



# WASFR NEWS

Volume: 6 issue: 2

May 2021

Page: 1



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Morning Everyone. It seems that, once again, we are in a further stage of dealing with this Coronavirus pandemic. Although the past year has been a bit of a drama, we should remain positive and look on the bright side - we have been very lucky. At the time of writing the current restrictions should finish this weekend (8th). However, I think that we all realise that this situation could well continue on for the next 12 months - or, even longer. The rate of vaccinations is slowly picking up and it won't be until a large percentage of the community have received their jab will we be able to get back to normal. Have you had your jab yet ?

Of major interest is the fact that the Federal Budget is due to be brought down next Tuesday (11th May). By the time you get to read this it will be a thing of the past. There are several rumours circulating and we have no idea of what might happen. Some matters, such as increased child care limits, and additional spending on some infrastructure projects, have already been announced and the Treasurer has indicated that his focus will be on "jobs" and "boosting the economy". As there is a federal election due in the next 12 months it does appear obvious that any increases in taxes will not happen this year.

<b>In this issue:</b>	<b>Page</b>
President's report	<b>1 - 2</b>
Catalina's	<b>3 - 4</b>
Stay Longer/Safer	<b>5 - 7</b>
Perth Museum	<b>8 - 9</b>
Minutes	<b>10 -11</b>
Your Committee and Contact details	<b>12</b>

We all know that the problem of paying down the tremendous debt that Australia owes to the World must be addressed some day. This could mean increased taxation and cutting back on some concessions that already exist - and that will affect most of us. What concessions will be involved are not clear, however, several retiree organisations have already listed their concerns about the possibility of including part of the value of the family home in the assets test for the Age pension. To be honest, this has been talked about for some years - it was also mentioned in the recent Review into Retirement Incomes report. The prospect of finding a starting point where anything over a certain value should be included in the assets test is quite daunting. It has been suggested that anything over \$1 million dollars should be included in the assets test, but how do you differentiate between a house in Sydney, and a house in Moora ? I accept that some bright-eyed young public servant can come up with some sort of a formula, but will it be accepted by the community ? Comment: It may happen one day, but I doubt it will happen in the short term.

There is also a concern that the current tax-free concessions to recipients of a superannuation pension may, one day, come "under the microscope". This tax-free situation commenced in the days when not a lot of people had their own superannuation fund, and it did not cost the country a huge amount of money. Since then, superannuation has become a part of everyone's financial life and the amount of tax-free concessions being handed out is said to be almost equal to the cost to the government of paying the Age pension to nearly 3 million people. I saw a statistic recently where it said that over 4,500 superannuation funds each have over \$10 million dollars invested - this could have an affect on future governments. Having said all that, I don't see the government having the intestinal fortitude to introduce any such changes in the short term - remember the Franking Credits episode ?

**Happy Mothers Day**



We have continued to seek meetings with both State and Federal politicians and have been able to meet up with Ian Goodenough and Vince Connelly in the past 2 months. We met with Senator Dean Smith back in January and, at his request, we are scheduled to meet up again on 20th May. This meeting will consist of 7 to 8 representatives of several different organisations so we are keen to see how it works out. Due to the recent WA State election we were not able to get to see many State politicians - all too busy. However, at an earlier meeting with the Chief of Staff to the Minister for Seniors it was suggested that a meeting could be arranged with several (relevant) State Ministers at the one time. If this does become possible, then we feel that it would be of benefit to everyone. No date has yet been set.

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety handed in its' report to the government on 1st March 2021. This long-awaited report contains 148 recommendations and has had a fair degree of publicity in the daily media. Recommendation # 142 refers to the abolition of the Refundable Accommodation Deposit (RAD) when a person enters an aged care facility. Currently, the RAD is limited to \$550,000 - but this can go as high as \$1 million dollars if a successful application is made to the government. This subject requires a fair amount of explanatory detail, but the "bottom line" is that it is not in the best interests of the elderly clients (us), for the RAD to be abolished. Payment of a RAD is not compulsory, the alternative is payment of a Daily Accommodation Payment (DAP) which is calculated using an interest rate of 4.01% (it has been as high as 11.75%) - and is not refundable. There is an article written by Noel Whittaker in the *Sunday Times* on 25th April 2021 that sets out the pros and cons of this recommendation - he also believes that there should be no change.

