

OAA VIC Branch Chair's Report tabled at the February 19, 2019 AGM

In tabling this report I acknowledge Diane James AM who was VIC Branch Chair until November last year.

One of our successful endeavours for the year was the campaign to acquire email addresses to encourage online communications with our members, thus cutting significant time, stationery, printing and postage costs for our Branch. With the help of actor, Ken James, over 91% of our members have now supplied us with an email contact address.

Continued to build the relationship with our Patron, the Governor of Victoria, through attendance at two Investitures and progressing an opportunity for an event to be held at Government House. William Lye OAM researched and prepared an excellent report on current OAA membership diversity which has been presented to the Governor for her consideration.

-2018 saw the resignation of Cathy Roth OAM, Michael Kennedy OAM and Christine Unsworth AM from Victoria Branch for health or personal reasons and we thank them for their service over the years. We welcomed during the year Peter Jones AM and William Lye OAM

Worked with National on the development and input of numerous policies including the National Strategic Plan

Hosted the National Chairman Barry Nunn to a boardroom meeting in Melbourne where significant issues were raised and mutual areas of interest discussed.

Successfully hosted members and guests to our 2018 signature events:

*Australia Day Flag Raising Ceremony at The Shrine

*Inspiring Australians Oration with Dr Susan Alberti AO at Deakin Edge Federation Square

*National Masterpieces lecture, exhibition and lunch at NGV

*New Awardees Ceremony, Alex Theatre

*Annual Luncheon, with Steve Moneghetti AM at William Angliss College

This year the Vic Branch is keen to retain and grow membership and continue to focus on diversity in culture, gender and age. We all know 35 to 50 year olds who have gone above and beyond, so why not nominate them for an Order of Australia award.

I thank all our Regional Groups for the outstanding work they do organising quality events and welcoming new recipients who are their potential new members.

The Victoria Branch values Fred Harrington OAM our Secretary; he is an excellent sounding board for both the outgoing and incoming Chair – thank you.

In closing I acknowledge Duncan Stalker OAM who due to tenure of years on the Victoria Branch committee is standing down. We acknowledge Duncan has been Vic Branch Chairman Regional; Chair of Communications sub-committee, an excellent representative of the South West Regional Group and a brilliant Chair of the 2014 National Conference in Victoria. Duncan thank you, and we wish you ongoing health and happiness.