



South Australian Division

AGM 2011

During the year I attended a considerable number of functions associated with the Ex Service Organisations and a number of state and local government ceremonies as your representative. As usual I attended the regular functions associated with our role in South Australia, including; ANZAC Day Dawn Service and March through Adelaide, Remembrance day ceremony and the annual Cocktail Party hosted by the RAAF at Edinburgh. Again, I had the unfortunate task of attending the funerals of a number of our senior and long serving members.

Also during the year the Association was honoured by the award of the Order Of Australia Medal to John Martin this recognition is further confirmation of the dedication and loyalty of all our members, however, only a few can be selected to be honoured for their efforts. You may recall the South Australia Air Museum was given a grant to enable them to purchase equipment necessary for restoration of a Fairey Battle. I am pleased to report that the Museum continues with their effort. I thank the dedicated band of Museum volunteers who have made this possible.

Membership continues to be of concern and our attrition rate over the past year was more than new recruiting. I have also had the sad duty to accept notification of the following Branches going into recession; I refer to Pt Augusta, Port Pirie and Mildura. While the branches have closed, those members still involved have transferred the membership to the Central Reserve (HQ Branch). In that way they can be assured of maintaining a connection with the Association. On a lighter note, I am pleased to announce that since the beginning of 2011 our recruitment of new members has way outperformed our losses. Also on that subject the majority of those newly recruited are at an age where we can expect long membership. We continue to research ways in which to attract the current serving members and this effort is also being pursued at National level.

The Office continues to be manned Monday, Wednesday and Thursday by myself and our very capable office assistant, Annette Moore. We have also in recent months changed our telephone message system and hopefully this will see the last of complaints regarding the quality of the message service.



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Progress continues, albeit slowly on the establishment of our library and the relocation of the Welfare/Pension Officers to what was known as the Museum room located next to the main office.

A number of members have an active interest in the Airport Plaque Memorial site located at Adelaide Airport. You may also be aware that there are plans to redevelop some parts of the area. One of those areas to be developed is the site currently occupied by the Vickers Vimy and the plaques. The Airport management has indicated that the Vickers Vimy will be relocated to a site as yet to be determined; but two alternatives have been mentioned they are, to have the aircraft installed in the atrium of the new terminal and the other is to relocate it to the SA Air Museum at Port Adelaide. At this time no positive outcome has been identified, other than the acknowledgement by Air port Management that the cost of relocating it will be met by the Adelaide Air port Authority. No such undertaking has been made relative to the Airport Plaques. Your state council is currently pursuing a number of avenues that will hopefully see the plaques relocated to a site on the Torrens Parade Ground area. At this time negotiations are in the preliminary stage but I can advise you that a design has been developed that the state council hopes will meet the requirements of the State Government and Adelaide City Council.

I would now like to express my thanks to the State Council Members who have provided me with support and assistance during the year and pause to remember our late Assistant Secretary Bobby Fuller, who passed away in June last year.

On behalf of the Association may I record well deserved thanks and recognition for their herculean efforts over many years I am sure their record will be difficult to equal in the future.

Finally, despite the recent Global Financial Crisis our financial position remains steady and the outlook appears to be more positive than recent months would indicate.

Regards

Dave Helman