



# THE COMET

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

# GLADSTONE



**AUSTRALIAN PENSIONERS' & SUPERANNUANTS' LEAGUE QLD. INC.**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND STATE CONFERENCE**  
**GLADSTONE REEF MOTEL**  
**GOONDOON STREET**  
**SEPTEMBER 13 AND 14, 2022**



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The Australian Pensioners' and Superannuants' League Qld, Inc. (APSL) provides advocacy and support services to pensioners and superannuants in Queensland.

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## Services Directory

### Commonwealth Government Directory

Administrative Appeals Tribunal	1300 366 700
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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
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### Queensland State Government Directory

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Department of Communities	137 468
Department of Energy & Water Supply	
Electricity & Gas	134 387
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Energy & Water Ombudsman	1800 662 837
Health Ombudsmen	133 646
Legal Aid Qld	1300 651 188
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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
Police link Queensland Police (non-urgent)	131 444
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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.

**YOUR VOICE MATTERS!**

**A MEMBER OF THE EVERYAGE  
COALITION OF ORGANISATIONS**





**EDITORIAL  
WITH  
CHERITH WEIS**



Friends

In just over 4 weeks, we will be holding our State Conference in Gladstone.

Although the deadlines may have passed we invite branches to consider attending this vital meeting of the Australian Pensioners' and Superannuants' League.

Although I wasn't present at the last meeting as I was confined to a hospital bed, I have kept in touch with Anneliese at Head Office. It's a difficult thing trying to organise a State Conference in another city but everything seems to have gone beautifully. Because of the prevalence of COVID, the attendance numbers are definitely down. We are still open to receiving late comers.

If you think you would like to attend via the internet, that could always be organised.

Anneliese is available for discussion.

Please have another think on it.

A number of members have been ill and our sincere feelings go out to you. This has been a Winter like we haven't known for many years. Especially for those of us who live in Central Queensland and it continues.

The saying in Central Queensland goes something like this.....IF YOU'VE HAD A WEEK'S COLD WEATHER in C Q; then you've had Winter! Not so this year... it just goes on and on and on!

I am looking forward to catching up with fellow APSL members in Gladstone. I do hope you can make it.

To Joan and Janet thank you for what you have done to organise the conference. Be assured that your work is very much appreciated.

Cheerio for now.

*Cherith Weis*

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COVID IS APPARENTLY CAUSING SOME HESITANCY WITH SOME BRANCHES ATTENDING THE STATE CONFERENCE.

'APSL State Conference – Agenda items are still expected to arrive to Head Office in the mail, but an initial draft of Combined Agenda Items (to be included in the Conference Booklet) will be composed and edited by Cherith prior to sending it out to all branches for their review. Meg Paterson stated she could provide one or two more agenda items, which she will email to Anneliese over the coming weekend. Anneliese reminded the Committee that Credential forms due by August 5th, but items received late will still be accepted.

Should there be a contingency plan in the event there is not a quorum for State Conference? The Committee discussed this issue in depth, as there was some concern about attendance rates for the 2022 State Conference. Everyone agreed that in-person attendance is preferred, out of respect for the host branch.

A quorum for any general meeting, including the Annual General Meeting, is stated in Rule 27 of the APSL Constitution: At any general meeting the number of delegates entitled to vote required to constitute a quorum shall be double the number of members of the Management Committee plus one.

There being 10 members on the Management Committee, the MINIMUM required number of Delegates at Conference is 21, or eleven branches attending.

Importantly, it was noted that Observers attending Conference cannot be counted in the number needed to form a quorum, only Delegates.

At present, the deadline for Credential Forms is August 5th, and it remains to be seen how many delegates will be expected to attend the Gladstone Conference in person.

