



Queensland Branch

ANNUAL REPORT

2017



**To be presented by
Associate Professor John Harden AM,
Chairman, Queensland Branch**

at

the 38th Annual General Meeting

Monday 19 March 2018

**The Ballroom, Victoria Park, Victoria Park Golfing Complex, Herston Road,
Herston, Brisbane.**

*"To foster love of and pride in Australian citizenship and
to uphold the high principles and prestige of the Order of Australia."*

The Order of Australia Association Limited ACN 008 812 664 – A Company Limited by Guarantee

The Order of Australia Association Queensland Branch

The Queensland Branch fostering love of and pride in Australian citizenship and upholding the high principles and prestige of the Order of Australia throughout 2017



Celebratory events for new award recipients



Secondary School Citizenship Awards to 12 worthy Queensland students



Senior Volunteer Awards to 3 outstanding Queensland senior volunteers

1. Summary

It gives me great pleasure to present the thirty-seventh Annual Report of the Queensland Branch of The Order of Australia Association in my third year as Chairman.

It has been another busy year with a great variety of events organized by a hard working branch committee as well as some worthy functions organized by our regional groups throughout the State.

The early part of the year was dominated by the final planning and staging of the 31st National Conference of The Order of Australia Association, hosted by the Queensland Branch in Brisbane from 20 to 23 April 2017. This was one of the best National Conferences ever staged and it owes its success to the efforts of the hard working team that formed the 2017 Conference Committee. A full report on the Conference appears on page 4 of this report.

The Branch organized two outstanding celebratory brunch events to welcome new award recipients during 2017. Branch morning tea events were also held at the Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha in February, the Queensland Club in the Brisbane CBD in August and the Queensland Ambulance Museum at Wynnum in December.

The Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards and the Senior Volunteer Awards were maintained in 2017. It was pleasing that Her Honour Catherine Holmes, the Chief Justice of Queensland accepted our invitation to present the SSCAs to the winning students at Parliament House on 15 September 2017.

Another important event in the 2017 calendar was a Cocktail Reception to celebrate the Queen's Birthday and the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. This was co-hosted by the Association and the Victoria League Brisbane for Commonwealth Friendship on the 41st level of 1 William Street, Brisbane on Friday 7 July, in the presence of His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland and Mrs Kaye de Jersey.

These, as well as events organized by our regional groups are described in greater detail elsewhere in this report.

The following are the highlights of the activities of the Queensland Branch since the previous Annual General Meeting held in November 2016.

2. The 2017 Queensland Branch Committee

The following members of the Association were elected to the Branch Committee at the 37th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 21 November 2016.

- **Chairman:** *Associate Professor John Harden AM ***
- **Vice Chairman:** *Mr Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ* (elected at the 37th AGM as an "other member" and subsequently appointed by the Committee as Vice Chairman on 18 January 2017)
- **Secretary:** *Mr Geoff Cowles OAM*
- **Treasurer:** *Mr Royce Voss OAM*

Other members of the Committee (Committee appointed roles in brackets)

- *Mr Mick Davis AM ASM* (2017 National Conference Convener);
- *Mr Winston Fraser OAM* (resigned in February 2017 due to ill-health) *
- *Mr Patrick Galligan OAM* (Membership Officer);
- *Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO;*
- *Professor Paul McNally OAM* (Newsletter Editor);
- *Darryl Seccombe OAM*
- *Mrs Marjorie Voss OAM*
- *Professor Tony Webber AM*
- *Mr Raymond Young OAM.*

* *Paula Penfold AM* was appointed by the Queensland Branch Committee on 5 September 2017 as a member of the Committee to replace *Winston Fraser OAM*.

** The Branch Committee, at its meeting held on 18 January 2017, elected Associate Professor John Harden AM as its nominee for Director of the National Board representing the Queensland Branch for 2017.

There were seven well attended committee meetings throughout the year. In addition, considerable business was transacted "out of session" by email communication with all committee members.

