



# WASFR NEWS

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Morning Everyone. There are several issues that are important to all of us but I guess that this forthcoming federal election must be up there near the top. It is fair to say that most of us are a bit tired of this 6 week campaign and would like the day to come sooner. At the time of writing, it is just over 3 weeks before we have to put pen to paper and even then we might have to wait for a few more days before a result is known. There has been a lot of talk about the "Teal" Independents and the possibility (??) that they could be on the side of the Opposition but most of us have put that to one side as just being another piece of this campaign. Whatever the result may be, we all know that this country is in for a bit of a hard ride, and, somewhere down the track, there must come the day when a government has to bite the bullet and impose additional taxes. How else are we going to reduce this pending \$1 trillion dollars of debt? I don't know about you, but I was brought up to keep any debt down to the bare minimum. I do recall the day, back in 2005 (?) when the then Treasurer, Peter Costello, declared that Australia was free of debt - I felt really pleased about that. We may never see that day again.

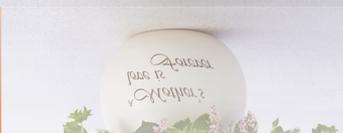
On another topic it is pleasing to see that WA seems to be progressing towards dealing with this Covid/Omicron virus in a sensible way. Masks are now only required for hospitals, Aged Care and public transport etc. (together with the commonsense issues if one is unwell). It is no secret that we can expect to see more cases in the weeks ahead, however, as long as the hospitals don't become overloaded, and the death rate remains low, then I guess that has to be the lesser of two evils. Unfortunately, with the commencement of Winter we can expect the usual outbreak of Influenza to make our lives miserable again. Last year the number of cases of Influenza was quite low and some have suggested that, finally, we have learnt to continually wash our hands and try not to spread germs. Maybe we can do this again?

We have been able to get to see a few federal politicians in order to discuss our 2022/23 Pre-Budget submission. As one would expect, with an election looming in the next few weeks, there has been a high level of interest being shown. We couldn't get to see Michaelia Cash, but we did get to see one of her advisers, so that wasn't too bad. Dr. Anne Aly was quite interested in the NDIS item (as well as all the others), and she offered to pass on copies of our documentation to the Shadow Asst. Treasurer (Stephen Jones). At this stage, we haven't heard anything back from Mr. Jones. The Member for Curtin, Celia Hammond, has always been most helpful and has done her best to see that the "powers-that-be" in the government are fully aware of the issues that we deem to be important. Her support has been great.

Some of you may recall that the item that deals with tax issues for ex-Commonwealth employees was mentioned in the last edition of WASFR News. This has been an issue that has dragged on for 2 years - we haven't been able to get a response from the Minister for Superannuation since August 2020. A letter was sent to the Prime Minister asking for help and a response was finally received from this Minister a few weeks ago. Not what was asked for, and it seems that there is a determination not to consider any changes to the current situation. Further action has been put aside pending the outcome of the election.

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There is another matter that has only recently been brought to our notice and that is called "*Let Pensioners Work*". This was actually started by National Seniors Australia (NSA) a few months ago and revolves around allowing Age pensioners to become involved in paid employment without any reduction in their pension. As you know, currently there is a 50 cents reduction for every dollar received over a set amount (\$480 per fortnight for singles) - there is also the additional income tax payable, so the nett benefit is quite small. NSA believe that, by opening up the gates to allow Age pensioners to fill the numerous vacancies e.g. Aged Care, Hospitality, Tourism, Transport etc. etc. it would assist the country to recover from this current situation much quicker. They would not be taking jobs away from the general public but would be filling a shortfall that is being felt everywhere. Also, it would not be costing the government money - it would actually boost the government coffers through the additional income tax being paid. Of course, not every Age pensioner would wish to do this, some may not be capable, however, those that did choose to take up this opportunity would benefit the economy, as well as themselves. WASFR supports NSA in this endeavour and has contacted several politicians in an effort to get approval. In particular, Senator Dean Smith has written a letter to the Federal Treasurer supporting this matter - a copy of his letter is on pages 3 - 4. This letter has 4 pages of attachments containing further supporting details but lack of space has prevented us from including them. Senator Smith has agreed that we can include his letter here.

