

WESTERN AUSTRALIA SELF FUNDED RETIREES Inc.

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MINUTES

Minutes of the General Meeting of WASFR Inc. held at the Cambridge Bowling Club, Howtree Place, Floreat, on Friday 12 APRIL 2024.

The President opened the meeting at 10am and extended a warm welcome to the 25 members and 11 visitors.

APOLOGIES:

V. Payne, R. & J. Dawson, G. & J. Howard, W. Court.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: Moved R. Wyatt and seconded by G. English, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2024 be accepted as a true record. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING:

Investment Group: P. Farr announced that the next meeting will be on Thursday 18th April commencing at 9.50am. The guest speaker will be Brendan Bate from HLB Mann Judd and his topic will be *The Family Conference*. This talk will cover many of the practical issues that all of us should discuss with our families prior to anyone passing away e.g. what type of funeral you want, where are all your important documents kept (Will, Enduring Power of Attorney, Title Deeds, various passwords, details of Bank accounts etc. etc.). This subject is one that will be of interest to everyone.

Aged Care: There is still a lack of detail available to the general public concerning recommendations from the Aged Care Taskforce and the government's position regarding the proposed new Aged Care Act. It was announced yesterday that the new Aged Care Act would now not be commencing on 1 July 2024, but is being postponed to some later date (unknown at this stage). Although the Federal Budget is not till next month we believe that there will not be any increase in the Medicare levy to help with the funding of Aged Care. Details surrounding the future of Refundable Accommodation Deposits (RADs) is not clear but there is a fairly strong feeling that they could be phased out over a period of (??) 5 – 10 years. Submissions are still being forwarded to the government from many sources - including COTA and OPAN (149 recommendations in their joint submission).

Emergency Services Levy (ESL): The President encouraged members to look at the summary of the ESL that is available at the main table. He reiterated that it was not acceptable for the ESL to be calculated mainly on how close someone lived to a Fire Station. Of the 4 residential levels comprised in the ESL, category 1 is twice as expensive as category 3 - yet both levels apply to properties in the metropolitan area. The cost involved in fighting the several thousand fires located in the country is vastly more expensive than fighting a fire in a suburban property. Note that the ESL also covers storms, cyclones, floods, road crashes, searching for missing persons etc. together with any other emergencies on land and at sea. The President continues to seek a personal meeting with the Minister for Emergency Services.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Emails re Aged Care Taskforce - incl. ACRN Media Release (and Dental Services)
- Emails from COTA & OPAN re Aged Care (149 recommendations)
- Emails re 2024/25 Federal Pre-Budget submission & State submission
copies have been distributed and we are in the process of visiting politicians
- Emails re Public Liability Insurance
the President outlined the efforts expended in obtaining details re Public Liability Insurance and that discussion at last week's Committee meeting resulted in a decision that this would be raised at today's General meeting. S. Goodchild spoke about the results received from various Insurers and that the best quote was \$650 pa (with an excess of \$1,000). P. Farr spoke against any decision to obtain Insurance saying that the chances of a claim being involved was minimal. I. Stann agreed with this concept. Several other members voiced their opinion that Insurance was a necessary expense and the chances of someone having a fall and lodging a claim was always present. The President stated that

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COMMUNICATIONS cont.

he was in favour of spending the \$650 on Insurance but would be guided on what the Committee decides after members at next month’s meeting are able to voice their opinion. The comment was made that, in the event of no decision, the Committee would consider canvassing every member of WASFR - either by email or a hard copy in the mail.

- Email from NAB - Bank details OK
- Emails re COTA/OPAN (Aged Care) - incl. “*The National Advocate*” from OPAN (March edition)
- Emails re OPAN Webinar 27 March 2024 also *OPAN Age With Rights Rally* (9th April)
- Email re Stamp Duty (Residential)
- Emails from A.I.R. - Perth newsletter plus *AIR ACTIVE* (March)
- Emails re recruitment
 - the President has been in touch with the Social Convenor from the Ocean Gardens Retirement Village but has not yet been successful in obtaining agreement to having a representative from WASFR visit their establishment and discuss some of the issues that we are pursuing.
- Email from Kate Chaney - March newsletter
- Emails (44) re meeting of WA Seniors Alliance (concerning make up of the 2024/25 submission)
- Emails from National Seniors - inc. *NSA Connect* 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th March and 3rd April also Autumn edition of *OUR GENERATION* and 4 emails re Car Insurance, Aged Care decisions, Umbrellas & Roadside assistance
- Emails to COTA WA re meeting with new CEO - the President met with the new CEO on 9 April
- Email from Town of Cambridge
- Email from Dept. Health - *Engaged* March edition
- Letter from Bank of Queensland - Term Deposit matures 11 April 2024
- Brisbane North Retirees - April newsletter
- Emails from ACOSS (2)
 - suggestions surrounding Tax reforms to fund essential services etc. may not be popular with everyone
- SMSF Weekly News Digests (6)

FINANCE: The Treasurer, M. Harris, invited members to look at the monthly financial statement printed on the reverse of today’s Agenda. Funds available as at 5th April were down to \$6,156.67 with no outstanding accounts. The Treasurer announced that the Committee had agreed to increase membership fees by \$5 per person commencing as from 1 July 2024. This is the first increase since we started 14 years ago and brings the fees to \$25 for singles and \$40 for couples. A comment was made that if WASFR goes ahead with a Public Liability Insurance policy then an increase in fees seems justified. No further questions from members.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Other: The President reminded members that next month’s meeting will involve a mobile van for conducting hearing tests for anyone who wishes to be involved. Those interested should give their names to S. Goodchild as soon as possible. Note: If there are no members interested in taking a test then the mobile van will be cancelled.

After the morning tea break the President introduced Ron Banks who presented his thoughts on “*Why Men go to War*”. Ron is a retired journalist, a historian and an author who has written several books on a variety of topics

- he is also the leader of the Band *Fragments* who have played their brand of music at our last 2 Christmas functions. Ron’s presentation was well received and encouraged a number of members to speak about their memories of family members who had been involved in past World Wars.

A small presentation was made by the President to Ron for his interesting presentation.

Speakers for the following months are as follows

10 May	Jordan Bishop	<i>Lions – Lets Talk Hearing</i>
14 June	Odette Gaynor	<i>Incontinence - it is not Taboo to talk about the Loo</i>
12 July	Professor Dr. Don McFarlane	<i>The importance of Urbane Wet Lands - the Perry Lakes Revival Project</i>

Confirmed

Date

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: FRIDAY 10 MAY 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.

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