

Greensborough Gossip

Greensborough Branch Newsletter

Branch No. 100133 Incorporation No. A0044936A
June 2019

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Dear Members,

Japan June Cruise:

11 members and friends left on Saturday 15 June for a Japan cruise. We trust they will enjoy their travels as much as our members did on their land tour of Japan in April this year.

Arthurs Seat Eagle Activity:

The above activity scheduled for Wednesday 29 May was cancelled due to bad weather. The Gondola was not working on the Monday due to high winds and following discussion with the bus company on Tuesday a decision was made not to go ahead with this activity as high winds were also predicted for Wednesday.

We will reschedule this activity, possibly in October, when there is a greater chance of better weather. Members can receive a refund if they wish.

Branch Activities:

Peter Oaten and I have planned this year's activities to reflect, where possible, members' choices from the branch survey conducted in February.

The Norrilim Estate trip was chosen from the survey. We have Barwon Homestead coming up and of course Arthurs Seat Eagle to enjoy later in the year. I trust members are happy with our planned activities and will support them for the remainder of the year.

Just a reminder: It would be great if members could wear their branch name tags on excursions – we have a number of new members to the branch and this would be helpful for existing and new members alike.

When an activity is opened up branch members should put their name down with Lorraine or Peter as soon as possible. Non-NSA members can make up numbers if needed to fill a bus.

Overseas Trips:

The Committee has decided not to offer Singapore or a European River Cruise in 2020. This decision was made after a number of members commented that Singapore's climate is very hot and as the country is small it could be visited as an add-on to another trip.

Other members have told us that they have been on various river cruises and taking these comments into consideration the committee felt that we would not get enough interest or numbers.

Consequently, you will have noticed in May's newsletter that we decided to go with a **12 days/11 nights Baltic Cruise** next year. We now have a confirmed date for this cruise which is a round trip from Copenhagen, departing from there on **19 June 2020**. Ports visited will be Oslo, Berlin Tallinn, St Petersburg (2 days), Helsinki, Stockholm, Copenhagen.

Please see page 4 for more details of this trip, including prices, etc. Flights are additional and will be sorted when we have confirmed numbers. Already we have 15 expressions of interest.

Silo Art Trail Tour – August 2019:

This tour has been booked out (in record time) and we currently have a healthy waiting list. As the number of members attending is over 40, the price will now be \$670.00/pp, providing we maintain these numbers. Deposits of \$20.00/pp have been paid and the balance of \$650.00/pp needs to be paid by the end of July.

Regards. Bob Goodyear

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Management Committee
2018/2019

President/Activities Officer/Zone 121

Chairperson

Bob Goodyear 9435 2529
0418 974 095

Vice President/Activities Officer

Peter Oaten 9434 6795

Treasurer/Social Committee

Lorraine Oaten 9434 6795
0449 594 301

Email: oatlan@bigpond.com

Secretary / Newsletter Editor

Marlene Goodyear 9435 2529
0418 974 095

Email: r.m.goodyear@bigpond.com

Publicity & Communications Officer/Branch Meeting Manager

David Hewett 9459 0653

Email: dfhewett01@bigpond.com

Membership Officer/Zone 121 Dep Delegate

Ken Pickett 9435 0076

Fundraising Officers

John Brook 9432 1695

Ian Schuck 9434 3839

Asst. Membership Officer/Travel Committee Coordinator

Marg Wood 9438 4219

Speakers Sub-Committee

Jim Kindness 9469 4469

Bob & Marlene Goodyear, Gaylynn Pinniger

Welfare Officer

Judy Harvey 9401 6752

Door Attendant/Registration

Anne Schuck 9434 3839

Travel Committee:

Marg Wood - **Coordinator**
Bob Goodyear, Marlene Goodyear, Lorraine Oaten, Ian Schuck

Speakers Gifts & Door Prizes, Coffee Club Coordinator - Gaylynn Pinniger

Book Exchange Coordinator - Ken Pickett

Branch Auditor - Tom Cleary

Past Presidents:

Christina McDonald - 2003/04

Greg Fallon - 2004/07

My wife accused me of ruining her birthday yesterday. "How could that be?" I said. "I didn't even know it was your birthday!"

Ref: "In Black & White"



Next Branch Meeting

Tuesday 16 July 2019 - 10.00 am

Greensborough RSL Function Room
(doors open at 9.30 am for registration)

Speaker: James Nixon
Retired Pilot

"Photos from the Cockpit"



To members who are unwell or recuperating, your friends at the Greensborough Branch are thinking of you and send best wishes for a speedy recovery.