As mentioned in the last issue, the WA Seniors Alliance (**WASA**) was in the process of welcoming the WA Branch of National Seniors back as a member of WASA. Unfortunately, the new representative could not adapt to the consensual attitude required by all members of nearly every similar organisation and choose to leave after only one meeting. It seems that there is little chance of getting another representative from National Seniors - although the Chair of their Policy Advice Group in WA has stated that she would like WASA to "keep in touch". There is a new WA President of RSLWA, Duncan Anderson, and we had a meeting with him on 24th March. The meeting was mainly to acquaint Mr. Anderson with the background to WASA and to seek his continued support. We were pleased with Mr. Anderson's reaction to our visit and it is reassuring to know that we can continue to count on support from RSLWA. As previously mentioned, the organisation Aged Care Reform Now (**ACRN**) has become a part of WASA and we look forward to much needed input from them - following on from the 2021 Royal Commission report there are many areas where we need to ensure that the important issues raised are not allowed to just fade away.

The 2022 State submission has been circulated to numerous politicians. A meeting was held with Dr. David Honey on 28th April and further visits are scheduled with Mia Davies, and Donna Faragher early in May. Dr. Honey was particularly interested in our attempts to get better treatment for Oral and Dental Health for Seniors and has requested further details of our earlier dealings with the Chief Dental Officer. Attempts to meet with WA government personnel have, so far, not been successful.

The WA Minister for Seniors and Ageing, Don Punch, has announced WA's first "*Seniors Strategy*". He says he "*is keen to hear the thoughts and opinions of older Western Australians*" and has set up a series of 29 consultation sessions, each of 2 hours, from Broome down to Albany and including Kalgoorlie and Northam. This consultation process is being facilitated by Indigenous Professional Services Management Consultants on behalf of the Department of Communities. The first session is on Monday 2nd May and the last one is scheduled for 8th June. WASFR is looking for a volunteer to liaise with this initiative and keep us informed of any possible outcomes. Anyone interested?

Two weeks ago COTA Australia released their "*Agenda for Government from Older Australians*". This document contains 37 recommendations for the 47th Parliament of Australia and covers implementation of the recommendations of the Aged Care Royal Commission, to delivering on the promise of the Retirement Income Review, to combating ageism, and to improving the dental and mental health of older Australians. We have contacted COTA Australia with our comments on several of the 37 recommendations but have not yet received any response. As a matter of interest, recommendation #16 asks that Medicare be extended to include oral and dental health.

We continue to maintain contact with the organisation PS Superannuants (located in South Australia) and feel that we are slowly arriving at the stage where we are thinking along similar lines. This organisation has existed since 1927 and has around 1500 members. Up until recently, their main focus was on improving the benefits available to ex South Australia government employees, but is now being widened.

The next meeting of our Investors Group is scheduled for Wednesday 4th May. Attendances over the past few meetings have not been high but we will continue to support this group for the time being. A.I.R. also have a similar investor group and there has been talk of combining the two. No decision at this stage.

Our next General meeting is on Friday **13th May** and the guest speaker will be Warren Anderson who will be speaking on "*The life and works of the Perth based architect Iwan Iwanoff*". There have been several phone calls from non-members who are interested in attending so we might have a decent crowd. See you then.

Ron de Gruchy

**Dean Smith**

CHIEF GOVERNMENT WHIP IN THE SENATE  
LIBERAL SENATOR FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

16 February 2022

The Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP  
Treasurer  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dean Smith', written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

I write in support of the introduction of reform measures to incentivise greater workforce participation of senior Australians without adversely impacting their pension.

As you are aware, Australia faces ongoing critical workforce shortages across several sectors in the economy, and particularly in the care and services, construction, and agriculture sectors.

While the easing of international and domestic borders may put downward pressure on shortages, we know this current situation is beyond trend, with a workforce shortage of around 400,000 workers according to November 2021 ABS data.

Shortages are witnessed in all Australian states which demonstrates that this issue will not be solved by the easing of interstate border restrictions and resumption of domestic travel.

Meanwhile, our conventional response which would normally include increasing migration, overseas student visas, and backpackers is not currently feasible.

The pandemic has severely impacted the flow of additional labour entering Australia, and there is little certainty when any of this may be permanently resolved.

Following engagement with WA business community leaders, I was provided a briefing note detailing the case for tax reform to incentivise more workforce participation in the age pension recipient cohort, which I have attached for your consideration.

The paper sets out a strong case for simplifying Age Pension regulations to provide greater choice for senior Australian's who wish to continue to participate, undertaking additional work, and protect their standard of living during their retirement.

