

# National Seniors

AUSTRALIA

## Perth Western Suburbs WA

### Newsletter November 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 Westpac:

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.

#### **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  
[mylemms@bigpond.com](mailto:mylemms@bigpond.com)  
Vice President: David Thomas 0418 448 933  
[david@r2rservices.com.au](mailto:david@r2rservices.com.au)  
Treasurer: Joseph Lieberfreund 0429 809.080  
[joseph@airbell.com.au](mailto:joseph@airbell.com.au)  
Secretary: Derek Cockle 0417 939 420  
[secretary@nsaperthws.org.au](mailto:secretary@nsaperthws.org.au)  
Membership: Marion Laws 08 9387 8383  
[membership@nsaperthws.org.au](mailto:membership@nsaperthws.org.au)  
Newsletter: Terry Middleton 0417 171 844

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

#### **FROM THE EDITOR'S FLOREAT DESK**

Now that we're gearing up for the festive season, things are getting more cramped up and Christmas lunches are soon upon us, in fact your editor has three on consecutive days at the beginning of December, how is the gastric system going to stand up to it? Fortunately, having lost about 6kg over the past 18 months there's a bit of slack to take up.

Our Branch Meeting of October 12<sup>th</sup> attracted 86 attendees including 10 visitors, which was a bit disappointing considering the guest speaker was Kate Chaney, MP for the Federal seat of Curtin. She gave an excellent presentation that attracted many questions that she handled with aplomb. Unfortunately,

ime ran out on us and she could have fielded many more.

In the first part of the program something completely different – a comedy skit by Secretary Derek Cockle and member Geoff Sparrow on Nelson preparing for the Battle of Trafalgar in October 1805, but imagining modern day health and safety regulations!

November Branch meeting will see members presentations, featuring our Larry McIntosh recently returned from cruising the South Pacific and touring South East Asia. Also, your editor will reveal his origin and the course of his nomadic life while carrying out mineral exploration and searching for the big one.

### LOOKING AHEAD

**November Branch Meeting, Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 9.30 for 10.00am** This will be held at the Mt Claremont Community centre as usual. The guest speakers, in lieu of the intended National Trust CEO, will be your President/Editor recounting on his very varied, nomadic life and times, starting at a stones throw from Hadrian's Wall in the north of England. To make a complete members show, one of our Canadian born members – Larry McIntosh, will present on his recent cruise around the South Pacific - "The Adventures of Captain Larry in Micronesia", which promises to be a marine and island-hopping visual epic. Places that you have never even heard of will appear.

A splendid morning tea will be provided and the long range forecast suggests that partaking of it in the gardens will be most pleasant.

Given that we appear to have entered another phase of the COVID epidemic, members and visitors may wish to don their face masks, once again.

**November Special Concert, Thursday November 30<sup>th</sup> 9.30 for 10.00am.** Music Impresario Joseph will present another concert by Quintet Con Brio, comprising UWA students and associates, who performed most admirably for us last March. A great program is promised and a splendid morning tea in the interval. The cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for guests. Details for booking to be advised.

**Christmas Lunch, Thursday December 7<sup>th</sup> 12.00 for 12.30pm.** At Mt Claremont Community Centre again, with Randall of Randall's Roasts providing a sumptuous feast of Christmas fare (vegetarian by special request). There will be a welcoming mocktail and the well-known, . acapella choir – Men in Harmony, will provide Xmas vocalising and lead the carol singing. The cost is \$50 for members and \$55 for guests. There will be raffle prizes and the charity for donations this year will be Foodbank. Members are welcome to bring unwanted previous Xmas gifts or whatever for the raffle prize table. Please book at the November branch meeting or pay by electronic fund transfer at the branch account, make sure that your name is included

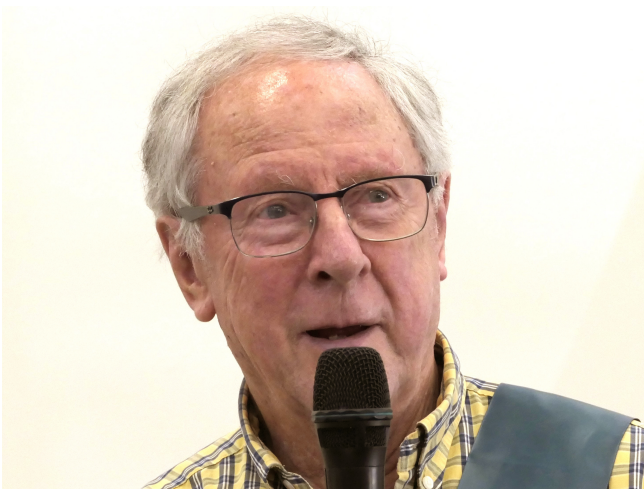
Volunteers will be required to help with the set-up and clean-up afterwards, please contact Marion if you can help.

