



SNIPPETS

May 2019 | Edition 205

Seniors Enquiry Line

No question is too big or too small

Your Newsletter

We would like to ensure that Snippets is discussing topics that are important to you. If there are specific topics or themes you would like added, please contact **Seniors Enquiry Line** and we will try our best to address them in future issues.

Quote

"It is not what we have but what we enjoy that constitutes our abundance."

Epicurus

Contact Details:

Phone: 1300 135 500

Email: sel@ucommunity.org.au
www.seniorsenquiryline.com.au

Seniors Enquiry Line is an information and referral service for Queensland seniors, proudly sponsored by the Queensland Government and operated by UnitingCare.

Work Bonus for Pensioners

As a pensioner you can work under the pension work bonus scheme without it affecting your pension entitlements. The scheme allows age pensioners to earn up to \$250.00/fortnight on average without it affecting pension entitlements. From 1 July this will increase to \$300.00/fortnight on average. This increase was successfully campaigned by National Seniors Australia. This allows pensioners who would like to continue to work a chance to earn a bit of extra spending money and about 6% of all age pensioners (150,000 pensioners) took advantage of this scheme in 2018. For more details go to <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/work-bonus> or call 132 300

STREAMLINING Aged Care Access !

Trials are underway all over Australia to help seniors access information. There are three trial services being offered and they are :-

1. Information Hubs—locally target information to help people engage with the aged care system
2. Community Hubs—members support each other navigating the aged care system
3. Specialist Support workers—one on one support for vulnerable people.

Some information will be given face to face and other information via phone. There are 32 Information hubs, 21 Community hubs and 9 Specialist support workers. In QLD some of the trial areas include Brisbane South suburbs, Bundaberg, Ayr, Barcardine, Bowen, Longreach, Roma, Warwick, Maryborough, Kingaroy, Nambour and Roma to name a few. The trials will be evaluated in October 2019 and conclude in June 2020. The trials are being delivered by partners and led by Council on the Ageing (COTA). To view some good fact sheets go to <https://www.cota.org.au/information/aged-care-navigators/>

Or call COTA on 0261549740

April Funny

Life may not be the party we hoped for but while we are here we should dance. (Anon)



HAVE YOUR SAY

Public Consultation – Banking for Vulnerable Customers

Public consultation on the Australian Banking Association's (ABA) "Better Banking for Vulnerable Customers" guideline is currently open. The ABA states: "This Guideline is intended to outline ABA members' commitment to ensuring that all customers can access appropriate banking products, services and support and that banking products and services are suitable and fair." The guideline is also intended to address some of the recommendations of the Royal Commission.

The ABA also welcomes written responses to this consultation paper which should be submitted to submissions@ausbanking.org.au Written consultation responses are due by **10 May 2019** or you can post your comments to

ATT: Eliza Tawddell

Australian Banking Association

PO Box H218

Australia Square NSW 1215

The consultation paper can be located here: http://www.ausbanking.org.au/images/uploads/Issues_paper_-_Vulnerable_customer_guideline_-_March_2019.pdf. Alternatively you can obtain a copy by phoning Seniors Enquiry Line on 1300 135 500.

Native Plants QLD

Did you know that Queensland has more than 8,000 Native flowering plants and species and more than 1,400 non flowering plant species? In fact new species are being documented at a rate of 20 per year in QLD!! The most recognisable are the wattle, eucalyptus, lily pilly and melaleuca



species. There is a group called "Native Plants Queensland" and their aim is to preserve Australian native flora by promoting its introduction into gardens, improve existing species through breeding and selection as well as encouraging nurseries to propagate and supply natives to the public. They have over 20 local branches in QLD and welcome new members. Their calendar is located on their website which is :-

<https://www.npq.org.au/whats-on/calendar/year.listevents/2019/03/13/>

You can call us if you do not have internet access for more details.

What's great about native plants is they can be used for privacy, perfume, attracting birds, bees, butterflies and habitat. They grow in shrubs, groundcovers and vines. Why not plant one today ?

IMPORTANT REMINDER

DID YOU CHANGE YOUR SMOKE ALARM BATTERY IN APRIL?



Riddle of the Month

What occurs once in every minute, twice in every moment, yet never in a thousand years?

The letter "M"

What's on this May

- ◆ Happy Paws, Happy Hearts for Seniors, Wacol, Brisbane May 21st 10am—11.30am, contact Jessy: 07 3812 3437
- ◆ Retirement Reality info session, Springfield (run by Centrelink), 23 May 5.00– 7.00pm, contact 136 357.
- ◆ Discover IT Class, Dudley Denny City Library, Mackay Weekly Wednesdays In May 10.00— 11.30am, contact: 07 4961 9387.
- ◆ Free bird walks or garden guided tours, Cairns Botanical gardens, Cairns, weekly Tuesday (8.30am) and Mon—Fri (10.00am) throughout May, contact: 4032 3900
- ◆ Cards and Mahjong , Gracemere, Rockhampton. 11th May, 12.30—4.00pm Cost \$6.00, contact: Colleen on 4933 3846 or 0429 826 624
- ◆ Faulty Towers Comedy show, Ipswich civic centre, Ipswich 11 May, 7.00pm \$79.00 (includes meal and show). Contact: 3810 6100

More events can be accessed on our Events

<https://seniorsenquiryline.com.au/events/>