Continued from page 3

National Seniors Chief Advocate Ian Henschke is correct in asserting that there is something wrong with Australia’s pension system when it produces a scenario where only 14.2 per cent of Australians aged 65 and over work, and certainly when contrasted with our closest neighbour (New Zealand) which has a participation rate of 24.8 per cent.

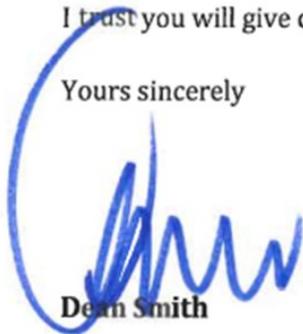
However, as you know, once a pensioner earns more than \$480 a fortnight, their pension is reduced at a rate of 50 cents for every dollar over, essentially a 50 per cent marginal tax rate, which can increase up to an effective marginal tax rate of 69 per cent if they continue to earn – a truly punishing disincentive.

Andrew McKellar, CEO of Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry noted this when he stated, “[t]here is an army of older workers, ready and willing to return to the workplace. However, skilled aged pension recipients have very little incentive”.

As a Senator for Western Australia, a strong supporter of lower taxes, and someone who takes a keen interest in policy which affects senior Australians, I would like to see reforms like exempting employment income from the pension income test addressed in the 2022 Budget in March.

I trust you will give due consideration to this proposal, and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



Dean Smith

**DISPOSAL OF LAPTOP COMPUTER**

Most of you will recall that we recently purchased a new laptop computer as the old one needed a new battery, plus it is 9 years old. The “old” laptop has only been used at our monthly meetings to assist the guest speakers with any power-point presentations - not a high usage at all. We now need to dispose of this laptop computer and are inviting any expressions of interest from members. It still works perfectly well if plugged into an electrical connection. The laptop is a SONY VAIO model SVF 152A29W i5 1.8Ghz 3rd Gen with 4GB RAM and a 500GB Hard Disk. If any member is interested in obtaining this laptop then please complete the form below indicating your contact phone number and the price you are prepared to offer then forward to the Secretary, Sharon Goodchild, [sharongoodchild@westnet.com.au](mailto:sharongoodchild@westnet.com.au) . We expect that a final decision will be made before the meeting on 10th June.

To: WA Self Funded Retirees Inc. PURCHASE OF ONE SONY VAIO Model SVF 152A29W LAPTOP

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Name (First and Surname)	Contact number	Price offered (\$Aus)

“Raise a Glass to the Past” or “The architecture of old pubs”

E. Goodchild

For our first meeting in February 2022, we enjoyed a fascinating talk by Eddie Marcus on the architecture of old pubs in Perth. Eddie is an enthusiastic architectural historian, pub patron and beer drinker who has lived in Perth for 18 years and, in that time, has familiarised himself with many (most?) of the pubs in and around Perth, both for their interesting architecture and for their stocks.

Sadly, and probably due to the rising Covid-19 Omicron outbreak in WA, the turnout was a little disappointing with only 33 members and 3 guests attending.

Eddie opened by explaining why he is so fond of pubs — they are unique places where it is acceptable, even normal, to talk to strangers. He illustrated this by showing a picture of a pub in Bristol where he first met the Australian woman who later became his wife and persuaded him to emigrate to Perth.

He then introduced the main subject of his talk — the architecture of pubs, how it evolved and why they look as they do. He started with roofscapes — notably the mansard roofs of the “*French Renaissance*” style (actually deriving from the “*English Renaissance*” style). This style, in turn, was derived from the real French renaissance architecture common around Paris and surrounding areas and was a French interpretation of the original Italian renaissance architecture. Examples include: the Royal Hotel in William Street (1894), Auchendarroch House near Adelaide (1878), the Ozone Hotel in Victoria (1881) and the long-defunct and over-elaborate tower of the Osborne Hotel in Swanbourne (1894). He explained that these roofs were not functional, but were, rather, designed to look “posh”.



His next example, the Railway Hotel in Fremantle (1893/1894), also illustrates a non-functional adornment to make the building look grander — in this case an entablature (as if above an ancient greek colonnade) around the top of an otherwise rather plain building. This type of frontage is also found above many older shops in the Western Suburbs.