If you know of any member who is unwell, please contact our Welfare Officer, Judy Harvey
Tel: 9401 6752 or
email: judy.harvey43@yahoo.com

To those celebrating a birthday!



Greensborough Branch Contact Info

Greensborough Branch Email Address:

greensboroughnationalseniors@gmail.com

Greensborough Branch Website:

www.greensboroughnationalseniors.com.au

New Mailing Address:

Box 37, Greensborough Post Office, 3088
(Note change of location from Macleod)

COFFEE CLUB



Wed 3 July - 10.00 am

The A Team Kitchen
87 Watsonia Road
Watsonia

Coordinator:
Gaylynn - Tel: 9458 2603



Walking Club



Walkers meet **most Tuesdays** at 9.30 am at Henry Street end of Greensborough Memorial Park (*except on Branch meeting days when the group walk on Wednesday*).

On 1st Tuesday of the month:
Meet at Kalparrin (opp. Skateboard rink).

On Last Tuesday of the month:
Meet at Bottom Car Park, Lower Plenty Hotel, Main Road, Lower Plenty.



Confused ???

Contact Coordinator:
Ken Pickett - Tel: 9435 0076

LUNCH CLUB



Thu 11 July - 12.00 noon

Montmorency RSL
12-16 Mountain View Road
Montmorency
Tel: 9434 2085

RSVP: Mon 8 July
Val Koning
Tel: 9440 5269

Low Impact Walking Club



NOT UP TO HILLS?

Walkers meet Tuesdays at 9.30 am at Willinda Park Athletics Track, end of Nell Street, Greensborough (*except on Branch meeting days when the group walk on Wednesdays*).

On the last Tuesday of the month the group meet at 9.30 am at the Lower Car Park, Lower Plenty Hotel for a gentle walk.



DINNER CLUB

Friday 5 July - 7.00 pm

Vibrante Restaurant
133 James Street
Templestowe
Tel: 9846 6222

RSVP: Mon 1 July
Gary & Sandra
Tel: 9434 5959



Seeking Golfers (Good & Bad)

A group of Greensborough branch members play golf on Mondays commencing at 9.00 am at Strathallen Golf Club, 100 Main Drive, Bundoora.

Cost - 9 holes: \$17.00/pp for Seniors

If you are interested in joining us for a game you would be most welcome.

For further info - please see Ian Schuck at branch meetings or phone Ian on 9434 3839.

UPCOMING BRANCH EVENTS



Branch Activities

Reminder to members: \$20.00/pp dep. is required when placing your name on an activity list.

Wednesday 26 June - Hoppers Crossing Clubhouse: Incl. Devonshire Morning Tea, 2-course Lunch. Entertainment — Rob Foenander. Bus pick up/return Greensborough Memorial Park, McDowell Street end. Time 9.00-3.00 pm. Cost: \$28.00/pp. Min 24x / Max 48x.

Thursday 25 July - High Tea @ High Gate, 69 Kurrag Road, Yallambie: Own transport (venue is just down from Rivers Nursery). Time 11.00 am - 1.00 pm. Cost: \$45.00/pp (sandwiches, savoury bites, scones, cakes). Max 30x.

Monday 26 - Thursday 29 August 2019 - Victoria's Silo Arts Trail: 4 days/3 nights
(Visit 6 silos) Cost: \$715.00/pp (S/S \$150) based on min of 35x. Max 46x on bus. Bus pick up Greensborough Memorial Park, McDowell Street end.

Accommodation - Best Westlander Motel, Horsham. Most rooms are on the ground floor with walk-in showers. 3 or 4 rooms will be available for singles. All meals - (B,L,D) - are provided for the 4 days.

Bookings for above trips:

See Activities Desk or contact Peter Oaten Tel: 9434 6795 / Bob Goodyear Tel: 9435 2529.



BALTIC SEA CRUISE — SCANDINAVIA & RUSSIA

**Princess Cruises (Ship - "Sky Princess")
12 days/11 nights - 19 June 2020**

**Roundtrip Copenhagen - visiting Oslo, Berlin, Tallinn,
2 nights St Petersburg, Helsinki, Stockholm, Copenhagen**

Interior Cabins: Cat 1B: Mid Forward or Mid Aft Cost from \$3,329 per person.

Balcony Cabins: Cat BB: Mid Forward or Mid Aft Cost from \$4,439 per person.

Onboard Credit - Princess Cruises: current promotion USD\$50 pp. **Note:** this offer expires on 30 June 2019.

Onboard Credit - Helloworld Travel: - USD25 pp.

