

# **ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WA) INC**

## **Report of the President, Doug Ayre, to the AGM on 7 August 2016**

Firstly, I wish to record my general thanks to the members of the Branch Committee for their support and work over the last year. The members are all very busy people with personal and professional lives and their time and effort and good humour is greatly appreciated.

Kaylene Poon has done a great job in picking up the compilation and issue of our 'Play Back' publication from our previous editor Hilaire Natt. She has instigated a few changes to Play Back in order to orient us to an electronic publication consistent with the national body and this has worked out well.

Linda Wang has steadfastly worked at our accounts and book keeping and has done a good job in making herself familiar with the necessary computer software and its way of operating in order to help us to produce the necessary reports and to help us manage our financial affairs.

Jo Roberts has been able to liaise for us via her role at the SLWA and has provided valuable input and insights to our decision making.

Elaine Rabbitt, in Broome, has looked after our membership register which has worked well.

Jenna Lynch has not been able to attend meetings due a clash with study commitments but has been a valuable contact at the City of Perth Library.

Reeti Brar though not able to attend our committee meetings has helped us with management of our website on an 'as required' basis.

Finally, I have carried out the roles of Branch President, as de facto Secretary and as our representative on the national executive committee. This is normal for the Branch President.

In brief, the Branch is in good financial shape. We have recovered from our exhausting efforts to organise and run the national conference on behalf of OHA in September 2015. We have consolidated after our efforts and been well complimented on the conference and our management of it.

So that we can go forward in the next 12 months, and bearing in mind that have had a very small committee, there are a number of issues that I would like to bring to your attention.

### **Banking Arrangements**

We need to arrange to change from cheque book banking to electronic authorisation of payments. This will be consistent with changes in banking procedure and will be much more convenient for us.

### **Compliance with State Legislation dealing with incorporated bodies**

We are required to harmonise our constitution with the new legislation. Len Cargeeg has agreed to carry out a review and advise us on what action is required to amend our constitution.

### **Change from monthly committee meetings**

Monthly meetings are required by our constitution but the committee would like to move away from this commitment. We interact largely by email and envisage that we could do more of this in order to gain consensus when making decisions. Changes to our constitution will be necessary.

### **Effective use of quarterly general meetings**

In line with changes to monthly committee meetings the committee prefer to make more effective use for general meetings for a broader agenda and decision making.

### **Committee Membership**

Vice President, Secretary and additional committee members are urgently required. It is not administratively effective to operate without a secretary and it may be in breach of new legislation. We need to address this issue as it cannot continue if we are to avoid problems.

One possible option is to look at the possibility of pooling our resources with another organisation and jointly employing someone to do this work for us.

### **Training Workshops**

We urgently need assistance to administer, organise and run them.

As it stands at the moment I propose to run some workshops at the Scout Heritage Centre in Mt Hawthorn with the support of Gordon Hamilton.

I also hope to assist Elaine Rabbitt with running one of her accredited OH training courses at the Scout Heritage Centre at the end of 2016.

### **Hiring out of OHAWA recording equipment**

I will look after this at the Scout Heritage Centre unless someone else would like to undertake the role.

### **WA State OHAA Conference**

We have not had one for a while and should consider running one in possibly a WA regional centre. Possibly late 2017 or during 2018.

I need a local group to take this on and organise it.

### **Changes to our website**

The various state branches have already made some web site changes, or will be moving to align, with the redesign of the national website. Once it is clear what is involved we will have to make some changes to our website if we are to have an effective presence on the internet.

### **Change to the name of our branch**

To be consistent with the national body, and align with other states, we need to change our name from the outdated *Oral History Association of Australia (WA Branch) Inc.* to either *Oral History WA* or *Oral History Western Australia*.

This is not urgent as we can operate with our old name in the interim but it will require some changes to our constitution which it may be opportune to carry out simultaneously with other required changes.