

# THE COMET

Journal of the Australian Pensioners' and Superannuants' League, Qld. Inc.

## BUDGET 2020 - THE WAY I SEE IT

The Federal Government delivered the 2020 Budget on Tuesday, October 7 as we are all now well aware.

While there has been some criticism from various "quarters" the overall reception of the budget has been positive.

The Courier Mail covered the budget with front page headlines - PANDEMIC PAY DAY - Budget's Covid Cure: Tax cuts, Jobs and Write-offs. Win for workers; Instant cash for 11 million workers.

For many Australians on Tuesday, it was compulsive viewing; especially for those who rely on the Aged Pension. Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg's announcement that pensioners would receive a \$250 payment before Christmas 2020 and again in March 2021, had been "leaked" by some sections of the media. Therefore for some, it was not a surprise, but it was welcomed news.

While pensioners may have missed a pension rise in September which normally happens, we must not forget that pensioners received two payments of \$750.00, because of Covid19. The two payments surpass what the "normal" twice yearly rises would deliver. If one casts one's mind back, \$5.00 or \$6.00 fortnightly rises hardly compare with these "bulk" payments.

Having spoken with many aged pensioners, the two \$750.00

payments came at a time when council rates were due, those in their own homes were able to put the payments towards their rates and other household needs, thus saving them dipping into savings.

The Government's pledge to fund 23,000 new Home Care plans sounds good, but it has been claimed there was a back log of recipients on a waiting list. A claim by QCOSS regarding last year's budget was that there was a huge backlog for those waiting for Home Care Packages. QCOSS claimed that the number was around 100,000.

Who could have predicted that the world would be facing a pandemic in 2020? Governments have not had to handle something like this in our lifetime and we can only believe that our Government is on the right path to recovery.

None of us have the ability to see into the future and we must, I repeat must have positive attitudes in these challenging times. Of course, we have seen price rises in supermarkets. The bare essentials in life have risen in price but the supplementary payments have helped out.

This deadly virus is not going to go away in a hurry. As I write this, there are new cases in NSW and contact tracing is being challenged. We must take care in everything we do.

Stay safe. (Ed)



**The Comet** is the official journal of the Australian Pensioners' and Superannuants' League. ISSN 0814-2211

Australian Post Publication No PP100000/860.

**The Comet is published monthly from February to November each year. It is available online, through branches from the State Office and APSL Branches throughout Queensland.**

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## **Services Directory**

### **Commonwealth Government Directory**

Administrative Appeals Tribunal	1300 366 700
Aust. Competition & Consumer Commission	1300 302 502
Australian Hearing	131 797
Aust. Securities & Investment Commission	07 3867 4700
Aust. Taxation Office	132 861
Centrelink (Older Australians line)	132 300
Child Support Agency	131 272
Commonwealth Respite and Life Flight Centre	1800 052 222
CRS (Commonwealth Rehabilitation Services) - Human Services	1800 277 227
Family Court of Australia	1300 352 000
Home & Community Care (65+ years)	1800 200 422
Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Comm.	1300 369 711
Immigration & Border Protection Department	131 881
Medicare	132 011
Migration Review Tribunal	1300 361 969
National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Legal Services	1800 012 255
Pharmaceutical Benefit's Scheme	1800 020 613
Private Health Insurance Complaints	1800 077 308
Private Health Insurance Ombudsman	1800 640 695
Translating & Interpreting Service	1300 655 820
Veteran's Affairs Department	133 254

