

## "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 4<sup>th</sup> 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

**FEBRUARY**

**2012**

### From the Pen of the President

Hello to all members, and others receiving this newsletter. I hope February finds you all safe and well and have started the year off in a positive fashion.

I personally find that if I take a positive attitude, then the down times I have are not so bad as they could be if I sit and dwell on them. Many people who suffer poor health try to see the brighter side of life. This sometimes helps them bear up to their load.

This can be often found with people who are suffering major illnesses or people with chronic diseases.

We have a couple of members who fit into this category and they are the most delightful people.

When asked how they are going with their illness, I am often told with a smile, I am not dead yet and I have no intention of dying while there is hope and while I can smile and enjoy other people.

I only hope that I can emulate their attitude should I be in the same position. At this time of the year, I ask that we give a thought to some of the residents in QLD, who are facing the worst flood conditions since the disastrous floods of 1955.

Many will remember that I was in the same position 12 months ago and the events leading up to and during that horrible time come flooding back (no pun). Many of these people will return to their homes to find total devastation with in many cases most of their furniture totally destroyed and mud over and in their floor coverings.

Quite often a flood can be worse than a fire. A fire will totally destroy possessions and leave nothing but memories, whereas a flood will destroy to the extent that you can find what you have lost and you can still find bits and pieces. Unfortunately, most of what you find is useless and so badly damaged that it is unusable and needs to be thrown out, this is especially applicable to photos and special papers.

I was in the same position with my Mothers possessions last year, and it can be heartbreaking to see these memories of a lifetime reduced to pulp.

So if you are asked to donate to one of the flood relief charities, make sure that it is a charity that will deliver the funding to the people and not swallow up most of the donations due to them being a commercial collector.

I look forward to seeing you all at the February meeting which will this year be on the **29<sup>th</sup> Feb** due to the room being used for another purpose on our normal week.



**Never Ever Give Up**

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

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

At the regular meeting of the Branch Executive Committee on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> of February, it was proposed that the Monthly Attendance Fee be increased from \$3.00 to \$4.00.

This proposition came about as a result of acknowledging the increased costs and expenses incurred on a monthly basis, of running the Branch. It's unfortunate, but it's a fact of life.

This matter was then raised at the General Committee Meeting on Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of February for further consideration and/or ratification.

The motion to have the proposed increase was passed by the Committee and will come into effect at the March General Meeting.

In consideration of the fact that we, as members of the Knox Branch, have enjoyed a \$3.00 attendance fee from the inception of the Branch in July 2003, a “modest” increase of \$1.00 is not out of order in relation to the amount that everything has gone up over the years.

**To finalise, as of the March General Meeting, the new monthly Branch Attendance Fee will be \$4.00**

### DATES TO PUT IN YOUR DIARY

#### MARCH

#### DINNER DINEOUT

**Woods Sherbrooke Restaurant  
21 Sherbrooke Road, Sherbrooke**

Date:- **Friday 9<sup>th</sup>, March**

Time:- **7PM.**

**A full description of the Venue, including meal prices Etc. is attached to the back of this newsletter for your information.**

### ACTIVITIES

**\*\*\*\*Please note. With all payments for any activities, would you please put the CORRECT MONEY in an envelope and write who it's from and what the payment is for.**

#### MARCH

#### Tramboat Cruise

Date: **Monday 5<sup>th</sup>, March**

Cost: **\$55.00 per head for Branch Members and \$60.00 per head for non-Branch Members**

Time: **9AM ( Pick up from the Knox Club.)**

Full details of trip itinerary is attached to the back of this newsletter.

\*\*\*\*Please see Chris Dimmock to put your name down for this trip at the January General Meeting.

\*\*\*\***Full payment is required at the February General Meeting.**

#### ALSO IN MARCH

#### Open Garden

Date:- **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>, March**

Time:- **10.00AM to 4.30PM**

Cost:- **I believe there is a modest entry fee, \$5 or \$6, which goes to charity.**

Venu:- **Paul and Maureen Lucas's Garden  
64 Timbertop Drive, Rowville.**

As part of “Australia's Open Garden Program”, Paul and Maureen will be opening their beautiful garden to the public on this weekend. So as they say, “do yourself a favour” and get along, you certainly won't be disappointed.

