

OAA VIC Branch Chair's Report tabled at the Tuesday March 17, 2020 Annual General Meeting at RACV City Club Melbourne

Success comes from building on the foundations set by previous committees and from introducing new opportunities for you our members.

2019 started with an invitation to join the Australia Day March along Swanston Street past the Melbourne Town Hall to the Kings Domain Gardens and then lunch hosted by RACV.

February was the third Inspiring Australians Oration at Deakin Edge; the Oration was delivered by the Right Honourable Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp. The event also included a Q&A with Foundation scholarship recipient Juanita Collins-Mundine and entertainment by young singer Imogen Spendlove.

The National Masterpiece lecture, exhibition and lunch at the National Gallery Victoria was again well attended by members and their guests in June.

We thank Alek Vass and his wife Susan for their ongoing hosting of the new honours recipients reception at the Alex Theatre in St Kilda. The Vass family provided the venue, lighting and sound, staff and afternoon tea at no cost. Members and their guests were entrained by Wendy Stapleton and the Australian Women's Choir.

Our last Branch function for the year was the annual lunch at William Angliss Restaurant with guest speaker Rosie Batty AO. Members and guests also had the opportunity to hear from and meet Foundation scholarship recipient Jeremy Doupe.

We also thank Christine Unsworth AM and David Mann AM for being MC of events during the year.

Continued to build the relationship with our Patron, the Governor of Victoria, through attendance at the growing number of Investitures at Government House

We saw the retirement of Irene Harrington OAM in early December for health reasons, the resignation of Fred Harrington OAM as Regional Groups Co-ordinator, and note Barbara Abley AM hasn't re-nominated for 2020. We acknowledge the contribution Irene and Barbara made in their first year to the Communications sub-committee and thank Fred for his excellent work with the Regional Groups over the years.

Fred has nominated as Secretary for 2020, he will still part of the VIC Branch committee for another twelve months.

Committee worked with National on the development and input of numerous policies including reviewing the National Strategic Plan late last year

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

In tabling this report I thank all the members of the VIC Branch committee for their commitment and hard work to ensure 2019 was a social success for our members and a financial success for the Branch.

Each contributed as part of a sub-committee and were always willing to assist at events.

I acknowledge the work of:-

Alan Brook OAM Treasurer

Fred Harrington OAM our Secretary, it isn't the easiest position to hold on any committee

Dr June Kane AM Merchandise committee chair ably assisted by our Treasurer, a coopted member Barbara Brook OAM for her work in receiving and despatching of orders and we note the input from Neil Soulier OAM during the year. It is pleasing to see some new merchandise and the much awaited scarf.

Irene Harrington OAM Communications chair for 9 months and her committee for their work producing e-Newsletters and VIC pages for *The Order* magazine during 2019.

Peter Jones AM Events committee chair and one of his staff Alex Day. Peter has ensured our events continue to grow in quality and the feedback from members has been positive.

William Lye OAM QC our Branch Nominated Director on the Board

Thank RACV City Club for setting the chairs further apart than normal and ensuring we had hand sanitiser available for members to use.

In closing, thank you to our members who together with guests attend our Branch events when time allows. Please stay well.