

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
**SENIORS COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
 ON WEDNESDAY 20 MAY 2020 4:00PM  
 Via Teleconference

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic this meeting was held via Zoom

**1. ATTENDANCE:**

PRESENT:

Mayor Damien Ryan  
 Councillor Jamie de Brenni (*Chair*)  
 Geoff Sloan, General Member  
 Lowell Wood, Dementia Australia  
 Ian Towns, University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age  
 Kate Lewis, Anglicare NT  
 Sue Jones, National Seniors of Central Australia  
 Belinda Staniforth, Catholic Care NT

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jeanette Shepherd, Manager Community and Cultural Development  
 Clare Fisher, Manager Library Services  
 Kiri Milne, Community Development Officer  
 Telly Ociones, Executive Assistant (*Minutes*)

13th Alice Springs Town Council Seniors Coordinating Committee	17 Jul - 19	21 Aug - 19	18 Sep - 19	16 Oct - 19	20 Nov - 19	19 Feb - 20	18 Mar - 20	14 Apr - 20	20 May - 20
Mayor Damien Ryan	✓	A	Meeting cancelled – no quorum	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Councillor Jamie de Brenni	✓	A		✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
Councillor Catherine Satour				✓	✓	A	A	✓	--
Councillor Glen Auricht	✓	✓							
Edna Saunders	✓	✓		--	✓	✓	✓	--	--
Ian Towns	✓	✓		✓	✓	A	A	--	✓
Lowell Wood	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fran Kilgariff	✓	✓		A	A	✓	✓	✓	A
Shauna Hartig	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	A	A	A
Sue Jones	A	A		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kate Lewis	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Val Hoey		✓		✓	✓	--	✓	A	A
Geoff Sloan	✓	A		A	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
Rhiannon Fletcher / Belinda Staniforth		✓		✓	A	A	A	✓	✓
Bronwyn Arnold	✓ Proxy	✓ Proxy		--	--	--	--	--	--

✓	Attended	A	Apology received
✓ Proxy	Proxy attended in place of committee member	--	No attendance and no apology recorded
	Non-member		

The meeting commenced at 4:00pm.

An audio recording of this Zoom meeting was made for minute taking purposes

### APOLOGIES:

Fran Kilgariff, Council of the Ageing (COTA)  
Nerida Holmes, Relationships Australia  
Val Hoey, Alice Springs Seniors Citizens Association  
Shauna Hartig, Country Women's Association  
Sabine Taylor, Director Corporate Services  
Robert Jennings, Chief Executive Officer

## **2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:**

- 2.1 Councillor de Brenni declared an interest in respect of Item 4.4, *Senior Stories Project: Old Stories, Young Eyes* – person to be interviewed are relatives
- 2.1 Councillor de Brenni declared an interest in respect of Item 6.2, *World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)* – potential conflict of interest with CAWLS

## **3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

### RESOLVED:

**That the minutes of the Seniors Coordinating Committee meeting held 15 April 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.**

Moved: Geoff Sloan

Seconded: Sue Jones

## **4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

### 4.1 Influenza Vaccine

Dr in the House was contacted to see whether they could provide a home service vaccination to seniors. Dr in the House replied that their service treats urgent episodic conditions and that vaccines would be more readily available at their regular GP to schedule a flu shot.

### 4.2 Online Material for Seniors through Australian Seniors Computer Club (ASSCA)

ASSCA advised that with the current Coronavirus pandemic restrictions in place, the Seniors West Australian Digital Expansion (SWADE) team working in both NT and NSW has used this past month as a productive time to re-address the delivery of their respective Be Connected programs. While SWADE NT is well experienced with remote delivery, additional considerations were required to be dealt with in order to put in place a workable plan, including loan equipment, register, software, remote support, arrangements to engage mentors, etc.

ASSCA also was a stakeholder in the consultation process that took place in the \$150M COVID-19 relief and assistance package provided by the NBN Co.

### 4.3 Seniors Dance Classes

The Dancing with Dementia program was put on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Dementia Australia, Lauren Jones Dance Psychotherapy and the Alice Springs Town Council are working together to get the classes up and running again. The aim is to hold the classes at the same day and time, on a Tuesday between 10am and 11am.

The group is undertaking all appropriate safety requirements, risk assessments and hygiene measures prior to confirming a recommencement date.

A senior's dance class for pension and concession card class holders is being investigated. The dance classes will be held at the 50 Plus Centre, with Charmaine from Get Physical instructing. The same considerations into safety and risk will take place before the classes commence. Entry to the dance class is by gold coin donation at the door.

#### 4.4 Seniors Stories Project: Old Stories, Young Eyes

Filming has taken place with three different participants. The Community Development Officer thanked the Seniors Coordinating Committee and to all its network who sent in suggestions of appropriate people to interview and film. The first episode will feature Desmond and Patricia Nelson and will be published on Council's social media page tomorrow.

#### **ACTION:**

Community Development Officer will send through the Seniors Stories Project link to SCC members once published.

#### 5. **DEPUTATION:**

Nil

#### 6. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

##### 6.1 Seniors Month Planning

At this stage, Seniors month will still take place in August, until new update from the Northern Territory Government is made.

