



Meets at 9.30am for 10.00am on the second Thursday of each month at Mt Claremont Community Centre, 109 Montgomery Avenue, Mt Claremont

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Editor	Terry Middleton	0417 171 844
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#### LOOKING AHEAD

##### Thursday 14th November 10.00am

November Branch meeting includes a Remembrance Day commemoration with our normal ceremony - Last Post and an address by a current army officer. The guest speaker will be Ms Helen Stamp, a law advisor to the Australian Red Cross, talking about the "Rules of War"- always a controversial subject. Poppies will be on hand,

##### Wednesday 27 November 6.30pm

Thai Dine Out at Sue's Thai Kitchen, Woodlands Shopping Centre, cnr Rosewood and Birchwood Avenues, opposite Jackadder Lake Reserve. Set menu (mild flavours) \$25 each BYO no corkage. Book at Branch meeting on 14 November or ring John on 6389 0465 before 20 November. NUMBERS LIMITED TO 30. FIRST IN MAKE IT!

##### Thursday 12th December 11.30 for 12 noon

Christmas lunch at our Mt Claremont venue again, bigger than ever and at a branch subsidised \$35 cost. There is a super, virtual "degustation" menu, so fast for a couple of days beforehand! BYO. Bookings taken at the November 14th Branch Meeting. The cost for members' friends will be \$45.

#### MARION'S CORNER

The plastic bottle top collection is now by a local outfit – Greenbatch, with the same charitable aim. The range of items has increased to any plastic bottle tops up to 5cm diameter – but please make sure that they are clean. Any hard plastic items such as plastic bag closers, printer cartridge clips etc, may also be included.

A ladies navy blue cardigan was left in the Banksia room at the October branch meeting. Del McDonald will bring it to the November Branch Meeting



Leo McManus, Celia Hammond, David Thomas at October Branch Meeting

#### FROM THE EDITOR'S TURRET

Our October 10th monthly Branch Meeting attracted 130 paying attendees including 17 visitors, no doubt due to our well-publicised special guest speaker, Federal MHR for Curtin, Celia Hammond, ie she was well and truly at home, and came across very confidently and eruditely. Read more about her in President Geoff Jones column.



Celia in full flight

Our John Dingle's Special e-Safety meeting on October 18th filled the Tuart Room to overflowing, so that your editor had to sit in the hall, such was the cram of the 57 strong audience. A very good, entertaining presentation on all things internet –

shopping, banking, scamming etc by Greg Gebhart of the Federal e-Safety Commission.

In this edition we revisit the stories of our September branch meeting presenters, David Thomas on Mongolia and John Coleman-Doscas on his ancestry and we continue with President Geoff's column and picking items from Ian Henschke's seniors advocacy campaigns. Ian has been getting a lot of publicity in print and TV media these days and we should be encouraged by this and hope that it translates into new members, besides reminding existing members of what NSA is very much about – getting a fair deal from Governments for seniors.

By the time that you get this edition, your editor will be slogging through the tropical forests and hills of the Peoples Democratic Republic of Laos, with your redoubtable Membership Secretary, Marion. So look forward to an exciting December edition to read at the Christmas lunch.

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## DAVID IN MONGOLIA

Following on from our introduction to Mongolia in last month's edition, here is an item by our Vice-President himself,



## MONGOLIAN BBQ

Mongolia is one place that you would not think an Aussie BBQ would be enjoyed but Sharon and I were extremely privileged to do just that with a Mongolian family at their summer house on the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar. The toilet, a long drop, close - by added to the authentic Aussie BBQ.

Why did the BBQ come about was that I had been working closely with the Head of the Family and owner of Geomandal group, Bayar, who is the Managing Director of a Facility Management company, within Mongolia, and the company was contracted to operate at the Oyu Tolgoi Project during the construction phase.

Geomandal Group did operate 2 x 2,000 person camps in the Construction Phase on the Oyu

Tolgoi project. I had been working closely with Geomandal and we did form a Joint Venture (JV) as Geomandal Facility Management to tender on the Oyu Tolgoi operations camp once Rio Tinto had taken over the operational phase of the project. Our JV was pipped at the post by a multinational organisation, French owned and Mongolian backed.

*David Thomas*

## THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

October was a very successful month for the Branch. We had two very well attended meetings: the Branch meeting with Celia Hammond, MP, and the E-Safety single issue meeting. Almost 200 people, including speakers and helpers, took part in these two very interesting meetings.

