

National Seniors

AUSTRALIA

Perth Western Suburbs WA

Branch Newsletter - September 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 Accounts : Westpac Bank in name of National Seniors Australia Perth Western Suburbs Branch;

General BSB: 036 063 Account: 257852

Music BSB: 036051 Account: 649381

Tours BSB: 036051 Account: 649402

When making payment, please identify by your name & type of payment – e.g., “June Meeting”, “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@nsaperthwa.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

Committee: Sue Haydon 0487 288 787
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Committee: Rod McLaren 0412 678 050
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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Our Annual General Meeting is due on **Thurs 11 Sept** and although we have received some nominations for Officers and Committee late nominations can still be accepted, even at the meeting. Your involvement is essential in order to provide fresh ideas and assistance in running the Branch and its meetings, so please consider nominating.

A reminder, please advise our Membership Secretary Marion Laws of any changes to your postal or email addresses and phone numbers.

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 October edition **closing date Mon 29 Sept.**

Derek J Cockle Branch Secretary & Editor,

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2025.



Last year was a busy one for our Western Suburbs branch of National Seniors.

At our June Branch meeting we celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the founding of our Branch when we welcomed National CEO Chris Grice who gave an excellent talk supported by extensive statistics. He explained how Brisbane Head Office ensures that we are heard and have representation to both State and Federal politicians. Perth based National Board Chairman Ross Glossop also attended.

In April we were privileged to welcome the former Perth National Seniors Branch members to our midst with the amalgamation of the two branches. We are now a united group which incorporates this group's expertise and knowledge.

Our Branch is now the largest in the country. Our wonderful volunteers organise tours, find excellent speakers, promote music concerts and publish an interesting monthly Newsletter with diverse articles. We have a lavish morning tea every month at our meetings. Our Christmas lunch last year was at the University Club which we may repeat again this year.

Our meetings and concerts are published on YouTube and we thank our cameraman Jean-Pierre and IT expert Larry for their invaluable service. During the year we purchased a new lens and additional data cards for our camera and a handmade wood lectern hand crafted by one of our members.

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Recently we approved an increased Branch meeting entry fee for members and guests to \$8 and \$15 respectively. Our funds are at the highest level in our history, but so are our costs. Treasury maintains a continuous monthly record of income and expenditure, with the administrative being divided between bookkeeping, (which was done by me), while the treasury itself was maintained by our Treasurer Larry McIntosh.

Special thanks to our dedicated Committee which strives to do things better and create new opportunities and events for the benefit of our members. We say farewell to our Secretary Derek Cockle who is a backbone of order and organisation. He has served with dedication and energy and we are very grateful to him.

May the next year be a happy one for all of us, full of the joy of friendship and comradeship.

Joseph Lieberfreund

Branch President.

RECENT EVENTS

NSA Music Concert – Thurs 7 Aug - “Sunshine in Winter” performed by the Ryan Lee Quartet and guest soloists Alex Chin on classical guitar & pianist Jude Holland.



Ryan Lee - Violinist

A total of 97 members and guests thoroughly enjoyed the concert, the ever beautiful detailed and colourful programme and the extensive refreshments, all organised by our concert supremo Joseph Lieberfreund. Thanks to our supporters Lotterwest, MLC & Endeavour Homes for their generous donations without which these concerts would not be possible.

Branch Meeting – Thurs 14 Aug – Prof. Nick Beecham gave us an amusing and informative talk entitled *“Emerging Infections and Pandemics – Disease X”* at a very well attended meeting.



He provided a detailed analysis of previous epidemics and his projections of future infections which are likely to affect us in the near future.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Branch Meeting Thurs 11 Sept – Annual General Meeting – Election of new Branch Officers & Committee – nominations for all Officers & Committee are still open.

Our guest speaker will be David Hounscome whose topic will be *“Art with a Purpose”*. David is a graduate of UWA and is a long-time art lover. On retirement he trained as a guide at the Art Gallery of W.A. while completing an art history course as TAFE. He has had a long career in the Disability Services Commission, latterly as Director. He has also managed the Perth Theatre Trust.

Branch Meeting Thurs 9 October – Following our usual business announcements, John Palmer will be giving a short talk on his *“Affordable Photo Restoration Service”* with some “before and after” examples of his work.

