

PRESIDENTS REPORT *Maurie Rowe*

Federal Election

The outcome of the August Federal election presents SCOA with a unique opportunity to actively progress some of its longstanding issues and in particular improved indexation and fairer taxation.

With the Independents and the Greens Party holding the balance of power in both Houses of Parliament, SCOA is not solely at the mercy of a major political party in trying to improve our members benefits. It is hoped that SCOA can obtain agreement from those MP's who hold the balance of power in relation to advancing our indexation and taxation issues in the Parliament and with the major political parties.

Given the delicate balance of power, there will be many MP's who, I believe, will be particularly attuned to their constituents needs at this time. I therefore urge you to keep lobbying your local MP on indexation in particular.

Federal Council

The Federal Council meeting was held in Canberra in October. Your Branch submitted four papers, two dealing with indexation and one each on taxation and SCOA's future. These issues were discussed along with another significant issue – declining membership. More details are in Supertime. If you have any questions on matters covered at the Federal Council, please contact Garnet Foley, Merv Hazell or myself.

Indexation

At the upcoming Branch meeting on 7 December, the Committee will be developing ideas on how the indexation campaign should be progressed and taking particular consideration of the balance of political power in Federal Parliament. We believe that it is time to review what has been done over the past ten years, discard what hasn't worked and adopt a fresh approach to suit the new political environment. Please let us have your ideas and suggestions by sending them to the Secretary by email at scoa.qld@scoa.asn.au or by mailing to PO Box 264 Albany Creek Qld 4035 by 3 December 2010. We welcome your input.

General Meeting

27 members attended the General Meeting on 21 September and heard an interesting and informative address from David Firth of the Stroke Association of Queensland. As a stroke survivor who is rebuilding his life, David was able to explain the positive aspects of stroke recovery. At the meeting, Gil Porter and John Swann were made Honorary Life Members of the Queensland Branch. Congratulations to Gil and John. A Notice of Motion was passed to amend our Branch Rules to permit members personal information to be shared with Federal Office and other State Branches of SCOA. We will now proceed to amend our Rules accordingly.

Committee 2010

Welcome to Vic Hampson who has joined our Branch Committee. We still have five vacancies so please consider serving; it doesn't take much of your time. If you wish to find out more about being a Committee member, please come along to a Committee meeting, the next one being on 7 December, or contact me or any Committee member.

CPSU

The Queensland Branch of the Commonwealth Public Sector Union has been supportive of SCOA particularly with regard to seeking new members. The CPSU send a SCOA brochure and application form to their members who are leaving the public service. We are grateful to Bill Marklew and his team at CPSU for their assistance.

Financial Report

In each Bulletin we are going to provide a report showing the financial status of our Branch. The first one is in this edition and shows the Balance Sheet at 31 October 2010. You will see that our Branch is financially sound. In the February Bulletin a more comprehensive report will be provided covering the financial year (2010 calendar year).

New Database

Work on the new membership database is proceeding and is expected to be completed in early 2011.



**NOW DUE
SUBSCRIPTIONS
FOR 2011**

**SUPERANNUATED
COMMONWEALTH OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION
QUEENSLAND BRANCH
EXECUTIVE and COMMITTEE**

SCOA Qld Inc
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 email: scoa.qld.pres@scoa.asn.au

**Vice President & Special Projects
sub-committee:**

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 email: popslor@optusnet.com.au

Vice President Vacant position
 (Membership sub-committee).

**Immediate Past President
& Federal Councillor:**

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Secretary & Public Officer:

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Merv Hazell

– Federal Vice President

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 Joe Johnston 3366 2287
 Ken Railton 5576 5985
 Vic Hampson 3711 7603

Regional Representatives:

Bundaberg-

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Cairns/Tablelands -

Eden Gray-Spence
 Anne Patterson

Gold Coast -

Dr Ross J Richards 5535 6756

Mackay -

Ken Whyte 4952 4104

Fraser Coast

Jan Robertson 4124 4448
 Tim Thornton 4129 0609

Rockhampton -

Chelmer Roots 4992 1775

Sunshine Coast -

Robyn Graham 5494 2557

Toowoomba -

Thomas R. Blomeley 4635 7100

Townsville -

Alice Kippin 4728 4661

VALE DAVE BYWATERS

Honorary Life Member Dave Bywaters passed away on 25th October 2010.

Dave was a member of the Interim Committee formed in 1987 to set up the ACT Branch and was elected as a member of the Executive Committee of the ACT Branch from its formation in 1988 until 1990. This included periods as Assistant Secretary, Vice President and Federal Councillor. He was a dedicated member and contributed at a very significant level.

