

The Order of Australia Association SA Branch Chairman's Annual Report 2010

It is with pleasure that I present this Annual Report for the past twelve month's activities of our Branch. As always, when compiling an annual report it serves as a reminder of the commitment and work that the Branch Committee has undertaken during this past year. First and foremost I do acknowledge and sincerely thank each of the committee members for their combined and individual wisdom, knowledge, expertise and thoughts in dealing with required planning, discussions and ultimate presentation of events, functions and likewise with the overall management of the Committee where collectively we agree (and sometimes agree to disagree) to set and reach goals which we believe will meet the needs and expectations of the Association and its members.

While it may be "considered customary" to offer Thanks, my thanks are both personal and as Branch Chairman, to recognise with appreciation, the commitment to specific duties and roles within the Committee and for the support & friendship which each one has given:

Bob Angove AM – Secretary: Bob has continued to serve the Branch in this capacity for a second year carrying out the many tasks required of a Secretary – including Committee Minutes which can be quite time consuming, and sometimes not the most enjoyable part of these duties. However Bob has nominated for a third term so we can be assured he must enjoy!

Cedric Wells OAM – Treasurer: Cedric's "down to earth and practical approach" to the finances of the Branch has continued to keep our books in order. Although Cedric has held this office for two terms only, he has chosen not to continue due to other commitments outside the Branch Committee. We will miss Cedric but we do wish him well – I will especially miss Cedric's very unique and wonderful sense of humour ... *not necessarily a pre-requisite for being Treasurer but I am sure it helps on many occasions.*

Jane Arthur AM – Deputy Chairman and Membership Registrar: Appointed as Deputy Chairman at our first Committee meeting, Jane has accepted responsibility to chair two committee meetings in my absence (once unexpectedly and at short notice) and another when I could not be present. Jane has also represented me, and the Branch, at the AGM of the SA Association of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. Jane's support at these times and in so many other ways is appreciated. As Membership Registrar Jane has efficiently managed the often difficult task of keeping our Branch Membership records up to date (in co-operation with the National Membership Secretary).

Margaret Denton OAM – Cultural & Historical Events: Margaret's valued committee membership has all but reached its conclusion having served the maximum of 3 terms. We all have good memories of Cultural & Heritage places visits which have been arranged by Margaret. We will also miss Margaret but are confident we will see her at future functions of the Branch.

David Lillecrapp OAM – Merchandise: David has the responsibility for our Goods & Merchandise and as such acts as "Sales Manager" at the Investiture Luncheons (and other functions as appropriate). I'm confident the Treasurer's Report later in the meeting will reflect sales have been good – indicating not only the quality of our merchandise but quite possibly David's persuasive salesmanship as well.

May Jackson OAM – Functions: Any organiser of a function (or functions) will concur that there is much initial planning to be done behind the scenes. In her first year in this role, May's efficiency, and attention to all details to ensure plans are well in hand, has meant that all Investiture Luncheons and other Branch functions have been well organised, successful and enjoyable.

Vic Techritz AM GKSJ – Regional Groups Liaison: Vic accepted the responsibility of Regional Group Liaison and, in this first year, has sought information & ways in which to establish and maintain communication with all five groups and has done so with enthusiasm and a vision to expand in this area.

Dr David Game AO KCSJ – Immediate Past Chairman David's role as Immediate Past Chairman will conclude with this meeting, his guidance and willingness to provide support and information (*as sometimes required*) is truly appreciated. David has indicated his interest in providing his services to the committee in the future. (*Thanks David*)

Bryce Saint OAM - 2010 National Conference Organising Committee; Student Citizenship Awards; Community Works: Bryce has been a co-opted member again this year with responsibilities as Chairman of the 2010 National Conference Organising Committee (2007 – 2010) and also continued his role of convenor for the Student Citizenship Awards and Community Works. Always dependable and committed, his contributions over many years are significant and inspirational – Thank you Bryce. *Continued/-*

Rosemary Milisits OAM - Co-opted to the Committee mid-year, Rosemary is a welcome addition to the committee – her role in assisting with Functions, her willingness to provide help and support and to actively participate as a member of the Committee is valued.

The Order of Australia Association SA Branch Chairman's Annual Report 2010

Page 2

Kevin Hodgson OAM – Webmaster: Quietly working “in the background” Kevin has maintained our website for a number of years to ensure that it is regularly updated – if you have not had the opportunity to visit the website – do so at anytime for information about all SA Recipients of Awards and copies of our Newsletter. Thanks Kevin.

Former Members: Regretfully Mr Alec Mathieson OAM, who was elected at the 2009 AGM, was unable to continue as a Committee member and tendered his resignation in February. Mr Neville Hannaford OAM was then appointed by the committee, to fill the casual vacancy created by Alec's resignation, served in this position until September when he also tendered his resignation.

