



WASFR NEWS

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Morning Everyone. Well, the election has passed and we now have a new government for the next 3 years. Some of you may feel pleased that this has happened, but I accept that some of you don't. Whatever your personal allegiance may be, the fact is that they are here, we all need to recognise this fact and deal with it the best we can. So far, there has been little to criticise. The new PM seems to be adapting to his new position quite well and has an agenda that does seem to be a bit optimistic - 18 pieces of new legislation in just 2 weeks? At the time of writing, Parliament has only been going for 4 days so it is a bit too early to judge.

Probably the most publicised legislation involves the 43% reduction in emissions by 2030. There is also legislation proposed on Aged Care Reform, abolition of the cashless welfare card, the establishment of a Federal Anti-Corruption Commission, a revamped Emergency Response Fund, a new National Centre for Disease Control, increasing the limits of the CSHC, Fair work/Equal pay, establishment of an Indigenous Voice to Parliament plus lowering the voting age to 16 (but voting for those 16 – 18 would not be compulsory). There are several other Bills "in the pipeline" and we can only wait to see how they all pan out.

One matter that will be of interest to many retirees is that the new government has maintained that there will be no change to the stage 3 tax cuts due in mid 2024. These tax cuts will be of great benefit to those with incomes over the \$100,000pa mark - some say that, in these problematic times, they should be reviewed? However, at this stage, the government has committed to keeping their pre-election promise not to change them.

As you know, there will be a Federal Budget in October (? 25th), and WASFR, along with several other retiree organisations, is lodging a list of what we would like to see addressed. There are several changes from our last Federal submission. We have deleted the items dealing with Deeming Rates and the interest rate (MPIR), charged on the non-payment of a Refundable Accommodation Deposit (RAD). The reason for doing this is that the RBA Cash Rate is going up, as are all the interest rates charged, and paid, by the Banks. With the RBA Cash Rate said to be headed for 2.5% (or more?), and the Term Deposit rates increasing to 3% - 4%, it seems rather foolish to ask that the Deeming Rates (currently 2.25% and 0.25%) be lowered. You may recall that one of the pre-election promises by both parties was that Deeming Rates would be "frozen" for the next 2 years - let's see if that happens.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, we continue to support the *Let Pensioners Work* campaign that National Seniors started some 8 – 9 months ago.

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With the current shortage of casual workers currently being experienced in this country (along with a shortage of tradesmen, Nurses and Aged Care workers etc.), it makes sense to tap into a previously ignored group of people who, in some circumstances, may be able to fill some of these vacancies. The one big reason why these people haven't put themselves forward in the past is the huge penalty they pay for engaging in paid employment. In addition to paying extra income tax, they also lose 50 cents for every additional dollar they earn (over the small allowance).

If the government can agree to suspend the 50% reduction of their pension for a couple of years, then, hopefully, we may see some of these pensioners rejoining the workforce. Of course, not every pensioner is going to take advantage of such a decision, some will be too old and some just not interested. It is important to recognise that this is not a cost to the government, indeed, the government will benefit from receipt of the additional income tax that will be payable. If the government doesn't accept this reasonable request, then we will never find out how many are really willing to go back to work.

Another new item in our submission is for the government to lower the mandatory minimum drawdown rates for superannuation payments. As you know, there has been a 50% reduction in existence since March 2020 (due to the Coronavirus), and this is due to continue till 30 June 2023. Our request to the government is to lower the rates (from 1 July 2023), to 4% for those under 65, 5% for those 65 to 75, 6% for those 76 to 85, 7% for those 86 to 95 and 10% for those retirees aged over 95. This is not a major change from what has been in existence for some time - although those over 95 have been required to withdraw 14%. The rationale behind this concept of mandatory drawdowns is that the government is of the belief that superannuation is, primarily, something to support retirees in their years of retirement. It is not to be regarded as a "wealth creation" exercise. We are hopeful of a genuine vote of approval from the government but we can only wait for the October Budget to see if they have listened to us. This matter is also supported by the Association of Independent Retirees (A.I.R.) Ltd. (although their details are slightly different to ours).

Copies of our 2022/23 Federal Pre-Budget submission have been distributed to the government and to a number of politicians around the country. The document itself consists of 8 pages so it is too long to be included in this newsletter. There is a one page summary that is included on page 3. If anyone has any thoughts on the items listed then feel free to contact either the Secretary, or myself, and we will do what we can to accommodate your thoughts.

