

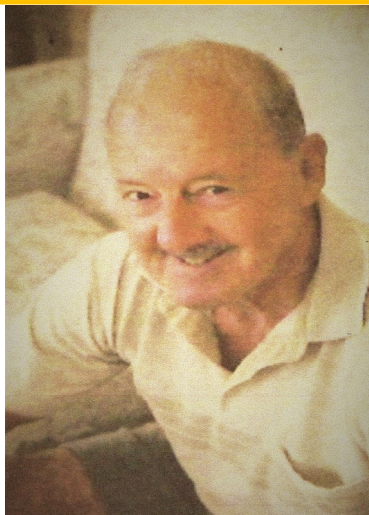


WASFR NEWS

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Morning everyone. The past few months have been quite interesting ! Of course, the main issue has been the changes made by the government to the (already legislated), Stage 3 Tax Cuts. This change in policy by the Labor government has given the LNP Opposition bundles of ammunition to throw around until the next Federal election. Claims of being a liar, and someone who can't be trusted, will be heard loud and clear for the next 12 months. Having listened to the Prime Minister, and the Treasurer, give their reasons for reviewing the decision made 4 – 5 years ago, I think that most people will accept that making this change is in the best interests of the country. Times change, and a wise government can be forgiven for adapting to the current situation - rather than burying their head in the sand and letting matters just roll along. Of course, there might be some who disagree with this comment.

There is another matter worthy of consideration and that is that these changes will still cost a lot of financial support over the next 10 years. We, Australia, cannot afford to get deeper in debt. However, as we all know, if this government had chosen to abandon the State 3 Tax Cuts completely, then that would be political suicide - confined to another 5 – 6 years in Opposition. Politics can be tough.

The one thing that no-one seems to have mentioned is that most superannuants pay no Tax at all - so it is of no real consequence to them. I imagine that some of them will be mildly pleased that their children will, in the main, be better off ?

Australians in Retirement: The WASFR Committee had an approach from the WA President of *Australians in Retirement* (A.I.R.) two months ago where it was suggested that we could benefit from amalgamating with them. Both organisations have similar objectives and it was said that we all would benefit by combining forces. Accompanied by the WA Secretary of *Superannuated Commonwealth Officers' Assn. (WA) Inc.* - (SCOAWA), I met with the WA President of A.I.R. on 1st December. We had a friendly meeting (lasted for well over the hour), and it was agreed that I would go back to the WASFR Committee and discuss, in detail, the pros and cons of WASFR closing down and asking our members to join up with A.I.R.

Discussion at our Committee meeting was quite lengthy as there are many things to consider. Firstly, it should be said that A.I.R. is a Company Limited - not a WA Incorporated organisation as we are. Being a Company, all funds held by the A.I.R. Branches throughout Australia actually belong to the Company (not to the relevant Branch). If WASFR were to close down and move to A.I.R., then we would be transferring all our funds, and equipment, to A.I.R. It is common knowledge that A.I.R. is experiencing lower membership with several Branches closing down over past years. In their heyday (20 years ago), A.I.R. had 72 Branches throughout Australia - they are now down to 20 Branches (4 in WA). A.I.R. is controlled by their National Board which is based, primarily, in the Eastern States.

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The last AGM of A.I.R. (November 2023), failed to attract an applicant for the position of National President - currently being filled in an Acting capacity by the National Deputy President.

Most of you will remember back in 2009/10 when we were a Branch of A.I.R. Some will also remember the problems we were having being controlled by a National Board based, primarily, in the Eastern States. Without going into too much detail, after A.I.R.'s AGM in 2009, we conducted a survey amongst members asking whether we should remain as a part of A.I.R. - or start up a new organisation on our own. As you know, the overwhelming result was that we should leave A.I.R. and start up on our own. Funds held by us at the time (around \$7,000), had to be relinquished - same for our speaker system. In order to register WA Self Funded Retirees Inc. with the WA government we were required to start up a Bank account. Six of us put in \$100 each (this has since been refunded). We approached Lotterywest for a grant and were then able to purchase a new laptop and a new speaker system. We also had to draw up a new Constitution before being accepted as a fully registered Incorporated organisation.

Perhaps the main reason for leaving A.I.R. in 2010 was that we were dissatisfied with the inability of the National Board to listen to what we had to say on a number of issues (including the Federal Pre-Budget submissions). It is fair to say that not all those A.I.R. members who seemed to ignore us are still in office. After some discussion, your Committee ended up by choosing to stay as we are.