#### SPEAKERS

#### FEBRUARY 2012

Speaker: **Delarna Armarant**

Subject: **Australian Hearing**

**Do not accustom yourself to use big words for little matters.**

### BIRTHDAYS

#### Birthdays in February

3<sup>rd</sup>, Gwen Callaway    6<sup>th</sup>, Heather Papst  
13<sup>th</sup>, Fred Sanstrom    16<sup>th</sup>, Maree Nelson  
26<sup>th</sup>, Norma Hawkins    29<sup>th</sup>, Peter Maffey

### GARDEN GROUP

The Garden Group meetings are held at the Knox Club at 10.00AM, on the third Wednesday of each Month.

The next meeting being on the 21<sup>st</sup> March.

### COFFEE CLUB

The Coffee Club meets at the Knox Club at 10.00AM on the first Wednesday of each Month.

The next meeting being the 7th March.

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### “POLICY PROGRESS”

The Christmas New Year period is usually fairly quiet, but not this year!

### FIRE SERVICES LEVY

John O’Reilly is continuing to chase out progress on the Fire Services Levy, and has recently received information that the cost of home insurance with the Fire Services Levy post the Bushfire Royal Commission recommendations may be far in excess of current premiums. This possibility has already started to ring alarm bells in other parts of NSA, and ways of tackling the problem are being considered by them.

Some cynics have suggested that the State Government may be viewing the Levy as a means of raising funds i.e. indirect taxation. We hope that the suggestions are unfounded.

In the meantime we will try to keep you informed on progress if and when it occurs, so it is very much a case of “watch this space”!

### DOWNSIZING ISSUE

Now for some good news!

John Giles and I met with Alan Tudge MP, Member for Aston, on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2012 to discuss this matter.

It was a very productive meeting with Alan promising to arrange for detailed research into the availability of suitable downsized housing within Knox (we all suspect that the research will reveal “holes” in housing development planning processes, not just in Knox).

The catch is that he needs the Branch to provide him with more statistical information than we have gathered to date before he can pursue the matter further, so expect to see yet another survey form in the near future. We will be asking for some hard facts, so the survey will be anonymous. By completing it as fully and as accurately as possible you will ultimately be helping yourself.

While the meeting was confined to the downsizing issue, he is aware of the need for suitable and affordable rental accommodation for those seniors who need to rent. This is something we will take up with him at a later date because suitable and affordable housing (not only for seniors) is both a Commonwealth and State area of concern.

Graham Ellis

### WELFARE

Our thoughts and best wishes go out to Margaret Kennedy who is now in rehab, following a stint in Hospital. Margaret had a bad fall “while on holidays” down on the Peninsula and landed up in Hospital. We look forward to soon seeing Margaret up and around again at the Branch.

### MATTERS OF INTEREST

Please note that the scheduled date of the **February General Meeting** has been changed to **Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup>**.

Also, note that the General Meeting date for April has changed to **Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> April**.  
Due of course to Wednesday being ANZAC Day.

### “BLOCK COURT” LECTURE SERIES

For those interested in attending any of the free Lecture Series held at the NSA ( Block Court) Melbourne City Office, there is a program listing of upcoming events attached to the back of this newsletter for your information.

### RAFFLE PRIZES

Please remember to purchase a raffle ticket when you come to our General Meetings. The prizes now on offer are three \$25.00 Coles gift vouchers. A very handy prize I'm sure you'll agree.

### MYKI TRAVELL CARDS

At the General Meeting it was raised that many did not know how to get a **Seniors Myki card**.

"Any new Senior person entitled to and applying to get a Vic Seniors Card now only needs to tick the appropriate box on the revised application form and they will automatically receive their free Seniors Myki card. Naturally this needs to have money put into it before they use it.

Existing Seniors can arrange to get a Seniors Myki card by ringing the Myki Call Centre on 136954.

Cards can be purchased at the Southern Cross Station centre and at staffed Premium Metro Stations. The Met Shop is also an outlet on the corner of Little Collins St and Swanston St, Melbourne.

