

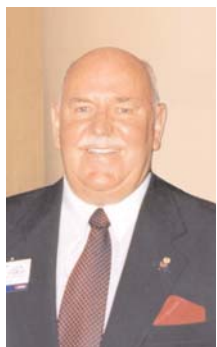
The AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT



Promoting friendship between Australia and the United States of America

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Over the past year we have embraced the imperative for change which was signalled to me on taking



Jim Baker OAM
President

office as a requirement which was essential if the organisation was to increase its membership; enhance the status of the organisation; and ensure that its presentation and style demonstrated the credibility and prestige for which the organisation stands.

In association with the Executive, and to achieve the required outcome, several key areas have been targeted which include:

- Review and redesign of the newsletter to a style and standard that reinforces the quality of our organisation. The development of the newsletter into a 4-colour presentation has been designed to provide the opportunity for AAA to include photographs of AAA personalities, presentations and events. This new style will reinforce the quality of our membership base, and offer greater opportunities for sponsor logos to be added. With this in mind, we anticipate identifying a sponsor for the printing of the newsletter to help us reduce costs. We also anticipate the enhanced quality of the newsletter will encourage greater sponsor interest while facilitating the easier inclusion of sponsor acknowledgement.

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FEDERAL CONFERENCE WELCOMES WESTERN AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVES AND INTRODUCES NEW STUDENT ESSAY AWARD

This year two of Western Australia's long time AAA members, Past President Marice Purser and Hazel Robertson, attended the Annual Federal AAA Conference on the Queensland Gold Coast. They tabled this report at the last meeting of the Executive.

The Federal Conference was held at the Trocadero Entertainment Centre, on the Queensland Gold Coast. In attendance were the Immediate Past President, David Allen, the Federal Secretary, Jan Cunningham, the Federal Treasurer and the Federal Director (Government), David Evans. Also in attendance was American Ambassador Lawrence William Lane Jr. There were representatives from Divisions of Western Australia, Hobart, Brisbane, South Australia, Sydney, Northern Territory, Canberra and the Gold Coast. David Allen stood in as chairman in place of Geoff Cavanagh who was unwell.

The conference was opened by The Hon. David Jull MP, who welcomed Ambassador Bill Lane and announced the Bill Lane AO Award, an annual essay prize for first degree students. Approval was granted for this award to go ahead. The prize will be cash and sponsors are being sought.

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Excerpts from Correspondence from Ken Bladen to AAA President, Jim Baker:

"This is just a quick note to congratulate you on the way you are running the AAA in the short time you have been at the helm. You have provided the strong leadership and your great team is right up there with you - well done. You are also providing the 'vision' required for the incentive and the future. It's easy to criticise from the sidelines and people often get (too) complacent in voluntary organisations - yours and the work of your Committee is most appreciated."



FUTURE EVENTS - MARK YOUR DIARIES

It is our intention to present members with a rich variety of social events that will entertain and inform them and their guests. With this in mind the Functions and Hospitality Committee is in the process of arranging the calendar of events for the next six months.

We invite you to take advantage of these evening and day functions. Support your club and bring along your guests and family so they can have the opportunity of experiencing the friendship, guest speakers, and various activities of the Australian American Association.

- A separate **Calendar of Events** will be posted in due course as more information becomes available.
- Many of you have asked if the association has a **Monthly Meeting Place** as in previous times. At the moment there is no monthly meeting place but as membership increases this will become more important. It has been widely discussed, and any further information will be distributed when available.
- **Bus trip to Stirling Base, Garden Island.** A tour of Garden Island and base with a barbeque following is currently being planned. This will be very popular so you will need to book as soon as the date and final information is released. For your convenience there will be two pickup points - one in Claremont and the other south of the river.
- **Sundowner at Oceanus** Friday 5th March. This is a great opportunity for old members to welcome our newly joined members in stylish surroundings.

During the final three months of 2003 AAA members attended functions to commemorate and celebrate the traditions of the USA and Australia.

- **The annual Remembrance Poppy Day Lunch** at the Novotel Langley Perth Hotel on 11th November. This was attended by His Excellency the Governor of Western Australia, the Hon Geoff Gallop MLA the Premier of Western Australia, representatives of the Army, Navy and Air forces, and others including thirteen AAA members.
- **Also on Remembrance Day,** President Jim Baker laid a wreath at the State War Memorial on behalf of the AAA and Secretary Susan Glasfurd laid a wreath at the Fremantle War Memorial.
- **The Spring Craft & American Food Fair** was held on Saturday 15th November. The popular annual fair included a full day of activities, with a wide variety of American-style food and craft on show for sale.
- **Two Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner** invitations were forwarded to our members for Thursday 27th November, with special guests' United States Consul General Oscar De Soto and United States Consul Mark McBurney attending. The dinner hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce was held at the Parmelia Hilton Perth and the dinner hosted by the American Women's Group dinner was held at Royal Perth Yacht with many of our members present for a great night.
- **The Great Aussie American Christmas Breakfast,** held at the Melbourne Hotel on Sunday 7th December (the date of the attack on Pearl Harbor), was well attended by members and guests, with Commander Kevin Jones of the US Navy as the guest speaker. Traditional American flapjacks, lively entertainment and good company kicked off the season of Christmas cheer.

The welcoming sundowner will once again be held at the stunning Oceanus Restaurant, overlooking the ocean at City Beach. An informal and fun night, we would encourage all members to attend.

