

# Centenary Branch Newsletter - OCTOBER 2024

We now have a Facebook Page. Go to National Seniors Australia Centenary Branch and Like  
\*\*\* PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME BADGES TO MEETING AND ON OUTINGS \*\*\*

## FROM THE FRONT DESK

Good morning, all,

How much do I love this country of ours? We've just returned from another look at the wide-open spaces, cotton fields, barley, sorghum for absolute miles, seems like a small paddock is just 20,000

acres. We have a small whinge here when our water bill comes in, but how would you like to have to pay \$60,000 a year for your water allocation to keep your crop alive? That just for the water – the irrigation system another million on top of that, so I bought 2 shirts from Goondiwindi cotton just to help them out. I've seen a fair few overseas countries, but they have nothing that we don't have in Australia.

Those that travelled will note that the itinerary changed quite a bit, accommodations, some meal venues etc having to be changed on route. Sadly, quite a few businesses simply cannot get staff, which causes Allan a few headaches, and businesses to have to close. Most of the hospitality people we spoke to are backpackers from Ireland, England, Portugal and Brazil, thank goodness for them.

All in all, we've had a wonderful week away and I'd like to have that continue: have you had time to think about putting your hand up for a "volunteer" position as we move to a social club? The good news is Carol Uren has volunteered to take on the friendship role and send cards to members. We need someone to organize speakers/entertainers, explorer trips (public transport), raffle prize gatherer. Someone to organize evening dinners, mahjong and steady steps, don't be shy – it's your club, and it isn't about you – it's for the good of the members.

I mentioned at the last meeting that your Christmas breakup this year is at no cost to you, we feel this is the fairest way for the majority of the members to enjoy currently held funds. After that there will not be much left and some will have to be available for the finalization of the club – AR lodging, auditing etc

**Bev Hocker - President**

## **SAVE THE DATES**

**PLEASE CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR NAME IS ON THE LIST FOR ALL BOOKINGS AND IF YOU CANNOT MAKE IT, PLEASE CROSS YOUR NAME OFF THE LIST.**

**Thursday 17/10 – Government Speaker on changes to Home Care Packages – Westside HQ from 1.30pm. Booking Sheet back of the room.**

**Melbourne Cup at Westside HQ  
Tuesday 5/11/24 – The club has tickets on hold for \$55 each. If your name is on the list please pay money ASAP. Booking Sheet at the back of the room. Remove your name if you cannot go.**

**Christmas Party at Westside HQ  
Tuesday 3/12/24 – 11am – 4pm Free to Members - Booking Sheet back of the room.**

**Lord Mayor's City Hall Concerts 9am  
Wednesday 4/12/24 and Friday 6/12/24  
Wed morning 9 seats still available. Friday 1 seat available. Booking Sheet at the back of the room.**

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**OCTOBER SPEAKER: Dr Rolfe Gomes**  
Dr Rolf Gomes is a general cardiologist and is the Founder and Director of the mobile specialist healthcare service Heart of Australia

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**There will be a special edition of the Newsletter for Christmas. Please email me your favourite family tradition, a Christmas recipe or a Christmas joke to Anne: [secretary.nsacb@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.nsacb@gmail.com)**

## **OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

Birth flower is Marigold and Cosmos  
Birthstone is Opal and Tourmaline



### **MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO**

Carol Uren, Glenda Berry,  
Jenny Hashim-Jones and Carmel  
Japuncic

Your star sign is either  
Libra (The Scales) those born between  
September 23 and October 22 or

Scorpio (The Scorpion) those born  
between October 23 and November 21

Libra people are charming, sociable and  
aesthetic. They are tactful, peacemakers,  
extraverts, great listeners with a sense of  
humour. On the negative side they are  
unreliable, lazy, manipulative and vaine.