### **Queensland State Government Directory**

Anti-Discrimination Commission	1300 130 670
Department of Communities	137 468
Department of Energy & Water Supply	
Electricity & Gas	134 387
Water	137 468
Energy & Water Ombudsman	1800 662 837
Health Ombudsmen	133 646
Legal Aid Qld	1300 651 188
Office of Fair Trading	137 468
Public Guardian (Adults & Children)	1300 653 187
Public Trustee	1300 360 044
Qld Competition Authority	07 3222 0555
Qld Ombudsman's Office	1800 068 908
Residential Tenancies Authority	1300 366 311
Safe Food Queensland	1800 300 815
Senior's Advocacy Information & Legal Services (SAILS)	07 3214 6333
Senior's Card	13 74 68
Senior's Enquiry	1300 135 500
Senior's Legal & Support Service	
Brisbane	07 3214 6333
Cairns	07 4031 7179
Hervey Bay	07 4124 6863
Toowoomba	07 4616 9700
Townsville	07 4721 5511
State Emergency Service Office	13 74 68
Youth & Family Support Service	07 3274 9917

### **Community Support Services Service Directory** **Domestic Violence Crisis Line 1800 811 811**

Immigrant Women's Support Service	07 3846 3490
	07 3255 1420
Qld Aged & Disability Advocacy	1800 818 338
Seniors & Go Card	13 74 68
Senior Shopper	1300 360 265
Sexual Assault Help Line	1800 811 811
South Brisbane Immigration & Community Legal Service	07 3846 3189
The Incapacitated Servicemen & Women's Assoc. of Aust	07 3356 9022
Women's legal Service	07 3392 0670
National Welfare Rights Network	1800 358 511

### **Department of Health Service Directory**

Department of Health	1343 2584
Health Services Info Line	07 3837 5986
Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme	1300 443 570
My Aged Care	1800 200 422



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Contact APSL State Office to enquire about membership and a branch near you. You can still contact Head Office on the usual number and Anneliese will answer.

**APSL — MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

**A MEMBER OF THE EVERY-AGE COUNTS COALITION OF ORGANISATIONS**





## EDITORIAL

By

**Cherith Weis**



Dear Friends

The Federal Government's budget is mentioned on the front page and I'm sure that not everyone is going to agree with "The Way I See it". We are a free country; we have freedom of speech.

Ok, we didn't receive a rise in September but if you do the Maths, we are better off.

If you disagree with what I have written, you are welcome to write a reply and address it to "Letters to the Editor". If you happen to agree, I would also like to hear from you. I have put my name to it, so I invite you to do the same.

Once this Covid19 settles down and we have no idea when that will be, we will watch the Government and make sure that in future there will be a return to the regular increases twice a year.

By now, Branches would have received their information package for the November AGM. If you have any questions about the information supplied, please contact our Office Manager, Anneliese as soon as is possible.

This is a first for us so we certainly hope that with good organisation, the AGM via Zoom will go as smoothly as is possible.

Again, branch secretaries have been sent information about Zoom meetings, if you have any concerns, please contact Anneliese.

On page 8 in this issue, a brief resume and photographs are featured of the 2019-2020 Management Committee. A couple of the 2019 elected members are moving on and there are a number of vacant positions. The opportunity is there to contribute to the aims and objects of this great organisation which is celebrating 75 years of existence in the State of Queensland.

For those wondering about the petition which

suffered a Covid hiccup, the petition is now in the hands of the Petitions Committee in Canberra.

REGISTER. Head office keeps a Register as branches are aware. With the advent of Annual meetings meaning new office bearers; the addition of new members; the loss of members, we require Branch Secretaries to keep us informed of any changes. The Register is a requirement of the Office of Fair Trading and is noted in our Constitution. All information is kept strictly confidential.

Every life is an amazing story and Nola and I bore witness to that fact at Joyce's birthday on September 26. Some pics on page 5 in this edition!

Stay Safe and stay well.

Cherith

# Every life is an amazing story

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# ROAD SAFETY

WITH

## LEYLAND BARNETT

### Not Now Attitude

School holidays are now again upon us and it is important that we take care on our roads around this busy time. A lot of multitasking may be required in some situations, so it is important that we stay focused when faced with challenges.

Adopting a “*Not Now Attitude*” can assist in making good decisions at times where you need to remain focused especially in areas such as road works where there is activity shared with people and machines.