Recommendation # 144 deals with introducing a levy on taxable income to assist with the costs of subsidising the cost of aged care. This levy would operate as from 1 July 2023 and be based on the current Medicare levy.

Recommendation # 145 says that the government should report to Parliament by 31st May 2021 about its' response to the 148 recommendations - whether they are accepted, accepted in principle, rejected or subject to further consideration. The government should also include some detail about how the recommendations that are accepted will be implemented and should explain the reasons for any rejections. It will be interesting to see (a) if the government accepts this particular recommendation, and (b) when, and how, they do choose to handle the situation! This report has been a long time coming and is not the first such report into aged care.

The WA Seniors Alliance (WASA) continues to press the WA government for improvements to several issues that affect seniors/retirees in WA. The WA State Budget is scheduled to be announced a week after the Federal Budget (although this can always change), so we are waiting to see what comes out of that.

COTA WA recently announced the creation of a *Positive Ageing Alliance*. Unfortunately, none of the members of WASA were aware that such a group was being considered. An approach to COTA WA expressed the view that any recommendations regarding the ageing process (and how to improve it), would, ideally, benefit with input from several existing retiree organisations. At the time of writing, we are not aware of the composition of the people/organisations included in this alliance. Obviously there are several other organisations e.g. Association of Independent Retirees, National Seniors, SCOAWA, Retirees WA as well as ourselves, who would have an interest in any results that may come from this group of people. We hope to be able to have some input to whatever may be decided.

Finally, may I, once again, raise this matter of the need for more Committee members. Whilst the current members continue to be willing to do what needs to be done, we cannot rely on such a level of commitment continuing on forever. There is also the ageing process which cannot be ignored.

Our next General meeting is on Friday 14th May where the guest speaker will be Tony McGrath who will speak on "The History of Aviation in WA".

Last year we had a speaker who spoke about the Catalina Flying Boats on the Swan River and we had a record number of visitors (24) - maybe this could be repeated?



Look forward to seeing you there. Stay safe.

Ron de Gruchy

## CATALINAS ON THE SWAN RIVER

E. Goodchild

Last year we had a talk from Kevin Smythe, on his research into the history of the Catalina amphibian aircraft based around Perth during the second World War. There were 24 visitors at the meeting which indicated a high level of interest in this topic.

The Catalina, original US designation "PBY" or "Power Boat, built by Consolidated Aircraft Corporation", is a twin-engine flying boat with a retractable wheeled undercarriage to allow operation from land airstrips as well as water. They were workhorse aircraft built for the US Navy, initially to serve as "the eyes of the fleet" in the days before radar. They entered service in the 1920's.

Typically, the Catalinas were able to carry two or three crew/passengers in addition to the pilot. They were totally unarmed and, with a cruising speed of around 120 knots (220km/hour, 140mph) were not able to outrun enemy fighters. Evasion tactics were, despite only having rudimentary flying and navigation instruments, simply to fly in cloud or fly at night.

Two distinct groups of Catalinas operated from Perth, one military and one commercial: The US Navy Patrol Wing 10 (PW-10) operated from the Swan River from 1942 to September 1944.

Qantas operated Catalinas between Perth and Ceylon, later extending to Karachi, from 1943 to 1945.