- **The Battle of the Coral Sea Commemoration.** This is an annual four day affair, which is always held on the weekend nearest to the battle, and is one of the most important annual events on the AAA Calendar. Dates to put into your diary now are the Memorial Wreath Laying at the Fremantle War Memorial on Friday, May 7th, followed by an official morning tea with the Mayor of Fremantle and a formal Dinner Dance to be held on Saturday, May 8th. Other commemorative events are currently being determined by the committee and details will be available in a future newsletter.
- **The Royal United Services Institute** is holding a free public lecture on Tuesday, 10th February 2004 in St Andrews Church, Perth. David Malone, a Special Adviser to the United Nations and President of the International Peace Academy in New York, will be the speaker. Members who are interested in attending this lecture can ring Susie Glasfurd on 9386 5958.
- **The Affinity Group Picnic and Softball Tournament.** The Affinity Group comprised of kindred associations including the AAA, is holding a day of activities at Curtin University on Sunday March 14th, 2004. Activities will include a picnic, softball tournament, socialising and mingling as we join with others to welcome incoming American college students. Consul Mark McBurney is coordinating the activities in what is sure to be a day to remember.

CELEBRATE AUSTRALIA DAY AT ROYAL PERTH YACHT CLUB

Monday, January 26th

AAA members and their family and friends are invited to be a part of the Australia Day function at Royal Perth Yacht Club on Monday, January 26th. If you have not already made your plans for the day, please contact Susie for more details on 9386 5958. The entrance price is \$15 per person, which must be prepaid, and a meal can be purchased at the club at a small extra cost. It's a great location from which to watch the fireworks and enjoy a night of dancing with live music. Tickets are selling fast, so please contact Susie immediately if you're interested.

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST DRAWS PLENTY OF COLOUR AND FAMILIAR FACES



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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- Also aimed at reducing costs and keeping the content relevant and timely the Executive resolved that the frequency of the newsletter be changed to become a quarterly production.
- Increased membership via direct approaches from the Membership Committee.
- A new and enhanced style of presentation leading in to the AGM to highlight the vitality, importance and prestige of the organisation and to attract a broader audience with an interest in the values of the association.

You will note that several key communication triggers have been included in the newsletter. These include the 'Exchanging Views' section to encourage feedback from members; a merchandise section to facilitate sales of approved AAA merchandise; and an easy to follow instruction for new membership enquires to be directed to the Membership Officer and the Secretary.

"...we are now keen to develop a program of regular social activities to suit our varied membership"

While we maintained a deliberately low profile during the sensitive period around 11 September and 12 October we are now keen to develop a program of regular social activities to suit our varied membership. To this end we are in contact with our kindred organisations, through the Australian American Affinity Council, in order to coordinate activities, and I am sure you can look forward to an interesting and enjoyable calendar.

J. McK. (Jim) Baker OAM JP

EXCHANGING VIEWS

This is *your* newsletter and we welcome your views, your news and your comments.

For letters to the editor or insertions please mail to:

The Editor
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or email to
susanglasfurd@dodo.com.au

Submissions are requested no later than the last week of each month.

FEDERAL CONFERENCE

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Nationwide, all divisions are doing well other than the Launceston division which has gone into recess; and Newcastle which has officially closed. A membership drive for all states was recommended.

Geoff Cavanagh will continue as National President and the Federal Vice President will be Bronwyn Halbisch from Canberra division. A new Federal Secretary will be appointed soon as Jan Cunningham, after 20 years as Sydney secretary and more recently as Federal Secretary, will be retiring in the next few months. All other appointments are unchanged.

The conference was held over a three day period, and included a moving memorial service to commemorate victims of the Bali bombing.

FUTURE AAA NATIONAL CONFERENCES AROUND AUSTRALIA

The 2004 annual federal conference will be held in Adelaide on a date to be advised. Please note that the 2005 conference will be held in our very own fair state in the City of Perth. More news closer to the date.





MEMBERS, MERCHANDISE & MUSINGS

AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

PATRON

SIR CHARLES COURT AK KCMG OBE

VICE PATRON

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
THE LORD MAYOR
DR PETER NATTRASS

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Greetings To New Members

A warm welcome to all new members of the Australian American Association:

Paul and Jennifer Newell, Rhonda Griechen, Peter Melzer, Patricia Bauman, Anna Oehler, Kathleen Queit, Michael and Sandra Alton.

If you have friends who is interested in joining the Association, please ring the Secretary or Membership Officer for a nomination form.

HISTORICAL SNIPPETS

9th November 1914

HMS Sydney disables the German Cruiser Emden at Cocos Island and takes the crew prisoner.

November 1962

Aboriginals holding Certificates of Citizenship are given the vote in WA

11th November 1954

Veterans Day first celebrated in United States (now observed on fourth Monday in October).

2nd December 1879

SS Georgette runs aground near Busselton, WA.

4th December 1783

George Washington retired as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army.

21st December 1620

The Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts.

1st December 1895

WA standardizes its time at eight hours ahead of Western Standard time.

FOCUS ON MERCHANDISE

AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN TIES FOR A STYLISH CONNECTION

Flying the flag has never been easier than now, with our own Australian American Association ties. These stylish, maroon and navy ties with their small AAA repeated emblem are a "must have" for all male members of our Association and for gifts for friends and colleagues.

Order now. Only \$25.00 each. To place your order phone Susie on 9386 5958.

5th December 1921

Australia's first official airmail service begins, between Geraldton and Derby WA

26th January 1918

First Australia Day celebrations held.

25th January 1915

Transcontinental telephone service established in United States.

We all know that Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith was Australia's greatest aviation pioneer, but did you know that his navigator and radio operator on the first transpacific flight from USA to Australia were Americans - and that if it wasn't for an American millionaire the trip would have been doomed from the start?

YOUR E-MAIL & MAIL ADDRESS

If you have not received an E-mail from us - then we do not have your address. Kindly e-mail Richard Adams on rpadams@iinet.net.au with your address for inclusion in our records. Please also notify Richard with any change to your address or telephone numbers.