Even though the election is only 2 months ago we have been able to meet up with the new member for Curtin - M/s Kate Chaney. We were fortunate to get 45 minutes with M/s Chaney and were able to summarise the items that we have been pursuing for several years. M/s Chaney is new to the political arena but shows strong signs of adapting to her new role. With a wide background (including Law and Business management), M/s Chaney has demonstrated considerable energy and a desire to improve conditions applicable to all Australians.

Little has changed in regard to the WA Seniors Alliance (WASA). We continue to push for improved concessions from the WA government but we also accept that this government has a number of critical issues on their agenda. Apart from the issue re Stamp Duty applicable when retirees downsize, and Oral & Dental Health for seniors, there are not a large number of areas which we can truthfully say warrant inclusion in a State submission (for seniors).

The WASFR Investors group continues to meet (usually every 2 months). The last meeting was held on 6th July with 20 members listening to an interesting presentation from Katana Capital Ltd. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 7th September, commencing at 9.50am.

We have now put up with the Covid 19 pandemic for the past 2.5 years - and it doesn't seem to be going away. Every now and then the authorities announce that a new variant has developed and it may turn out that the vaccines we have been receiving will need to be changed/renewed. As we are now in the middle of Winter we are also dealing with the 'Flu - so all I can say is "**ROLL ON SUMMER**". In the meantime, we are all encouraged to wear a mask when out in public places. Our next General meeting is on Friday 12th August. There has been a late change and our guest speaker will now be Chris Douglas who will be talking about *Big Companies and how they avoid Tax* - should be interesting. See you then.

Ron de Gruchy

Summary of Recommendations

Following is a summary of the recommendations included in this submission from Superannuated Commonwealth Officers' Association (WA) Inc. and Western Australia Self Funded Retirees Inc. We sincerely request that your full consideration be given to each of the issues raised.

Recommendation 1:

That the pre-1 July 1988 Taxation arrangements for the 1922/PNG/CSS/PSS Comsuper pensions be treated in the same manner as all other superannuation schemes.

Recommendation 2:

That pensioners in receipt of the Centrelink Age pension be allowed to engage in paid employment with no corresponding reduction in their pension amount.

Recommendation 3:

That the mandatory minimum drawdown percentages of superannuation funds, applicable to people over the age of 60, be reviewed with the intention of lowering them.

Recommendation 4:

That the "Work Test" applicable to retirees for personal concessional contributions to superannuation be abolished.

Recommendation 5:

That retirees be enabled to transfer funds into superannuation, at the prescribed contribution levels, irrespective of their age.

Recommendation 6:

That Australian citizens, over the age of 65 and with a disability recognised under the current NDIS legislation, be accorded the same benefits (both financial and otherwise), as are accorded to those people under the age of 65. The simplest way for this to happen is for the NDIS legislation to be amended to include those aged over 65. If this is not practicable, then the Age Care legislation should be amended so as to produce the desired outcome.

Recommendation 7:

That the Medicare and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Safety Net thresholds for single retirees be restructured so that access for them becomes available at 65% of the levels applicable to couples/families.

Recommendation 8:

That the SAPTO Tax Offsets (currently \$2,230 for singles), be adjusted annually to account for increases in the cost of living, and that the SAPTO Rebate "shade out" income thresholds should be increased immediately so as to be equal to the Medicare Levy low-income threshold. They should then be reviewed annually so as to always be equal to the Medicare Levy low-income thresholds.

Recommendation 9:

That the components of a retiree's income derived from an untaxed superannuation scheme, and from other sources, be assessed separately for taxation purposes as is the case with a retiree who derives an income from a taxed superannuation scheme.

West Australians in the First Battle of Bullecourt (10th and 11th April 1917)

E. Goodchild

Dr. Mike Galvin RFD, served as a doctor in the Australian armed forces and being a military historian in his spare time, developed an interest in the Australian involvement in the First World War. He is the archivist and historian for the Claremont branch of the RSL. For our 8th April meeting (just before the anniversary of the first battle of Bullecourt) he gave a talk about the West Australian involvement in this ill-fated action and, in particular, the involvement of the 16th Brigade of the Australian Imperial Force.

The Battalion was formed in 1914, and was composed, initially, of 50% WA and 50% SA recruits with the Headquarters group and all of the machine gun element coming from WA and was commanded by Col. John Monash. It was part of the 4th Brigade of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), which formed in Melbourne and, unlike much of the rest of the AIF, sailed from Port Melbourne.

