



DEPARTMENT of the
HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

ISSUE 1 :: FEBRUARY 2008

ALUMNI *Newsletter*



Department of the House of Representatives forms Alumni Association



Welcome to the first Alumni newsletter. To date we have had over one hundred and thirty former staff express interest in being part of the Alumni.

The Alumni provides former staff with an opportunity to keep in touch with developments in the department. The aim is to foster continuing relationships between former and current staff.

This will be done through providing opportunities to maintain professional knowledge; share expertise; mentor colleagues; pursue social contact and access some short-term employment opportunities.

It is hoped that the program will help build a community of informed and interested former staff to assist the department achieve its goals and strengthen its links with the wider community.

Ian Harris

I C HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives

The inaugural meeting of the House of Representatives Alumni Board was held on 5 September 2007. After contacting former employees of the department using records since 1988, the department had received 129 responses from former staff wishing to join the Alumni. Eighteen of those nominated to become members of the Alumni Board.

Clerk of the House of Representatives, Mr Ian Harris AO, opened the inaugural meeting of the Board, expressing his delight with the response from former employees to participate in the Alumni.

The Alumni board in turn expressed their delight at the opportunity to assist in the shaping of the Alumni.

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The first Board meeting focused on the task of preparing a charter/constitution for the new Alumni, developing a publication to disseminate information to members, and lively discussion on the nature and venue for a first Alumni social event.

The Board decided, at the suggestion of the Clerk, to appoint co-chairs of the Alumni to share responsibility and tasks.

At its second meeting on 21 November 2007 the Board adopted a constitution which members can now view on the website.



**COME TO OUR
FIRST ALUMNI
COCKTAIL NIGHT
- HAVE A DRINK ON
THE 'HOUSE'**

The Alumni Board, in conjunction with the Clerk of the House, Ian Harris, will host the first social event of the new HoR Alumni Association on 14 March 2008 at the fitting and historic venue of Old Parliament House. Many alumni worked at Old Parliament House at some stage of their careers and the event will undoubtedly prompt many memories and provide an opportunity to meet colleagues and reminisce.

It will also provide the new Alumni Board to meet many of the alumni members and canvass their ideas on what functions and directions the Alumni might have.



Meet the co-chairs of the Alumni

Chairmanship of the first Alumni Board will be shared by co-chairs Jim Pender and Gillian Gould.



Jim Pender

will be known to many former and current staff of the House of Representatives.

He retired from the HoR in 2002 after 36 years with the department. He became Clerk Assistant in 1985 and has headed the Table Office, Committee Office and corporate area. He also assisted in the establishment of other parliaments such as the assembly in Papua New Guinea, the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly, the ACT House of Assembly and the Nigerian national and state legislatures. Following his retirement from the House of Representatives he acts as consultant/adviser on parliamentary and government issues and has worked as far afield as Guyana and as close to home as the New South Wales Legislative Assembly and the ACT Legislative Assembly. He has been seen around Parliament House from time to time working with the Association of Former Members and on the annual reports of the Departments of the House of Representatives and Senate. He remains an active member of the Australasian Study of Parliament Group and maintains a keen interest in parliamentary matters around the world.



Gillian Gould

joined the Department amid the excitement of the first day of the House of Representatives sitting in the new

Parliament House on 22 August 1988. Apart from a six month period in the Parliamentary Relations Office Gillian worked predominantly with committees, notably Public Accounts, Joint Standing Committees on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, Migration, National Capital and External Territories and Treaties and the House of Representatives Committees on Legal and Constitutional Affairs and Education and Vocational Training. Following a number of elections she assisted in organising familiarisation seminars for new Members of Parliament. Gillian joined Jim in conducting a training program for staff of the national and state legislatures in Nigeria in 1992 and subsequently participated in capacity building programs in East Timor and the North West Frontier Province in Pakistan and again in Nigeria in 1999. For many years Gillian was National Secretary-Treasurer of the Australasian Study of Parliament Group. Since retiring in April 2006 Gillian has taken up a little consultancy work in the field of military history but endeavours to keep a priority on golf, grandchildren and gadding about overseas.

SPREAD THE WORD

The Department of the House of Representatives has attempted to contact former employees, but there are still many former staff out there who have not been caught in the net.

So spread the word about the Alumni, particularly to those people who left the Department prior to 1988. For those Alumni who have had a long association with the HoR, think back to the early days of your employment and the people who worked with you (some of these memories may have been repressed to prevent madness) and make a phone call to see if they are aware of the Alumni. We would love to see as many people as possible at our first exciting event. And of course, there will be an opportunity to make suggestions for our next social event.



ALUMNI BOARD ACTIVITY TO DATE

- Drafting and agreement on HoR Alumni Constitution/Charter
- First issue of biannual Alumni newsletter
- Establishment of Alumni website available at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/index.htm>
- Alumni registration form available at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/index.htm>
- Arranging first social event at Old Parliament House

Further information:

For any further information on alumni events or information please contact email - Alumni.reps@aph.gov.au