

## Staying in Portarlington – Port Report July 2018

### Pension Loans Scheme

Following last month's SiP article, we had several inquiries about the Commonwealth Government's extension of the Pension Loans Scheme, effective from July 1 next year.

People of pension age who own their homes will be able to borrow to create an income stream by accessing equity in the family home, providing them with a fortnightly income stream of up to 150% of the full pension entitlement. The scheme will be open to everyone of pension age, whether they be full or part pensioners, or self funded retirees.

SiP is aiming to have a guest speaker on this topic for our late August meeting – non-members of course will be welcome, so watch for the August edition of the *Port Report*.

### October Seniors' Festival trip – advance notice

SiP's annual bus trip will be on Thursday October 25, open to everyone, whether members or not.

This year our trip will be to beautiful Barwon Park near Winchelsea, a National Trust property that is an authentic bluestone mansion built in 1871 by pioneer pastoralists Thomas and Elizabeth Austin. We will leave Portarlington at 9.30am, with morning tea at Barwon Park, lunch at the Winchelsea Tavern, and return to Port by 4pm. Cost \$36. These trips are always great days, so put the date in your calendar. More details in later *Port Reports*.

### Plastic Free July

SiP's 2010 household survey revealed that 68% of Portarlington respondents identified the environment as the priority community issue. A follow up public meeting led to several working groups including one focused on protecting our beautiful but fragile environment by making Portarlington plastic bag free.

SiP subsequently worked with Portarlington Primary School to promote enhanced community awareness of this important issue. Grade 5 and 6 students developed a design which, financially supported by Barwon Waste Management Group, resulted in production of a reusable bag. SiP continues to distribute these bags free.

SiP welcomes the recent decision by major supermarkets to discontinue so-called single use plastic bags in their stores. It is also good news that the Victorian Government will ban all lightweight plastic bags from 2019, a ban which includes bags made from degradable, biodegradable and compostable plastic.

Plastic Free July is a challenge in which you're encouraged to stop using items such as plastic bottles, plastic lined take away coffee cups and straws, aimed at reducing plastic pollution of our sea and oceans that kills sea and bird life and contaminates marine food chains.

For more information: go to Take 3 For the Sea website - <https://www.take3.org/> or <http://www.plasticfreejuly.org/>

### Why not join Staying in Portarlington Inc?

Membership of SiP is \$10 per year. For existing members, renewal is due from July 1.

Joining fees/renewals can be paid at SiP's next members' meeting in late August (date tbc), or by cheque to SiP's address.

To contact SiP – [www.stayinginportarlington.com](http://www.stayinginportarlington.com) or email [stayinginportarlington@gmail.com](mailto:stayinginportarlington@gmail.com), write to us: PO Box 394 Portarlington 3223 or phone 0438 404 867.

Jenny Wills - President