Extra Onboard Credit - Helloworld Travel: USD\$25 pp when we set up a "Sailing Week".

Note: Helloworld's offers do not expire.

Group Incentive: 1 FOC berth for minimum of 16 berths booked.

Bookings to be confirmed by 30 June 2019 and a non-refundable deposit of \$1000.00 pp is due by 3 July to confirm cabin selection. Final payment is due early March 2020.

Visa: No visa required in Russia provided shore excursions are with Princess Cruises.

Air Fares: When we know how many people are going on the tour then Helloworld will find the best airfares for us.

Members can still book after 30 June but the onboard credit would only be from Helloworld as the Princess offer would have expired.

As we tell everyone, make sure you arrange **Travel Insurance** for any unforeseen circumstances.

Lorraine Oaten, Travel Committee



TREASURER'S REPORT - Lorraine Oaten

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Balance as at 01/05/2019 | 26,691.44 |
| Plus Income: | |
| Eagle Arthurs Seat | 1,965.00 |
| Victoria Silo Tour | 4,855.00 |
| Hoppers Crossing | 384.00 |
| Memberships | 295.00 |
| Entertainment Book | 910.00 |
| Grapevine Credits | 18.00 |
| RSL Commission | 66.56 |
| Attendance | 375.00 |
| Raffle | 158.00 |
| Total: | 9,026.56 |
| Less Expenditure: | |
| Dyson Bus Company (Noorilim Estate Tour) | -3,009.00 |
| Entertainment Publications (Ent Books) | -840.00 |
| Donation Guest Speaker | -30.00 |
| Door/Raffle Prizes/Speakers Gift (April,May) | -168.25 |
| Gossip Printing | -67.20 |
| NSA Q'land Memberships | -370.00 |
| Cancelled Cheque (undelivered Mail) | 75.00 |
| Deposit Silo Tour | -920.00 |
| Stamps | -50.00 |
| Extra Tea/Coffee/Biscuits | -50.00 |
| Total: | -5,429.45 |
| Balance as at 31/05/2019 | 30,288.55 |



Samaritan's Purse — Operation Christmas Child

Hi members: It's that time of year again! I am working for Samaritan's Purse and we collect small gifts to fill shoeboxes that are sent to needy children overseas.

We are looking for donations of clothing, toiletries, toys, stationery (e.g. exercise books, pens, pencils, sharpeners, rubbers) wrapped soap, face washers, toothbrushes, t-shirts, shorts, thongs, sunglasses, all sorts of toys, especially balls. **All items should be new.**

Please note that sweets, breakables, liquids (e.g. hand cream, sunscreen), playing/swap cards and anything resembling a gun cannot be sent.

If you would like to fill a box this would be very welcome too — the box should be a standard shoe box size. *We are also looking for empty shoe boxes.*

You can bring along items/boxes to Branch meetings until October. If you cannot get to a meeting I can arrange collection from you up until 31 October. I can be contacted on Tel: 9467 3771.

Thankyou in anticipation. Dianne Klein, Member

5 June 2019

Cut pensioner deeming rates – National Seniors Australia

Leading advocacy organisation National Seniors Australia has called for deeming rates to be cut in line with record low interest rates announced by the Reserve Bank.

Deeming rates have not been adjusted since 2015 despite interest rates falling from 2.25 per cent to the current record low of just 1.25 per cent.

Pensioners relying on income from bank deposits are getting hit twice. Firstly from reduced income from deposit investments and then by again by deeming rates that don't reflect lower interest rates but which are applied against income to determine the level of pension they will receive.

National Seniors Chief Advocate Ian Henschke said it was almost impossible for pensioners to generate income from bank deposit investments that matched the rate of income they were deemed to be earning.

"For example, one of the big banks today is offering a term deposit rate of 2 per cent for amounts above \$50thousand and the interest paid only at the end of the term.

"However, a single pensioner is deemed to be earning 3.25 per cent for the same amount, an amount the bank is offering just 2 per cent on.

"This is why pensioners are contacting us saying the government needs to cut the deeming rate," Mr Henschke said.

Mr Henschke said it was time the government reviewed deeming rates to bring them in line with interest rates.

"Current deeming rates are now significantly out of alignment with the lower income generated by bank deposit investments.

"However, seniors' eligibility for the Age Pension and the pension amount they receive is still subject to those deeming rates," Mr Henschke said.

"It is not fair to apply a deeming rate that was set in 2015 to a pensioner's bank deposit income which has dropped significantly as a result of the RBA's decision to cut to a record low," he said.