The Brigade was deployed initially for training in Egypt before being deployed to Gallipoli, landing there on 25th August 1915 and remaining for the remainder of that campaign. The battalion suffered heavy losses on the Dardanelles with replacements all coming from WA. After withdrawal from the Dardanelles, the battalion returns to Egypt and was split into two following a policy to split the battalions which had fought in Gallipoli in order to form a second army division. The 4th Brigade then served with the British Expeditionary force on the Western Front in France and fought in the battles of Pozieres and then Mouquet Farm in August and September 1916 with further heavy casualties. Again the 16th Battalion losses were made up from WA, such that, by 1917, it was considered a Western Australian unit. All told there were 22,000 Australian casualties from these two battles.

After the fighting at Mouquet Farm, the battalion were rested with little fighting through the winter of 1916—1917, mainly due to bad weather — it was the worst winter in Europe for 50 years.

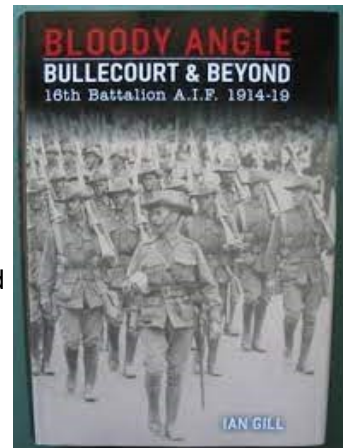
In the spring of 1917, the fighting intensified with the British Third Army engaged in major battles around Arras. A number of diversionary attacks were planned to the south of Arras to relieve pressure on the Third Army including one at the village of Bullecourt, some miles to the NE of Pozieres (planned for 10th April).

The Germans had withdrawn to “high” ground near the village (around 150 feet above surrounding plains) while maintaining forces on lower ground in front. They based themselves in villages and farms like Bullecourt (as they had in Pozieres and Mouquet Farm) which provided good fortifications in the deep cellars of the houses and farm buildings from which the Germans could supply and man their lines.

The 4th Infantry Brigade of the AIF, headed by 16th Battalion, was tasked to attack the German forces at Bullecourt and to try and capture the village as a starting point for flanking actions along the German lines. These comprised a complex of zig-zag trenches to the west and south of the village and were, in turn, protected by wide swathes of barbed wire in geometric patterns some distance in front of the trenches. The barbed wire (manufactured in Sweden) was very thick, dense and tangled making it extremely hard for infantry to cross, especially under fire.

Normally, the wire barriers would be breached by an intense artillery bombardment, but with little Australian artillery available and what British artillery there was mainly 18-pounders, which are useful against personnel and unprotected targets but was not that effective in breaching the barbed wire defences nor the penetration to destroy the bunkers in the village cellars — particularly when covered by rubble from the demolished buildings. The decision was, therefore taken to use the recently-introduced tanks to flatten the wire using their wide tracks, creating paths for the infantry to advance through. Thirteen tanks were available to support this action, of which three were unarmoured training vehicles.

The 18-pounder shells were mainly anti-personnel weapons, being filled with lead balls. Their utility in breaking the barbed-wire barriers was, thus, rather limited. Mike showed a nose cap from an 18-pounder shell that he had recovered from the battlefield in 2018; it had one of the lead balls fused into it.



In early 1917, Tanks were still in their infancy and were lightly armoured at best (providing protection against small arms and some limited protection against armour piercing rounds), and were rather unreliable, very slow and noisy. Although their rhomboid shape was designed for traversing WW1 craters in “no man’s land” and for crossing trenches, they could still get stuck, leaving them vulnerable to artillery and mortar attack.

The attack was planned for 10th April but late arrival of the tanks delayed it for 24 hours. At this point, the 16th Regiment had a complement of 20 officers and 797 other ranks.

The actual attack on Bullecourt took place on 11th April.

Of the 13 tanks, 12 made it to the battlefield (later than planned), and none survived the battle. The machine-gun barrage that was intended to mask their approach

failed to cover the noise of their approach, their dark colouring made them very conspicuous against the snow on the ground and, being very slow, they were easy targets for artillery. Some broke down or got stuck, others veered off course on the featureless terrain and only a few managed to breach the wire barriers. Although some of the 16th Battalion reached the German trenches, the attack failed.



