

Australian Society for the Study of Labour History Adelaide Branch

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE AGM – October 2012

Welcome to the AGM

To those of you that are present today I thank you for your participation.

Hopefully this written report will avoid the need to take up too much time in the AGM meeting proper as we have a very important Guest Speaker today in Haydon Manning.

Unfortunately – due to a 70th birthday celebration for Kevin Vaughan three important members have tendered their apologies for today – Sue Green, Ralph Clarke and John Thomas – the latter two indicating their willingness to serve on the Executive if required again this year.

Active Executive

Of course the success of any organization is best judged by its membership level and I am pleased to report that in the 2011 – 2012 financial year, we retained a membership of around 50 and continued to build on our relationship with the Trade Union Movement through Corporate Membership that is now listed at 8 organizations – something we as a branch here in Adelaide can be justly proud of achieving – and many thanks to the work of Greg Stevens in this regard.

I take this opportunity to thank all members of the retiring Executive for their work and support this year but we have many challenges ahead and I am hopeful that the incoming Executive will find new and exciting ways to reinvigorate the organization - marking time is not an option – fresh ideas goes side by side with membership if we are to remain viable and alive. I especially thank Kevin Kaeding for his dedication and efforts – very often doing much more than just being the Secretary.

Unfortunate death of Ian McGlennon

We were all greatly saddened by the unexpected death of our Vice President Ian McGlennon, a person who promoted many new and invigorating ideas on organizational development – sadly, his passing deprived us of that obvious drive and direction. As President I greatly felt the loss of the person that we expected would today have become my replacement as President - but this was not be.

The Adelaide Branch commemorated Ian's contribution to the organization at a dinner held mid year and we made a small financial contribution to his wife and son from money's raised at that function – Vale Ian.

Functions held in 2012

We have continued with the concept of holding a series of quality speakers on near alternative months of the year at the Box Factory with our first event on Sunday 26th February 2012 with guest speaker **Dr Luke Faulkner** giving a most valued historical review of “The Accord: DID IT WORK and if so, which bits worked best?”

In April, **Jude Elton** “EXPLORED THE MYTHS constructed about the employment of Aboriginal peoples in the White Colonial Economy” and **Phil Robins** in June entertained us all with History and a few stories, all related to the DEATH OF A NEWSPAPER in his talk “The rise and fall of the Labor Herald. We continue today with the upcoming talk by **Haydon Manning** “Labor's Working Class Voter Base”.

Is Social Democracy Exhausted? Flinders University - 17th – 18th February

Though this function was not our own – there is an interest in the program in that our National Secretary Nick Dyrenfurth was a contributor to the conference. Both Ian McGlennon and Allison Murchie attending this function on behalf of the Society and as President I dropped in to hear one or two of the very interesting papers presented. It was at this meeting that we successfully invited Haydon Manning to be speaker at today's AGM.

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Membership Review Committee

For some time we have had concern about the accuracy of Membership records – mailing lists etc and a Committee was set up to overcome many of these problems – we are making progress but to be frank some overlap in membership dates has been an issue of concern. We have asked Ralph Clarke to look into a ½ year separation – or split year membership but this is not yet resolved. We need to end some confusion on membership start date.

It is my opinion that our AGM should be held much closer to the start of the Financial Year mid July or early August as many members await until the AGM to pay their Annual Subscriptions. We currently have a position where 1/3 of the year has passed before members have renewed membership. Organizations and Members who join half way through the year - should pay a ½ fee for membership to June and hopefully a full fee for the ensuing financial year.

Constitution

Members will be aware that we now operate under the terms of the new Federal Constitution – I am now the Branch President, Kevin is the Adelaide Branch Secretary and we should in future use this term. We have financial obligations – as officers of the organization we have obligations – we must have our branch affairs in order – books and records held by the Secretary – Financial records accountable by the Treasurer and in line with Executive decisions – financial records audited and we should note that under the rules any member has a right to inspect the books and records of the Society by reasonable request. We are in the process of looking at what changes we need to make to ensure our compliance with the new Constitution.

National Executive 2012 and National Conference Sydney 2013

The Executive have agreed with me that there is little justification for our SA delegate to attend the Federal National Executive Meeting at the end of November in Sydney this year – most of our views and input can be presented by phone hook ups and written reports. But we do have looming and National Conference in Sydney- possibly late July 2013 and at least 4 members of the Adelaide Branch are expected to attend...subject to our ability to finance same.

Fundraising

There are not many opportunities at fundraising – Dinners, Raffles & Quiz nights have their moments – of course apart from raising funds – some function like a special Dinner have other importance and helps to build the Society and brings members and others together in a amicable way. **Our Dinner in July was a social success but failed financially – we cannot afford to run a function like that again and gain little financial benefit from what is of course quite a bit of work.**

As has been mentioned, we have an urgent need to find ways to finance our attendance at next years National Conference – undoubtedly we will have a ‘Giant Quiz Night’ and some other events – Please members – get ready for some fun events and some ‘special requests’.

Newsletter

We produced 2 editions of the Newsletter this year. My special thanks are extended to Allison Murchie and Marlene Fenwick for an enormous effort and much time and dedication. We still have a few production issues to be resolved but correction and editing has been greatly improved. It should be noted that at this time we have been able to produce the Newsletter with little or no cost involved – Non public recognition of those who have assisted has been passed on.

Conclusion

This will be my last year as President of the Society – I am giving good and fair warning that a new President should be found within the next 10 months – I thank all for their support.

**Gary Lockwood
28th October 2012**