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If members have any old photos that they’ve been thinking of restoring, you are encouraged to bring them along and John will be more than happy to offer a free appraisal and estimate of cost either at our tea break or after the close of our meeting.

Our guest speaker will be Alex Jenkins, a seasoned technology expert, Director, W.A. Date Science Innovation Hub and Chair of Curtin University “AI Research Group” who will explain to us the mysteries of *“Artificial Intelligence”*.

Branch Meeting Thurs 13 November – Guest speaker will be the ever-popular Geoff Thomas, former West Australian aviation journalist and editor of airlinerratings.com, who will be bringing us up to date with *“All things Tavel & Aviation”*.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tues 30 September– Seminar - “Wills & Estates” presented by Simon Gow of Grant Thornton, Chartered Accountants and McLane Edinger of Hall and Wilcox, Solicitors. The speakers will be available to arrange one-on-one meetings with members after Branch meetings or by special appointment. Further details will be circulated to members in due course.

Sun 26 October “On a Sunday in October” Concert to be held at Pual Latham auditorium at Churchlands Senior High School. Great music, superb orchestra, brilliant conductor and a world class young violinist Ellie Malonzo present Mozart, Beethoven and Mendelssohn. Concert includes morning tea and refreshments. Refer detail notice to follow.

Wed 3 November - Sabrina Hahn – Gardening Talk – Arrangements are being finalised for Sabrina to address us at special meeting at a time and at a venue to be advised. Watch this space for further information !

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OURS & SOCIALS

T Box Café - Thurs 18 September - Marion will be hosting our monthly afternoon tea at the T-Box café commencing at 2 pm. Everybody is welcome to a pleasant afternoon alongside the Mount Claremont Golf Course.

Thurs 25 September – Guided walking tour of Perth City – Meet at Information Kiosk at Forrest Place at 10 am. No cost.



For full details please contact and register with organiser Jennfer Allan, (Photo above - email: johnox1@aapt.net.au).

Fri 31 October – Bentley Pines Training Restaurant Lunch – This popular event organised by Adolph de Sousa has been **fully booked** on a first come, first served basis. However, if you have already registered and paid and have missed out, your name will be placed on a standby list and you will be advised if a vacancy occurs. Subject to sufficient demand, another date may be arranged. Full details and menus will be available at our next Branch meeting, in a separate notice and in next month's Newsletter

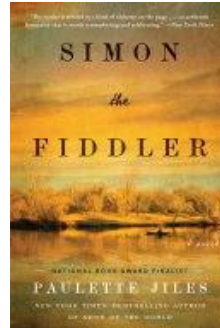
Thurs 27 November – Fremantle Port Authority tour. Full details to be advised nearer the day by organiser Jennfer Allan,

BOOK REVIEW - “SIMON THE FIDDLER” by Paulette Jiles, published by Harper Collins, NY (2020) 341 pages ISBN 978-006-2966766.

Reviewed by Marlene Wilson.

Simon the Fiddler is a beautifully written historical novel set in Texas in 1865 at the end of the American Civil War. Paulette Jiles lived

in San Antonio in Texas, so she knew the landscape very well. She was also a poet, and her writing is expressive and lyrical.



Simon Boudlin is a fiddler who is conscripted at the end of the war but evades the fighting and plays in the regimental band. He absconds without waiting for the discharge papers and forms a ragtag band with three other interesting characters, *Doroteo Navarro*, the guitarist, *Damon* a whistle player and *Patrick* a bodhran and bone player. If you are interested in music, there are wonderful descriptions of songs they play with accounts of performance in pubs and later garden parties and more refined establishments, some comic and others bittersweet.

When *Simon* glimpses *Doris*, an indentured servant and governess to a bombastic and cruel colonel's family, he falls instantly in love with her. She moves to San Antonio with the family and *Simon* strives to follow her and is determined to buy land and make himself a worthy suitor. It is a long and arduous journey. They secretly exchange letters and meet furtively.

I loved reading about a time and place in history I knew little about. *Jiles* was a New York Times bestselling author and finalist for The National Book Award. Sadly, she died a few months ago. This is a captivating tale full of quirky characters and incredible adventures.

Editor - Our thanks to Marlene for her monthly Book Reviews.

SCIENCE CORNER - WHAT IS AN ATOM MADE OF....

