

**PRESIDENTS REPORT FOR THE 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION OF NSW**

**Introduction**

This report covers the period from October 2016 until October 2017. During this period the Battle for Australia Association of New South Wales has been active with regular meetings of the Committee and arranged 2events to commemorate the activities which constitute the Battle for Australia.

**The Committee**

The Committee has operated very effectively and efficiently over the last 12 months. The Office Bearers are

- President – Doug Roser
- Vice President – Vacant
- Secretary – Geoff Brown
- Treasurer – Ian Guild.

The other members of the Committee during the period of this report have been:

Michael Ali OAM  
Bob Auston  
John Byrne  
Chris Dawson – Public Relations./Media  
Norm Ensor OAM  
Warren Glenny AO, RFD, ED  
Eileen Henderson OAM RFD  
John Howells RFD – Website  
June Jorgenson OAM  
Dick Matthews –Australian Legion of Ex-Service Men & Women Rep  
Ted McKeown  
Darren Mitchell  
Elizabeth Ramsay  
David Ross  
Geoff Usher – RAAF Association Rep  
Liz Watts  
Hadyn White, the Executive Officer to the Deputy Commissioner NSW & ACT, DVA, is an invited member of the Committee

6 meetings of the Committee were held during this period – 11 Oct 16, 6 Dec 16, 7 Feb 17, 4 Apr 17, 6 Jun 17 and 6 Aug 17. A feature of the meetings is the camaraderie of all participants and their willingness to contribute. We are so fortunate that Department of Veterans Affairs hosts the meeting at their premises and we wish to record the appreciation of our Association to DVA for the high level of support they give us. Also, we must record the great effort of our Secretary Geoff Brown in arranging and organising our meetings.

## **Financial Report**

A copy of the audited accounts including the Auditors Report have been available on our website since 22<sup>nd</sup> September and are also attached to this report. They show that we have cash assets of \$61,269 which given our limited expenditure requirements is adequate to meet our expected expenses. A vote of thanks must go to Ian Guild, our Treasurer, who does a great job as our Treasurer.

## **Membership**

Our Secretary, Geoff Brown, also looks after our membership and we have noticed a decline in the membership of both individuals and organisations. The Committee has identified the need to conduct a membership drive next year.

## **Other Battle for Australia Associations**

To the surprise of the Committee a contact by the President with, John Jackson, his counterpart in the ACT in June 2016 revealed that a National Battle for Australia Committee still exists and that the National Chairman is AVM Roxley McLennan AO Retd. Our Association has agreed to include material pertaining to the National Committee on our website.

## **Website**

Despite some problems with piracy of our website addresses our website has flourished during this period under the management of John Howells. A special vote of thanks to John for his efforts in arranging and managing our website.

## **Events**

During this period our Association has conducted 2 events:

- A Special Event on 17 February 2017 to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle for Australia. For this special event we were fortunate that Professor Peter Dean from the Australian National University in Canberra agreed to deliver a presentation on the Battle for Australia. It was held in the premises of DVA and the morning tea was attended by about 50. The event was well received and it is the intention of the Committee to repeat it again next year, if an appropriate Speaker can be arranged.
- Our normal Battle for Australia Commemorative Service held at the Cenotaph in Martin Place on the first Wednesday in September, which this year was the 6<sup>th</sup> September. This year's recent Commemorative Service was very successful and was well attended. The Committee was particularly pleased with the attendance of representatives from PNG sourced from the local PNG community. Our Association is very pleased with the close relationship we are developing with the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia. The lunch at the Westin following the Service was also well received.

I must express my appreciation for the support and efforts of all Committee Members who assisted with the planning and arrangements of these 2 events. We are fortunate to have Committee Members who work so well together as a team.

### **Publicity**

The Committee is disappointed that the Association is not well known and that it does not receive any general publicity. A need to improve our profile by generating more publicity is recognised by the Committee.

### **Sick Parade**

During this period, 3 of our Committee Members have suffered medical conditions or their health has deteriorated – ie Warren Glenny, June Jorgenson and Norm Ensor. We have missed them and their contributions to our Association.

### **Conclusion**

The period of this report has been busy for our Association and we have conducted our normal Commemorative Service in September as well as a Special Event last February. We are not financially stressed and receive great general support from DVA and from so many individuals, schools, other ESO associations and other organisations for our special commemorative events. We have identified a number of areas which need the attention of the Committee but overall it has been a successful period for our Association.

Group Captain Doug Roser RAAF (Ret'd)  
President Battle for Australia Association of NSW

25<sup>th</sup> September 2017