BRANCH ACTIVITIES:

Order of Australia Association National Conference 2010 – held in Adelaide

At the Annual Meeting last year we received a report from Mr Bryce Saint OAM as Chairman of the 2010 National Conference Organising Committee and heard of progressing plans for the Conference. The conference organisation, from the smallest detail to the most complex, exemplified the excellent standards which had been set for every function and activity. I'm sure all members, guests, and visitors (both South Australian & Interstate) also wholeheartedly acknowledge that the 24th National Conference of the Order of Australia Association indeed lived up to all expectations and its chosen theme of *Celebrating Australia's Diversity*.

Once again I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Conference Organising Committee, members of our Branch Committee and other members who collectively contributed an enormous amount of energy, ideas, time and commitment to plan and present an outstanding National Conference. Without exception we acknowledge that the expertise, the organising ability and leadership of Mr Bryce Saint OAM was a significant factor in the outstanding success of the 2010 Conference and once again ask that we record thanks and congratulations to recognise the outstanding contribution made by Bryce.

A Conference Report was prepared by Bryce and endorsed by the Branch Committee for submission to the National Committee. This was presented for discussion at the National Committee Meeting in July but some matters have not yet been finalised due to further information being required in relation to GST.

Post Conference “Thank You” Reception The Branch Committee hosted an informal and most pleasurable evening “*Thank You Reception*”, (at the Arkaba Hotel in August) to acknowledge and thank the many SA members and others, who contributed countless voluntary hours in the planning and successful presentation of the 2010 National Conference. Invited guests included members of the Branch Committee, Conference Organising Committee, Reception and Hospitality volunteers, Donors and Supporters, and Symposium presenters.

• **Student Citizenship Awards and Community Works**

Student Citizenship Awards Under the leadership of Bryce Saint OAM the Student Citizenship Awards have continued into an eighth year and it is our aim and commitment that these Awards continue well into the future with the hope and possibility that their potential for significance broadens beyond our Branch....

Two minor changes have been made to the awards in 2010.

- To meet school requests, two students could be nominated from each school.
- The most worthy student to receive the title *Student Citizen of the Year 2010*. This award would be announced by the Governor at the reception when medallions were presented at Government House and the winner to receive a special framed certificate.

Every secondary school in the State was again invited to nominate a Year 11 or Year 12 student who they considered fulfilled the criteria. 28 entries were received and the top 10 most meritorious entries were given a Medallion and a Certificate by the Governor at a Reception held at Government House in October and the others received a Highly Commended Certificate to be presented at a school function. These latter have been, or will be, presented by a member of the committee or Branch member within the school's location.

The Committee has recently endorsed & re-affirmed its previous decision to select a Student Citizen of the Year in 2010 from amongst the awardees and this will be implemented for the 2011 year.

Community Works: Again the Branch donated a prize for the best performance in the small young schools choral section; this was won by St John's Grammar School, Belair who were also the winners of our prize in 2009. Mrs May Jackson OAM presented the prize on behalf of the Branch. Mrs Margaret Denton OAM also attended. Due to other commitments the Choir will not be able to perform at our Christmas Morning Tea, December 1st.

Branch Functions: Convenor Mrs May Jackson OAM is responsible for organising our social functions and competently does so with support provided as required by committee members, including Mrs Rosemary Milisits OAM and Mrs Margaret Denton OAM. *Functions enjoyed this year are as follows:*

The Order of Australia Association SA Branch Chairman's Annual Report 2010

Page 3

Past & Present Committee Members' Lunch: Following on from the successful lunch held two years ago we arranged a second such gathering & this was held in March at the Adelaide Oval. Perhaps we may have held this "reunion lunch" too soon after the first but, despite only 35 people in attendance the day was very pleasant and we were especially delighted to welcome our Patron, His Excellency, Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR Governor of SA, and Mrs Scarce as our guests.

The Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Investitures: In addition to letters of congratulations, invitations to become a member of the Association were sent to all new SA Recipients of Awards within the Order of Australia by the Chairman after both award announcements. Personal invitations were also designed and sent separately to invite new recipients to attend, as our guests, the Investiture Luncheons. The personal invitation reflected a more formal and prestigious look, encouraging new recipients to attend the post-investiture lunches arranged by the Branch Committee. A total of 6 Investitures were held this year at Government House and following each of these (*3 days in both April & September*) the Branch Committee held its customary luncheons at the Stamford Hotel. The continued support and co-operation from Government House in regard to these luncheons is very much appreciated. Recipients are invited guests of the Branch; they are welcome to bring family and friends to attend the lunch, which they do, making these occasions very memorable for all.

