

National Seniors

AUSTRALIA

Perth Western Suburbs WA

Newsletter September 2023

Perth Western Suburbs Branch usually meets at 9.30am for 10.00am on the second Thursday of each month at Mount Claremont Community Centre, 109 Montgomery Avenue, Mount Claremont WA 6010.

Bank Account Westpac:

BSB 036 063

Account 257852

Our website is:

<https://nationalseniors.com.au/about/branches/perth-western-suburbs>

Our meetings are currently subject to the COVID-19 regulations of the day as imposed by the WA State Government and the City of Nedlands. There are presently no restrictions

Acknowledgement of Country

The Members of Perth Western Suburbs Branch of National Seniors Australia wish to acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Whadjuk Noongar Nation, on whose Lands we conduct our meetings, and pay our respects to the Noongar Elders past and present.

2023-2024 Officers:

President:	Terry Middleton	0417 171 844 mylemms@bigpond.com
Vice Pres:	David Thomas	0418 448 933 david@r2rservices.com.au
Treasurer	Joseph Lieberfreund	0429 809.080 joseph@airbell.com.au
Secretary	Derek Cockle	0417 939 420 secretary@nsaperthws.org.au
Membership	Marion Laws	08 9387 8383 membership@nsaperthws.org.au
Newsletter	Terry Middleton	0417 171 844 mylemms@bigpond.com

We thank Christine Tonkin MP for enabling this newsletter to be printed

FROM THE EDITORS FLOREAT DESK

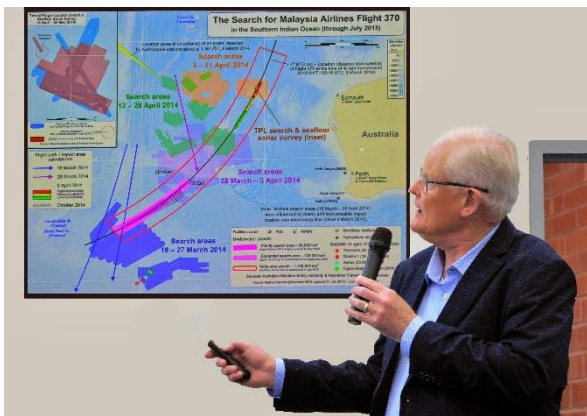
Well, the AGM is over and done with and the editor now finds himself with the role of President as well, besides social stuff etc etc. So, some other volunteers would be welcome, to provide any sort of contribution - general news, poems, photos, travelogues on recent trips, whether to Mandurah or Mauretania. If anyone would be interested in taking on the role of editor that would also be welcome.

At our August Branch Meeting, Guest Speaker Geoffrey Thomas was his own inimitable self, gushing forth with all sorts of aviation facts and statistics for the 85 or so audience and he promises to come back next year. A writeup of Geoffrey Thomas' presentation by Colette Nathan is provided herein and a very good effort it is.

Another fine concert was presented by music guru Joseph on August 31st.

An ensemble of UWA music students and graduates, headed by violinist Ryan Lee, performed an excellent mixed program that was very well received by an enthusiastic audience.

Our September Branch meeting will feature Brenton Laws of Western Power who will cover the critical subject of our future power sources, in the light of the cessation of coal fired power generation.



Geoffrey Thomas



The String Quartet



**Ryan heading le tout ensemble
LOOKING AHEAD**

September Branch Meeting, Thursday September 14th, 9.30 for 10am. This will be held at the Mt Claremont Community Centre as usual. The guest speaker will be Brenton Laws, Business Development Manager of Western Power, presenting on The Future of Electricity in WA – “Keeping the Lights On” so, it should be a very informative session and members are asked to bring some sticky questions to throw at him

A preliminary talk will be given by Antonella Segre, CEO of ADHD WA, who have moved into the building next door. It might help us understand our grandkids more.

October Branch Meeting, Thursday 12th 9,30 for 10am. This will be held at the Mt Claremont Community Centre, as usual. The principal guest speaker, the political fates willing, will be Kate Chaney MP, speaking on whatever she likes. Prior to morning tea, we will be treated to a “politically correct” enactment of Nelson, just prior to the Battle of Trafalgar, by Secretary Derek.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHANGES

Sue Haydon, known to most of us, has joined and will continue her role as “financial books checker” etc. Her “CV” is presented :-

I joined NSA when I was 50. The purpose for joining then, was to gain information prior to my retirement. After working for 35 years in management for a large Australian Retail Industry I was keen to make the most of my retirement. NSA magazines at that time offered a lot of information about things to plan for when retiring. Once I retired, I was able attend the State Conference at Floreat and connected with the then Floreat branch, which is now the Western Suburbs Branch.

