

CEO'S REPORT

Retirees WA is now in its 85th year!

I am so proud to be part of this great organisation and I would love those incredible supporters from the past such as Theo Kannis and Sir Charles Court to know that their work has been carried on. We are financially sound, have an excellent funeral fund to offer our members, are constructing our 18th retirement village with number 19 starting next year and get some very good feedback from our many members about how much they like such things as the social club outings and their discount booklet.

One lady rang to say that by using her Retirees WA membership card at one of the restaurants in our booklet, she was able to take her whole family to dinner for her daughter's birthday. We also get many members who struggle with the complicated retirement, assets and pension scenario call to say what wonderful service and advice they received from our financial planner. A few people have called to say that they loved the service from our travel agent and in particular, getting picked up to go to the airport and dropped home at the end of the holiday for free. Our social club outings have become so popular we have had to do 2 trips for each one to fit everyone in.

Our Funeral Fund has been going for over 70 years and is such an excellent service to our members. I urge you to take a look, make a call and find out for yourselves, how much discount our wonderful Funeral Directors are passing on to our members.

We have kept our membership down to \$25 by subsidising it to allow everyone to have the privilege of being a member. To give you some idea, a major seniors group in WA is now \$55 per annum and even the RSL has put membership up to \$40. With that membership money we pay for the cost of collection by either the post office or BPay on an individual transaction basis. We pay for the discount booklet and newsletters, both printing and distribution, public liability

insurance and the AGM costs including the morning tea which everyone enjoys so much and we have overhead costs of running our office.

We have had many queries about the allowable limits for the funeral fund contributions so please note that the CentreLink allowable limit for a couple to put money into their funeral, as at 1 July 2016 is \$12,500. It is indexed in line with CPI pension increases every 1 July. Our Funeral Fund ranges from under \$3,000 and can go up to less than \$4,000. If you want an information pack, please contact us.

Finally, the whole 9 members of the Board came up for election this year and have returned for a further 3 years with the exception of Norm Carter standing down and Nita Hart taking that position. Norm did an excellent job and will be missed. This group of people from all walks of life and with different strengths and skills and loads of experience are the very reason for our success and they are volunteers.

Make the most of your membership and have a great year.

Margaret Thomas JP B Comm CPA LMusA
CEO/CFO Retirees WA

Retirees WA Website

Our new website is about to be launched and it will keep you updated on everything you need to know about Retirees WA. You will be able to browse properties for sale, find out about our funeral fund and see our events coming up as well as information about the Joseph Banks Aged Care Facility.

www.retireeswa.com.au



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Firstly, may I say "thank you" on behalf of all the members of our Board, including myself as your President for having the confidence to return us to office for another three years at the last AGM. We are all honoured. Each and every one of you had the opportunity to either nominate for a position, or to vote us off, but as you knew we were doing the right thing for our Organisation you chose to return us for a further term. We will endeavour to honour that confidence by ensuring the Organisation continues to carry out its obligations to you all, just as Boards both past and present have done for the past 85 years since inception.

It has been another one of those years where pensioners have been targeted by all spheres of Government, from taking away our 50% concession on Council Rates to the changes in the Pensions Assets test resulting in many of our members no longer being able to receive a Government Pension. I have been contacted and had numerous conversations with members on these very issues. It seems totally unfair that when all spheres of Government Local, State, and Federal, are looking for ways to "balance the budget" that pensioners always seem to be the target. Whilst we are a non-political organisation we cannot overlook what is happening on a regular basis to our members including self-funded Retirees. I am more than concerned especially when our petition for a Commissioner for Seniors was turned down, which would have given us an independent voice to fight for our concerns and rights.

Meanwhile, our Branches are continuing to enjoy so many varied activities. We had another successful Retirees WA Annual Christmas Show in December with over 230 attending. All enjoyed a great afternoon of music, singing, comedy, and a brass band accompanying Christmas carols, culminating in a delicious afternoon tea. I thank all those volunteers who so kindly put in so much effort to make it a great and thoroughly enjoyable afternoon. It was a pleasure to see lots of our members from many of our branches as well as our Joseph Banks Aged Care residents. Congratulations to our Forrestfield/High Wycombe branch for hosting, and our CEO Margaret Thomas for organising the Brass Band. Would you believe, bookings are already coming in for this year-December 2017! I reiterate my usual comment; we are here for you, and always happy to talk to you should the need arise.

Retirees WA State President **Nita Sadler**



Nita Sadler

SOCIAL CLUB

Members can invite non-members to attend all social club outings. **BOOK EARLY FOR EVENTS AS NUMBERS ARE LIMITED!**

DISCOVERING BUNBURY

Date: Tuesday 21st and 28th March 2017

We will leave Perth and head to The Bunbury Dolphin Discovery Centre where we will enjoy a Devonshire morning tea. This will be followed by a guided tour of the centre and hopefully meeting the dolphins. After the visit to the centre we will have a 2 course lunch with tea and coffee. If time permits we will visit the Bunbury Farmers Market for some fresh produce on our way back to Perth. **COST: \$50.00 p/p** inc meals and entry into the Dolphin Discovery Centre. Departing Perth Wellington Street Tourist Stand at 9:00am and returning to Perth approx. 4:30pm

MYSTERIES OF NEW NORCIA

Date: Tuesday 11th and 18th April 2017

We will head to Bindoon stopping for morning tea at the Greedy Galah before arriving at New Norcia. Here we will visit the historic museum and art gallery. On our way to lunch we will tour around town including seeing The Monastery. Lunch will be at the New Norcia Hotel followed by a further tour of New Norcia. **COST: \$50.00 p/p** inc meals. Departing Perth Wellington Street Tourist Stand at 9:00am and returning to Perth approx. 4:30pm

HISTORIC NORTHAM

Date: Tuesday 23rd and 30th May 2017

We will depart Perth and have morning tea at A Patch of Country Cafe in Mundaring then head on to Northam. The Northam Historical Society will take us on a tour of the town showing off

their historical buildings and sights. At the conclusion of the tour lunch will be served at the Rivers Edge Cafe before heading back to Perth.

COST: \$50.00 p/p inc meals and tour charges. Departing Perth Wellington Street Tourist Stand at 9:00am and returning to Perth approx. 4:00pm / 4:30pm

YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK

Date: Tuesday 20th and 27th June 2017

Our first stop is Leap Frogs Cafe before heading to Yanchep National Park to see the Koalas and other animals. Lunch will be at The Yanchep Inn before heading to Perth.

COST: \$50.00 p/p inc meals and park charges. Departing Perth Wellington Street Tourist Stand at 9:00am and returning to Perth approx 4:30pm.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Date: Tuesday 18th and 25th July 2017

Morning tea will be at Avocado's Cafe before continuing on to Pinjarra to visit the Edenvale Heritage Complex. A 3 course lunch will be served at the Ravenswood Hotel.

COST: \$50.00 p/p inc meals. Drinks at own cost. Departing Perth Wellington Street Tourist Stand at 9:00am and returning to Perth approx 4:30pm.

NO REFUNDS FOR CANCELLATIONS WITHIN 14 DAYS OF OUTING - PLEASE ADVISE OF DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AT TIME OF BOOKING