

National Seniors

AUSTRALIA

Perth Western Suburbs WA

Branch Newsletter - December 2024

Meeting Venue : Our Branch meets at 9.30am for 10.00am on the second Thursday of each month at Mount Claremont Community Centre, 109 Montgomery Avenue, Mount Claremont WA 6010.

Bank Account : Westpac Bank in name of National Seniors Australia Perth Western Suburbs Branch ;

BSB: 036 063 Account: 257852

When making payment, please identify by your name & type of payment – e.g. “Concert”, etc.

Website :

<https://nationalseniors.com.au/about/branches/perth-western-suburbs>

Our meetings may be subject to the COVID-19 regulations of the day as imposed by the WA State Government and the City of Nedlands. However, there are presently no restrictions.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Members of Perth Western Suburbs Branch of National Seniors Australia wish to acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Whadjuk Noongar Nation, on whose Lands we conduct our meetings, and pay our respects to the Noongar Elders past and present.

BRANCH OFFICERS FOR 2024/2025

President: Joseph Lieberfreund 0429 809.080
president@nsaperthws.org.au

Vice Pres: David Thomas 0418 448 933
vicepresident@nsaperthwa.org.au

Secretary; Derek Cockle 0417 939 420
secretary@nsaperthws.org.au

Treasurer: Larry McIntosh 0416 161 816
treasurer@nsaperthws.org.au

Membership: Marion Laws 08 9387 8383
membership@nsaperthws.org.au

Newsletter: Vivian Partridge (Temporary)

We thank Christine Tonkin MP for enabling this newsletter to be printed.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I've volunteered to do this December Newsletter and wish to thank the assistance of Marion, Larry and Derek. Also, the members who emailed stories and information.

We are planning a small Sub-Committee to organise future social outings, lunches, dinner, tours, etc., so please forward your suggestions to Marion to put before the next Committee meeting in mid-January.

Vivian Partridge - Temporary Editor

A reminder - members, please find and wear your name badges to Branch meetings as I'm not that good at remembering all your names. Also please PRINT the name of your emergency contact & 'phone number on the back of your name badge, just in case we need to contact that person or persons in the event that you may be taken ill, as happened at a Branch meeting earlier this year.

MARION'S CORNER

At our last T Box Café afternoon tea in November at Claremont Golf Course, we welcomed a few new people. This meeting is an opportunity for new members and friends to spend time together and hopefully to recognise friendly faces at the next Branch meeting.

Our next meeting will be on Thurs 13 Feb but if the afternoon is forecast to be hot, we might change the time from 2pm to 10am.

There will be no branch meeting on the second Thursday 9th of January. Instead, there will be a morning tea at my house for all the new members who joined in 2024, the Committee and all the helpers who make our meetings possible. So, if you are a new member, I will email an invitation before the end of December. If you don't receive your invitation please call me, 0437 115 751.

As the keeper of the Branch membership records, I am frequently changing details of address, email and phone number. Please advise me if you have changed contact details so that my records are up to date.

BRANCH MEETING – THURS 14 NOVEMBER

Our initial speaker was Vice-President David Thomas who brought us up to date on the outcome of the recent Perth Royal Show very good attendances, (due to cheaper/free entry fees) and plans for the future of Claremont Showgrounds.



Vice-President David



Prof. Martin Van Kranendonk

Our main speaker, Martin Van Kranendonk, pictured above right, is a leading world expert on the early history of the earth, including the habitats and metabolisms of the earliest traces

of life, mechanisms of crust formation and Archean tectonics. So where did we really come from? He is 97% sure that life on our planet originated in low pH thermal hot springs where there is a concentration of prebiotically important chemical elements. Could life have originated in Mars?

We may never know for sure and we now await Elon Musk, who likes challenges, to come along one day and spend more \$\$\$ finding out.

Speaking for myself; I deny absolutely that I have any trace of Martian DNA in me! We were in awe!

Audrey Gardner

HOW WE ENDED THE YEAR 2024

Christmas concert – Sat 7 December

Fremantle Chamber Orchestra and Giovanni Consort gave the National Seniors Perth a memorable concert. They are a group of instrumentalists and singers performing old classical music.

We heard a wide range of music including “Be Still My Soul” sung by Choir Acapella, music by Jean Sibelius and words by Katherina Von Schlegel.



Compared to more recent and moving, The “Mission”, Gabriel's Oboe by Ennio Morricone.

Carl Edvers, principal Trumpet player performed, Georg Philipp's “Telemann” Trumpet Concerto in D major.



The concert concluded with the rousing Hallelujah chorus from Handel's "Messiah".

Congratulation to our President Joseph who again organised the concert with masterly precision !

Christmas Lunch – Tues 10 December

In excess of 60 members and guests, including Santa Claus, enjoyed a delicious two course lunch at the University Club, Crawley. It's a beautiful venue overlooking parks, gardens and river.

President Joseph Lieberfreund was kept busy selling raffle tickets and taking payments at the door. He commenced the festivities in his wonderful professional way stating that we had amazing speakers, functions and fellowship throughout the year and plans for early 2025 are looking good.

We plan to arrange several tours to various country and other venues using a 20 seat bus which has been made available to us. Also, a flora and gardening group led by Sabrina Harn perhaps three to four times in the year.

In the first quarter of 2025 will have professors and people of interest from W.A. universities who will be discussing several science matters.