3. The 2016 Annual Dinner



Photos

1. Pre-dinner drinks on the Ballroom Balcony
2. The 37th AGM
3. Dr Paul Luckin AM CSTJ addresses the gathering as guest speaker

The 2016 Annual Dinner was held in a new venue, the Ballroom, Victoria Park in the Victoria Park Golfing Complex at Herston Road, Herston on Monday 21 November 2016.

The new venue was superb and well received by the 105 guests present (12 more than the 2015 Dinner).

The guests enjoyed good food, great fellowship and an excellent after dinner presentation by highly respected Queensland anaesthetist, Dr Paul Luckin AM CSTJ who created much human interest with his stories of his amazing emergency rescue work. Paul advises the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and Police around the nation on survivability during SAR operations, and is Medical Director, Medical Services St John Ambulance Qld. As a Captain in the Royal Australian Navy Reserve, Paul has served in Bougainville, East Timor, Solomons, the Bali Bombings, Afghanistan, and in the first team into Banda Aceh after the 2004 tsunami.

Another highlight of the evening was the announcement of the three winners of the Queensland Branch's 2016 Senior Volunteer Awards, proudly sponsored by Blight Rayner, Architects. Refer to separate item 7 on page 9 of this report.

4. 31st National Conference, Brisbane

The major event of the year was the Queensland Branch staging the 31st National Conference in Brisbane from Thursday 20 April through to 23 April 2017.

There was considerable planning over the previous two years from a very hard working and dedicated Conference Committee ably led by *Dr Mick Davis AM ASM*. Many delegates from both Queensland and interstate voted this Conference one of the best ever. There were 202 attendees including 100 from the Queensland Branch.

There were many Conference highlights. However particularly memorable were two events on Friday 21 April that advanced the Conference theme of *"Innovating for Society"* with great clarity. The first of these events was the Conference Forum on Friday 21 April where four eminent Queenslanders provided great insight on the Conference theme of *"Innovating for Society"* in their specialist fields of medicine (*Professor Ian Frazer AC*); urban landscaping (*Professor Catherin Bull AM*); agriculture (*Distinguishing Professor James Dale AO*) and the arts (*Dr Li Cunxin*). This was followed by the former Governor of Queensland *the Honourable Penelope Wensley AC* delivering a superb National Oration in the historic Albert Street Uniting Church.

Also memorable was the hugely successful Conference Gala Dinner held in the magnificent Main Auditorium of the Brisbane City Hall in the presence of *His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Ret'd)*, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and *Her Excellency Lady Cosgrove*. The final attendance of 260 guests was a very pleasing result and my thanks go to the various outside organizations that sponsored corporate tables. Key highlights were the presentation of The Order of Australia Association Foundation awards and the opportunity to hear the magnificent City Hall organ being played by distinguished Brisbane organist *Graeme Morton AM*.



The Vice Regal Party at the Conference Gala Dinner on the foyer steps of Brisbane City Hall – from L-R Caroline Flood; Philip Flood AO, National President; Her Excellency Lady Cosgrove; His Excellency General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Ret'd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia ; Di Harden and Associate Professor John Harden AM, Queensland Branch Chairman

I am grateful to the Association members who participated so enthusiastically at what proved to be one of Associations' more interesting Annual General Meetings at a National Conference. It was clear that there was considerable member dissatisfaction with the manner in which the Association was being governed. The members expressed their strong desire for change which culminated in fresh elections for the non Branch Directors on the National Board being called in July 2017. It was important that the views of the members were heard and my thanks go to Philip Flood AO, the National President, for his skilful handling of proceedings as meeting chair.

Two successful pre-conference tours were arranged; an overnight tour to Toowoomba and the Darling Downs on Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 April and a day tour to the Gold Coast and Tamborine Mountains on Wednesday 19 April. A post conference tour to the Sunshine Coast Hinterland was also arranged on Monday 24 April.