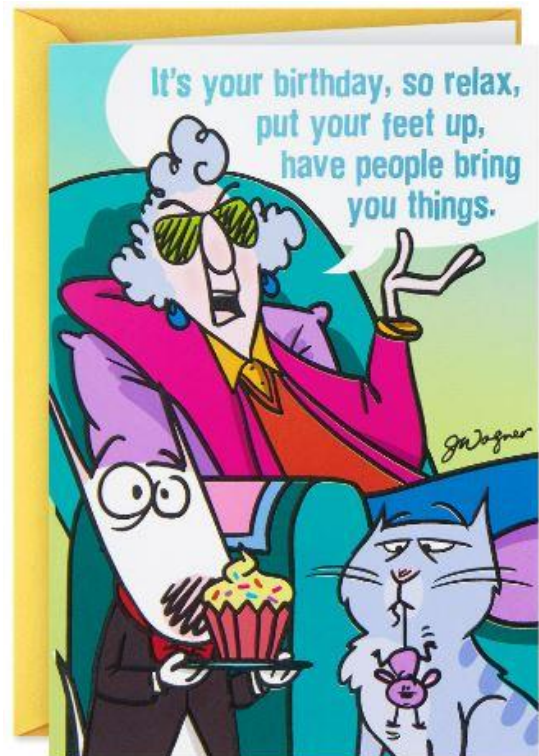
Libra is an air sign associated with the  
colour blue.

Scorpio people are resourceful, powerful,  
brave, passionate, a true friend and have a  
demanding personality. On the negative  
side they are distrusting, jealous, violent  
and obsessive. They are extremely  
emotional and crave intimacy.

Some famous People born in October  
Ryan Reynolds, Bill Gates, John Lennon,  
Christopher Columbus, Hugh Jackman,  
Julia Roberts, Pablo Picasso, Vladimir  
Putin, Oscar Wild and Julie Andrews.

Best wishes are extended to all our valued  
members celebrating birthdays we hope  
you have a wonderful day.

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## **MAHJONG**

Centenary Seniors Mah Jong Group meets every  
Thursday during the month. If you are a new  
player and would like to learn or an experienced  
player who would like to play socially come along.  
We meet in the Mt Ommaney Library 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Thurs of the month, the Monier Hotel on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs  
(staying for lunch afterwards) and 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs of the  
month. Inquiries – Judy Hunold 3378 4935 or Jo  
Murray 0406 413 836



## **TRANSIT CARE BUS TRIPS**

**\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE TRANSPORT CODES ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL  
TRANSIT CARE BUS TRIPS \*\*\*\***

**Full payment for bus trips is to be made at the monthly meeting before trip. Please  
check booking sheet and remove your name if you are not coming.**

### **Oct 15 – Jacaranda Cruise**

Cost is \$30 for Morning Tea and Lunch. Bring your Go Card. Depart Mt Ommaney 8.30am. Money to be paid today or EFT Name/Cruise – Check booking sheet and confirm you are still coming on the trip.

### **Nov 29 - Pohlman's Nursery**

Final Details and costings TBA Check name on booking sheet.

**PLEASE CHECK CALENDAR FOR TIME THE BUS DEPARTS AS THE BUS WILL  
BE LEAVING ON TIME AND WILL NOT WAIT FOR LATECOMERS.**

