



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

Postal Address: PO Box 2068, Subiaco, WA 6904

Website: nationalseniors.com.au

2018/2019 Officers

President	Geoffrey Jones	0400 214 458
Vice Pres.	David Thomas	0418 448 933
Treasurer	Terry Middleton	0417 171 844
Secretary	David Thomas	
Membership	Marion Laws	9387 8383
Editor	Terry Middleton	0417 171 844
Layout	Garry Mann	
Printing Sponsor	All Perth Plumbing and Gas	

FROM THE EDITOR'S TURRET

Our AGM was held, in near record time, at the Thursday August 11th Branch Meeting. The main part of the Committee stood for re-election and was reinstated, but sadly with the resignation of Secretary Colette Nathan, June Steen-Olsen and Angela Mercer. VP David Thomas will also serve as secretary but would like occasional help in minute taking etc from time to time, due to his absence intra-state on business, so it would be appreciated if one or more members can step up to the crease. Meanwhile, June has agreed to continue her sterling social event organisation role, together with your Editor. We also recognize the tireless contribution of Immediate Past President, and Life member, John Dingle, in organising flyer production and Special Meeting administration during the absence of President Geoff Jones.



Geoffrey Thomas and fans

At the same meeting, the long-awaited return of aviation guru Geoffrey Thomas, of international repute, took place and he did not let us down with a truly comprehensive talk on where commercial aviation is going and from where it has advanced. It was wonderfully and bewilderingly illustrated by photos and graphics.

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday September 12th 10.00am

September Branch Meeting. Members presentations at which several of our members including VP David Thomas and John Coleman-Doscas will recount experiences of their life, or potted life history or whatever. Also featuring will be Belyssa Radzivanas the exotic belly-dancer, who will take us through the history and performance of Middle Eastern dancing and culture.



Belyssa

Thursday October 10th 10.00am

October Branch Meeting. We have a scoop – the guest speaker will be the new Federal Member for Curtin – Celia Hammond MHR. Who will tell us where she comes from, what she stands for and will field questions from the floor.

Friday 18th October 9.30am

Special Issue Meeting - at the Mt Claremont Tuart room, all about e-safety in your online and computer usage provided by agents for the eSafety Commissioner of the Federal Government. It will be in 2 x 1 hour segments, the first on all things about online shopping and online banking, the second about online data on your home internet and about Wi-Fi and home and in public sites, There will be a splendid morning tea and admittance charge is \$5.

Friday 18th October 10.00am

City of Subiaco Tea Party for Telethon at Lake Jualbup, Shenton Park, admittance by donation

Thursday 31st October 9.00am

A social bus trip from Mt Claremont to Dwellingup to take a walk in the woods, learn about the forestry history and about the Mt Hotham Railway, followed by lunch at the Blue Wren Café. Details and booking at the September Branch Meeting.

MEDITERRANEAN TO MATTERHORN ADVENTURE JUNE 2019

Here is Part 1 of John's trip, covering a cruise on the Celebrity Constellation from Barcelona to Venice.

Barcelona, Spain

The adventure began on arrival in the beautiful city of Barcelona, where we spent 2 days before departure on the cruise. Barcelona was founded as a Roman city. In the Middle Ages, it became the capital of the County of Barcelona and the Principality of Catalonia. Our early arrival two days before departure on our cruise, enabled exploration of Barcelona. Our accommodation here was a small but superb hotel, very conveniently located.



Hotel Barcelona

A hop on - hop off bus always gives an initial idea of the city features and layout. What a delightful, clean city. Wide footpaths, beautiful buildings, surprisingly green, with many lush, delightfully planned and well maintained, small and large park areas and, happy people. The very wide streets we saw had continuous shade cover provided by street trees. Another surprise was to see the masses of pretty mauve jacaranda trees in blossom.

There is Interesting architecture everywhere, Buildings, both old and new, have balconies with gardens and beautiful, intricate wrought iron work is evident everywhere on doors and windows. There is heavy but orderly traffic and an extensive, modern underground rail system serves the city, plus plentiful modern buses and taxis although outnumbered by bicycles and motor scooters, hundreds of them parked in groups on sidewalks. Many people ride the small electric powered scooters. It is a little unnerving with them riding quite quickly, close and very quietly past pedestrians.'

While we had imagined a tale of woe on the two recent Boeing 737X disasters we got much than we bargained for. Ironically, it turns out that in the case of the Lion Air event, the problem had been recognized in the same plane, flying from Bali to Jakarta the previous day, and had been circumvented by shutting down the guilty software program and flying with the rest of the control system and "seat of the pants" style. Meanwhile, Boeing are ironing out this expensive gremlin.

Geoffrey was at pains to point out the triumphs of past, and hopefully, future successes of Boeing, for example the sturdy 707, on which many of us would have taken our first international flight and the incredibly reliable 747, just being phased out after 50 years of manufacture. He also waxed lyrically on the performance of the forthcoming Boeing 777X which consumes 40% less fuel per passenger than the A380 and has a range of 17,220km with 350 passenger loading, eg Sydney to New York trip in about 19 hours. This compares with the Qantas Perth to London flight of 13,500km by Boeing 787-9 in 18 hours. Not to be outdone, by Airbus, is the new A350 Singapore Airlines flight of 16,700km from Singapore to New York in 19 hours. Geoffrey's website of www.AirlineRatings.com provides much more information. We wish him a speedy recovery in his health battle.



Dineout at George's Meze

June arranged a Greek dinner at George's Meze Restaurant in Subiaco on Tuesday August 20th which was attended by 16 hungry members who were well sated with food and drink.