The Queensland Branch Committee is indebted to the following major sponsors who helped make the Conference so successful -

- Royal Automobile Club of Queensland (RACQ)
- Brisbane City Council
- Wheelton Philanthropy
- Queensland University of Technology (QUT)
- The Village Retirement Group, Yeronga
- MIE Software

Finally I would like to thank our Branch Patron, *His Excellency, The Honourable Paul de Jersey AC*, Governor of Queensland, and *The Honourable Annastacia Palaszczuk MP*, Premier of Queensland and Minister for the Arts, for hosting events.



Photos

Centre round photo - Honourable Penelope Wensley AC, former Governor of Queensland, delivers National Oration in Albert Street Uniting Church – Friday 21 April

Top left – The five panelists presented with gifts of appreciation – Conference Forum – *Innovating for Society* – Friday 21 April

Top right - The Premier of Queensland's Reception – Premiers' Hall, Parliament House – Thursday 20 April

Bottom right - The solemn Commemorative Service – Anzac Square – Sunday 23 April

Bottom left - Some of the 260 guests at the Gala Conference Dinner – The Main Auditorium, City Hall – Saturday 22 April (taken from the dress circle of the Main Auditorium)

5. The celebratory events to welcome new recipients of awards in the Order of Australia

The Branch Committee organized two excellent day time events to welcome new recipients of awards in the Order of Australia around the time of the investitures held at Government House; one for Australia Day recipients in May 2017 and the other for Queen's Birthday recipients in September 2017. The investiture schedules at Government House necessitated the Branch Committee changing the format for both events this year by staging two morning Brunch events incorporating morning tea and a light lunch instead of the usual midday luncheon events.

5.1 The Welcome Brunch to celebrate with recipients of awards in the 2017 Australia Day Honours

Sixteen of 87 Queensland recipients of Order of Australia Awards in this year's Australia Day honours were special guests at the Welcome Brunch on Thursday 4 May 2017 in the Rosewood Room at Hillstone St Lucia. Sixty people attended the event including the recipients, their families and friends and 15 Association members and their guests.



The 2017 Australia Day award recipients at the Welcome Brunch in the Rosewood Room, Hillstone St Lucia- 4 May 2017



The 2017 Queen's Birthday award recipients at the Welcome Brunch in the Grandview Room, Hillstone St Lucia- 14 September 2017 with the Queensland Branch Chairman, Associate Professor John Harden AM (Front row first left)

5.2 The Welcome Brunch to celebrate with recipients of awards in the 2017 Queen's Birthday Honours

Thirteen of 75 Queensland recipients of Order of Australia Awards in this year's Queen's Birthday honours were special guests at the Welcome Brunch on Thursday 14 September 2017 in the Grandview Room at Hillstone St Lucia. Fifty-three people attended the event including the recipients, their families and friends and 14 Association members and their guests.

6. 2017 Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards

Mr Tim Fairfax AC continued to provide the sponsorship necessary to enable these awards to be presented in 2017 and has agreed to continue sponsorship to at least 2020.

This year we had 107 people attend the 19th annual Presentation of awards, comprising secondary school students, family members, education representatives from across Queensland and OAA members.

The event was held on Friday 15 September 2017 at Parliament House, Brisbane. *Her Honour Catherine Holmes*, Chief Justice of Queensland presented commemorative plaques and Certificates of Merit to the winning students and I presented Certificates of Community Service to 9 selected local students; a task normally undertaken by *Tim Fairfax AC*, the awards sponsor, who was not available to attend on this occasion. *Mrs Jacinta Euler*, Principal, Brisbane Girls Grammar School presented the response speech on behalf of the Schools.



Photos: *Left* – The very ornate Parliament House building where the awards were presented.
Centre: The winning students with Her Honour Catherine Holmes, Chief Justice of Queensland.
Right: View of proceedings from the entrance to the Old Legislative Council (Red) Chamber

Nominations were received for 53 students from 41 secondary schools throughout Queensland. This year's judging panel again comprised *Mrs Dina Browne AO* and *Mr Bruce J Howden OAM* from the Association and *Mr Chris Lassig* from Education Queensland. The Association thanks all three judges for their contribution. My thanks also to *Geoff Cowles OAM* for continuing as awards coordinator this year.

Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO was compere for this event. The event was made special by the presence of the Brisbane Girls Grammar School's String Quartet providing musical interludes and the playing of the National Anthem. All members of the quarter received Certificates of Participation from the Association.

7. 2017 Senior Volunteer Awards

The Association continued its Senior Volunteer Awards program in 2017.

The judging panel of *Paul McNally OAM*, *Dr Mick Davis AM ASM* and *Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO* selected three worthy volunteers to receive this Award. My thanks to Paul, Mick and Mary for agreeing to be on the judging panel this year. The awardees will be announced and presented with their awards during the Annual Dinner tonight.

The purpose of the Senior Volunteer Awards is to recognise outstanding voluntary contributions made by Queensland Seniors to their communities, independently or through organisations with which they are associated. Any current member of The Order of Australia Association, Queensland Branch, residing in Queensland may nominate a volunteer who is 60 years or older.

I encourage members of the Association to nominate worthy senior volunteers in 2018.

I also wish to acknowledge the sponsorship of the awards by Blight Rayner Architects and particularly *Michael Rayner AM*, a director of the company and strong supporter of these awards.



The 2016 Winners announced at the Annual Dinner on Monday 21 November 2016

From L-R – Judith Muir, from Fitzgibbon, Brisbane; Deirdre Hargreaves from Ormiston, Redlands and Tony Fox from Wynnum West, Brisbane.

8. Queensland Branch morning teas

During 2017 the Queensland Branch Committee organized three well attended events – a visit to the Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha in February; a morning tea at the Queensland Club in August and a visit to the Queensland Ambulance Museum at Wynnum in December.

8.1 Visit to the Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha – Tuesday 21 February 2017

Forty-nine guests attended this morning tea and Gardens tour event, preceded by the brief adjourned meeting from the November 2016 Annual General Meeting held in the Botanic Gardens Auditorium. This meeting was convened to formally adopt the 2016 financial report and it was pleasing that 29 Association members were present.

The financial report having been duly adopted, the morning tea went into full swing with the Branch Committee organizing the catering. During the morning tea there was a talk from *Dale Arvidsson*, the Curator of the Gardens who highlighted the history of the Botanic Gardens and its many attractions. Also *Wendy Peden OAM*, one of the Gardens' most senior guides spoke of her strong passion as to why she loves being a volunteer guide.

Following morning tea, volunteer guides organized excellent guided tours of the Gardens for the guests.

8.2 Morning Tea in the CBD – Queensland Club – Wednesday 30 August 2017 – Yotkom Uganda

A most informative morning tea was held on Wednesday 30 August 2017 at the Queensland Club in the George Street historic precinct in the Brisbane CBD.

The 55 guests were treated to an excellent talk from *Dr Andrew Wright AM* and *Mrs Annette Wright AM*, a very humble dynamic husband and wife team. They were recognized in the 2017 Australia Day honours, for setting up Yotkom, a faith-based charity organisation that aims to provide better health services to the Acholi people of Northern Uganda.

Their talk provided an insight into the health difficulties faced by the Acholi people but also expressed great hope that the health and wellbeing of these people can be greatly enhanced by offering medical services, equipment and much needed training of local medical staff.

After their talk, it gave me much pleasure to present the Wrights with a Certificate of Appreciation and a donation from the Association of \$100 towards the ongoing work of Yotkom Uganda.

8.3 Visit to the Queensland Ambulance Museum – Wynnum – Wednesday 6 December 2017

The latest in our series of travelling morning teas organised by the Queensland Branch was a most informative visit to the Queensland Ambulance Museum at Wynnum, Brisbane, on Wednesday 6 December 2017.

The visit coincided with the 125th anniversary of the Queensland Ambulance and there were 40 guests in attendance.

