



The Order of Australia Association

South Australia Branch Annual Report 2009

This is my final annual report on the activities of the SA Branch. It is rather long but I do feel it is appropriate that I give a full account of the Branch's activities, not only for the year, but also to some extent covering my term of office.

The Committee

I would like to make special reference to the members of the Branch Committee. They are a most cooperative and willing group-without each and every one of them we would not have been able to do the things we have set out to do.

Each member has accepted an area of activity or responsibility but all very willingly assist each other as needed. It is a very cooperative group.

Mr Bob Angove AM was appointed Honorary Secretary at the 2008 AGM, having previously been the Honorary Treasurer. He is fully IT orientated in the task and we receive very comprehensive minutes very rapidly. He also carries out all the usual secretarial tasks most efficiently.

Mr Cedric Wells OAM was appointed Honorary Treasurer also at the 2008 AGM. He was fully versed by Mr Angove at hand over but despite this I think he found the task fairly bewildering at first but very quickly learnt the tricks of the trade and has supplied the committee with regular and very useful reports

Mrs Margaret Denton OAM was appointed Vice Chairman at the Committee's first meeting. I do not think that this has been too onerous but she does have the portfolio for Cultural and Historic events.

Mrs Zetta Karay OAM continued on with the task of Functions organizer. This is a very onerous job. Unfortunately, due to the tyranny of time and the rules, she is not available for reappointment.

Mr David Lillecrapp OAM has continued with the task of goods convenor. That means he is responsible for the management and sales of our memorabilia and other items. He is seen in action at most of our functions. SA has the reputation of having some of the best sales in the Association.

Mrs Jane Arthur AM took on the responsibility for membership. This also is a difficult task but one which is being most efficiently performed. She maintains, with the cooperation of the National Membership Secretary, our Branch membership details. She also assists with the follow-up of new recipients who do not accept our invitation to join the Association. Also she sends letters of sympathy on behalf of the Branch to the relatives of deceased members. This is greatly appreciated judging from the letters of thanks we subsequently receive.

Mrs May Jackson AM is responsible for publicity. Contact with the media has always been a very difficult task for the Branch (this is probably not limited to SA Branch) but she perseveres. She is however doing a wonderful job in developing a liaison with service clubs etc offering to provide them with a speaker for their many meetings. We regard this as a good mechanism of making them aware of the Order of Australia and of the Association. Several members have given or are about to give a presentation.

Mrs Margot Vowles OAM is the Regional Group Liaison person and is responsible for our contact and support of the Regional Groups.

The Committee has the power to co-opt up to three members for a period of one year to assist with a particular task or tasks. Two such appointments were made at the first meeting of the Committee.

Mrs Elaine Bussenschutt OAM had been the editor of the Branch Newsletter for a number of years. She was not eligible for appointment to the Committee. Also she indicated she wished to retire from the role of editor. Neither calls for volunteers or pressure gang techniques were effective in replacing her so she valiantly agreed to continue the job until a replacement was found—she is still in the job! It seemed very appropriate to invite her to be a co-opted member of the Committee and again she willingly agreed.

Mr Bryce Saint was also co-opted. He had organized the Student Citizenship Awards since their inception. He agreed to continue this so was also co-opted. Fortunately he also agreed to chair the subcommittee set up by the Branch Committee to be responsible for the 2010 National Conference.

Mr Kevin Hodgson is not officially a member of the Committee but his role as being responsible for our Web site is one of unsung heroes. It is always up-to-date—within 24 hours of Honours being announced full details are on our site.

Functions As reported earlier these are under the supervision of Mrs Zetta Karay Under this heading we include: -

- Investiture Luncheons, After each Investiture (six per year i.e. 3 for both the Australia Day and the Queen's Birthday Honours lists) the Branch hosts luncheons at the Stamford Hotel immediately following the Investitures. New recipients are guests of the Branch. They are invited to bring as many family and friends as they wish. Other

Australian Honours awardees are also invited. These are well-attended functions and appreciated by those who attend. Each recipient is acknowledged by the Chairman and their citation and a brief summary of their achievements is given. These luncheons have become a tradition. We must acknowledge the support we receive from Government House in assisting with and encouraging these functions.

- Annual Dinner. This year we held our Annual Dinner at the Adelaide Pavilion. The National Chairman, Mrs Dina Browne, attended and addressed the gathering. The after dinner talk was given by Dr Suzanne Miller, the Director of the SA Museum.

- Christmas Morning Tea. It has become a tradition for the committee to arrange a free Christmas Morning Tea at the Fullarton Community Centre. All the catering is provide by members of the Committee, supplemented in the last 2 years by the great generosity of two of our members, Mr & Mrs Vili Milisits.

- Post AGM informal lunches.. After the AGM we retire to a near-by hotel for an informal bar lunch. These are popular and very informal occasions which we instituted two years ago.

