

Sumter to Appomattox

**The Official Newsletter of the New South Wales Chapter of
The American Civil War Round Table of Australia**

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A Message from the Chairman –

Dear Round Table Members and Friends,

I write to you at this time to wish you a happy, prosperous and safe New Year and to launch our Newsletter that I hope might become a regular part of our Chapter's communication processes. In this regard, it is hoped to circulate the Newsletter bi-monthly, in the month between our meetings and, thus, maintain a more regular contact amongst members.

This year your Committee has arranged a diverse and interesting program of meetings and activities that it is hoped will build on our successful year in 2001. This year's program is presented in this Newsletter and I'm sure you will agree that there is something for everyone in it. Particularly pleasing is the offers we have had from some of our newer members to contribute with presentations and we will all benefit from the broadening base of interest and expertise of our expanding membership. As has been our practice, we are hoping to provide a written paper for each of this year's presentations.

2001 was a year when our Chapter of the Round Table blossomed as an active and viable group. Each of our activities contributed to this successful growth and I would wish to thank each of the members who gave presentations at the meetings for their efforts and contributions. There were two of last year's activities of which I would want to make special mention. The first of these was the "Gettysburg Conference" held on Sunday July 1, the 138th anniversary of Day 1 of the Battle. The response to this conference exceeded all our expectations with 57 people registering, 11 from inter-state and resulted in a significant number of new members to the Chapter. This one-day conference showed that with a lot of effort by a number of people (and very little publicity) that we can and did achieve great things. The second activity for which special mention should be made was the Christmas Party held courtesy of Roger Dixon and Elaine Steblina at their home in the Hunter Vineyards. Attended by around 30 members and their families, this function was a fitting conclusion to our successful 2001. Thank you Elaine and Roger for your hospitality and to others whose donations made the day the outstanding success it was. There is no doubt that Elaine and Roger have set the benchmark for a great party!!

Last year, with its regular raffles and sales of materials, left the Chapter in a very sound financial situation. Thank you to every one whose regular participation in these raffles has kept us "afloat" and a special thanks to those who donated prizes and sold the tickets in the raffles.

This year represents further challenges to us in not only keeping the group going but expanding the membership base and range of activities as we have over the past year. Any ideas you might have on how we "can do it better" are actively encouraged and sought by your Committee, so please do not hesitate to come forward – we can only benefit from your ideas!

Paul Kensey