

"KNOCKS" ABOUT KNOX

Official Newsletter of the Knox Branch Inc. – National Seniors Australia
Incorporation Number A0045019J
Postal Address: NSA Knox Branch, PO Box 9201 Scoresby Victoria 3179
Dandenong Ranges



MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Knox Club on the corner of Stud Road and Boronia Road Wantirna

9.45. a.m. for 10.00. a.m. start

JANUARY

2012

From the Pen of the President

To all members

Welcome back to the KAK for another year and a Happy New Year to you all. I hope that you all had a really great Christmas and were able to see the end of 2011 with a smile on your face.

This year should be extremely interesting at the Branch. We are starting off the year with a whole revamped Activities committee.

Jan and Loretta resigned at the end of the year for various reasons, so, we decided to go back to the sub-committee system which should be able to give us a whole lot of varied activities throughout the year.

The good news is Chris Dimmock has rejoined us on the committee so between us all, we should be able to come up with some really good stuff for you.

We have a bit of a problem with costings on activities as most of the coach people are telling us there will need to be a rise in their charges due to their costs rising sharply so, we will really need to examine each activity involving transport etc carefully so that we are able to make the activities cost effective and not involve a whole lot of extra cost to you.

As always we are constantly trying to find out what sort of activities you would like to take part in.

It is very disappointing to organise an activity and have numbers not show up and be told later on "We didn't want to go to that as we didn't think it would be interesting".

If you tell us what sort of thing you would like to do, then we can try to put stuff together, but you must tell us what you would like.

Even if you are not all that keen to come up and tell us, you can always drop us a line or leave a note with one of us.

I look forward to seeing you all at the January meeting.



Never Ever Give Up

Membership Renewal

When you receive your membership renewal notice, please consider renewing through the Branch.. The Branch receives a percentage in return, which goes into Branch funds.

Your Newsletter proudly sponsored by:-
Knox City Council through donations from all Wards
We thank the Mayor and Councillors for their support.

GARDEN GROUP

The next scheduled meeting will be held at the Knox Club on Wednesday the 15th February.

COFFEE CLUB

The next scheduled meeting will be held at the Knox Club on Wednesday the 1st February.

“POLICY PROGRESS”

For a full account of Policy Progress, please refer to the back of this edition of “KAK.

WELFARE

Alan Proudmore has suffered a shoulder injury (amongst other things), resulting from a fall he had at home. He is on the mend and we hope to see Alan at the January Meeting.

MATTERS OF INTEREST

Please note that the scheduled date of the February General Meeting has been changed to Wednesday the 29th.

RAFFLE PRIZES

Please note that we have endeavoured to “spice up” the prizes of our Monthly raffles. As from the January general Meeting, there will now be three prizes of \$25.00 Coles vouchers on offer each Month. I think you’ll agree, these are prizes definitely worth the purchase of a raffle ticket (or three).

HAVING TROUBLE WITH CONVEX SIDE MIRRORS ON YOUR CAR?

Many (maybe all) new and recent model cars have what are known as convex side mirrors. They sound good in theory, but give a very misleading idea where other cars really are in relation to your car—they look to be further away from you than they actually are, thus setting up the possibility of a collision unless you are extremely cautious when changing lanes!

I had this problem with my latest car and had great difficulty in finding someone who could fit plain mirrors in place of the convex mirrors. I did find someone courtesy of the people who service my car, had the mirrors changed, and now can look in my side mirrors with complete confidence that I know exactly where adjacent cars are. Incidentally, the dealer who sold me the car could not help me in any way.

For anyone who has this problem—and would like to fix it— I suggest they contact

READ AUTO MIRRORS

C3/203 MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY

WANTIRNA VIC. 3152

MOBILE: 0407 027 330

They come to your home and replace the mirrors there, and the cost of the job depends on the type of mirrors fitted to your car.

This is not an ad for Read Auto Mirrors, merely my passing on information which has already been of value to a number of other members with whom I have discussed this problem. They too were looking for someone to replace their convex side mirrors, but had been unable to do so.

I’m sure there are other firms which do this type of work, it’s just that I for one could not locate them!

Graham Ellis

“POLICY PROGRESS”

Our latest Sub Committee meeting was held on 1st December 2011, and was highly productive with the major results from it being as follows:

SENIORS REGISTER

John McDonald is continuing to liaise with the Office of Senior Victorians on this matter, and will be discussing the operation of Registers with those Branches in whose municipalities Registers are already operating successfully.

It appears that Knox Council and the Knox police district are proposing a Community Register which will cover all sectors of the community. We have considerable reservations about the effectiveness of this type of Register, and will be pursuing the matter further this year.

POST ACUTE CARE PATIENTS

Narelle Banfield prepared a report on this matter. It has been sent to the Victorian Policy Advisory Group (VPAG) for further consideration and action.

