



QLD BULLETIN

Winter 2010 with SuperTime issue 79

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PRESIDENTS REPORT Maurie Rowe

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM on 23 March was poorly attended with only 32 members present. They heard an informative address from our Federal President Dr Annette Barbetti on the outcomes from the recent Federal Council meeting. SCOA is addressing several issues with indexation being the most prominent one particularly with a Federal election this year.

Committee 2010

There are two new members on the Committee for 2010, Peter Ridgewell and John Hill. Peter will take over as Treasurer. Garnet Foley will be our Federal Councillor following the election of Merv Hazell to the position of Federal Vice President (which under the Rules precludes him from being Federal Councillor). Congratulations to Merv on this achievement. Merv has stepped down as Branch Vice President but remains on the Committee. Ken Harrison takes over as Vice President - Special Projects (indexation) with his former position of Vice President - Membership remaining vacant. Damian Jones is the new Bulletin Editor; the compiling/formatting of the Bulletin has been outsourced.

There are still five vacancies and these need to be filled so that your Committee can continue to maintain and improve your benefits. We need your help, 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 1 June or contact me or any Committee member.

Membership Fees

Your Committee submitted a paper to the recent Federal Council meeting seeking no increase in membership fees for 2011 and a review of the finances of each Branch and a determination of what financial reserves they need to maintain. The Federal Council agreed with our recommendation so fees will remain the same for 2011.

New Members

We desperately need new members to balance out the losses through death and resignation. Membership numbers in Queensland and nationally have been declining significantly over the past six years and unless this is corrected soon our Association will become financially unviable. At December 2009, our Branch's membership was 2387 (3149 in 2003) while nationally membership was 15343 (20975 in 2003). This is a 27 per cent decrease nationally. Included with this Bulletin is a SCOA brochure which includes an application form. If you know a Comsuper recipient who is not a member of SCOA,

please highlight to them the benefits of membership and give them the brochure. It would also be helpful if you loaned or gave them your Bulletin and Supertime so that they can see what work SCOA undertakes.

Non Committee Volunteers

If you don't have time to serve on our Branch Committee but would like to assist SCOA in a volunteer way, we would welcome your involvement. There are various tasks from time to time where we could use some help. As an example, Fay Butterworth (phone 38652701) currently assists our Secretary during the busy times (e.g. when large numbers of fees are paid) by opening mail and sorting papers. This saves the Secretary many hours of work. If you would like to help out, please phone or email the Secretary and provide your contact details so that we can call on you when necessary.

Indexation

This is SCOA's main priority for 2010 and we have the opportunity to have an impact through our vote at the upcoming Federal election. I ask that you take particular note of Ken Harrison's report in this Bulletin and take the action suggested.

Free 2011 Membership

As mentioned in the February Bulletin, members who had their subscriptions up to date by 28 February 2010 had a chance to win one of 10 free SCOA memberships for 2011. The 10 lucky winners have been advised of their success; their names are not published for privacy reasons.

SCOA Brochure
Please give the enclosed brochure to a non-member Comsuper recipient

FOR YOUR DIARY

General Meeting

Tuesday 21st September 2010

9.30 am for 10 am start

BCC Central Library

Community Room, Ground Floor

Guest speaker—

To be Announced

SPECIAL NOTE TO MEMBERS

Let Committee Members know your suggestions and interests, topics for a guest speaker, and whether you can serve on the committee for some time.

Refreshments from 9:30am

Membership fees can be paid before 10am commencement.

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

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Phone/Fax—07 3863 1055

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email: scoaqldpres@bigpond.com

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sub-committee:**

Ken Harrison 3408 6178
email: popslor@optusnet.com.au

Vice President Vacant position
(Membership sub-committee).

**Immediate Past President
& Federal Councillor:**

Garnet Foley 3269 4589
email: gbfoley@yahoo.com.au

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Marie-Claire Nemeck 4032 1398

Gold Coast -

Dr Ross J Richards 5535 6756

Mackay -

Ken Whyte 4952 4104

Fraser Coast -

Vacant Position

Rockhampton -

Chelmer Roots 4992 1775

Sunshine Coast -

Robyn Graham 5494 2557

Toowoomba -

Thomas R. Blomeley 4635 7100

Townsville -

Alice Kippin 4728 4661

**VACANCY
FRASER COAST
REPRESENTATIVE**

*Do you live in the
Fraser Coast area?*

*If so, would you like to help
your fellow SCOA members
in that area?*

If you do, then consider becoming the SCOA representative. This will not require much of your time. The role is basically to offer a local contact point for members. You would be providing a most valuable service, and will be sent a copy of minutes of each Branch Committee meeting so that you are fully informed of what SCOA is doing.

If you are interested or have any questions about the role, please contact our Branch Secretary Joan O'Connor.

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



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CPI & PENSION NEWS

The ABS Consumer Price Index rose 0.9% in the March quarter 2010, compared with a rise of 0.5% in the December quarter 2009.

The most significant price rises this quarter were for automotive fuel (+4.2%), pharmaceuticals (+13.3%), deposit and loan facilities (+3.4%), vegetables (+10.3%), electricity (+5.9%), house purchase (+1.2%) and hospital and medical services (+2.9%). The most significant offsetting price falls were for furniture (-4.6%), fruit (-5.7%), domestic holiday travel and accommodation (-2.3%), audio, visual and computing equipment (-5.9%), men's outerwear (-6.7%) and children's and infants' clothing (-9.9%).

The ABS Consumer Price Index rose 2.9% through the year to March quarter 2010, compared with an annual rise of 2.1% through the year to December quarter 2009.

