

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION NSW BRANCH

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010/2011

INTRODUCTION

This has been a very full year for our New South Wales Branch. We have benefitted from the initiatives and enthusiasm of our Branch Secretary and the Committee. This Report will seek to identify some of those initiatives as well as recognizing the faithful service given by a number of dedicated people.

FUNCTIONS

This year has seen an increase in the number of functions organized for members. Your Committee believes that our Branch, whilst seeking to uphold the objectives of the Association, has sought to offer fellowship and friendship to our membership. True, those benefits can be obtained through various bodies and clubs. However, we believe there is something special about being together with those who have been honoured in the Order of Australia.

To that end, there have been occasions such as Cordon Bleu Dinners, Morning Tea and a Harbour Cruise. Our annual Inter Faith Service suffered attendance wise due to a clash with the Sydney Half Marathon.

REGIONAL GROUPS

Looking beyond the Sydney Metropolitan area, part of our Branch strength lies in our 13 Regional Groups. They, too, have provided many opportunities for our members to get together.

Our Regional Groups Convenor, Ron Sharpe, has been very active and assiduous in his contact and attending Regional Group functions. We thank him for that aspect of our Branch's life.

OUR PATRON

As a Committee, we congratulated our State Governor, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO on her re-appointment for a further two years.

Our Governor has been a strong supporter of our Branch and taken an interest in what we do. We were delighted that she was our Guest Speaker at our Annual Lunch at Parliament House and her outstanding address is well remembered.

NEWSLETTER

Once again our Branch has been well served with this important aspect of our activities. After many years of faithful service, Giulio Vidoni found it necessary to resign as Editor. We have expressed our deep appreciation and thanks for all that he did as Editor.

We welcomed Malcolm Longstaff as our new Editor. He has set in train new ideas to maintain the high standards we have come to expect from this important avenue of member communication.

YOUTH ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

The Committee has continued the Youth Community Awards, which this year saw the 19th occasion of the recognition of 21 outstanding senior High School students for their service to the community, both local and beyond. Her Excellency, the Governor presented the Medallions and Certificates of Commendation at a ceremony at Government House.

We awarded two Young Endeavour Scholarships this year.

Your Committee is always open to receiving suggestions as to worthy ways of supporting our young people through appropriate awards and grants.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

We are represented on the National Committee of the Association by the Chairman. It is worth noting that the Immediate Past Chairman, Bill Galvin, is the Deputy National Chairman.

At the National Conference in Darwin in April 2012 a new Constitution for the association will be considered and put to a vote for acceptance.

FINANCE

We owe a debt of gratitude to our Treasurer, Reg Chirgwin, who has done a really fine job in a year that saw us facing increased costs and items of one-off expenditure. This resulted in a loss of \$8,374.63.

The National Committee now requires all State and Territory Branches to have balanced budgets. Looking ahead, we believe that will be accomplished in the financial year ending September 30, 2012.

THE COMMITTEE

Your Branch has been well served by the Committee. We have appreciated the enthusiasm and energy brought by our Secretary, Max Press. The Committee has had happy and harmonious meetings.

We will lose some members from the Committee as their allowable term comes to an end. There will be new members of the Committee and we will look forward to their contribution.

We note with many thanks the long service of Sister St. Jude Doyle (Inter Faith Service) and Dr. John Lincoln (youth Community Awards). Sadly, just before the November presentation of the Youth Community Awards, John Lincoln died. A number of the Committee and members of the Branch attended the funeral service where many fine tributes were paid to his faith and life.

Sister St. Jude will be his successor.

CONCLUSION

It has been a good year for our Branch. We have sought to build on the foundations laid in past years and believe we hand the well being of the Branch on to the new Committee.

Douglas Parker,
NSW Branch Chairman 2011/2012