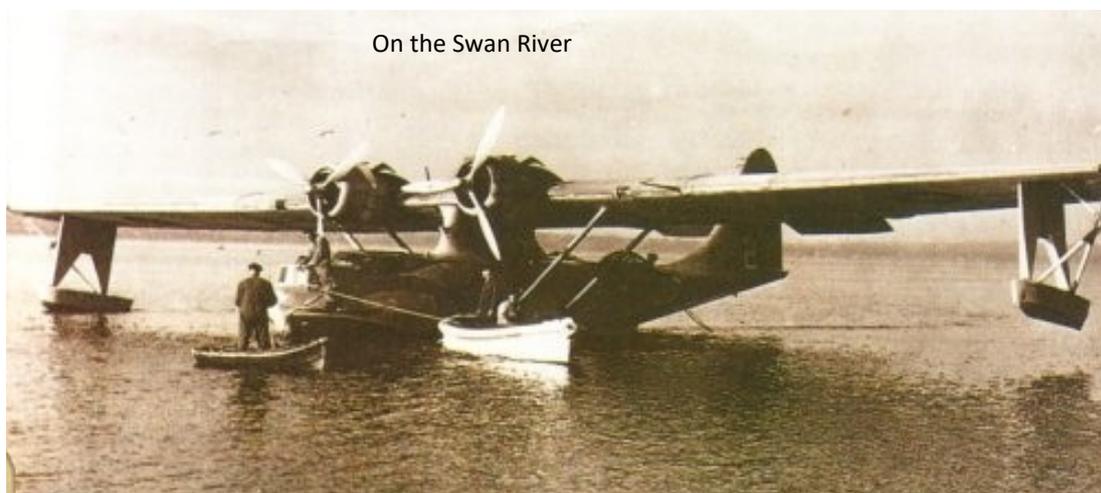


## US Navy Patrol Wing 10

The PW-10 Catalinas arrived in Perth on 7th March 1942 after a gruelling retreat from their initial operating base in Manila, which was attacked in December 1941. PW-10 had retreated in stages through Indonesia (then the Dutch East Indies) ahead of the Japanese advance, and staged through Darwin and Broome, arriving in Perth with three surviving Catalinas.

Although the Catalinas were the mainstay of PW-10, the wing also comprised four types of utility aircraft (Curtiss SOC Seagull, SBD Douglass Dauntless, Vought OS2U Kingfisher and Grumman JTF Duck) of Utility Squadron 61, four tenders (obsolete warships converted to support the flying boat operations) based in Fremantle Port, and a number of smaller motor boats.

PW-10 was under the command of the US 7th Fleet and operated from four bases in WA, Perth being the main one as Fremantle was a major military harbour during this period. The other bases were Geraldton, Shark Bay and Enderby Island, with Albany serving as an unofficial fifth base. Its roles were maritime patrol, Search and Rescue, convoy escort, behind enemy lines missions and pilot training. They also carried out a few bombing missions.



Kevin described one particular mission — Operation Flight Gridiron — where two Catalinas flew by stages to the Philippines to rescue a number of VIP's from Corregidor Island in the Bay of Manila — to which they had retreated ahead of the Japanese. Outbound, they staged by Shark Bay (4 hours), Darwin (12 hours), Mindanao (13 hours) and finally to Corregidor Island (5 hours).

The 30 or so passengers were embarked and the aircraft departed, all without Japanese interference. On the return leg, they again staged through Lake Lanau near Mindanao, where they dropped off a few passengers. Unfortunately, one of the Catalinas struck a floating log on its take-off run which holed its hull and they had to stop to make temporary repairs (covering the hole with canvas) before proceeding. However, they had to cram all the remaining passengers into the other aircraft for the flight back to Darwin. Having offloaded the passengers in Darwin, the exhausted crews flew the two very battered Catalinas directly back to Perth.



During the course of their stay in Perth, some 70 Catalinas and pilots were rotated through the WA bases from their main base in Hawaii (although the numbers actually operating from Perth at any one time were much smaller than this). The Wing did not have any significant maintenance facilities at any of their WA bases; the airframes and engines had to go to the Eastern States for maintenance, although an engine maintenance facility was set up in Kalgoorlie later in the WA deployment.

Some of the structures used by PW-10 still exist today, including the Matilda Bay slipway (now used by the Royal Perth Yacht Club) and a hangar in the University of WA grounds. There is a plaque on a wall in front of the Matilda Bay tea rooms (Bayside Kitchen) verandah commemorating their presence on the Swan River.

PW-10 continued operating from the Swan River until September 1944, when it relocated to Los Negros in the Admiralty Islands (now Lombrum, Manus Island).

## Qantas

Qantas operated Catalinas between 1943 and 1945 on a “secret” service between Perth and Coggala Lake in the south of Ceylon, which was later extended to Karachi in India to link with the BOAC service from Britain. This Indian Ocean Service (IOS) was under contract from the Empire Air Mail Service (EAMS) to carry the mail (and occasionally a few passengers), interconnecting with the BOAC flights from Britain. The “secrecy” was nothing to do with military considerations but was purely commercial — it was maintained until the service was announced publicly in 1944.

