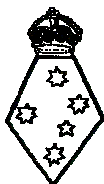


National Newsletter

SUMMER 2007-8



Last September the Advisers meet in Minda Killara, a Guide Camp at Riddells Creek. For those not familiar with Victoria, that is close to the Macedon Rangers and "Hanging Rock". After two days of a busy agenda, a quick trip to the rock gave every one a chance to view this landmark made famous by the book and the film of the "picnic".

However, this newsletter is to describe the business of the meeting, rather than comment on the varying fitness of Advisers as they climbed the rock.

An important item at the meeting was finance. Not how much money we had, but how we ensure we are fiscally responsible. Trefoil Guilds are accustomed to keeping accurate accounts, having these audited annually and presenting a balance sheet at their AGM. Although inferred that we had procedures in place, these were not clearly stated in all our documents. Following the September meeting greater detail has now been included in our Handbook and every State will require Guilds to provide record of their financial records with the annual census form which are due at the beginning of 2008.

Other forms were also revised in light of experience. There is now a universal Australian form for new member registration, and a 'transfer' form has been introduced. The latter is to notify when a member moves to a new area - to ensure the new area has a chance to make her welcome.

Review of the Advisers' 'job descriptions' featured on the agenda. States are still considering what change would make these clearer for their new applicants, but the Australian Trefoil Guild Adviser's job description has been through the protocol committee and now only awaits States' ratification. The notable addition is reference to the Trefoil Guild Handbook as the basis for her tasks.

Discussion was held on the election of State Advisers. Trefoil Guild elects their own Adviser then refers their choice to their State Executive for ratification.

The process is for members to nominate candidates, candidates to complete a written application form, these forms to go to the current State Adviser who is then responsible for forming a selection panel. The members of the panel must be Trefoil Guild members who have an understanding of what the job entails.

It was decided at the September meeting that a panel of three would provide a breadth of opinion whilst not overwhelming a candidate. To ensure that personal knowledge of the candidate would not influence, the panel members must be from different Guilds.

All applicants must be interviewed by the panel.

Other agenda items included promotion and recruitment. Over the past few years we eliminated some of the barriers to membership and were pleased to hear how many States had introduced variations in programs and attracted younger members. States also are taking advantages of technology, using websites and communicating through email (a wonderful postage saver!).

To ensure members have access to the latest information, the Australian Trefoil Guild Handbook has been revised and is available through you State Trefoil Guild Adviser. It contains all the alterations made from the September meeting.

Yvonne James



Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you can.

- John Wesley 1707-1791 -