After an impressive morning tea, courtesy of Fabulous Catering, the group was made welcome by *Mr Craig Emery ASM*, Deputy Commissioner, State Local Ambulance Service Networks Operations, Queensland Ambulance. I responded to the Deputy Commissioner's welcome by presenting him with a commemorative plaque from the Association.

Formalities over, the group was then treated to a most interesting and comprehensive twenty-minute talk on the history of the Queensland Ambulance from none other than *Dr Mick Davis AM ASM*, one of the most passionate Queensland Ambulance men one could ever meet. His talk was outstanding and he produced excellent PowerPoint slides to complement his presentation. A tour of the Museum followed Mick's talk.



Photos

Top left: Morning tea 1 – 14 February 2017

Dale Arvidsson, the Curator of the Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha addresses the guests in the Gardens Auditorium

Top right: Morning Tea 2 – 30 August 2017

Dr Andrew Wright AM and *Mrs Annette Wright AM* deliver an inspiring talk at the Queensland Club.

Bottom right: Morning Tea 3 – 6 December 2017

Dr Mick Davis AM ASM has the audience in the 'palm of his hand' during his fascinating talk on the history of the Queensland Ambulance at the Queensland Ambulance Museum, Wynnum.



9. Cocktail Reception to celebrate the Queen's Birthday and the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games – Friday 7 July 2017

A very enjoyable Cocktail Reception was organised jointly by The Order of Australia Association, Queensland Branch (OAAQ) and the Victoria League Brisbane for Commonwealth Friendship (VLB) on Friday evening, 7 July 2017 on the 41st level of 1 William Street in the Brisbane CBD to celebrate the Queen's Birthday and the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

One hundred and sixty guests including seventy-four from OAAQ made sure that both events were celebrated in grand style in the presence of *His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC*, Governor of Queensland and *Mrs Kaye de Jersey*, our guests of honour.

Other notable special guests present included

- *Major-General the Honourable Peter Arnison AC CVO, a former Governor of Queensland and Mrs Barbara Arnison;*
- *Commissioner Ian Stewart APM, Queensland Police Commissioner and Mrs Carol Stewart;*
- *The Very Rev Dr Peter Catt, Dean of Brisbane;*
- *Dr Ludovico Carlo Camussi, Consul of Italy for QLD and NT;*
- *Mrs Kathy Hermosilla-Silva, Honorary Consul General of Chile; and*
- *Ms Keiko Yanai, Consul-General of Japan.*

Also present were representatives from the Queensland Government and the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation (GOLDOC).

Stirring renditions of the National Anthem followed by God Save the Queen were performed by *Dimitri Kopanakis*, the CEO of the Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts (ACPA). This was followed soon after by a most impressive 20 minute Welcome to Country performance involving a dance troupe of young aboriginal performers from the APCA. There were also a series of speeches from Government and GOLDOC representatives and a special address from His Excellency, the Governor of Queensland.

The event was compered by *Mrs Dina Browne AO*, in a very professional manner, and I had the honour of providing the closing remarks to end the formal proceedings.

There was plenty of time available to mingle with the guests during the two hour reception and the pity was that in Brisbane on Friday 7 July we experienced one of the worst fogs on record. The guests missed out on splendid views of Brisbane and its magnificent River from such a high vantage point as the 41st level of 1 William Street.

This was a wonderful example of cooperation between the Association and VLB and my thanks go to members of the Branch Committee and *Bill Willcocks*, the VLB Chairman, who contributed much towards the success of the event.



Photos

Top photo –Official photo of His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland with Bill Willcocks, Chairman, Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship, Brisbane (left) and Associate Professor John Harden AM, OAA Queensland Branch Chairman.(right)

Centre photo- The guests enjoy a most novel Welcome to Country performance from performers from the Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts

Bottom photo: An air of expectation and excitement – the guests awaiting the arrival of His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland and Mrs Kaye de Jersey.

10. Regional Group activities

While the Association provided some excellent events at the Queensland Branch level, there were also some stimulating regional events. Our regional groups play a very significant role in servicing members and keeping them interested and involved in the Association.

