



Honour For Liwara Catenian

Tom Alford of **Liwara Circle**, Province 20, Western Australia, was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia, on Australia Day this year. The citation for the honour read "For service to horticulture, particularly native plant conservation, and through support for Kings Park & Botanic Garden, and to the community."

Tom's interest in native flora extends over 30 years from the time that he and his family moved into a new home in Hamersley and they were faced with planting lawns and gardens. Beverley, his wife, suggested that he attend a TAFE course on growing native flora in home gardens and his interest grew from there.

He joined the Wildflower Society of Western Australia in 1978 and served as President from 1991–1994. During his early years in the Society, Tom was disappointed with the amount of information available on native flora. Western Australia is one of the greatest natural gardens in the world, being home to over 13,000 species. Unfortunately, little information was available on how to propagate and grow many of these species.

He raised this issue with Dr Neville Marchant, the Director of the WA Herbarium and a project was developed to database the entire flora using the skills of the Herbarium's scientists. Tom was successful in obtaining funds for the project from Lotterywest. Today, Florabase, <http://florabase.calm.wa.gov.au/> is one of the leading botanical databases on the

Worldwide Web. Tom has contributed to Florabase by collecting and photographing flora around the State. When Dr Stephen Hopper was appointed Director of Kings Park and Botanic Garden in 1992 he approached Tom to help him establish the Friends of Kings Park. The Friends were established the following year and Tom has led the Friends for nine of the past 15 years.



The Friends involve the community in its vision for Kings Park & Botanic Garden to be a special place for people and plants. With a membership of over 1,100, Friends are involved in raising funds for the Park and assisting staff with the Bushland, Botanic Gardens and in the Plant Science Laboratory.

Tom spent his entire working career in telecommunications. He joined the PMG's Department as an apprentice Telephone Technician in 1955 and following 10 years in the technical field, joined the administration. He completed a Bachelor of Commerce degree at the University of Western Australia on a part time basis and joined the management ranks in 1973. Prior to retiring from Telstra in 1998, he spent his final 10 years as a national manager in Directory Services responsible for the accuracy of the White Pages database for Australia. Following his retirement from Telstra, he spent six years in an honorary position in the Faculty of Natural & Agricultural Science at UWA. Tom joined Liwara Circle in 2000. He became a joint member of Joondalup Circle when it was established in 2005.

Province 6 Public Speaking Contest

Rosaleen Gallagher (18) from Bishop Walsh Catholic School, Sutton Coldfield was the winner of the 23rd Annual Public Speaking Contest for Catholic Secondary Schools in the Midlands, held on Sunday 16th March.

Victoria Hawkins (16), St Augustine's High School, Redditch came second and Hannah Grace (17), St Peter's Catholic School, Solihull came third. Held at the Solihull Arts Centre, there was a sizeable audience, which included Bishop William Kenney, and Grand President Philip Gidman. The three Adjudicators were Bishop William, Grand President and Province 6 President John Trinham.

Paul Mainon, Director of Province 1 gave details about the National Catenian Public Speaking Contest to be held on the 21st September at Manchester University, as part of the Centenary celebrations. Rosaleen Gallagher and Victoria Hawkins will be eligible to enter.



Pictured (l to r): President Province 6 John Trinham, winner Rosaleen Gallagher, Bishop William Kenney, Grand President Philip Gidman

CATENA OCTOBER 1988

IN HAPPY MEMORY



John O'Donnell was the first Grand President of the Manchester and Rochdale Circles. He was elected in 1931 and served for 10 years. He was a member of the Grand Council for 40 years and Grand President in 1931-32. He was a member of the Grand Council for 40 years and Grand President in 1931-32. He was a member of the Grand Council for 40 years and Grand President in 1931-32.

Historic Plaques

John Woodhouse, of **Manchester (1) and Rochdale Circles**, who had prepared memorabilia for the Centenary writes: 'These two bronze plaques created by brother Lindsey Clark, which were first featured in Catena in 1965, were fixed to the wall in the Boardroom in Chesham Place. They were on display at the Manchester Central Reference Library as part of the Centenary Conference exhibition there. James Hagerty, the author of the new Association history found the details in Catena after the inscription on each plaque was highlighted by me. As can be seen in the caption, one is John O'Donnell, the first Grand President and the other is Paul Kelly,

a member of Grand Council for 40 years and Grand President in 1931-32. They have been very lightly and sparingly cleaned, which has enabled the removal of many years of dust, dirt and some slight paint speckling utilising the world's most common known solvent...a little water. This was applied via a lightly moistened cotton bud over the whole surfaces. Obviously new cotton buds were utilised when the others were ingrained and filthy. It is a slow, painstaking process which has in no way affected the patina, only removing the years of grime that had attached itself upon them since 1965 and then storage after Chesham Place was closed.'