



ORDER OF AUSTRALIA - NSW BRANCH

2009

CHAIRMAN'S MID YEAR REPORT

THIS STRONG FOUNDATION - OUR DYNAMIC FUTURE - 2009

The New South Wales Branch remains active and enthusiastic. This year will deliver a wide range of events and benefits to our members in New South Wales and to the Association. Across this State in urban, rural and regional areas we are seeing an exciting time of growth and resurgence. We have achieved a great deal together but there is much to complete in the coming year.

Annual Diary of Events - 2009

This year we launched the complete 'Annual Diary of Events' so that all members were advised well in advance of scheduled events of which a copy appears on the Net. This was well received by members across New South Wales and our events to date include those listed below. Your internet site NSW diary is constantly changing and is well worth a regular visit. The website address is www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Australia Day 2009

A range of events were held across rural and regional New South Wales with a large number of members attending. Branch members attended the Australia Day luncheon at Darling Harbour where over 1,650 guests were present with the Governor of NSW and senior State and Federal Government representatives. Our members also celebrated Australia Day at the Four Seasons Hotel, Sydney with our guest speaker Professor David Flint AM. The messages amplified our support for Australia which was extremely well received by those attending. This Branch also supported the disabled athletes on this day at the 2009 Annual Wheelchair Sports event in Circular Quay. In rural and regional areas, the local events were generally well attended.

23rd National Conference, Brisbane QLD

Up to 100 members / guests from New South Wales attended the 2009 National Conference in Brisbane and enjoyed a wide range of events presented in interesting locations. The overall benefit arising for members attending this Conference was the ability to meet with others from all States / Territories. Your NSW Branch hosted a registration morning tea for members at the Conference headquarters in the Sofitel, Brisbane so that we could especially welcome NSW members. This Branch is now planning increased support for the 2010 Conference to be held in Adelaide in February 11-14, 2010.

Annual Dinner – 2009

The NSW Branch Annual Dinner will provide a splendid occasion on Friday August 21, 2009 in the Grand Ballroom of the Four Seasons Hotel, Sydney. This is an event for all members to come together and share in our success in the Nation.

Australia Day Recipients Reception - Parliament House, Sydney

In May 2009 over 200 members and guests congratulated the new recipients at Parliament House, Sydney. This was a special time for families, guests and members to celebrate and congratulate the recipients. Our hosts were The Hon. Nathan Rees MP - Premier of NSW and The Hon. Henry Tsang OAM MLC - Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier and Assisting the Treasurer on Trade and Investment.

Members Morning Tea - Sydney

North / South / East / West

2009

This inaugural event was organised in locations simultaneously North (Harbord), South (Cronulla), East (Coogee) and provided a further opportunity for members to come together in their local area at an economical cost.

In 2009 our plan is to hold four such events in various parts of the Sydney metropolitan area and later in the year, a morning tea in the Sydney CBD. We hope this will give many members a chance to meet and greet near to their homes at a reasonable cost.

NSW Branch Committee – Together / Industry Sponsors

In a further effort for the NSW Branch Committee members to come together, we organised a Christmas event at the Four Seasons which provided for committee members and special industry sponsors to share fellowship and our future plans. This event was sponsored by the tourism industry and provided the opportunity for the Branch to thank our sponsors on your behalf.

Chinese Community – Order of Australia Recipients / Members of the Association

Your Branch met with a range of members from the Chinese community during the past six months. Many of these recipients have led their communities for several decades and as proud Australian citizens are keen to contribute to the wider areas in New South Wales. Our well know members also conduct commercial enterprises in Chinatown and throughout this State.

Maltese Community Association – Order of Australia Recipients / Members of the Association

Your Branch attended the Maltese Community Council of NSW Australia Day celebration at Parramatta. Up to 300 senior citizens attended this prestigious event, in addition to the Order of Australia recipients and other members from the Maltese community. Federal and State members of Parliament together with local civic leaders congratulated the recipients led by Alfred Fenech OAM as President of the Maltese Council. This event was local Australian democracy in action for the wide range of members from the western areas of Sydney and further afield. This major function is expected to become an annual event for the Maltese community in Australia. On a second / recent visit to the Maltese community, your Association welcomed the President of Malta to Sydney when up to 500 guests attended this event at Leichhardt with Cardinal Pell AC and the Maltese community, together with the Premier's Department of NSW.

American Australian Association – Order of Australia Recipients / Members of the Association

Many of our NSW members in NSW were present at the recent event to honour Frank Lowy AC at Royal Randwick in Sydney. Rupert Murdoch AC and a host of other Order of Australia recipients attended the event with Malcolm Banks AO as Chairman of the AAA, Alan Jones AO and John Coates AC.

Regional Activities

We now have seventeen regional groups set up in New South Wales. The Branch Regional Coordinators (Ron Sharpe OAM and Douglas Parker OAM) plan to attend events for each Regional Group during the year. Our NSW groups have made it clear to the Branch Committee that they wish to meet for fellowship and to support the ideals of the Association. Each group decides how often it will meet and several support a local community activity. All regional functions are attended by Branch Committee members and regularly joined by local community leaders.