Considerations of financial pressures due to inflation, alongside the risks of travelling during a surge of COVID 19 cases, have made many branch members reluctant to travel at this time. Margaret Laughton suggested that APSL could make an effort persuade non-travelling members to attend electronically, to increase the chances of reaching a quorum of Delegates. Nola agreed and so did the rest of the Committee that this would help numbers. But anyone already willing to travel should be encouraged to keep those plans in place. “

(The above is from the last general Meeting held on August 2.)

Gladstone Branch President and Secretary have worked extremely hard to organise this Conference and I would implore branches to consider attending this conference.



# ROAD SAFETY

With

**LEYLAND BARNETT**

## Truck Safety

Trucks are significantly larger and heavier than an average motor car and are prone to have many blind spots around them.

A truck in some configurations such as a B-double, can be up to 26 metres long and weighing gross combination mass of 62.5 tonnes where as a small car can be up to 4.5 metres long and weigh approximately up to 1.2 tonnes.

The truck due to its size and weight cannot stop as quickly and effectively as a small car and requires a certain distance to be able to stop safely. It is important that people understand this law of physics, when a heavily loaded truck is slowing down for traffic lights. The last thing you should choose to do is to suddenly move into the front of a truck's braking path as the driver of the truck may not be able to prevent a collision. A collision between a heavily loaded truck and a motor car or bike will not end well for the smaller vehicles.

Due to the length and the dimensions of the truck there are a lot of blind spots created; immediately in front of the truck, beside the truck drivers door, on the passenger side which runs the length of the truck and extends out 3 lanes and directly behind the truck.

It is important to understand the fact that if you can't see the face of the



truck driver in their side mirror, he can't see you as well. When you see an indicator light flashing on a truck it usually is a sign that the driver wishes to change lanes so it is important for us to allow the truck to change lanes safely by slowing down and allowing them room. It would be well advised that you don't sit beside them as the driver may not know you are there as you could be in their blind spot.

# ROAD SAFETY WITH LEYLAND (Continued)

If you see a large truck that is turning and there are multiple lanes, please keep behind the trailer and not try and beat the truck on the inside lane as the trailer of the truck may move into the inside lane due to the size and length.

I have witnessed smaller vehicles being run over by the trailer, while they tried to overtake a turning truck. This is one of the reasons that you see a sign on the back of trucks stating "Do not overtake turning vehicle".

All it takes to be safe around trucks on our roads is to use some common sense and understand the dangers and risks associated with the heavier and larger vehicles. It is also important to turn your lights on in poor weather conditions to allow the truck drivers to be able to see your vehicle and minimize the risk of a collision when they intend to change lanes. Stay safe on our roads and respect the laws of physics, in regards to trucks being heavier and larger.



## Driving safely with heavy vehicles

Truck drivers have a certain limitations when it comes to accelerating and slowing down. Heavy vehicles need more room to make turns and their blind spots are much larger than cars. When driving around trucks, keep in mind the following tips:

### 1. Stay out of the heavy vehicle blind spots

The blind spot diagram, in yellow shade, shows the blind spots are located:

- immediately in front of the truck
- beside the truck driver's door
- on the passenger side which runs the length of the truck and extends out three lanes
- directly behind the truck.



\*Picture from the [Australian Trucking Association \(http://www.atatruck.net.au/\)](http://www.atatruck.net.au/) (Road Ahead) website

**Remember: if you cannot see the truck driver's mirror, the truck driver cannot see you.**

## NSW Government policies - Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016-2021

This policy includes strategies to prevent DFV, intervene early with individuals and communities at risk, support victims, hold perpetrators to account, and improve the quality of the DFV service system.

### NSW Domestic and Family Violence Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy 2017-2021

This policy establishes a framework for government and community action related to primary prevention (preventing DFV before it occurs) and early intervention (intervening early with at-risk individuals or populations to stop DFV escalating and becoming entrenched).

### NSW Health Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Domestic and Family Violence, 2021-2026

This NSW Health policy aims to strengthen the public health system's role in preventing and responding to DFV. It identifies actions to ensure NSW Health staff obtain the support they need from the public health system to prevent, respond to, and ameliorate the harmful effects of, DFV. It also describes the state-wide and local policies and procedures, resources and training necessary to support health services and staff in this work.

