

## Hillarys & Districts Branch

Branch meets at 10:00am on the first Wednesday of each month at the Flinders Park Community Hall, 137 Broadbeach Boulevard, Hillarys.

# February 2024 Newsletter – Issue 214

National seniors Australia is an advocacy group for the over 55 population representing issues at Local, State and National Governmental levels. If you have an issue that you would like the NSA Policy Advisory Group to consider, mention it to your committee and they will start the process."



### Help Needed:

Can we please have some able-bodied men turn up a little early for the meetings and help set up the hall, and help pack up the hall at the completion of our meetings.

**Our March meeting is going to be a very special event for us.** It is the 20th Anniversary of the beginning of the Hillarys' Branch. Please make sure you put Wednesday the 6th of March into your calendar. There will be some presentations to long time members and a representative from Head Office to help us celebrate.

### Member's Welfare

If you become aware of a member who is dealing with illness or hear of a member who has passed, please contact one of the Committee Members. Notification can then be sent to other members who wish to visit or pay their respects.

### President's Report:

Well, the beginning of a new year is again upon us, and I am convinced that the older I get the quicker the years fly by.

We started the social aspect of the New Year with a picnic in the park on 9 January. Again, the weather was lovely and it's always a pleasure to catch up with old and new members in an informal and comfortable setting. We will plan another picnic before the end of summer.

The members of the committee who organise the social functions have been busy planning events for us. So, watch this space for more information as we begin to book our outings, dinners and lunches and of course let us not forget our interesting guest speakers.

You may be aware that in 2023 there were some murmurings from the City of Joondalup regarding payment for hiring the hall. This year that is coming to fruition with the City of Joondalup charging us approximately \$600 a year to hold general and committee meetings in the hall. The committee is currently working on ways to reduce this amount and we will consider applying for a waiver to continue to have the hall provided free of charge or at discounted rate. If a waiver is declined, you may see some minor changes within the club, but the entry fee of five dollars will remain the same.

Attached to this newsletter is the document from National Seniors Head Office outlining the changes that they have made or will make this year to provide more support for their branches.

I encourage you to peruse this document because I am going to allude to it in my President's report at the next meeting. At our March BNF meeting Chris Grice, Karen Furnivall, and Ross Glossop will address these

issues and tell us what is being done to further support the local branches.

Late last year, after almost seven years of advocating for the rights of older Australians, Mr Ian Henschke has left National Seniors Australia and his role as Chief Advocate on the political scene.

These are some of his achievements during that time.

- Retaining the energy supplement for new Age Pension recipients.
- Opposing the proposal to scrap franking credit cash refunds.
- Securing a regulated price for electricity together with basic consumer protections.
- Reducing the Pension Loans Scheme rate (now Home Equity Access Scheme) to 3.95% and making it available to everyone of pension age.
- Retaining the pension age at 67 instead of the proposed 70.
- Reducing deeming rates for pensioners and other payment recipients.
- Campaigning government to reduce the home care wait list by 25% in 12 months by releasing tens of thousands of home care packages.
- Increasing the income test threshold for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card to give more self-funded retirees access to concessions.

**Stay Happy, Healthy and Safe**  
**Cheryle Medcalf**  
**President**

## Membership Renewals

The new membership schedule:

**One year** – \$49:50 single or \$80 joint

**Two years** – \$88 single, or \$143 joint

**Three Years** - \$120 single, or \$180 joint

**Five years** – \$220 single, or \$325 joint

Please remember members that there is a discount code that you can use up until the 5<sup>th</sup> of November allowing you to pay the previous rate.

**Membership payments cannot be paid via our local branch they must be paid directly to the Head Office.**

**You can do this via one of these three options**

Via the website:

<https://nationalseniors.com.au>. Login and pay online using a debit or a credit card.

Via your phone:

Phone them on 1300 765050 or 073233 9191 they will be able to find your membership

details and debit your account for the membership payment.

By cheque:

the postal address is:

GPO Box 1450,

Brisbane,  
Queensland 4001

Please make sure you include your name, club, and the reason for the cheque.

**For the payment of outings etc. use our local branch account**

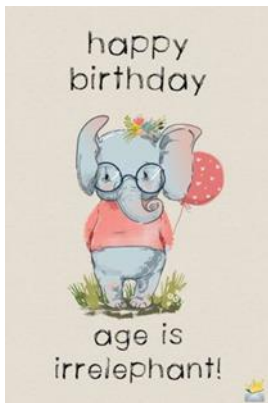
**Account Name:** National Seniors Assoc  
Hillarys.

