



Staying in Portarlington (SiP)

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Happy New Year to everyone!

SiP is starting 2017 with a book stall at the January 29 market. We will be inside Parks Hall, selling books and DVDs for just \$2 – please come along. We use the funds raised to subsidise SiP's annual outing in October. If you have interesting fiction or non-fiction books (including children's books), in reasonable condition, and would like to donate them, please call Chris on 0438 404 867.

Good news events:

- It's fantastic to see that the work of the Northern Bellarine Transport Group (which includes SiP members) has been rewarded with the continuation of the **60A bus shuttle service** through to June. At this time last year we had gathered nearly 3000 signatures asking for a restoration of our St Leonards-Geelong bus service. NBTAG is continuing to work towards a better timetable, improved frequency, extended services and better connectivity with Geelong trains, plus a Myki outlet. So – please help by supporting the public bus service. Use it or lose it!!
- **SiP and BACA (Bellarine Aged Care Association) have begun some joint activity** which we hope will increase our ability to advocate for older residents of our region. In December we met with the City of Greater Geelong's Aged Services unit to discuss age friendly communities and transport issues in particular. CoGG is planning to hold a positive ageing forum in 2017, and we will be invited to participate. We will also meet jointly with Lisa Neville, Member for Bellarine, in later January on aged care issues.

SiP's President Jenny Wills has recently added our support to the proposed amendment of the **Greater Geelong Planning Scheme**, with a view to undertaking a strategic assessment to establish aged care needs across the Bellarine Peninsula, specifically to identify design options and guidance to encourage older people to remain in their homes for as long as possible. As Jenny notes, SiP has been critical of CoGG's lack of action on this front over a long period, and also of Council's failure to advocate for build for life/universal housing design principles in new structures. Jenny says: 'It's essential that older residents should be engaged by Council at all stages in developing the strategic plan. It's especially significant for Portarlington where, at 46%, we have more than double the older demographic compared with Geelong as a whole.'

Elder abuse

In December's Port Report, we promised to include information about ways in which you can identify if abuse is occurring to someone you know. Remember that most elder abuse is committed by family members but could also be service providers, carers, or strangers. Here are some signs of financial abuse:

- Selling an older person's home and keeping the money (eg 'for safekeeping')
- Pressuring them to hand over an anticipated inheritance
- Pressuring them for gifts or loans of money
- Taking money from the older person's bank account
- Not acting in the best interests of an older person where power of attorney exists

What should you do? Call Victoria Police 000.

Dates for your diary

January 29 –Market book stall

February 27 – our first members' meeting of the year. Details of the theme, venue and time will be in next month's Port Report, and members will also be notified individually. Non-members are very welcome!