A summary of a range of events organized follows:

10.1 Wide Bay-Burnett (formerly Bundaberg) Regional Group *

[Convener: *Donna Duncan OAM*]

- **18 February 2017 – Lunch – Hervey Bay QCWA Rooms, Urangan**- Guest speaker – *Audrey Sorrenson* – reminiscing about growing up in a dairy farming family around the Kingaroy region – 22 guests.
- **26 August 2017** - High Tea at Aumakua Café, Bundaberg – Guest speaker – *Molly Courts OAM* – reminiscing about life in the Northern Territory as a nurse married to a police officer – 20 guests.
- **9 December 2017 – Lunch at Kingaroy RSL Club** – 30 guests. *Royce Voss OAM* and *Marjorie Voss OAM* represented the Queensland Branch Committee at this event.

* At the Queensland Branch Committee meeting on 14 February 2018 an application from this Group to change the name from Bundaberg Regional Group to Wide Bay-Burnett Regional Group was approved. The name change reflects the wider coverage of membership across this region than just Bundaberg alone.

10.2 Central Queensland Regional Group

[Convener: *Ray Young OAM*]

- **13 March 2017 – Morning Tea – Rockhampton Leagues Club** – Guest speaker - *Dr Ray Boyle*, retired engineer, part-time academic and regional historian – 20 guests
- **11 September 2017 – Annual Luncheon – Rockhampton Leagues Club** - Guest speaker *Brian Smith OAM* – discussing sport in the Rockhampton district – 23 guests.

10.3 Mackay-Whitsunday Regional Group

[Convener: – *Carmel Daveson AM*]

No events were organized in 2017.

10.4 Darling Downs Regional Group

[Convener: Paul McNally OAM]

- **18 April 2017 – Afternoon Tea and Tour of DownsSteam Tourist Railway and Museum, Drayton** – Organised as part of the pre Conference overnight tour of Darling Downs prior to the 31st National conference in Brisbane – 32 guests (including 15 conference delegates on tour)



Members of the Darling Downs Regional Group and 31st Conference delegates on the pre Conference Tour to the Darling Downs meet together for a novel afternoon tea in a restored stainless steel carriage at DownsSteam Railway Museum

- **16 June 2017 – Morning Tea at *Inbound* located in the historic Toowoomba Railway Station, Toowoomba** - Guest speaker –*Emeritus Professor Maurice French AM* – Topic - The history of the Toowoomba Railway. Event organized to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Queensland Railways - 62 guests.
- **17 November 2017 – Morning Tea - Town and Country Club, Toowoomba.** Guest speaker *Professor Bob Beeton AM*, an eminent Australian scientist who has a special interest in the environment and biodiversity conservation – 32 guests.

10.5 Far North Queensland Regional Group

[Convener: Carole Miller OAM]

- **5 June 2017 – Tea and Coffee event at *Strait on the Beach*, Hollaway Beach, Cairns** - Informal get-together
- **22 July 2017 – Tolga visit** - visit to the Rocky Creek WWII Igloo Restoration Project on the Kennedy Highway near Tolga and lunch at the historic tearooms at Lake Barrine.

- **24 October 2017 – Mayoral Reception and morning tea for 2017 Far North Queensland award recipients – Cairns Regional Council, Cairns**

I and my wife Di were delighted to be in attendance representing the Queensland Branch Committee at this innovative event hosted by the Mayor of the Cairns Regional Council. Media coverage of this civic recognition of the recipients and the work of The Order of Australia Association was excellent and included TV news that evening and a two-page spread in *The Cairns Post*. 65 guests attended.