The Battalion’s losses during this battle were 17 officers (of whom 9 were captured) and 623 other ranks of whom 362 were PoW’s (including Mike’s great uncle Bert). Usually, the Germans treated PoW’s reasonably well and were provided with the same rations as German civilians. However, the unwounded prisoners taken at Bullecourt were called *Prisoners of Respite* and held at Fort McDonald in Lille. They were treated very badly, given little food, no blankets, only wood-shavings for bedding and had to work for 12 hours a day on the German defences within range of the British artillery. They were not notified to the Red Cross and so didn’t receive any Red Cross parcels or food. A number of the prisoners died while at Fort McDonald, including one who was shot while scavenging potatoes, others from sickness and several from artillery fire while working near the German lines.

After about six months, the survivors were moved to a large camp at Limburg and those below the rank of Corporal were broken up into “commandos” or work details to replace the German workers absent fighting the war. Ranks above sergeant were not required to work although they could be asked to supervise the work details. Otherwise they had little to do and suffered greatly from boredom.

Many of the PoW’s died in captivity, some 14 in France and Belgium, buried as near as possible to where they died), and 16 in Germany (two died after armistice day and were classified as ex-PoW’s) — mostly from

Typhus or Tuberculosis. The bodies of those dying in Germany were moved to four designated cemeteries in Germany (Hamburg, Cologne, Berlin SouthWest and Niederzwehren) where possible; where the bodies could not be found, memorial gravestones were placed in the appropriate cemetery carrying the legend “Their Glory Shall Not Be Blotted Out” (written by Rudyard Kipling who was then an Imperial War Graves Commissioner). Others, injured too badly to rejoin the war, were repatriated through the Red Cross via either Switzerland or Holland. Those sent to Holland were shipped to Ripon in Yorkshire and thence to the Australian Headquarters. Those sent to Switzerland were detained there (in some comfort) for the remainder of the war.

Uniquely, the remnants of the 16th Battalion agreed to subscribe to a fund to assist the Red Cross in providing food parcels for the Battalion PoW’s, collecting a total of £1,244, 3s, 5d during the remainder of the war.

The 16th Battalion still exists as an Army Reserve Battalion based at Irwin Training Centre, Karakatta.



Author’s Note: Whilst the Australian Brigade received notification of the delay, the 2nd West Riding Brigade did not and attacked as planned on 10th April but, not being able to penetrate the wire, were repulsed.

The life and Works of Perth-based Architect Iwan Iwanoff

E. Goodchild

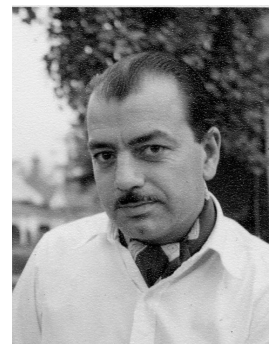
Warren Andersen's talk to the WASFR meeting on 13th May 2022 proved rather popular with some 30 members and 17 guests attending — despite the proliferation of Covid. Warren has spent years researching Iwanoff's work and is passionate about the design features of Iwanoff's houses, commercial buildings and shops. I am sure that many in the audience remember the ABC program covering the careful and sympathetic restoration of Iwanoff's Paganin House in The Boulevard, Floreat after it burnt down in 2015.



Pagan House, Floreat

Iwanoff was born in Bulgaria in 1919 and had an artistic upbringing. In particular, renowned Bulgarian artist Ilya Beshkov Dunov taught Iwanoff sketching and watercolours.

Iwanoff studied architecture at Munich University 1940 to 1945 (1941 to 1946 according to a UWA pamphlet on the "Studio of Iwan Iwanoff" exhibition at the UWA School of Design). He studied under Hans Dollgast who recognised and fostered his creativity. Dollgast, being an expert in concrete design, had a big influence in Iwanoff's work.



After Iwanoff graduated, Dollgast helped him get a job with the German government working on the reconstruction of a suburb of Munich which had been destroyed during the war. He worked on some of the apartment towers where he used a technique of concrete construction called slip forming¹. He brought this technique to Perth and many of the blocks of flats of the 1950's were built using this technique.

Iwanoff emigrated to Australia in 1950, intending to settle in Melbourne. However, when his ship docked in Fremantle, it was requisitioned for the Korean War (which had just started) and all 200 or so passengers, including Iwanoff and his wife, had to disembark. They were moved to a migrant detention centre in Northam and stayed there for six months until he and his wife were virtually adopted by architect firm Krantz and Sheldon — indeed they stayed with Harold Krantz for a time. Iwanoff was, at the time, unable to practice on his own since his qualifications were not recognised by the Architects Institute so he was working for the firm as a "draughtsman".

