

2023

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National Seniors

AUSTRALIA

Perth Western Suburbs WA

Newsletter December 2023

Perth Western Suburbs Branch usually 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: National Seniors Australia

Perth Western Suburbs Branch

BSB 036 063

Account 257852

Our website is:

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

Our meetings are currently subject to the COVID-19 regulations of the day as imposed by the WA State Government and the City of Nedlands. 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.

2023-2024 Officers:

President:	Terry Middleton	0417 171 844
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Vice Pres:	David Thomas	0418 448 933
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Treasurer	Joseph Lieberfreund	0429 809.080
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We thank Christine Tonkin MP for enabling this newsletter to be printed

FROM THE EDITORS FLOREAT DESK

At the demand of our Secretary Derek, your editor brings himself out of a state of December panic to cobble something together for the waiting masses. It will be brief, however.

December has been pretty hectic to date – what with preparing for the Christmas lunch – largely attributable to the much more efficient Marion, and then the panic about Joseph's Christmas Concert. In fact, your President put it to him that the Branch could not sanction it on the basis of the originally presented budget unless he could come up with some more sponsorship funds. Well, lo and behold him, he has done just that by dint of a generous grant from his employer, Endeavour homes, a substantial grant from estate agents, Ray White, and to put the icing on the cake, an 11th hour grant from the City of Stirling – as long as we put it on at a venue within their boundaries. So he is doing that – at no less than the 500 seat Taryn Fiebig auditorium at Churchlands Senior High School.

LOOKING AHEAD

Christmas Concert 7pm Friday December 22nd, Taryn Fiebig Auditorium, Churchlands Senior High School. Bigger than Ben Hurr, but you're probably too late, unless you can contact Terry or Marion by midnight on December 21st, and pick up the tickets.

February 8th, 2024, Branch Meeting. This will be held at the Mt Claremont Community Centre as usual, guest speaker TBA.

SOCIAL EVENTS etc

Christmas Lunch, Thursday December 7th, 12 for 12.30pm. This was a week earlier than usual in order to catch the inimitable Randall of Randalls Roasts. He excelled himself this year with absolutely splendid roasts and trimmings, perhaps the only shortcoming was that your editor was too late to catch the plum duff.

There was a most delicious welcoming mocktail (±wine booster) concocted by Marion and served by Susan beforehand. Marion had also engaged the local barbers shop octet, Men in Harmony, to provide Christmas vocals. They were great but some thought that they would never stop, in time to let the feasting commence. Sandra provided her usual overflowing hamper, which, with other gifts, provided by members, enabled the raising of \$325 from raffle tickets, net proceeds to go to charity. In all, 64 lunchers attended at our Mt Claremont venue.

NOVEMBER 12th BRANCH MEETING

About 80 attended our November branchmeet, and in place of a high-profile speaker we made it a members presentation affair.

Firstly, your editor/president, Terry, recounted on his Anglo-Scottish-Viking genealogy and WWII era birth, hardly making his father's acquaintance until the latter's return from Europe in 1946. Then the family jumped ship from the cold war afflicted UK to the rosier prospects of Tasmania with the 2 boys reaching for higher education there and in Melbourne, before heading around Australia, and the globe,

in the quest for gold and base metals, in which they achieved some success.

Terry gravitated to the golden west and has contentedly remained there, despite the call of the wild which takes him, and Marion, to some exotic places around the world.

We were then conducted by our Canadian-born member, Larry McIntosh, on a small ship cruise, across the tropical seas from Darwin, through the eastern Indonesian islands, and on into Micronesia. Finally arriving in Guam, before he flew off to Indo-China on another jaunt.

Larry presented, via video and stills, a fascinating look at the marine life of the reefs and coasts of islands we had never heard of, as well as the unusual customs of some of the islanders, including the hoarding of stone coins as big as cartwheels, passed on from generation to generation – no bank branches to cash them in at, though.



Terry showing his parents ~1942



Larry reveling in joys of Micronesia



Happy Lunchers



Men in Harmony carolling lunchers

**GOOD TIDINGS WE BRING TO YOU AND
YOUR KIN, WE WISH YOU A MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR –
NOT TOO MUCH FIGGY PUDDING!**

LATE, SAD NEWS ON JOHN DINGLE

We have just been informed (pm December 20th) about the passing of John Dingle, our former long-term president, on the night of December 19th. John was the heart and soul of the branch, for about 10 years, and continued attending branch meetings and concerts up to the present, in fact Terry and Marion had a long chat with him during the Christmas lunch, when he told us of looking forward to his coming family reunion in Melbourne over Christmas. So sad. Vale.

We will advise of funeral arrangements via email, when details become available.

We also received belated news on the passing of our supportive member, Carol Bolton in November. A distinguished academic in her own field, she was also the wife of the late, distinguished WA historian, Professor Geoffrey Bolton.