- **2 December 2017 – Christmas Lunch – Boating Club, Yorkeys Knob**



At the Mayoral Reception on 24 October 2017, 2018 Far North Queensland Award recipients are flanked by Queensland Branch Chairman, Associate Professor John Harden AM (left) and Far North Queensland Regional Group Convener Carole Miller OAM (right)

10.6 Gold Coast Regional Group

[Convener: Air Vice Marshall Bill Collins AO (Retd)]

- **5 June 2017 – Lunch – The Southport Golf Club** – Guest speaker – *Carolyn Hauff AM* - Topic "Generation Y - Who Are They?". *Geoff Cowles OAM* represented the Queensland Branch Committee at this event. – 52 guests.
- **18 November 2017 – Annual Garden Party – Southport Golf Club** – 38 guests.



Some of the 52 guests at the Lunch at Southport Golf Club on 5 June 2017

10.7 Sunshine Coast Regional Group

[Convener: - Marjorie Voss OAM]

- 2 November 2017 – Lunch at Pelican Waters Golf Club

This event attracting 42 guests was designed to reinvigorate and revive the group after several months without a Convener following the resignation of *Keith Swan OAM* in December 2015. Di and I were very pleased to participate in this event. Other members from the Branch Committee also attended.

I am very delighted that *Marjorie Voss OAM* has agreed to be the new Convener of this regional group and I am confident that she will move the Group forward with some exciting events in the future.



New Convener of the Sunshine Coast Regional Group, Marjorie Voss OAM addresses the gathering at the Group Revival lunch at Pelican Waters Golf Club

10.8 Townsville Regional Group

[Currently there is no Convener for this group]

- No events were organized in 2017.

A challenge for the new Queensland Branch Committee in 2018 will be to find a new convener to lead the Townsville Regional Group and for events to once again be organized for the benefit of the local members.



11. Membership Trends

There were 161 Queensland recipients who received awards in the Order of Australia in 2017 and 61 of these are now members of The Order of Australia Association. This represents 37.9% of the total number of 2017 Queensland recipients joining the Association compared with 46.9% last year (67 of 143 recipients joining). The number of new recipients joining as members this year (9.0% down on the previous year) is a little a disappointing.

In 2017 we welcomed 29 Queensland recipients at our two brunches in May and September and of these 22 (75.9%) joined the Association. In 2016 the percentage of lunch recipients joining was 83.7% (36 of 43 recipients attending the lunches). The uptake of memberships by brunch recipients is 7.8% lower than last year. It would appear that new recipients may be more attracted to attending a lunch over a brunch, notwithstanding that the brunch format was chosen to accommodate the investiture timetable on both occasions.

In November 2016 the total number of Queensland Branch members with up to date address listings was 1108. In January 2018 the total was 1063, which is 45 less members (4% decrease in current membership). A rise in the number of members changing their address and not notifying the Association, resulting in these members being recorded as invalid would seem to be a contributing factor to this situation.

Geoff Cowles OAM, the Secretary, has updated his interesting new award recipient membership trend statistical tables compiled over the past 5 years, which are appended to this report on page 22 as **Appendix A**. Added to these statistics are interesting tables showing the ratio of male and female award recipients over the past 5 years and the number of awardees by Queensland regions over that period.

12. Representations at Government House, Brisbane

12.1 The Order of Australia Award Investitures



The Association is pleased to be afforded VIP status at Investitures each year for new award recipients in both the Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Honours. I thank His Excellency, the Governor, who is our Patron, for this recognition and continuing support.

There were six Australia Day Award Recipients' Investitures held at Government House Brisbane on Tuesday 2 May; Wednesday 3 May (2); Thursday 4 May (1) and Friday 5 May (2). I attended one of these as Queensland Branch Chairman and *Dr Mick Davis AM ASM*; *Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ*; *Darryl Seccombe OAM*; *Royce Voss OAM*; and *Ray Young OAM* from the Committee represented me at the other five.

Carole Miller OAM, the Far North Queensland Regional Group Convener, represented me at the North Queensland Investiture in Cairns on Wednesday 19 April 2017.

There were four Queen's Birthday Award Recipients' Investitures at Government House, Brisbane held on Tuesday 12 September; Wednesday 13 September, Thursday 14 September and Friday 15 September. I attended one of these as Queensland Branch Chairman and *Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO*; *Marjorie Voss OAM* and *Ray Young OAM* from the Committee represented me at the other three.