### Integrated Prevention and Response to Violence, Abuse and Neglect Framework

This policy framework applies to NSW Health services and its aim is for these services to deliver a more integrated prevention and service response to violence, abuse and neglect. The framework is being implemented in two phases.

The focus of the first phase is on strengthening integrated responses by NSW Health's specialist Violence, Abuse and Neglect (VAN) services. VAN services are the services within the health sector that respond to DFV and also to other, often co-occurring, forms of violence, abuse and neglect, including:

#### Child abuse and neglect

##### Sexual assault

Young people with problematic or harmful sexual behaviours (these are sexual behaviours that harm another child or young person).

An integrated service response by these VAN services recognises the need to consider, and respond appropriately, to all forms of violence being experienced. This is necessary because people experience multiple forms of violence, abuse and neglect. These forms of violence often overlap within families and may co-occur or may be experienced at different stages throughout a person's life.

The focus of the second phase of implementing this policy framework is on broadening integration of violence, abuse and neglect responses beyond specialist VAN services. This phase recognises the importance of integrated responses across the whole of the NSW Health system.

This policy framework is supported by the paper, *The Case for Change: Integrated Prevention and Response to Violence, Abuse and Neglect in NSW Health*. It provides a summary of key findings from the research and clinical literature that support an integrated response by NSW Health violence, abuse and neglect services.

#### Premier's Priority – Reducing Domestic Violence Reoffending

A current NSW Premier's Priority is reducing DFV reoffending by 25% by 2023.

#### Premier's Priority – Protecting our most vulnerable children

A current NSW Premier's Priority is to reduce the proportion of children and young people re-reported at risk of significant harm by 20% by 2023. Many children are reported to the child protection system are at risk of significant harm because they are experiencing DFV.

Commonwealth Government policies. The National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010 – 2022. The National Plan is the Commonwealth Government's key policy related to reducing DFV and sexual assault. It aims to provide a coordinated framework for action by the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments. The National Plan specifies six outcomes for these governments to work towards:

(This is only an excerpt from the NSW Government's website. Check it out. Specially trained officers.

A National Plan—a combined effort between the States and the Territories must improve the situation. Ed)



## **Elvis: To see, or not to see, that is the question**

**By Anne Ring**

Remember when SBS and then the ABC had film reviewers Margaret (Pomeranz) and David (Stratton) going at it hammer and tongs over their polar opposite views about a movie, and you had to decide which one of them was more *you* when it came to filmic preferences? Those heady days are, sadly, long gone. But we still have movies which are capable of stirring vigorous debate between reviewers, given the opportunity. And I would love to see John McDonald of *The Australian Financial Review* and Mark Kermode of *The Guardian* go head-to-head over Baz Luhrmann's *Elvis*, a film that nothing was going to stop me going to see, and to relive the great songs and gyrating hips of that oh-so-sexy singer who made my teenage heart beat faster way back in the day (and who still bears occasional revisiting on YouTube for nostalgia's sake).

To put it mildly, it's clear that McDonald is most emphatically *not* a fan of Luhrmann's most recent creations, and he spends a substantial part of his introduction explaining why he doesn't like *Moulin Rouge* and *The Great Gatsby* and simply hates *Australia*, before launching into all that he's deemed bad in *Elvis*. The film is like "a slide show", "we never see Elvis as an actual personality, [and] the same applies to everyone else", the music is used in "the most scattergun fashion", and "Elvis is pure fairy floss – sickly sweet, colourful and quick to melt into nothingness". Talk about damning with all out vitriol.

