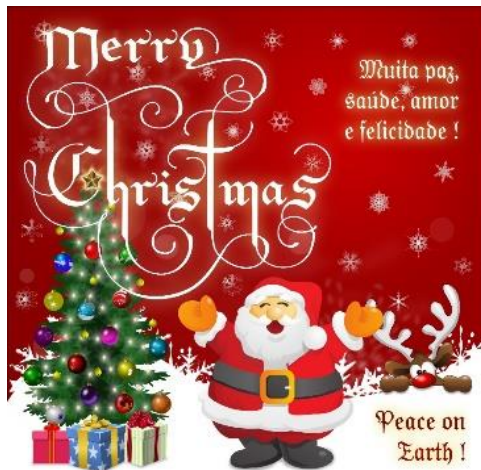


NEXT BRANCH MEETING: Tuesday 13th FEBRUARY 2024 10am, at the Kalamunda Church of Christ Multifunction Centre, 22 Mileti Road, Lesmurdie.

NOTE – THIS WILL BE THE LAST NEWSLETTER FOR 2023.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Richard Arnold: President 0407 945 465	Clare Arnold: Social Planner 0407 945 465
Tony Crowder: Vice President 9257 2520	Maureen Moffett: Speaker Planner 0427 084 422
Chris Milne: Secretary 0475 582 118	Noreen Townsend: Newsletter Editor 0418 952 076
Patricia Skinner: Treasurer 0428 611 835	Clive Riste: Committee Member 0419 044 611



GUEST SPEAKER: After an outstanding array of speakers/entertainers in 2023, we will all have to wait a bit longer to see what 2024 brings.

Spring Sausage Sizzle lunch Wednesday 22nd November

Despite the weather this was a great day only made possible by the generosity of the volunteers and the support of all who attended Thank you.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR DECEMBER, JANUARY & FEBRUARY.

Christmas lunch Tuesday 12th December 11.45 for 12 noon start.



The following information is to help all 92 of us have a great Celebration.

Make sure you don't have a big morning tea as you have a 3-course lunch.

When you arrive, you will need to collect your placemat on check-in. This saves us from needing to remember what we ordered. This will also assist the serving staff to get our meals to everyone as quick as they can.

Those who wish should get themselves a drink from the bar (cash bar).

There are no set places so you can take a seat at any of the tables.

Please remember that to prepare, serve and deliver 92 mostly hot meals takes time. Enjoy the company at your table while you wait.

But there's more, the usual free raffle of chocolates and most importantly Santa and Mrs Clause with all their goodies to make the day complete.

Fremantle and Christmas lights tour Monday 18th December. 5.00 pm

Arrive 4.45pm for a 5.00pm departure from Thai on the Hill Travel to

Fremantle for our 2 course dinner at Kailis Café of Grilled or battered fish with chips main and dessert Plus tea/coffee. Next, we travel into the City of Perth to see the many new displays of beautiful Christmas lights before returning to Kalamunda by 9.30pm. *I will have the list of what we ordered on the night.*



This Photo by Helen...

Picnic in the park Tuesday 9th January at 5 pm



This Photo by...

What a great way to get past the rush and bustle of Christmas come join other members for a very casual and relaxing evening in Stirk Park for a "Bring everything picnic" Gives you a chance to catch up and relax with friends.



Coffee morning at Gracie's Café in Berkshire Rd Forresterfield 21st February 10.00 to 11.30 am.

This will be our first activity for 2024.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Yesterday the 22nd November, the branch had its Spring Sausage Sizzle at The Romancing the Stone Garden in Maida Vale. It wouldn't have surprised me if no one had turned up with an east wind blowing and a forecast of 39, however more than 60 were in attendance including 8 members of the Perth branch of NSA. I feel that it was a great success by the comments made, but a highlight for me was the way that so many pitched in to ensure its success. Clare was not feeling well but was ably assisted by Glenda, Leone and Maureen in the kitchen plus Tony, Peter and Gary helped me outside. June and Rob bought a bundle of cold flannels to help combat the heat with all combining for a great outing. This I feel was an example of why ours is such a strong organisation as there are always volunteers when needed, thanks to all of you for your help. Our friends from Perth branch slotted in well and their Vice President gave an address plus invited our members to a concert that they are arranging with the Western District branch.