**Gala Christmas Concert – details to be advised.** Joseph has planned yet a bigger concert for December 22<sup>nd</sup> with the venue and time to be advised but this will feature the 25 person A2 orchestra and the 30 member Winthrop Choir, both comprising UWA students and associates personnel.

There will be 14 items in all, including Mozart's Overture from The Marriage of Figaro; Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite, Handel's Hallelujah chorus and many Christmas flavoured pieces. Cost to be advised.



**Larry on Quad Bike in Hanoi**



**President/Editor Terry**

### **SOCIAL EVENTS**

**Afternoon Tea at the TeeBox Café,  
Thursday November 16th, 2.00pm**

This has become a must-do event for regulars but we would like to see a few newbies. On Thursday October 19<sup>th</sup> about 12 attended.

### **MARION'S CORNER**

If you renew your membership online, you will receive a new membership card from Head Office by post. As a branch of NSA, we are required to keep membership details. Unfortunately, H/O only sends us information about membership if requested. So, when you receive your new card, please will you give me the new details of membership number and expiry date. You can email me at [membership@nsaperthws.org.au](mailto:membership@nsaperthws.org.au), or tell me at a branch meeting.

Marion laws

#### **KATE CHANEY MP, PRESENTATION AT OCTOBER BRANCH MEETING**

Kate gave a very well-articulated and forthright presentation to us. The following is Geoff Jones' take on her talk. Incidentally, she was only one of two seat holders (Curtin – the other was Perth) that gained a Yes' majority in the recent Voice Referendum (51%).

Kate Chaney, Federal member for Curtin, explored the theme 'Doing politics differently' with 90 members and guests at the October branch meeting. This was just two days before voting on the Voice referendum was completed.

Kate gave the background to how she decided to take up the invitation to stand for parliament after several weeks of high anxiety and sleepless nights as she considered what it might mean. She did not expect to win the seat of Curtin yet thought even being a good candidate may lead the two big parties to shift their positions a little closer to hers on issues such as climate and integrity in politics. Kate believes lack of trust in politicians and the political system is the biggest threat to the survival of liberal democracies.

Kate gave a concise summary of some of her work in the electorate. This is directed towards some of the big complex issues that the two-party system finds hard to address and which will take decades of work, such as climate and housing.

In Curtin, Kate has led a series of workshops with local people to plan how Curtin could move towards net zero emissions. Strategies have been organised into what can be done now without more resources and plans that need assistance from outside the electorate. She has also facilitated gathering detailed information about the shape of the housing crisis within the electorate.

This will enable direct communication of accurate information between the electorate volunteers and the Federal Parliament about the housing situation in Curtin.

In Canberra, Kate lives with two other Teal Independents. One of their innovations is to hold 'rainbow dinners' in which they invite a diverse range of politicians to a meal together. The intention is to explore how everyone is thinking and build relationships in a more relaxed setting. The Teals have also had a tangible positive impact on 'Question Time' so that the only televised actions of politicians can be seen by the electorate as a valuable use of time, rather than a slanging match between the two major parties. Kate has introduced a private member's bill called the Restoring Trust Bill to improve donation transparency, reduce financial influence and level the playing field in Australia's elections, consistent with the theme of shoring up trust in politicians and democratic processes.

To a question about the future of the Teal independents and her career, Kate indicated that she is not sure what the future holds, although at this stage she intends to be the candidate for Curtin at the next election. Kate finished by concisely answering questions from the floor mainly about the Voice referendum.

I think everyone in the room was impressed by Kate's clear focus on collaborative decision-making on the big complex issues facing Curtin and Australia.

### **Geoff Jones**



**Vivacious Kate**

## TRAFALGAR DAY, OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup>

The following is a skit performed by Secretary Derek – as First Officer Hardy and Geoffrey Sparrow as Admiral Lord Nelson, at the October Branch Meeting

Lord Nelson's famous naval victory over the French and Spanish fleets in the Battle of Trafalgar occurred on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1805.

To kick-start the 200<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebrations back in 2005, an actor dressed as Nelson posed for photographs on the River Thames at Greenwich, but before he was allowed to board a Royal National Lifeboat, safety officers made him wear a lifejacket over his 19<sup>th</sup> century admirals uniform ! How would Nelson have fared if he had been subject to modern health, safety and welfare regulations currently in force in most workplaces ??

