



Annual Report OAA UK/Europe **2009**

The two highlights of the year were firstly a dinner hosted by the High Commissioner, John Dauth for members at Stoke Lodge in February of 2009. Seventeen members were present for drinks and most enjoyable dinner. After an entertaining welcome speech by John Dauth early in the dinner, to which I responded, we followed the High Commissioners suggestion that over dessert and coffee each member would give a brief summary of why they were there, and more specifically why they had an Order of Australia. This proved to be highly entertaining as well as educational. It was a most enjoyable evening.

On the 17th July I hosted a subscription dinner for members and partners at The Royal College of Surgeons of England. A reception was held in the Hunterian Museum and the curator of the museums, Simon Chaplin, gave an absolutely marvellous talk on this famous collection of John Hunter, highlighting in particular many of the specimens with an Australian connection. The dinner was held in the beautiful Barry Library next to the museum. The new Deputy High Commissioner, Adam McCarthy toasted the order and we were delighted to welcome him. We had a very good turn out and hopefully we will be able to repeat that in 2010.

We now have a formal committee comprising Penelope Thwaites, Peter Benson and Hazel Murphy and myself as the chairman. Although we have exchanged emails frequently it has proved impossible to get us all together at the same time for geographical and other business commitments. The main purpose of the committee is trying to see what we could do as such a small group with no money to forward the activities of the OAA in the UK and Europe. The High Commission team are extremely helpful and obviously we participate in various social engagements in order to provide support but that is about as far as we have been able to go at this time.

We received our first payment from the National OAA group in Australia, namely \$500, early in 2009. Our current holdings in the bank are £195.31. The only expenditure has been the payment of a small honorarium of £200 to my PA who acts as the secretary for the group. The dinner that we held in July was entirely a subscription dinner. We continue to discuss possible activities but obviously there are limitations because of our very limited finances.

Sir Peter Morris AC
Chairman
UK/EUROPE