While the current Committee members remain, we feel that we are able to put forward valid comments on a number of topics when invited to do so by the government. We also feel that we are proficient in regard to our Federal submissions, and our contacts with both State and Federal politicians. As has been previously stated, some Committee members are getting older and cannot be expected to go on forever. When the time comes, and some will stand down, then, unless we can get some fresh blood, it may be time to reconsider our position - until that day, we do not intend to change.

It was agreed that this subject would feature on page 1 of the February issue of WASFR News in the expectation that all of you will become aware of this approach from A.I.R. If there are some of you who feel that we have made the wrong decision, then please contact one of the Committee and voice your opinions. Also, if any of you feel inclined to cancel your WASFR membership, and move across to A.I.R., then you are perfectly entitled to do so - perhaps you might tell us why you have chosen to do this? A.I.R.'s membership fees are \$32 single, and \$48 for a couple.

2024/25 Federal Pre-Budget submission: Apart from a different order of priority, we have deleted the item that dealt with minimum mandatory drawdowns from superannuation and replaced it with a request for more federal funding for Oral and Dental Health for Seniors. We received a letter from the Asst. Treasurer (copy on page 4), that clearly sets out the government's reasons for refusing to change the minimum drawdown rates. After some consideration, we accepted that there was no chance of any changes being made. A copy of the summary of our submissions is on page 5 (no room to include the whole 8 pages). A copy of the full submission is on our website.

Objective of Superannuation: This matter has been tossed around by different governments since the Financial System Inquiry in 2014 - again in 2016, and also in the 2020 Retirement Income Review. We lodged a response to the government's "Consultation Paper" in March 2023 (copy on our website). On 11 December 2023 we received another invitation from the government to offer comments on the *Superannuation (Objective) Bill 2023*. The government's preferred wording is "**The objective of superannuation is to preserve savings to deliver income for a dignified retirement, alongside government support, in an equitable and sustainable way.**" The Committee feels that the words "dignified", "equitable" and "sustainable" are open to many different interpretations and should be deleted. Our submission (copy on web-site) offered the following alternative "**The objective of superannuation is to preserve and grow savings, and to deliver income and access to their capital during a person's retirement from paid work.**" We have circulated our thoughts to other retiree organisations but, apart from National Seniors, have yet to see what they think. Note: We are wondering why the government is delving into this subject again - are there some changes being considered for superannuation?

Deeming Rates: Whilst this may not be important to some retirees, they are significant when calculating eligibility for a part Age pension - in addition to eligibility for a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC). The rates were frozen (0.25% and 2.25%), during the COVID pandemic till 30 June 2024. We have lodged a submission with the government asking that the Above the Threshold Rate (**ATR**) be 1% below whatever the RBA Cash Rate happens to be at that time, with the Below the Threshold Rate (**BTR**) 3% below whatever the RBA Cash happens to be.

With the current Cash Rate being 4.35% this would mean the ATR would become 3.35%, and the BTR become 1.35%. There should be a minimum of, say, 0.50% for the BTR and 2.50% for the ATR. No decision yet from the government. We circulated our submission to other retiree organisations (including National Seniors), in the hope that they will support something similar.

Proposal to Abolish Cheques: This matter was brought to our attention by one of our members. Initially we recognised that this affects the whole community and may not be within our charter of focusing on matters important to Seniors. However, it was pointed out that those over 60 would be the most affected if/when cheques are abolished so we prepared a submission asking that a deferral of 10 years be considered. We accept that, one day, transfers of funds will be concentrated on electronic means. However, there are some elderly retirees who are not computer literate and there are some places within this country where telephonic communications are below the required standard. There are also remote localities where there is no Bank, and, quite often, no Post Office. By delaying the implementation of this ban we give time for telephonic communications to be extended/upgraded plus a reduction in the number of elderly retirees who have no access to, or ability to manage, computers. We have asked the government for a response indicating how they see these problems being addressed if they go ahead with the current policy of ceasing the issuance of Bank cheques in 2025 - no response yet.

Aged Care: The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety commenced in October 2018 and completed its final report on 1 March 2021 (148 recommendations). The first Council of Elders (to examine all the recommendations) completed their 2 year term of office in December 2023, and the second Council of Elders commenced in January 2024. There was an Aged Care Taskforce created in June 2023 with their final report required by December 2023. The Taskforce was, primarily, tasked with commenting on the funding arrangements for Aged Care. Their report, although presented to the government in January, has not yet been made public. There have been lots of "consultation sessions" conducted on the draft of a new Aged Care Act - which is expected to come into force on 1 July 2024. Unfortunately, the few sessions I have been involved in (including a 1.5 hour webinar), failed to actually give any specific information. There are 2 four hour sessions being conducted by the Dept. of Health and Aged Care in Perth on 29th and 30th January - plus a 2 hour session being conducted by Kate Chaney on 30th January in Mt. Claremont. If this Act is to become Law on 1 July then some things need to happen pretty quickly !