This edition includes Part 1 of our roving correspondent, John Yeatman's travelogue on his recent trip - "Barcelona to the Mediterranean", arranged by Cruise Express of Sydney, John's favoured agent. Contributions by other members on noteworthy trips, anywhere, or on any subject, would be greatly welcomed by Editor Terry at mylemms@bigpond.com.



Basilica Sagrada Familia

Later, a guided coach tour, included a visit to the famous and most incredible Basilica of the Sagrada Familia. It was designed by Gaudi in 1909, with construction intermittently underway since then. Completion is anticipated in 2026. The façade at the entry is devoted to the passion, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ.

An exciting walking tour, around Barcelona, took us through a maze of narrow alleys and wonderful central malls. A wide selection of wine and Spanish tapas offered in different National styles was enjoyed before walking back to the hotel in summer light at 9.30pm.

Toulon, France

Toulon hosts France's major naval base and facilities and its only aircraft carrier is based there. Our first full day tour was to the lovely town of Aix en Provence, the former medieval capital of Provence with interesting 18th. and 19th century architecture, around the general area of the Cours Mirabeau, a wide boulevard with trees providing beautiful aesthetics and shelter. Much of the day was taken with a walking tour including Cathedral visits. Everywhere, wonderful markets were set up in town squares. They seemed to be grouped in types. For example, trinkets in one, fruit, vegetables and flowers etc. in other individual public squares. The weather was uncomfortably warm in the sun and humid.

After lunch we travelled to Sanary sur Mer, a lovely 16th. century harbour town known as the sunniest place in France. Set right in the centre of town, the pretty harbour is home to traditional fishing boats known as "pointus."

Villefranche-sur-Mer, France

At Villefranche-sur Mer we enjoyed a full day tour. An early start for a drive along the amazing Mediterranean coast, stopping at medieval village of EZE, with thick boundary walls constructed to provide safety and security to residents from pirates and robbers. Then on to Monaco, the world's second smallest principality where we visited the

Prince's Palace, car racing course and Casino. The exquisitely landscaped and beautiful gardens including Spanish, Japanese, rose and a stone garden featuring synchronised musical fountains were enjoyed at St. Jean Cap Ferrat, jutting out over the Mediterranean. There were many jacaranda trees, bottlebrush and varieties of wattle imported long ago from Australia. All are now grown commercially and also used to prepare essences etc.

La Spezia, Italy

Our full day, guided coach tour took us to Pisa, home of the Leaning Tower which is actually the Cathedral's bell tower and Baptistry, and other buildings located in what is now a UNESCO World Heritage site called Il Campo dei Miracoli or "Field of Miracles" Then to Luca where the original Roman street plan, representative of the 180 BC Roman colony has been preserved.



Leaning Tower of Pisa

Civitavecchia, Italy

The choice was made to avoid Rome so we went up the mountains to an especially beautiful village named Orvieto. But in addition to the stunning location, the annual Corpus Christi Parade and celebration was in progress, a very moving and impressive occasion. There were hundreds of men, women and children in colourful traditional and religious costumes, with large banners, choral groups, brass bands and drums, all playing and singing well known hymns. Leading the procession, carrying clothes from centuries ago which, I understand, had at that time been soaked in blood as confirmation of faith, and held as a miracle. The procession culminated at an impressive Cathedral where mass was held.

Naples – Italy.

A full day tour took us to Sorrento, walking the cobblestone streets there before driving along the incredibly beautiful Amalfi coast, very winding and narrow with constant heavy traffic and barely enough room for cars to pass.

The beautiful drive continued to Amalfi from where we deviated up to the mountains to the lovely little town of Ravello, high in the mountains with the usual interesting Town Square, bars, coffee shops and Convention Centre where music concerts, especially Wagner celebrations, are held.

Kotor – Montenegro.

There was lovely scenery on both sides of the ship while sailing through the Straits on a winding course close to shore. Several camouflaged tunnels into the mountains could be seen. These had apparently been used to conceal and protect submarines during the war.

Budvas, a fortified old town on the Adriatic Coast, was a forty-minute drive away. There were Very hot conditions for walking, especially uphill and with many stairs to visit Churches etc.

Split, Croatia

Split is the largest Dalmatian city and is said to be over 1700 years old, while some recent archaeological research suggests the date could be 6th century BC.

We explored the Old Town and entered the Palace through impressive arches, appreciating the 4th. century Roman architecture, which revealed magnificent stone columns, narrowed cobbled laneways and open courtyards.

It was a beautiful experience walking through the Peoples Square and along the Riva waterfront boulevard. Marmontova Street is notable, not only for shopping but because it is paved with marble.

Venice, Italy

Disembarkation after an early arrival.

The Celebrity Constellation, sailed close to shore, so the whole cruise, beginning Barcelona and onwards to Venice was interesting. It is a big ship, with lots of passengers, but for us, the special arrangements and Tour Manager accompanying us, had many advantages. Our group of 25, had a small coach waiting at each location. This enabled us to visit places not accessible (and sometimes not allowed) by the larger coaches, so we were less troubled by the crowds, and have been to some amazing locations.

John Yeatman

MARION'S CORNER

Please keep in mind the plastic bottle caps collection to be presented to Marion at the registration desk. And, once again please, please bring your membership renewal invoice forms to the Membership desk when renewing – it saves a lot of hassle all round. If you do renew registration direct to Brisbane Head Office, please advise Marion with the details of membership number etc that they provide you with.

Marion's hint of the month – please write or label on the back of your name tag the name of your next of kin or preferred contact and their phone number.

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