Meanwhile, back in *The Guardian*, Kermode has awarded that same movie one of the rarest of accolades: five whole stars. I can't remember the last film that got such unqualified rapture. He too does a quick wrap of several Luhrmann films, but from the opposite camp of enthusiastic praise, before moving on to describe *Elvis* as a "riotously audacious work, a kaleidoscopic portrait of the king of rock'n'roll and his puppet-master promoter", and, all up, concludes that "with electrifying performances from Austin Butler as Elvis and Tom Hanks as Colonel Parker, Baz Luhrmann's whirlwind biopic is cinematic dynamite".

Ideally, I would have preferred to see the movie before the reviews. But they got there first, so now it's just a matter of taking one side or another. Or some middle road. And my award goes to....neither. I have to admit to checking out information about Colonel Tom Parker before seeing the film, which shows that his nefarious reputation is richly deserved, in his brutal entrapment of a vulnerably talented young man. That story, to me, is front and centre in *Elvis*, turning it into neither floss nor dynamite, but a profound tragedy of Shakespearean depths.

*Anne Ring* ©2022



## GLADSTONE'S TRIP TO MIRIAM VALE

We had a great day when Miriam Vale came up to visit as on July 8.

We do this every year we go down there one year and Miriam Vale come to as the next year. The first photo it of the two Committees

Gladstone on the left and Miriam Vale on the right. others are of the Raffle prizes

Meg Paterson



Our best wishes are extended to Gladstone's President, Joan Green who recently suffered injuries from a fall. APSL wishes you a speedy recovery, Joan and thanks you for your efforts to organise the 2022 Conference.

# E-Scooter reforms: speeds slashed, new fines and parking changes

## Minister for Transport and Main Roads The Honourable Mark Bailey

Roads and footpaths will be safer for Queensland commuters as the Palaszczuk Government rolls out new measures to better regulate e-scooters.

Transport and Main Roads Minister Mark Bailey said stronger laws like lower speeds on footpaths, mandated safety measures, a safety education campaign and clearer signage and markings would be part of a suite of new actions to help ensure e-scooter riders, cyclists, motorists and pedestrians can safely share spaces.

"The rising popularity of e-scooters is a clear sign they aren't going to disappear," the Minister said.

"We know that people are going to keep using them so the key is making sure that shared spaces like footpaths and bike-lanes are as safe as they can be.

"That's why I joined industry and user groups, disability advocates, health, police and government experts late last year to understand what needs to be done to make e-scooters and their use safer for people riding them and those they ride near."

Immediate action will include the rollout of a proactive safety campaign focussing on the correct way to wear a helmet, how to ride safely, how to overtake pedestrians safely and how to park to keep the footpath clear for people with disabilities.

Mr Bailey said the reforms would see speed limits slashed on footpaths to 12 kilometres an hour.

"We are seeing far too many injuries in e-scooter users that are the result of speeding and many pedestrians feeling unsafe on footpaths," he said.

"Our footpaths are there for everyone so e-scooter riders will need to slow down on footpaths to 12 km/h in future.

"We'll also be allowing e-scooters on segregated bikeways, like the Veloway and bikeways such as the Ipswich Motorway & Gateway Arterial North as we examine further their use in relation to on road bike lanes.

"For e-scooters to use footpaths less, they need more safe routes to use as an alternative.

"We'll examine further whether on road bike lanes are appropriate with all stakeholders, with extensive consultation with local government associations and councils to come."

The State Government will also work with Brisbane City Council and other LGAs on making sure signs and markings make it clear where e-scooters can and can't be ridden and where they can and can't be parked.

Tougher laws to give police better tools to enforce speed limits and drink riding will also be further explored to crack down on rogue e-scooter riders endangering others.

Police Minister Mark Ryan said the Queensland Police Service would be part of a new Personal Mobility Device Safety Reference Group.

"We know many people do the right thing and our officers do a great job at policing dangerous behaviour already," the Minister said.

"But with new rules and regulations we will be better equipped to keep the public safe."

Mr Bailey said more information on the safety reforms would be made available in the coming months, as engagement with industry and stakeholders progressed.

