

REPORT OF SEVENTEENTH BIENNIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED GRAND CHAPTER OF AUSTRALIA IN ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA ON 6 – 9 JUNE 2019

The Seventeenth Biennial Session of The United Grand Chapter of Australia (UGCA) was held in Adelaide, South Australia from 6 - 9 June 2019.

Attendances were down compared with previous Sessions - There were a total of 204 registrations including Overseas Members. There were 44 Non-Members and 17 Invited Guests with a total of 265 people at the Open Installation. Other details are - Formal Opening 207; Business Session 137; Grand Representatives' Lunch 141; Formal Dinner 170; Friday Lunch 131; and Installation Banquet 250.

The Formal Opening was held on Thursday, 8 June 2019. Sister Susan Cameron filled the position of the Yellow Ray of Ruth.

Brother Michael Cornell, Ambassador of the General Grand Chapter to Australia was presented in the West for introduction, welcomed and escorted to the East.

Other Australian and Overseas Distinguished Members were introduced and extended Grand Honours or welcomed by acclamation.

The Worthy Grand Secretary read the Roll of Distinguished and Honorary Members who had been called Home during the Biennium then Sister Helen McLaughlan Most Worthy Grand Matron (MWGM) signed the names of those Members in the United Grand Chapter Bible.

Brother Michael Cornell was escorted to the Altar. Brother Michael Struthers Most Worthy Grand Patron (MWGP) conferred Honorary Membership on our Distinguished Member, who was presented with his Honorary Member Diploma.

The MWGM was assisted by the Heads of the State Governing Levels in recognising the service given by her chosen Star Points.

Sister Elizabeth Watt PMWGM Immediate Past President, Sister Margaret Smith Secretary/Treasurer and Brother Graham Deacon Worthy Grand Fraternal Correspondent introduced the Grand Representatives in attendance and presented the Grand Representatives' Service.

Apologies for Absence were read and received.

The United Grand Chapter proceeded to continue with the business as per the programme for the Business Session on Friday, 7 June 2019.

Minutes of the Sixteenth Biennial Session in Perth Western Australia on 8, 9 and 10 June 2017, Special Session in Sydney on 15 March 2018, various Committees and Questions by Correspondence were moved, seconded and carried.

The Audit Report. Financial Statement and Balance Sheet were received and Dennis K Wright & Associates, Kurunjang, Victoria will be the Auditor for all United Grand Chapter Accounts for the ensuing term.

Correspondence was received and dealt with.

Recommendations from Committees were received, moved, seconded and carried.

- ◆ Covers for the Constitution & Laws will now be white including a white insert with a coloured logo and the inserts will be printed as they are required.
- ◆ It was agreed that clothing items be allowed to be sold from the kits.
- ◆ The Shopfront on the Website is up and running and Brother Raymond McIntosh PWGP, Facebook Administrator indicated that he can advertise the Shopfront on Facebook.

