



ORDER OF AUSTRALIA - NSW BRANCH
REPORT
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
DECEMBER 2009

On behalf of the New South Wales Branch Committee, it is with much pleasure that we present this 2008/2009 Annual Report.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership and member events of the NSW Branch continues to increase in both urban, rural and regional areas and this has increased significantly the past twelve months.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES – 2008/2009

As a result of significant support from members and corporate sponsors, this NSW Branch operated in a successful financial climate for this reporting period and is well managed by the Treasurer – Mr John Laforest OAM. This result will need careful monitoring and National support in future periods.

MEMBERSHIP EVENTS

The NSW Branch has operated a large number of successful events during 2009 across New South Wales and has endeavoured to arrange new services to provide further service for all of its members. The 2010 Calendar of Events is available and this is being mailed to all members and has been uploaded to the website.

COMMUNICATION

During the past year all members received up to four New South Wales newsletters, in addition to the Order (National) of Australia magazine. The NSW website www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au has been updated on a regular basis. All of these avenues of communication continue to be improved under the overall management by Mr Giulio Vidoni OAM and others.

YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Our senior member John Lincoln AM has continued convening these awards for over 17 years. The recipients are outstanding students from secondary schools across New South Wales with the awards presented by Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO. These recipients are the future leaders of Australia which we are most pleased to support.

RURAL AND REGIONAL GROUPS – NEW SOUTH WALES. MAJOR PROGRESS

During the current year, regional functions have been held across NSW – Blue Mountains/Hawkesbury/Nepean; Central Coast; Central West; Dubbo; Hunter; Illawarra; Mid North Coast; North West; Riverina; Shoalhaven; Southern Highlands and Southern Tablelands and elsewhere. In addition, the Branch has been represented at a range of regional events and local receptions. All have been enthusiastically supported by our members and their families. We are most appreciative of the work undertaken and the time so generously given by our Regional Conveners.

Our Regional Coordinators, Ron Sharpe OAM and Rev Douglas Parker OAM, have been attending a wide range of events this year.

SYDNEY MEMBER EVENTS

Whilst a large number of established member services were conducted during the past year, your Branch also endeavoured to introduce 'new' events and these included:

Member Events – North / South / East / West / **NEW AREAS**

During 2009, these morning events were held for members in Harbord / CBD / Castle Hill and Coogee on a trial basis. The success of these events will mean a repeat of same in 2010.

Sydney Harbour Cruise 2009

This event was well attended by both urban and rural / regional members and held with MV Magistic on sparkling Sydney Harbour which provided a welcome change to our land based events.

Twilight Cocktail Events



This year we introduced the range of twilight / speaker events with Thomas Keneally AO and Rev. Bill Crews AM. Designed for our CBD working members, these events are set to continue in 2010.



East Meets West. Chinatown, Sydney

A number of our members operate commercial enterprises in Chinatown and across New South Wales. The inaugural Yum Cha event was held in Chinatown, Sydney on December 8, 2008.

Australia Day 2009

Our members participated in a wide range of events in January 2009 across New South Wales. Members in rural and regional NSW also joined with other organisations to celebrate this special day. In Sydney, many NSW members attended both the major Australia Day Council event at Darling Harbour (1,500 guests) and the NSW Branch event at the Four Seasons Hotel where we welcomed special guests Sir Laurence Street AC, KCMG, QC and Professor David Flint AM.

Annual Dinner 2009

The Annual Dinner was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Four Seasons Hotel on August 21, 2009 and attended by a wide range of members. This was a splendid occasion for all of our members to attend and celebrate the success of the Order with Professor David Flint AM.

Interfaith Service 2009

This annual service in 2009 was organised by Sister St. Jude at the Great Synagogue, Sydney and attended by a congregation of up to 250 people. This Association hosted a special welcome event following this service which provided lasting outcomes for our Branch members at this unique and historic location.

YOUR BRANCH COMMITTEE

The success of the New South Wales Branch is due to your support and to the overall contribution of the Branch Committee. On your behalf, we offer appreciation to the Committee:

Jack Ball AM; Helen Christian AM; Paul Couvret OAM; Mary Doughty AM; Sister St Jude Doyle OAM; Wolfgang Grimm AM; John Jobling AM; John Laforest OAM; John Lincoln AM; Joan Mackenzie OAM; Elaine O'Brien OAM; Douglas Parker OAM; Keith Reeve AM; Ron Sharpe OAM; Ken Swain AM; Graham Swain AM; Silvano Vidoni OAM; Giulio Vidoni OAM; Colleen Wardell OAM and others who contributed throughout the year.

W. R. Galvin OAM
Chairman