

NATIONAL SENIORS AUSTRALIA ADELAIDE NORTH-WEST BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

May, 2022

Meeting at 2 pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month at

Lockleys Baptist Church house,

244 Henley Beach Road, Underdale (pictured right)

Parking - Drive through carport to rear of building



COMMITTEE

President..... Trevor Molde
Vice President..... Brian Mibus (0417 887701)
Secretary..... Kathy Hancock (0432 101372)
Treasurer..... Mavis Smith
Activities Coordinator Ann McCall
Committee Jeanette Molde
Newsletter Trish Mibus (0407 605091)

CALENDAR

OUR MAY GUEST SPEAKER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022

Guest Speaker: CATALYST - RETIREMENT HOMES

Afternoon Tea – Barbara & Peter Rix

OUTING: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2022

Lunch at Seaton Hotel

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2022

Guest Speaker: BEE MAN – Len Turner

Afternoon Tea – Jenny & Brenton Mathews

OUTING: WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2022

Activity for this day to be confirmed.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2022

Guest Speaker: QUEEN ADELAIDE

Afternoon Tea – Jeanette & Trevor Molde

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2022

Guest Speaker: TBA

Afternoon Tea – Kay & John Day

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

Guest Speaker: TBA

Afternoon Tea – Yvonne Walter

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

Guest Speaker: DAVID JARMAN – ALBERT WILKINS

Afternoon Tea – Dawn Thomas

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2022

Guest Speaker: TBA

Afternoon Tea – Trish & Brian Mibus

OUR APRIL GUEST SPEAKER

A very informative talk was given by **Owen**, a pilot from AngelFlight. Owen is a former farmer from Port Douglas who moved to Adelaide 20 years ago. He loves flying his “Moonie” small plane.

- AngelFlight began in April 2003 when a need was identified for transport of people who did not have an emergency medical reason to be transported.
- Emergency medical patients are transported by the Royal Flying Doctor or CareFlight.
- AngelFlight does not own any planes or have many staff. There are six staff in Queensland who run the office and all pilots and drivers are volunteers.
- AngelFlight is a national organization that fills a gap in services to people living in remote areas Australia wide
- The organization has undertaken over 51,900 flights in less than 20 years
- Provide flights for non-urgent medical and other reasons where flights are not available due to distance or cost:
 - o getting to specialist appointments, chemotherapy sessions, etc.

- o RDFS will transport emergency patients to hospital, but will not transport them back home.
- o Trips for chemotherapy every 3 – 4 weeks would be too costly for patients on commercial flights
- o **Compassionate reasons**
 - Families are flown to spend time with country patients undergoing long-term treatment and also flown home.
 - During COVID flying people to see dying family members.
 - Transporting people escaping Domestic Violence
 - Emergency supplies, ie flood victims. During the Lismore floods AngelFlight took donated goods to the people of Lismore
- o Taking people where no other organisation will take them. Have transported all age groups, from a 10 day old baby up to 90 year old people.
- **Limits**
 - o the patient doesn't require in-flight care as there isn't enough room for medical staff or equipment
 - o not eligible for RDFS or other options
 - o no time-critical appointments (transplants, etc), as AngelFlight cannot guarantee that timelines will be met.
 - o person must be able to physically get into a small plane as there are no stairs, toilets or services. Planes are as small as 4 seater; some are 8-10 seaters or a couple of jets. Flights from Adelaide to Port Lincoln take one hour, must be able to do this length.
- AngelFlight is free for those transported. Most airports waive landing charges. Classed as a private flight due to no fees and volunteer pilots. There are 3,000 pilot volunteers around Australia.
- Pilots either own their own aircraft or hire one for the flight.
- Receive no Government grants. AVGAS is expensive but AngelFlight pays for fuel based on the aircraft type. Pilots service their own aircraft. Overheads for the organization are low.
- No Government grants, no active fundraising and no paid advertising; only community service ads on TV.
- Spontaneous donations, bequests and corporate sponsors keep them operating. In 2020/21 donations, bequests and spontaneous donations amounted to \$1.95 million.
- Pilots must have a minimum of 250 hours after gaining their licence. Average experience of pilots is 3,300 hours.
- No pilot is pressured to undertake a flight and last minute cancellations are never criticised.
- Drivers on the ground are also volunteers. They pick people up from airport, take to appointment and bring them back to the airport. Occasionally they take the person for a coffee or kids to the park to play.
- People can get a referral from a health professional or apply directly to AngelFlight, who will liaise with health professionals.
- **Why do they volunteer?**
 - o They get to fly to a variety of airfields they usually don't get to – capital cities, country towns, individual farms or roads in the outback.
 - o Helping people forget their treatment or after treatment, the pain or process.
 - o The sometimes drop off supplies and pick up people in a double run.
- **How can we help them?**
 - o Tell others about the organisation and encourage them to use the service
 - o Donate or get others to donate
 - o Look at the website for more information www.angelflight.org.au