To understand why hotel builders/owners would go to the expense of adding such adornments for their buildings, one needs to consider the opposing social forces prevailing around the building and licensing of a hotel or pub. Firstly, there are the publicans and “*Bacchanalians*” — potential patrons of the new establishment who want to be able to get a drink (whether or not to excess) and, possibly, a meal accompanied by a drink when they want one. Obviously, publicans and hotel owners and staff also sit on this side of the divide. On the other hand, there is the “temperance movement”, who regard all alcohol as a “*bad thing*” (he gave the example of the Womens' Christian Temperance Union from that period). Between these two extremes sit the liquor-licensing authorities who regulate such premises and have to strike a socially-acceptable balance between their views. To avoid the stigma of just purveying a drug (alcohol) for money, an establishment has to offer more than just beer. It has to look good, provide entertainment and usually accommodation in addition to alcohol (this is the reason why most such establishments in WA label themselves as hotels rather than pubs or Inns). By doing this, the licensing authorities can be persuaded that selling alcohol is not the sole purpose of the establishment. In response to a question, Eddie explained that there were few remaining pubs in or near the city dating from before the 1880's as a result of the gold rush. The older, English-style pubs were too small for the influx of people during the gold rush and were demolished to make way for larger establishments.

Next, he mentioned the Swan Hotel (1922), pictured, which uses the “*blood and bandages*” style of adornment — i.e. red brick with white stucco stripes — which is used for several public buildings (e.g. the Technical College, the Fire Station and the Post Office) in the Fremantle area, thus conveying an air of respectability. However, there was a previous Swan Hotel which wouldn't have survived the “mini-prohibition” of the 1920's when around 20% of pubs which didn't meet strict building regulations and which couldn't show that they performed a valuable role in society were shut down permanently.



Fortunately, the owners of the Swan Hotel had the resources to rebuild the hotel in a form that was able to show that it was “good enough”, that it wasn’t there just to sell beer but made a positive contribution to the streetscape and provided more than just booze.

The Rose Hotel is another that was replaced in the 1920’s. The original (now long demolished) was simply a very ordinary house (built in 1892) into which the public could go to buy a drink; the epitome of a “public house”, or pub. The new Rose Hotel, built in 1929 retained the basically domestic architecture of the original, albeit larger and with more elaborate decoration of the frontage, met the requirements of 1920’s liquor licensing.



Similarly, the original Albion Hotel, built in the 1860’s was simply a large house fitted out to serve beer. In 1911, even before the liquor licensing authorities were clamping down, it was replaced by a much finer building. No longer being able to rely on being the halfway stop between Fremantle and Perth, the owners sought to market it as a destination for pleasure seekers, offering more than just drink, food and accommodation.

Another hotel with an evolving history is the Claremont Hotel built by Samuel Copley in 1902. Eddie showed a photo of the earlier, rather rustic-looking 1887 hotel on the same site which was demolished to make way for Copley’s. The latter is currently being refurbished as a fine dining establishment rather than the earlier rather rough pub (fewer beers sold at higher prices to raise the tone of the pub).

As an aside, Eddie gave a potted history of Samuel Copley and lamented his lack of recognition in WA. Copley emigrated to Australia in 1885 and worked initially as a barber, first in Melbourne and then Fremantle. He bought up large areas of land which became the suburbs of Highgate and Mt. Lawley, and started and ran various other significant enterprises in addition to building the Claremont Hotel. Having made his fortune in Australia, he returned to England in 1914 a rich man. According to Eddie, the Huddersfield Corporation (the town council), wished to purchase the town from the Ramsden family in order to ensure that rents didn’t rise unduly but Sir John Ramsden didn’t like the council and refused. Copley then stepped in and bought the estate for £1.5 million and gifted it to the town in return for slow repayment and interest-free. \*

The “*Spanish Mission*” style, characterised by the extensive use of decorative arches and barley sugar columns is another one used for several hotels in the interwar period. The Captain Stirling Hotel and the Inglewood Hotel (both by the same architect) are examples of this. The Spanish Mission style derived mainly from the Californian/New Mexican architecture of the Missions set up by Spanish Monks and was a hybrid of the local indigenous styles and earlier Spanish architecture, which in turn is a hybrid of even earlier styles, including the Moorish (and so on...). Henry Sterling Trigg built a number of hotels and other public buildings in the Romanesque style of multiple interlinking arches. Among these are the tower of the Subiaco Hotel (demolished as unsafe after the 1968 Meckering earthquake), the Leederville Hotel and the City Hotel (now the Belgian Beer Cafe).

