

November, 2014

Volume 11, Issue 11



Maroondah Message

Dates to Remember

- **November 27**—Walk at Beasley's
- **November 29**— Breakfast at Tabel Talk
- **December 1** - Branch Meeting at Maroondah Sports Club
- **December 4**—COBA Lunch at Sky High
- **December 11**—Walk at Heathmont Rail Trail
- **December 18**—Branch Christmas Lunch at Wild Cattle Creek Estate

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, December 1 at Maroondah Sports Club. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Les Hutchinson from Croydon Historical Society. Come along and join us for the last meeting in 2014 and enjoy this excellent speaker as well as some Christmas cake and good cheer with your fellow members.



NOVEMBER MEETING



Many thanks to our friend and fellow-member Xanthoula Wrigley for telling her very special and moving story at our November Meeting.

When Xanthoula was a young teenager she first met the man who was to later become her husband.

'Slim' Wrigley was a young Australian soldier who escaped from a prisoner of war camp in Salonica in 1941, found by a shepherd and taken to Xanthoula's family home for shelter and food.

He later joined the Greek resistance movement and fought with them until 1943 when he escaped to Turkey. Ioannis Papadopoulos, Xanthoula's father was later executed by the Germans, leaving his young family devastated. The Papadopoulos family lost contact with Slim until one day, when they were looking through some photos, they found a piece of paper with his Australian address on it.

Xanthoula began corresponding with Slim and he eventually asked her to come to Australia. They were married in 1951, five weeks after Xanthoula arrived and were together for 45 years.



Xanthoula says:

'I still marvel that a horrific event like war changed the course of our lives, and that an address scrawled on a slip of paper led to love.' - See more at of her story at: <http://www.shrine.org.au/Exhibitions/Stories/Sergeant-Herbert--Slim--Wrigley#sthash.rdH1uYGE.dpuf>

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS

Many thanks to members for not arriving before the designated time of 1:40 at our October meeting. This made preparation of the room by Committee members much more manageable. The same arrangement will apply at all future meetings.

WALKING GROUP

Thursday, November 27—Beasley’s starting out from the car park at the rear of the Hockey Centre on Reynold’s Road, near the intersection of Springvale Road, Melways Map 34 G7. We walk along the scenic Mullum Creek Linear Park to this popular nursery to partake of a refreshing tea or coffee, before returning along the park. **Note that this walk will begin at 9:30 a.m.**

Thursday, December 11—Heathmont Rail Trail starting out from Ringwood Lake car park, off Mt. Dandenong Road, along the **Heathmont Rail Trail**. **Note that this walk will begin at the earlier time of 9:00 a.m.**

Please note that there is only one walk in December.

For those of you who have already bought your 2015 diary or calendar please add these to your list of events:



Thursday, January 8, 9:00 a.m. - Mullum Mullum Short Walk - Meet at Ringwood Lake Car Park

Thursday, January 22, 9:00 a.m.—Bayswater Starting out from the car park at H E Parker Reserve in Heathmont (Melways Map 64 C2). This is an easy treed walk about 35 minutes each way.

Please contact Mel 9870 1597 for more details about any of the walks.

JANUARY PICNIC AT McALPINE RESERVE

Please note new venue!



As in past years, our January meeting will be replaced with a picnic This will take place on Monday, January 5 beginning at 12.00 noon.

We have decided on a change of venue for this event and it will be held at **McAlpine Reserve, Wonga Road, North Ringwood**. The reserve has excellent facilities including barbecues, a gazebo, picnic tables and toilets, as well as plenty of shaded areas.

B.Y.O. everything—picnic or barbecue lunch, drinks, chairs, table (if you have one). Don’t forget hats and sunscreen if the weather is hot.

Be prepared for a brisk post-lunch walk around the reserve or a game of bocce. Or just relax and enjoy the environment and the company. We look forward to seeing many of you there. This is always an enjoyable and relaxing day following the hectic pace of Christmas festivities.