If someone is talking to you when you are in a high risk area, please advise them, not now until clear of the area, as a slight distraction can lead into a possible situation occurring. It is not being rude; it is about being safe that counts.

I remember years ago when I was driving along with my wife Dianne and she said to me, “look theirs our friend” and pointed to the side to which I immediately looked towards the direction she was pointing.

At that time, the vehicle in front braked heavily

and I couldn’t avoid running into it, luckily we were slow enough to not do any serious damage to either vehicles.

A lesson never forgotten by both of us, if only I adopted the not now attitude back then, I could have avoided the collision.

It doesn’t take much to be distracted by passengers in the car, especially with children fighting in the back seat. While it is tempting to turn around and scold them, remember the danger of taking your eyes off the road even for 1 second.

Adopt the “*Not Now Attitude*” and if need be, pull over where it is safe to sort the situation out, rather than to continue driving.

It is important to note that when we are traveling at 60km/hr we have traveled over a 16.67 metres distance, in just one second.

Sometimes we may accidentally bump on the wipers going around a corner so it is important that we adopt a not now attitude and prioritize the task at hand.

Rather than focus on turning off the wipers, we should focus on keeping our eyes on the road and safely steer our vehicle through the turn or corner.



Another situation is if we are confronted with a flooded crossing, should we adopt a not now attitude and turn around or drive on through? If it is flooded forget it as you don’t know if the road surface under the water is washed away and you don’t want to end up washed down a gully or creek.

Please remember to drive safely these holidays and remember to adopt a not now attitude if a hazardous situation occurs.

## **Birthday Celebrations in Bowen!**

September 26, 1930 in Winton North Queensland marked the arrival into this world of a very special human being - Elizabeth Joyce Foster. Joyce married Keith Macdonald in 1959.

Joyce has lead an amazing life - she has lived in a number of North Queensland towns and had businesses in Richmond and Cloncurry. For some time, she sold Insurance and Real Estate. For two years, Joyce managed to sell One Million dollars' worth of Insurance.

Joyce worked for the Bowen City Council for a period of 21 years as a well respected employee.

Joyce is a woman of faith and involved in Christian Ministry. She fulfilled a wish to visit the Holy Land in 1966.

Joyce Macdonald is also one of five recognized Kalkadoon Elders.



Entertainment for the festivities was provided by Paul Samuel who has entertained at Bowen Branch functions.

Paul is pictured here talking with Joyce about all the good times. Paul's great repertoire and seemed to sing continuously with a great selection of musical memories.



**Pictured left:**

**Nola Harvey, Joyce and Cherith Weis.**

**Nola and Cherith traveled from Central Queensland to be present at the birthday celebrations.**

**In addressing the guests, Joyce's son Scott classed the fact at the age of 89, Joyce became APSL State President as quite an achievement.**