In order to establish himself, he started moonlighting² outside work hours, designing houses in Perth. Being relatively unknown, he was not able to realise his own ideas but had to follow the styles imported from America and Europe, although he was able to express his ideas in some of the interior features. Warren showed several examples of his designs from the 1950's, both characteristic of the period and none showing much of Iwanoff's own style. One of the later one's (designed for the German Consul), did allow Iwanoff some freedom to experiment with detail, mainly in the extensive use of timber in the interior, although the overall design still followed the prevailing 1950's California styling.



Marsala House (Disco House) Dianella

¹ Slip-form construction is a technique for continuous pouring of concrete into a form (defining the structure's cross section) which is moved (slid) continuously as the concrete is poured to create a seamless structure. For vertical structures the staging around the form is raised on jacks alongside the sliding form to provide a platform for workers to assemble the steel reinforcing structure, guide the concrete pour and operate the vibration equipment to consolidate the concrete while it is still workable.

² The firm, apparently, turned a blind eye to his out of hours activities since he was too valuable to lose.

In 1958, Iwanoff moved to Melbourne to work for Yunken Freeman, where he re-united with Angel Dimitroff. Warren showed a photo of one of the houses he designed, now demolished.

Returning to Perth in 1961, and with his architectural qualifications now accredited, Iwanoff was able to start his own practice from which he designed some 140 houses during the 1960's and 1970's. Around 44 of these still exist — the remainder having been demolished³ in recent years. Initially, these designs were still based on the California style of open-plan interiors, steel-framed floor to ceiling glazed walls and shallow roof pitches, but with increasing use of timber inside and out. It was 1967 before he started to use concrete blocks in geometric patterns in what became his signature style. Thereafter, his use of geometric concrete decoration became increasingly complex, often complemented with customised letterboxes (and sometimes doors), in a style matching the appearance of the house. Warren illustrated the evolution of Iwanoff's ideas with photos showing his increasing use of concrete and, especially, the increasing complexity of the concrete decorations, possibly deriving from the many Islamic influences in his native Bulgaria.

Iwanoff's interiors follow the 1920's "modernist" principles of:

1. avoiding internal doors and walls, instead using changing levels and partitions such as cupboards to demarcate different spaces.
2. using large windows and other devices to dissolve the boundary between the inside and the outside and bring lots of light into the interior spaces.

He often emphasised the idea of open space by creating and aligning gaps in the partitions in such a way as to allow one to see right through the house — encompassing both these principles. The internal fit-outs were individual for each design and were often very elaborate, making extensive use of timber finishes.



From the early 1970's, he started to develop a more sculptural concrete style, moving away from the concrete blocks. At the same time, he started to suffer ill health with cancer, reducing his output, although he did continue working until his death in 1986.

Warren's research has revealed around 25 of Iwanoff's concept designs which were never built — Warren has commissioned digital reconstructions of these to complete the Documentation of Iwanoff's house designs. All of Iwanoff's plans are held in the Batty Library.

In addition to his private house designs, Iwanoff designed a number of commercial and government buildings, including the now-demolished Boomerang Hotel in Bentley (1959), parts of the now-superseded but heritage-listed Canberra Law Courts and the New Zealand Consulate in Canberra (during his period

working for Junken Freeman), the now-derelict Jivkoff factory in Burswood, the Martin Clarke recording Studio in East Fremantle, the Northam Library (1971) — notable for its curved roof and walls — and the Northam Council Office added a couple of years later. Warren showed a picture of the curved wood panels of the council office ceilings which was typical of Iwanoff's interior detailing.



³ Efforts are underway to get the remaining ones heritage-listed to preserve them as part of Perth's architectural heritage.

MANAGING CHRONIC PAIN

E. Goodchild

A somewhat smaller than usual audience attended Annabelle Taylor's talk on the management of chronic pain through the application of yoga. Annabelle is an occupational therapist with over 20 years experience who believes that yoga can be used to help manage pain by the use of gentle movement, posture and breathing exercises to relieve stress and increase relaxation.