There are a total of 400 retail outlets in Vic. They display the Myki sign. Unfortunately there is no

convenient total list of these outlets. To find any in your area you need to have access to a computer and visit the [www.myki.com.au](http://www.myki.com.au) site to enter your post code and get a list of nearby outlets."

### Media Release

Friday 20 January 2012

#### **More places to buy myki as Metcard withdrawal continues**

The transition to myki continues with plans for 800 places to buy and top up a myki card, the gradual phasing out of Metcard tickets from sale and machines from stations, and the planned introduction of customer service staff to help people switch across.

Minister for Public Transport Terry Mulder today said the Coalition Government last year decided to retain myki and detailed a number of changes to transport ticketing that would occur over the coming months.

"The extensive review of myki last year found that it would cost more to scrap it and start again, so our job is to bring it in and work to improve the way it is rolled out," Mr Mulder said.

Mr Mulder said the Transport Ticketing Authority had been working to develop a rollout program, with a focus on providing passengers with helpful information and more places to buy or top up a myki card.

"The Transport Ticketing Authority will work to ensure passengers are kept up-to-date with changes as they happen, through on-system advice such as posters at stations and stops and information on the myki website," Mr Mulder said.

The details of changes to transport ticketing announced today include:

The gradual rollout of full fare myki card sales at myki machines, starting with around 60 myki machines in January 2012.

The continued withdrawal of Metcards from sale, including weekly and monthly Metcards, from Monday 26 March 2012.

**Isn't it fascinating how long a few minutes seem when you are completely alone with not a familiar face in sight?**

**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 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

**In order to be truly happy, you must live along with, and you must stand for something larger than yourself.**

## Regular Block Court Events

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS DISCUSSION GROUP

Fourth Tuesday of the month. Next one Tuesday 28 February, 12.30 – 1.30pm. The new push by the US in the Pacific and the impact on Australia. The speaker is Kent Goldsworthy, lecturer at URMIT, an expert in international affairs and a brilliant speaker. For more details contact Liz on 9650 6144

### INVESTMENT DISCUSSION GROUP

Meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of the month at 10am for those interested in personal finance, shares and super. 2 February 2012 Damian Collins, Financial Advisor, RBS Morgans Ltd will provide an economic update and outline the latest share market news to aid investment decision-making in what is likely to be another challenging year in the markets. Contact Charles for details on 9725 2514

## Free Block Court Lectures

### FREE 2012 Lecture Series

Melbourne NSA office, Block Court, Level 2, 290 Collins Street (take Lift 4 near Hunt Leather), is conducting a series of interesting and informative free Lectures, running for approximately one hour, for members and non members to attend. All Welcome.

**Come at 9.45am for morning tea!** The talks then commence at 10.15am. They are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month.

### PROGRAM:

- ***Scammers – What are they up to now?*** More information on energy marketing, door to door salesmen. Also how to be internet savvy – what about those social networking sites! Presented by Debbie Moon from Consumer Affairs Victoria on **28 February**.
- ***“Lonely for my Land”***. Come and hear gifted speaker Tish Lees on **27 March**. She gives a fascinating story of her life and times on a Pilbara property prior to the domination by massive industrial development and the second largest DWT port in Australia – which was built on their property. Her family owned the property from 1929 until 1966 and ran it as a sheep station.
- ***David and Shirley Williams of Wildwood Studios*** on **24 April**. David is an artist in paints, who with Shirley, travel extensively throughout Victoria and parts of Australia. Come along and hear of their travels and see some of David’s fabulous art!
- ***“Seniors driving longer, smarter, further”*** on **22 May**. Judith Charlton, Associate Director from Monash University Accident Research Centre is coming to inform you of the latest findings and advice for driving.
- ***Organic Gardening in Small Spaces***. Keith Edwards of Diggers Seeds will give an interesting presentation on **26 June**. It will include container growing, growing in small spaces and how to grow enough food for a year in an area of just 10 square metres! Phone our Block Court office on 9650 6144 to indicate you are coming.

## LAMBLE TOURS

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99 Monbulk Road, Emerald, Victoria, 3782

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# Tramboat Cruise

*Next Stop The Gardens*

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**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> 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**



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