**Thank you Joyce for being you!**



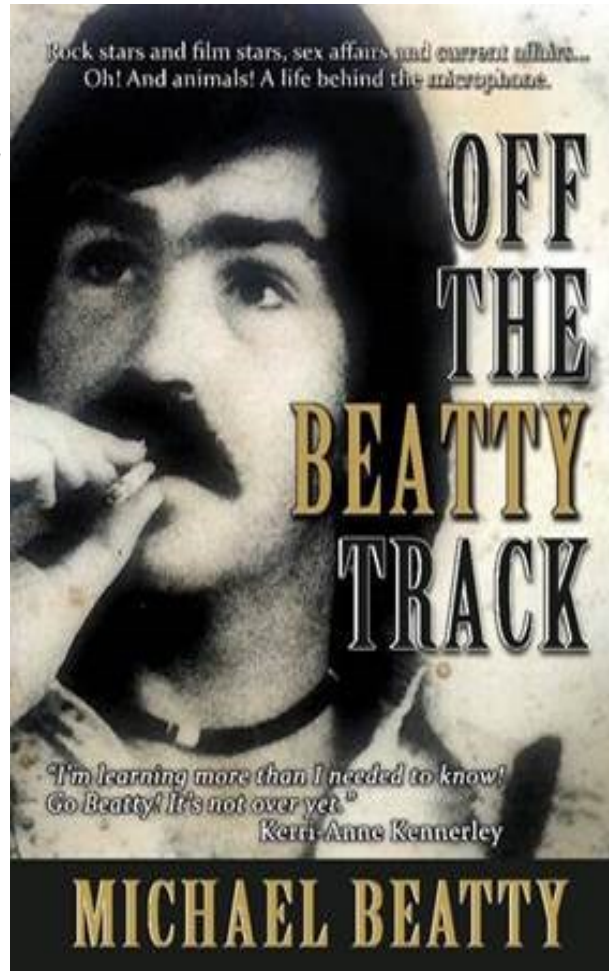
## LEARN MORE ABOUT RSPCA'S MICHAEL BEATTY AND HIS INTERESTING WORK HISTORY

Most of the younger generation know Michael Beatty for his work with the RSPCA but the older generation know him for the 40 years he spent as a television reporter. While at the BBC he interviewed the cream of rock music before coming to Australia and working in current affairs, *Beyond 2000* and *Wild Life*. During his career he covered one war, two revolutions, two coups and two royal weddings. To put it mildly his career was never boring. He has now released part 1 of his memoirs...

### **Off the Beatty Track**

#### **Michael Beatty**

He did his first interview with guitar legend, Jimi Hendrix, for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and was promptly 'exiled' to a CBC radio



station in the Eastern Arctic. After a period of learning Inuit and braving minus 40c temperatures, Michael returned to London to follow in the footsteps of his father, British screen royalty, Robert Beatty.

What followed was an illustrious, and at times, hazardous career that saw him interview stars from Cary Grant to the Rolling Stones; tackle North Queensland radio and crocs; take on the stories of the day and the stories no-one wanted on *Willesee*, *Today Tonight* and *Good Morning Australia*; and report at two royal weddings that didn't end well. His list of interviews is a historical snapshot of the personalities that shaped a generation. Take a walk Off the Beatty Track!

**"I'm learning more than I needed to know! Go Beatty!"**

**It's not over yet"**

**Kerri-Anne Kennerley.**

### **Kangaroos shot with arrows - Who did this?**

RSPCA Qld has received several call outs in recent months in relation to birds, wallabies and kangaroos that have been shot with arrows. Two Eastern Grey Kangaroos have been shot in the Kooralbyn area, the latest on September 11th

This kangaroo was rescued by RSPCA ambulance officers with assistance from a trauma carer from Wildlife Australia and was taken to RSPCA Qld's Wildlife Hospital at Wacol. Wildlife veterinarians were able to remove the arrow and the roo, dubbed "Jimothy" by vet staff, was given fluids and eventually released back into the wild.

"Jimothy was very lucky," said RSPCA Qld spokesperson Michael Beatty. "Animals and birds that have been shot with arrows always die slowly and painfully if they're not found. Very, very rarely do they die quickly. We're urging anyone

with information to come forward." Anyone who has any information can call 1300 ANIMAL.



# Koala bites off more than he could chew

## Tongue surgery for curious koala

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Crossing the road in Logan came at a cost for poor Gibb the koala. Suffering head injuries after being hit by a car in Buccan on September 3, Gibb was taken to the RSPCA Wildlife Hospital for emergency care.

Wildlife Veterinarian, Dr Tim Portas, treated Gibb for head injuries and also performed surgery for a severe tongue laceration he sustained from the impact

“Gibb seems to be recovering really well post-surgery! Despite his recent tongue surgery, it’s not getting in the way of his appetite!”

Additional testing has revealed that Gibb is also infected with *Chlamydia*, so he will need to remain in care for another 5-6 weeks while he undergoes treatment for the disease.