The Federation style from the early 1900’s is characterised by a disregard for conventional architectural rules — too many columns, columns used where they don’t belong, etc. The Subiaco Hotel shows elements of this with its disproportionate (squat) columns.

Later, this evolved into the ornate Edwardian Baroque style which takes the same idea to extremes which can look either very good (if a little odd at a deeper examination) or terrible. York Town Hall falls into the former category and, in Eddie’s opinion, His Majesty’s Theatre is firmly in the latter with ornamentation piled upon ornamentation.

Finally, Eddie mentioned Steve’s Hotel at the end of Broadway in Nedlands. Although dating in its original form from the 1920’s and being marketed to the



pleasure seekers having a day out, it was built in the domestic “house” style of the 1880’s and before with little external ornamentation. He finds the updated version to be rather sterile and compared it to an airport lounge.

\* *Other sources state that the Corporation couldn’t buy the estate without an Act of Parliament and that, to avoid the consequent delay and the possibility other parties might buy the estate in the meantime, Copley agreed to act as middlemen, buying the estate for around £1.3 million in 1919 and selling it to the Corporation in 1920. Originally, the Corporation had agreed to reimburse Copley in full when funds became available, but in the end he settled for them using his insurance company for a period of 21 years.*

**EDITH COWAN The story of a pioneering woman in a male-dominated society**

E. Goodchild

The speaker for March 2022, Hilary Silbert, believes that Edith Cowan has been neglected in the history of Australia and, particularly, Western Australia and wants to raise awareness of her and her great contribution to Australian society in general and women in particular. Worse than the widespread ignorance about her, is that much of the publicly accessible information about her life and achievements is factually incorrect — to the extent that Hilary sub-titled her talk “*Facts, Figures and Fake News*”!

Hilary’s interest in Edith Cowan dates back to the opening of Edith Cowan University and she has spent much time since then in researching Edith’s life, talking to her family, especially her grandson and biographer, Peter, and friends and consulting many historical records and monuments.

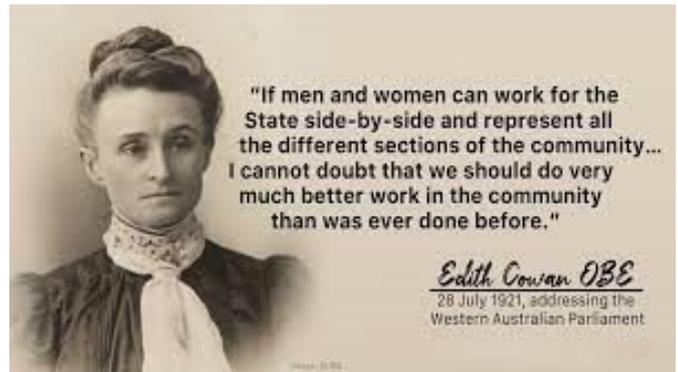
Edith Cowan was a remarkable woman, probably best known for being the first woman to become a Member of the WA State Parliament and, indeed, of any Australian parliament, the first woman to do so in the Southern Hemisphere and only the sixth in the world. However, her achievements stretch far beyond this, as outlined in Hilary’s talk.

Her grandparents, Eliza and Thomas Brown, emigrated from Oxfordshire to the Swan River Colony in 1841 on the *Stirling* with her father, Kenneth (aged four), and his brother, Vernon. They started in York but then moved to Glengarry near Geraldton. Kenneth later managed this very large agriculture/pastoral property and diversified into horse breeding, importing thoroughbred stock from Europe and producing cavalry mounts for the army in India. In 1859, aged 22, he married Mary Dircksey Wittenoom, daughter of John Wittenoom, the chaplain of Western Australia. They had five children, of whom Edith was the second — born in 1861. Mary died in childbirth in 1868 when Edith was seven — she and her elder sister, Blanche, were taken in by their grandmother and brought to Perth, leaving Kenneth and her younger brothers at Glengarry. A few years later, Kenneth moved to Melbourne to continue racing horses. Here, he married again and had two further children (who Edith probably never met). Edith was orphaned at 15 (1876) when her father was hanged for the drunken shooting of his second wife. She married James Cowan (Master and Registrar of the Supreme Court) in 1879, aged 18 — fortunately this appears to have been a happy marriage, lasting 53 years until her death in 1932. They had four daughters (not three as reported in one obituary and repeated in the ECU centenary book), and a son.