Further information is available in Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat no. 6401.0)
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

**FEDERAL
COUNCIL REPORT**
16-18 March 2010

The 2010 Federal Council Annual General Meeting was intense and covered a broad spectrum of issues. Not all are covered in the Winter Edition of SuperTime.

As usual the new improved SuperTime emphasises several key activities/topics that the Federal Executive, and Branches, have been working on during the last year. Indexation is obviously an important issue and our strategies for the campaign are detailed separately. The CPI Review presents a golden opportunity for us to highlight the total inadequacy of our current Pension arrangements.

It is extremely fortunate that our Federal President, a former statistician, is actively involved with the working party on the CPI Review. Membership is of great concern as elsewhere in this Bulletin our alarming drop in membership numbers is highlighted.

This is occurring nationally and has a flow on effect as with this reduction there are less funds to pursue our important activities on behalf of our members.

Email is gaining momentum as a communication medium and I understand that not all our members have, or want to have, access to the internet.

Thank you to those members who have provided their email address to the Secretary and I ask that those who have not yet done so please help us by doing so. This is especially important in a year when we shall be running a campaign.

SCOA Structure is another important issue and is the subject of an ongoing National Review Committee, of which I am a member. Each Branch is Incorporated in its respective State and subject to the relevant Legislation.

Thank you for your support for SCOA and its objectives – yes Matthews was a disappointment however the war is far from over.

I also wish to personally thank you for your help and extend a very warm welcome to Garnet Foley.

Merv Hazell

INDEXATION REPORT

This could be the last Bulletin that you receive before the forthcoming Federal election. Consequently it is important that SCOA has a strategy which will draw attention of all Members of Parliament and Senators to the unfairness of the method of indexation of Commonwealth Public Service and Military Service superannuation pensions. We will not be alone in this awareness campaign as the members of DFWA (Defence Forces Welfare Association) and other defence organisations will be joining us.

In the near future every SCOA member in Australia will receive a "kit" which will include the format for a letter to be sent to MP's and Senators. It is suggested that you write to your local Federal member and a Senator. There will also be a graph which illustrates the decline in a pension indexed by CPI (SCOA members) compared with the Age Pension and the superannuation pension received by politicians and judges both of which are indexed by different methods. It is important that, when the "kit" is received, all members take the action suggested.

Some members might consider that it would be more effective to have a meeting with their local Member. Perhaps two or three members living in the same electorate might like to visit their Member. The information shown hereunder might prove to be useful, it was developed by our friends at DFWA.

Visiting Local Politicians.

1. Arrange the meeting by phone or e-mail.
2. Advise the politician/staff member exactly why you wish to visit.
3. Only discuss the Indexation Issue.
4. Be early and be prepared.
5. There should be no more than 3 people who would each have a role.

- (a) The Spokesperson/Leader
- (b) The Listener/Prompt.
Prompts the leader as required.
- (c) The Note Taker.

The Note Taker is an important role.

Note the questions and answers given, particularly the "I will get back to you" promises, commitments and evasions. Take short notes and do not try to record the whole meeting.

If only two people attend then the roles are (a) and (c).

6. When addressing the politician be specific.
7. List the points you wish to raise/make and use them as your guide.
8. Explain the reason for the visit and why the subject is important.
9. Give reasons for your concern and seek a response from the politician.
10. Find out if there is any other action you can take to promote the cause.
11. Confirm mutual action.

Do not be intimidated by the politician or the surroundings. Take the initiative and start the conversation. Do not allow the politician to side track you. Keep coming back to the issue until you get an answer or agreement. Remember you are employing the politician to run the country on your behalf.

12. Do not identify your political preference.
SCOA is an apolitical organisation.
13. You should finish the meeting in the time allotted; do not linger around the office.
14. Assess the visit.

As well as writing to or visiting MP's and Senators there are other avenues by which politicians and the general public can be made aware of the unfairness of using the CPI to index our pensions and members are encouraged to use these too. These are:-

- Letters to the Editor.
- Participating in Talk Back radio programmes
- Attending any rallies that might be organised.

Finally, at the recent Federal Council meeting what we are fighting for has been described as follows:-
Our objective "Pension indexation that is fair and maintains the purchasing power of our members"

Ken Harrison

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 -SCOA(Qld),

PO Box 264, Albany Ck 4035.

Cheques and credit cards Accepted

(MasterCard or Visa only) OR

Internet/Bank Transfer to SCOA Qld A/c 00902651 BSB 064-000

**** NO CASH please ****

Confirm all details by email to

scoaqldtreas@bigpond.com

**PLEASE INCLUDE ALSO
MEMBERSHIP ID NUMBER**

(See your address label for this)

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.

**Jun 1, Jul 6, Aug 3
Contact Qld Branch
Secretary**

**Joan O'Connor
(phone 3863 1055)
email scoa.qld@scoa.asn.au
to confirm venue details**

TAX DEDUCTION FOR MEMBERSHIP FEES

Your Membership Fees Are Tax Deductible.

Several members have queried where on their tax return they can claim their fees as a tax deduction. If you complete a "Tax Return for Individuals", then you also need to complete a "Tax Return for Individuals (supplementary section)". In section D15 (other deductions) of this return include "SCOA membership fees" in the "Description of claim" box and insert the amount.

You then transfer this amount to section D (page 3) of the "Tax Return for Individuals".

Please provide this advice to your Accountant or Tax Agent to help them in completing your tax return.

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

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.

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 2010	
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**