The EAMS, started in 1938, was originally carried out using Short's Empire Flying Boats, but this was stopped when Singapore fell to the Japanese in 1943. Sir Hudson Fysh, chairman of Qantas, acquired 5 Catalinas from Britain, via BOAC, through the Lend-Lease act to continue this service (Qantas was 50% owned by BOAC at that time). The air mail contract ensured the wartime commercial viability of both airlines.

Of the 271 IOS Catalina flights during the two years of its operation, most were direct, taking between 27 and over 32 hours non-stop flying, carrying a maximum of three passengers and up to about 150 pounds of mail. They were, at the time, the longest non-stop passenger flights and still hold the record for the longest-duration commercial flight (32.5 hours) — they were known as the “double-sunrise” flights for obvious reasons.

The flights took place in total radio silence and were timed to pass Cocos Island and the closest point of Japanese-held territory at night to avoid detection and interception. Three of the flights did stop at Cocos Island, and it was on one of those occasions where the only contact with the Japanese took place — fortunately the Catalina managed to get away.

There is a plaque near the riverbank footpath along Crawley Bay commemorating the Qantas Catalina base near there.



## How to Stay Longer and Safer in Ones Own Home - Home Automation for the Elderly

E. Goodchild

Doug Crockett, the Assistive Technologies Systems Integrator for Intelligent Home, gave a talk about the application of home automation to help elderly people stay at home comfortably and safely when otherwise they might have to move into some form of aged care facility.

Doug started his talk by emphasising that the concept of “intelligent homes” or home automation is so broad that there is no one system or solution which would suit everyone’s needs, desires, aspiration or budget. Even in the specific application of providing automation to allow people to stay in their own homes for longer, there is a wide range of devices and technologies at various budget levels. Although one can obtain some useful devices and gadgets from the normal retail hardware and electrical outlets, these are usually at the lower end of the capability and security spectra — specialist suppliers can offer a more comprehensive range of devices including devices more suited to people with disabilities and better home integration.

He made the point that home automation need not cost the earth. One can, of course, spend many tens of thousands of dollars on an intelligent home. However, one can take a much simpler and cheaper approach, for example by tackling one’s current needs now and then incorporating new functions and features incrementally over time as one’s needs change and technology advances.

He gave a few examples of simple, not-too-expensive devices, controlled by a smartphone app, which could be fitted easily and provide useful automation or security features:

Firstly, he passed round a small electronic unit, or “puck” which can be fitted (by a qualified electrician) behind light switches to allow the light/s operated by that switch to be turned on and off or dimmed under control of the smartphone app via one’s home wi-fi network. This is obviously of benefit to someone with mobility problems; a few such devices fitted to the most important lights could be of significant benefit. Since these devices are controlled via one’s wi-fi network, they can also be used to control the lights remotely via the internet when one is away from home — giving a more realistic, lifelike impression of someone being at home than simple timers controlling table lamps.

An additional benefit of these controllers is that, by dimming the lights slightly when full brightness is not required, they can save on electricity usage.

Next, he described a device which would allow control of some air conditioners — specifically those with an RF remote control (not an infra-red remote control) — from a smartphone app via the home wi-fi network. Again, one can control the air conditioner from anywhere, not just from the room where it is situated. This would allow, for example, one to switch the air conditioner on to cool or warm a bedroom before preparing to retire for the night.

Thirdly, he touched on CCTV (Closed-Circuit TV), security camera systems, which can range in cost from a few hundred dollars to many thousands of dollars. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, some CCTV systems can now measure people’s body temperature when they ring the door bell.

The scope of the subject being too large for one talk and the needs of users being so diverse, the remainder of the talk became interactive with Doug covering specific areas of interest raised by the audience. His responses to the audience’s questions were as follows:

### More About Security Cameras

Doug differentiated between “security camera” systems and CCTV systems. In Australia, a CCTV system must be installed professionally by a licensed security technician whereas anyone can go to a hardware store and buy a security camera system and can install it themselves (subject to needing an electrician to install any mains wiring). Typically, a CCTV system will have a direct connection to a recording device using encrypted communications as well as being able to feed the video to one’s computer or smartphone. In contrast, many security camera systems will connect to one’s smartphone or computer via the home wifi network. Recordings from a proper CCTV system may be used as evidence in a court of law whereas recordings from a non-approved security camera installation are open to challenge — i.e. you cannot prove that the recording has not been tampered with.



