



The Order of Australia Association

Western Australia Branch Annual Report 2009

Introduction

The following report represents a summary of the Western Australian Branch activities for the 2009 calendar year.

The Branch Committee elected at the 2008 AGM worked very well as a team throughout the busy year, organizing and conducting activities listed below on behalf of the Branch members. The Executive composed of the following members are thanked for their dedicated contributions:

Hon. Secretary:	Mr. Doug Bathgate OAM (from November 2009)
Hon. Treasurer:	Mr. Stan Nowak OAM
Immediate Past President:	Col. Rod Willox AM RFD ED JP
Committee:	Dr. Ken Collins AM CitWA
	Ms. Anne Topelberg OAM
	Mrs. Gwen Roderick AM
	Mr. Ian Passmore OAM
	MajGen. Barry Nunn AO RFD ED
	Mrs. Joy Sinclair OAM
Co-opted Members:	Mr. Noel Smith OAM
	Mr. John Hollingshead OAM

Australia Day Ascot Racecourse

The Committee was once again invited as special guests of Perth Racing for the Australia Day Cup. 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 showcase the Association.

Australia Day Honours Welcoming Reception

The Branch was delighted that the Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of the City of Perth, Lisa Scaffidi invited the Association to hold this event at Council House. It was a very successful event well attended by members and also a goodly number of the 42 WA Australia Day recipients and their guests. The City of Perth was very pleased with this event and I am confident that the use of Council House for this event will be ongoing.

Reception for Youth

Our annual Reception for Youth was held on the 16th June at Government House with invitations being issued to approximately a third of the Perth Metropolitan High Schools and Colleges. Two year 11 students from each school were invited to attend accompanied by a teacher or parent. Cadets from all disciplines were also invited and formed a guard of Honour for the entry of the Governor, His Excellency, Dr Ken Michael AC and Mrs. Michael and the official party.

His Excellency spoke to the students and cadets followed by a keynote address presented by Rhiannon Newton, a young graduate from the WA Academy of Performing Arts. Music was provided by a very accomplished group of 50 students of the Mount Lawley Senior High School Band.

Approximately 70 students, teachers and parents attended and 18 cadets. In all with our members, over 130 people enjoyed the afternoon.

Evensong at the Cathedral

Our members joined with other worshippers on Sunday evening 7 June to enjoy an hour of beautiful singing and organ music at Evensong in St. George's Cathedral, Perth. Rev. Barry May OAM one of our new members presented an excellent address. The service concluded with a fine supper in Burt Hall. This is regarded as a most worthwhile activity on our annual calendar.

Queen's Birthday Honours Reception

A very successful reception was held on 29th July at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery at the University of Western Australia when 130 people recognized the achievements of the WA Honours recipients.

The Executive have been forced to move out of the Perth CBD for these events because of escalating costs. The lower hire cost of the Art Gallery meant that this event turned a small profit. The Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Alan Robson AM addressed the assembled company with an interesting insight into the life of the university. It was a very positive function with positive feedback subsequently received.

Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner was held on September 2nd at the Royal Perth Golf Club with our patron His Excellency, Dr Ken Michael AC and Mrs. Michael in attendance. It was a wonderful occasion and all went away inspired by the address given by Prof. Lyn Beasley AO, Chief Government Scientist. The numbers attending were the best for many years.

Joondalup Police Academy

Our mentoring scheme at the WA Police Academy continues as the flagship of our activities. It is a wonderful program strongly supported by the WA Police Commissioner and keenly taken up by our members. At present we have patrons in all current squads and places covered for the first 6 months of 2010. This program is co-coordinated by John Hollingshead OAM.

Regional Groups

I was very pleased to attend the Great Southern Regional Group annual Church Service and luncheon on November 22 accompanied by my wife and Executive member Mrs. Joy Sinclair OAM. This is an event shared with members of the British Empire Association in Albany. The service held at the Catholic Church acknowledged the wide range of services given to the region by volunteers. The luncheon that followed at the La Grand motel was once again a memorable occasion.

State Executive

The Executive held six meetings through the year to conduct the business of the Branch. Unfortunately we were unable to elect an Hon. Secretary at the AGM in November 2008 and much of this work had to be carried out by the Chairman (the previous Secretary). MajGen Barry Nunn AO volunteered to act as Minute Secretary and made a marvelous contribution in this regard. To overcome the difficulties of not having a secretary three working groups were established - Functions and Events, Youth Events and Media and Public Relations. These groups proved very worthwhile and helped share the workload and will be retained. Mr. Doug Bathgate OAM volunteered as Hon. Secretary towards the middle of the year and formally took over this role at the AGM in November 2009. Doug will be a great asset to the Branch.

Finance

The Branch has not traveled well financially over the last few years. It is evident that it is not financially viable in its present state and has been relying on cash reserves to function. The Executive is actively addressing this issue and I am pleased to report that functions held during 2009 have returned a positive outcome. I am confident we are now moving towards meeting our on-going costs.

Conclusion

I wish to sincerely thank all members of the Branch committee for their time and worthwhile contribution to the activities of the Association in the West.

Clive Robartson OAM LGM
December 2009