

Secretary's Report

ANZ Retired Officers Club (NSW) Patron's Hosted Luncheon 9th September 2013

66 of our Members were guests today at the annual Patron's hosted luncheon.

President Mike Cunneen welcomed all to the gathering and made mention of Betty Gemmell our veteran member of 90+ years who was able to attend as our special and highly valued guest.

Mike then introduced our Club Patron the Hon. Warwick Smith AM, Senior Managing Director ANZ and also welcomed and thanked Warwick's team of Jasmine Antonious, and Lee Blundell as well as Katrina Hatfield, the Events Coordinator and Mary Kriz, the receptionist on the 25th floor, all of whom work exceedingly hard to assist the Retired Officers Club in any way that is possible. They are all very busy people and that they were able to spend some time with us on the day was both enjoyable and appreciated by all present.

Warwick Smith welcomed all present to our new site at 242 Pitt Street Sydney, commenting on the significance of the site. The ANZ purchased the land and arranged for the building and then sold and released it to better utilise the funds freed up by the sale. We are the biggest and most significant tenant in the building.

As N.S.W. as a market place has an economy larger than Singapore and Malaysia, the site has a very significant role in the market and is the largest earning centre in the ANZ Banking Group. Its importance is recognized with the placement of ANZ Global Departments of Markets, Wealth and Relationship Banking within the building. Warwick reports direct to the CEO Mike Smith, an indicator of the importance of the buildings key function. There is a focus on Asia and the support and sourcing of "local" capital, e.g. China. It is also the appropriate place to approach shareholder needs with a positive attitude, where we want the Bank to do well, reengage customers and continue a legacy set up by people such as our retirees. John Morschell our CEO is a key supporter of ANZROC and as he could not attend today sends his special regards.

Warwick Smith made particular mention of Betty Gemmell as a special person, he would not mention her age as it would be inappropriate, but suffice it to say she joined the Bank in 1939, back in Joe Lyons day (Joe gets a mention as one of Warwick's fellow Tasmanians, and the writer suspects he was unable to resist a plug for our Southernmost State). Betty left the Bank in 1976, but her legacy can be seen in a book she produced (about her time as Secretary of ANZ Staff Club (NSW) from 1953 to 1978) in 2007 which Warwick's very able PA Jasmine Antonious procured. (As an aside Warwick did mention that Jasmine was "good to report to"). Betty was the first female Staff Club Secretary, which was very newsworthy at that time. Betty has been loyal to the core, and was afforded a generous round of applause by those present for her loyalty and service to the Bank and the staff.

Warwick also mentioned that in Betty's book there is a photo of the Honour Board of Life Members of the ANZ Staff Club (NSW) which shows our President Mike Cunneen as being elected as the first Life Membership of the club in 1989. Warwick congratulated him for this honour and his contribution to the Staff Club.

Warwick also made mention of other people featured in Betty's Staff Club publication, including Alex Morgan our Immediate Past President and John Becroft pictured as part of the Bank basketball team. Alex was also mentioned as a member of the "Pistol Club" which Warwick considered would have been more to his taste if he were available.

Warwick concluded by again making reference to the special moment with Betty Gemmell, the opportunity to share the reminisces of those present, acknowledged that most present were good customers and shareholders of the Bank as well as retired officers and stated that he was very pleased to be at the function.

President Mike made mention of the response to a request from Alex Morgan to perhaps assist Betty Gemmell in getting to the luncheon, and no sooner had Jasmine had the request that a limousine was organized to collect and then return Betty to her residence on the day. Thank you to Jasmine and the Bank for this thoughtful accommodation of Alex's request.

It was also very good to see another stalwart of the Bank, Jim Nicholson OAM at the luncheon, Jim has not been well recently but looked his spry old self today. Jim has a year up on Betty Gemmell in terms of service, having joined the bank in 1938, so we were really fortunate in having a couple of our true veterans able to attend.

There were no formalities on the day apart from Warwick's welcoming address and a very enjoyable luncheon with good company and great food was had by all.