- **Cultural and Historic Events**

As explained earlier these are the responsibility of Mrs Margaret Denton. We usually aim to have about two such functions each year but for a variety of reasons there has been only one.

On 21st May there was a visit to Urrbrae House and the Arboretum with a lunch at the House. The group then went to Carrick Hill to view the Nora Heysen Exhibition. This was a very successful occasion.

A two day visit, 29th and 30th September, first to the Clare Valley with a night at the Clare Country Club followed the next day by a visit to the Yorke Peninsula Field Day was unfortunately cancelled. This was quite an expensive excursion and there was not a sufficient number of members interested to make it viable.

Following an invitation from Dr Suzette Miller, a behind the scenes visit to the Museum was planned but deferred in view of many other conflicting activities and responsibilities of the committee and the Branch towards the end of the year. It definitely will occur early next year.

- **Australia Day Multi Faith Observance**

This year we had a change of venue, mainly due to the difficulties we had experienced with parking at the previous venue, Maugham Church, City.

The Observance was at Christ Church, North Adelaide It was a different service from previous years and from comments received it was appreciated by many. We thank the Rector of Christ Church, The Rev'd Lyndon Sulzberger for his hospitality and great assistance.

The service was well attended and we particularly welcomed members of the South Australian Association of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire who joined us. The Committee has decided not to hold an Observance on Australia Day 2010. This applies only to 2010 but as the National Conference will be having a Multi Faith Observance on Sunday 14th February 2010 in the Bonython Hall it was considered that a similar observance two weeks prior to this was not practical.

• **SA Regional Groups**

The committee regards the Regional Groups as a very vital part of the Association. They enable recipients to maintain their fellowship with other recipients in an informal manner close to home, as opposed of having to travel to Adelaide for an Association function. In respect of the Bylaws the regional groups are regarded as subcommittees of the Branch but they are completely independent as to their local activities and are under the management of their local convenor. The Branch Committee is not at all involved in their governance-we leave it all to them.

We have five Regional Groups namely, Barossa, Gawler and District, Fleurieu, Kangaroo Island and South East. Some of these Groups will be actively involved in the 2010 National Conference about which you will hear more soon.

Negotiations are still under way to establish further groups in the Yorke Peninsula and Riverland areas and we are hopeful that they will soon be a reality.

• **The South Australian Association of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire**

We continue to have very good relationships with this Association. Eleven of their members (about one third) have joined the Branch as affiliates of the Branch. They receive our newsletters and are invited to all Branch functions. We welcome and appreciate this relationship.

• **24th National Conference of the Association, Adelaide, February 11th to 14th February 2010**

As reported at the last AGM the SA Branch Committee accepted the invitation to host this Conference and a sub committee of the Branch Committee was established to be responsible for the planning. Also at the same time the Association AGM will be held and the National Committee will have their biannual meeting. Mr Bryce Saint has been the chairman of the Planning Committee. As this is such a major event, I have requested Mr Bryce to give a detailed report as an addendum to and inclusion in my report.

• **Branch Administration Grants**

As all are aware members pay annual or life membership fees to the National Committee (not to the Branch). From this, on a predetermined formula, the National Committee makes grants twice a year to the Branches for administration purposes. These are the Branch Administration Grants or “BAGs”. The SA Branch has no other source of income except for a very small subsidy added to some of the functions’ registration fees just to cover any unexpected contingency.

Just prior to the September meeting of the National Committee, Branches were informed that in view of a significant decrease in income from invested capital the BAGs for the year ending 30 September 2009 would not be paid (they would continue as usual for the year beginning 1 October 2009).

At the National Committee meeting on 2nd September, this decision was not well received by the Committee members (i.e. the Branch Chairmen). As an outcome, a subcommittee of the National Executive was established to review the whole process of the BAGs and other financial concerns. This subcommittee proposed two terms of reference, which were sent to Branches for comment.

The SA Branch Committee considered these in great detail, both by email and at a special meeting and formulated a response. The main thrust of this response was to suggest that prior to consideration of these two items it was more important to do two things: firstly review the rather outdated and inappropriate *Memorandum and Articles of Association* and replace them with a more realistic *Constitution* and secondly to review urgently the reasons for falling membership uptake and retention.

• **Community Works and Student Citizenship Awards**

The central objectives of the Association are to foster commitment to and pride in Australian Citizenship, to encourage awareness in the community of Australia's history, traditions and culture, and to promote the development and maintenance of a constructive and positive sense of national unity among Australians. Perhaps in summary "*to foster love of and pride in Australian citizenship*".

SA Branch Committee sees this as one of its most important commitments and is only restricted in its endeavours by its limited financial resources. We have supported three activities this year.