- ◆ The amount of \$400 to be paid to the Supplies Refurbishment Account.
- ◆ The Reports on Supplies from all the State Delegates indicated that the clothing items were not selling. Jewellery from USA was popular. \$2,000 was transferred to the Supplies Parked Fund Account in case funds were required to purchase more jewellery.
- ◆ Chapter Treasurers may use their own Payment Voucher but they must also use the UGCA Payment Voucher. It was reconfirmed that the Payment Voucher would have three signatures and cheques have two signatures.
- ◆ Three PMWGP jewels are to be ordered and quotations will be obtained from John Newton Jeweller and Somers & Son.
- ◆ The donation to the MWGM and MWGP Charity, I CAN Network, was \$6,900.
- ◆ A Funeral Service for Non-sectarian Members was approved and will be added to the Chapter Ritual.
- ◆ The Webmaster and Facebook Administrator are to be invited to attend the Mid Term Session in Hobart in June 2020 and the United Grand Committee Meeting at the commencement of the 2021 Biennial Session. A Notice of Motion will be submitted at the 2021 Biennial Session for Law U.29 to be amended in order for the compilation of the United Grand Committee to include the Webmaster, Facebook Administrator, Assistant to the Worthy Grand Secretary, Assistant to the Worthy Grand Treasurer, Assistant to the Worthy Grand Organist and Assistant to the Worthy Grand Supplies Officer.
- ◆ It was agreed that so long as it is recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting that the Sentinel has been invited into the Chapter Room and also recorded that the Worthy Matron has asked the Sentinel to retire before the Closing Ceremony, it is quite in order for the Sentinel to take part in the business of the meeting by moving and seconding items of business.
- ◆ Any Member who needs to submit a Report to the Biennial Session or the Mid-Term Session should do so by forwarding same to the Worthy Grand Secretary ten days prior to the commencement of the appropriate Session.
- ◆ It was agreed that it should be recorded that the Present and Past Grand Representatives' Association is part of the structure of The United Grand Chapter of Australia.
- ◆ The venue for the 2021 Biennial Session in Sydney will be the Bankstown Sports Events Centre, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown.
- ◆ Term Deposits
No. 191781 for \$11,423.08 was reinvested at 2.15% and will mature again on 27 November 2019. When this term deposit matured it was found that the change of signatories submitted to Westpac Bank by the Worthy Grand Treasurer had not been updated by the Bank and arrangements were made for this to be rectified.
No. 191812 for \$9,708.37 at 2.05% will mature on 11 September 2019.
These amounts will be re-invested at the best possible interest rate available at the time of maturity.
- ◆ Fees
The \$3 Dispensation Fee will no longer be payable.
A \$10 per annum fee will be payable for Outreach Membership.
The \$5 document fee for the email version of Minutes will be re-instated in 2021. Members who have paid the \$30 fee for the printed version of the Minutes can notify the Worthy Grand Secretary if they wish the email version and arrangements will be made for them to receive the Minutes by email but the overpayment of \$25 will not be reimbursed.
It was requested that consideration of the administration costs of \$120 for District Grand Committees be reduced as these Committees did not have the same opportunity to raise funds. Advice was given that the District Grand Committees could raise funds by having social events, requesting payments from Chapters or that the Members pay for Minutes.

It was also requested that there be a reduction in the insurance payments. It was explained that the insurance was a blanket policy under the Grand Lodge of New South Wales and that no changes could be made to the calculation of payments by the various Chapters and other organisations such as Rainbow Girls and White Shrine.

◆ Bye-Laws

It was agreed that the Allegiance Clause may be placed at the beginning or at the end of all Chapter Bye-Laws including Home Fund and Home Management Bye-Laws covered by The United Grand Chapter of Australia.

Chapters are to have the Allegiance Clause in their Bye-Laws and if they do not currently have the Clause in their Bye-Laws, they should attend to this when making the next amendment to their Bye-Laws. The relevant Allegiance Clause is:

All Members of the Grand Chapter of *[District Grand Committee] *[Chapter
No.] shall abide by the Constitution, Laws, rulings, instructions and directions of The United Grand
Chapter of Australia.

It was decided that the Strategic Working Party would continue and the Members of the Strategic Working Party during 2019 – 2021 are:

Brother Sydney Down PMWGP (Co-ordinator) Presiding
Sister Blanche Watt MWGM - Presiding
Brother Paul Smith MWGP
Sister Helen McLaughlan IPMWGM
Brother Michael Struthers IPMWGP
Sister Robyn Reily Worthy Grand Associate Matron
Brother Jonathan Nantes Worthy Grand Associate Patron
Sister Elizabeth Taylor Worthy Grand Secretary
Sister Pamela Sangwell PMWGM: Elected - Ongoing
Sister Lorraine Ellison Worthy Grand Secretary Emeritus: Elected - Ongoing
Sister Margaret Down Worthy Grand Treasurer: Elected - Ongoing
Sister Barbara Hartman Worthy Grand Conductress: Elected - Ongoing
Sister Faye Thornton Worthy Grand Supplies Officer: Elected - Ongoing
Sister Jennifer Fawns Assistant to Worthy Grand Treasurer: Elected - Ongoing
Brother Richard Kennedy PWGP (QLD) - Elected
Brother Stuart Lang PMWGP (VIC) - Elected
Brother Stephen Brown Worthy Grand Fraternal Correspondent (SA) - Elected
Sister Angela Sweeney Webmaster - Seconded
Sister Raymond McIntosh PWGP Facebook Administrator – Elected for his Expertise

The main focus for the Strategic Working Party going forward is Membership.

The United Grand Chapter was recessed as per Ritual to resume for the remainder of the Business Session at 9.30am on Friday, 7 June 2019.

Sister Shirley Gallaway Worthy Matron of Carnation Applecross Chapter No. 84 called the Business Session to order and UGCA resumed from recess at 9.30am on Friday, 7 June 2019.