Little or nothing is taught in the school curriculum about Edith Cowan. What is taught (at school or later) is sparse and frequently erroneous. Hilary highlighted some of these errors (and the correct versions) and has contributed to their correction in the various curricula and even in Hansard.

**Edith is remembered (correctly and incorrectly) for many notable achievements, including:**

1. She campaigned actively on behalf of women and children despite natural misgivings and the risk of misunderstanding — particularly on matters relating to sex. She addressed subjects like the teaching of sex hygiene in schools, the enfranchisement of women, day nurseries, boarding out systems and many other social questions.
2. She was a founder and life member of the Children’s Protection Society.
3. She helped to found the Karrakatta Club, a social club for women, in 1894 and was its president on several occasions.
4. She founded the Womens Service Guild to enable women of all classes to discuss public matters.
5. She was a member of the National Council of Women and State President from 1913 to 1921
6. She was on the committee of the Venereal Diseases Council



7. She was closely associated with the Red Cross from its initial meeting in 1914 and a member of several committees.
8. She was awarded the OBE in 1920 for her work with the Red Cross and other organisations, and for her work supporting the establishment of the King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women in 1916 and the York Maternity hospital and her support for the House of Mercy, later called the Alexandra Home for Women (now Ngala).
9. She was the one of the first women to serve as a JP (not, as once taught in a “*Discovering Democracy*” course, a magistrate) in the Children's Court. (1920). This error was also quoted in the WA parliament when plans were being made to honour her on a Perth Heritage day.
10. She was the first woman parliamentarian in Australia on her election as member of the WA Legislative Assembly in 1921 — being elected only four weeks after having nominated for the seat of West Perth. She stood as a Nationalist against the Attorney General, Thomas Draper, who introduced the Bill allowing women to enter parliament. During her term, she had two Private Member's Bills passed: the Administration Act Amendment Bill 1922 and the Women's Legal Status Bill 1923. She also steered a Bill through parliament which gave equal inheritance rights to mothers where a child died intestate and without issue.
11. She was a member of the Anglican Synod.
12. She was associated in one way or another with a great many other organisations during her life, mainly associated with the health and wellbeing of women and children, but also of soldiers during WW1.

***There are many memorials and tributes to Edith Cowan, the most notable of which include:***

1. The Edith Cowan Clock Tower was built in 1934 at the West Perth entrance to King's Park. This is the most significant memorial to a woman in Australia. There was considerable opposition to this resulting in a two-year delay in its construction. It was not heritage listed until 2000.
2. Commemorative plaques have been applied outside her former residences in West Perth and Cottesloe.
3. The federal parliamentary seat of Cowan was named after her in 1984.
4. In 1991 the Western Australian College of Advanced Education was renamed Edith Cowan University (ECU) in her honour (one of the few universities in the world to bear a woman's name and one of the even fewer to include the first name).
5. A commemorative plaque in St. George's Cathedral was donated by ECU in 1996, during the 75th anniversary of her election to parliament. A commemorative service was held followed, some months later, by the presentation of the plaque. An evensong service was held last year to mark the 100th anniversary.
6. Among the 150th anniversary of WA pavers along St. George's Terrace, the 1921 paver depicts Edith Cowan.
7. A portrait of Edith from 1923 hangs in Parliament House. This portrait was stored out of sight until 1995.
8. Portraits of Edith adorns both the 1996 and 2018 \$50 notes (slightly different images in each case).



*It is unusual for any Private Member's Bill to pass let alone two of legislative significance by the same member in the same parliament.*

*Yesterday I got my permit to carry a concealed weapon.*

*So, today I went over to the local Gun shop to get a 9 mm handgun for home/personal protection.*

*When I was ready to pay for the pistol and ammo, the cashier said, "Strip down, facing me."*

*Making a mental note to complain to the government about gun control wackos running amok, I did just as she had instructed.*

*When the hysterical shrieking and alarms finally subsided, I found out she was referring to how I should place my credit card in the card reader!*

*As a senior citizen, I do not get flustered often, but this time it took me a while to get my pants back on.*

*I've been asked to shop elsewhere in the future.*

*They need to make their instructions to seniors a little more clear.*

*I still don't think I looked that bad! I just need to wear underwear more often.*

**Students in an advanced Biology class were taking their mid-term exam. The last question was, 'Name seven advantages of Mother's Milk.' The question was worth 70 points or none at all. One student was hard put to think of seven advantages. He wrote:**