For those who hadn't visited the garden before, Tom Hogg the owner and creator gave a brief summary on how the garden had come about and the fact that he created it all by himself including the laying of 200 tons of Rocks. Tom is a most generous person and refuses to take any payment from National Seniors, however we donated to the Amanda Young Foundation, a Charity that is dear to Tom.

Talking of Romancing the Stone Garden, there are 2 concerts scheduled for January and February. T Jass N Back on the 19th of Jan and Stingray Golden Oldies Concert on the 16th of Feb. Both concerts cost \$35 and include supper. They are conducted in the beautiful amphitheatre under the trees, a great night out for those who may not have enjoyed the experience in the past.

If you're interested just ring Tom on 94544298

As was the case last year our Christmas lunch on the 12th December will be followed by a Fremantle and City Christmas lights coach trip, but Clare will have more on this in her column.

There is no doubt about it time moves faster the older you get, it's hard to think that we are about to celebrate another Christmas. My highlight of the season is the chance to catch up with friends and relatives that we sometime only see during the festive season. There is something about Christmas that makes catching up a priority. The gifts and food etc are secondary in my mind to the catching up.

Unfortunately, there are more families than usual that will find Christmas difficult to celebrate with the ever-rising cost of living and rents. We at National Seniors Kalamunda have an opportunity to help those less fortunate by donating non-perishable food and children's gifts when we attend the branch Christmas lunch on the 12th. We will have boxes at the entrance to the Club to collect donations which in turn will be passed on to Hills Family Christmas for distribution. So please try and remember to bring something to contribute.

Looking back on our year, I feel that things have gone pretty well. Attendances have been good, and we have welcomed some new members along the way. Maureen has kept up a flow of great speakers, (wasn't the last guest, John from Guide dogs WA and his assistance dog Eva a great finish at our last full meeting for the year). Also, the ladies in the kitchen who have overcome the ever-changing morning tea area, as have the check-in team at the entry. The church has helped setup the audio and visual gear at the start of each meeting thus avoiding the hassles Les and Gary have endured in the past. Clare has provided a variety of outings over the year including three nighttime outings with the Christmas lights, the Neil Diamond concert at Toms and the concert at the Heath Ledger Theatre in Perth. I know that she is working on some surprises for next year.

I recently met with Paster Brad to discuss next year, and we were able to work out a few areas of concern. The church is keen for us to continue in 2024 as we are to continue using the great facility. We are very lucky to have such a good venue at our disposal.

With 2 events to come in December (Christmas lunch and the City Christmas lights tour) there will be those that we may not catch up with before the end of the year. It is to those members I extend on behalf of Clare and myself a happy Christmas and a healthy and safe new year. to all the committee and volunteers a great big thank you from myself and I am sure all members. I very much look forward to catching up with everyone in 2024.

Richard.

Photos



Volunteer John with Ambassador dog Eve,
from Guide Dogs WA



Ambassador dog Eve



Members at the Romancing the Stone BBQ



Richard Arnold (Kalamunda President), Terry Flanagan (Perth Branch President) & Tom Hogg at Romancing the Stone BBQ

SECRETARY'S NOTE:

If you have recently become a member of National Seniors, or renewed your membership recently, please see Chris at the next meeting and show him your card or receipt, as Head Office do not supply your information to the Branch. Thanks.

PHOTOS – REFLECTIONS ON 2023



Northam Silo Art



Little Eeden Honey Farm



Bindoon Museum



Entertainment by "SCARP"



Christmas in July



Swan Valley Station



Pub Museum

Printing by courtesy of Matthew Hughes JP, MLA.