The UGCA continued with the Notices of Motion and a separate report will be furnished giving details of motions which were passed.

During the Notices of Motion and especially at the time of giving results from voting, the conduct and behaviour of some Members was considered to be uncalled for and very disrespectful. There should be no clapping or jeering in the Chapter Room during this time and it has become apparent that some Members do not understand what procedures are required when dealing with Elections and Notices of Motion. This will be addressed with specific instructions being developed for insertion into Chapter Procedures.

Worthy Grand Office-bearers, Administrative Office-bearers and their Assistants and Members of the United Grand Committee were ratified.

Advancing Worthy Grand Office-bearers

Most Worthy Grand Matron	Sister Blanche Watt (SA)
Most Worthy Grand Patron	Brother Paul Smith (NSW & ACT representing WA)
Worthy Grand Associate Matron	Sister Robyn Reily (NSW & ACT)
Worthy Grand Associate Patron	Brother Jonathan Nantes (QLD)
Worthy Grand Conductress	Sister Barbara Hartman (QLD)
Worthy Grand Associate Conductress	Sister Robyn Thomas (TAS)
Worthy Grand Senior Chaplain	Brother Alan Bover (VIC)
Worthy Grand Junior Chaplain	Brother Alan Paterson (NSW & ACT)
Worthy Grand Marshal	Sister Christine Wagener (VIC)
Worthy Grand Warder	Sister Shirley Gallaway (WA)
Worthy Grand Sentinel	Brother Graham Deacon (TAS)
Worthy Grand Fraternal Correspondent	Brother Stephen Brown (SA)

Administrative Worthy Grand Office-bearers

Worthy Grand Secretary	Sister Elizabeth Taylor (TAS)
Worthy Grand Treasurer	Sister Margaret Down (NSW & ACT)
Worthy Grand Organist	Sister Gillian Mason (QLD)
Worthy Grand Supplies Officer	Sister Faye Thornton (VIC)
Worthy Grand Sessions Co-ordinator	Sister Evelyn Hood PMWGM (VIC)

Assistants to Administrative Worthy Grand Office-bearers

Assistant to Worthy Grand Secretary but not installed	Sister Robyn Thomas (TAS)
Assistant to Worthy Grand Treasurer	Sister Jennifer Fawns (NSW & ACT)
Assistant to Worthy Grand Organist	Sister Pamela Turner (NSW & ACT)
Assistant to Worthy Grand Supplies Officer (Printing)	Sister Phyllis Dehn (NSW & ACT)

United Grand Chapter Committee

The Members of South Australia are required to elect another Member to the United Grand Committee as their second elected member had recently taken Inactive Membership.

The Members of Western Australia are required to elect another Member to the United Grand Committee as their second elected member is now a Worthy Grand Office-bearer.

These elections have since taken place and the Members of the United Grand Committee are

Sister Del Yeates and Brother Raymond McIntosh	NSW & ACT
Sister Clare Parry and Brother Richard Kennedy	QLD
Sister Roberta Aimer and Brother Ronald Aimer	VIC
Sister Christina Vaessen and Brother Barrie Bell	TAS
Sisters Susan Cameron and Rita Humber	SA
Sister Anne Brogden and Brother Victor Tate	WA

A collection for the United Grand Chapter General Fund amounted to \$289.35.

Sister Blanche Watt was asked to name her Worthy Grand Star Points for the ensuing term. They are:

Worthy Grand Adah	Sister Beryl Ross (QLD)
Worthy Grand Ruth	Sister Sophia Hill (VIC)
Worthy Grand Esther	Sister Sharyn Deacon (TAS)
Worthy Grand Martha	Sister Margaret Smith (NSW & ACT)
Worthy Grand Electa	Sister Gail Reed (SA)

The Worthy Grand Star Points presented a Service and gifts to the MWGM and MWGP who then presented their retiring speeches.

The MWGM presented the Past Worthy District Grand Matron's jewel to Sister Janice Cartwright and the Past Worthy District Grand Patron's jewel to Brother Barrie Bell and thanked them for their support and service on the Tasmania District Grand Committee. The MWGM then presented the Certificates of Service to her Worthy Grand Star Points.

The United Grand Chapter was recessed as per Ritual to resume for the Open Installation at 1.30pm on Saturday, 8 June 2019.