• The Student Citizenship Awards

For the seventh year we have made these Studentship Awards. Every secondary school in the State was invited to nominate a year 11 or 12 student who they considered fulfilled the criteria of support to their community and to their school (not sporting or academic achievement); 23 entries were received and the top 10 most meritorious entries were given a Medallion and a Certificate by the Governor at a formal function at Government House and the others received a Highly Commended Certificate at a formal school function. These latter were presented by a member of the committee.

• Adelaide Eisteddfod Society

Again the year 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. This choir will be providing the entertainment at the Christmas Morning Tea.

• Science Week School projects

This year we contributed \$500 towards the prizes won by 5 country schools for their contribution to Science Week. These prizes have been or are about to be presented to the Schools by a representative of the appropriate Regional Group.

Addendum provided by Mr Bryce Saint

“In December 2007, the Branch Committee resolved to form a National Conference Organising Committee, responsible to the Branch Committee, to organise the 2010 National Conference to be held in Adelaide from 11 to 14 February 2010.

The following Committee was formed with members undertaking responsibilities as shown:

Mr Bryce Saint OAM	Chair, tours and Symposium
Gp Capt Robert Black AM RFD	Welcome Reception, Premier/Civic Reception, Closing Luncheon
Mrs Rita De Luca OAM	Registration, Hospitality, Home Dining
Mrs Flavia De Pasquale OAM	Registration, Hospitality, Home Dining
Dr David Game AO	Branch Chairman
Mr Walter Stamm AM	Transport (Resigned)
Colonel Ray Stanley AM OBE RFD ED	Protocol, Wreath Laying
Brigadier Nick Williams AM RFD	Conference Dinner
Dr Brian Webber AM	MultiFaith Observance

SAPMEA (South Australian Post Graduate Medical Association) has been contracted to undertake administration of the Conference.

Generous donations of money and goods will be acknowledged in the Conference Program.

At an early stage, the Committee decided that the Conference would have more direction and purpose if a theme were identified. The National Committee approved the proposal that the theme be **“Celebrating Australia’s Diversity.”** The theme will be featured in most of the Conference program.

Pre- and post-Conference two day tours have been offered to Kangaroo Island and the Barossa Valley. The Barossa Tour has been withdrawn because of lack of interest. Other tours have been organised to the Submarine Corporation site, Fleurieu Peninsula and A Morning on North Terrace.

Venues were selected for convenience and to publicise educational and cultural aspects of Adelaide. The Intercontinental Hotel, Convention Centre, State National War Memorial, Elder Hall, Bonython Hall, Hickinbotham Hall at the National Wine Centre, St Peter’s College Memorial Hall and Adelaide Town Hall will be venues.

The Conference Registration brochure distributed with the Winter 2009 edition of *The Order* was well received and complimentary comments on the brochure and the program came from interstate.

The **Symposium** topic “Sustainability of Australia’s Diversity” will be elaborated by four speakers. Dr Barbara Hardy AO will speak on *Environment*, Emeritus Professor Dean Jaensch AO will speak on *Government*, Professor Graeme Hugo will speak on *Population* and Professor Wasim Saman will speak on *Energy*. The Symposium, a variation from the oration, is an initiative of the Committee.

There are also exciting variations in most of the Conference events. Instead of a Regional Groups meeting following the Annual General Meeting, the National Chairman will chair a **Members Open Forum** – a chance for members to influence the future activities and priorities of the Association.

Foundation scholarships will be presented by the Foundation chairman, Mr Hugh Morgan AC at the **Conference Dinner** at the Convention Centre with Brigadier Nick Williams AM RFD as master of ceremonies.

For the first time at a National Conference, a **gallery of paintings** will be specially arranged by Mr David Dridan OAM and displayed at the Intercontinental Hotel.

The **Welcome Reception** in St Peter’s College Memorial Hall will be attended by our Patron, His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR and the program will include a recital on the Wurlitzer organ. A **State/Civic Reception** will be held in the Queen Adelaide Room at the Town Hall. Group Captain Robert Black AM RFD is supervisor for the receptions and the Closing Luncheon at the National Wine Centre.

Colonel Ray Stanley AM OBE RFD ED has organised the **Wreath Laying Ceremony** at the State National War Memorial and will give a brief address on the achievements of men of the 10th Battalion on the first day at Gallipoli.

Bonython Hall at the University of Adelaide will be the venue for the **MultiFaith Observance**. Dr Brian Webber AM has arranged a program of scripture, music and dancing to illustrate eight faiths practised by Association members. Mr Hieu Van Le, Lieutenant Governor and Chairman of the South Australian Ethnic Affairs Council will give an address on the subject “**Sustainability of Australia’s Diversity of Open Religious Practice.**”

Promotions for the Conference have been in *The Order* and the Branch newsletter, the next edition of which will contains information on open events and Conference Dinner registration only.”

David A Game AO
Chairman
SA Branch November 2009