Although widely available and relatively cheap, he cautioned against using a battery powered security camera s it would involve the cost and inconvenience of changing the batteries regularly. He also cautioned against those cameras which plug into a mains power point or which are wired back to the mains with external cabling since it is too easy for someone to switch off or disable the camera. Instead, he recommends a camera system with no accessible power connection or wiring and, preferably, with a direct connection to a recording device in some out-of-sight location in the house. A professionally installed CCTV system with four cameras connected to a network video recorder should cost less than \$2,000. For a lower initial cost, Ring offer a subscription CCTV service whereby the video from battery or mains powered cameras is transmitted over the internet and recorded in their facilities rather than to a video recorder within the home. Whilst the initial cost of a Ring installation is less than a self-contained CCTV system, the service requires an ongoing subscription to Ring for the recording and storage of the video.

### Hearing and Eyesight Problems

Hearing aids need not be treated as stand-alone devices, most can benefit from “hearing loops” which are often fitted to auditoriums and public meeting rooms and most modern ones are equipped with bluetooth radios which allows them to receive signals from a variety of external sources as well as (or even bypassing) their own built-in microphones. Examples are:

1. TV adaptors which connect to the TV and transmit the TV sound to one’s hearing aids over Bluetooth radio. Typically these are sold by the hearing aid manufacturer and many will only work with hearing aids of the same brand.
2. Remote Bluetooth microphones (again often tied to hearing aids of the same brand).
3. Digital streaming devices (iPods and the like).
4. One’s smartphone. This can not only give some control of the hearing aids via a (brand-specific) app. but can also allow the hearing aids to operate with the phone in a similar manner to Bluetooth hands-free phone accessories.

Older style hearing aids without Bluetooth radios may have T-Coils which can receive signals from a device connected to one’s TV or amplifier via wire coils installed under seat cushions or above the ceiling.

At a simpler level, for those unable to hear doorbells door intercoms, it is possible to install remote monitors or alerting devices connecting to a smartphone app via the home WiFi network.

Similarly, for those with impaired vision, it is possible to get door intercoms which can connect to a smartphone app via the home WiFi network. This allows the intercom to ring on any fixed wall monitors and, also, on the phone — if the intercom isn’t answered at a fixed monitor, the phone app will answer the intercom and allow one to talk to the caller and, using voice commands, instruct the system to unlock the door, open a garage door etc.

### Security Concerns

Some concerns about the dangers inherent in this level of automation were raised by the audience, including:

- a. An intercom system being hacked, potentially either allowing someone using it to issue voice commands (to unlock the door, for example), or allowing someone to gain access to one’s security system.
- b. A smartphone app. which needs to monitor one’s conversation to identify keyword instructions, being used by third parties to monitor these conversations for potentially nefarious purposes. This is especially concerning in situations where the smartphone is using ‘cloud-based’ services where one’s control over access to data recorded by the phone is definitely not under one’s own control.

Doug sought to allay these fears (to some extent, at least). A properly installed intercom/security system will connect to one’s home WiFi network behind a suitable firewall (often embedded within one’s network router) to minimise the risk of it being hacked. Typically, voice control apps use voice recognition and can be trained to differentiate between accredited users and others. Nevertheless, all systems connected, even rather indirectly, to the internet can be hacked — even government security and military systems are hacked on occasion.

With regards to the privacy issue of one’s conversations being recorded, Doug reminded us that this is nothing new; every mobile phone conversation and SMS message is recorded by the government (most governments do the same) for analysis — looking in particular for key words to do with major criminal activity such as drugs and terrorism, but also for less obvious topics such as Covid and vaccination to identify sources of misinformation.

Again, a properly installed system will be locked down as far as possible to restrict unauthorised access and prevent its proper use and configuration being subverted by a hacker. A virtual private network (VPN) can be employed to connect to certain devices (for example, a VPN can be used to download video from a CCTV system to one’s computer so that no-one else can intercept it).



Self-installed, consumer-grade equipment obtained from the usual retail outlets may not embody strict security measures or may not be properly configured to use them do, however, they pose a significant security risk. That is why companies such as Intelligent Home exist — to provide security alongside functionality tailored to one’s own particular needs.