Dave and his wife Judy moved to Queensland in 1990. He then joined the Queensland Branch of SCOA and became very active on the Executive where he served until he stepped down to pursue other activities in his local Sunshine Coast area. He was Vice President of the Queensland Branch in 2000.

Dave was Federal Vice President of SCOA from 1988 until 2000 and in 2001 he was granted Honorary Life Membership of the ACT Branch in recognition of his involvement in the establishment of that Branch.

Although not with SCOA actively at the Committee level in latter years, Dave continued to maintain his interest in SCOA and always attended meetings when held on the Sunshine Coast. He was a dedicated believer in the aims of the Association.

It is most pleasing to record that SCOA was well represented at the service for the celebration of his life held on the Sunshine Coast on 2nd November. The President, the Executive Committee and all members of SCOA thank Dave for his significant contribution to the administration of the Association and we extend sincerest sympathy to his wife Judy.

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**Superannuated Commonwealth
Officers' Association
(Queensland) Inc.**

WOMEN'S INTERESTS

Federal Council believes we should represent women members' special interests. Let Secretary Joan O'Connor know your concerns phone 3863 1055 or email scoa.qld@scoa.asn.au



FOR YOUR DIARY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 29th March 2011
9.30 am for 10 am start
BCC Central Library
Community Room, Ground Floor

Guest speaker
To be Advised

Refreshments from 9:30am
**Sandwiches will be served after
the meeting**

*Membership fees can be paid
before 10am commencement.*
**One free SCOA membership for
2012**
to be won as a lucky door prize

Agenda

*10.00am start, President's report,
Treasurer's report,
Election of Office Bearers, Guest
Speaker, Questions,
General Business and close of
meeting.*

CPI & PENSION NEWS

The All Groups CPI

Rose 0.7% in the September quarter 2010, compared with a rise of 0.6% in the June quarter 2010. Rose 2.8% through the year to September 2010, compared with a rise of 3.1 % through the year to June quarter 2010.

Overview of CPI Movements

The most significant price rises for the September 2010 quarter were for tobacco (+7.0%), water and sewerage (+12.8%), electricity (+6.0%), property rates and charges (+6.2%) and rents (+1.1%) The most significant offsetting price falls were for automotive fuel (-3.7%), vegetables (-5.4%), pharmaceuticals (-3.9%), audio, visual and computing equipment (-2.7%) and soft drinks, waters and juices (-1.8%)

STROKE AWARENESS

The Stroke Association has published the following information you should know about strokes.

- Every 10 minutes someone in Australia has a stroke.
- A stroke occurs when the brain is deprived of oxygen – it is not a heart attack.
- Stroke is Australia's second single greatest killer and a leading cause of disability.
- The signs of stroke could be any one, or combination of the following
 - Weakness or numbness or paralysis – in the face, arm or leg on either or both sides of the body
 - Difficulty speaking or understanding
 - Dizziness, loss of balance or unexplained fall
 - Loss of vision, sudden blurred or decreased vision in one or both eyes
 - Headache – usually severe and of abrupt onset or unexplained change in the pattern of headaches
 - Difficulty swallowing

These signs may last only a few minutes but may last several hours (called a Transient Ischaemic Attack - TIA). They are often a warning of an impending stroke and must never be ignored.

- About 1 in 5 people who have a TIA will have a major stroke in the next three months.
- Stroke is a medical emergency. If you experience the signs of stroke or see them in someone else, seek immediate medical attention. Prompt action can prevent further damage to the brain and help someone make a better recovery.
- More females are affected by stroke than males due to the larger number of elderly women in the population. Men will tend to suffer a stroke at a younger age.
- A stroke can happen to anyone at any age.
- In the next 10 years, more than half a million people in Australia will suffer a stroke.
- Strokes can be prevented. Eating healthily, participating in exercise, not smoking and ensuring a normal blood pressure level can all help to reduce your risk of stroke. More information can be obtained by contacting the Stroke Association of Queensland Inc by phone 32773338 or email strokeaq@iinet.net.au

Members are welcome

to attend Branch Executive Committee as an observer. Meetings are held at CPSU rooms, South Brisbane on the first Tuesday of each month unless otherwise noted.

Dec 7, Feb 1, March 1
Contact Qld Branch Secretary
Joan O'Connor
(phone 3863 1055)
email scoa.qld@scoa.asn.au
to confirm venue details

FINANCIAL REPORT

The following Balance Sheet shows the sound position of our Branches finances.

