

Presidents report AGM 2011

NATIONAL SENIORS AUSTRALIA EVENING BRANCH SA INC.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO 2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(As endorsed by the management committee)

1) Twelve months ago when I was elected I said that I wanted to put the enjoyment back into meetings by doing away with formal dinner meetings & treating them as a social event.

Members have been brought up to date with announcements and the opportunity to ask questions at these dinner meetings. I hope this has been acceptable to everyone.

2) I thank all the committee members for their assistance during the year as their involvement has made life easier for me.

I know I shouldn't make mention of particular members, but that is not going to stop me. I thank Hilary & Maureen for nominating for positions which they were not really comfortable with, i.e. secretary & treasurer, but they both dived in at the deep end with a 100% commitment . Strangely enough they both survived and have renominated again for 2011/12 !! Now that I have started I also thank Elaine for her support as Vice President, a position she has held for two years, and in particular for her efforts in gaining great publicity for our Branch by supplying Extra Magazine with details of our comings & goings. After nearly four years of service on the committee Barry resigned in the latter part of the year. He has continued to support us with the assistance of Jan as Walks Coordinator. I am pleased to report that Barry and Jan have offered their services to the new committee to carry on organising The Strollers activities for 2011/12. Barry, your service over the years has been appreciated by presidents and members alike. Many thanks for the contribution you have made to Branch affairs. The other members of the committee, Robyn and the two Peters, went "the extra mile" with their assistance with Dinner Meetings and being involved in organising additional social functions guest speakers etc.

Thanks everyone. You have been a great gang to work with.

3) Everything is not always rosey in the garden and so I will get my disappointment out of the way now by reiterating the matter raised in my newsletter where I brought to the notice of members that attendance at dinner meetings from April took a steep dive. I am aware of a number of contributing factors, but received no additional feed back from members to help assess whether dinner meetings in the current format are still wanted. Personally I think that they are an excellent opportunity for members to socialise with an interesting speaker to follow. They are also over in a reasonable time. Management of the hotel have tried to remedy any matters which we raised with them. I know that everything is not 100% but I think that we are lucky to have a venue at no charge at an easily accessible city venue with good parking available.

4) Your committee recognised the difficulty in organising local “information” events in order to attract new members especially as our current membership is widely spread. Recently Hilary approached Messenger Press who have a wide circulation around most suburbs and managed to obtain publicity in a couple of issues. No new members have been attracted yet, but we will try this method again in the future. No doubt the best way for our branch to increase our numbers is for existing members to invite others to come to our meetings. If you think Evening Branch is an OK group, give others the opportunity to come and join us as well. (It would be great to have a turn up like the Traffic Control Centre night every month.)

5) Our programme has followed the same format for a number of years – Dinner meetings, Strollers including weekends away, movie/play nights, sporting events (bowls, bowling, cruise, dogs ,trot), Christmas show, visits to other venues etc. The new committee would be pleased to receive your ideas for our continuing programmes and special events. During the last year the committee encouraged members to attend the State Conference by subsidising them \$20.00 of their registration fee. I think that this was a very successful day with 10 members & 2 guests attending to hear an interesting programme

6) During the year we managed to have National Office agree with our interpretation of two contentious matters :-

a) Use of our funds.

The constitution clearly states that Branch funds can be used solely to promote the objects of the Branch which include to “enhance the quality of life for older persons”and to.... “aid persons fifty years and over”

b) NSA Members can only be members of one Branch for the purpose of being entitled to vote etc but may attend any other Branch as guests.

Irrespective of any personal views all members are bound by the regulations laid down by the Constitution.

The major affect on this ruling is that it restricts the Branch making donations to organisations who support us by supplying guest speakers or to any other cause which we think might be worthy but do not fall within the prescribed requirements.

7) Meeting facilities .

The hotel will provide their projector etc for a hiring fee of \$50. We have investigated what equipment is available for the Branch to purchase. It is possible to spend from \$300 up to \$3,000 which would buy a projector into which a flash drive could be directly plugged.

At the moment we are following up the purchase of a second hand projector like the hotel's which must be operated in conjunction with a lap top computer.

8) Website

We have an excellent website which was designed and operated for the Branch by Christina, our immediate past president. During the last year we have not used it to get the best benefits from it by failing to present information, photos etc to our webmaster in a suitable format.

It is the intention of the 2010/11 committee to have the site up and running for our best advantage in the ensuing year. The site is not just for members but can be used as a tool to attract potential members.

CONCLUSION

I thank all members for your support over the last twelve months and look forward to your continuing support for the 2011/12 committee.

I feel that two years is long enough to hold the position of president and I will not offer myself for re-election in 2012. I am sure that a suitable candidate with fresh ideas will step forward at that time and lead our Branch on to bigger and better things.

Roger Blackeby

27th July 2011