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## **PAYMENTS**

**CASH – PUT CASH IN AN ENVELOPE WITH YOUR NAME ON THE ENVELOPE,  
THE AMOUNT PAID AND EVENT.**

**PAYMENT BY BANK TRANSFER BANK: NAB MT OMMANEY BRANCH**

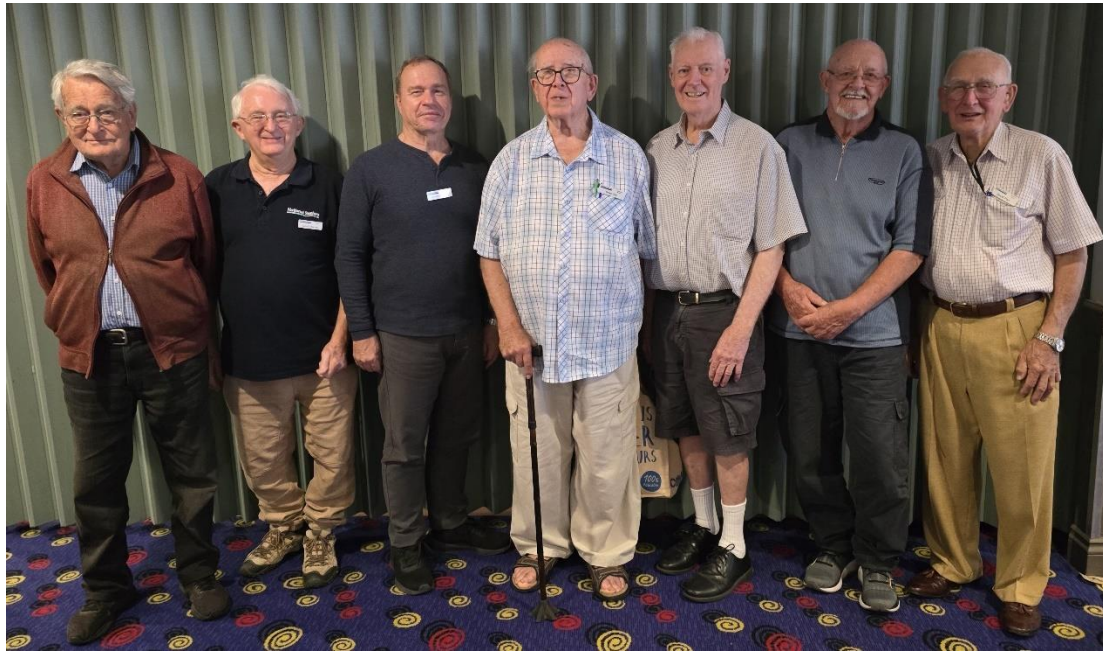
**BSB 084 259 ACC. NO. 821660559**

**PLEASE PUT NAME AND EVENT ON TRANSFER FOR IDENTIFICATION.**





**GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY 3/9/24**



Father's Day Raffle L-R Jack Price, Geoff Harvey, Steven Haycock, Brian Old (Winner) Stan Moore, Allen Hashim-Jones and David Port.



L-R Jack Price (90 – NASA) Brian Old (Father's Day raffle winner) Laurel Pearce (80 OBE) and Ann Tupicoff (Birthday raffle winner)



Raffle prize Winners L-R - Olga Jones (1<sup>st</sup>), Coral Anderson (2<sup>nd</sup>), Bronwyn Quinn(3<sup>rd</sup>) and Brenda Bennett (4<sup>th</sup>)

## JOKES

One day, a police officer pulls a car over and sees the backseat is full of penguins. The officer tells the driver, “You can’t be doing this, you need to take these penguins to the zoo!”

The next day, the police officer pulls the same car over again, and says, “Hey! I told you to take these penguins to the zoo!”

The driver says, “I did, and today I’m taking them to the movies!”

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I’m at an age when my back goes out more than I do.

You know you’re getting old when you get that one candle on the cake.

So far, this is the oldest I’ve been.

Irony of Age: When you’re a baby, you’re taken care of by your parents. When parents grow old, they’re taken care of by their baby.

## SEPTEMBER 2024 TRIP TO CHARLEVILLE

Bright and early 29 of us on time and all aboard for 7 days of sightseeing, eating and sharing good company. Our first stop was morning tea at Warwick Gardens Galore, such an amazing place, and as often as I've been to Warwick, I've never called in. A nursery/coffee stop/gift shop with a few cute animals included. Don't miss it next time you're there.

Onto the painted silos at Yelarbon, photo stop only and then more photo opportunities of the amazing scrap metal works as we entered Goondiwindi. Some people see rusty old junk, others have skill and ability.



A few years ago we stopped at a cotton farm while the cotton was in the process of being harvested. This time it was after the crop had been harvested. Mike gave a very interesting tour of the property/dam/irrigation system and the whole process of producing cotton material. Next, of course, was shopping at Goondiwindi Cotton Shop.

After lunch it was on the road again to St George via the Nindigully Pub – an icon of the area.

It's a long drive from St George to Charleville so we called in to Mitchell's Great Artesian Spa for morning tea, I was a beautiful day, and had we known the weather would be so good it would have been fantastic to go from hot artesian water to cold, get the blood pumping for sure. However, we sat and watched those who came prepared as we enjoyed coffee and cake.



On to Charleville. 2 nights here just wasn't enough, who would have thought there was so much way out there? Home of "Save the Bilby's". The old railway station has been converted into a specially built nocturnal house, and we were given an informative talk on the breeding and release program. One particular type of Bilby is already extinct, so the next stop was the shop where every purchase returns funds towards saving this "Lesser" Bilby.