**Privacy Concerns**

There are issues about installing security cameras or CCTV in strata-titled properties. It was pointed out that one’s personal space ends at the paint on the walls; everything outside that is under the control of the Strata Company. Thus, one could not install one’s own security cameras outside the building and it may not be practical to get the Strata Company to install them. Furthermore, should the Strata Company install cameras, they would own and control the recordings which would pose privacy issues.

There are also issues concerning the positioning of cameras (on any property, not just strata-title ones) which may cover public spaces, including the verge outside your property. While not necessarily illegal, it is generally considered good practice to avoid coverage of public spaces.



**Power Cuts**

Mains powered systems are always vulnerable to power outages. While most security and assistive technology systems will restart quite satisfactorily after the power is restored, they will not work during the power outage without some form of battery backup or un-interruptible power supply (UPS). Systems which are essential to one’s safety and wellbeing should always have some form of UPS. Typically, security alarms, smoke alarms and emergency telephone systems do have rechargeable backup batteries. Backup power can be provided for other essential systems.



**Alarm Systems**

Most modern intruder alarm systems can be partitioned such that one can arm part of the system (the entry doors, for example), while leaving the interior motion sensors disarmed. This means that one can move around within the house without setting off the alarm, but if any entry door is opened, then the alarm will be triggered.

**Safety in the Home**

Most people are familiar with personal alarm pendants and panic buttons which, if activated, places a call to a monitoring station, a relative, a friend or the emergency services. These can be very effective as long as one remains conscious and physically able to press the button on the pendant or get to a panic button. However, they are useless if one loses consciousness before being able to activate the alarm.



Systems are now becoming available which can detect when someone is in trouble without requiring them to remain conscious to activate their personal alarm. At the most extreme, such a system can learn one’s lifestyle activity patterns and can recognise a deviation from this to raise an alarm. Less extreme is the “fall radar” which detects movement and acceleration. If it observes something moving with unnatural levels of acceleration, such as someone falling over, it will raise an alarm and call relatives or the emergency services.

By installing these devices in strategic places around the home where one is most likely to suffer a fall, such as the shower, kitchen, etc. the alarm can be raised even when one is unable to activate one’s pendant alarm.



## The New Perth Museum

E. Goodchild

Last year we were treated to a sneak preview of the new Perth Museum given by Erika Jellis, a member of the new museum team.

She started with a potted history of the museum from its origins in the old gaol building, built by convicts in 1855/1856, on the site of the current museum. The building was in use as a prison until 1888. It was then used to house the State Geological collection — the forerunner of the museum, itself.



The Jubilee Building, built adjacent to the site of the old gaol for Queen Victoria's jubilee, was completed in 1899 to house the museum, a library and an art gallery. Later, the building expanded with the Beaufort Wing, comprising an art gallery wing joining the Jubilee building with the nearby Geologists building, which served as the art gallery for WA until the late 1970's. These passed to the museum in 1979 when the new art gallery opened. The museum also acquired Hackett Hall (then the reference library section of the State library) in 1985 and joined it to the other buildings with a glass foyer in the late 1990's, constructed partly to improve disabled accessibility to the Jubilee Building and Hackett Hall, which were built at different levels.

She went on to describe the vision for the new museum — that it should serve as a gateway to the State with five public sites and numerous other sites for fieldwork in biodiversity, earth and planetary sciences, archaeology, Aboriginal cultural connections (including repatriation of human remains and cultural materials), post-colonial history, and maritime heritage. The five public sites are: the New Perth Museum, the WA Maritime Museum (in Fremantle), the Museum of Geraldton, the Museum of the Goldfields (in Kalgoorlie) and the WA Shipwrecks Museum (also in Fremantle). Overall, the museum has some 8.5 million objects and is constantly acquiring more.

The new Perth Museum building links all the older parts of the museum with a layered glass and concrete structure to form the heart of the Perth Cultural Centre. The "City Room" is a large open space in the middle at ground level as a public gathering area and for hosting cultural events. Inside, there is 7,000m<sup>2</sup> of galleries and public spaces for the eight new permanent exhibitions and a space for temporary exhibitions. The building was completed in December 2019 and will open in November 2020 once the interior has been fitted out for the exhibitions. The new galleries will feature gold highlights to represent the first item in the museum's collection — a piece of quartz with a gold vein through it. At the same time, a considerable amount of restoration work to the structure and interiors of the heritage buildings has also been carried out.