Annabelle started by discussing pain and defining *chronic* pain. Chronic pain is pain that extends beyond the expected time for recovery (normally six to 12 weeks). Chronic pain can have serious consequences, including distraction, an adverse effect on others with whom we interact — sometimes even leading to relationship breakdowns or losing one's job. In Annabelle's words, one becomes bit "broken". Her message is that active participation in one's own pain management is more beneficial than passive reliance on medications. In this context, yoga, even some simple yoga exercises, can help put one back together.

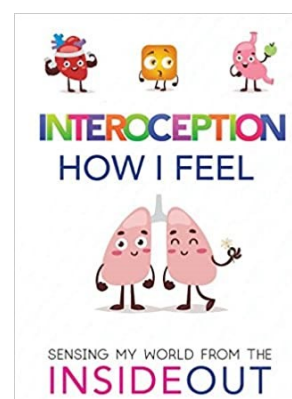


Pain is a powerful defence mechanism warning the body that it is "under attack" and suffering damage thus enabling one to stop the action causing the damage, avoid further damage, protect the injured part and start healing where possible. Unfortunately, the amount of pain does not always reflect the amount or importance of one's actual tissue damage and can persist long after any defensive or remedial action is taken — one's pain system tends to be overprotective and can become more so with time if the pain persists. Indeed, the body can learn to produce pain even after the cause has been removed and the damage healed.

Annabelle showed a video "Tame the Beast"¹ by Professor Lorimer Moseley, a leading expert in pain research in Australia — giving insights as to:

- why the body produces pain out of proportion to the damage (or even if there is no remaining external stimulus) and how the body learns pain.
- the need to retrain the body's pain response to reduce unnecessary pain.
- some ideas on how to achieve this, including keeping active — perhaps more than one is used to — and asking health professionals about how to reduce pain without medications.

Pain relief medications (passive treatments), provide temporary relief but do not prevent longer-term chronic pain. They, especially opioid-based medicines, are intended for short-term usage and can be dangerous and/or addictive if used over a longer period. However, active treatment methods — especially ones using body movement and exercise — can suppress the pain system over time, preventing the unchecked growth in pain overprotection and reducing pain to levels commensurate with the extant damage.



Annabelle described using yoga as a method of active treatment; yoga includes many different forms of exercise to suit different people and types of pain. She introduced the concept of *interoception*, defined as the perception of the internal state of the body, which, she maintains, is critical for the management of pain. She went on to describe a number of yoga techniques, including the use of sound, posture and movement to reduce the dominance of pain and, over time, to retrain one's pain system back to a proper balance between the physical stimulus and pain. Throughout her talk she emphasised the importance of matching one's breathing to the exercise.

For the remainder of her time, Annabelle led the audience through demonstrations of various yoga techniques which may help most people.



¹ [Tame The Beast - It's time to rethink persistent pain - Bing video](#)

WASFR Investment Group Update



On 6th July, Romano Sala Tenna from Katana Capital Limited addressed 19 WASFR members and guests about the long term attractiveness of investing in shares listed on the ASX. He stressed the high importance of only ingesting in companies that have sound fundamentals and of the benefits achieved by compounding (i.e. reinvesting dividends/interest earned). Romano answered numerous questions ranging from uranium stocks to Collins Food (KFC) to crypto currencies.



The next meeting of the Investment Group will be 10am on Wednesday 7th September.

**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 JULY 2022**.

Before commencing the meeting the President advised that the Manager of the Bowling Club had kindly consented to give a short demonstration of the Defibrillator machine that is kept in the Bowling Club. This machine is located on the wall in the Bar room at the Southern end of the building. Operation simply involves opening the bag and then lifting the lid. A mechanical voice will then proceed to tell the operator what to do. Note that the first instruction is to call 000 and ask for an ambulance. If an instruction is not correctly followed then the voice will repeat the instruction until it is properly carried out.

The President opened the meeting at 10.15am and welcomed the 29 members and 18 visitors attending.

APOLOGIES: V. Payne, E. & S. Goodchild, H. Ellis, R. Wyatt, S. Black, M. Walsh, M. & K. Barker and M. Collett.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: Moved by I. Moller, seconded R. Ellis, that the Minutes of the meeting held 10th June 2022 be accepted as a true record. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING:

WA Seniors Alliance (WASA): Apart from the situation regarding the membership of National Seniors there is little to report. An offer was made by a member of WASFR (who is also a member of National Seniors), to fill the vacancy on the Committee. Unfortunately, this offer was not accepted by the Chair of the PAG group in National Seniors. A brief mention was made of the possibility of reintroducing the item regarding the aggregation of Land Tax in next year's submission.

