

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

I am pleased to report on another successful year for the WA Branch, with meetings and events held both in Perth and by our two Regional Groups – South West and Great Southern. It was pleasing to see that Regional Group members attended Perth activities, and Perth members travelled to the Regions. This is a measure of our strength as an Order, that we enjoy getting together.

It has been a year of success, but also a year of sorrow. We lost several members and partners of members during the year and we are saddened by their loss.

New Awardee receptions are both an opportunity to celebrate achievement and to welcome new members to the Order. They are critical to recruiting for our Association and your attendance and friendly approach has shown success, with the WA Branch recording a small growth in number in the year. Your Committee will seek opportunities to co-host Receptions with Councils in the coming year.

Our work at the WA Police Academy continues, with Patrons assigned to all Recruit Courses and enthusiasm from the Academy staff for this programme to continue. **Peter Winstanley** has managed this programme since 2011 with great dedication and is now to hand over to **Michael Bleus**.

As reported last year, engagement with Year 9/10 students in our new programme “The World of Work” was initiated by **Odwyn Jones and Ian Williams** in 2014. The very successful pilot programme at Kings College is to be expanded to a “three schools programme” in 2016 and further expansion will be considered.

Our strength is our people. Your attendance at activities is critical for success and I thank you all for the efforts you have made. I must also thank the outgoing **Branch Management Committee** for the work that they have done in ensuring the continuation of a lively Branch. Thanks also to the **Perth Conference Committee** for presenting to the Association a conference that has set a new National benchmark.

In taking my farewell as your Chairman I thank you all for your enthusiastic support over the last four years, and I thank my predecessors as Chairmen for handing over the WA Branch to me in such good shape.

And finally I must recognise, acknowledge and thank my wife, partner and closest friend Margaret for her considerable efforts both in keeping me on an even keel throughout and helping to making all welcome in whatever we do as a Branch.