Breaking with the traditional museum ethos, the new museum will be a “peoples’ museum” with aboriginal themes and stories running throughout. The eight permanent exhibitions will be:

1. **Continuous Cultures**, displaying aboriginal histories, culture, stories etc. as well as a section on the “stolen generation”. This exhibition will be housed in the new building on the ground level.
2. **Innovations**, showing the creativity of Western Australians. This exhibition will be on the first floor of the Beaufort Building (the original art gallery).
3. **Reflections**, showing stories of Western Australia’s people and social history.
4. **Changes**, showing how human activities have changed Western Australia’s landscape. It includes stories about farming and mining and also how the aboriginals used the land.
5. **Origins**, describing the formation of the cosmos and WA’s ancient landscapes. It includes the museum’s meteorites and mineral collection.
6. **Wild Life**, one of the larger exhibitions. It covers Western Australia’s diverse flora and fauna and the museum’s research into WA’s biodiversity. It also contains the museum’s dinosaurs and other fossils.
7. **Connections**, showing how Western Australia has interacted with the rest of the world over the ages. It includes stories about the role Western Australia played in the war in the Indian Ocean and about immigration.
8. **The Blue Whale (Otto)**. The blue whale skeleton is suspended in a feeding pose (twisting to the side with the mouth open) in the atrium in Hackett Hall.

Over 50,000 people and organisations from 52 locations around the state have been involved in the design of the building and exhibitions throughout the life of the new museum project. This has included four community panels:

1. A Peoples’ Panel, representing people throughout the state.
2. An Access Panel, covering such aspects as wheelchair access, blind accessibility, childcare etc.
3. A Young Peoples’ Panel. This was originally a Children and Young Peoples’ Panel, but during the course of the project the children involved progressed to “young people”.
4. An Educators’ Panel, giving the education perspective.

Entry to the museum will be free for the first 18 months. Thereafter, it is expected that full adult entry will be \$15 per person with discounts for seniors, children etc.. Entry during the first nine days will be allocated by ballot due to the expected high demand (entry to the ballot will be on-line).

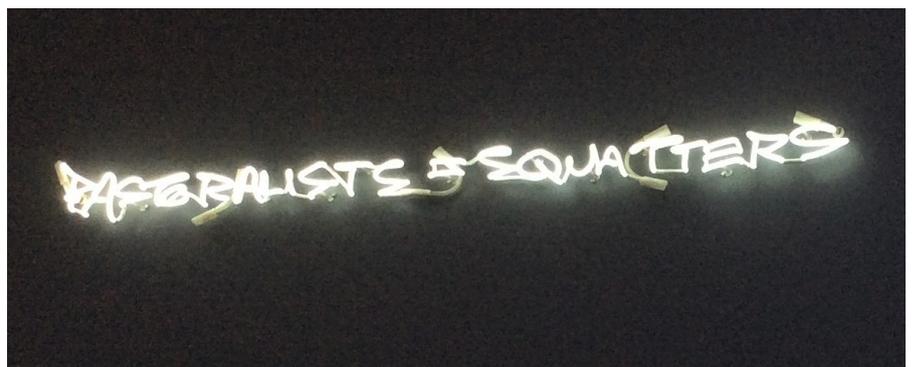
*This sign on the wall in neon lights  
caught my eye*

*(pastoralists = squatters)*

*and*

*This old wreck.*

*Is this appropriate ?*





## WESTERN AUSTRALIA SELF FUNDED RETIREES Inc.

www.wasfr.org.au

### MINUTES

Minutes of the General Meeting of WASFR Inc. held at the Cambridge Bowling Club, Howtree Place, Floreat, on Friday 9 APRIL 2021.

The President opened the meeting at 10am welcoming the 40 members and 23 visitors. He reminded everyone that we are still bound by the current Covid-19 restrictions and asked that they try to maintain the 2 sq. m. rule.

#### APOLOGIES:

R. Wyatt, R. & J. Dawson, V. Payne.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** Moved by M. Collett, seconded P. Ellis, that the Minutes of the meeting held 12 March 2021 be accepted as a true record. **Carried.**

#### BUSINESS ARISING:

**WA Seniors Alliance (WASA):** A reply has now been received from the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety in relation to the fitting of automatic fire sprinklers in Aged Care facilities. The reply said that a review has commenced and it is expected that a report should be received by the middle of this year - a priority will be a list of facilities, in WA, that are not currently fitted with automatic fire sprinkler systems. The next meeting of WASA will be held in May.

