



New Year Barbecue

Our barbecue at Lilydale Lake was a pleasant, relaxing way to start the year. The weather cleared and the afternoon became warm and enjoyable. There were activities for those interested and



time to chat for those who weren't.

Peter Feeney's birthday was celebrated with candles and a chocolate cake shared by all. Happy Birthday Peter.

The only problem surfaced the next day when sunburn appeared on those who forgot to cover up with hats, sunscreen or clothing.



NOTE: This newsletter includes activities for February and March 2007.

Dates to Remember

FEBRUARY 2007

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5 February

Meeting at RSL

1

8 February:

Lunch at "All Smiles"

2

15 February:

Walk at Ringwood Lake

2

22 February:

Coffee Club

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MARCH 2007

1 March:

Walk at Croydon

2

5 March:

Meeting at RSL

1

14 March:

Dinner at Chiraag

3

15 March:

Heathmont Walk

2

22 March:

Coffee Club

3

29 March:

Walk at Lilydale Lake

2

February & March Meetings

Our next meeting is at 2 pm Monday 5 February. Judy Stolz will speak on "Photo Memories, Protection and Digital Cameras".

At our meeting on Monday, 5 March, our speaker will be Robin Bowles, an author and crime investigator.

Help!

President Peter has a problem. He needs some male company on our walks - none have appeared recently and he's suffering from female overload. He wishes!

Jokes for "the littlies"

Q. Where do rabbits learn to fly helicopters?

A. In the Hare Force

Q. What do you get when you cross a ghost and a packet of crisps?

A. Snacks that go munch in the night!

Q. What was the first vegetable motor called?

A. The Horseless Cabbage

COBA Melbourne Zoo Concert

Tickets will be required for those wishing to attend on Saturday 17 March, 2007. Details are available in our last newsletter (December 2006) and on the zoo website:
www.zoo.org.au/melbourne/twilights.htm

Walking Group

The walking group walks on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. All walks start at 9 am and normally include a mid-walk break for refreshments at one of the local coffee shops.

On **Thursday 15 February**, we walk at Ringwood Lake, meeting in the car park off Mt. Dandenong Road. The entrance is just before the Ampol Service Station. This is a relatively short, flat walk from Ringwood Lake to East Ringwood shopping centre and back.



On **Thursday 1 March**, we will be walking along part of the Tarralla Creek Trail into Croydon. We will meet outside the Pre-School on Eastfield Road, Near the corner of Bayswater Road. This is a flat track surrounded by trees and a creek.

Thursday 15, March will see us tackle the Heathmont walk. We will meet in the car park at the end of Marlborough Road, Heathmont. This is a fairly long walk that is characterized by small rises and dips and a steeper uphill path to the Heathmont shopping centre where we have refreshments before returning.

On **Thursday 29 March** (an extra walk for March with 5 Thursdays) we return to Lilydale Lake for our walk and meet in the main car park off Swansea Road. We walk around the lake then to the township for refreshments and back again.

Lunch Group

The lunch group meets every second month, alternating between the second Wednesday and second Thursday of the month.

Our next lunch will be:

Date: Thursday 8 February
 Time: 12.30 pm
 Place: All Smiles Cafe on the Course,
 Address: Ringwood Golf Course, Canterbury Road,
 Ringwood
 Bookings: Marion at our 5 February meeting or on
 tel: 9879 7235

Reminder 2

The committee has decided that we will start 2007 by dropping the door charge at our meetings to \$2.00. This is a charge to cover administrative costs, door prizes, speakers' costs etc.

MAROONDAH-RINGWOOD BRANCH

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Dinner Group

The dinner group meets every second month, alternating between the 2nd Wednesday and the 2nd Thursday.

Our next dinner is at:

Venue: Chiraag Restaurant,
Address: Maroondah Highway, Croydon
Date: Wednesday 14 March, 2007
Time: 7 pm
Bookings: Phone Tricia on 9723 9389 or at our March meeting.

Coffee Club

The Coffee Club meets on the fourth Thursday of each month.

We will meet on 22 February and 22 March at the coffee shop in Myer Eastland at 2 pm.

No need to book, just come along for a cuppa and a chat.

Insurance Concern

Copy letter sent to us by Eileen McGregor:

"James had a car accident which was not his fault and although he got the Taxi Driver's licence No., Car registration and owner's phone number, Allianz charged us the excess because they said James did not get the taxi driver's address. We were sure that the information given was sufficient to trace the taxi driver and we were just an easier way to collect some money.

I wrote to 50Something to warn others with a copy to National Seniors Insurance. Nat Seniors Insurance took up the issue with Allianz and it has been resolved in our favour. As National Senior Insurance pointed out we are important customers and there are a lot of us. Others may wish to follow my lead if they have any problems with their insurance."

Last Rites...

A man and his ever-nagging wife went on vacation to Jerusalem.

While they were there, the wife passed away. The undertaker tole the husband: "You can have her shipped home for \$5000, or you can bury her here, in the Holy Land, for \$150."

The man thought about it and told him he would just have her shipped home.

The undertaker asked: "Why would you spend \$5000 to ship your wife home, when it would be wonderful to be buried here and you would spend only \$150?"

The man replied: "Long ago a man died here, was buried here, and three days later he rose from the dead. I just can't take that chance."



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE KIDS WHO WERE BORN IN THE 1930's 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's!!

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they carried us.

They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes.

Then after that trauma, our baby cribs were covered with bright colored lead-based paints.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets, and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets, not to mention the risks we took hitchhiking...

We drank water from the garden hose and NOT from a bottle. We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and NO ONE actually died from this.

We ate cakes, white bread and real butter and drank pop with sugar in it, but we weren't overweight because...

WE WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING!!

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach us all day...

AND WE WERE OKAY.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.

We did not have Playstations, Nintendo's, X-boxes, no video games at all, no 99 channels on cable, no video tape movies, no surround sound, no cellphones, no personal

computers, no Internet or Internet chat rooms...

WE HAD FRIENDS

and we went outside and found them!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents.

We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever.

We made up games with sticks and tennis balls and although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes.

We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just yelled for them!

Football teams had trials and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment.

IMAGINE THAT!!

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law!

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever! The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned

HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL!

**And YOU are one of them!
CONGRATULATIONS!**

You might want to share this with others who have had the luck to grow up as kids before the lawyers and the government regulated our lives for our own good. While you are at it, forward it to your kids so they will know how brave their parents were... Kind of makes you want to run through the house with scissors, doesn't it?!