We did a tour of Carones Hotel Charleville where we met "Harry Coronos" a 23-year-old Greek (in the early 1900's) who did all kinds of good things for the area. Building, employment, ambulance, fire department and seemingly making good financial decisions along the way.

We visited the USA's Secret WW11's base – we have no idea what goes on in this grand country of ours – I suppose the clue is "secret" – but that base housed a site responsible for enabling war planes to more accurately drop their bombs on specific targets – a concrete shed about 10 feet square. Can't imagine how the 3000 American troops posted there existed. One of the requirements for them was to take a bath, once a week, in a mixture of water and DDT, in order to keep the ticks etc. away.

Evening saw us looking skyward. We had great weather while we were away, except for the night at the Cosmos centre, too cloudy for what the observatory attendants wanted to show us, but still quite amazing. Huge telescopes and we all got to see the moon – just like they say – swiss cheese – except they're craters.

We saw Jupiter and at least one of its moons but that's when the cloud cover came so it was into the huge observatory to show us the milky way and billions of stars.

Charleville was the highlight for me, now we're on the downhill slide back to Brisbane. Morning tea again in Mitchell and on to Roma – a quick stop at the famous cattle yards and through a newly built panoramic view of the whole operation, without getting your feet dirty.

From Roma to Miles Historical Village and on to Chinchilla, Dalby, Jondaryan and home. These last towns all have something worth seeing and enjoying, but by now my head is full of new information and I've been told that I won't forget it.

It's just that the retrieval process that fails. Loved It.

**Bev Hocker – President**

Corones Hotel Charleville





## Centenary NSA Charleville Trip – Sun 8<sup>th</sup> to Sat 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024

29 Centenary seniors and friends started our Charleville trip early morning Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September. The tour, organized by Alan Foster of Granite Maxi Tours in conjunction with our leader Bev Hocker, took us to Charleville over three comfortable days travelling via Goondawindi and St George. Many interesting stops were included for food and comfort, including Warwick Nursery, Coolmunda Olive farm, a cotton farm, Nindigully pub etc. The cotton farm tour really highlighted just how much technology is now used in agriculture with GPS controlling farm machinery tracking, and complex water and fertiliser management to maximize production for minimum water and chemical usage.

For me, a first time visitor to Charleville, the trip highlights included the Bilby Centre, the Cosmos centre and the Secret WW2 base of which I was previously unaware.

As Australians, we are all aware of the precarious situation of bilbies in Australia after extreme predation of these iconic Australian natives by introduced foxes, feral cats and dogs. With bilbies close to extinction, serious attempts are now being made to maintain wild populations of bilbies and other threatened species. The Charleville centre has established a successful bilby breeding program and has constructed a fenced predator free area at Carrawinya National Park SW of Cunnamulla. To achieve the required protection, a 29 km 2.4m high special fence has been constructed around an area of approximately 25 square km. The fence is specially designed and electrified to exclude predators but does still require continual patrols to maintain the level of protection necessary to exclude all land predators. Seeing and hearing of the dedication of the founders and operators of this facility was a real eye opener.



I had expected the Charleville Cosmos centre to be a real highlight, but as luck would have it, there was scattered cloud and a bright moon on the night we attended, so the expected sightings of the milky way did not eventuate. However, I found the centre well set up for live group viewing with four reflecting telescopes on the outdoor viewing platform where we took turns viewing. Through breaks in the cloud, we did see clearly the mountains and terminator on the moon and the rings of Saturn as well as the star Vega. With cloud increasing however, the tour was adjourned to the planetarium for further descriptions of the night sky.

The WW2 secret base adjacent to the airport/flying doctor centre has been established as a tourist attraction. Visitors enjoy a tour of some of the remains as well as a static display of various of the historical records and facilities. Everybody will remember the stories told of the measures taken to prevent disease and insect infestation of the troops based there during the war. This included full immersion in DDT baths, bit like a sheep dip. The 'secret' from the base related to training in the use of the top secret gyro stabilized bomb sight bought here by the American military.

At the historic Coronas Hotel in Charleville, we were given a history tour by a very enthusiastic guide. Many of us donned period head ware for this tour.



