

**TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION of STATE  
SUPERANNUANTS**

***SUPER-NEWS***

ISSN1323-5605 March 2013 No 1/13

**A CONCERNING MOVE ON  
RBF SUPERANNUATION PAGE 6**

**TASS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**A brief meeting followed by guest speakers  
from RBF by**

**Chief Operations Officer**

**Manager of Products**

**Business Relations Officer**

**Details on page 3 also see report Page 9**

**PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO CHECK ...**

Please check your *Super-News* envelope. If it says "M'ship Expires 31/12/12", or there is a sticker above, your membership of TASS has lapsed. You can renew by downloading a membership form from our website; or you can ring 0448 731 845 and ask to have a form sent to you; or, you might still have your last *Super-News* – it has the form on the back page. Send your form to GPO Box 1650, Hobart, Tasmania, 7001. If the envelope indicates your membership has lapsed, but you know that you have paid for 2013, please ring the number above or the Treasurer on his home number.

TASS Executive Office Bearers:

Pres. Murray Harper 6243 4326

V. Pres. Charles Thomas 6248 5902

Sec. Rob. vanSchie 6229 7923

Membership Kevin Hardy 6228 6485

Treas: John Chalmers 6249 1240

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Website: [tass.org.au](http://tass.org.au)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In one significant sense the past year has been a failure for our Association: we have not made any discernible progress towards our primary aim of achieving fair indexation for our RBF pensions.

However in many aspects I believe there have been a number of activities and developments which have set us on the road towards ultimate success. I have found the Executive of TASS to be a very committed, talented, and hard working group. In the past year much effort has been directed towards harnessing these skills to gain maximum effectiveness and efficiency on your behalf. The major change has been to set up three subcommittees with specific responsibilities.

- lobby and liaison matters (dealing with governments, politicians, kindred organisations, and unions )
- member issues and activities;
- promotion issues (Super-News, other promotional material)

Reports of these subcommittees appear later in this issue.

As mentioned I am generally very happy with the efforts and direction of our Association. One aspect which does concern me, however, is the level of our membership, and I would strongly encourage each of you to help with our recruitment.

I would also like to pay tribute to the work of June Hazzlewood as our Northern representative and thank Joan Batchelor for taking on the corresponding role in the North West.

Murray Harper President

**TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE SUPERANNUANTS  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2013**

**WHEN** Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March from 1.30 – 3.30pm

**WHERE** Mathers House (formerly 50& Better Centre), downstairs meeting room.( from Liverpool Street through Mathers Lane OR Bathurst Street next to Playhouse theatre)

**AFTERNOON TEA** will be served at conclusion of meeting.

**GUEST SPEAKER at 2pm. Nick Connor (RBF Chief Operations Officer) , Judith Keith (RBF Manager of Products), Steven Hevey (Business Relationship Officer). Detailed explanation of RBF procedure for the partner following the death of a superannuant**

**RSVP** please RSVP on 6229 7923 or 04487 31845 or email info@tass.org.au

**Agenda for AGM**

1.Apologies

2.Minutes of 2012 AGM

3. Reports (see President's report in this newsletter)

4. Election of Office Bearers

All positions will be declared vacant. Nominations for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Officer, Newsletter Editor and 6 Executive members can be made in writing on the form below, or from the floor if attending the meeting.

5. Election of auditor and legal adviser

6. Notice of Motions.

**5.1** That the Association of State Superannuants becomes an Incorporated Association consistent with the Associations Incorporation Act 1964

**5.2** That the revised Constitution of the Association of State Superannuants, as posted on the Association's website, and as circulated at the 2013 Annual General Meeting, be approved.

7.Close of AGM

**Other Business**

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**Nomination for 2013 Committee      Post to Secretary, GPO BOX 1650, Hobart 7001**

I \_\_\_\_\_ nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for the position of \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator

\_\_\_\_\_

nominee

## *TASS MEMBERS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEONS*

**At the conclusion of 2012 we once again held most enjoyable gatherings of members at our pre-Christmas luncheons in Hobart, and in the North of the State at Perth.**

The Hobart luncheon was held at Drysdale catered by students undertaking their hospitality training, while the northern luncheon was held at the 'Queen's Head Inn' at Perth.

Following pre-luncheon drinks at both functions, President Murray Harper addressed the the gatherings and summarised the the actions taken by the Executive during the year, and also responded to questions raised by members, particularly at the northern function.



RBF's Stephen Hevey with Charles Thomas of TASS

After both functions, many attending said they would be back next year.



Part of the Northern luncheon at Perth, President Murray Harper in the left foreground

## **SOME TASS ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2012**

Throughout the year the TASS Executive strives to represent our members, not only at the Tasmanian State Government level, but also at the Federal Government level, in collaboration with our symbiotic organisations interstate; such as the peak body representing our cause, the Australian Council of Public Sector Retiree Organisations (ACPRSO), which includes State and Commonwealth public sector and defence force retirees.