Imagine you are now on deck of the recently re-named British Flagship "HMS Appeasement" immediately prior to commencement of the battle .....

**Nelson** – Hardy - order the signal "England Expects every man to do his duty ....."

**Hardy** – Aye, aye sir ! Signalman – set the signal flags !

*A few minutes later .....*

**Nelson** – Hold on, that's not what I dictated to the signal officer, what's the meaning of this ?

**Hardy** – Sorry sir ?

**Nelson** – "England expects every person to do his or her duty, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religious persuasion or disability ?" What gobbledegook is this ?

**Hardy** – Admiralty policy I'm afraid sir. We're an equal opportunities employer now. We had the devil's own job getting "England" past the censors, lest it be considered racist.

**Nelson** – Gadzooks Hardy. Hand me my pipe and tobacco.

**Hardy** – Sorry sir, all naval vessels have been designated smoke-free working environments !

**Nelson** – In that case Hardy, order break open the rum ration. Let us splice the mainbrace to steel the men for battle !

**Hardy** – The rum ration has been abolished Admiral – it's part of the government's policy to curb binge drinking.

**Nelson** – Good heavens Hardy, I suppose we'd better get on with it. Order full speed ahead.

**Hardy** – I think you'll find that there's a 4 nm speed limit in this stretch of water Admiral.

**Nelson** – Dammit man, we're on the eve of the greatest sea battle in history ! We must advance with all dispatch. Report from crow's nest lookout, please !

**Hardy** – That won't be possible sir. Health and Safety have closed the crow's nest sir. No harness and they say the ladder doesn't meet regulations. They won't let anyone up there until a proper scaffold can be erected.

**Nelson** – Then get the ship's carpenter on to it without delay Hardy.

**Hardy** – Sorry sir, he's busy knocking up a wheelchair access to the fo'c'sle.

**Nelson** – Wheelchair access ? I've never heard anything so absurd !

**Hardy** – Health and Safety again sir. We have to provide a barrier-free environment for the differentially enabled.

**Nelson** – Differentially enabled ? I've only one arm and one eye and I refuse even to hear mention of the word ! I didn't rise to the rank of Admiral by playing the disability card !

**Hardy** – Actually sir, you did. The Royal Navy is under-represented in the areas of visual impairment and limb deficiency.

**Nelson** – Whatever next. Give me full sail – the salt spray beckons !

**Hardy** – A couple of problems there too, sir. Health and Safety won't let the crew up the rigging without crash helmets and full safety harnesses. Also they don't want anyone breathing in too much salt. With respect sir, haven't you seen the adverts ?

**Nelson** – I've never heard such infamy. Break out the cannons and tell the men to stand by to engage the enemy.

**Hardy** – The men are a bit worried about shooting at anyone, Admiral.

**Nelson** – What ? This is mutiny !

**Hardy** – It's not that sir, it's just that they're afraid of being charged with murder if they actually kill anyone. There's a couple of legal aid lawyers on board watching everyone like hawks.

**Nelson** – Then how are we to sink the Frenchies & Spaniards ?

**Hardy** – Actually sir, we're not allowed to do so.

**Nelson** – We're not ??

**Hardy** – No sir, the Frenchies and Spanish are our European partners now. According to the Common Fisheries Policy, we shouldn't even be in this stretch of water. We could be hit with a claim for compensation !

**Nelson** – But Hardy, you must hate the Frenchman as you hate the devil ?

**Hardy** – I wouldn't let the ship's Diversity Co-ordinator hear you saying that sir, you'd be up on disciplinary charge !

**Nelson** – You must consider every man an enemy who speaks ill of your King ?

**Hardy** – Not any more sir, we must be inclusive in this multicultural age. Now sir, please put on your kevlar vest and lifejacket – it's the rules.

**Nelson** – Don't tell me - Health and Safety. Whatever happened to rum, sodomy and the lash ?

**Hardy** – As explained sir, rum is off the menu and there's a ban on corporal punishment.

**Nelson** – So, what about sodomy ?

**Hardy** – I believe it's encouraged now sir.

**Nelson** – Good heavens – in that case –  
**KISS ME HARDY !!**

-ooOoo-

### Courtesy Derek Cockle

The British decisively won the battle 22 to nil, in terms of ships lost. Unfortunately, Nelson was shot by a French musketeer and died before the end of the battle. His last words were allegedly "Kiss me Hardy". (Ed)



Derek (Hardy) & Geoff (Nelson)