Everybody on the trip had an enjoyable time; there was more than enough food to keep everyone satisfied and wondering how to lose the excess later after the trip finished. Many thanks to Bev and Alan Foster for organizing the holiday. Hope it is not the last for Centenary NSA!

**Geoff Harvey**

## CALENDAR 2024

### OCTOBER 2024

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	GENERAL MEETING & Hugh Colebatch Plant Sale	9.30am	Westside HQ Corinda	\$6
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mahjong	9-12noon	Mt Ommaney Library	
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Steady Steps	9.15am	Centenary Uniting Church Hall	\$8
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	SENIORS EXPO	9.00am	Riverlife 17 Mile Rocks	
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Mahjong	9-12noon	Mt Ommaney Library	
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Steady Steps	9.15am	Centenary Uniting Church Hall	\$8
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	JACARANDA CRUISE	8.30am	Mt Ommaney	\$30
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Lunch	11.30am	Monier Hotel	
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Mahjong	9-12noon	Monier Hotel	
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Govt changes to Home Care Packages	1.30pm	Westside HQ Corinda	
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Steady Steps	9.15am	Centenary Uniting Church Hall	\$8
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Mahjong	9-12noon	Monier Hotel	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Steady Steps	9.15am	Centenary Uniting Church Hall	\$8
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee & Conversation	10.00am	Jamacia Blue Mt Ommaney	
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Mahjong	9-12 noon	Monier Hotel	
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup>	EVENING DINNER	6pm	Jindalee Golf Club – Booking Sheet	

### NOVEMBER 2024

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Steady Steps	9.15am	Centenary Uniting Church Hall	\$8
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	MELBOURNE CUP	11 am	Westside HQ Corinda	\$55
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Mahjong	9-12noon	Mt Ommaney Library	
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Steady Steps	9.15am	Centenary Uniting Church Hall	\$8
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	GENERAL MEETING	9.30am	Westside HQ Corinda	\$6
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Mahjong	9-12noon	Mt Ommaney Library	
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Steady Steps	9.15am	Centenary Uniting Church Hall	\$8
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Mahjong	9-12noon	Monier Hotel	
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Lunch	11.30am	Monier Hotel	
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Steady Steps	9.15am	Centenary Uniting Church Hall	\$8
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee & Conversation	10.00am	Jamacia Blue Mt Ommaney	
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Evening Dinner	6.00pm	Ronnies – Booking Sheet	
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Mahjong	9-12noon	Monier Hotel	
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Polhmans Nursery Bus Trip	TBA	Mt Ommaney	TBA

**\*\* NB – Date of General Meeting changed due to Melbourne Cup.**



**DECEMBER 2024**

<b>Monday 2nd</b>	<b>Steady Steps</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Centenary Uniting Church Hall</b>	<b>\$8</b>
<b>Tuesday 3rd</b>	<b>CLUB XMAS PARTY</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Westside HQ Corinda</b>	<b>Free</b>
<b>Wednesday 4th</b>	<b>LORD MAYOR XMAS</b>	<b>9 – 11.30</b>	<b>City Hall</b>	<b>Free</b>
<b>Thursday 5th</b>	<b>Mahjong</b>	<b>9-12noon</b>	<b>Mt Ommaney Library</b>	
<b>Friday 6th</b>	<b>LORD MAYOR XMAS</b>	<b>9 – 11.30</b>	<b>City Hall</b>	<b>Free</b>
<b>Monday 9th</b>	<b>Steady Steps</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Centenary Uniting Church Hall</b>	<b>\$8</b>
<b>Thursday 12th</b>	<b>Mahjong</b>	<b>9-12noon</b>	<b>Mt Ommaney Library</b>	
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Steady Steps</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	<b>Centenary Uniting Church Hall</b>	<b>\$8</b>
<b>Thursday 19th</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Monier Hotel</b>	
<b>Thursday 19th</b>	<b>Mahjong</b>	<b>9-12noon</b>	<b>Monier Hotel</b>	
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>MERRY XMAS</b>	<b>All day</b>		
<b>Tuesday 31st</b>	<b>HAPPY NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>	<b>All day</b>		
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b>	<b>Midnight</b>		

**Our thanks to Sarah Hutton, Councillor for the Jamboree Ward for the provision of photocopying facilities.**