

National Seniors

AUSTRALIA

Perth Western Suburbs WA

Branch Newsletter - May 2025

Meeting Venue : Our Branch 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 Bank in name of National Seniors Australia Perth Western Suburbs Branch ;

BSB: 036 063 Account: 257852

When making payment, please identify by your name & type of payment – e.g., “Concert”, etc.

Website :

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

Our meetings may be subject to the COVID-19 regulations of the day as imposed by the WA State Government and the City of Nedlands. However, 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.

BRANCH OFFICERS & COMMITTEE FOR 2024/2025

President:	Joseph Lieberfreund	0429 809.080 president@nsaperthws.org.au
Vice Pres:	David Thomas	0418 448 933 vicepresident@nsaperthws.org.au
Secretary;	Derek Cockle	0417 939 420 secretary@nsaperthws.org.au
Treasurer:	Larry McIntosh	0416 161 816 treasurer@nsaperthws.org.au
Membership:	Marion Laws	08 9387 8383 membership@nsaperthws.org.au
Newsletter:	Derek Cockle	(Temporary)
Committee:	Sue Haydon	0487 288 787 sueesther10@outlook.com
Committee:	Rod McLaren	0412 678 050 mclarenr66@g.mail.com

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I hope that you will enjoy & appreciate our latest Newsletter & the continuing articles on Finance & Science contributed by our President Joseph.

Our Annual General Meeting on Thurs 12 Sept is fast approaching, when all present positions as President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer & Committee members become vacant, so please give consideration to nominate to serve on Committee, particularly as I will not be re-nominating as Secretary or as Newsletter Editor).

In the meantime, contributions for future editions of this Newsletter would be much appreciated – your recent travel experience, funny stories, jokes, whatever ! Articles to me please for the next June edition **closing date Fri 30 May**.

Derek J Cockle Branch Secretary & Editor

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



I think you will all agree that you attend a very successful, active branch of NSA. However, our Branch only exists as long as we take on roles to assist in its smooth operation. Right now, for example, Derek Cackle, our Secretary also produces our monthly Newsletter as a temporary Editor and we are hoping that someone will take over this production when Derek retires in September.

You will also be aware that our overhead costs of running this Branch have increased along with the cost of living. We want to keep the entry fee unchanged. So, one possible solution to this is to increase the number of NSA members who attend our Branch meetings which would allow us to maintain the entry cost of \$5 for members and \$10 for guests.

Our present publicity initiatives are :-

- Advertising in our local Post newspaper;
- Creation of our new Facebook page to advertise our meetings;

Our latest initiative has been to invite each of you to take home printed flyers that have been placed on your chairs at Branch meetings to take home and use to publicise the next meeting to your neighbours, friends and even complete strangers !

If you attended our last meeting in April, you might have noticed that Committee members and helpers were wearing bright yellow sashes. Hopefully, this will identify us, especially to visitors, as a source of information and help them to navigate the meeting.

I think it becomes every one of us to offer a friendly 'welcome' to these visitors and hopefully they will return. Who knows, we might find more Committee members and even a new Secretary and Newsletter Editor among these "strangers"!

Amalgamation of Perth Branch - Progress is being made to complete the merger of the Perth and Western Suburbs Branches with the necessary forms having been completed and submitted to the appropriate authorities for approval.

Music Concerts - The first concert this year held on **Thursday 3 April** was a performance by a string quartet led by Ryan Lee, violin with Helen O'Sullivan, violin, Tiffany Lee, cello & Aaron Dungey, viola which was attended by about 80 members and guests. The programme included classics, movie music, pop classics and good old nostalgia with a stirring and a beautifully played version of Waltzing Matilda ending the event. Morning tea included a wonderful array of home-made refreshments. We were very pleased to welcome a contingent from NSA Joondalup Branch who travelled all the way to attend our event.

Our next concert on Thurs 3 August entitled "Sunshine in Winter" will feature piano and guitar quintets, one from the romantic period and the other a guitar baroque. More information to follow.

As always, any ideas or comments are most welcome. Please contact me at any time if you have any issues or questions or ideas – joseph@airbell.com.au.

In conclusion, once again let us thank all our wonderful volunteers who do so much to make this Branch work so effectively.

With very best wishes,

Joseph Lieberfreund

President

BRANCH MEETINGS

Our Branch Meeting on Thurs 10 April was hosted by the erudite speaker Alan Naber who regaled us with pictures, stories and personal experiences of his pilgrimage from Porto in Portugal to Santiago in Spain on the Camino pilgrimage trail.