- 1) It is perfect formula for the child.**
- 2) It provides immunity against several diseases.**
- 3) It is always the right temperature.**
- 4) It is inexpensive.**
- 5) It bonds the child to mother and vice versa.**
- 6) It is always available as needed.**

**And then the student was stuck. Finally, in desperation, just before the bell rang indicating the end of the test he wrote:**

- 7) It comes in two attractive containers and it's high enough off the ground where the cat can't get it. He got an A.**

*There was an elderly couple who in their old age noticed that they were getting a lot more forgetful, so they decided to go to the doctor.*

*The doctor told them that they should start writing things down so they don't forget. They went home and the old lady told her husband to get her a bowl of ice cream. "You might want to write it down," she said. The husband said, "No, I can remember that you want a bowl of ice cream.*

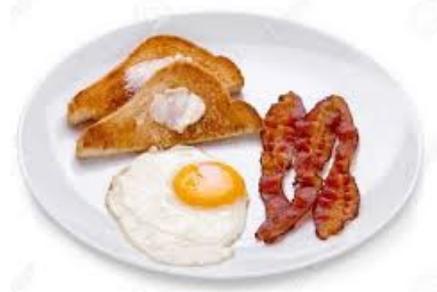
*"She then told her husband she wanted a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream.*

*"Write it down," she told him, and again he said, "No, no, I can remember: you want a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream.*

*"Then the old lady said she wants a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream and a cherry on top. "Write it down," she told her husband and again he said, "No, I got it. You want a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream and a cherry on top."*

*So he goes to get the ice cream and spends an unusually long time in the kitchen, over 30 minutes. He comes out to his wife and hands her a plate of eggs and bacon.*

*The old wife stares at the plate for a moment, then looks at her husband and asks, "Where's the toast?"*



**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 8 APRIL 2022.

The President opened the meeting at 10.05am and welcomed the 24 members and 5 visitors attending.

**APOLOGIES:** V. Payne, E. & S. Goodchild, P. Farr, R. & J. Dawson, G. English, W. Court, B. Arnold, M. Cox

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** Moved by J. Hayward, seconded I. Moller, that the Minutes of the meeting held 11 March 2022 be accepted as a true record. Carried.

**BUSINESS ARISING:**

**WA Seniors Alliance (WASA):** After a lengthy delay the 2022 State submission has now been distributed to the Premier and selected State politicians. The decision was taken to delete the item dealing with the aggregation of the values for Land Tax and now there are only 2 items in the submission. Members were encouraged to suggest any further relevant matters. There was a comment made regarding parking for disabled persons which will be considered by the Committee. The President did say that WA Self Funded Retirees did not have the resources required to become involved in many issues that affected the wider community. We need to remain focused on matters relating to retirees.

**Investment Group:** The last meeting was held on 25 February and the next meeting is scheduled for 4 May. A.I.R. held a meeting on 16 March. Both A.I.R. and WASFR have Investment groups operating and have extended open invitations to all members of the opposite organisation. Numbers attending both meetings have not been high.

**2022/23 Federal Pre-Budget submission:** The President invited comments on the structure and contents of the submission. No important issues were raised. The President said that he had had a meeting with the Member for Cowan last month and noted that Dr. Aly showed strong interest in the item dealing with coverage of the NDIS - those over the age of 65 are currently not covered. M. Walsh commented that WASFR should be more concerned with extending the benefits for seniors from the Aged Care legislation. There were 148 recommendations from last years Royal Commission and the government was in the process of drafting a new/revised Aged Care Act that could come into existence next year. Seniors/retirees should avail themselves of this opportunity to offer comments etc. before the drafting of the legislation is completed (this had been mentioned at last month's meeting). M. Walsh also reminded members that she is a member of the Council of Elders and encouraged members to become aware of what is happening in that area. Aged Care will be important to all Australians at some time in the near or distant future. It is important that we Seniors who will be affected sooner than later take an interest and input into changes as soon as we have an opportunity. **DO NOT COMPLAIN LATER IF YOU DO NOT HAVE INPUT NOW.** <https://agedcareengagement.health.gov.au/> There has not been any progress in obtaining meetings with Ben Morton, Vince Connelly and with Josh Wilson (Labor Fremantle). Several phone calls (plus letters & emails over a 12 month period), to the Minister for Superannuation and Finance finally resulted in a response being received on 4 April.