BSB: 036-226 A/C No: 24-9794

Please include Surname and keyword in the transfer.

**Do NOT** combine payments for multiple functions, only pay for one function at a time.

**Name Badges:** If you want a name badge you need to speak to our treasurer Bronwen Mears. She will arrange this for you. **The cost to you for a name badge is \$12.**



### To all our members celebrating birthdays in February

Wishing you all a very happy birthday filled with love, laughter, pressies and cake.

Members if you bring in items for the freebie table, please remember that if no one has picked them up you are responsible for taking the items home with you again.

## For Your Calendar

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> of February

**Time:** 10am.

Followed by lunch at Mia Cucina at the Hillarys Boat Harbour.

**Speaker:** Trevor Tough

**Topic:** Outback graves

In 2014, Trevor and Alex Aitken founded Outback Grave Markers to preserve the graves and stories of Australia's pioneers. This has become an enormous and highly successful national project. Currently they do more than 3000 plaques for WA and have opened branches in Queensland and South Australia.

**The next committee meeting** is being held on February 14<sup>th</sup>, one week earlier than usual. It is to be held at Cheryle's home

## Social Events



### Monthly Morning Tea

Please join Paul and other Branch members in a pleasant morning of stimulating conversation. Please wear your name badge. Friends are also welcome.

**When:** Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February

**Time:** 10am

**Where:** Caffissimo, Whitfords

Come along and let's get a good turnout!

**Monthly Dinner** – A time for members to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or just "celebrate life" with fellow members and friends.

**When:** Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

**Time:** 6pm

**Where:** La Gustosa Restaurant  
10/132 Coolibah Drive  
Greenwood

BYO - \$3 corkage per bottle

**contact Shelly on** - mobile:0419 918 311 or email her on: b.stanley@bigpond.com if you wish to attend. If you put your name on the list and need to cancel, please contact Shelly directly.

## National Seniors Australia – Hillarys & District Branch

**Monthly Lunch** – A time for members to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or just “celebrate life” with fellow members and friends.

**When:** Thursday 8th February

**Time:** 12.30

**Where:** Voyage Kitchen in City Beach  
185 Challenger Parade  
City Beach

No BYO

A couple of the car parks have established trees for shade, if it is hot. Also, there is a paved walking path north (about 30 mins return) if anyone wants a coastal walk before or after lunch.

If you are attending there will be a sign-up sheet at the February meeting, or email Karen Mortlock by 11 am Wed 7/2.

If you want to attend a lunch or need to cancel, please contact Karen on 0437510204 or email her on karenlea1000@gmail.com so the venue can be given accurate numbers.

**Our Picnic in the Park** held on the January 9<sup>th</sup> was a great success, enjoyed by all our members who attended. It was very refreshing under the trees, cooled by the gentle sea breeze which drifted over us, as we enjoyed fine company, wine, and nibbles.

A special thanks to Dave and Moira who did an excellent job as our caterers.



## National Seniors Australia – Hillarys & District Branch

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Who remembers the old Platinum 55's club that was ran out of the Craigie leisure centre? It has now been started up again but has unfortunately been outsourced by the City of Joondalup.

For more information visit [Joondalup.wa.gov.au](http://Joondalup.wa.gov.au) and search for Discovery Outbound



<https://www.joondalup.wa.gov.au/discovery-outbound>

### Helpful Information

Elder Abuse Helpline WA: 1300 724 679  
Seniors Card (WA): 6551 8800  
Centrelink (Retirement): 132 300  
Employment Services: 132 850  
Seniors Info Services: 6551 8800  
Older People's Rights Services: 9440 1663  
Aged Care Complaints Commissioner:  
1800 550 552  
National Carer Gateway: 1800 422 737

National Seniors Australia (NSA)

Dept of Veterans Affairs: 133 254  
Dementia Australia - 1800 100 500.  
Justice of the Peace - Saturday Morning at  
Joondalup Library. 10.00am – 12.30pm  
Woodvale Library 9.30am – 11.30am

WA Scam Internet Site:-

[www.scamnet.wa.gov.au](http://www.scamnet.wa.gov.au)

### BRANCH CONTACTS

**Please note members** as I'm both the Secretary and the newsletter Editor I'm only checking the Newsletter Editors email account, **NOT** the Secretary email account. If you wish to email me about any NS matter, please use the Newsletter Editor email account.

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