



# Maroondah Message

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## *Hilary Jones*

At our June meeting, Hilary Jones had us all laughing with her amusing anecdotes and letters from her long career dealing with customer complaints for Coles. But she also fascinated and impressed us with the lengths she went to address those complaints.

It was all the more impressive following, as it did, the meeting before where Alison Watson talked about her long career in human resources in Myers. The professionalism, compassion and dedication both these ladies displayed, highlighted to me how much we have lost through the growth of these two companies into a corporate giant. Bigger is not always better.

Our next meeting is Monday July 3rd at the



## What is coming up:

- **July 3rd** meeting at **Ringwood RSL** "Gilmour Shoes"
- **July 6th** walk to Beasley's
- **July 12th** dinner at Chiraag Nepalese
- **July 20th** walk along Mullum Creek from Sofias
- **July 27th** coffee club at Myers Eastland
- **August 3rd** walk from Ringwood Lake
- **August 7th** meeting at **Ringwood RSL** "Puffing Billy"

## *COBA - Maldon Train Trip*



A group of our members joined the COBA (Combined Branches) trip on the historic gold-fields railway between Castlemaine and Maldon.

We travelled to Castlemaine on one of VICRail's new fast trains and then joined the steam train to Maldon. We had lunch on the train and then walked around Maldon before returning.

We then visited Castlemaine before catching a

train back to Melbourne's new Southern Cross station. Gino and I spent more time on Victorian trains in that one day than we had in the preceding 20 years but we were very pleasantly surprised by the comfort of the trains and the good service from the staff. In all it was a very pleasant enjoyable day.



### Walking Group - Thursday July 6th & 20th

The walking group walk on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month.

**July 6th** we will walk to Beasleys Nursery from the car park behind the Hockey Centre off Reynolds Road (Melway Map 34 G7) at 9:30 am.

On **July 20th** we will be walking along the Mullum Creek from the car park at the back of Sofias (Maroondah Hwy Croydon) to the Mullum Walk Café. We will be setting out at 9:30 am.

On **August 3rd** we will be walking around Ringwood Lake and then off to East Ringwood for coffee. We will be leaving from the lake car park (off Mt Dandenong Road) at 9:30 am.

**If you are coming on a walk please let Rae know on 9876-1577**



### Dinner Group - Wednesday July 12th



The dinner group meet every second month alternating between 2nd Wednesday and the 2nd Thursday evenings.

Our next dinner is at 7:00pm

Chiraag Indian & Nepalese Restaurant

Licensed & BYO

Shop 10 1-7 Maroondah Hwy Croydon

**Book with Tricia by July meeting (9723-9389)**

### Lunch Group - Wednesday 9th August

The lunch group alternate with the dinner group meeting every end month alternating between the 2nd Wednesday and the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Sixteen of us enjoyed lunch at the RSL earlier this month.

The lunch at the RSL was very pleasant and the seniors meals are excellent value. Peter is considering taking Rae there all the time so she can fill up on lamb's fry without being tempted to cook it at home.

We will eat again at 12:30pm on Wednesday 9th August at Sofia's on Maroondah Hwy Croydon.

**Book at the August meeting or by phoning Marion 9879-7235**



## Coffee Club Thursday July 27th.

The coffee club meet on the 4th Thursday of each month at 2:00pm.

This month the Coffee Club are meeting at the coffee shop inside Myers Eastland. There is no need to book just come along for a cuppa and a chat.

## Greensborough Branch - 4 DAY MERIMBULA "WINTER SPECIAL"

Departing Sunday 20th August, 2006 at 7.00am

Day 1 (Dinner)

7.00 a.m. Depart our clubrooms and travel the Princes Highway via **Traralgon** and on through Sale and Stratford to **Bairnsdale** and a chance to visit **St Mary's Catholic Church** to inspect the beautiful murals painted by a visiting artist, Franco Floreani. Continue onto **Lakes Entrance**, before travelling into East Gippsland past the Rain Forests. We journey through the border town of **Genoa** and into N.S.W. past Eden arriving at our motel in **Merimbula** with time to relax and freshen up before 2 course dinner tonight at the local club (3 hour stay).

Day 2 (Breakfast/Dinner)

After a delicious cooked breakfast, then travel via Bega, and the **ABC Cheese Factory** at Central Tilba for an introductory talk before visiting the township and the many specialty shops of arts, crafts & leather goods. Continue onto **Narooma**, with its panoramic views of the Ocean. Return to Merimbula and our motel in time to freshen up before 2 course dinner tonight at a local club (3 hour stay).