"I look forward to seeing the work we can do in this space, and the benefits the reforms can have in community moving forward," he said.

"I expect our Personal Mobility Action Plan outlining these, and a number of other initiatives around e-scooters, will be available shortly."

More information on the current road rules for personal mobility devices can be found on the [Queensland Government website](#).

## eScooters continued

"I expect our Personal Mobility Action Plan outlining these, and a number of other initiatives around e-scooters, will be available shortly."

More information on the current road rules for personal mobility devices can be found on the [Queensland Government website](#).

### Fast Fact – E-Scooter Reforms

- Slashing footpath speed limits in half, to 12km/h
- Proactive safety campaign to inform users of road rules, parking and their responsibilities
- Partner with industry for a new e-scooter users guide at point of sale (privately owned e-scooters)
- Mandate warning devices (such as a bell)
- Establish an e-scooter parking working group to create clear rules for e-scooter parking to keep footpaths clear for pedestrians and people with disabilities
- Allowing e-scooters on segregated bikeways, including the Veloway
- Examine further e-scooter use on shared bikeways and on road bike lanes, pending further stakeholder and local government consultation
- Improved data recording and injury reporting
- Improved signage and markings
- Road rule amendments
- Creation of high-risk e-scooter offences, including drink and drug driving penalties, through legislative reforms

Cracking down on dangerous and irresponsible e-scooter behaviour such as speeding through tougher enforcement and appropriate penalties

### ENDS

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Courtney Thompson – 0433 585 570

- Scooters have become a popular vehicle for some in communities in various centres throughout Queensland. Electric scooter companies are "pushing" their "vehicles" through local councils and particularly in Rockhampton, the company is applying for an extension of the number already in areas throughout the city is be increased from the current 300. EScooters have been featured on many TV Channels including A Current Affair wich touched on insurance for those hit by scooters. A number of riders adhere to regulations. However, some blatant breaches concerning the use of eScooters have been recorded by authorities. Where they ride in shared spaces those breaches have included:-
  - drink driving and drug driving penalties;
  - the practice of speeding which appears to have no respect for pedestrians; Injuries which have been recorded – many of which are to the upper body/head indicating helmets not being worn or fixed correctly.
  - Careless riding has been observed.
  - Skylarking.
  - Speeding. In one instance, a eScooter rider nearly collided with a member's vehicle after speeding through a GIVEWAY intersection at 7.15 pm at night.

## **CHANGES TO CHARGES FOR DRIVING**

### **INFRINGEMENTS, ETC.**

Speeding offences

**1-10km/hr\* - \$287 and 1 demerit point**

**11-20km/hr\* - \$431 and 3 demerit points**

**21-30km/hr - \$646 and 4 demerit points**

**31-40km/hr - \$1078 and 6 demerit points**

**More than 40km/hr - \$1653 + 8 demerit points and automatic 6-month licence suspension.**

\* The speeding penalty bracket of 1-12km/hr and 13-20km/hr will change to 1-10km/hr and 11-20km/hr to reflect risk and align Queensland with many other Australian jurisdictions.

Double demerit points apply for 2 or more offences committed within 1 year of the previous offence (for speeding offences 21km/hr and above).

#### **Seatbelt offences**

**Penalties of \$1078 and 4 demerit points will apply to drivers for:**

not wearing a correctly-fitted seatbelt (unless exempt)

passengers not wearing a correctly-fitted seatbelt or correctly-fitted child restraint (unless exempt)

Double demerit points apply for 2 or more offences committed within 1 year of the previous offence.

#### **Red-light camera offences**

**\$575 and 3 demerit points.**

This includes not stopping at yellow or red traffic lights and yellow or red bus and tram lights.

You can: Find out more about the increase penalties; pay your fine or check out how to dispute or transfer a fine to another driver; check your demerit points

**visit StreetSmarts for road safety tips**

**find out about the Camera Detected Offence Program.**

## **Open licence demerit points**

In Queensland, we don't lose 'points' when we commit an offence. Instead, we start with zero points, and demerit points are added to our traffic record when we commit certain offences.

