



THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

Annual General Meeting November 2011

Chairman's Report

Introduction

The following report represents a summary of the Western Australian Branch for the 2010-2011 year.

It has been a very successful year for the Branch and to this end I am grateful to the work done by the State Executive in achieving so much. The Executive composed of the following members are thanked for their dedicated contributions:

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| Hon. Secretary: | Mr. Doug Bathgate OAM |
| Hon. Treasurer: | Mr. Stan Nowak OAM |
| Committee: | Dr. Ken Collins AM CitWA |
| | Maj.Gen. Barry Nunn AO RFD ED |
| | Mrs. Joy Sinclair OAM |
| | Mr. Noel Smith OAM |
| | Ms. Jenny McNae OAM |
| | Mr. Tom Alford AM ED |
| Co-opted Members: | Mr. Peter Winstanley OAM RFD |

Albany Branch Luncheon

I was delighted to once again attend the annual Great Southern Group Church Service and luncheon in Albany 28th November 2010. This pleasant event is shared with members of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire Association. One of the local service cadet units provided a guard of Honour as members entered the church for a morning service at the Wesley Uniting Church. After morning tea all adjourned to the Reception Centre at the La Grande Motel

for a delightful lunch. Joy Sinclair, Norma Beer and Ken Beer came down from Perth for the occasion.

Australia Day Ascot Racecourse

The Committee was again invited by the President of Perth Racing Mr. Ted van Heemst as guests at the running of the Australia Day Cup on Saturday 22nd January. The Chairman presented the Australia Day Cup to the winning owners and made a brief speech, which was televised live. It is always a prestigious event and provides an excellent opportunity to promote the Order of Australia Awards and showcase the Association.

National Conference - Hobart

The 25th National Conference held in Hobart 10-11, February and hosted by the Tasmanian Branch was an outstanding success and attended by a good representative group from Western Australia. During the conference four prominent Tasmanians delivered dissertations on the conference theme ***We are Australian – Unity and Australian Values.*** The multi-faith observance and wreath laying on the last day was particularly poignant, wreaths being thrown into the Derwent River by the National President Hon. Shane Stone AC QC and Sir Guy Green AC KBE CVO as the training tall ship Young Endeavour fired off a two gun salute. I look forward to the 2012 National Conference to be held in Darwin 12-13 April 2012, the first for the Territory and I encourage you all to consider attending.

Australia Day Honours Reception

The Branch was delighted that the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor of the City of Perth, Lisa Scaffidi invited the Association to hold the Australia Day Honours Reception at Council House on Monday 28th March 2011. It was a very successful event attended by over 200 members and guests. The Association is deeply appreciative of the kind offer of The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor and the City of Perth in hosting this event.

Reception in Honour of Dr. and Mrs. Ken Michael AC

An exceptional reception in honour of Dr. Ken Michael AC and Mrs. Julie Michael was held on Monday the 4th of April 2011 at the Royal Perth Yacht Club. 235 members and guests attended this wonderful farewell event to recognize the outstanding contribution made by them to the State and to Dr Michael as Patron of the Association in Western Australia. A beautifully bound coffee table photo album was presented to the Michael's that featured photographs of many of the WA Branch functions they have hosted and attended. This event I believe was the highlight of our year.

Evensong Service

Members shared in the annual Ecumenical Evensong Church Service at St. George's Cathedral Perth on Sunday 26th June during which members read the lessons and the address was delivered by Pastor Graham Mabury OAM.

South West Group Celebration

Sunday 24th July was a great day of celebration at Bunbury as members of the South West Group came together at the invitation of His Worship the Mayor of Bunbury, Mr. David Smith for a luncheon in the Bunbury Civic Centre. The luncheon attended by approximately 60 people, included a small contingent from Perth and was addressed by His Worship the Mayor. Mayor Smith commended the work of the South West Group and encouraged them to continue in spreading the objectives of the Association of good Citizenship. The luncheon was preceded by a church service at the Bunbury Cathedral.