Provided by Joseph Lieberfreund

Last time we discussed the particle contents of the atom. We saw that there was a nucleus and that this made up a tiny fraction of the overall size of the atom itself. Outside of the nucleus there revolve electrons and if an atom is electrically stable, the number of electrons equal the number of protons.

We saw also that if the nucleus were to be expanded to the size of a basketball, the electron would be orbiting the nucleus 10 kilometres away and would be the size of a grain of sand in relative size.

So we can conclude that relative to the size of the atom, the nucleus and the electron are both absolutely tiny. The question then arises, what comprises the space between the electron and the nucleus? If the electron orbits the nucleus 10 kilometres away from the nucleus, what sits between the electron and the nucleus? Is it empty space? A vacuum? Nothing at all?

Is that what we are made of – mainly nothing at all? Well, no, not quite!

In high school we were taught that the electron rotates around the nucleus in an orbit. That was a model designed by Neils Bohr who was from Denmark and a very clever fellow; had several famous intellectual discourses over many years with Albert E all about the mechanics of atoms and space and what is measurement and stuff. No-one else was clever enough to discuss all this with Albert E except Neils B.

Here's a picture of one of those discussions with Albert discoursing and Bohr trying to work out what the dickens he was talking about!



Well, that high school model ignores the last 100 years of physics, because probably the masters of our curricula either did not understand the physics themselves or they thought we never could. So they just left all that out and were parked with their model T Ford in the 100 year old car park and we came out of high school confusing the model T Ford for a Tesla!

The reality is that electrons do not move in an orbit. They move in a random cloud. They even go into the nucleus and come out again. It's a pea soup of electron movement.

Electrons move as waves and their location around the nucleus is determined using probability. You've all heard of probability. It's the likelihood of something happening. The way you plot that likelihood is in the shape of a graph called the bell-curve, because it looks like a bell. The top of the bell is the most likely outcome and the further the graph away from the top of the bell, the less likely is the outcome, until the likelihood is infinitely small.

The same probability curve applies to where the electron is at any one point in time. The probability curve for electrons, as calculated by what they call Quantum Mechanics, shows that an electron can be all over the place.

Visually the nucleus is not surrounded by a vacuum or emptiness, but by an electron cloud.

The electron can be anywhere in that space, at any one time and since the electron moves in a wave motion at a reasonable fraction of the speed of light, for all intents and purposes, it is everywhere all at once, within a likely (probabilistic) spherical ball around the nucleus. A dense cloud of electron movement, filling up that space.

The best analogy is to think of the space around the nucleus as a rain cloud of energy, a space full of energy. That gives an idea of what is actually going on. Electrons don't move in an orbit, they move all over the shop and super fast, resulting in a ball of energy surrounding the nucleus. Solid energy field is what this is. Certainly not empty space.

Next Time: So now, what is Electricity?

Happy research!

REMINDER & PLEA !

Please remember that Branch meeting fees have now increased – **Members \$8.00 & non-member(guests) \$15.00**. These increases are necessary to cover our increased cost of catering and Branch administration. If paying in cash, please assist our hardworking front desk volunteer staff by providing the correct amount.

If you are an occasional visiting non-member and would like to reduce the cost of attending future meetings, please consider joining NSA – application forms are available at the front desk or online at the NSA website - www.nationalseniors.com.au.

The annual subscription is only \$49.50 per person, \$80 for a couple, or discounted for 2 years to \$88 or \$143, 3 years \$120 or \$180, 5 years \$220 or \$325).

Please make payment for all new subscriptions or renewals **direct to NSA Head office** in Brisbane to obviate our Treasurer having to make transfers from our account to Head office.

NSA WEBSITE

Information on NSA, its services to members, copies of quarterly "Our Generation" and "Branching Out" magazines and much more information can all be found on website : <https://nationalseniors.com.au>.

Our Branch website is included in the NSA National website whose reference is:

<https://nationalseniors.com.au/get-involved/branches/perthwesternsuburbs>.

I suggest bookmark for easy future reference. You will find our previous and current monthly Newsletters there which you can conveniently download.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND PRINTING OF OUR NEWSLETTER

In conclusion, we would acknowledge and thank our video photographer member Jean-Pierre Hericher for his tireless work videoing our concerts & Branch meetings.

We also thank the office of Churchlands MLA Basil Zempilas for printing our monthly Newsletter and Branch meeting flyers – all much appreciated !