

# *Sumter to Appomattox*

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

**No. 2, March 2002**

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## **A Message from the Chairman –**

Dear Round Table Members and Friends,

The positive reaction to the first of our Newsletters has encouraged us to continue with the initiative and incorporate the 'Notice of Meeting' sent to members before each meeting into the Newsletter.

Unfortunately, we were not rushed off our feet with offers to assist with the desktop publishing of the Newsletter and, as a consequence, the primitive and somewhat conservative format remains (for 'primitive and ... conservative' you could read 'dull and boring').

Last month, we were treated to a well-researched and provocative presentation by John Cook on Ulysses S Grant that, no doubt, challenged much of the "conventional wisdom" on this Civil War leader and post-War President. I found it refreshing that the discussion of the controversial issues of Grant's drinking and his "butcher" reputation could have an evidential basis as well as the usual servings of political ideology. Well done John and thank you!

Brendan O'Connell's initiative of having plates of sandwiches served prior to the February meeting was well received and has gone a long way in making 'value for money' refreshments available to members prior to our meetings. Thanks Brendan for your efforts on our behalf.

Next month's presentation is to be given by one of our newer members, Rev David Smith. "Father Dave" as he is known, is an Anglican priest whose parish is at Dulwich Hill. He recently completed an extended tour of Civil War battlefields with his family, courtesy of a bequest of his late father (also an Anglican priest and a theology scholar). Father Dave is definitely not the stereotypical clergyman. He is, however, a stimulating and polished speaker and members can be assured of a most challenging presentation. I hope to see you at the meeting.

**Paul Kensey**

## **Next Month's Meeting**

Because of Easter, the next meeting of the Chapter will be held on **Monday, April 8**, with the meeting scheduled to commence **at 7pm**

**The venue for the meeting has had to be changed** because the Roseville Club is unavailable for the night. The venue will be the **Gordon Club** located on **Level 4 of the Mandarin Centre, Cnr Albert Ave and Victor Street, Chatswood** (near the railway station on the eastern side of the line). There is a secure car park to the Club with free parking. The entry to this car park is in Victor Street opposite the Westfield Shopping Centre.

Members will meet at the Club from 6pm for a bistro meal. The quality of these meals at the Gordon Club is quite exceptional and they are most reasonable in price.

The presentation planned for this meeting, to be given by **Rev David Smith, BA (Hons), BTh, Dip A**, will be:

### **"Lessons in Leadership – General John Bell Hood, CSA"**

You may be assured of a challenging, thought provoking presentation that will be followed, no doubt, by a lively question and answer/comment session. Father Dave has a number of surprises planned for his presentation that will make for a night to long remember.

A written paper for this presentation will be available at the conclusion of the meeting and later, on request. Members living outside the Sydney Metropolitan Area will have the paper mailed to them automatically.

**Note: The change of venue is for this meeting only.**

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## **Vale – Mrs Mary O'Connell**

It is with sadness we record the passing of Mrs Mary O'Connell, wife of our Secretary/Treasurer, Brendan O'Connell, on Monday, February 25. Our thoughts go out to Brendan and his family in their bereavement at this time.

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