

AGM 2018 – Chairman’s Report

Good morning members and guests

Since your Board of management was reconstituted in July last year we have had a demanding but satisfying period of development

We have put in place teams that are ensuring that the national activities of our Association are well managed. We have overhauled our approach to investment, have ensured our business risks are understood and mitigated against, and have launched a new website. We have begun the transition to a widely accessible IT based information system

The offering of ‘The Order’ magazine in electronic form has seen 2,000 members take up this option, with a consequent considerable and ongoing saving that can be directed to member benefit.

We are about to launch a new initiative, the Association eNews. This will be a short sharp summary of national issues of significance to members, particularly as they affect the achievement of our goals of community involvement and pride in citizenship. The eNews will be available to all members who have provided their email address.

I emphasise that providing your email address will not result in your receiving ‘The Order’ by this means. You may still elect to receive printed copy.

We are a national association with members throughout Australia and overseas. Our national efforts, in the interests of members, can only be delivered through our network of Branches and Regional Groups.

To this end the National Strategic Plan, last updated in 2015 has been reviewed and work is now progressing to ensure close integration of this plan with Branch and Regional Group activity

A key outcome of some turbulence at the 2017 AGM in Brisbane was the decision to put before members a series of changes to the Association Constitution. These changes have been described in detail in your AGM agenda and supporting documents. The purpose of these changes, which will be discussed later in this meeting, is to increase the influence of members in the management of our Association. The Board of management unanimously recommends acceptance of all six of the proposed amendments.

Your National Board, Branches and Regional Groups have a demanding agenda of projects in the coming year. They are aimed at further strengthening our Association and will be discussed along with any issues that members wish to raise during the coming Members’ Forum. Our success will depend on our ability to work together as a cohesive national organisation.

One project that I am pleased to announce is our Association National Scholarship. This scholarship will stand alongside the Order Foundation Scholarships and will be awarded annually. The opportunity will be provided for members to contribute to this scholarship programme individually or through their Branches.

In conclusion I wish to thank my colleagues on the National Board of Management for their generation of ideas and involvement in bringing them to fruition, to thank our President Philip Flood for his representation of our Association and his wise counsel, and you the members of our Association for your continuing support of our activities.

Barry Nunn AO

Adelaide, 4th May 2018