

Report from the City of Canberra Sub-Branch

New Year Edition

In lieu of the usual Newsletter from the City of Canberra Sub-Branch to its members, I am taking the opportunity to have the New Year edition included in Stand To. I hope to make such articles a regular feature of future editions.

As at the time of writing, 2009 has been an eventful one and a summary of the major items of interest follows.

Sub-Branch Appointments

At the Annual General Meeting held on 18 February 2009 the following members were elected to the positions shown.

President	Mr Jan Paulga
Vice Presidents	Mr Tony Ablong Mr Derek Roylance Mr Alan Sellwood
Treasurer	Mr Laurie Dillon
Secretary	Mr Paul Bohun
Branch Auditor	Mr Terry Nolan

In addition to the above appointments, Mr Colin Berryman was appointed as a Branch Council Delegate to replace Mr Paul Bohun who was appointed as the ACT Branch Minute Secretary.

Membership

At present, membership of the Sub-Branch is 183 which is a reduction from previous years. As approximately sixty per cent of our members are aged 75 years or more, this trend is expected to continue.

During the year to date nine of our members are known to have passed away—Christopher Alderson, Terry Cross, John Garden, David Haldane, Norman Kemp,

John Kennedy, Mervyn Palmer, John Phoenix, and Eric West—Lest We Forget.

Only two new members joined the Sub-Branch during 2009. This is not a pleasing result, but I believe that this reflects a Branch-wide trend.

Fund Raising Activities

Our two major fund-raising activities achieved pleasing results during 2009. The ANZAC Pin campaign raised a total of approximately \$8,057 which was our best effort to date. The Poppy campaign raised a net total of approximately \$12,268 which was close our best ever result. As these amounts were achieved as a result of the efforts of only thirteen (ANZAC Pins) and fourteen (Poppies) members I feel that we can do better in future years. Notwithstanding, I would like to convey my thanks to those who participated this year.

Poppy sales were boosted by the development of several new sales outlets and recruitment of persons outside the Sub-Branch. Special thanks are extended to the staff and students at Daramalan College for their assistance.

Unfortunately, some of our members who have been able to assist in past years are no longer able to contribute. If you feel that you will be able to assist in these campaigns during 2010, please contact me or Paul Bohun.

Awards and presentations

At the Annual ACT Branch Congress in June, Long Service Awards were presented to Tony Ablong and Raymond Jenkins for reaching the milestone of fifty years of membership of the League.

In addition, the City of Canberra was presented with a certificate commemorating seventy-five years of existence of the City of Canberra Sub-Branch (including its previous identities).

Over many years, the Sub-Branch has made presentations to schools in the North Canberra area as a means of perpetuating the Keith Joyce Memorial Fund. A suitable book prize is awarded to a student in recognition of his/her achievements in historical or civic studies.

The value of prize was raised to sixty dollars and is presented at the recipient school's annual speech/awards day. During 2009, the number of involved schools increased by three.

Annual Subscriptions

As you may be aware, increasing costs have necessitated a raise in the Annual Subscription rate from \$26.50 to \$30. For those members who have not renewed their membership for 2010, a Subscription Reminder Notice is included on page 3 of this newsletter for convenience.

Monthly Meetings

All members are welcome to attend our monthly meetings which are held on the third Wednesday each month (excluding January and December) at The Cottage The Braddon Club, corner of Torrens and Donaldson Streets, Braddon. The meetings commence at 1100 hours. Our next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting and will be held on Wednesday, 17 February 2010.