

Staying in Portarlington (SiP) – March 2018

My Aged Care and Council services – an update

Recent reporting highlights the difficulty that the new Commonwealth My Aged Care program is facing in meeting service demands, and also that Geelong Council may place a cap on high need level community aged care services. A recent Geelong Advertiser article suggested Council plans to review all its current services, including a range of services designed to support people to remain living at home in their communities. These issues were raised at SiP's well attended February meeting. SiP is considering how best to advocate on behalf of the community, and how to encourage older residents and their families to be vocal about their expectations that government will meet their obligations to ensure people can "age in place".

As a first step SiP has requested a meeting with Council staff for a full briefing on the current situation, its plans for the future, and reassurances that Council will ensure the community is fully consulted in any service review.

This important issue will be on the agenda for SiP's next meeting - April 24, 2-4pm in the Bayview Room, rear Parks Hall. Any ideas/comments prior to then, please contact SiP President, Jenny Wills, 5259 2032 jeni.wills@bigpond.com
A great afternoon with Trevor Pescott Trevor - weekly columnist in the Advertiser, and author of Birds and Botanists - was guest speaker at the February meeting.

Trevor presented a fascinating account of the early activities of field naturalists in the Geelong area, from the 1850s to the present day. It was obvious that Trevor recognised and appreciated the personalities who were part of early scientific observation, and the special places in our region – the 'Anakies' (aka You Yangs), Anglesea Heath, the Brisbane Ranges, Buckley Falls, and the present day Western Treatment Plant at Werribee. He spoke of personal contributions, the significance of the geological history, and the special animals and birds of the area.

Trevor commented on the damage that has been done to our region, but also noted the resilience of birdlife in the face of human impact.

Research on older driving

We have a Monash University researcher collecting information for her PhD who is very interested in producing a resource for older drivers, their families and medical and road safety experts on issues related to driving and ageing. She is keen to speak with older drivers or anyone interested in these issues, with a special focus on what a driver's licence means to older drivers, regulation/self-regulation of driving and driving assessment.

If you would like to take part in interviews – which could be over the phone, or in a group meeting with the researcher in Portarlington - contact Chris (SiP Secretary) on 0438 404 867.

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