Christmas Dine-Outs Coming Up



Thursday, December 4—COBA Christmas Lunch at Sky High, Mt. Dandenong. **Bookings have closed for this event.**

Car Pooling for this event will meet at Sofia car park in Maroondah Highway, Croydon at 11:30 a.m..

Thursday, December 18—Branch Christmas Lunch at Wild Cattle Creek Estate, Wandin North. If you would like to come along to this special event and have not yet booked, it is not too late. The Cost is \$49 per person.

Bookings can be made on our web site, at the December meeting or by telephoning **Trish Nixon** on 9725-5883.

COFFEE GROUP

There will be no afternoon coffee event in December or January.




MOVIE LUNCHEON IN DECEMBER

Join us for the Seniors Lunch at the Movies at Hoyts Eastland. It costs \$14.00 for the cinema entry and a basket lunch. The movie starts at **10:30** followed by the lunch including tea and coffee. **Meet at the theatre at 10:00 am.**



Wednesday, December 3—My Old Lady

A warm and witty tale set in the City of Light. Down-on-his luck New Yorker Mathias (Kevin Kline) inherits a grand old Parisian apartment from his estranged father. But when he arrives in Paris to sell it he is stunned to find the apartment comes with an unexpected resident—a refined and spirited old lady (Maggie Smith) who is not prepared to budge.



TRADING TABLE

As we don't wish to carry too much stock over the holiday period we request that you don't bring along any books or bric-a-brac to the December meeting. Please keep these until our next monthly meeting in February. Fresh garden produce would, of course, still be welcomed. So if you have any excess herbs, vegetables or fruit, please bring them along to boost our funds which will go directly to providing hamper prizes for our Christmas lunch at Wild Cattle Creek Estate on December 18.



MAROONDAH-RINGWOOD BRANCH

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Contributions to the Newsletter

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Our Committee

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Saturday, November 29—Breakfast, 9:30 a.m.—Tabel Talk, Maroondah Highway, Croydon North (nr. The corner of Exeter Road

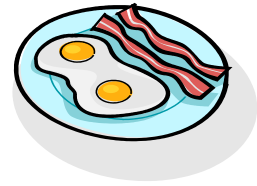
Monday, January 5—Branch Picnic, 12:00 noon—McAlpine Reserve, Warrandyte Road, North Ringwood. Melways ref. Map 50 A2.

Please remember that if you need transport to a meeting or social outing, just call a committee member.

If you know of a member who is unwell, please let us know so that we can send our best wishes. Call the President, Helen Fox on 9879 4058 or Secretary, Carol O'Brien, on 9722 9870.



THE \$2.99 SPECIAL



A senior couple went to a local restaurant for breakfast where they advertised a Seniors Special \$2.99 breakfast. The meal included two eggs, bacon, hash browns and toast.

"Sounds good," said the wife, "but I'd like mine without the eggs, please."

"Then I'll have to charge you \$3.99 because you're ordering a la carte," warned the waiter.

"You mean I have to pay for not having the eggs?" the woman asked incredulously.

"Yes," replied the waiter.

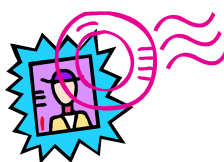
"Then I'll have the eggs," said the woman.

"How would you like your eggs?" asked the waiter.

"Raw and in the shell," retorted the woman.

She took them home and baked a cake. Remember to never mess with seniors!!

POSTAGE STAMPS



Don't forget to pass on your used postage stamps to

Helen Fox whose friend collects them for charity. This is an ongoing collection. Many thanks to those people who have already contributed.

JOY'S FAMILY HISTORY

Since Joy Olney spoke on Family History at our meeting in September 2013, she has written many blogs about her family history. Joy would like to suggest you take a look at her web site – <https://sites.google.com/site/joysblogs123> Or easier still, you can go via GOOGLE to – joysblogs123

Be heard

National Seniors Australia