Despite all of this, Gibb’s prognosis for recovery is good and he should be released back to the wild sometime in October.

Gibb is just one of 13 koalas currently at the RSPCA Wildlife Hospital in Wacol receiving treatment.

“The problem is that it’s still the breeding season and koalas are out and about and looking for mates. They’re being hit by cars and attacked by dogs. So please slow down and keep your dog inside at night if you’re in koala habitat”

Wildlife are on the move in spring and the RSPCA is seeing up to **80 new wildlife patients each day!**

**You can report any injured or sick animals to the RSPCA’s 24/7 Animal Emergency Hotline 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625).**

You can also donate to the RSPCA’s Spring Appeal here [www.rspcaqlld.org.au/donate](http://www.rspcaqlld.org.au/donate) to help koalas like Gibb get the emergency care they need.

Photos and video of Gibb can be found in the links below

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xj7hv51wb0c6f7g/AAAJ2p\\_BULBN8mww\\_qF5FDITa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xj7hv51wb0c6f7g/AAAJ2p_BULBN8mww_qF5FDITa?dl=0)

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/lutj9gxtxs3ur2c/Gibb%20the%20Koala%201231638.mp4?dl=0>





## **CURRENT APSL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

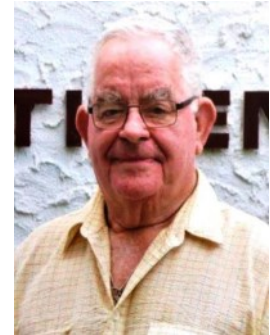
Pictured left to right:

**State President;** and Acting Area Coordinator, **Joyce Macdonald** - Bowen Branch. Joyce is President of her Branch and has been a long time member. Her positive attitude and amiable personality have made her an excellent spokesperson for the organisation. Joyce has been acting Area Coordinator for the branches in her area up until recently Innisfail; Collinsville and of course, Bowen.

**State Vice President; Barry Ramsay.** Kurilpa Branch. Barry has served as State Vice President for two years and is President of the Kurilpa Branch. He is community minded and a member of number of Logan groups including Neighbourhood Watch; the Logan LAS and others. Barry is also a Justice of the Peace Qualified.

**State Secretary; Cherith Weis.** North Rockhampton. A State Management member for about 11 years beginning as Area Coordinator for the CQ Area and including 3 years as State President; was a long serving member and office bearer of Gracemere Branch, she is currently Secretary of North Rockhampton Branch. Cherith also edits and publishes The Comet, APSL's monthly journal, which is sent across Queensland.

**State Treasurer; Margaret Laughton,** Gracemere Branch. Margaret has been an active member of her branch for several years, and currently serves as Branch Secretary Margaret takes an active role on the Management Committee and as Treasurer. Her dedication to community service is evident in her participation with the QCWA; the Royal Flying Doctor Service and others.



**AREA COORDINATOR; Maureen Perry.** Gympie. Maureen has served many years as Gympie's secretary and is very active in the area. She organizes Charity Concerts in the town and many groups have benefitted. Maureen looks after Childers, Monto, Caloundra, Hervey Bay and Gympie branches.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER; Nola Harvey.** Gracemere Branch. Past State Secretary; 2018—2019; CQ Area Organiser; has served as President of Gracemere and also Secretary; President of CQ Zone Ctte. Nola has proved herself as an active and dedicated APSL member at State and local Branch level.

**AREA COORDINATOR; Meg Paterson.** Gladstone Branch. Meg is presently Vice President at branch level and has served in that position for a number of years. She looks after Mt. Morgan; North Rockhampton; Gracemere and Gladstone branches.

**AREA COORDINATOR; Michael Holland.** Warwick Branch. Michael has been a member for a number of years and is currently President of the Warwick Branch. Michael joined the State Management Committee in February, 2020. Michael's branches include Inala, Logan, Rosewood and Warwick.