### **ACTUARY REPORT**

The Lobby and Liaison subcommittee engaged a consultancy to assess the actual costs involved for the Tasmanian Government to address our concerns over the inadequate indexing of our RBF pensions.

The report demonstrated a major difference in the indexing of our RBF pensions as against the indexing of the Commonwealth-funded Age pension.

This differential was illustrated in the brochure that all current retirees receiving RBF pensions received in their January 2013 indexation notice from the RBF.

Currently, the Executive is pursuing actions that reflect the information contained in the actuary report.

### **MEMBERSHIP BROCHURE**

The Promotion subcommittee engaged a graphic designer in conjunction with the printer of the TASS newsletter *Super-News* to design a logo and branding for TASS. The logo which is on the member brochure sent to you in January incorporates the identification our organisation, in the letter 'S' for superannuation, the map of Tasmania, the acronym TASS, and the colours red, white and blue.

The subcommittee is currently working with the graphic designer to produce new print material in colour, including a review of *Super-News* format, new letterhead, envelope, name tags, static display stand, and redesign of the Website masthead

### **A NOTE OF APPRECIATION**

For a number of years now TASS has benefited from the services of our honorary legal advisers. We would like to again thank Mr Graham Wood of Wallace, Wilkinson and Webster who has advised us on insurance matters and the value of Incorporation during 2012. The legal advice has been much valued by TASS.

### **Bushfire Appeal**

At the previous Executive Meeting of TASS (Tuesday 15/1/13), it was decided that TASS would support the Appeal set up after the recent devastating bushfires in our State. Through the Bendigo Bank, we have donated \$500.00 to the Community Enterprise Foundation (South East Tasmania Bushfire Appeal). Naturally, too, the Executive wishes to express its concern for any TASS members or their families who lost property during the time of the fires.

## A MOVE OF GREAT CONCERN

It is of concern to TASS that there is a move in some quarters wanting to change the current RBF superannuation arrangements.

The Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry recently called for the privatisation of government assets in a pre Budget submission to the State Government (reported in the Mercury 29 January 2013)

The submission suggests selling parts of RBF or seeking a merger with an industry body and that the government should consider amending the design of the defined benefit scheme in order to reduce the overall liability of the scheme.

TASS has written to Finance Minister Scott Bacon seeking assurances that the government will not be following the suggestions of the TCCI.

You can read a copy of the full TCCI submission on our website ([www.tass.org.au](http://www.tass.org.au))

The Hon Greg Hall MLC has the following Question on Notice (22/11/12) and a Notice of Motion (no 1106) on the Legislative Council Notice Paper. ([www.parliament.tas.gov.au](http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au))

### **Questions on Notice from Hon Greg Hall, Legislative Councillor for Western Tiers**

Mr *Hall* to ask the Honourable the Leader of the Government:

With regard to public sector superannuation:

- (1) How many public sector employees currently remain in the old defined benefits scheme?
- (2) How many public sector employees are currently members of the accumulation scheme?
  - a. With the defined benefits scheme closed to new members in 1999, what would be the impact on the unfunded superannuation liability if the defined benefits scheme was also closed for existing members;
  - b. would it make any material difference to the level of the unfunded liability;
  - c. what would be the impact on the budget; and
  - d. has any modeling ever been undertaken?
- (3) If the defined benefit scheme was not closed, but instead the benefit multiple ceased accruing for existing members of the defined benefits scheme, what would be the impact on the unfunded liability?
- (4) Is the Government aware of any other jurisdiction in Australia or elsewhere where a defined benefits scheme has been closed for existing members or where the benefit multiple ceased accruing?

## A MOVE OF GREAT CONCERN

### NOTICES OF MOTION AND ORDERS (1106)

- (1) Has the Government considered the option of closing the defined benefits scheme for existing members?
- (2)
  - a. Have there ever been any deliberations within Treasury about the possibility of closing the defined benefits scheme for existing members;
  - b. if 'yes', what discussions, evaluations or considerations have taken place; and
  - c. what was the outcome?
- (3)
  - a. Have there ever been any deliberations within Treasury about the possibility of stopping the accrual of the benefit multiple factor; and
  - b. if 'yes', what was the outcome?
- (4) What is the latest estimate of the amount of the superannuation liability when it reaches its peak in around 2023?
- (5)
  - a. Does the Government agree with some claims that suggest a change to the existing defined benefits scheme and the accrual of the benefit multiple factor could not be done as it changes the employment conditions and entitlements of public sector employees; and
  - b. if 'yes', how would this be different from other changes that regularly take place to workers' employment conditions and entitlements and the regular changes made at the Federal level to superannuation generally?

