



Wesley School for Seniors

Newsbites

Term 2 (29 April – 5 July 2019)

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Wesley School for Seniors update

**By Jeannie Mathews
Program Coordinator**

We had a very exciting Term 2 with two significant events and many new classes. Although the weather outside has been significantly cool, the atmosphere at school for seniors in the last couple of weeks has been warm and vibrant. Our first event was the volunteer appreciation week followed by the 50 Years of Seniors' Wellbeing event to mark the anniversary of our school since its inception in the year 1969. I would like to thank all those who came and participated to make both these events a success. Thank you again to all the wonderful contributions that our volunteers make to our school.

A peak into history

Summarised by Jeannie Mathews

Rev Dr Les Underwood a former Director of Wesley Mission school for seniors gave us a peak into the history of the school at the 50 years of Seniors Wellbeing event.

Legend has it that a few people sitting at the café had a conversation on how they needed more activities for seniors and that was the beginning of school for seniors. They raised it with Rev Sir Alan Walker and slowly the school grew with various activities and different levels of languages such as beginners, intermediate and advanced. The school motto then was "while we live, we'll learn" and the newsletter was then called 'open window'.

Below is an excerpt from the open window given to us by one of our tutors.

"There is not a good thing about growing old"
(quote by Paul Keating on his 50th birthday).

"Not true" says Sara Hyman of the creative writing class. When we grow old so do our values, because now we have had so much experience in living. We are so lucky to have become more confident and we now realise it doesn't matter what other people think of us but whether we are happy about ourselves "to thine own self be true".

Now we have the time to do some of the things we could not do when we were younger. Work, children and even demanding parents and husbands prevented us from broadening our horizons either with study or travel. Let's hope we can live longer and experience more of the wonderful things life has to offer.

By Paul Hurst
Tutor: 20th Century Popular Music
Remembering Doris Day



Doris Day was an American treasure establishing herself as an all-around successful actress and singer. She was the celebrity with the permanent smile both on and off the screen.

Doris's music career spanned from the 1940s right up to 2011 when she released her 29th studio album "My Heart."

Que Sera Sera, Whatever Will Be Will Be

Que Sera Sera is the tune most people remember which was originally performed by Doris in 1956. It's a catchy tune with memorable lyrics. The phrase Que Sera Sera is thought to originate from a 17th century spontaneous saying which referred to a particular philosophical attitude to life. Interestingly enough this Que Sera phrase is not in common use in either Spanish or Italian!

The song was introduced to the world in the Alfred Hitchcock film *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (1956). The surprising thing about the song was that originally Doris was unhappy about recording the tune in the studio. She regarded it as a children's song. It was recorded in one take and after the recording session Doris remarked "that'll be the last we hear about that song!" The song went on to be a multi-million seller not only for Doris but also Australian pop singer, Normie Rowe who took the song to the top of the Australian music charts in 1965.

Doris had a remarkable career. Despite ever changing trends she remained true to her calling as a great film actress and a first class singer. I am sure her vast portfolio of quality work will be well regarded for many years to come.

Events at Wesley School for Seniors

Volunteer Appreciation Week

20 – 26 May 2019

Approximately 20 of our tutors gathered together to share stories and the reasons for volunteering in the Stewart Room during the National Volunteer Week. The Volunteering team at Wesley Mission sponsored our morning tea this year. Below are some pictures from the event.



Events at Wesley School for Seniors

50 Years of Seniors Wellbeing

It was a very special morning for us on Tuesday, 18 June. Together with community members, special guests, Wesley school for seniors' students and tutor volunteers, we celebrated 50 years of working with seniors across our various services. The event also marked the opening of Wesley school for seniors in 1969, making it our 50th year anniversary. Thank you to everyone who attended, your presence made it a special occasion for everyone.

The event started with a welcome and opening prayer by Rev Keith Garner AM. This was followed by an overview of our Wesley Mission services by Mr Andrew Moore, Executive Manager of Wesley Training. Our special guest who flew in from Adelaide was Rev Dr Les Underwood who was a former Director of the school for seniors in the 1970s. He took us on a trip down memory lane with his talk. Our keynote speaker was Dr Sally Cockburn who gave a talk on mental and physical health and its effects on happiness. She also equipped the audience with tools on how to deal with the same.

The following tutors from the school received a certificate of appreciation from Rev Keith Garner for 20 years and over of volunteer service.

- Agnes Sydney – Tutor for Canasta & Square Dancing – 20 years
- Hazel Hinton – Tutor for Table Tennis – 25 years
- Jan Heddema – Tutor for Intermediate French – 20 years
- Ken Ranby – Tutor for Solving Cryptic Crosswords & Recorder – 20 years
- Marcia Peters – Tutor for Canasta – 20 years
- Mieke Eder – Tutor for Beginners French – 20 years
- Roger King – Tutor for Classical Music and Mahjong – 20 years
- Thelma Fairbairn – Tutor for Crochet – 25 years
- Val Doodie – Tutor for the Entertainers Dance Group, Dancercise and Op shop Volunteer – 20 Years
- Yvonne Andersen - Tutor for Crochet – 23 years

The school for seniors Ukulele, Happy Singers and Dancesport team interspersed the talks with their enchanting performances.

The guests were served delicious morning tea and lunch. Various Wesley Mission services hosted their stalls outside the event hall.

We were successful in receiving a grant that helped us release a keyring as a memento with the words inscribed '50 Years – school for seniors'. This key ring can also be used as a shopping trolley token. If you haven't collected your keyring please get one from the office.

Below are some captures from the event.





Upcoming events

Enrolments for Term 3 start on Monday 24 June

There won't be any school holiday classes. Office will be closed from 8 July to 19 July

Term 3 will start on Monday 22 July 2019.

SFS council update

School council, which includes students and tutors representatives, meets twice each term. We have elected 2 new representatives to the council Karen Dryden and Eric Fong as student and tutor representatives. We would like to welcome them to the council meetings.

Wesley Connect

Wesley Connect, located on the ground floor, looks after people through their food and care program that are homeless or are on low incomes and are doing it tough at the moment. All food (non-perishable) is donated.

Please hand in your contributions at the school office.

Enrolment and course facts

The school is run by invaluable volunteer support. Current figures are as below

Wesley school for seniors has a brochure and a new student handbook. These are available at the office. The student handbook can be downloaded from the website too.

Please hand out to friends and family interested in courses for seniors!

SFS CITY TERM 2	
Enrolment numbers	450
Volunteers	92
Classes	101

For further course or enrolment enquiries please contact:

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