Queen's Birthday Honours Reception

Again this year a successful reception was held on 28th July at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery at the University of Western Australia to recognize the achievements of the 24 WA Queen's Birthday Honours recipients. The number of recipients that were able to attend was disappointing however the attendance by our members and their guest was very good and made for a very enjoyable evening. The Chairman presented a brief history on the Order of Australia Association that was appreciated by both the new awardees and our members.

Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner was held on Wednesday September 7th at the Royal Perth Golf Club in South Perth. His Excellency, Mr. Malcolm McCusker AO QC Governor of Western Australia and Mrs. Tonya McCusker attended. It was the first Association event that His Excellency attended as Patron of the Branch. HE addressed the meeting. The Occasional address was given by the National President Hon. Shane Stone AC QC on the theme of "Our Broken Society". It was a challenging address calling us to consider the problems that beset our communities and what we can do to overcome them. His final words in his outstanding oration are worth repeating here. ***Be known by your deeds and good works; be known for how you carry yourself as an Australian invested in Australia's most senior civilian award the Order of Australia and our community will be a better place..***

Order of Australia Association Limited

I have attended two National Committee Meetings, the first held in conjunction with the Hobart Conference and the second held recently in Sydney. My observation is that the Association is in very good hands with a new wave of creativity obvious, following the appointment of a new team at the top. Finances are still of concern, not that the Association is at financial risk far from it, but the continuing worry of the cost of servicing the growing list of life members is ever present. This is being addressed.

A new constitution has been drafted and is to be placed before the Darwin Conference for ratification. To this end copies have been circulated to all States for comment. Copies can be provided to any member who would like to review it. In conjunction with the constitution new By-laws have also been developed.

The National Chairman AIRCDRE Peter McDermott AM CSC was in Perth on private business and found time to meet with our State Executive for afternoon tea. Peter is enthusiastic in this role and I am confident that the next few years will be good years for our organization.

The National President was also in Perth on business early in the year and at very short notice we were able to organize a gathering at the City of Melville where Shane Stone challenged us to the task of seeking nominations for the national awards. Since that time the Branch has taken an active approach in promoting nominations particularly targeting service clubs. Barry Nunn has championed this activity. I have previously referred to the honour we had in the attendance of Shane Stone AC QC as guest at our Annual Dinner.

Recruit Squad Patron Scheme at the WA Policy Academy

The scheme has progressed well through the year thanks to the outstanding work of Peter Winstanley OAM coordinator of the program. Despite concern early in the year that patrons were few and far between sufficient people volunteered to enable all squads to be covered. The course was advanced for three of the squads to ensure that their training was completed prior to CHOGM to enable them to supplement the Police Service for that period. New and potential Patrons have received preliminary introduction to the role by attending the Academy in company of the scheduled Patrons. A workshop held in January proved to be very worthwhile for both experienced and “trainee” Patrons. Robert Isaacs has recently made a presentation to the recruits on “Cultural Awareness” that was well received.

I thank all those involved in this flagship activity of the WA Branch.

Order of Australia Association Foundation

It is with very great pleasure to report that during the year we were able to secure a very generous Western Australian sponsor for the Foundation. As I understand the contribution will enable a young West Australian to receive a scholarship every three years in perpetuity. I would like to thank Mr. Harold Clough AO, the WA member on the Foundation for his assistance in helping to obtain this contribution and to Mr. Hugh Morgan AC, Chairman of the Foundation who finalised the details for the scholarship.

Conclusion

This report will be my last as your Chair, my allotted time has concluded and I will now hand over to someone else. My 3 years as Chair and prior to that a similar time as Hon. Secretary have been most enjoyable. I have also enjoyed the opportunity to represent you as a Director of the Order of Australia Limited for the last three years. I will be available for another year as Immediate Past Chair to help out where I can.

Thank you for your strong support of this great organization.

Clive Robartson AM LGM