Retirement has allowed me the opportunity to participate in various activities and catch up with friends, which was always difficult when working fulltime with long hours.

During the week I am involved in several research projects, some linked to Hollywood Private Hospital and ECU Joondalup. Plenty of reading and meetings to attend to provide a consumer's viewpoint. Most weekends will find me at WASO or some other arts function. Some of which I attend with my godson. I also enjoy the outdoors and the opportunity to walk around nearby lakes and Kings Park.

NSA meetings offer the chance to mix with others, learn something from varied presenters and join others at social activities as they occur. All the opportunities offered at the local NSA branch are helping to keep me active and connected in retirement” ‘



Sue Haydon

The other changes are that Joseph Lieberfreund has stepped down as president, due to his increased workload with his fulltime work position, and Terry Middleton has been appointed president. The other roles are shown on the list of officers while Geoff Jones fills the role of Presentation Coordinator.

SOCIAL EVENTS etc

Afternoon Tea at the TeeBox Café Thursday, September 21st 2.00pm

This is adjacent to the Lake Claremont Golf Course on Lapsley Rd, Claremont, and Marion is pleased to advise that 10 showed up on August 17th for the good coffee and conversation.

Kings Park Guided Wildflower Walk

The Floreat Salvos and the Town of Cambridge invite you on this walk, starting at 10am on Monday September 18th, from the front of the Zamia café, followed by coffee at the Zamia. You may get on the Salvos bus departing from Floreat Salvos, 9.15 for 10am, cost \$5. Contact Malcolm on 0418 906 478 or nolagoff@hotmail.com to book - essential.

Lunch at the Perth Flying Squadron

A tentative booking has been made for lunch at the Perth Flying Squadron, Nedlands foreshore, on Thursday Oct 5th 12 for 12.30pm. The special of the day will be any pasta dish, apart from seafood, and including a glass of house wine for \$20. Otherwise a good a la carte menu. And, there's more – you get a complimentary social membership current to 31/03/2024! Text Terry on 0417 171 844 to book.

PRESENTATION BY GEOFFREY THOMAS ON AUGUST 8TH

For those wishing to obtain a copy of Geoff's original powerpoint, please text Terry, but be warned it is a large file, ~20MB. The following is a synopsis of this talk by our member Colette Nathan :-

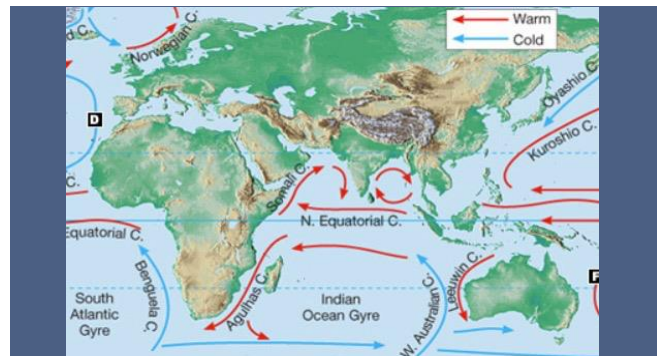
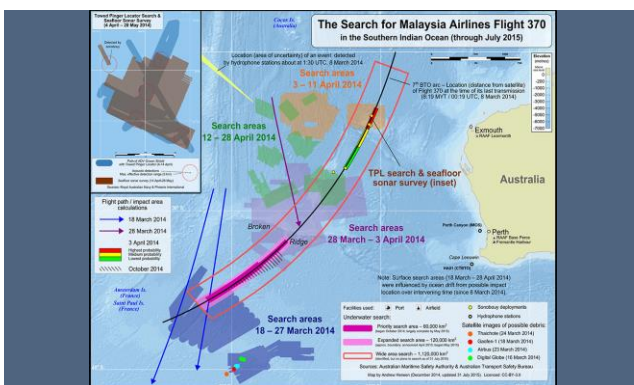
Attendees were treated to an informative and entertaining presentation by Geoffrey Thomas, aviation journalist extraordinaire. **Geoffrey titled his session “MH370 – Travel Chaos – The Truth”.**

He began with the question “Where is MH370, a plane containing 239 passengers that disappeared from radar on 8 March 2014?

