

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1985

LIBERAL PARTY - SURREY HILLS

1985 was a marvellous year for our branch. A change of executive and direction afforded amply opportunity to build within the branch and to undertake a number of innovations.

1985 saw three important developments.

1. A new format for the newsletter.
2. An additional fund raising activity.
3. The rotation of supper meetings in the Surrey Hills area.

Both old and new members alike responded enthusiastically to the new projects undertaken.

As President I wish to record my gratitude to the senior members of the branch for their support and encouragement throughout 1985.

We would never have developed the new newsletter had we not had the old one to build on. We would not have succeeded in our additional fund raising activity save for the enthusiastic support of senior members of the branch.

The annual Christmas Party was once more a resounding success. Congratulations to the organising sub-committee.

I owe a special debt to our tireless Secretary and his wife. Without complaint they endured my indecision and my uncompromising demands upon their time. It is because of people like Perry and Wendy Setford that the Party endures. Surrey Hills is indeed fortunate as numbered in its membership are a number of such tireless workers who for years have laboured without recognition for the Party.

I would also like to formally acknowledge the ongoing contribution of Hon Haddon Storey MLC QC to the branch. A member of Parliament, has many demands on his time yet Haddon consistently attended branch functions and gave freely of his time and experience.

Hon Mark Birrel MLC supported the branch with a constant flow of literature and press releases. This contribution proved a valuable adjunct to our newsletter.

Notwithstanding that we have no federal member, Mr Julian Beale MHR demonstrated an interest in the branch and was particularly supportive on various occasions.

It is a matter of regret and concern that in my capacity as President of this branch I never had any contact with the local member save for a fleeting handshake at the Christmas party.

1986 is a new challenge. A new President, a new direction and hopefully new members.

A number of projects remain unfinished. An increase in membership is critical to the success of the Party.

1985 saw a steady and healthy climb in our membership. Build on 1985. If every member adopted as his or her goal for 1986 the introduction of a new member the Party would benefit enormously.

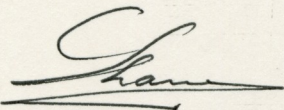
I have never understood the reluctance of people to speak to their friends and neighbours about membership. At worst the answer will be no.

It was with considerable regret that my wife and I decided to leave for the Northern Territory. My reason was simple. I ultimately seek a Parliamentary career and I had formed the view that such an opportunity would not come my way in Victoria.

We have become actively involved in the CLP in Alice Springs and I am hopeful in time of making a contribution here.

We shall remain members of Surrey Hills branch if the rules permit.

Josephine and I wish the branch all the very best for 1986. May you continue to thrive.



SHANE L. STONE
President, 1985
ALICE SPRINGS