

SIP INC.

AGM MONDAY OCTOBER 30, 2017,

BAYVIEW ROOM,

PORTARLINGTON

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT JENNY WILLS

The past year has seen SIP once again focused on changes to home based community care for older people and our concern to ensure that one of the aims of the Commonwealth Government's reforms - greater consumer control - does in fact become a reality.

In March over 60 people attended a SIP hosted public meeting on My Aged Care, and in response to this high level of interest in the community, SIP has partnered with the Bellarine Aged Care Association to host My Aged Care information forums across the Bellarine. These will continue into 2018 and we hope then to take a range of issues from service users to major care providing agencies to help promote consumer rights, improvements in the range and quality of services, and timely responsiveness to residents needs.

SIP has also continued its advocacy in relation to Age Friendly Communities for people of all aged and stages. Noting that Safe and Accessible Public Transport is a key feature of the World Health Organisation's checklist for age friendly communities, SIP members have been active in the campaign for better public transport on the Northern Bellarine. Our participation included organising a local bus visit to and tour of the Geelong Regional Library. We have worked closely with Bellarine Health Community Planner, Claire Bower, on a range of promotional activities, and have seen success with State budget funding allocated for continuation of the bus shuttle service. The production of a video to promote bus usage, Celebrating Bus Route 60 - which you can see on YouTube - stars a number of our older residents, including Anne Prendergast and Harold Waldron. I would like to record SIP's thanks for their enthusiastic participation and invite other residents to join with us in the ongoing bus campaign, Use it or Lose It!

We have been pleased to continue our monthly columns in the Port Report to bring items of interest to the notice of local residents. Topics covered over the past year have included the NBN, Advanced Care Directives, Parliamentary Enquiry into Retirement Housing, Victorian Senior of the Year Awards, Elder Abuse, COTA's Consumer Engagement in Aged Care Project and Health Literacy. Thank you to all the contributors and to the Port Report for publication.

Our other major information tool is of course the SIP Website www.stayinginportarlington.com.au and on behalf of the SIP Committee I would like to record a very big thankyou to Pat Crotty for her dedication in not only setting up, but also maintaining and updating the website with lots of value the donors for their good quality books and the buyers of the book bargains which allows us to subsidise event throughout the year. We

especially thank the Portarlington Primary School for their support in allowing us to hold the stall free of charge at the January market. We were pleased this year to make a donation to the school in appreciation for its support. able and timely information.

October is an important month for SIP - not only do we have our AGM but also our outing during the Seniors Festival. Thank you to the City of Greater Geelong for a grant that helped offset the cost of a very successful coach visit to the Narana Aboriginal Cultural Centre for morning tea, an informative tour, and boomerang throwing, followed by a delicious lunch at Moorabool Valley Chocolates. It was a most enjoyable day and thanks to our Treasurer, Annette Colley-Allerton, for organising the day and ensuring we were all accounted for and safely returned to Portarlington

Fundraising and fun again featured at SIP's annual secondhand book stall in January. We thank all donors and buyers as the funds raised help subsidise SIP activities throughout the year. In appreciation of the support of the Portarlington Primary School for our free site at the market we were pleased this year to make a donation to the school.

It is good to see our membership growing as our work in the community becomes better known. I would like to acknowledge the role of Elizabeth Turner and the Portarlington Community Association's invaluable email tree for promoting our activities along with the local media, and especially the Bellarine Times. And finally in conclusion a big thank you to the SIP's Vice-president Robyn Hope, Secretary Chris Kelly, Treasurer, Annette Colley-Allerton and committee members John Moug and Bruce Holmes for their contributions to SIP's program in 2016-17.