# Childers seniors enjoy an outing in the rain

Raincoats and umbrellas were unusual but required accessories for the latest outing of the Childers members of the Australian Pensioners and Superannuant's League Queensland (APSLQ).

Upwards of 25 members of the group visited Snakes Downunder this week and while the sun may have been hiding behind rain clouds the smiles were out in force.

Group co-ordinator Maurie Styles said the rain had been a slight inconvenience, but everyone appreciated the district desperately needed rain.

"They're a pretty resilient group and a little rain wasn't going to spoil the day."

Group member Ray Dilger said it was a pleasure to get out with the group and see what the district had to offer.

"Snakes Downunder is a marvellous attraction. It's just one of many things right here in the district of which we can be immensely proud," Ray said.

Maurie said Childers had branch membership of APSLQ for decades. "We are not really sure just how long because records appear to be lost," he said.

The visit to Snakes Downunder was another of the regular visits the group undertakes to enjoy social interaction on shared excursions.



*Glen and Linley Bartlett enjoyed Snakes Downunder*

"The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly disrupted the normal program of events for our group," Maurie said.

"The home and away visits we share with groups from Biggenden, Gayndah and Gin Gin have been cancelled this year. Visits to Woodgate and our planned visit to the Moncrieff Theatre was also put on hold."

Maurie said the group had also lost a valuable revenue stream with its regular Cent Sale not able to go ahead because of restrictions.

"It has been good that we are able to support our local attractions and businesses. We have been to Flying High Bird Park which was also an eye-opener for members."

APSLQ is an organisation that lobbies government to promote the needs of Queensland pensioners and superannuants.

The organisation provides voluntary support, referral, information and advocacy for its members and non-members.

The League was formed in 1945 by war and civilian widows and has steadily evolved into the representative body for older Queenslanders it is today.

## Childers seniors enjoy an outing in the rain (Cont.)

The League was formed in 1945 by war and civilian widows and has steadily evolved into the representative body for older Queenslanders it is today.

Many of the issues addressed by the organisation include elder abuse, older people and supermarkets, end of life decision making, retirement and housing issues affecting older people.



APSLQ can be contacted by email at [apsl@apsl.com.au](mailto:apsl@apsl.com.au) or by phone on 07 3844 5878.

The Childers Branch meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 1 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. at the Childers Anglican Hall.

*Never smile at a crocodile! Childers Branch co-ordinator, Maurie Styles checks out the main attraction at Snakes Downunder.*

Pictured right:

*Lesley Behan was impressed by the Komodo Dragon, one of the star attractions at Snakes Downunder.*



The Comet thanks the author, Wayne Heidrich and [BUNDABERGNOW](#) for sharing the "Childers seniors enjoy an outing in the rain" story which appeared on line on September 9, 2020.



## INALA BRANCH



Inala Pensioners wish to pass on the sad news that one of our Life Members, Glenda McKoy passed away on Friday, September 25 after a long illness. She was 81.

Glenda was a past President, also Secretary for some years and a tireless worker on our bus trips until ill health forced her to take things a bit easier. She was a valuable member of our branch and will be sadly missed. The photo below is of Glenda being presented her life membership by our local Councilor, Charles Strunk.



## GLADSTONE

Dorothy May Mercer (Dot) -11th August -9th September 2020 She was a life Member and Treasurer for over 15 years. Dot as everybody knew her had a stroke in early 2015 and stayed at home while her husband, Eddy looked after her. When it got too much for him, she entered into New Auckland Place (Home for the aged). She is dearly missed.



*Dorothy May  
Mercer (Dot)*

11<sup>th</sup> August, 1931 – 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2020  
Aged 89 years

APSL expresses deepest sympathy at the loss of these two branch members. Our sincere condolences are extended to their relatives and friends.



## NEWS FROM COLLINSVILLE BRANCH



These photos are of our luncheon at the Workers Club on Tuesday September 22 and the last photo is of our eldest member, Sophie Whitton who turned 96 on October 1.