In concluding Joseph thanked our Committee members, volunteers and helpers who organise our meetings.

Farther Christmas and his helper Marion Laws rang the bell to herald the distribution of bags of chocolates and sweets.



David Thomas compered the raffle tickets draw with first prize for the large hamper was won by a very happy, Pam Fox and second prize, went to Father Christmas !



Father Christmas -Anton Reiger

Treasurer Larry McIntosh and Pam Kennerly had a chin wag



Judie Wright our delicious morning teas hostess with David Thomas.

Finally, we all sang our hearts into festive spirit. With Christmas carols led by Terry Middleton and Hilary Heptinstall who kept us in tune on the keyboard.

LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD - PLANS FOR 2025

Sabrina Hahn – “Gardening Guru” – President Joseph is arranging for us a grand gardening event, likely to be early/mid 2025. Watch this space

Branch Meeting – Thurs 13 Feb 2025 – Speaker will be Prof. Nick Beeching whose topic will be “Traveler’s Tales – what to catch & where to catch it”. Let’s hope it will not be infectious, apart from the humour !

Branch Meeting – Thurs 13 March – Speaker will be Ian Stann who will talk about the Swiss political system.

Branch Meeting – Thurs 10 April - Speaker will be Alan Naber who will share his experiences of walking the Camino de Santiago de Compostela.

TOURS, LUNCHESES, DINNERS & VISITS

A new Sub-Committee is being convened early next year to plan special events and outings, so please advise Secretary Derek of your ideas for consideration. Sub-Committee members will also be tasked with actioning some of the proposals discussed at the Branch Planning Forum earlier this year.

IN PRAISE OF OP SHOPS

Some of us may need to think about “Op shops”. There are two views. In one move we can reduce waste going to landfill and help the charities which are as busy as ever. Plus, the volunteers and people in “supported employment” will appreciate our involvement.

Try these web searches for clusters of Op shops for an exciting day out:

op shops/[add your suburb]/wa/au

Using the above format, enter these suburbs:

Balcatta - Group of three shops on Erindale Rd, also Salvos, at 207 Balcatta Rd, Balcatta.

Odin Tavern, corner of Erindale Rd and Delawney St, opens at 11am for coffee and food.

Scarborough - Group of four smaller shops on Scarborough Beach Rd, near intersection with Gildercliffe St. Parking at rear and two cafes.

Osborne Park – Two large shops at 320 Selby St, parking at rear. Also, Vinnies 443 Scarborough Beach Road.

Shenton Park - ParaQuad, Orton Rd. Large op shop, also selling furniture. Book Bazaar, a huge adjacent building. Receives 'discards' from the State Libraries, along with donations.

Cannington - Intersection of Kent St and Albany Highway. Group of five large shops. Coffee at Yolanda’s Catering, Unit 9, 1296 Albany Highway.

Council Refuse Tips often include an op shop with large items outside:

Balcatta Reuse Shop, 238 Balcatta Rd, Balcatta, adjacent to the refuse station.

Tamala Park Reuse Shop, 1700 Marmion Ave, Mindarie.

To conclude, Op shops are a 'lucky dip' experience. Whether you are looking to upgrade your kayak, walking stick, or want a book, there is a chance you’ll find one and it will be 75% less than retail price! Happy hunting !!

NSA MEMBER DISCOUNT APP

Have you investigated and installed the new digital app which will members to access hundreds of discounts on dining, takeaway, shopping, gift cards, local services and more in all States of Australia. The app is similar to, but at no cost, to the longstanding “Entertainment Book” however, NSA discounts can be used any number of times.

To access visit -

nationalseniors.com.au/discounts-app

NSA MAGAZINES

The latest edition of the on-line “Branching Out” magazine has recently been published on-line and we have just received a limited number of printed copies which unfortunately will only be available at the next Branch meeting on Thurs 13 Feb to members who do not have access to computers.

Also, the Summer Edition of the larger “Our Generation” magazine was emailed to members on-line last Wed 18 Dec. To access, click on the link to view, with a video guide on how to explore the digital magazine and its tools and features. For those of you who prefer to read a printed version, you will find a print button on page 3 of the magazine. As always, if you have any questions, our friendly Membership team is here to help on **1300 76 50 50**.

NSA NATIONAL “KEEP CASH” CAMPAIGN

National Seniors Australia (NSA) has welcomed news that the Federal Government will mandate that big businesses selling essential items, such as groceries and fuel, must accept cash.

Announced by the Treasurer, Jim Chalmers, this week, the proposal is set to be implemented from 1 January 2026, subject to consultation.

The news comes six months after NSA, which is the peak consumer body for older Australians, launched its [Keep Cash \(accessible and accepted\) campaign](#) to help those impacted by the move towards a cashless society.

NSA chief executive officer, Chris Grice, said the announcement will be warmly welcomed by the thousands of older Australians, and others, who regularly use cash.

GRANDMOTHER OF THE YEAR +10 Great – grandchildren.

Perth great-grandmother Bridget Grocke recently turned 110 and celebrated with her favourite beer. She has a great sense of humour, as many battlers of her generation still have today. So - we might think of chasing down afternoon tea at the TBox with a beer or two ?

That’s it folks – next Edition due early Feb with a new Editor – any offers ?

Viv Partridge,

Temporary Editor