Sister Chandy Huynh, Worthy Matron of Sunny South Chapter No. 91 called the meeting to order at 1.30pm for the Open Installation of UGCA Worthy Grand Office-bearers. The proceedings commenced with the Flag Service and Sister Chandy Huynh handed the Gavel to Brother Sydney Down PMWGP who requested that Most Excellent Companion Ivor Willmott, 1st Grand Principal of Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of South Australia and Northern Territory be invited into the United Grand Chapter, introduced and welcomed, then escorted to the East.

Brother Sydney Down PMWGP then presented a very impressive Flag Service assisted by Brothers carrying the National Flags of the Governing Bodies of the Order of the Eastern Star worldwide. Worthy Grand Office-bearers seated in the Chapter Room were acknowledged and then the balance of the Worthy Grand Office-bearers entered with their respective State Flags and the Flag Service culminated with the MWGM and MWGP entering the United Grand Chapter accompanied by the Worthy Grand Marshal and under the OES Banner. After the Pledge of Allegiance was repeated by everyone Brother Sydney Down PMWGP returned the Gavel to Sister Chandy Huynh who invited the MWGM and MWGP to the East.

The MWGM congratulated Brother Sydney Down PMWGP on the presentation of the Flag Service and then continued by welcoming the Official Guests and other visitors.

Apologies for absence were read.

Sister Evelyn Hood PMWGM, Worthy Grand Sessions Co-ordinator presented the Charity Report which indicated that reported charity donations for the period 1st January 2017 to 31st December 2018 totalled \$255,775.00.

The charity chosen by Sister Blanche Watt MWGM and Brother Paul Smith MWGP for the ensuing term is Cure Cancer Australia.

The Installation Ceremony by the Worthy Grand Installing Officer Sister Helen McLaughlan IPMWGM and Members of the Installing Board was carried out with grace and dignity. The newly installed MWGM Sister Blanche Watt and MWGP Brother Paul Smith presented their acceptance speeches and an Item of Harmony was provided by the Members of the Wollongong Chapter Choir. The MWGM and MWGP were then escorted to the Altar to sign the United Grand Chapter Bible. The IPMWGM and IPMWGP were invested with their regalia and presented with their PMWGM and PMWGP Jewels.

The installation of the Worthy District Grand Matron Sister Christina Vaessen and Worthy District Grand Patron Brother Homer Fairley of the Tasmania District Grand Committee, Administrative Worthy Grand Office-bearers and Assistants to Worthy Grand Office-bearers was carried out.

Responses were delivered by Sister Elizabeth Watt PMWGM (SA), Sister Faye Ward PMWGM (WA), and Most Worthy Brother William Jelfs, Grand Supreme Ruler of the Order of the Secret Monitor.

A collection for the United Grand Chapter Benevolent / Distress Fund amounted to \$499.29.

There being no further business the Sixteenth Biennial Session of UGCA was closed and Brother Paul Smith MWGP called for all Members to assemble in Sydney in June 2021 for the Eighteenth Biennial Session of UGCA.

The Thanksgiving Service held at the Festival Function Centre, Findon and conducted by Rev. John Watson on the Sunday morning, 9 June 2019 was well attended and followed by a Morning Tea provided by the SA Steering Committee.

At the United Grand Committee Meeting later on Sunday, 9 June 2019 the following Members were elected to the various Sub-Committees.

Bye-Laws

Brother Alan Paterson	NSW & ACT
Sister Clare Parry	QLD
Brother Stuart Lang	VIC
Brother Graham Deacon	TAS
Brother Stephen Brown	SA
Sister Shirley Gallaway	WA

Petitions

Sister Del Yeates	NSW & ACT
Sister Clare Parry	QLD
Sister Roberta Aimer	VIC
Sister Christina Vaessen	TAS
Sister Susan Cameron	SA
Brother Victor Tate	WA

Finance

Brother Raymond McIntosh	NSW & ACT
Sister Barbara Hartman	QLD
Sister Christine Wagener	VIC
Brother Barrie Bell	TAS
Sister Elizabeth Watt	SA
Sister Faye Ward	WA

Supplies

Brother Sydney Down	NSW & ACT
Brother Richard Kennedy	QLD
Sister Sandra Davis	VIC
Sister Robyn Thomas	TAS
Sister Gail Reed	SA
Sister Shirley Gallaway	WA

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Taylor

ELIZABETH TAYLOR PDGM
Worthy Grand Secretary