*(asked 22.11.12)*

**We will post the Government's response on our website as soon as the Question is answered.**

**We have also written to Mr Hall asking him to tell us if he supports making changes to the existing defined benefit scheme. We will post his response on our website as soon as it is received.**

## **How to Age Well by Dr. Jane Tolman**

**The following is a continuation of a series of articles kindly prepared for TASS by Dr. Jane Tolman, Department of Aging, Royal Hobart Hospital.**

### **Visits to the doctor**

As we age it becomes more important to have a good relationship with our general practitioner. Having your own doctor is critical in this- not whoever is available on the day. You should trust your doctor and feel free to raise matters of concern. You should feel that he or she is interested in you. It is advisable to make lists- within reason- when visiting your doctor, and to ensure that every issue is raised before you leave. If you are likely to need a longer consultation, let this be known at the time of making the appointment. You should understand your diagnosis, and the benefits and side effects of treatment. You have responsibilities in this relationship too, and it is always advisable that your doctor knows of any other doctors you are seeing, and any new drugs you are taking. Keep appointments. Know your medications and schedule preventative visits. If it doesn't happen already, ask for a regular review of your medications. Indications and adverse effects change over time, and where some drugs are good for younger persons, potential adverse effects later in life really mandate constant attention. Some medications only become problematic when others are added to your regimen. Doctors tend to be better at starting than stopping medications, and in old age each additional drug you take makes you more vulnerable. It is very good practice to take along all your medications in a bag to your doctor for review yearly.

### **Social Engagement**

We know now that social isolation is connected to a range of poor outcomes: worse physical health, depression, suicide, alcoholism and a higher risk of institutionalisation. Social isolation is even more important in those who were more introverted and anxious at younger ages, and in those from non-English speaking backgrounds. Social connectivity is critical at times of stress: divorce, retirement, illness and bereavement. A major European study (The Berlin Aging Study) showed that social contacts decline from thirteen at the age of seventy to seven at the age of ninety. If we were really smart, we'd develop friends and contacts younger than we are to minimise this drop off!



## **LOBBY AND LIAISON SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

The subcommittee liaises with officers of the RBF and State Treasury, politicians at both state and federal levels, relevant unions, and organisations with similar objectives.

Our ultimate aim must be to achieve success by convincing the Tasmanian Government to change from a CPI-based pension indexation to a fairer and more appropriate method.

Along the way, however, we are making important links with, for example, Treasury and RBF officials who can be of significant assistance to our Executive's work by keeping us well informed. Liaison with ACPSRO and its affiliate organisations is very important because it may well be that indexation justice comes first in other states or at the Commonwealth level and we can then leverage on such a breakthrough.

We have established close contact with the CPSU, including an advertisement in their newsletter, and will aim to achieve similar good relations with the other relevant unions.

We have met with the new Finance Minister, Scott Bacon,, and are making contact with both state and federal politicians of all political persuasions. We are using material from the Heron Report and information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics to build up a basic package for the politicians.

Please be aware that at the political level you may be able to assist by "buttonholing" your local member(s), particularly in the next few months. If you need advice or materials contact one of us.

## **MEMBER AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

At the AGM a presentation will be made by RBF's Chief Operations Officer, Manager Products and the Business Relationship Officer. The presentation will cover RBF's requirements of the surviving partner following the death of an RBF Superannuant.

This matter is of interest to all members, please make every endeavour to come along and encourage other members to attend. If you are unable to attend please e mail your queries to [info@tass.org.au](mailto:info@tass.org.au). This will allow your question to be raised at the AGM.

TASS will be visible with our new display board showing our new colourful TASS logo at the RBF's Finance Management and Information Seminars which are to be held at the both Hobart and Launceston on 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April respectively. *(since this report was prepared TASS has been advised that both venues are now fully booked. Ed.)*

We invite all those who have registered to come and say hello to our committee members who will gladly discuss our organisations objectives.

The committee thanks the large number of members who replied to our questionnaire last year. The results have been evaluated and will be a guide for the executive in 2013.

## PROMOTION SUBCOMMITTEE

The Promotion subcommittee has the role of communicating to TASS members, information of developments on superannuation issues, and actions being taken by the Executive on behalf of members in our major campaign to gain a more equitable form of indexing of our RBF pensions. Our primary means of communicating with members is through our quarterly newsletter, *Super-News* and on the TASS Website.

Also, we are in the process of updating our print communications, along with the array and quality of print items.

During 2012, we advertised in *Super-News* for any of our members with graphic design abilities who would be interested in assisting us in improving our brand image - but with limited success. Consequently, we engaged a graphic designer in conjunction with the printer of the TASS newsletter *Super-News* to design a logo and new branding for TASS. The logo which is on the member brochure sent to you in January incorporates the identification of our organisation, in the letter 'S' for superannuation, the map of Tasmania, the acronym TASS, along with the colours red, white and blue.