Investment Group: Around 20 members attended the meeting held on Wednesday 6th July. The guest speaker from Katana Capital Ltd. emphasised the long-term attractiveness of investing in shares listed on the ASX. He stressed the importance of only investing in companies that have sound fundamentals and of the benefits achieved by compounding (i.e. reinvesting dividends/interest earned). General advice was that people should not panic re the current downturn. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 6th September, commencing at 9.50am.

2022/23 Federal Pre-Budget submission: The President referred to the current submission and indicated that the items relating to Deeming rates, and the MPIR on Refundable Accommodation Deposits (RADs), would be deleted. The reasoning behind this decision is that the increases in interest rates (both current and projected), mean that these matters now seem less relevant. Note that if increases in the MPIR do occur in the future then this matter could be reviewed. The government has stated that Deeming rates will be "frozen" for the next 2 years.

It has been agreed that the *Let Pensioners Work* campaign (initiated by National Seniors Australia), will be included as will an item relating to seeking a permanent reduction in the mandatory minimum drawdowns requirement for superannuation payments.

The matter of asking for coverage for those over 65 in the NDIS legislation, or added to the Aged Care legislation, is still not clear. Contact has been made with National Seniors Australia in an effort to determine what preference they might have. Contact has also been made with other retiree organisations in other States (there is a belief that organisations should be trying to be consistent with any approaches to government). With the Budget due to be delivered in October it is hoped that WASFR will have this submission completed in the next few weeks.

Meeting with the Member for Curtin: The President met with the new Member for Curtin (M/s Kate Chaney), on Wednesday 6th July. M/s Chaney is new to the political arena but is quickly becoming acquainted with all of the "mysteries" involved with dealing with such a large number of politicians when visiting Canberra. There is no question that she has abundant reserves of energy, and commitment, to ensure that the government delivers on the many election promises that were made. There was time for some discussion on some of the items in the last Federal submission.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Emails re Investors group
- Emails from National Seniors Australia - *NSA Connect* plus media releases
- Email from Dr. Anne Aly
- Emails re TV appearance - concerning superannuation
- Emails re the NDIS - Including to National Seniors (re Federal submission)
- Emails from Town of Cambridge
- Emails to Kate Chaney's office
- Email from Senator M. Cash's office - invitation for interview (did not take place)
- Emails re guest speakers
- Emails to several prospective new members
- Email from SUPA (Seniors United Party of Australia)
- Letter from Dept. of Social Services (Bill Shorten)
- A.I.R. Perth - Minutes plus June newsletter
- ACOSS media releases (2)
- COTA WA - *Connections* June & July newsletters
- *SuperGuide* - June newsletter
- SMSF Weekly News Digests (6)
- Gold Coast Retirees - July newsletter
- Brisbane North Retirees - July 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 July 2022 amount to \$6,793.30, with outstanding accounts totalling \$161.95. A brief mention was made about the old laptop computer previously returned - has now been purchased by a member. No questions from members.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

AGM: The President reminded members that next month's meeting will include our AGM. Hopefully, the current Committee members will stay on for another year, however, there is always the need for some "new blood" to revitalise the group - members were encouraged to consider volunteering.

Other: One member mentioned his recent experience in applying for the CSHC - it seems that the necessary legislation has not been completed. The President said that, prior to the election, both parties had promised to extend the limits to \$90,000 and \$144,000 and he felt confident that such a change will happen - it is very likely that it would be backdated to 1 July.

After the morning tea break the President welcomed Ron Banks who gave an interesting talk on "*Growing up in Perth in the 1950s*". This was a very informal talk and generated many comments, and observations, from the audience - more like a "fireside chat" that was very well received by those present.

Speakers for the following months are as follows

12 August	Dr. Clive Boddy	" <i>Corporate Psychopaths</i> "
9 September	Sue Boyd	" <i>An Australian woman's journey through International Affairs.</i> "
14 October	still to be confirmed	
11 November	Christmas Party	" <i>The band Fragments</i> "

Confirmed

Date

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: FRIDAY 12 AUGUST 2022

**WASFR Inc. does not give advice on any personal, or financial, matters.
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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

YOUR COMMITTEE

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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.

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WASFR NEWS

Is printed by

Kate Chaney
Member for Curtin



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TALK TO RON, SHARON OR MARGARET
IF YOU WISH TO GET INVOLVED.



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Searching for
Volunteers