WA Seniors Strategy 2023 – 2033: You may recall that this 10 year strategy was launched in April 2023 promising to do lots of things that could be to the benefit of Seniors in WA. Apart from the release of a survey form last December, inviting comments from Seniors, there has not been much activity. The survey form covered "online services" and "Seniors wellbeing" together with asking if we had ever experienced "ageism". Another development is the invitation (last November), for organisations to tender for a new "Seniors Peak Body" - which will "represent older people in WA and will work collaboratively with the State government to drive positive outcomes". Enquiries with the Dept. of Communities regarding the present position showed that this is still a work in progress. It is just possible that COTA WA could end up with this responsibility.

COTA WA: Very briefly, there has been a fairly major change with the administration of COTA WA. The previous CEO departed from the organisation 5 – 6 months ago and several of the staff also moved. I met with the new CEO (who comes from the E/States), last December and was quite impressed with his desire to move things along. We agreed that we would meet up again early in 2024 once he had had time to properly settle in to his new position.

Our next meeting is on Friday **9th February** where our guest speaker will be Andreas Walewski who will discuss the latest information on Home Care Packages, My Aged Care and issues involving ACAT. This topic will surely be of interest to many of us - especially now that the amalgamation of the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP), (which provides entry levels services to older people), will now transition to the new program no earlier than 1 July 2027 - originally this was due to occur on 1 July 2023.

We need new members so why don't you consider bringing a friend/family member along with you ?

Ron de Gruchy

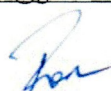


THE HON STEPHEN JONES MP
ASSISTANT TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES

Ref: MC23-020052

Mr Ron de Gruchy
President
WA Self Funded Retirees
wasfrinc@gmail.com

24 NOV 2023


Dear Mr de Gruchy

Thank you for your correspondence to the Hon Don Punch MLA, Minister for Regional Development, Disability Services, Fisheries, Seniors and Ageing, and Volunteering, concerning the superannuation minimum drawdown rates. Your correspondence has been referred to me as the matter falls within my portfolio responsibilities.

Minimum drawdown requirements play an important role in the superannuation system. Superannuation pensions enjoy substantial tax concessions, both during the accumulation phase and in retirement. Income derived from assets supporting pensions is exempt from tax. In return for this concessional treatment, it is essential that pensions are used for genuine retirement income purposes. The requirement to make a minimum payment each year aims to support this objective.

There is no requirement to spend the amounts drawn down as a result of complying with the minimum drawdown requirements. The amounts withdrawn can be placed in a savings vehicle outside of the superannuation system, where they will receive the benefit of other tax concessions only available to older Australians such as the seniors and pensioners tax offset.

Retirees who wish to conserve their capital also have the option of stopping their superannuation pension and returning the balance to the accumulation phase, where it will not be subject to a minimum drawdown requirement (and investment earnings will be subject to tax in the fund at a rate of 15 per cent).

I have copied this letter to the Hon Don Punch MLA, Minister for Regional Development; Disability Services; Fisheries; Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering.

Thank you again for your letter, and I trust that this information is of use to you.

Yours sincerely


The Hon Stephen Jones MP

CC: The Hon Don Punch MLA, Minister for Regional Development; Disability Services; Fisheries; Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering.

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 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 Aged Care legislation should be amended so as to produce the desired outcome.

Recommendation 3:

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

Recommendation 4:

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

Recommendation 5:

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.

Recommendation 6:

That Medicare establish a Senior Dental Benefits Scheme for people who live in residential aged care or for older persons in the community. For health workers and unpaid carers, training in oral health care, and AI screening for dental diseases should be made available via Primary Health Networks (PHNs).

Recommendation 7:

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 8:

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 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.

RETIREMENT LIVING/VILLAGE LIFE

E. Goodchild

The guest speaker for our October meeting was Deborah Searle Senior Sales Manager at Parkland Villas, Woodlands. After working in residential real-estate for 20 years, Deborah specialised in retirement living — first as Village Manager and Sales Manager at Harbourside Village, Mindarie then, from 2017, as licensee for Lendlease RL Realty Pty. Ltd. and Senior Sales Manager at Keyton Parkland Villas. Her talk covered not only the benefits of retirement villages but also the practicalities such as how a retirement village operates on a day-to-day basis and the legal and financial aspects of it. Obviously, her talk was based on her experience with Keyton and, particularly, Parkland Villas, but the same considerations would apply to other “villages” and providers.



