



MINUTES

Minutes of the General Meeting of WASFR Inc. held at the Cambridge Bowling Club, Howtree Place, Floreat, on Friday **10th NOVEMBER 2023.**

The President opened the meeting at 10.05am and extended a warm welcome to the 32 members and the 1 visitor. He reminded everyone that we do not have a guest speaker today, but we are welcoming the Band "*Fragments*" who will entertain us with some old melodies while we enjoy some Xmas fare - this should be arriving around 10.30am.

APOLOGIES:

V. Payne, T. Bailey, E. Goodchild, G. Howard, A. & M. Broomhall, I. & V. Moller, L. & J. Hollier, Y. Buters, C. & A. Damski.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: Moved R. Wyatt, and seconded by J. Yeatman, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2023 be accepted as a true record. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING:

Investment Group: The last meeting was held on 19 October with Chris Young as the main speaker. There is no specific date chosen yet for the next meeting but it is expected to be early in February 2024. All participants will be notified in advance of this meeting.

Aged Care: The President confirmed that the Aged Care Task Force has completed their interim report but no result has yet been published - their final report is due at the end of December. The Council of Elders has a new Chairperson (Ms Anne Burgess AM), and continues to meet every 2 months. Recently they have discussed the use of digital equipment and how to make it more friendly to the elderly. There was also a reference to increasing community awareness of Elder Abuse with some emphasis placed on the use of Enduring Powers of Attorney (EPOA). General discussion followed with members giving some examples of their experiences with EPOAs.

WA Minister for Seniors: The President referred to our speaker at the September meeting (WA Minister Don Punch), and pointed to the November issue of WASFR News where the answers to questions raised by members were listed. General discussion followed on the answers given and the possibility of any further action that might be taken. The subject of Stamp Duty was discussed with the general feeling from members that we did not want to see Stamp Duty replaced with an annual increase in Local Government Council Rates (the continual yearly additional costs would be far in excess of a possible single (??) payment of Stamp Duty). It was also felt that, one day, the government will agree to abolish payment of Stamp Duty when a senior decides to "downsize" (a "once only" concession). The subject of the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) was also discussed with the President stating that he would try to get a meeting with the Minister for Emergency Services and attempt to get a review of their decision (not to make any changes).

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Email from WA Treasurer - Stamp Duty
- Email from Minister for Housing
- Emails re *Seniors Peak Body*
- Emails re COTA/OPAN (Aged Care) (59 recommendations/73 pages)
- Email re Insurance at Bowling Club
 - suggestion was made that WASFR members could become Social members of the Bowling Club
- Email from Dept. of Health - Aged Care

COMMUNICATIONS cont.

- Email from Perth A.I.R. - October newsletter plus *A.I.R. Active* - October issue
- Emails from/to Minister Don Punch’s office
- Emails from National Seniors - inc. *NSA Connect*, 20th & 27th October, 2nd November
 - the President announced that the Chief Advocate, Ian Henschke, had retired
 - he would try to contact Mr Henschke and offer our Best Wishes for a Happy Retirement
- Email re Seniors Week - 12th to 19th November
- Emails from Town of Cambridge
- Email from Dept. Health - *Engaged* October newsletter
- Emails re NDIS Class action (Mityr Lawyers - over 65s)
 - the President has contacted Mityr Lawyers in an effort to determine the latest development
- Email from Seniors United Party of Australia
- Letter from Minister for Emergency Services
 - an effort will be made to see the Minister and ask for a review of their decision
- Letters from NAB - seeking details etc.
- COTA WA - November newsletter
 - COTA WA have moved to West Perth but, at this stage, are difficult to contact
- Brisbane North Retirees - November newsletter
- Gold Coast Retirees - November newsletter
- SMSF Weekly News Digests (5)
- CPSA News (5)

FINANCE: In the absence of the Treasurer, M. Harris, the President invited members to look at the monthly financial statement printed on the reverse of today’s Agenda. Funds available as at 3 November were \$7,347.94 with outstanding accounts amounting to \$160.00. No questions from members

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Other: The President spoke about the current situation with Committee members. Several Committee members are “getting on” and it is important that all members consider volunteering for this Committee. Whilst it may be possible for the current occupants to continue on for another year, the time will come when this will not be the case and one alternative could result in the end of WA Self Funded Retirees Inc. The President said that the Committee had decided to email copies of the Minutes of monthly meetings to all those that have a valid email address. This can be considered as a trial, and if not regarded as a worthy idea, then it can be stopped. It is felt that the benefit of members having prior knowledge of previous meetings will be an advantage when attending future meetings - it is, also, a benefit to those members who are unable to get to the monthly meetings.

Increasing Membership numbers: The President encouraged members to consider bringing a friend, family member or neighbour to one of our meetings in 2024.

The meeting was closed at 10.40am and everyone was invited to partake of the Christmas goodies that have now been placed at the back of the room. The Band “*Fragments*” commenced to play some of the “golden oldies” that were popular back in the good old days. Four Raffles were shared amongst members. At the end of the meeting the President wished everyone a Merry Christmas and looked forward to seeing them again at the next meeting early next year.

Speakers for the following months are as follows

9 February	Andreas Walewski	<i>Home Care Packages/ My Aged Care/ACAT etc.</i>
8 March	John Viska	<i>Historic Gardens of Perth: European Settlement to Modernism</i>
12 April	Ron Banks	<i>Why men go to War</i>

Confirmed

Date

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: FRIDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2024

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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