Day 3 (Breakfast/Dinner)

After breakfast, travel to and visit the township of **Eden** and take in the views of **Twofold Bay**. Time to stroll this lovely seaside town, perhaps visit the local craft shops or say hello to the deep-sea fisherman on the wharf. Return to Merimbula for a local tour including scenic **Tathra**, and the Tura Beach Estate with its beautiful views. Return to our motel to freshen up or perhaps some shopping time around the arcades before a farewell Barbecue Dinner around the pool at our Motel and a chance to socialize with our friends.

Day 4 (Breakfast)

After breakfast we say farewell to Merimbula, before returning home via the Princes Highway and Cann River, **Lakes Entrance** and possibly purchase some fresh fish from the local **Fisherman's Co-operative**. We then travel through Bairnsdale to **Rosedale** and the Latrobe Valley arriving at our clubrooms late afternoon.

**Cost:** \$220.00 pp (twin share) min. 40 – max 48

\$230.00 (min 35) - \$250 (min. 30)

Single Surcharge – Must Add \$90.00 (No Forced Singles) **Contact Bob Goodyear Tel 9435 2529**

### INCLUDES:

- \*5 Star coach travel
- \*Motel Accommodation (South Seas Motel)
- \*6 Meals including cooked breakfasts
- \*Min stays @ 2 clubs

### NOT INCLUDED:

- \*Items of a personal nature
- \*Morning and afternoon teas
- \*Lunches



## COBA - Festive Season Lunch - November 16th



The date of this festive season buffet lunch being organized by COBA (combined branch activities) has been changed to **Thursday 16th November 2006** 12 noon at the Curve Restaurant, Vibe Savoy Hotel, corner of Little Collins & Spencer Streets, Melbourne

It is \$25 (Cost unchanged from 2005) for a wonderful smorgasbord plus a glass of wine

COBA are hoping to make this the traditional end-of-year event for members of National Seniors Branches. The people from a large number of branches that attended this event last year were very impressed.

A \$5.00 deposit ASAP is required to secure your booking.

**Book with Peter Feeney at the next meeting or on 9879-0622**

## National Seniors Association Maroondah-Ringwood Branch

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.seniorsmaroondah.com](http://www.seniorsmaroondah.com)

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## Our Committee

President:	Peter Feeney	9879-0622
Vice-President	Gary Tatnell	9725-0891
Secretary	Stephanie Mitchinson	9725-2181
Treasurer	Eileen McGregor	9876 3941
Policy Officer	Eileen McGregor	9876 3941

### General Committee

Jan Black	9870-8662
Marion Cairnduff	9879-7235
Rae Feeney	9876-1577
Helen Fox	9879-4058
Tricia Kristenson	9723-9389
Thelma Licheri	9727-4127
Rita Thomas	

The next committee meeting will be 17th July at Gary Tatnell's home commencing at 2:00pm.

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## Editorial - Have we sold out our grandchildren?

I am one of the baby boomers, a generation that was born after the last world war and one who grew up in a time of unprecedented change and prosperity in this country. We haven't totally known an era of peace, we grew up in the shadow of the bomb and we lived through Vietnam and countless smaller conflicts but we have not had to suffer a global conflict. In the last decade in particular wealth in this country has accumulated at a much greater pace and as a result many of my generation will retire with far more wealth. I am particularly fortunate to have owned my own business and been able to manage my own super fund and invest in Australian companies which have flourished over the last decade. The present government have helped make me richer and now they will let me spend that super tax free but I am starting to worry about the cost. How will the world my granddaughter is inheriting compare with the one I inherited?

Australia now has far more rich people and the middle class have a much higher standard of living BUT we now also have far more people living in poverty. When I moved here 30 years ago there were few if any homeless people in Melbourne; now there are homeless struggling to live in Maroondah. When I lived in Sydney there was a Villawood migrant hostel where migrants and refugees found assistance when they first arrived in our country. Now it is the Villawood Detention Centre and it has armed guards and razor wire. When I started my first job it was with a company that offered me a career for life. When my granddaughter starts her first job she will probably have to sign an individual workplace agreement that will offer her very little. Young people today take it for granted that all jobs are short term and that the career they start out on is unlikely to be where they end up. After the horrors of World War II, we grew up in an excitingly diverse society that was supportive and optimistic but our society is rapidly being pushed back towards divisiveness; rich versus poor, black versus white, Christian versus Muslim. There can be little doubt that Australia is less compassionate than it was and as a society we have let what is good for the Australian economy take preference over all other considerations.

Before we criticise the young and say "they would never have survived in our day", we should have a closer look at the world they are growing into and ask yourself how we would survive in their shoes.

Perhaps before we lose our influence, and yield to the next generation we should do what we can to redress the imbalance. Perhaps we should follow Malcolm Fraser's example and in retirement becoming more caring individuals concerned with the wider needs of all humanity rather than just our own backyard.

Peter Feeney