(NB: Not having been present at Deborah's talk, I have had to prepare this summary from her presentation slides and an incomplete recording of the talk together with the Keyton publicity material that she provided at the time. As a result, the following may not be a totally accurate reflection of her talk but does cover the main topics discussed.)

She acknowledged that retirement village life is not for everyone, but for many over-55's it is an attractive proposition offering a range of potential benefits, such as:

- * Financial — the costs of village life are often cheaper and more predictable than those involved in running the family home while the proceeds from selling the family home may well exceed the capital costs involved in purchasing or leasing a unit in a village, leaving spare cash for other purposes — potentially significant benefits for retirees on a fixed income.
- * Health — the benefit of having on-site staff and (usually) health services in close proximity is clear as one gets older. Some villages, such as Parklands, have arrangements with local health practices who provide on-site clinics or visits.
- * Social — the “village” environment can offer many benefits both in terms of general wellbeing and in the ready availability of social activities and entertainment facilities. Of course, the specific facilities offered will differ from village to village.

She has noticed a significant change in the demographic of the village residents. When she first started at Parklands Villas, the population was mostly elderly women, but now there are more couples and single men there and the average age is much lower.

During her talk, Deborah played a video showing Parklands Villas residents giving their views (all very favourable, of course), of their life and experiences in the village. Notwithstanding the benefits of village life, it is important that the decision to adopt the lifestyle is based on accurate, up-to-date and complete information and a proper understanding of the contractual and financial commitments involved. The contract will contain the terms and conditions pertaining to the acquisition, residence in and departure terms pertaining to a unit in a village and should also detail the facilities and services available to residents (these will differ between different operators and different villages). For example, pets (within reason), are welcome in Parkland Villas, but not all villages accept them. This, along with many other factors needs to be considered when choosing a village.

The contract will also cover the various charges and fees for that unit — including, broadly, any ongoing charge due on entry to the village, ongoing service charges (to cover the running costs of the village and its facilities), and exit charges — and what repayments will be due on sale or re-lease of the unit.

Ingoing Charges: There are usually several different options for funding the initial purchase/lease of a unit in a retirement village to suit different people's financial circumstances and attitudes. The options will vary from company to company but usually offer at least the choice between pay-as you-go (daily charge), an up-front payment (possibly with a deferred element to be paid on exit), or a “Refundable Deposit” which is repayable (without interest) on exit.

Parkland Villas is slightly unusual in that it is what is called a “purple title” village whereby the freehold title is held in equal shares by all the residents. Even so, it has three options for the ingoing charge:

1 There is a minimum age limit of 55 to enter a retirement village. For couples, only one member need be that age; the other can be younger.

Cont. from page 6

- * the Prepaid Plan, where one makes a single, up-front payment of the management fees along with the purchase price of one's chosen unit. This involves a higher initial cost but avoids any deferred fees on leaving the village and allows one to benefit from some of the capital gain when the unit is sold on.
- * the Refundable Contribution Plan, where one pays an establishment fee plus a refundable contribution (refundable on exit). Again, there are no deferred fees to pay on exit however, one does not benefit from any capital gain on the sale of the unit or interest on what is, in effect, a loan.
- * the Deferred Management Fee plans where a portion of the purchase price is deferred until one leaves the village upon which the deferred fee becomes payable. Parklands Villas offer two versions of this plan: with and without capital gains entitlements — obviously with different initial and deferred costs.

Stamp Duty: is only applicable for villages, like Parkland Villas, where one actually purchases a freehold or strata title (and not to those where one leases or licences one's unit) and is payable up front. Similarly, one is liable to rates on freehold tenures, but not on leasehold or licensed units.

Monthly Service Charges: These cover the ongoing operating costs of the village, including management of the village, upkeep, maintenance and cleaning of the communal areas and amenities, building insurance and any other community charges pertaining to the amenities offered by a particular village.

Outgoing (Exit) Charges: On leaving or selling one's village unit, any fees deferred from the ingoing charges will become due. In addition, there may be other fees and expenses becoming due on, or shortly after, leaving/selling — these include:

- * the costs of refurbishing the unit for onward sale or leasing.
- * fees and expenses involved in marketing and leasing or selling the unit.
- * other fees, detailed in the purchase/lease contract.

Outgoing (Exit) Refunds: Depending on the type of contract, there may be some refunds due on exit. These could include:

- * refund of any refundable deposit.
- * a share in any capital gain made on sale of the unit, depending on the type of contract. The village operator may retain some or all of any capital gain.
- * the sale price of the unit (less any outgoing expenses and the village operator's share of any capital gain).

