, but there was a long delay whilst insurance companies and lawyers tried to determine who was responsible and who should pay for the major repairs.



New spars being made in Robin Hicks workshop

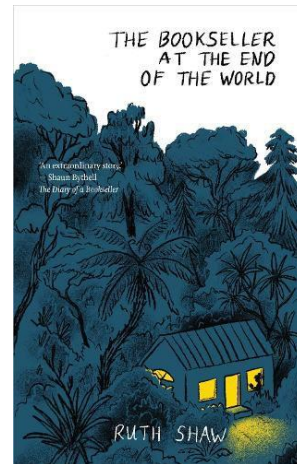
The ship was eventually motored down to Henderson and dry docked in October for just over three months whilst the ship was repaired and new steel lower masts installed. At the same time the opportunity was taken to carry out other major internal works, including removal and overhaul of engines and generators, installation of new refrigeration and air conditioning plant, new water tanks and complete external repainting and antifouling.



At long last the ship returned to Fremantle Harbour on Thurs 23 Oct so that rebuilding can be completed.

It is hoped to recommence day & evening public sails and youth voyages in late January and I will advise when information is available.

**BOOK REVIEW – “THE BOOKSELLER AT THE END OF THE WORLD”** by Ruth Shaw published by Allen & Unwin, New Zealand (2022). 320 pages ISBN 9781988547756



Reviewed by Marlene Wilson.

**Ruth Shaw** has written an interesting memoir about her adventurous life and her wee bookshop in Manapouri, Fiordland in the South Island of New Zealand.

The many and varied jobs Ruth undertakes leaves one's head spinning. She joined the WRENS and may have been the first in New Zealand to go AWOL (absent without leave) after serving two and half years and eventually discharged. She cooked for priests in Wellington, crewed the sailing boats and yachts and was held up by pirates in the Pacific. Her time spent as a cook in Papua & New Guinea and working with drug addicts in King's Cross in Sydney attest to her amazing adventurous spirit.

Ruth's various travels and occupations are often escapes from trauma in her relationships, but she never admits to this or wallows in self-pity. Her story is interspersed with descriptions of the characters she meets in her wee

bookshop and her love of people and books shine through.

You will love this book which portrays a woman who lives her life to the full and finds love and happiness with her first love who she meets again many years later. One can only admire Ruth's courage to write such a heartfelt memoir.

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

### NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

As you may be aware, at our recent Branch AGM some new Committee members were elected.

**Rod McLaren** as our new Branch Secretary. having previously been secretary for the former Perth Branch. He has been a member of NSA for past nine years. Prior to retirement he spent over 50 years in aviation, including 15 years as a senior Airworthiness Inspector with CASA and previous 3 years with Civil Aviation Dept of PNG as air accident investigator. He is also a Legal Practitioner.



Peter & Diana Ryan

Peter Ryan joined AMP when he arrived in Australia with Diana in January 1978, first as an agent and later as financial adviser. He retired in 2002. Diana worked at UWA in various departments as an admin secretary until retirement in 2001.

### 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 paying in cash, please assist our hardworking front desk volunteer staff by providing the correct amount. 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](http://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 to obviate our Treasurer having to make transfers from our account to Head office.

### 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 !*