**Senator Dean Smith:** At a previous meeting with Senator Smith he had offered to host a "morning tea" for 7 – 8 retirees sometime in April/May. This date has now been set for 20th May and will be held in his office in Hamersley (this will be after the Federal Budget has been announced).

#### COMMUNICATIONS:

- Emails re visits to politicians (2021/22 Federal Pre-Budget submission)
- Emails re 2021/22 State WASA submission - fire sprinklers
- Emails re Positive Ageing Alliance
  - correspondence has been sent to COTA WA who have created this Ageing Alliance but have neglected to include organisations that are concerned with the welfare of seniors/retirees
- Email re Aged Care Levy
  - general discussion as to how such a levy might be introduced
- Email from Rotary Cambridge
- Emails re WASFR web-site
- A.I.R. (WA) March newsletter
- Brisbane North Retirees Inc. - March newsletter
  - a new contact for WASFR and we will be endeavouring to work together on issues pertaining to seniors/retirees
- Gold Coast Retirees Inc. - April newsletter
- ACOSS media releases (8)
- COTA WA Connections - March 2021
- COTA Australia - Summary of Review into Retirement Incomes final report
- CPSA The Voice - 17th, 24th and 31st March, 7th April
- SMSF Weekly News Digests (5)

**FINANCE:** The Treasurer, M. Harris, said that the funds available to WASFR as at 1 April 2021 totalled \$7,081.94 with \$55.00 in outstanding accounts still to be paid. No questions from members.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**Other:** The Secretary spoke about the selection of speakers for our monthly meetings and encouraged members to put forward any particular person/organisation that they feel might be of interest to others.

After the morning tea break (and the drawing of the 3 raffles), Rowan Jones from Entrust Wealth Management gave an interesting presentation which included the "Financial Effects of Coronavirus One Year On". Rowan spoke on a number of different topics including the US Share Market, the future of interest rates, inflation, "risk" versus "return" and hybrid securities.

There was a great deal of questions, and observations, from the large audience which resulted in Rowan staying behind after the completion of his presentation. A small presentation was made to Rowan for his attendance this morning.

Speakers for the following months are as follows

14 May	Tony McGrath	The History of Aviation in Western Australia.
11 June	Steven Marcuson	The Bunting Quest.
9 July	Richard Rennie	The Mystery of the Magic Lantern.
13 August	Name of speaker TBC	Understanding Dementia/Alzheimers.

Confirmed .....

Date .....

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING: FRIDAY 14 MAY 2021**

***WASFR Inc. does not give advice on any personal, or financial, matters.  
Nothing written or spoken in the course of WASFR meetings, talks or publication is to be construed as advice given to members.***

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Name/s: .....

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Pre-retirement Occupation/Interests (optional)

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The Treasurer

Margaret Harris  
WA Self Funded Retirees Inc.  
201 Bagot Road  
Subiaco WA 6008

Email: littlejim2@optusnet.com.au

**YOUR COMMITTEE**

Web site: www.wasfr.org.au

**President:**

Ron de Gruchy 9447 1313

**Vice-President:**

Position vacant

**Secretary:**

Sharon Goodchild 0452 580 753

**Treasurer:**

Margaret Harris: 0417 991 947

**Committee:**

Margaret Cresswell 0499 968 411

Joe McPhail 9446 7376

Peter Farr 0419 905 864

**MEETINGS:**

Meetings start at 10.00 am and are held at Cambridge Bowling Club, Floreat Sporting Precinct, Floreat, on the Second Friday of each month, excluding December and January.

**DISCLAIMER**

*Please note that nothing written or spoken in the course of WASFR meetings, talks given, or in any publication is to be construed as advice to members or visitors.*

**WASFR NEWS**

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**Celia Hammond**

**Federal MP for Curtin**

As a Community Service



***YOUR COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU.***

***HELP US TO FILL THESE CHAIRS.***

***TALK TO RON, SHARON OR MARGARET***

***IF YOU WISH TO GET INVOLVED.***