I was particularly pleased with the way that Greg, from the E-Safety Commission's Outreach team, presented so much useful information in such an entertaining way! I learned useful tips about passwords. Now if I want to use the word 'incorrect' as my password (so that my computer will tell me what my password is), I would probably use '1ncorr@ct' to ensure I included a digit and a symbol. I am also now aware that the new G5 network is not going to change my world too much until there are mobile phone towers every kilometre or so that I can get an uninterrupted signal from. And that this is not likely to happen anytime soon!

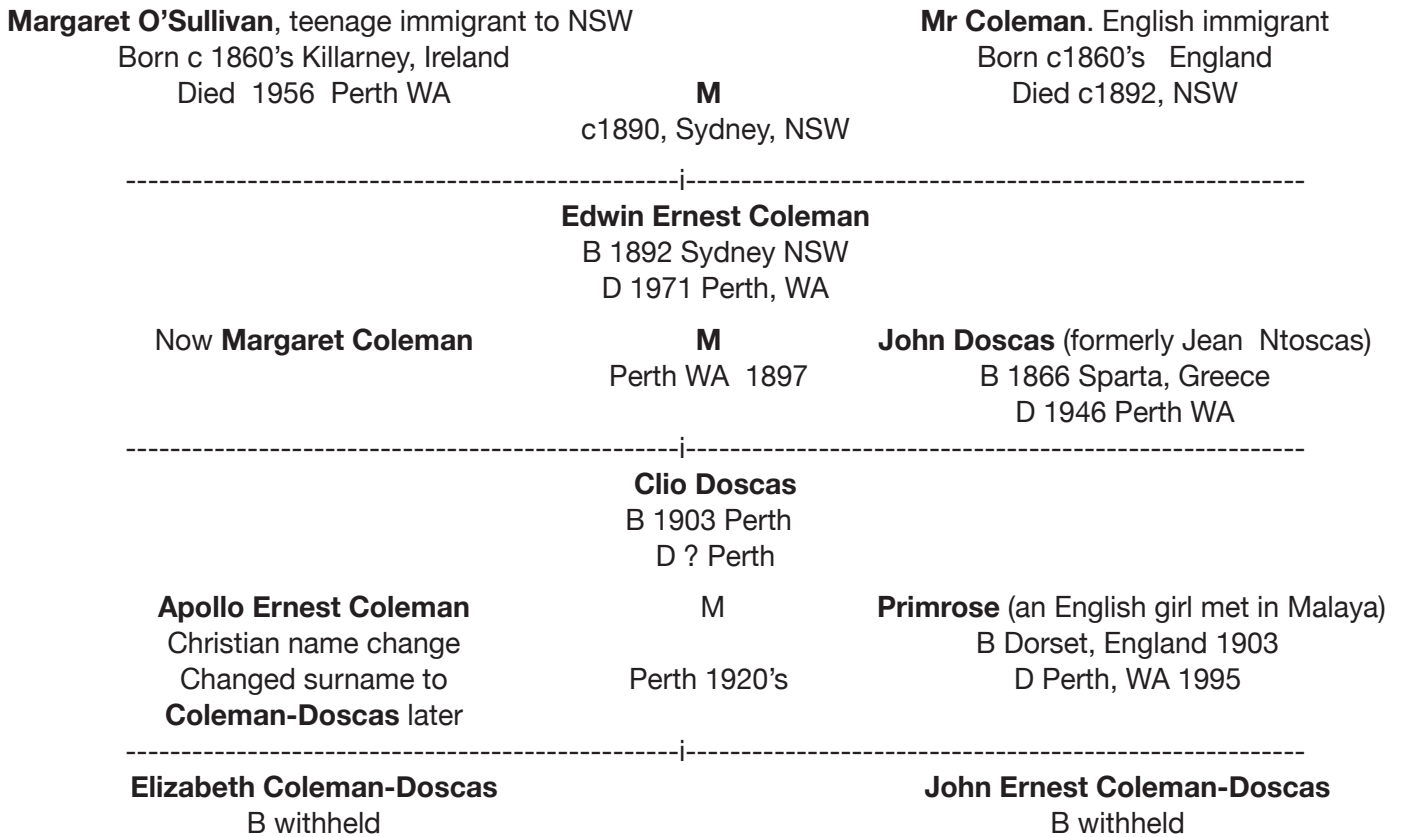
Celia Hammond struck a good balance between talking about her personal history and more political issues. It was clear that the questions submitted by members had caused her to learn more about the issues that older people are concerned about; whether they are specific to this time in our lives – like superannuation - or issues that concern people of any age – like children addressing the world's political leaders. I was aware that we had many questions that were not answered during the meeting, yet Celia will have learned from preparing responses to them all.

In our contact afterwards, it was clear that Celia was impressed with what she saw and would like to establish a continuing relationship with our branch. I look forward to another question and answer session with members and guests during 2020.

