



## MINUTES

Minutes of the General meeting of WASFR Inc. held at the Cambridge Bowling Club, Howtree Place, Floreat, on Friday **11 OCTOBER 2024**.

The President opened the meeting at 10.10am after a last minute setting the hall up with tables and chairs - the Bowling Club was locked up when Committee members arrived at 9.20am. The President explained to members that the Manager was interstate and we had to go to the Secretary's residence to get a key. A warm welcome was extended to the 8 visitors and 22 members.

### **APOLOGIES:**

V. Payne, J. Yeatman, R. & J. Dawson, J. & G. Howard, H. Ellis, M. & K. Barker.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** Moved R. Wyatt and seconded by R. Bannerman, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2024 be accepted as a true record. Carried.

### **BUSINESS ARISING:**

**Investment Group:** P. Farr said that no date has been set for the next meeting - most probably not now until after Christmas. R. Wyatt said that A.I.R. had an investor's meeting scheduled for 1.30pm on Wednesday 16 October and was open to anyone who might be interested in listening to the guest speaker (D. Brooke), speak on the subject "*Investing in gold*".

**WA Seniors Peak Body:** As previously explained the 3 year contract (commencing 1 July 2024), as the *WA Seniors Peak Body* has been granted to Advocare. The President said that, although Advocare has been in existence for over 25 years, we have had very little experience dealing with them. Once the announcement had been made a meeting was held on 10 July with the acting CEO in an effort to establish a good working relationship. It was stated that it was "early days" for Advocare to come to grips with their new responsibilities and they would try to improve the situation within the following months. A second meeting took place on 27 September (M. Walsh and M. Cain also present), where the CEO produced an outline of Advocare's future activities. It was clear that Advocare are responsible to the WA Minister for Seniors and are focused on implementing actions that line up with the *WA State Seniors Strategy 2023 – 2033* (launched in April 2023). Funding for Advocare comes from both the WA and Federal governments. They have a strong connection with OPAN which is the centrally located organisation that is fully funded by the Federal government. Although Advocare can contact other WA government departments it does not appear that that will be a common occurrence. It seems that they are mainly concerned with providing support to the elderly through "*information, advice and facilitating opportunities*". The existence of the WA Seniors Alliance was discussed but there was no indication that Advocare would assume this responsibility. Advocare is in the process of calling for expressions of interest for two groups - a *Seniors Reference Group* and a *Seniors Sector Leaders Group*. The *Seniors Reference Group* will be a diverse group of representatives and will include a focus on the LGBTQIA and Aboriginal communities. The *Seniors Sector Leaders Group* will be made up of key seniors, community and local government organisations supporting older West Australians. The Committee of WASFR is considering nominating for the *Seniors Sector Leaders Group*. Both groups are expected to commence in January/February next year. The new CEO (Bev Jowle) is due to commence early in November and another meeting is being scheduled for February 2025.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Emails re guest speakers
- Emails re new Aged Care Act (incl. RADs versus DAPs)
- Emails from OPAN - incl. "*The National Advocate*" September edition
- Emails from COTA Australia - Spring newsletter, plus survey and webinar 24<sup>th</sup> September

**COMMUNICATIONS:** *cont.*

- Emails to M. Keogh and P. Gorman (re Federal submission)
- Email from A.I.R. - Perth September & October newsletters/minutes
- Emails (many) re *WA Seniors Peak Body/Advocare* - meeting on 27 September
- Email from Advocare - invitation to Official Launch of the WA Seniors Peak Body (14 November)
- Email from Kate Chaney - September newsletter
- Email from Town of Cambridge
- Emails from National Seniors - inc. *NSA Connect* 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September, 4<sup>th</sup> October plus Spring edition of "*Our Generation*"
- Emails from Dept. Health - "*Engaged*" September edition plus re new Aged Care Act
- Email re Oral/Dental Health Plan for Seniors
- Brisbane North Retirees - October newsletter
- Emails from ACOSS (1)
- SMSF Weekly News Digests (7)

**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 4 October were \$7,090.64 with no outstanding accounts. No questions from members. M. Harris reminded members that they are invited to record their proposed attendance at next month's meeting in an effort to provide suitable catering.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**Christmas Party:** Arrangements are well in hand for next month's Christmas Party. As usual, there will not be any guest speakers - will have the Band "*Fragments*" to provide some entertainment.

**2025/26 Federal Pre-Budget submission:** The President said that there will be an addition of one item for the 2025/26 submission - the item relating to abolishing the Work Test would be dropped. Members were encouraged to suggest any appropriate items.

**Other:** P. Farr spoke about the importance of ensuring that proper details were included in the making of a Will - including where it is located. The Will Bank at Public Trustees was mentioned - no cost. Mention was also made of problems that can arise when a property is insured in one person's name and then that person dies - the insurance is no longer applicable. The location of items such as passwords, spare keys, Bank details etc. is important - placing them in a safe where the combination is only known to the deceased person is not a wise move.

After the morning tea break the President introduced Nigel Farrier who proceeded to talk about the benefits of owning an electric powered vehicle. Nigel runs a YouTube channel called "*Grumpy Old Man and his EV*" where he covers not only electric vehicles but renewable energy and climate change. Nigel has owned several EVs and is currently the proud owner of a Tesla model Y. Many questions were raised covering recharging, range, costs, batteries and the likelihood of catching fire at inappropriate times note: extremely unlikely. At the conclusion of his talk the President made a small presentation to Nigel.

Speakers for the following months are as follows

8 November	Christmas Party	<i>The Band "Fragments"</i> (no guest speaker)
14 February 2025	Assoc. Professor Dion Olara	<i>Suspicious Minds - AI and Driverless vehicles</i>
14 March	Lynley Barnett	<i>How Grandparents can support family members and Grandchildren facing separation/divorce</i>

Confirmed .....

Date .....

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2024**

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