



President's Report for Annual General Meeting

12th August 2010

1. Introduction

Let me commence by saying what an honour it has been for me to serve you as President for the last 12 months, and I now have the pleasure of presenting you with the President's Annual Report.

2. Our 'main objective'.

Clause 2a) of our Constitution states we are *'To maintain and develop friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation between the peoples of Australia and the United States of America'*.

This objective is certainly being met, for over the past 12 months:-

- a. Our relationship with the US Consulate and US Consul General Dr Ken Chern has been most positive and productive. Ken Chern accepted our invitation to attend (and speak) at a number of our functions.

Ken's 3 year term in WA is now over and Ken and Ronnie Chern have returned to the USA. They will be greatly missed.

Who can forget our Xmas function last November when Ken sang a duet with me, and Rich Tilghman had many of our older ex service members come up and sing.

- b. Vice President Susan Glasfurd OAM, my wife Tricia and I and other Executive Council Members have made a point of attending all American Womens Club functions to which we were invited.

These include a Thanksgiving Dinner, and Fourth of July Open Day.

- c. I received an Invitation and subsequently attended a Wreath Laying Ceremony at Kings Park for the North American Veterans Association.

- d. Susan Glasfurd OAM has worked extremely hard, and also had some of us involved at Fremantle Docks, meeting/greeting sailors and marines when the USS George Washington Aircraft Carrier Battle Group docked.
- e. Susie almost single handedly made arrangements to commemorate the Battle of the Coral Sea Wreath Laying Ceremony at Kings Park.

In attendance was His Excellency the Governor of Western Australia Dr Ken Michael AC, and there was a fly past.

3. Functions

Unfortunately, although we try to vary our functions it's always a struggle to get members to come along. We appreciate our membership is ageing, and evening functions may not always be suitable.

In the next 12 months there will be some morning and lunchtime events, so please do support our hard work by attending.

In the last 12 months, we have had, - and please excuse me if I have missed any:-

- i August, - A Cocktail Party at which US Consul General Dr Ken Chern was Guest Speaker;
- ii October, - A Happy Hour at a hotel on the Stirling Highway;
- iii November, - A Melbourne Cup luncheon;
- iv Late November, - Our Xmas Dinner;
- v December, - A Xmas function in my own home, to thank Executive Council members for their hard work;
- vi February, - A Valentine's Day breakfast with a talented opera singer;
- vii March, - A combined Irish/Yankee/Aussie night in Susie's backyard, with me burning the meat; playing guitar and singing songs, and encouraging all to join in the Irish Joke competition.
- viii May, - Our Coral Sea Commemoration Black Tie Dinner at the Melbourne Hotel, with the Army Band and Don King entertaining us.
- ix May, - A cocktail party to farewell Dr Ken Chern;
- x June, - A Happy Hour at the Pergoda, Como;
- xi July, - a 'Xmas in July' Dinner Dance with the band I sing with performing numbers from the 1960's.

Apart from the above, Susie, Tricia and I have been invited and attended numerous wreath laying, civic reception and other functions on your behalf. You can see we have been busy.

4. Membership

At 30th June this year we had 154 members, and I'm told membership renewals are going along as per previous years.

5. Federal Conference

The Federal Conference and AGM is to be held in Adelaide next month.

There has been no Nomination for the position of AAA President (WA Division) other than my own Nomination, so I have booked flights and accommodation for Tricia and I to attend the Conference.

6. Executive Council changes

Let me take this opportunity to thank all members who have served on Executive Council over the last twelve months.

I particularly wish to thank:-

Susan Glasfurd OAM, Vice President and Secretary.

Susie has been **so** hard working, and we have made a great team.

Unfortunately for us Susie is leaving Executive Council to take time out and travel, but assures me she will assist when possible.

We particularly need Susie's expertise for Coral Sea and US fleet visits. All the sailors know Susie!

Barry Main former Treasurer.

Barry has in the past not only fulfilled the roll of Treasurer, but has also been our Property Officer and the man to rely on for jobs such a first aider, and chief chair mover and stacker. Unfortunately we are losing Barry also.

Josie Moore

Josie is also a lady we have been able to rely upon. Her many rolls range from greeting you at functions; selling raffle tickets, and blowing up balloons.

Josie is a real quiet achiever. Thank heaven Josie is remaining on EC.

Tricia Grace

My wife tells me I never give her credit, so here goes. Tricia is ever supportive of the AAA and will always 'muck in', wait on tables, and do whatever is required to make our events a success. Tricia remains with me on EC.

Ann Spiro

Ann has not only looked after our website, but has worked hard to compile and distribute our Newsletters and other information. For part of the year Ann was also our Membership Officer. Ann has kindly offered to continue looking after the website.

Merv Bailey

We were grateful when Merv took over the Treasurer's roll, and now he has added Membership to his portfolio. You won't get past Merv into functions unless you have paid. I'm grateful that reliable Merv is also remaining on EC.

7. Executive Council vacancies and Meetings.

We need on EC others who are willing to serve and get actively involved. We don't expect you to kill yourself, but will be grateful for additional help.

Why not discuss this with myself or another EC member.

We meet on the last Thursday of a month (except December), and in the last year I have been able to close Meetings within an hour.

Our next EC Meeting is **Thursday 26th August, 5.30.pm**

at the Rod Evans Centre, Hay St. East Perth

8. The next 12 months

With the support of Executive Council my ongoing intention is to give value for money to our members with interesting and 'fun' functions, whilst maintaining the 'main objective' above, and remembering/commemorating the events which should not be forgotten.

9. Close

Again I thank you for the honour and privilege of serving you as President of AAA (WA Division), and I look forward to the next 12 months.

David Grace

President