

## October Newsletter

The recent publicity about **residential** aged care problems with financing and care levels highlights the importance of ensuring that the **home** care system is responsive to the changing needs of independent older people living at home. SiP and BACA - the Bellarine Aged Care Association - hope that their current program of forums on the Bellarine will assist people to better understand and access the Commonwealth Government's My Home Care scheme.

**The next forum** is here in Portarlington - **Monday October 23 at the Bayview Room 2-4pm.**

This event is part of the Geelong Seniors October Festival calendar and bookings are essential with SIP secretary, Chris Kelly – 0438 404 867. The following forum, the last for this year, will in **Point Lonsdale on November 13** – again, booking enquiries to the number above.

Also coming up is the **SiP AGM on October 30 at 2pm at the Bayview Room.** Current and new members and visitors are welcome and we would value your input over afternoon tea in an informal discussion about ideas for SIP activities for 2018. SiP hopes that a funding application to the City of Greater Geelong will be successful for a 2018 project to promote increased usage of our **local bus service.** The aim is to ensure viability and growth of the service into the future. SiP President, Jenny Wills, who chairs the **Northern Bellarine Transport Action Group**, NBTAG, said the proposed **Use it or Lose It** campaign will involve recruitment of bus ambassadors to encourage other local residents to travel by bus, advertising on buses and community notice boards to promote the benefits of public transport, and a car free challenge where travellers will be recruited to try the local bus service in preference to private cars trips to Drysdale and Geelong. Jenny said NBTAG gratefully acknowledge the Healthy Communities Team at Bellarine Community Health for its ongoing support and Healthy Communities Planner, Sheldan Convery-Oberne for her work in finalising the funding submission.

NBTAG looks forward once again to working with the three community associations on the Northern Bellarine and all the community groups who have previously supported the successful initiatives to defend bus travel in our communities.

*Chris Kelly*