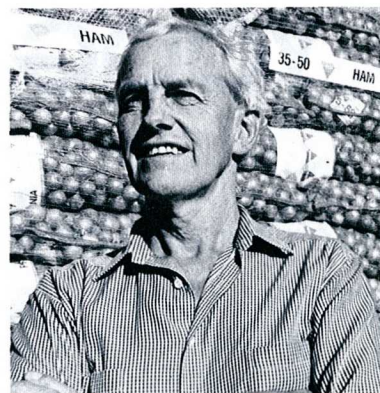


# A.O.C.C. Chairman's Report



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*Peter Gilham is Chairman of the Australian Onion Co-ordinating Committee.*

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**The Australian onion industry has, over the last sixteen years, benefitted greatly due to actions of the Australian Onion Co-ordinating Committee.**

Some of those benefits are—

- A bringing together of most sections of the industry.
- A strengthening and a sense of order and growth in the industry.
- The financial benefits gained by all exporters of onions from Australia, resulting from the A.O.C.C. Freight Negotiating Committee's actions.
- The overview, updated thrice yearly of tonnages being produced in each state.
- Participation in the drawing up of the government inspection guidelines for onions exported from Australia.
- Becoming the accepted voice for the onion industry by the Federal Government, the Public Service and other government bodies in Australia.

As well as many, many other important issues.

There are challenging areas which remain unsolved, although approached from time to time by committee meetings.

These include—

- A larger membership of those in the industry.
- A uniform bag size in the market place.
- A greater participation from the wholesale market section of the industry.

These items, and others, are a challenge for the Committee in the future.

Perhaps they may become closer to being solved by the Committee always seeking to invite guest speakers to the regular meetings from outside Australia.

On the two occasions this happened in the past twelve months, when there was a speaker from America and at a later meeting a speaker from Germany, two things were obvious—

- (1) A far greater than usual attendance.
- (2) New ideas into the Australian onion industry were introduced.

The onion industry in Australia will always be a somewhat toothless tiger unless the A.O.C.C. has a regular income.

This position appears unlikely to alter unless all states in Australia are able to impose a levy on onion producers.

Tasmania and Queensland have that ability. South Australia is close.

New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia are not able to impose a levy on producers at this time.

Unless the A.O.C.C. has a regular income from the onion industry, becoming a member of the National Farmers Federation in its own right, cannot occur.

It appears desirable for the onion industry to be a member of the National Farmers Federation.

There is, at this time, an urgent need for the voice from the people of the land, those people who are and always have been producing the money, the life blood of the country, to be united and to be heard.

The A.O.C.C. owes much of its past and continued success, in particular, to Gordon Marks who has held the position of Chairman at different times for a total of eight years. Also to its other Chairmen—Ben Robinson, Les Giroud and Trevor Hookway.

To Reg Miller, Secretary and Treasurer of the A.O.C.C. from 1974 and still going strong.

The well-deserved respect Reg holds by all members is a tribute to a good, efficient and kind gentleman.

To John Salvestrin and Phil Sinclair for producing the "Australian Onion Grower", the voice of the A.O.C.C. and the onion industry.

On behalf of all members of the A.O.C.C. and all people involved in the onion industry in Australia—Thank you.

PETER GILHAM