



**CHAIRMAN'S
2019
ANNUAL REPORT
PRESENTED AT THE
9TH GRAND REUNION
MELBOURNE CROWN PLAZA
24TH OF MAY 2019**

I am pleased and honoured to present this Chairman's Annual Report for the year 2018/19 in the 13th year of the formation of OOFERS Australia.

It is particularly pleasing to note that there continues to be considerable enthusiasm for the continuation for our OOFERS community of retired and existing petroleum distributors/wholesalers and those closely associated with our sector.

Since our last meeting:

Our Mission Statement has been defined and published and highlights our objective of promoting fellowship within our OOFER community, to be a source of information of industry trends, news and events, encouraging members to share their knowledge and experience, to enable OOFERS to network with one another sharing business skills, services and experience, to become a professional resource for members who may be experiencing distress within their business or family, and to provide through the OOFERS Australia Award, recognition for those who have provided exemplary service to the community and the wholesale sector of the petroleum industry.

There have been two interactions with our **Distress Service** and I remind OOFERS that our membership has an extremely wide range of professional skills to provide support, which may be within an OOFER's business or health breakdown. The success of this service depends on OOFERS alerting any member of the Board if an OOFER may need support. Any such support will of course always be provided exercising discretion, empathy and with strict confidentiality.

Membership Development is a high priority of our Board and while we have a growing number of ‘registered’ members, which attracts a membership fee of \$50 per annum, we have an even greater number within our data base who have not yet registered. It is only registered members who may vote on OOFER issues and elections or nominate for a seat on the Board.

We urge OOFERS to encourage known distributors, current or retired, to join our OOFER community and to provide any member of the Board with their email contact, so that they too may be entered onto our data base and invited to OOFER events.

Within the OOFER membership development program the OOFER Board will be, the consideration of achieving closer ties with what is a kindred association – ACAPMA. It is after all noteworthy, that it is the OOFER membership that were the founders of APADA now called ACAPMA. The mutual support of each other would seem to be not only logical but important to each other’s successful development.

OOFERS Website:

Dissappointingly, we were unable to get our website up and running until this reunion, but we are now ready to go. As we all know, a website is now an integral part of any organisation or business and is its window to members, interested parties and to the public in general. It is of course our entrée to Google or Yahoo for people who may legitimately wish to know “who in the hell are OOFERS?”

Importantly too, it is an essential tool to aid membership development, where prospective members can look us up and see what we are all about.

I urge all OOFERS to advertise the existence of our website at

www.OOFERSAustralia.com.au

OOFER History Book Publication.

OOFERS will be aware that we launched our publication “**Out of the Grip**” at our Cairns Reunion in 2017. The publication was immensely successful and was popularly received, to the extent, that it has sold out its first edition.

The Board has decided that it will undertake an update and re-print, perhaps under a different name, with an objective for completion for the next reunion to be held in Brisbane in 2021.

The OOFERS Newsletter has continued to keep OOFERS aware of membership activities and industry trends and news. It is slowly expanding in its reach and information with issue number (9) due out soon after this reunion. OOFERS are urged to provide the Editor with news, events and photographs for inclusion.

Election of OOFER Board of Directors.

Whereas all OOFER Board positions are for a (4) year term the next Board election is scheduled for the AGM to be held in 2021 at the Grand Reunion to be held in Brisbane, when all positions will be declared vacant. Should a resignation occur in the intervening period, the Board may invite a member to take up that position until the next election.

Ongoing Projects Being Reviewed by the OOFERS Board:

It is proposed that the Board will now meet on a quarterly basis to review and implement as it decides, the following projects:

- The re-print of the OOFER publication 'Out of the Grip.'
- The introduction, in conjunction with a Board approved Australian University, a Diploma Course – "A Petroleum Wholesaler/Retailer Business Management Diploma."
- The possibility of OOFERS Australia linking with a kindred body, or sponsoring a kindred body, in New Zealand.
- The establishment of closer ties with ACAPMA.

I express my sincere appreciation to all members of the OOFER Board for their kind support throughout the year, with the forthcoming twelve months being a somewhat busier term.

Special thanks too, to our Secretary /Treasurer Ross Lake for his particular work and tolerating me for chasing him on issues.

The executive of our OOFER community are all voluntary, none of us receive a salary, which creates a need for understanding when business pressures sometimes put pressure on our deadlines.

With the foregoing planned projects and the usual fellowship activities that occur within the OOFER Australia community, I look forward to an exciting and successful year ahead.

With best wishes to you all.

Kevin Hughes

**Chairman
OOFERS AUSTRALIA INC**