After her prepared talk, she took questions from the audience, the answers to which are embedded in the summary, above.



Big Bad Russia – an earlier perspective

By Sid Breedon

A few years ago my wife Carole and I ticked off a bucket list item with a visit to Russia and here are some experiences in Moscow. By choice we spent several days by ourselves exploring at our own pace.

Starting from our Business Class window we had a wonderful view of the snow-capped Ural Mountains that divide Asia from Europe then across Russia's vast spaces to Moscow. Fortunately we were forewarned that airport immigration is chaotic but not to be concerned because that is normal and you eventually get through the system.



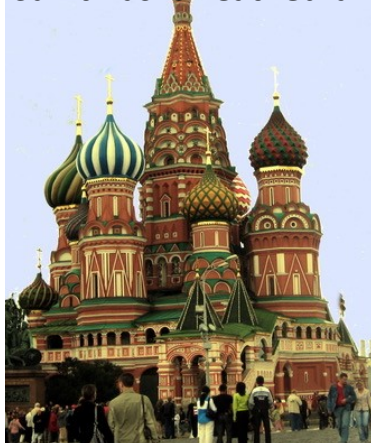
We expected the locals to be downtrodden and miserable with a few shoddy Russian cars on potholed roads. How pleasantly wrong we were. Moscow is a lively modern old city with many tall elegant Nordic women amazing us how they traversed cobblestones in stiletto heeled shoes.

At the airport taxi counter we paid the standard fee for travel to our Marriot Grand Hotel. The driver was friendly and the traffic horrendous. Unexpectedly, most vehicles were modern top brand Western European. We passed the infamous KGB Lubyanka building and shuddered at the thought of what used to go on in there.



Our hotel must have been good because two days after we left the President of the United States stayed there. We found a restaurant not far away with friendly helpful staff and Russian customers and great food.

We wanted to fully explore Red Square and to get there was by trolley bus like Perth used to have. Coming back to our hotel was not a problem because the friendly Muscovites ensured we got off at the closest stop.

**Saint Basils Cathedral**

Red Square was mind blowing. So huge and hard to imagine we were walking where those big military parades occurred. The large GUM department store is now an expensive luxury place where all we did was look. We didn't go into Lenin's Mausoleum because the queue was always so long but looked up at the viewing area above the tomb where Communist leaders stand to watch military parades. At the far end is Ivan the Terrible's magnificent Saint Basils Cathedral which we visited several times to get a blue sky and sun in the best place for photos and explored inside.

Our bucket list highlight was visiting the Stalin era Moscow underground train stations. They exceeded our expectations. To save time we asked at our hotel desk which stations were best. Fortunately standing beside us was a Qatar airline pilot who knew Moscow well. He wrote the names of several stations for us to concentrate on. Off we went starting at the nearby Metro station then alas. all signage and station names are in Cyrillic with no English subtitles but the amazingly helpful Muscovites helped us. Some spoke English and with those who couldn't we all waved arms and pointed. It was an incredibly good experience. When we overshot a station a Russian-only speaking station attendant even took us to the correct tunnel to go back the other way. One Moscow English speaking lady invited us to her home for dinner.



The station designs and decor defy description. Ceiling mosaic pictures were unbelievable and beautiful and a credit to Stalin's orders. Themes were clearly Soviet work, agriculture and military or cultural. Space is too short to describe them here but suffice to say, we were blown away.



Moscow Canal, to the Volga River we visited many other fabulous places and sites around Moscow but that is another story. Our time in Moscow came to an end when joining our cruise at the "Five Seas port". The magnificent Soviet era Northern River

Terminal building has fallen into disrepair and entry forbidden however we two managed to find a way in and climb the stairway to the outside top marvelling at the Soviet adornments and imagining a bygone era.

From here we cruised along that forced labour marvel of engineering, the Moscow Canal, to the Volga River and all its wonders along the way to St Petersburg.

In hindsight we're fortunate to have visited when we did because we would not consider such in today's political climate – James Bond and Lubyanka beckons!





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 **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
- 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.

State & Federal Advocates for Fully and Partly Self Funded Retirees

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COMMUNICATIONS: cont.

- 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 (Mitry Lawyers - over 65s)
 - the President has contacted Mitry 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. of WASFR's Rules
- 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

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

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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 COMMITTEEWeb site: www.wasfr.org.au**President:**

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email: rdegruchy@bigpond.com**Vice-President:**

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Margaret Cresswell 0499 968 411

Joe McPhail 9446 7376

Peter Farr 0419 905 864

Robert Ellis 0458 953 805

Ian Stann 0477 788 031

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

Kate Chaney
Member for Curtin

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