*Best wishes  
Geoff Jones*

## JOHN COLEMAN-DOSCAS, BEHIND THE HYPHEN

The following is a recapitulation of John's notes on his family's background during its 3 generations presence in Australia. The family tree is as follows:



Margaret O'Sullivan appears to have been a remarkable woman. Packed off as a teenager to Australia in the late 1800's, by a dirt-poor family, as often happened, with little likelihood of ever seeing her family again. She might have sought work as a maid but ended up working in a hospital in NSW and appears to have aspired to become a nurse. She met up with one Mr Coleman (Christian name unknown) another English migrant, who was trained as a butcher. They married in NSW and had one child – Edwin Ernest Coleman in 1892, but the father died soon afterwards.

The undaunted Margaret (now Coleman) set off with young Ernest across the continent to the Kalgoorlie gold rushes in the mid-1890's and soon found hospital nursing work. After some time, a work mate invited her to take The Christmas holiday at her family's residence in West Perth and she appears to have never returned to Kalgoorlie. At that time, in the turn of the century, Perth was thriving as a result of the gold rush. Many fine houses were being built, for example along Mounts Bay road with prominent citizens such as the Bunnings brothers and the Greek Michelides family who were substantial tobacco growers from their estate in Manjimup. One of the latter's visitors was

another Greek – one Jean Paraskeva Ntoscas, who at some stage anglicized his name to John Doscas.

John Doscas was born in the province of Sparta, Greece in 1866 and well educated, including a period at the Lyceum in Athens with particular interest in agriculture. At age 16 he became apprenticed to the firm of Ralli Brothers, produce importers and merchants of Liverpool, England. After further study there, he got a posting to Alexandria, Egypt, dealing with cotton and grain marketing. Becoming a proficient linguist, he travelled widely in the Mediterranean region and made many wealthy and influential contacts.

Eventually, in 1896, he sailed from Suez, Egypt, to Melbourne, Victoria, where his first job was with Thomas Cook Travel Agency, before setting up his own business which he sold in 1897. He then moved to Perth, which became his permanent home, and started up a business in 1896 – the WA General Produce Company on Murray St, Perth. Apparently, starting out living in a tent, in the vicinity of the present Napier St, Cottesloe, he had a lot to do with the planting of Norfolk Island Pines in the area. While walking along the Swan River bank at Mounts Bay, one day, he met the

widow Margaret Coleman, after pulling young Earnest out of the water. One thing led to another and they married in 1897 and moved into a house at 64 John St, Cottesloe where they lived for many years. They produced a daughter, Clio, in 1903, who attended Iona Convent school and appears to have looked after the family cow and goats, which were eventually released into the Perry Lakes vicinity but somehow managed to find their way back home to Cottesloe. Clio, a talented musician, became a music teacher and one of her pupils was one Charles Court, the well-known trumpeter. They both played in a dance band that had gigs at the site of the predecessor of the present day Indiana Tea Rooms, Cottesloe.



*The Doscas family in the 1907 Star auto at Cottesloe, c1913*

John Doscas became a council member of the Cottesloe Municipal Council at its inauguration in 1907. He went on to serve as Mayor for 9 years and was also a prominent Masonic Order member. He acquired a substantial amount of land in Cottesloe and was also the owner of the first car in the Municipality – a Star, built in England

Meanwhile, Edwin Ernest Coleman, who was attending Cottesloe Primary School, had his name changed to Apollo and was enrolled by John Doscas at Scotch College and later, having a passion for the land, was sent as a boarder to Narrogin Farm School, where he found a friend in one George Baron-Hay. Both went into the first agriculture intake at the newly fledged UWA and apart from the interruption of WW1, both graduated. Apollo had also spent a period as a deck-hand on a Broome pearl lugger. After graduation he applied for a position in the Agriculture Department at Johore Baru, Malaya. While there, he met a young English lady, Primrose, and they married in the late 1920's and produced two children, Elizabeth, born in Malaya and John (our John) born in England. He also became a member of a Malayan state assembly. Before the onset of WWII, when things started to get unsettled in the far east, the family shipped out to Perth but Apollo returned to Johore Baru in 1941 to settle up, only to get caught up in the Japanese rapid advance, down the Malay Peninsula, and was interned in a civilian prisoner-of-war camp in Singapore for 4 years. After the war he continued his career as an agricultural Scientist in WA.

Apollo was so appreciative of the support of his step-father, John Doscas, that he changed his surname to Coleman-Doscas by deed poll, and that's where he got the hyphen from! And, it lives on through John.

*Terry Middleton*

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