



## Chairman's Report

Noel Reginald Viney OAM was born in Devonport on December 20th 1934 to George and Ellery Viney, the first born son of nine children. Noel resided with the family in Thirlstane until the age of 12 then the family moved to Abbotsham where the family farmed for 10 years before moving to Upper Castra.

Noel married Amy Johnson 53 years ago. They have four boys all raised in Ulverstone. They now have six grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. They have lived in the same house for 46 years and plan to stay there.

Noel's first job was with the Agricultural Department on King Island, working on disease control in dairy cattle. Then he moved to Ulverstone after three years, still working for the same department before transferring to the Artificial Breeding Board. After 20 years he then worked for Blue Ribbon Meat Products for another 20 years before retiring.

Noel's leisure life includes his main love of surf life saving as well as football and cricket. He was instrumental in setting

up junior surf life saving for the coast culminating in the Tasmanian area. This included organising and taking state teams to the mainland. He has also been involved with the senior surf lifesaving for Tasmania plus involvement with the North West Football Association for many years before retirement, including president of these associations.

Noel's other 'love' for the last 18 years is growing orchids and is still involved with this organisation as the current patron. He has been the show marshal of the orchid show for the past six years.

Noel now spends any spare time he has with the orchids as well as doing generous deeds for his friends and neighbours.

Noel received his Order of Australia Medal in January 2008 for service to the Ulverstone community including mainly surf life saving with young children. He has also received the Ulverstone Lions Club Elvin Jones Award in 2009, the first Tasmanian to be listed in the Hall of Fame for Lions Club International for his dedication to his work in Lions.

**Noel Viney OAM**  
**Tasmania Branch Chairman**

## OPINION PIECE – SOUND DECISIONS NEEDED NOW

Australia Day and Anzac Day are upon us again. What will our leaders do to prevent our young, vibrant, vital young people from going off to war, instead of standing firm and saying there are better solutions than fighting; or, we can do more with our finances than fund the armaments industry; or, we can be independent of America's poor decision-making.

On Armistice Day 11/11/16, my family with thousands of Tasmanian families, will remember relatives who fought and did not come home again from the first or second world wars, or if they did return, lived totally changed lives. My four uncles fought in WW1, one was a Rhodes Scholar who was studying medicine at Oxford. He enlisted and worked in field hospitals. After the war, he could not face a hospital again and sold insurance. How many other thousands of Australian's lives were altered, not for the better, because world leaders like senior European politicians in 1913, could not and did not make the hard, but common-sense decisions needed to change the course of history and stop that wasteful war before it was too late? Australian families are still paying the price.

The same happened prior to WW2. Following high inflation, then the Great Depression, Europeans were trying to survive, 'minding their own business,' 'shutting a blind eye,' avoiding trouble, many pretending, partying, dancing, drinking and drug-taking, opting out of their responsibilities, instead of standing up and saying to their Governments, "This is too extreme, this is not right, this has to be stopped, or, this has to be modified. Now." By 1937 for example, thousands of women world-wide, e.g., those meeting in the International Council of Women world conference, were deeply worried that Germany had massively re-armed, and that the brown shirts and the Nazi party in Germany had not been stopped earlier. Again it was a case of big business wanting 'business as usual' calling for continuing appeasement so that Government leaders vacillated.

At present, many of those in my networks are feeling deeply concerned because we consider that our Government is not making the decisions which are needed right now, for example, to steer our car industry into the future via renewables, rather than allowing it to disintegrate. Or, to propose sufficient and adequate cuts to Australian's carbon emissions before the Paris Conference this year. Did our Governments listen to those who rallied in the Global

Marches on 29 November? Or, will the powerful fossil fuel interests cause the Government to continue to vacillate? Australia cannot afford to see the polar ice-caps and glaciers melt much further, or the oceans warm by even one degree more, or droughts and floods increase. It is no use Australians hoping that our Government will do the right thing unless enough of us, the 'silent' majority let our Government know clearly that we want to reduce Australia's carbon footprint to acceptable levels immediately rather than too late. We don't mind if we have to pay a bit more to achieve this. How many Australians will rally or write, to let them know that enough is enough. At present it is not enough. It must be in line with what 99% of the world's top scientists say we need to do. Will our leaders listen to ordinary people? Will the die-hards in our Government say it is time to change policy? They should.

Certainly there are no easy answers. It is not easy for the Government to decide on balanced and sensible policies. However, with the increasing use of the internet for communication in its various forms, it should be easy for the Government to involve many more citizens in the creation of satisfying and sound solutions to the difficult problems, especially climate change. That is, unless the majority of Australians kid themselves that they can go on like "ostriches with heads in the sand," trying to mind their own business and live only in the present; like Europeans in the 1930s. Thank goodness the majority of Australian citizens have more wisdom than this, they will no longer be fooled or leave it to a handful of Government leaders to get it wrong once again. The Government should appreciate the wisdom of the people.

Other concerns include fear that our Government's decisions are far too closely aligned with those of America's extremists, whose limited policies on terrorism and violence have helped put millions of people in their current terrible position. Also, that Australian Government's decisions are not adequate to balance the greed of multinationals whose only motive is excessive profit. And that our Government is not providing adequate secular education systems to control the influence of extreme religious groups whose belief systems are based on ignorance.

**Linley Grant OAM**  
This article courtesy of The Mercury

## NORTHERN REGION NOTES

The highlight of the latter part of 2015 was the Mayoral Reception on 15 October hosted by his worship the Mayor of Launceston Albert Van Zetten. Over 70 people attended and it was very pleasing to see not only new awardees but also some long-standing awardees that have not been around for a while. The Northern Region Association is very grateful to the Mayor and the staff of the Town Hall for providing an opportunity to recognise and welcome new and old members in such a significant manner. Special thanks to Mayor Van Zetten for his address and generous remarks; to Elizabeth Clark for taking such a detailed personal interest in arranging the event, and to the City of Launceston RSL band for their attendance and playing.

At the AGM on 22 October, the 2015 committee of management was re-elected for the forthcoming year along with two new members – Mrs Joan Green OAM and Dr Nicholas Chantler AM PhD.

2016 will be another year of interesting activities for members in our region. February will see us lunching at the beautiful mountain home of Betty Tasker OAM – those members who attended this delightful venue last February will vividly remember the splendid panoramic views and delicious food. In April we will have an informative tour of the Rocherlea Studentworks followed by afternoon tea, and in June a special tour of the Queen Victoria Museum with its curator Mr Richard Mulvaney as guide and guest speaker.

As well as developing new and interesting activities for members, the Northern Region OAA management committee is keen to promote the awareness and ideals of the Order of Australia awards in schools and to the community at large. To this end it will be developing a member's survey to gather information and ideas as to how best to encourage people to recognise and nominate people for an award, and how best to publicise our aims and objectives.



*The Mayor of Launceston Albert Van Zetten hosted a reception for new northern Tasmanian award recipients. Amongst the attendees were Kryne Meerman OAM, Mervyn Whybrow OAM and Barbara Whybrow.*



*Betty Tasker OAM, George Shaw OAM, Trevor Clark OAM and Michael Polley AM at the Launceston Mayoral Reception.*

## TASMANIAN BRANCH OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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