**Laptop Computer:** The President said that a new laptop computer had been purchased by WASFR and we are now in the process of disposal of the old one. The laptop is a SONY VAIO model SVF 152A29W i5 1.8Ghz 3rd Gen with 4GB RAM and a 500GB Hard Disk, it is 9 years old and needs a new battery. At present it is on loan to a member who is interested in acquiring it. It is intended that mention of this will be included in the next edition of WASFR News so that any member, who may be interested in acquiring it, will have an opportunity to do so. The comment was made that it operates perfectly well if plugged into an electrical connection.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Emails to State and Federal politicians
- Emails re Aged Care Reform *Now* survey (13 questions)
- Emails re Medicinal Cannabis
  - ◇ discussion re inclusion of a short article on medicinal cannabis resulted in a decision not to include it in the next edition of *WASFR News*
- Emails from Town of Cambridge
- Emails/Media Releases from National Seniors Australia (incl. comments on Federal Budget)
- Emails re State Pre-Budget submission
- Emails re article in *Have-A-Go News* (Bullecourt)
- Emails re meeting with President of RSLWA
  - ◇ the President had met with the new WA President of the RSLWA on 24 March
- Emails from IPS (WA Seniors Strategy - meetings in May ??)
- Email re BPiA (*British Pensioners in Australia*)
  - ◇ the President had received an email asking for support for BPiA and their long campaign seeking equality re indexation of their UK pensions. Discussion ensued on the length of this campaign, plus the Court case in 2010 (which was unsuccessful).
- Email re speaking to a journalist (no approach has yet been made to WASFR)
- ACOSS media releases (5)
- CPSA *The Voice* - 16th & 23rd March newsletters
- *SuperGuide* - March newsletter
- COTA Australia - comments on 2022 Budget
- COTA *WA Connections* - March & April
- SMSF Weekly News Digests (8)
- Gold Coast Retirees - April newsletter
- Brisbane North Retirees - April newsletter

**FINANCE:** The Treasurer, M. Harris, invited members to look at the financial statement printed on the reverse of today's Agenda. Total funds as at 1 April 2022 is down to \$6,386.95, with outstanding accounts totalling \$994.60. M. Harris said that she would wait till the term deposit (\$5,558.02), matures in July before claiming the \$994.60. No questions from members.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**Other:** There were no further items raised by members. A comment was made concerning the forthcoming federal election - no-one seemed inclined to get involved.

After the morning tea break the President invited Dr. Mike Galvin from the Claremont Branch of RSLWA to talk about the Battle of Bullecourt. Dr. Galvin qualified with degrees in Science, Medicine and Surgery from the University of WA. He was commissioned into the Army in 1964 and transferred to the RAAF in 1978. Currently he is the archivist and historian with the Claremont Branch of the RSLWA. Mike spoke at length, and with great detail, on the background history of this unforgettable part of World War 2. There were many questions from members and visitors. A small presentation was made to Dr. Galvin thanking him for his presentation.

Speakers for the following months are as follows

13 May	Warren Anderson	<i>"The life and works of the Perth based architect Iwan Iwanoff"</i>
10 June	Annabelle Taylor	<i>"Managing Pain"</i>
8 July	Ron Banks	<i>"A nostalgic look at growing up in Perth in the 50s"</i>

Confirmed .....

Date .....

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING: FRIDAY 13 MAY 2022**

**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.**

*State & Federal Advocates for Fully and Partly Self Funded Retirees*

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Name/s: .....

Address: .....

Telephone: .....

Pre-retirement Occupation/Interests (optional)

Annual Subscription:

Couple \$30.00, Single \$20.00

Please forward application and subscription to

The Treasurer

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

Email: [littlejim2@optusnet.com.au](mailto:littlejim2@optusnet.com.au)

**YOUR COMMITTEE**

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**Vice-President:**

Position vacant

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**Treasurer:**

Margaret Harris: 0417 991 947

**Committee:**

Margaret Cresswell 0499 968 411

Joe McPhail 9446 7376

Peter Farr 0419 905 864

John Yeatman 0417 064 393

**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**

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**WASFR NEWS**

Is printed by

**Celia Hammond**

**Federal MP for Curtin**

As a Community Service



*YOUR COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU .  
TALK TO RON, SHARON OR MARGARET  
IF YOU WISH TO GET INVOLVED.*