

TASMANIAN BRANCH 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

The Tasmanian Branch has had an extra busy year because of the preparations for the 2011 National Meeting, quite apart from the normal activities. The Branch Committee has met three times to deal with the usual issues of importance at regional, branch and national levels, with a subcommittee established to organize for the National Meeting and to report back on progress to the State and National bodies. This has worked well, with the sub-committee meeting monthly and keeping in regular contact through frequent phone calls and emails. Our State Secretary Linley Grant has been assiduous in ensuring that all decisions are made with input from all sub-com members. We have all worked in complete harmony and enthusiasm, and have been most grateful for the support and encouragement with Mr Bill Galvin OAM who has maintained regular contact with us.

While overseeing the activities of Regional Groups, the committee has, in addition to meetings, only organized the two welcome dinners following Investitures at Government House. Sadly attendance has dropped somewhat at these dinners, and it may be necessary to adopt some other means of meeting with new recipients to encourage them to join the Association. We were delighted to have our new National President Mr Shane Stone as our guest at the May dinner; his speech was most inspiring, as was the workshop on nominating people for awards.

The regions have continued their regular get-togethers following their own format. The Southern Region meets every two months for their meeting, with a guest speak presentation each time, some of whom were Dr Paul McCartney on eye treatment, Inspector Glen Woolley on the forest protests, and Connie Digolis on Stroke prevention and/or Management.

The Northern Region has held two-monthly committee meetings, a barbecue, two luncheons, Welcome afternoon teas for new recipients and are planning a Murder Mystery night early next year. I would like to see the group be a little more pro-active and hope (as an ordinary member) to encourage this when the 2011 Meeting is over.

The North-West has held two receptions for new recipients and two very friendly luncheons to which the Northern Group was invited and which a number attended.

AS State Chair I attended functions, including General meeting in each region during the year, with our State AGM held on November 21st in the Northern Region at Longford. The new committee was elected, with office-bearers as follows: Chair Mr Alastair Douglas OAM, Vice-Chair Rev Jim Colville AM Secretary Mrs Linley Grant OAM, Treasurer Mrs Maureen Rudge OAM, (assisted by past Treasurer Dr John Thorne AM) and seven committee members. Although I have served my six years, I am staying on committee for one more year because of the 2011 Meeting and my role in the preparations for it.

The financial situation in Tasmania as at 30th September is as follows: the Branch funds \$3816, Southern Region \$1495.16, Northern Region \$742.80 and North-West Region \$1776.30. Major expenditure is for postage and printing of newsletters and other correspondence, particularly new recipients, hire of venues for some functions etc.

The 2011 Meeting sub-committee funds, at the time of printing were approximately \$33,000, but of course most of that will be paid out to venues for hire and other costs associated with activities. Our Treasurer, Alastair has done a wonderful job keeping the sub-com members up-to-date with numbers of registrants and their various reservations, and Linley has dealt with literally hundreds if not thousands of emails etc to members, venue, caterers, guest speakers and other people involved. We are so lucky with our small hard-working group, and with support from other OAA members, who will be playing a much more active role as the date nears. I know that the Board has frequent updates on progress from Alastair and Linley, so I don't need to add information here which will be out of date by the time of printing.

The main issue raised by the members attending the AGM was the increase of subs, and in particular the request for life members to add to their original payment. They felt most strongly that this was inappropriate and unfair as they had paid in good faith and to avoid having to find annual fees as their finances in some cases became limited by pensions or fixed incomes. The comment was

also made that in June a married couple both received their awards and were expected to pay two life memberships (their choice, though the husband is quite ill) for the sole benefit of receiving two copies of "The Order" per year. Another member and his wife also stated that they have for years been receiving two copies of everything sent from National, in spite of their informing National that they would prefer to save the OAA money and just get one. There may well be other members who would agree with the suggestion that a couple could receive some reduction in membership with less mail.

I must thank Mrs Grant OAM for acting as my proxy at the last few meetings. She and I have become firm friends, supporting each other through some difficult moments over the last few years. I've been sorry to have missed the opportunities to represent our members who have been more than supportive throughout my time in the Chair, welcoming me as part of their group whenever I have attended their functions, but I know that at least their views were capably presented by Linley. I thank the Board for their acceptance of me as a very "new chum"; again I felt welcome at those meetings I was able to attend, though not able to contribute a great deal.

All-in-all Tasmanian Branch has had a busy and productive year, and with Alastair in the Chair for the next three years we are in good hands.

(Mrs) Pat Igoe
State Chair