



## **The Order of Australia Association ACT Branch Annual Report for 2009**

I am pleased to present my second and final report as Chair of the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia Association.

The current Committee was elected at the AGM in November 2008 and comprised Ms Liz Scrivener OAM (Chair), Mr Len Goodman AO (Secretary), Mr Brian Acworth AM (Treasurer), and committee members Ms Trish Keller OAM, Ms Evol McLeod OAM, Mr Ian Meikle AM, Mr Bob Newman OAM, Mr Derek Robson AM and Mr Bruce Trewartha OAM. The Committee co-opted two members – Dr Ray Newcombe OAM (Citizenship Awards) and Mr Russ Richards OAM (Morning Tea events). Russ Richards retired earlier this year, having contributed enthusiastically and with commitment to the committee for the past 4 years.

Neither Bob Newman nor I are renominating for the 2009-10 Committee, however I remain Immediate Past Chair of the ACT Branch for the coming year.

Throughout this year the Committee received valuable support from members and from the National Committee. This enabled us to provide a diverse program of events and strengthened and developed our Association administratively.

Reflecting on the 2008-09 year, I sincerely thank Committee members for organising the following events:

- ❖ **Australia Day Breakfast**, held at the Yacht Club on 26 January 2009.  
Over 100 members welcomed Mr Chris Peters AM as guest speaker on the topic: *Australia – We are at the heart of it.*
- ❖ **National Conference and AGM** held in Brisbane from 18-22 February.  
Ten members and their partners attended the Conference, becoming familiar with the broader work of the Association and meeting other delegates from around Australia.
- ❖ **Morning Tea with Guest Speaker** held in April at Ainslie Social Club.  
Member Phil Morrall AM CSC spoke on *Recording Oral History*. The talk was so well received that a 'how to' article was subsequently published in our Newsletter.
- ❖ **Cocktail Reception** to welcome new recipients at University House in May.  
Over 100 members and guests congratulated new awardees, who were presented with a small gift as a memento of the occasion.
- ❖ **Luncheon with Speaker** Wednesday 24 June, Royal Canberra Golf Club.  
Ms Darelle Carmody spoke passionately on a *Green Sea Turtle Conservation Program* she is involved with.
- ❖ **Morning Tea with Guest Speaker** held at Ainslie Social Club on 5 August.

Members enjoyed Canberra Glassworks CEO, Ms Ann Jakle's presentation on the development of the Centre and her vision for the future of the Glassworks.

- ❖ **Cocktail Reception** The Commonwealth Club on Wednesday 30 September. The 115 in attendance congratulated new recipients, who received an Oration booklet and OAA glasses as a memento.
- ❖ **Multi Faith Observance**, at Burgmann College ANU on 1 November 2009. Representatives of the Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islamic and Jewish faiths led sections of the Observance. People were then encouraged to think upon a scripture verse written on a glass panel in the Chapel - *What does God require of you, but to seek justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God?* The Observance was followed by morning tea.
- ❖ **School Citizenship Awards** announced at University House on 5 November. Our Patron, General Peter Gration AC OBE spoke of *fostering love and pride in Australian Citizenship*. He presented awards to representatives of two schools – Holy Family Primary School, Gowrie and Radford College. Afternoon tea followed.
- ❖ **Branch AGM and Christmas Dinner**, held on Wednesday 25 November. The 2009-10 Committee comprises: Mr Len Goodman AO (Chair), Mr Bruce Trewartha OAM (Secretary), Mr Brian Acworth AM (Treasurer), and committee members Ms Trish Keller OAM, Mr Andrew Lu OAM, Ms Evol McLeod OAM, Mr Ian Meikle AM, Mr Derek Robson AM and Ms Caroline Turner AM. Ms Liz Scrivener remains on the committee as Immediate Past Chair and Dr Ray Newcombe has been coopted to assist with School Citizenship Awards. A pleasant Christmas dinner followed the AGM.

The format of the Newsletter has been upgraded and I am grateful to Ian Meikle AM for the work he has done in editing the publication this year.

Earlier this year the ACT Branch proposed that Canberra host the 2013 National OAA AGM and Conference in the year of our Centenary celebrations. This was agreed. Three of the 2009 committee (Liz Scrivener OAM, Len Goodman AO, and Brian Acworth AM) have begun preliminary discussions with the Canberra Convention Bureau to take this forward and planning will continue across the next 3 years.

Committee members have been actively looking at ways to promote branch membership, develop a branch business plan and had input into National Committee deliberations on:

- ✚ A review the National Association's financial position
- ✚ A review Branch operating structures
- ✚ Whether the current model and structure of future AGM/Conferences meet the needs and expectations of the membership

My time on the ACT Committee as a member, Secretary and Chair (and as ACT delegate to the National Committee for the past two years) has been a rewarding and enriching experience, and I sincerely thank this, and past Committee members, along with members of the National Committee, for their constructive and considered advice and support throughout my journey and I wish the incoming ACT Committee well for the coming year.

**Liz Scrivener**  
Chair,  
ACT Branch