Hunter Region

The first 2009 event this year was held in January 2009 and was well attended (approx. 120 people) by many local and other guests with Mr Ron Sharpe OAM NSW Regional Coordinator. This is a well established group and has a period of history of local achievements. The Committee met on May 30 to plan for the future.

The events are as follows:

Morning tea at Nelson Bay was held on June 11, 2009. Morning tea at West's Mayfield to be held in July (date TBA).

Blue Mountains / Hawkesbury / Nepean

The have held annual functions since 1990, with past Branch Chairman Graham Swain as its Convenor. It is well established and has a strong following in these areas of New South Wales.

They held their annual luncheon on June 14, 2009 in Katoomba at The Blue Mountains International Hotel School.

Central Coast

This group was set up in 1999 and has held many functions since that time. New Branch Committee Coordinator Ron Sharpe OAM is acting as its Convenor.

They held their annual luncheon at Iguanas Waterfront Restaurant at Gosford on May 20, 2009.

Central West

This group was set up in 1999 and has held an annual luncheon since then in Cowra, Bathurst or Orange.

This year's annual luncheon was held at The Cowra Golf Club on Saturday May 9, 2009.

Dubbo

This group began in 1995 under the leadership of Max Walters and Tom Slattery, with events held at irregular intervals - past NSW Branch Secretary Ruby Riach is now its Convenor.

They will be holding their annual luncheon on October 12, 2009 at The Dubbo RSL Club at 12 noon.

Illawarra - with the 'godfathers' Brian MacKander and Keith Phipps at the helm, this group began with an annual dinner in 1996. Recently a mid year luncheon has been added. Thanks to the Regional Group's efforts, the Councils of Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama each hold a reception for new AD and QB recipients towards the end of the year. Mr William Leay OAM is Chairman.

Mid North Coast - was most fortunate in its founding convenor Cyril Aynsley, who worked hard and enthusiastically to get the group going and to hold two functions each year in various locations. The group was handed over to Greg Hartig who is also offering to set up a new group covering Kempsey / Nambucca Heads.

Hastings

The new Convenor for the Hastings Regional Group is Mrs Daphne Johnston OAM. Their luncheon was held at the St Thomas' Parish Hall at Port Macquarie on May 28, 2009.

Manning

Mr Greg Hartig as Chairman held the luncheon for the Manning Regional Group at the Wingham RSL Club on May 29, 2009.

North West - was the first regional area to hold a regional function - in 1984, under the convenorship of Stan Cole. Mike Moroney has now been leading the team for several years and usually ties the luncheon in with a guided tour of a new community venture. In 2008 this will be the new Equine Centre in Tamworth.

Riverina - an initial function was held in 1994, then in 1999 Brian Favero took on the Convenor's role and an annual luncheon has been held each year at various restaurants in Wagga Wagga. A very successful group.

Shoalhaven - was set up as recently as 2004, with Convenor Betty Berg doing a great job in bringing together members and their friends from all over this area for a luncheon.

Southern Highlands - initially held as a luncheon in 2000 in the home of Jennifer Learmont but since 2004, Virginia Adlide has arranged a reception at the Bradman Museum. Branch representatives usually share a meal with local members after the official function.

Southern Tablelands - Convenor Doug Aspinall was originally a most loyal supporter of the Branch functions in Sydney. When he moved to Yass, he set up this group which has had five functions since then.

The North Coast area of NSW is far flung and after talking with local members, we are planning to divide it into three groups:

- **Coffs Harbour** - Bill Phillips operates this group and convenes a number of local events each year. We are most grateful for his continued support, desire and enthusiasm.
- **The Macleay River Regional Group** (TBA) - covering the area from Kempsey to Nambucca Heads
- **The Richmond River Regional Group** (TBA) - covering Grafton to Lismore.
We plan to have these in place during 2009.

YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

In 2009, Dr John Lincoln AM continues as the Convenor of the awards since their inception sixteen years ago. The Principals of all NSW Secondary Schools – NSW Government, Catholic and Independent are invited to nominate most outstanding students for their service to the community. The twenty top achievers receive a medallion and a Certificate of Commendation at a presentation by the Governor of NSW at Government House, Sydney.

Young Endeavour' Sailing / Scheme

A life changing experience for young Australians. What better way to appreciate the power of the environment. We are providing financial support to less fortunate families to send their child on a voyage to experience "discipline, commitment, teamwork and trust". Our Convenor Dr Keith Reeve AM and other committee members attend a range of events and Order of Australia NSW Association medallion presentations.

We are deeply grateful to the following committee members ongoing dedication and commitment:

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; Ruth Lilian OAM; John Lincoln AM; Joan Mackenzie 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; John Walker OAM.

W. R. Galvin OAM
Chairman