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What's up next !

Wednesday 27th August AGM
10:30am Weston Creek Labor Club
Guest Speaker - Colin Greef

"Helping Veterans through Music"

Wednesday 10th September

Mawson Club Lunch

Wednesday 24th September

Tulip Top Gardens

President's Report

Oh, how the year has rolled on. Here we are planning for the 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) which will be held on Wednesday 27th August. I hope to see you all at this important meeting.

It is regularly noted that meetings of the NSA Branch are dependent on members volunteering to support its operations. So once again I am asking for new Committee Members. If you are at all interested, please speak to me or other Committee Members before the AGM.

Lois and I have been away for a couple of weeks at our sister's farm in the Victorian Mallee country. At this time of the year the country is a brilliant green as the new crops are growing. All that is required now is good rains.

As spring progresses, we also see our own gardens greening up and blossoms on the trees. It really is a lovely time of the year. So happy gardening.

I do hope to see you all at the AGM on the 27th of August. We also have a guest speaker to entertain us after the AGM.

Richard Cooper

President NSA Canberra South Branch



As Richard has noted SPRING is in the air, well not quite here yet, but close. There are plants starting to bloom, grass is growing, so the chores are coming. Was it only me, or did others think the Wattle was late blooming this year? Maybe, it was a fairly cold winter.

Jenny Boyd - July Guest Speaker



Jenny's talk was titled "Floriade – Behind the scenes. A Year in the life of Floriade" When Floriade first began it injected \$20 million into the ACT economy. Now it injects \$40m.

It was an interesting insight into the planning and preparation that begins 18 months from the event. At this stage Landscape designers are briefed on selected themes, and 70 trade sites are selected from the many applications. Bulbs and annuals are ordered before Christmas. Sometimes preferred bulbs or colours are not available, and changes must be made.

As well as the floral designs, plans need to be drawn up for Risk Management, Safety Protocols, Program Entertainers. Celebrity gardens, competitions and amusements all need to be confirmed.

Managing work vehicles and vans during setting up needs to be controlled to protect garden beds and paths. The weather is the one thing that cannot be controlled and when bulbs/plants flower too early they are switched out with other that are kept in a large storehouse.

When the gates close at 5pm the gardeners come in and begin dead heading, switching plants that are dying and weeding. Paths are all blown clear and there is much work to ensure gardens are pristine for the next day.

Floriade closes on a Sunday. On Monday, some groups are invited to dig bulbs but there are no trucks on site. Tuesday all the marquees are take down. Then garden beds are removed, turf is replaced and the fences

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come down. In December, the park is handed over to NCA.

Like many others present at the meeting we now have a better appreciation of all the work that is carried out behind the scenes. It was a great presentation.



And that is a nice segway to our next item our trip to:



This year we are taking a van for the trip to Tulip Tops which can take 10 people. Once the Van has a full complement, there will be additional vehicles to take others. So that we travel together and arrive at the entrance at the same time.

If you intend coming, please fill in our [TulipTops form](#). We want to know by the end of August as we need to advise the numbers to Tulip Tops.

Payment: to make things less complicated on the day, we need the payment to be made by the end of August to the NSA Canberra South bank account, and we will make a single payment for everyone on entry, or you can pay at the August meeting.

So, the details are:

Wednesday 24th September

Meet at Weston Creek Labor Club

TIME 10AM

Travel together as a Group and entry via the "walker" friendly entrance.

Morning tea at 11am.

"Tour the Gardens"

Van returns at 1pm to the Weston Creek

Prepayment due in August

A Payment of \$30 (covers entrance and morning tea) to

NSA Canberra South

BSB: 082 926

A/c: 629951305

AGM

And just as a reminder!

Yes, it is that time of the Year again and on the 27th of August NSA Canberra South will be holding our Annual General Meeting.

So, with that in mind it's time to give Notice of the meeting and call for nominations for the Committee. Should you wish to nominate please use this [Form](#).

From now until.....

You know the year is slipping by when you are planning upcoming activities and Christmas functions come into contention. That's how it was at our last NSA committee meeting as we were looking at activities and Guest Speakers

August – we have the AGM, and our Guest Speaker is Colin Greef, a man with a good story to tell.

September – TulipTops

October – A work in Progress

November – Well here it is, *Christmas Lunch*.

Once again for our Christmas lunch we are venturing south to the Vikings Club at Lanyon.

We met with the event organisers there last week and things are underway. So, in the next edition of the Sounder watch out for your NSA Christmas lunch booking form.