Following the Reserve Bank of Australia's decision in 2015 to lower the official cash rate to what was then an historic low of just 2.25%, the government reduced the deeming rate as well.

Announcing the decision, the then-Federal Minister for Social Services, Scott Morrison, said "This additional investment will mean more in the pockets of pensioners."

"As Prime Minister Mr Morrison should again act and review the growing deeming gap and the financial hit it is having on pensioners," Mr Henschke said. **ENDS...**

National Seniors Media contact: 0488047380

National Seniors was established in 1976 and is the largest independent advocacy group for older Australians.

Level 18, 215 Adelaide St Brisbane QLD 4000 P 07 3233 9134 M 0488 047 380

nationalseniors.com.au

GPO Box 1450 Brisbane QLD 4001

E media@nationalseniors.com.au

National Seniors Australia Limited ABN 89 050 523 003

NOTICE BOARD



Are you planning to visit Thailand?

Member, **Marg Wood - Tel: 9438 4219**, is a regular visitor to Thailand and would be happy to advise you on:

-) **The best shopping places.**
-) **Where to buy tailor-made suits.**
-) **Pitfalls for tourists.**
-) **The wonderful, exciting experiences you can have.**

A must visit is to Kanchanaburi (the Thai Burma railway, the Bridge on the River Kwai, tigers living with monks, elephant rides & beautiful scenery).

Do not pre-book a tour from Australia for Kanchanaburi - you can do so much better if you deal directly with a local travel agent.



Spectacles & Sunglasses

The Fred Hollows Foundation uses second-hand spectacles and sunglasses to improve the sight of people in deprived communities in our Far North & Australian Islands.

You can assist by bringing along no-longer-used specs/sunglasses. *Cases for specs/sunglasses are also needed.*

Member, Carolyn Matthews, will be happy to collect them at Branch meetings. Carolyn can be contacted on Mob: 0407 094 318.



Fancy a Game?

If you are interested in playing tennis in a very relaxed atmosphere on a **MONDAY morning between 9.30 am — 12 noon**, please see **Glenda Sundstrom at the branch meeting or ring on 0417 357 534** or just turn up (weather permitting) for a game. The only criteria is that correct tennis shoes must be worn.

Cost is \$3.00 per morning (incl a cuppa & biscuit).

The courts are located at the rear of the **Diamond Valley Baptist Church, 309 Diamond Creek Road, Plenty (Melways 11D7).**



BOOK EXCHANGE

We operate a **Free Book Exchange** on Branch Meeting days. We ask only that you return the books to the Branch when you have finished reading them so that other members may have the opportunity to borrow the books.

(Tables are set up at the rear of the of Function Room.)

Coordinator - Ken Pickett

Members, please bring along unwanted books.



WANTED OLD 'ELECTRIC BLANKETS' Any Size for my Wildlife Rescuer friends

They don't need to be in working order as I will strip out the wires before passing them on. I will collect, or you can bring them to the next branch meeting.

Thank you, **Carolyn Matthews - Mob: 0407 094 318**

Garden Workshop Bunnings Eltham



Members are invited to attend the Bunnings Garden Workshop held in their Eltham store on 1st Thursday of the month at 10am - 12.00 noon. There is free morning tea. The topics are interesting and informative, with guest speakers and everyone has a lot of fun.

Bookings are required, for catering purposes - please contact:

Helen Philp, Activities Organiser—Tel: 9430 0100



Banyule Men's Shed

Do you know men with spare time and skills to share?

Men who enjoy tinkering with tools or getting their hands dirty in the garden?

Well, the Banyule Men's Shed is looking to recruit men to volunteer and be part of the shed.

At the shed, you're free to work on your own projects or help others work on community projects.

To get involved or find out more: **Call 9450 2000 or drop in any Monday 1.00 - 3.00 pm**
Cnr St Hellier & Edwin Streets, Heidelberg Heights

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Old Colonists' Association of Victoria

is a charity serving elderly Victorians
needing affordable, safe, dignified
independent community living and
appropriate, practicable continuing care.

Located at 339 St Helena Road, St Helena is an 81 bed
Residential Aged Care Facility, incl 1 Respite Room.

Our facility "**Liscombe House**" comprises 3 sections:

-) **Liscombe Wing** - 39 rooms
-) **Currie Wing** - 22 single rooms, 4 double rooms lo-
cated within a totally secure unit
-) **Anne Jeffery Wing** - 12 rooms (dementia specific)
located within a totally secure unit.

For all enquiries please contact:
Residents' Coordinator - Karen Ernest on 9433 1100