Planning has begun for the Seniors Morning Tea and Still Got Talent, with safety and hygiene precautions taken into consideration.

It was suggested to have a Seniors month planning meeting, after the June 5 stage three roadmap commences, for seniors who are interested.

#### **ACTION:**

Community Development Officer to arrange a Seniors month planning meeting after 5 June 2020.

##### 6.2 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)

WEAAD is taking place on Monday 15 June 2020. A meeting occurred this morning between COTA, Relationships Australia, Catholic Care NT and ASTC to discuss the possibility of running an event to acknowledge the day. Council have previously held an event at the Library with CAWLS and aged care advocates conducting talks and raising awareness of elder abuse.

Further information will be provided next week once the planning group has met again, but there was interest in running another panel discussion and a morning tea.

Discussion ensued on elder abuse including:

- the growing profile and awareness of elder abuse

- elder abuse a separate issue to domestic violence
- mandatory reporting of domestic abuse in whatever form it takes
- most service providers in Alice Springs have policies and procedures about mandatory reporting of elder abuse
- reaching out to community through information sharing about elder abuse

**ACTION:**

Community Development Officer to liaise with seniors' groups and service providers to create an integrated campaign to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons, specifically to people in the community that may not know about WEAAD.

### 6.3 Update from Manager Library Services, Alice Springs Public Library

The Library re-opened on Monday 18 May at 10am with stage 2 restrictions in place and some adjustment to service including:

- maximum capacity of 50 people
- modified opening hours of:
  - Monday to Friday: 10am-1pm and 3pm-6pm
  - Saturday and Sunday as normal: 10am-1pm
- Library "reset" and cleaned between 1pm-3pm
- 2-hour limit on services
- no cinema or DVD players
- staff "greeter" to have safety conversation with all customers entering the Library
- one-on-one support programs by appointment
- no physical programs until Stage 3

The Borrow Box and other digital services statistics did not go up as much, but there was a lot of take up on the Book-a-Book service.

Mayor Ryan advised that prior to COVID-19 pandemic, Council received letters from seniors who were concerned about youths in the Library. The Mayor asked if the Library has encountered return of youths in the Library since the change in service this week. The Manager Library Services advised that the presence of young people is minimal at this point. There have been new interim directives received disallowing entry to the Library of youths aged 15 years and under at any time without a parent or guardian present, and the 'no school no entry' policy is still in effect. The NT Department of Education noticed that their school engagement has never been as high as it is currently. They find that the overcrowding in town camps and other places have eased and most of the young people are choosing to stay at home.

### 6.4 COVID-19 Update from the Committee

Relationships Australia in Alice Springs is open for face to face clients from Monday 25 May 2020 and will continue with services via telephone and Zoom as required.

Anglicare NT staff have been visiting clients on a weekly basis with treats and a newsletter to keep them connected and discuss things which are normally done at their social support group activities before COVID-19. Face to face meeting with clients will be discussed after 5 June 2020.

Dementia Australia is still not providing face to face consultation to clients, but have a special dispensation to be able to provide face to face support to some clients and their families and carers who were not coping well. Service delivery and activity will be reviewed after 5 June 2020.

Alice Springs Town Council Executives and Elected Members continue to have regular meetings on COVID-19 and working with budget considerations going forward.

Council have allocated \$5M into a COVID-19 fund, to be able to provide financial hardship relief to commercial, residential and rural ratepayers in the Alice Springs municipality for the next three months in the next financial year. All Council sites are working very hard to cope with COVID-19 and continue to provide service to the community with modified approach.

**Council Events/Programs:**

- The 50 Plus Centre has reopened, with bingo, woodworking and snooker recommencing. Safety measures are being undertaken
- The next Council Night Market is taking place Thursday 4 June, with food and crafts. Stalls will be spaced with social distancing measures. The Department of Health will be in attendance with hand sanitiser stations. There will be roving entertainment and small musical acts.
- Songs from the Sofa program - Katie Harder, Lisa Marie Burgoyne, Anders Pfeiffer have performed in previous weeks. Barry Skipsey will be performing on Friday. The series is hosted on the ASTC YouTube account and shared onto Facebook.
- Health and Wellness Centre (HAWC) classes have resumed, as per previous scheduling, with COVID-19 safety and hygiene principles adhered to. All previous participants have been booked in first as a priority, with unexpected interest in classes recommencing.
- Heart Foundation Walk is not resuming for another 6 to 8 weeks at this stage, however, the Pace Makers four-week challenge will finish up on 31 May.
- Aqua fitness classes have resumed again at the Pool.
- Seniors activity packs will be distributed shortly once printing is completed.

**ACTION:**

Community Development Officer will send out all events information and schedule of activities to SCC members tomorrow.

Geoff Sloan has been contacted by NT Primary Health Network to provide input on the operation of after-hours GP service. Any feedback/comments on this service can be forwarded to Geoff and he will send this to NT Primary Health Network.

**7. NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, **17 June 2020** at 4:00pm via teleconference

**8. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING:**

The meeting closed at 4:45pm.