



Inside this issue:

<i>Bushwalk</i>	2
<i>Coffee Club</i>	2
<i>Other Social Activities</i>	2
<i>Focus Groups</i>	3
<i>Your Committee</i>	3

John Mentha

At our last meeting, John Mentha amazed us with his feats of magic and fascinated us with his talk on the history of modern magic.

I now know that Houdini took his name from Jean Eugene Robert-Houdin the acknowledged father of modern magic.

Robert-Houdin not only introduced many of the modern magic tricks but was also the first to bring class to magic. He was the first to perform in evening attire

Our next meeting is Monday April 3rd at the RSL and features Elizabeth Alger talking about *Sailing with the Russian Tall Ships*.



- What is coming up:
- **April 3rd** meeting at Ringwood RSL "Sailing with the Russian Tall Ships"
 - **April 6th** walk to Beasleys
 - **April 12th** lunch at Kurunga Paperbark Café
 - **April 20th** walk from Sofias to Mul-lum Walk Café
 - **April 27th** the coffee club meet Myers Eastland
 - **May 1st** meeting at Ringwood RSL "My Affair with Mr Myer"



*National Seniors Celebrates 30 years
and everyone is invited*

July 1 2006 marks the 30th anniversary of National Seniors and we are having a very big party and we want everyone to come and celebrate with us. Dame Enid Lyons O.B.E. launched National Seniors (known then as Later Years) on July 1 1976 at the Brisbane Park Royal Hotel. Chairman, the late Bert Martin, Managing Director, Everald Compton and one of the founding directors David Deans were all in attendance. Thirty years on, National Seniors is now the largest organisation representing people 50 and over in Australia and the fourth largest in the world. *Something to celebrate wouldn't you agree?*

Entertainment for the 30 Year Anniversary Celebration Dinner is "Serenade" David Gould & Dominique Oyston of Serenade will perform a show of Opera, music theatre and Sinatra Crooning. David is famous for his outstanding and memorable performances in musicals such as Rock Opera Jesus Christ Superstar, M.M.S.Pirates and Pirates of Penzance. Dominique is a member of the fabulous musical theatre group Pol-Pouri.

30 Year Anniversary Celebration Dinner with Serenade

Where: The Peak Room Flemington Racecourse
When: Thursday July 13
Time: 7-7.30-10.30pm
Cost: \$30pp includes a 2 course dinner plus entertainment
Beverages cash bar
To book your tickets please call Jan or Lorraine on 9620 1311

Walking Group - Thursday April 6th & 20th

6th April (this Thursday) will start at 9:00 am at the car park behind the Hockey Centre off Reynolds Road (Melway Map 34 G7) and walk through the Mullum Mullum Creek Linear Park to Beasleys Nursery.

On April 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 Cafe. Once again it is a 9:00 am start.

Book with Rae 9876-1577



Our Dine-Out Groups

Our very popular and successful evening dine-out group are eating every second month as follows. The time for all nights is 7:00pm and bookings are essential.

Thurs 11th May - Café Giggeto [Italian] - Warrandyte

Wed 12th July - Chiraag [Nepalese] - Ringwood

Thurs 14th September- De Fazio's [Italian]- Blackburn

Wed 8th November – Thai [Name to be advised]

Book at the meeting prior or by phoning Tricia 9723-9389

Lunch Club

Our next lunch will be on Wednesday April 12th at 12:30pm at Kuranga Paperbark Cafe, 118 York Road Mt Evelyn. If you wish to join us please tell **Marion Cairnduff** at the next meeting or phone her on **9879-7235**. All Welcome.

COBA (Combined Branch) Activities

Friday 21st April Tour of Old Melbourne Gaol & State Library

We are meeting at 11:30 am at the Old Melbourne Gaol which is in Russell Street between Victoria & Latrobe Streets. By public transport catch a train to Museum Station & City Circle Tram. There is a fee of \$7.00 which must be paid at the next meeting. Lunch will be at our own resources at then at 2:00 or 3:00 pm we will be joining a one hour Library Heritage Tour.

If you are interested in attending please book with one of our committee by the April meeting or phone 9879-0622.

During the year the COBA committee have other events planned - more details when they become available but keep free the following dates

Sunday 1st to Sunday 8th October - Victorian Seniors Festival

Thursday 23rd November - Festive Season Buffet Lunch

Coffee Club Thursday April 27th 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.

National Seniors Association Maroondah-Ringwood Branch

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Our Committee

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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 April 20th at
Thelma Licheri's home commencing at 2:00pm.

Focus Groups

From time to time we are asked to find volunteers to help researchers by taking part in a focus group. Taking part in these groups can be a very interesting experience and often helps valuable research.

Eileen McGregor, Helen Sievers & Judith Griffith recently attended such a Focus Group run by the State Government, at National Seniors office in the City.

The object of the group was to obtain ideas which will help the Government to set up educational programs whereby older women who are suddenly left on their own and lack an understanding of financial issues can obtain friendly unbiased help. The Focus Group was made up of age 60+ women from National Seniors in the Melbourne area. This was also an opportunity for Ringwood members to meet some of our other members which proved to be pleasant and interesting, especially as lunch was provided and there was time for a chat. About one third of the group were widows and some had to suddenly cope with lots of financial issues. Some were single women who had always had to make their own decisions. The rest were married women. The encouraging aspect was that most of these women were very financial aware but had to deal with Banks etc in the past who were not helpful or interested in them because of their gender. Happily now financial institutions are more enlightened.

The major problem, of course, is that women and men who need financial education tend not to come to National Seniors nor is it easy to get them to attend any programs because of reasons such as shyness, fear of appearing uneducated, or just the thought of going somewhere new. Hopefully the Government will find ways to overcome this by holding these focus group which will include - women with disabilities and women from non-English speaking backgrounds.