



Members who have nominated for Board Positions are:

Board Member:

Rudolph D'Cunha

Rosemarie Hansen

Jeffrey Wheat

Danuta Newman

Candessa Ashbury

Vice President:

Danuta Newman

Candessa Ashbury

President:

Candessa Ashbury

RUDOLPH D'CUNHA



Rudy D'Cunha is a passionate and committed advocate to helping the poor and needy as well as the seniors within the Burmese Association of WA. As the current Secretary of the Burmese Association, I strive to provide a caring environment where our seniors can come together and socialize over a cup of tea and a luncheon meal and enjoy the fellowship provided by a caring group of individuals. Furthermore, I have been part of the Committee Team that agreed to send several thousand dollars to the victims of the recent Earthquake in Burma. The funds allowed the victims to purchase essential food items and clothing to survive the aftermath of the Earthquake.

I was also on the original finance committee of the Mary MacKillop Catholic Church in the early days of 1986, during the planning and organizing of the construction of the Church Building project. Have since been involved with the Parish in various roles that provide services to the Church community.

Within the community of "The Green" which is a over 55's Lifestyle Village in Gngara, I continue to provide any assistance required by my fellow residents with regards to their well being and safety. Assisting with moving furniture where needed and transporting some residents to the hospital when needed.

I have been a member of Retirees since 2017 and have been a contributor of the Funeral Fund.

I am always looking for opportunities to help my fellow seniors and the underprivileged and I see the role of Board Member allowing me to possibly allow me to do this and expand my influence in areas that will better the lives of my fellow retirees.



ROSEMARIE HANSEN

My name is Rosi Hansen and I am nominating for the position of Board Member for Retirees WA. I have been a financial member of RWA for 19 years, residing at 11 Crocker Way Innaloo since May 2006.

I retired in 2013 after over two decades as an administration professional within legal, corporate and engineering firms. This experience has equipped me with the listening and empathy skills necessary to effectively communicate with people from all backgrounds.

I have enjoyed travelling around Australia, Europe Asia, spending 2 years in Jakarta in the early 80's. I am a mother of two wonderful young women of whom I'm very proud. My favourite things to do since retirement is Chinese Brush Painting, tending to my indoor jungle, enjoying good food and conversation in the company of my wonderful longtime friends.

It is reassuring to know that positive changes are in progress within Retirees WA, and would like to be part of this process as a passionate member of a collaborative Board.



JEFFREY WHEAT

I thank Retirees WA, in its new and improved format, for the opportunity to join the Board and continue the rebuilding of an honest and trustworthy organisation built on just that: honesty, trust and goodwill for all members.

I am a retired Dentist, born and bred in Geraldton, and after new graduate service in regional WA established our own private dental practice in Geraldton, serving our community for thirty-three years before retirement.

My wife Carol and I are residents of RWA's Lighthouse Estate in Geraldton, and, along with all our fellow residents who have suffered due to the recent RWA/Builder conflict, are absolutely rapt with our new home and way of village life. We so look forward to that which we were promised.

But aside from bringing village resident issues to the table, I have a strong interest in all the activities and services which RWA provides to all its members, through Aged Care, Funeral Fund, Retirement Villages, Financial Advice, Member Advice and Social Club Activities...

What is good for one of us is surely good for all... and I look forward to the opportunity to do good for all.



Danuta Newman

Migrated in the 50's with my parents from Europe to Narrogin (where my sense of community began) and from there to Geraldton. I lived 4 months each year at the Abrolhos Islands due to my husband's business. I was involved in sport where I coached, umpired, played and was a community member. I moved to Perth in 1991 for employment opportunities.

By profession, I am a Bookkeeper Administrator, also been a business partner, small business owner.

When I semi-retired, I heard the advert for the Funeral Fund on the radio and that is what enticed me to join the organization.

Five years ago, I joined the Melville Branch and represented them as a delegate at Association meetings. With the amalgamation of the Melville and Willetton Branch, I stayed as a delegate until I joined the Board.

My passions are knitting, sewing, swimming and gardening to name but a few which come after the love for my grandchildren.

I have been employed for a period of 12 weeks over 12 months as interim Village Manager, Joseph Banks Retirement Village.

With my business acumen and being so community minded, I am passionate to be involved at a Board level for Retirees WA. I am now Vice President of the organization.



Candessa Ashbury Profile Statement

Candessa Ashbury joined in September 2015 as a RWA Board Member.

She has a very solid background in Finance/Business Administration, having run her own bookkeeping/computer training business with three accountant staff for 10 years. Concurrently and after that, she was a TAFE lecturer in accounting, bookkeeping, MYOB, finance, business, IT, project management, customer service, meeting procedures, OHS, etc, for several years.

Following, that she worked as a tax accountant for H & R Block, and at every State/Federal election she is OIC or 2IC of polling places and early voting centres.

Her qualifications:

2020 Diploma in Social Media Marketing 84% pass – completed online in 27 days during COVID lockdown!

2012 Certificate IV in Business Administration

2012 Advanced Diploma in Accounting – credit standing [over 85%]

2010 Registered BAS Agent

2009 Certificate IV in Training & Assessment (completed in 1 month)

2009 Certificate IV in Financial Services (Bookkeeping) – completed in 3 months

2007 MYOB Certified Consultant

On returning to Perth from York in 2022, she started up Retirees WA Inc. Golden Oldies branch, and that branch has had the most growth in new members for each of the past 3 years.

She performed the role of Vice President from 20th January 2019 to March 2025, then became Acting State President from April 2025, following a resignation. She is extremely active on the Board audit committee, who are busily completing the check of the past 20 years financial records.

Candessa would be honoured to be nominated as State President for a three-year term