



## THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION

### NORTHERN TERRITORY BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Having completed my first year as Chairman of the Northern Territory Branch, I feel I have gained the grounding and knowledge of the Order of Australia Association to move forward with more purpose.

The initial year has been one of listening, observing and learning the workings of the OAA and trying to relate these back to the Northern Territory Branch in a meaningful way.

I believe our Branch has to adhere to the following:

- Support the Order of Australia
- Support our Membership
- Build a well known and respected organisation.

Then we need to:

- Demonstrate innovation into any programs we adopts.
- Cement strong bonds with the Northern Territory Business Community and general public.

These aims and goals are drawn from the Strategic Plan of the National Body of the OAA. Some of these are ongoing, such as the Newsletter, National Website and updating of membership lists.

I would like to express my thanks to Wendy James for her on going guidance and support to me and the Branch Committee in her role as Past Chairman. Earl James has also continued his support by preparing the Newsletter over the past year which is much appreciated.

The Northern Territory Branch Committee has met regularly throughout the year and my thanks go to Michael Martin (Secretary) and the Committee for their endeavours and support.

#### **National Committee Meetings**

I have attended two National Committee Meetings. The first was as an observer in the company of Wendy James at the meeting in Brisbane in February 2009 and officially appointed at the AGM of the OAA meeting, as Northern Territory Director when Wendy retired as Northern Territory Chairman.

The second meeting was held in Sydney in September 2009. The items of interest from these meetings were:

- National current membership – 5,692
- Northern Territory membership – 115

- New uniform Branch Rules were adopted
- New Strategic Plan/Business Plan adopted nationally
- 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the OAA – 2010
- Branch Annual Grants suspended for 2009 due to financial crisis. To recommence in 2010.
- The Order Magazine to take on a new commercial look and an appropriate publishing house to be selected.
- Future conferences are to be held in Adelaide (2010), Tasmania (2011) and Darwin (2012) and ACT (2013).
- It was agreed that Branches of the Association may establish informal relationships with like minded organisations under local arrangements, ie OBE's.

### **Finance**

The Branch is in a healthy financial position led by Yogan Sathianathan, OAM despite the BAG funds not being paid in 2009. It is sad to advise the Yogan has decided to step down after six years in the Treasurers role. He will be missed and thank him for his support and assistance over the years.

### **The Southern Regional Group**

Myself and Michael Martin met with the Southern Executive in Alice Springs earlier this year and after discussions attended the Lord Taverners Cocktail gathering.

The Mayor of Alice Springs, Damian Ryan, recently sponsored a dinner for the Alice Springs members and guests which was well attended.

### **Social and Formal Functions**

Marian and I have attended two Investiture Ceremonies at Government House in May and September this year, the Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony in January 2009, the RSL Anzac Day services, the 67<sup>th</sup> Bombing of Darwin Commemorative Services, The OAA Annual Conference in Brisbane and the Lord Mayors reception in September 2009 which was attended by over 50 members and guests.

### **Membership**

Numbers remain around the 110-115 mark. Letters of Congratulations were sent to the seven new medal recipients inviting them to join the Association.

We have made available tonight information on how to nominate a new member of the Order and hope that you will find this useful and informative. I encourage all members to nominate a worthy person each year and if assistance is required please contact myself or a committee member to assist in your nomination.

### **Order of Australia Association Foundation**

Through the efforts of Wendy James and Neil Gun the Northern Territory Branch was successful in giving a \$40,000 Foundation Scholarship for Rebecca Evans who attends the Charles Darwin University.

My thanks go to Wendy James, Rosemary Burkitt and Sister Elizabeth Little in mentoring Rebecca whilst completing her Scholarship Studies.

The Northern Territory Branch is also involved in trying to receive a second scholarship for an Indigenous Charles Darwin University student.

**Vale**

Wolf Gilbert-Pursesey, OAM

Rev Jim Downing, AM

Mr Joe Fisher, AM

Father John Leary, MSC, AM

Rest in Peace

In closing I would like to thank all the Northern Territory Branch and to the Committee for their support throughout the year.

Retiring from the Committee are:

- Mrs Sue Bradley, AM
- Dr William F Mitchell, OAM
- Dr David Cox, AM
- Mr Yogan Sathianathan, OAM

And I thank them for the special contribution to the Northern Territory Branch of the Order of Australia Association.

I look forward to working with the new incoming committee and Northern Territory members and carrying out my responsibilities at the Northern Territory and National level.

**Stewart Cox, OAM**  
**Chairman**  
**Northern Territory**