HOUSING FOR OLDER PEOPLE

We have taken the downsizing matter as far as we can, and have now referred it to the VPAG.

John McDonald is continuing to liaise with Dion Mould of Knox Council on the question of suitable and affordable rental accommodation within Knox.

SMART METERS

We considered that a united consumer approach is needed to ensure that the smart meter debate is more balanced than it has been to date, and will be suggesting that NSA take a more proactive stance on it.

QUARTERLY PAYMENT OF PARKS AND GARDENS FEE

Yet again, we have taken this matter as far as we can and have referred it to the VPAG for discussions with the State Government.

CUTTING BACK TREES FROM OVERHEAD POWER LINES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

I have referred this matter to Neville Daynes who is the NSA representative on the Victorian Consumer Utilities Advisory Centre (CUAC), and will be regularly chasing up progress with him. I do not expect a rapid solution to this problem, but have suggested some practical solutions to it which may speed things up a bit.

FIRE SERVICES LEVY

John O'Reilly is still pursuing this matter, and what he has been able to gather at present indicates that there will be no reduction in home insurance premiums after the Levy has been introduced on all properties regardless of their rate standing.

We suspect that political forces are at work here, so the final outcome will probably be anyone's guess!

The excellence of a gift lies in it's appropriateness rather than in it's value.

PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION REPORT INTO AGED CARE

The final report has been handed to the Commonwealth Government for further attention.

NSA has been conducting a number of forums around Australia to discuss the recommendations made in the Report, the latest being held at the Karralyka Centre in Ringwood on 30.11.11. John McDonald, John O’Reilly and I represented Knox Branch at it and found it to be very useful. The National Policy Office organised and ran each forum and prepared a common agenda for them. The agenda focused on weaknesses in the recommendations, and a lot of sound comments arose from our forum (at least).

It was interesting that about 60% of those present were not NSA members!

CONTROLS ON UTILITY PRICE INCREASES

These increases continue to be a serious financial problem for many seniors and others on relatively low incomes. Unfortunately it seems that the utility companies exert what many (including us) see as an unduly large influence on price setting.

We will be developing a possible way of countering this influence, and will feed it in to the NSA policy machine. If our ideas are ultimately accepted by the Australian Energy Regulator, then it would truly be a case of the “mouse that roared”!

TAX REFORM

In July 2011, the Commonwealth Government released a Tax Forum Discussion Paper. Our study of it to date has shown that tax reform can (and probably will) impact on seniors.

We are working our way through the document and will prepare formal comments on the relevant parts of it.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN VICTORIA

NSA’s policy development resources are spread very thinly, so if Victorian issues are to receive full attention it appears that Victoria will need to make the running on them.

How this may be done, by whom, and how effectively is still very much up in the air. However we are hoping to contribute to the solutions to these problems.

COMONWEALTH SENIORS HEALTH CARD (CSHC) THRESHOLDS

These thresholds are set for taxable income, and do not pose a problem for many seniors who receive superannuation pensions free of tax .

However there are others who are not in this fortunate position, and for whom the current threshold limits cause them to just miss out on eligibility for the Card.

The threshold limits were last lifted about ten years ago, and we considered that it is time for them to be lifted again so we will be suggesting that NSA seek increases in the thresholds both for single and couple holders of the CSHC.

A human being must have occupation if he or she is not to become a nuisance to the world.

MARCH DINEOUT

The Dineout Group cordially invites you to a leisurely early Autumn evening at

**WOODS SHERBROOKE RESTAURANT
21 SHERBROOKE ROAD, SHERBROOKE
(MELWAY REFERENCE 75G2)**

on

FRIDAY 9th MARCH 2012

Commencing at 7.00 pm

The cuisine is “Modern Australian” and price ranges are as follows:

ENTRÉE \$6.50 TO \$18.00

MAINS \$25.00 TO \$35.00

DESSERTS \$15.00

The restaurant is fully licensed

Please book at the January General Meeting (**or the February meeting at the very latest**) or with Narelle Banfield on 9753 6195

Woods is a small and very comfortable restaurant and art gallery located on the fringe of Sherbrooke Forest, and is set amidst old English gardens which are most attractive during Autumn.

There is no off street parking for the restaurant, so all parking is in Sherbrooke Road. Entrance to the restaurant is at street level, and there are no steps or stairs within it.

The only cure for grief is action.

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Tramboat Cruise

Next Stop The Gardens

Monday 5th March 2012

Depart: 9.00am

We cruise downtown along the Yarra River through the port of Melbourne. We then continue along the Maribyrnong River passing the home of the Melbourne Cup all this whilst enjoying morning tea.

The tramboat will berth alongside the Essendon Boulevard, where you can take the opportunity to take a stroll through Poyntons Nursery.

Delicious Gourmet sandwiches will be served on our
return trip

Return: 4.30 approx

