

MELKSHAM & DISTRICT SENIORS FORUM 55+

2ND QUARTER UPDATE REPORT TO MELKSHAM AREA BOARD

Forum 55+ has settled into its new routine where its elected Executive Committee members each have a portfolio giving them responsibility over individual activities and events presented by The Forum. Each of these activities is designed to provide a socialization channel for our members. These are

1. The Monday Club at Forest Community Centre where we provide the opportunity for members to meet, chat, take part in appropriate activities and generally absorb a convivial social atmosphere.
2. The Thursday Club at The Riverside Club where we present a wide range of activities from chair aerobics, tai chi, sing-a-longs, topical presentations on issues of interest to our membership. This town centre activity provides a great opportunity for members to socialize and exercise.
3. The Film Club at The Assembly Hall where we screen a menu of films chosen by our membership.
4. Christmas Party at The Assembly Hall – plans for this years party are well advanced and the event promises to provide a great seasonal party experience for our members.
5. The on-going Socialize 'n Shop program is very successful. We continue to receive new applications for membership by business and individuals. There are now over 200 card carrying high street shoppers.
6. Once the Canberra Youth Centre refurbishment program is complete we hope to commence our intergenerational activities with their membership.
7. Coach Tours under the auspices of Forum 55+ will re-commence in the New Year.

Our new website will soon burst upon the Internet showcasing all our activities and inviting new ideas from the people of Melksham

We continually search for new and interesting activities for the members and are seriously examining ways and means to increase both the service range and frequency. It is our intention to develop and take on a greater role as advocates for the needs and wellbeing of Melksham's older citizens which will take us back to one of the Forum's foundation principles. One avenue we are pursuing is active cooperation with the Area Board in developing the vision for Age Friendly Melksham. Another avenue is to seek partnership and affiliation with

other local and regional groups that have similar aims and objectives. We continue our representation on the Management Committee of South West Seniors Network and are send representatives to many other groups

Our constantly expanding Forum now needs to enlarge its cadre of volunteers so we are reaching out to those in our community who have the time and interest to join our team. We also have a vacancy on our Executive Committee so would welcome someone with vision, imagination, commitment and energy.

Finally we have to record our sincere thanks to local businesses; Asda, Sainsbury's, Waitrose and many others for their generous support. We must also register our gratitude to our local councils for their grant awards. Without this valuable support from our community Forum 55+ would not be able to provide services to our membership. Thank-you Melksham.

MARTIN PAIN

CHAIR