Balance Sheet As at 31 October 2010

Assets

Current Assets

Current Savings

Commonwealth Bank	\$2,904.82
St George Bank	\$5,651.16
Total Current Savings	\$8,555.98

Other Current Assets (Term Deposits)

Credit Union Australia	\$0.01
Credit Union Australia	\$19,167.89
Credit Union Australia	\$12,035.92
St George Bank	\$10,000.00
Total Other Current Assets	\$41,203.82

Total Current Assets **\$49,759.80**

TOTAL ASSETS **\$49,759.80**

Peter Ridgewell, Treasurer

BREAKING NEWS

The Federal Coalition introduced into the Senate on 18 November 2010 the PS Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Amendment (Fair Indexation) Bill 2010 to provide indexation for DFRB and DFRDB pensions based on the best of MTAW, CPI and PBLCI.

This is in accordance with the Coalition's June 2010 policy commitment to improve the indexation of military pensions.

It is now up to the Greens Party and the Independents to honour their pre election promises to support similar indexation. If this occurs, then the Bill should pass through both Houses of Parliament and become law. The proposed date of effect is 1 July 2011.

While this doesn't provide improved indexation for civilian Comsuper recipients, it is nevertheless a most significant step forward in the quest for better indexation. If the military pensioners are successful, then it provides a stronger case for SCOA to argue on the additional grounds of precedent and non discrimination.

EMAIL DETAILS

SCOA is examining ways of making more use of emails for communicating with members.

This may involve the use of a third party provider in despatching emails. If you do not wish to have your email address passed on to such a provider, would you please advise the Secretary.

HAVE YOU TOLD US?

We would like your date of birth and email address (if applicable). Your date of birth will give us a better idea of the age demographics of our members and the email address will enable quicker communication. If you haven't given us this information, would you please provide it to the Secretary.

DISCLAIMER

SCOA Queensland Bulletin is produced for the information of members of SCOA. It is written with care, in good faith and from sources believed to be accurate. However, readers should not act, or refrain from acting, solely on the basis of information in the Bulletin about financial, taxation, health or any other matter. Having regard for their own particular circumstances, readers should consult the relevant authorities or other advisers with expertise in the particular field. Neither SCOA nor the editors accept any responsibility for actions taken by readers. No part of the Bulletin may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any means without the prior written consent of SCOA Queensland. - Opinions expressed in articles and advertisements do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.

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Contact your scheme by writing to:

(your scheme name),
PO Box 22, Belconnen, ACT 2616
Or Ph: 1300 001 777 (local call fee).
CSS members email: pensions@css.gov.au
More email addresses available.

VISIT the website for details:
www.ComSuper.gov.au

Widow/Widower Membership Fee

There has been some confusion over how the Widow/Widower membership fee works. This fee applies to the Widow or Widower of a member who received a Comsuper pension. If the spouse or partner of a member who receives a Comsuper pension dies, that member continues to pay the normal membership fee. I hope this clarifies the matter. If you have any queries, please contact the Secretary.

When sending a change of address please include your new telephone number. It would also be helpful if you put your membership number on the back of any cheques.

KEEP YOUR SUBSCRIPTION CURRENT

Advise any change of address, phone and email information.

YOU ARE IMPORTANT TO SCOA - QLD. We are here to further YOUR interests.

Please send subscriptions and donations (appreciated) to:

Treasurer -SCOAQld), PO Box 264, Albany Ck 4035. Cheques and credit cards Accepted (MasterCard or Visa only)
OR Internet/Bank Transfer to St George Bank. SCOA Qld A/c 484 681 024 BSB 114 879
** NO CASH please ** Confirm all details by email to scoa.qld.treas@scoa.asn.au

PLEASE INCLUDE ALSO MEMBERSHIP ID NUMBER (See your address label for this)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION-RENEWAL

MEMBER ID (See your magazine label for this number)

MEMBER Family Name _____

Given names _____

Name of spouse/partner _____

Address _____

City/Town/Suburb _____

_____ Postcode _____

Type of member - _____

(Please } Contributor Fees enclosed \$ _____

(circle } Contributor + partner DONATION \$ _____

(1 item } Widow/er TOTAL \$ _____

Payment by - Cheque - M.O. - MasterCard - Visa (circle one)

CC Number _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Expiry date ____ / ____ Signature ==> _____

Subscription Rates for Queensland Branch Membership

DUE on and from JANUARY 1 2011
Ordinary \$29
Contributor + spouse/partner \$40
Contributor Widow/er \$21

Personal contact details please
Date of birth/...../.....
Phone - () _____
Fax - () _____
Mobile - _____
email - _____

NOTE -
This information is held in a confidential file for SCOA purposes only.

**PLEASE POST TO - PO Box 264
ALBANY CREEK QLD 4035**

Membership Number

You may have noticed that the mailing label on the August 2010 Supertime contained a new three digit number. This is an Australia Post number and is a new system they are using to assist them with sorting mail into postcode areas. Your membership number has not changed as you will see from the mailing label on this edition of Supertime.