### **Demerit point limits**

If you get 12 or more demerit points within a 3 year period on a Queensland open licence, you'll be sent an 'Accumulation of demerit points – notice to choose'.

This notice will require you to choose to either, have your open licence suspended for a requisite period

- agree to continue driving under a period of good driving behaviour for 1 year.

You may receive a warning letter when you get 7 or more demerit points in a 3 year period.

**Read how this applies if you're driving in Queensland on an interstate or overseas licence**

### **PROVISIONAL Demerit point limits**

**If you get 4 or more demerit points within a continuous 1 year period while you hold a Queensland P1, P2, P type provisional or probationary licence, you'll be sent an 'Accumulation of demerit points – notice to choose'.**

This notice will require you to choose to either:

- have your licence suspended for 3 months
- agree to continue driving under a period of good driving behaviour for 1 year.

**Read how this applies if you're driving in Queensland on an interstate or overseas licence.**

Find out how long demerit points stay on your record. Qld Gov website.

# TWELVE COMMANDMENTS FOR SENIORS

1 - Talk to yourself.

There are times you need expert advice.

2 - "In Style"

are the clothes that still fit.

3 - You don't need anger management.

You need people to stop pissing you off.

4 - Your people skills are just fine.

It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.

5 - The biggest lie you tell yourself is,

"I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."

6 - "On time"

is when you get there.

7 - Even duct tape can't fix stupid,

but it sure does muffle the sound.

8 - It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves

in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out

wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?

9 - Lately, you've noticed people your

age are so much older than you.

#10 - Growing old should have taken longer.

11 - Aging has slowed you down,

but it hasn't shut you up.

12 - You still haven't learned to act your age

and hope you never will.

. . . And one more:

"One for the road" means peeing before

you leave the house!!



*Author Unknown*



Peter & Genevieve Bedggood with Beverly Honnery

Only a few of the Collinsville Pensioners were able to attend Christmas in July for 2022 due to Covid, Holidays and work.

As usual it was held at the Pit Pony Tavern in the restaurant, As well as our group there were 16 others that came and though we were a small group a great time was had by all.

Our local newspaper, Whitsunday News gave us free advertisement for our group to let people know that we were looking for new members.

The Editor, Deborah Friend, was so understanding and helpful.



Our newest member Becky Taylor and (Denise smith, Secretary)



Thelma Wright, Lana Odger and Fay Janz

Janet and Nigel provided a wonderful roast dinner with both pork and chicken, baked potato, pumpkin, corn, peas and carrots, with sauce and gravy.

For dessert, we had a lovely fruit cake with lashings of custard.

A local lady, Coral Hughes, played guitar and sang to us, we all sang Christmas Carols, and everyone received a gift. As usual Janet, Nigel and staff outdid themselves and made sure that everyone had a great time and enjoyed themselves.



Our President Andy Pennay and Greg Buckler

## **COLLINSVILLE'S CHRISTMAS IN JULY**

## WARWICK NEWS



Six members of the Warwick Branch of APSL went to the One Table Cafe at the Church of Christ Aged Care facility.

Doreen Murphy, Michael Blake, Ida Jackson Ruby Johnson, Del Thompson and photographer Michael Holland.

At the Annual General Meeting, the office Bearers elected were President Michael Holland, Vice President Ruby Johnson, Secretary Madeleine Cristina Holland and Treasurer Del Thompson.

## WORD OF THE MONTH

### ONOMATOPOEIC

**Pronunciation - on-uh-mat-uh-pee-uh**

Onomatopoeia is the process of creating a word that phonetically imitates, resembles, or suggests the sound that it describes. Such a word itself is also called an onomatopoeia. Common onomatopoeias include animal noises such as oink, meow, roar, and chirp. Wikipedia

**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 and 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.

#### 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.