Our president's granddaughter made the cake and we celebrated Sophie's birthday at our get together Thursday, October 1 at the Community Center. Sophie is with her eldest son, Kenneth, who brought her to the center.

Pictured in the photos are: Thelma Wright, George Davis, Thomas Goodrich, Lana Odger, Greg Buckler and his daughter Emmalee, Val Hiron, Faye Janz, Sophie Whitton, Beverly Honnery, Ann Robertson, Graham Smith, June Hathaway and Andy Pennay, Thank you, Denise Smith.





## WHEN A PET PASSES...

They tell you not to cry.

They tell you that it's just a dog, not a human being.

They tell you that the pain will be over.

They tell you that the animals don't know that they have to die.

They tell you that it's important not to let him suffer.

They tell you that you can have another one.

They tell you it's going to happen to you.

They tell you that there is more pain.

But they don't know how many times you've looked into your dog's eyes.

They don't know how many times you and your dog have looked into darkness alone.



They don't know how many times your dog was the only one who was by your side.

They don't know how much fear you have at night when you wake up with your grief.

They don't know how many times your dog slept near you.



They don't know how much you've changed since the dog has become a part of your life.

They don't know how many times you hugged him when he was sick.

They don't know how many times you've acted

like you didn't see his hair getting whiter.

They don't know how many times you've talked to your dog, the only one who really hears.

They don't know that it was just your dog who knew you were in pain.



They don't know what it feels like to see your old dog trying to get up to say hello.

They don't know that if things went wrong, the only one who didn't go is your dog.

They don't know that your dog trusts you every moment of his life, even in the last.

They don't know how much your dog loved you and how it is enough for him to be happy, because you loved him.

They don't know that crying for a dog is one of the most noble, significant, true, purest and warmest things you can do.

They don't know when the last time you moved him with trouble... making sure it didn't hurt him.

They don't know what it felt like to pet their face in the last moments of their life....

In Memory of all those who went over the rainbow bridge.

You all have a place forever in our hearts



## Letter to the Editor.

### PENSIONERS DUDDERED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGAIN

Back in March The Government acted in the National interest to the Coronavirus to support Businesses, workers and Householders to address significant economic consequences to support workers, businesses and the broader community with assistance packages.

As a result the Jobkeeper subsidy was established to assist businesses to keep staff with payment of **\$1500.00** per fortnight until September 24,2020 then reducing to **\$1200.00** till March 2021.

Then there was Newstart changing to Jobseeker with the Jobseeker subsidy bringing Newstart payment from **\$555.70** plus jobseeker subsidy of **\$550.00 to \$1155.70** per fortnight almost **\$300.00** more than the single pension which is \$860.60. Plus they also received the April round of **\$750.00**. Therefore, Jobseekers have received a total increase in payments of **\$7900.00** during the period March to September 24 2020 and reducing to \$250.00 subsidy till end of December 2020

Now how were Pensioners looked after and treated during the pandemic, Pensioners were given one Payment of **\$750.00** in April and a second Payment of **\$750.00** in July, Total **\$1500.00** which equates to approximately **\$115.00** per fortnight between March to September, which is more than **\$400.00** per fortnight less than Jobseeker payment. The total difference between jobseeker subsidy payments and Pension payments is **\$6400.00** and now to top of all off the Federal Government aren't giving pensioners a pension increase September 2020 because CPI was in negative. The Coronavirus assistance package for Pensioners is a disgrace.

Pensioners are no different to all other Australians. We also have the same expenses to live e.g Energy bills Telephone, Land Rates, Rents, Insurance, Motor Registration. Food and clothing and the list goes on.

One thing Governments forget is that our great Nation was built on the back of us the Pensioners of Australia, but you just want us to go away and be quiet. NEWS FOR YOU, THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, WE WON'T. SHAME SHAME SHAME

PENSIONERS DESERVE BETTER.