We are delighted with the increase in new members in response to the brochure.

Currently, the Promotion subcommittee is working with the graphic designer to produce new print materials, in colour, including a review of the *Super-News* format, new letterhead, envelope, name tags, a display stand for use at TASS promotional, or member social activities, along with a redesign of the TASS Website masthead.

Kip Muller convener

## AHOY NORTH-WEST TASMANIA!

**The Executive is delighted to report that in response to our SOS in *Super-News* last year, for a contact person in the North-West of Tasmania, it has at last been answered.**

We extend a warm welcome to long time member, **Joan Batchelor** from East Devonport. We thank you Joan for your interest in assisting us to better represent our members in the North-West of the State.

With Joan's help we hope to seek advice on matters that may be specific to members in the region.

Joan joins our long-serving life members June and Bert Hazzlewood, who have been of wonderful assistance to the Executive in helping us to organise luncheon meetings with guest speakers in the North of the State at Launceston, and more recently in Perth.

## Treasurer's Report for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2012

Mr President and Members

The audited financial statement and balance sheet for our financial year that ended on 31/12/2012 is set out below:

Tasmanian Association of State Superannuants

ABN 31 638 808 031

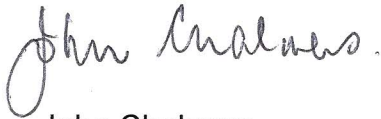
Financial Statement and Balance Sheet: Year Ended 31/12/2012

Bendigo Bank		Payments	
Opening Balance	\$8,693.08	Advertising and Conferences	\$2,923.05
Bank Interest	\$0.63	Affiliations	\$185.00
Deposits and Credits	\$21,448.63	Membership Expenses	\$4,383.28
Withdrawals and Debits	\$22,547.92	Miscellaneous (see below)	\$7,943.76
Closing Balance	\$7593.79	Secretarial Expenses	\$123.79
<b>Receipts</b>		<i>Super-News</i> : Postage	\$1,910.94
Donations	\$2,960.00	<i>Super-News</i> : Preparation	\$3,218.70
Miscellaneous	\$810.00	Travelling Expenses	\$650.00
Subscriptions 2012	\$2,231.00	Website Maintenance	\$1,209.40
Subscriptions 2013	\$6,515.00	Total	\$22,547.92
Subscriptions 2014+	\$168.00		
Transfers From Investments	\$8,500.00		
Interest	\$0.63	<b>Miscellaneous (Major Items)</b>	
Total	\$21,184.63	Insurance	\$480.67
<b>Investments</b>		Taxation	\$1,263.00
<b>Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees</b>		Actuarial Report	\$5,500.00
Opening Balance (Total)	\$74,174.16		
Opening Balance - Fixed Term Fund	\$73,196.29	<b>TASS Funds</b>	
Opening Balance - At Call Fund	\$977.87	Grand Total (31/12/11)	\$82,867.24
Interest: Fixed Term Fund	\$3,944.75	Grand Total (31/12/12)	\$77,251.29
Interest: At Call Fund	\$38.59	Year-to-Year Difference	-\$5,615.95
Transfers from Bendigo Bank	\$0.00		
Transfers to Bendigo Bank	\$8,500.00		
Closing Balance - Fixed Term Fund	\$68,641.04		
Closing Balance - At Call Fund	\$1,016.46		
Closing Balance (Total)	\$69,657.50		

We are grateful to those who have continued their memberships of TASS, and the generous donations of many members have again greatly assisted our bottom line. This is clearly shown in the financial statement.

The main contributors to the size of our Miscellaneous Expenses are shown in the Financial Statement. Membership Expenses include such items as stamps, stationery, our White Pages listings and, in 2012, the purchase of a phone and Pre-Paid Plan to provide for an exclusive TASS number. We thank Lance Brown who, for so long, allowed his home number to be used by TASS. In 2012 we have also commissioned the production and printing of a promotional brochure. The cost of this has been about two thirds of the Advertising and Conferences Expenses.

I now move that this Report and the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012 be received and adopted.

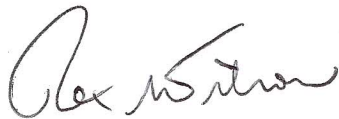


John Chalmers

Treasurer

Mr President and Members

I have examined the financial records of TASS and have found them to be kept very systematically. I consider the Treasurer's annual Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31/12/2012 to provide a true reflection of the financial situation of the Association.



Rex Wilson

Honorary Auditor

Date: 4/2/13.

Thank You To Our Auditor

We are again indebted to our Honorary Auditor, Mr Rex Wilson, for the services he has rendered us. Once more, he has been presented with a box of our financial paperwork which he has had to sift through to make sure that all is in order. This is no small task and TASS is most appreciative of Rex's preparedness to audit our books.

John Chalmers

Treasurer