Geoffrey said that while many theories still exist, current thinking is that pilot suicide was the likely cause by the chief officer locking the cabin door, depressurising the plane which would have anaesthetised all the other crew and passengers, then flying the plane until it ran out of fuel. He showed satellite records which indicated that the plane entered the Indian Ocean approximately 2000kms northwest of Perth. The last recorded radar ping being registered 6 hours after takeoff from Kuala Lumpur enroute to Beijing.

Geoffrey addressed some of the theories recently aired on a Netflix series, such as

- “a proper co-ordinated search was not initiated until 10 days later due to confusion and political obfuscation”
- “the debris field was not searched for 20 days”. Authentic debris has been found by 14 people in 27 locations over 7 countries, especially in South Africa, but no debris has been found in the South China Sea. Geoffrey believes that the wreckage of MH370 will be located soon by the use of the 78 metre robotic vessels fitted with unmanned vehicles to explore a selected area of the ocean floor



Our aviation journey then shifted to the future of air travel when Geoffrey presented “Airline chaos – the facts!!” In 2020 the airline industry lost 25 years of growth due to COVID restriction

1. Covid layoffs -46 million direct and indirect
2. Covid sickness – 30% absenteeism
3. Impacts all airline suppliers as well
4. Industry has lost \$300B in two years
5. Governments have flip-flopped on borders
6. Appalling weather-huge delays

7. Yes Qantas received \$2 billion – half to keep network going and balance to support some staff
8. If all staff to be kept on -\$12 billion
9. Lufthansa received \$15 billion
10. Many Qantas competitors are government owned

Geoffrey related that he had actually been banned “at times” due to his opinions by Qantas

Geoffrey then extended his presentation by addressing an oft repeated claim that our aviation travel contributes negatively to climate change. Basically, the aviation industry worldwide has made fuel efficiency gain of 82% since 1960 and is tracking to reduce CO2 emissions to 15% according to market based measures.

SPECIAL CONCERT AUGUST 31ST

Our music guru, Joseph, presented another morning concert by UWA Music Conservatorium students and associates, headed by Maestro Ryan Lee on violin. They all performed most professionally and won generous applause and praise from the 91+ audience for works by Strauss, Tchaikovsky and Mozart. Your editor's favourites were the andante cantabile movement from the Tchaikovsky String Quartet and Ryan's rendition of the cadenza in the Mozart violin concerto.

It is interesting to note that most of the performers also play with WAYO and several are doing other degrees, eg in biomedical science. Joseph will present another *magnus opus* later in the year.

AT THE MOVIES

Marion and Terry viewed the movie *Oppenheimer*, at the Luna, Leederville during August. It is a gripping, suspense-filled epic directed by Christopher Nolan and starring Cillian Murphy as J Robert Oppenheimer, a brilliant physicist who played the leading part in the invention of the atomic bomb during WW II. It is largely factually based, delving into his background and education and becoming involved romantically with two women who flirted with the incipient socialist movement in the 1930's.

The 3 hour film keeps you on edge throughout no less leading up to the first test in the Nevada desert when Oppenheimer admitted that in theory, a chain reaction could be set in place that would set on fire the whole atmosphere. At the end of the war he was subjected to a sham trial for alleged Soviet sympathies that could lead to them acquiring the bomb.

A brilliant production and highly entertaining,

Marion 3.5, Terry 4.5

DISCOVERING ANCIENT EGYPT

Marion and Terry also visited, in August, Boola Bardip (Perth Museum) to view this special exhibition of artifacts from the Riksmuseum van Oudheden and University of Leiden of the Netherlands. It is a truly spectacular collection and well worth the \$17.50 admission. The only minor issue is that Terry had difficulty synchronising his audio (free) device with the walk – a bit dyslectic that way.

HUMOUR

"Water" – by any oti

In 1997, a 14-year-old student at Eagle Rock Junior High School in Idaho Falls **won first prize** at the Greater Idaho Falls Science Fair by showing how conditioned we have become to alarmists spreading fear of



everything in our environment through junk science. In **his project** he urged **people to sign a petition** demanding **strict control or total elimination of the chemical — "Dihydrogen monoxide"** because:

1. It can cause excessive sweating and **vomiting**.
2. It is a major component in **acid rain**.
3. It can cause severe **burns** in its gaseous state.
4. Accidental inhalation **can kill** you.
5. It contributes to the **erosion** of landscape.
6. It **decreases** the effectiveness of car brakes.
7. It is found **in tumours** of cancer patients.

He asked **50 people** if they **support such a ban**.

43 said yes !
6 were undecided?

And **only 1 knew** that this chemical is ... **water. (H₂O)**



Courtesy Del McDonald

