

National Seniors

AUSTRALIA

ADELAIDE NORTH-WEST BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

September 2025

Meeting at 1.30 pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month at
Lockleys Baptist Church house, 244 Henley Beach Road, Underdale (parking at rear)

COMMITTEE

President..... Brian Mibus (0417 887701)

Vice-President....Trevor Molde (0417 838740)

Secretary Kathy Hancock (0432 101372)

Treasurer..... Dawn Thomas

Activities Coordinators

- Outings Annie McCall
- Speakers..... Heather Dowling

Committee Jeanette Molde

Jenny Mathews

Mavis Smith

Newsletter Trish Mibus (0407 605091)

2025 CALENDAR

DATE All dates are Wednesdays	ACTIVITY	AFTERNOON TEA
September 24, 1.30 pm	GUEST SPEAKER – Sarah – Scrapbooking Family Trees – Bring a plant to swap	Jack and Jan Dixon
October 8, 12 noon	Lunch/Outing – West Beach SLSC	
October 22, 1.30 pm	GUEST SPEAKER – Mataan Dunning (Fiducian Finances	Katherine Papanikolas
October 30	National Seniors Zone AGM – more information to follow	
November 12, 12 noon	Christmas Lunch for everyone – Lockleys Hotel	
November 26, 1.30 pm	MyGov and MyAgedCare	Carole Smith

Our August Guest Speaker – Alison Hicks

Genealogy Society

Alison spoke to us about old schools in South Australia. She has researched and visited approximately 1300 old school sites in South Australia.

- Bo Peep School out of Brinkworth was set up by the Ottens Family from Germany and classes were held in their front room.
- The state's government education system officially began with the inauguration of a state system of education in 1875. Prior to this, schools were privately run, but the government gave money for buildings.
- Schools were of a standard design, with money raised by the community. In the early days the school building consisted of a schoolroom and a residence in order to attract married men and their families. The schoolrooms had to have heating. Toilets were also outside.
- The first fully government-funded school building in South Australia was the Grote St Model School, which opened in Adelaide in 1874. The buildings still exist today.
- Milang Primary School is over 150 years old with the main building the oldest purpose-built building still being used for education in South Australia. Meadows Primary School, established in 1853, is still using a building built in 1910.
- In the 1890's there were quite a few brick buildings, particularly in country one-teacher schools.
- In the early 1900's woodwork centres were part of the schools. In the 1920's women from Blinman trained in woodwork.
- After World War I the baby boom meant more schools had to be built.
- In the 1960's transportable classrooms were used to accommodate growing student populations and budget constraints.
- Students would walk to school or ride their bike. Up until the 1950's some country students would ride their horses to school until school buses were introduced. When buses were introduced, some smaller schools were closed down.
- Some larger schools had all girls and all boys classes.
- The first Arbor Day was held in South Australia on June 20, 1889. Each Arbor Day, students would plant trees. In the country Sugar Gums were planted and today the sites of some small country school can be identified by the stands of Sugar Gums.
- State Records has a collection of old school plans.
- Information from school Admission Registers is constantly being updated by Genealogy SA.

The information below was received from Mark Butler, Member for Hindmarsh



I am excited to share that I will be hosting another round of my popular Seniors Forums on Friday 10 October 2025 in Henley Beach and would like to invite you to attend.

There will be two sessions, one in the morning, and another in the afternoon, to give you the best chance to attend.

Date: Friday, 10 October 2025

Time: 9:30am to 11:30am or 2:00pm to 4:00pm

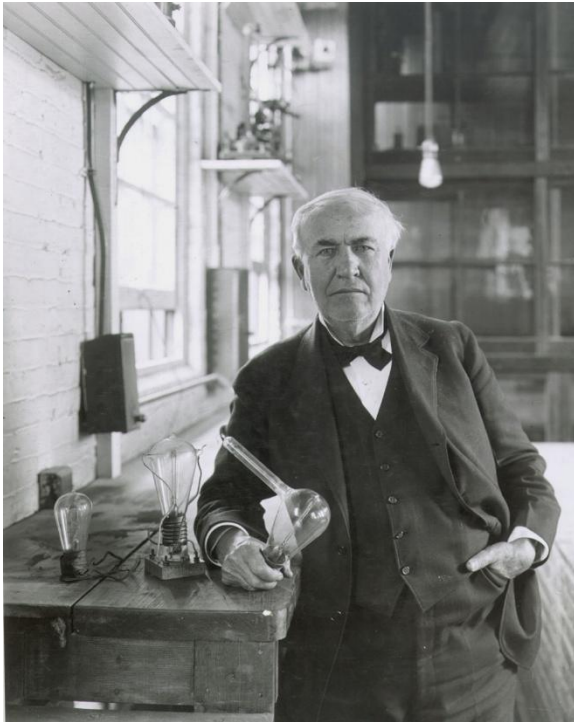
**Location: Henley High School, 17 Cudmore Terrace,
Henley Beach**

These Forums are an opportunity to discuss issues that matter to seniors in our community and provide information about services available to help.

It would be wonderful if you could join us.

Numbers are limited and spaces fill fast, so RSVP is essential. Please RSVP by calling my office on (08) 8241 0190, or emailing mark.butler.mp@aph.gov.au

Thanks to Trevor for the following article



It's amazing what a label can do

One day, Thomas Alva Edison came home from school and handed his mother a note. He said, "My teacher gave me this note and told me to give it only to you."

His mother opened the note, and as she read it, her eyes filled with tears. She read it out loud to her son: "Your son is a genius. This school is too small for him, and we don't have the right teachers to teach someone so special. Please teach him at home."

From that day on, his mother took charge of his learning.

Years later, after his mother had passed away and Edison had become one of the greatest inventors of all time, he was looking through some old family belongings. On his desk, inside a picture frame, he found a folded piece of paper.

He opened it and read the original note from his teacher. It said: "Your son is mentally ill and we cannot allow him to return to school."

Edison cried for hours after reading it. Then he wrote in his diary: "Thomas Alva Edison was once a child labelled mentally ill. But because of a brave and loving mother, he grew up to be a genius."

What a powerful response his mother had. She could have told him the painful truth, but instead, she gave him a message that built him up. She made him believe he was smart and capable—and he believed it so much that he grew up to become one of history's greatest minds.

It shows just how much influence a parent's words (grandparent and teachers) can have on a child.

Our September outing was to Plant 4, Bowden