*Graham Lynch*

Babinda



### From a news report from YourLife Choices Editor, Leon Della Bosca

Pensioners looking for a September 20 Age Pension increase, although forewarned, may have been disappointed yesterday. But news of a budget boost for pensioners should lift their spirits. Minister for Social Services, Anne Ruston, said on the weekend that age pensioners can expect a cash boost in the October budget. "Further support around our pensions is something that is contained in the budget," Ms Ruston told The Sydney Morning Herald.

There is speculation that it could come as a one-off payment or ongoing increase, although neither has been confirmed at this stage. Those relying on unemployment benefits won't be so lucky and will likely have to wait months to find out if the government will apply the coronavirus supplement to next year. The base \$550 fortnightly supplement applied in conjunction with the \$560 per fortnight payment is due to end on September 24 after which time a reduced supplement of \$250 per fortnight will be paid until December Those awaiting the October Budget for news of a permanent increase to the base rate of the unemployment benefits look like they'll have to wait until next year, if it happens at all. Ms Ruston has indicated it was "highly likely" the supplement would be extended, but a decision would not be made until closer to Christmas. While the Prime Minister and Federal Treasurer have assured pensioners of further support during the COVID-19 crisis, COTA Australia has urged them to provide an extra \$750 stimulus payment to prop up pensioners prior to the next indexation.

Pensioners have received two \$750 stimulus payments this year.

"We urge the government to provide an additional \$750 stimulus payment as part of your economic stimulus measures, for the benefit of both pensioners and the economy," said COTA chief Ian Yates.



**BABINDA BRANCH** from Graham Lynch

**Beryl Ball** would like to thank the AP&SL, Q, Cherith Weis and members of Babinda Branch For their kind wishes for speedy recovery during her ongoing health issues. All the messages of support have been very much appreciated.

**Graham Lynch** would like to thank the AP&SL, Qld, Cherith Weis, Barry Ramsey, members of the Babinda Branch and others for your kind wishes for a speedy recovery following major surgery in Cairns Hospital recently. My surgery was successful and I am on the road to recovery.

**BOWEN BRANCH** from Joyce Macdonald

Bowen has resumed the holding of meetings and met on September 3rd (Annual meeting) and again an ordinary meeting on October 1st. Preparing the branch representatives for the State's AGM having received the information package from Head Office.

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**Message to Branches**

This space box is provided to insert your Branch contact details when you leave The Comet at Doctors' Surgeries /Libraries and so on



## **CODE of ETHICS and PERSONAL CONDUCT**

### **The Australian Pensioners' & Superannuants' League (Qld) Inc.**

**Be patient** and courteous in all dealings with fellow members.

**Be inclusive** - Members to welcome and support people of all backgrounds and identities and discriminate against no one.

**Be considerate** - Each member should respect fellow pensioners and superannuants. Our decisions and comments will affect our fellow members, therefore we must always take this into consideration.

**Be respectful** - Each member may not agree all the time, but disagreement is no excuse for disrespectful behaviour. Each member may experience frustration from time to time, but we cannot allow this to become a personal attack. An environment where people feel uncomfortable or threatened is not productive or creative and not in the best interest of The League.

**Choose your words carefully** - Always conduct yourself professionally. Harassment and exclusionary behaviour is not acceptable in The League. Differences of opinion and disagreement will occur, each member must resolve disagreements and differing views constructively and respectfully.

**Our differences can be our strengths** - Members can find strength in diversity. Different people have varying perspectives on issues, and that can be valuable for solving problems or generating new ideas for the betterment of The League.

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#### **APSL Mission Statement**

To lobby powerfully with governments at all levels and private sector agencies, and within community sector, to promote all aspects of the security, well being and dignity of pensioners of all ages, superannuants, other self-funded retirees, low income families and other disadvantaged people, including Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) and Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CALD) peoples.