At each luncheon all recipients were introduced personally; their citation and brief summary of their achievements were given by the Chairman. The luncheons have always provided us with an ideal opportunity to personally promote The Association, Branch and National activities and to invite and encourage membership. During the April & September Investiture Lunches a number of new recipients were pleased to let us know that they had already become members. Other Branch members are invited and very welcome to attend these luncheons.

Branch Annual Dinner: Held at the Adelaide Pavilion on Saturday 24th July, we welcomed Mr Colin Pitman, Director of City Planning, City of Salisbury, as our guest and after-dinner speaker. Attendance at the dinner was noted as fewer than in previous years, however this did not detract from the enjoyment of the evening.

Branch Annual Christmas Morning Tea: Now long established, this function continues to be an extremely well supported and very popular informal occasion. The generous support of Vili's Bakery (courtesy Vili Milisits OAM and Rosemary Milisits OAM) who provide catering requirements is once again acknowledged with appreciation. In addition, the additional support by members of the committee also enables us to provide this at no cost to members who attend. Entertainment was provided by St John's Grammar School Choir (*Winners of the prize presented by the Branch at the Adelaide Eisteddfod Society Choral Competitions*)

Post Annual General Meeting Informal Lunch: Despite some organisational issues last year (outside the committee) we see this lunch as complementing our Annual General Meeting to give members & guests the opportunity to meet (and relax) informally after the AGM. While attendance was not high last year we are pleased that 38 people will attend lunch following the meeting this morning.

Cultural – Historic events: Convenor Mrs Margaret Denton OAM has responsibility for arranging these functions. Due to limitations on available time & other Branch activities there has only been a visit to the Adelaide Museum. Much interest had been expressed last year, following Dr Suzanne Miller's, after-dinner address at our 2009 Annual Dinner. We were privileged to have Dr Miller conduct the guided tour for members & family who shared in the afternoon. Afternoon tea followed in the Museum Café. A visit to Monarto Zoo which had been planned for October has been deferred until next year.

Branch Newsletter Editor: As you are aware I have been Newsletter Editor since 2002 however despite advising (*on a few occasions*) my intention to no longer have this duty I continued in this capacity as a co-opted member as a replacement was not able to be found for some time. (*Continued/-*)

Appeals for help via the Newsletter were answered and it is pleasing to say that the December issue will be my final Newsletter publication. Our very sincere thanks to Mrs Elizabeth Rogers OAM, who first rang to offer her services, an offer which was gratefully accepted and approved by the committee. Elizabeth prefers to be co-opted for this vital role and will commence next year. Pleasing to also record that two other members also responded after the committee's approval to co-opt Elizabeth – the latter offers were also appreciated.

SA Regional Groups: There are no changes to the operation & function of our five SA Regional Groups who continue to operate on a low-key basis by organising 2 or 3 local functions/activities during the year. Considered as subcommittees of the Branch they are completely independent under the management of their local convenor.
Continued/-

**The Order of Australia Association
SA Branch Chairman's Annual Report 2010**

Page 4

Branch Regional Group Liaison Mr Vic Techritz AM GCSJ maintains close contact, and communicates with Regional Group convenors regularly. For quite some time now the establishment of two further groups in the Yorke Peninsula and Riverland areas have been discussed however these plans have not yet been realised. It is our intention that arrangements be made next year to visit both regions and hopefully bring these plans to fruition.

- **Fleurieu Regional Group:** **Convenor: Ms Jocelyn Bayly OAM**

Activities reported: Autumn luncheon held in the Anchorage at Victor Harbor: Fleurieu tours conducted in connection with the recent National Conference: information provided to members that Student Citizenship Awards kits had been distributed to schools: Guest speaker, Mr Walter Stamm AM, spoke on the positive impact which nuclear energy could have on global warming.

- **South East Regional Group:** **Convenor: Mr Charlie Miller OAM**

Activities reported: Members and guests were invited by Mr Eric Brand OAM to inspect *Brand's Laira* vineyards and winery during vintage crushing: Promoted nominations for the Branch Student Citizenship Awards in secondary schools and colleges in the South East.

- **Barossa Regional Group** **Convenor: Mr David Lillecrapp OAM**

Activities reported: Members & guests, including SA Branch Chairman Elaine Bussenschutt OAM, met at Kapunda for a guided bus tour of the town's historic points of interest. The group visited the Kapunda Museum and Bagot's Fortune after which afternoon tea was enjoyed at the local Bakery.

- **Gawler & Districts Regional Groups** **Convenor: Dr Bruce C Eastick**

The Branch Committee were welcomed to Gawler recently when the October committee meeting was held. Three members of the Regional Group joined the committee for both the meeting & the very informal lunch which followed.