He provided excellent images and interesting stories and also some sage advice. Our audience at this event was 88.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Branch Meeting – Thurs 8 May we will welcome the CEO of the Royal Agricultural Society, **Robyn Sermon**, to discuss the future of the Royal Show and the Showgrounds redevelopment plans.



This promises to be a lively and very interesting meeting; Robyn is a very engaging and a lively speaker.

Branch Meeting – Thurs 12 June

This will take the form of a celebration of the founding of our Branch back in 2005, then known as Floreat Branch. We will be honoured by the attendance of NSA National CEO Chris Grice who will bring us up to date on NSA advocacy and representations to Federal and State Governments on matters of importance to

us seniors. We are hoping that the NSA National Board Chairman Ross Glossop and Rosemary Durham (nee Charsley) who set up our original Branch, will be able to join us as our guests to make this a special occasion.

SOCIAL & SPECIAL EVENTS

T Box Café - Thurs 15 May - Marion will be hosting our monthly afternoon tea at the T-Box café. Everybody is welcome to a pleasant afternoon alongside the Claremont Golf Course.

TOURS

Thurs 29 May – Woodman Point Historical Quarantine Station – Details of our next outing organised by Jennifer Allan and Pam Fox were announced at our last Branch meeting & have previously been distributed. Registrations to Jennifer & payment at our next Branch meeting on 8 May.

SCIENCE CORNER

What was Einstein Thinking?

Einstein loved puzzles – he loved to prove that logical explanations and scientifically correct equations could lead to conundrums that required fresh interpretations to solve what appeared to be contradictions.

But before we go into this, we have to understand one concept first. Thank the stars it's just one concept. After all, we're talking Einstein here.

Doppler. He was German scientist who explained why it was that when a train hoots when it is approaching that it sounds different to when it is leaving you. The frequency of the sound waves change. Same with light. As the light approaches an observer the frequency increase and when it departs the frequency decreases. When a star approaches it emits blue light. When it leaves it emits red light. Same light - different effects.

Uses of the Doppler Effect: When you look at very very distant galaxies, their light is red. The universe is expanding. They are moving away

from us. The Doppler effect has been used to discover 442 of the 473 of the planets so far discovered outside of the solar system. Planets – not stars – so this is a big deal here.

The effect is used in heart valve diagnoses to detect vascular irregularities as the blood surges towards and then away. It's used in speed traps as well..... Shire finances owe a lot to Mr Doppler !

Ok, so back to Einstein.

Now suppose we are in a vacuum and there is a stationary source of light. It is not moving. It is emitting light in two directions, left and right. Now we all know that the energy emitted left and right must be the same. All good, easy, relax, no worries.

Now suppose you as an observer climb into a picture frame. This frame moves. It moves left and right. Now suppose you move towards the light – blue waves. And then you move away from the light – red waves. Doppler effect kicks in. In the case of the observer – from his point of view - the energy emitted by the light is not the same.

So now the conundrum Einstein solved.

The laws of conservation of physics state that in a closed system, energy, mass and momentum cannot change. They are interchangeable, but the total cannot change.

However, from the point of view of the observer the energy coming was different to the energy going. If mass, momentum and energy had to all add up to be exactly the same, something had to give. Einstein calculated that what changed was the momentum of the light source. The light source would have had to recoil ever so slightly in order that the laws of conservation remain in place. And momentum is mass x velocity.

So, from the point of view of the observer, there was a change in momentum. And since the light source did not move, the only thing that could have change was mass.

Expressed like this: Change in energy = change in (mass multiplied by the speed of light squared). Simplified: $E = MC^2$
Clever fellow !

THE MEN WHO KILLED THE NEWS”

Author Eric Beecher. Published Simon & Schuster, Australia (2024) - 416 pages

Reviewed by Marlene Wilson.



This book by Eric Beecher is a fascinating analysis of what is wrong with the news media and newspapers today. Beecher is well qualified to comment as he has been a News Corp and Fairfax editor and also an editor of Crikey, and Australian independent news website whose mantra is “tell the truth and shame the devil”. He has worked for Rupert Murdoch and sued by him, unsuccessfully.

The answer to the question is of course the newspaper moguls who have manipulated the news to amass wealth, influence politicians and distort democracy. From Randolph Hearst in the USA and Lord Beaverbrook in the UK, to Conrad Black and Rupert Murdoch in more recent times. Misinformation and Fake News are now a fact of life. So, Elon Musk and AI are also analysed.

Beecher's book is an excellent read for anyone with an inquisitive mind as we learn how the moguls operate and what we need to be aware of as we peruse the newspapers and dissect news media in today's world.