- **Kangaroo Island** **Convenor: Mr Rodger Borgmeyer OAM**

Membership: Membership records (as at September) indicated that we have 944 (SA) members; this includes 34 new members from the Investitures this year to date. In addition to the 34 there have been 5 others from previous years, but these may be renewals. (The most current records, as at 8/11/10), are currently being assessed by Jane There have been 23 identified member deaths during the year, that is January 10 to date (there were none in December 09).

Membership Registrar Jane Arthur AM has actively been pursuing various ways in which to increase / encourage Membership as this is viewed as a crucial matter where decline in the rate and retention of Association members has been reported. *The Committee has discussed ways in which we can improve our membership – ways identified include:-*

Follow up "reminder to join" letters written to Australia Day recipients who have not yet joined the Association – likewise letters will be sent to Queen's Birthday recipients who have not become members by

- Revisiting recipients from previous years who did not join the Association. This requires an exercise in retracing Awardee lists over the past years (eg five years) and this has been commenced by Jane and is not an easy task when information is hard to access and not always readily available.
- Making personal contact with other recipients (as known to members) to invite / encourage their membership.
- The implementation of personal invitations to Investiture Luncheons to make people feel "special"
- Endeavouring to have a separate informal function for all new recipients from that year, without cost to those attending.
- *The committee agreed at its most recent meeting that we hold a cocktail type reception in March 2011 for all the 2010 recipients Of Order of Australia awards. A sub-committee comprising May Jackson OAM, Jane Arthur AM, Rosemary Milisits OAM and Margaret Denton OAM (if needed) volunteered to implement the proposal and to prepare a report for the December 2010 meeting.*
- Expanding our outreach into the country regions to ensure that new recipients are contacted and encouraged to become members of the Association and participate in Regional Group activities.
- Developing meaningful community projects to give greater meaning to our Association
- *The Committee has given endorsement in principle to the proposal that we investigate a lunch, with an eminent speaker, to be held around the time of the Queens's Birthday in June 2011. Discussions will be continued at the December meeting.*

The Order of Australia Association National Committee: A response was submitted to the request from National Secretary Roger Dace in regard to investigating whether recognition might be secured as a Deductible Gift Recipient organisation. The application would require the Association to write a submission to Treasury setting out why the Order of Australia deserves an amendment (to the ITAAA97) to secure the DGR eligibility. (Continued)

**The Order of Australia Association
SA Branch Chairman's Annual Report 2010**

Page 5

- *Items addressed (as requested)*
Details of past and current charitable or community works being managed by (your) Branch (or by your Regional Groups)
- *Future activities under consideration within the limits of current finances*
- *Other activities that might be considered were additional funds from the National Office to be made available, perhaps up to a limit of \$10,000 per activity.*

Donations and sponsorships made by the South Australian Branch of the Association have included:

- Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens at Port Augusta
- Multicultural Community Council of South Australia
- Offenders Aid Rehabilitation Scheme
- Operation Flinders Foundation (Youths at risk program)
- Edmund Rice Camps (for disadvantaged young people)
- Austcare for multicultural Family Fun Day
- Adelaide Eisteddfod – school choirs section
- "One and All" sail training
- Australian Fisheries Academy Certificate
- Science Week grant to selected secondary schools in the UN Year of Astronomy
- Student Citizenship Awards – a major project for the past eight years

Request for support not funded due to lack of resources include:

- Grant of \$1,000 to support a Science honours student in a South Australian Zoological Society research project
- Support for Scottish band (manager a Branch member) to attend Edinburgh Festival
- Numerous requests for support to community and cultural organisations associated with Branch membership
- Some multicultural activities

Student Citizenship Awards conducted by the SA Branch for the past eight years have been most successful in promoting citizenship and, importantly, in promoting the Association.

In its response the Branch Committee proposed that student citizenship awards, already existing in some form in South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and Australian Capital Territory become a national program in the sense that the most meritorious Branch awardees undertake a national program including a reception by the Governor-General and visits, suitably accompanied, to the nation's Parliament House, War Memorial, Art Gallery and Museum. *Jane Arthur OAM, Vic Techritz AM, Bryce Saint OAM & David Game AO and I formed the subcommittee to discuss and prepare the response.*

I attended my first Annual General Meeting of this Branch in 1994 – it doesn't really seem so long ago but it is! In that time I have served in various capacities on the Branch Committee but it is a pleasure indeed and honour and privilege to be Chairman of the SA Branch of the Order of Australia Association and I thank again Committee and other members who have personally encouraged and supported me.

**Elaine H Bussenschutt OAM
SA Branch Chairman**

November 13th 2010