Judith Hunter OAM, from the Townsville Regional Group kindly agreed to represent me at the North Queensland Investiture at Townsville on Monday 11 September

12.2 Other significant events at Government House

- Geoff Cowles OAM, Branch Secretary and I attended a Reception at Government House in support of organisations with vice-regal patronage on 22 February 2017.
- His Excellency the Governor of Queensland graciously received 130 Conference delegates at a Reception at Government House, Brisbane on Friday 21 April as part of the 31st National Conference of the Association held in Brisbane.

13. Branch Communications

13.1 The Order Magazine

The news articles for the dedicated four pages assigned to the Queensland Branch in each of the four editions of the national magazine *The Order* continued to be produced to a very high standard. Our pages have been well received by the Queensland membership and interested members from other Branches. The articles have been newsworthy, topical and relevant and have been supplemented with some excellent photos.



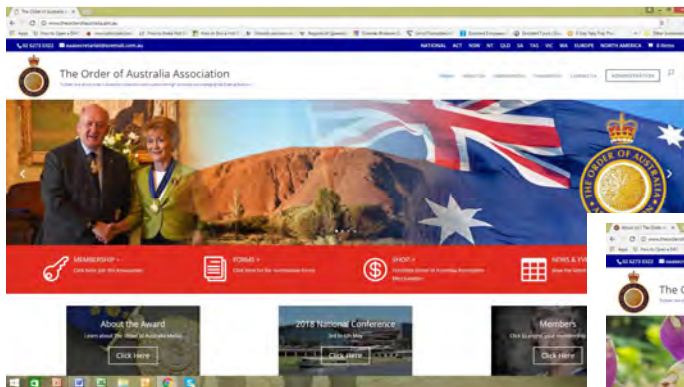
I would like to express my sincere thanks to both *Paul McNally OAM*, the Queensland Branch newsletter editor and *Geoff Cowles OAM*, the Secretary. They have had to overcome a number of challenges in dealing with the national editor in the production of the four Queensland pages with the strict deadlines imposed, as well as the short turnaround times from when an edition gets published and requests for material for the following edition.

13.2 Communicating to members via the Association website

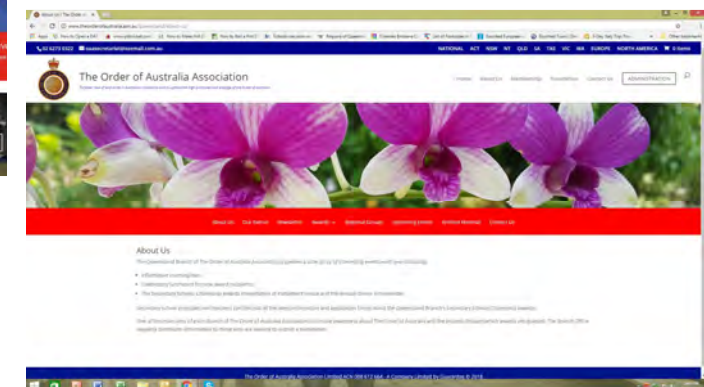
The Queensland segment of the website was again maintained by *Phil Morrall AM*, as national webmaster, relying heavily on material provided by *Geoff Cowles OAM*, our Secretary. The website contains lots of advice about upcoming events as well as information and nomination forms for both the Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards and the Senior Volunteer Awards. Archival material has been kept up to date as far as was practicable.

I urge members to make it a habit to visit our website from time to time to keep up to date with what is happening in the Association, particularly national matters.

At time of writing the website is undergoing a major revamp so expect quite a number of changes to be implemented. Hopefully the website will become more appealing in a contemporary sense to encourage more members to utilize the many services it has to offer.



Left – The new look Website Home Page



Below - the new look Queensland Home page

14. Branch activity at National Level

In my report on the 31st National Conference (page 5), I advised that as a consequence of member dissatisfaction with the governance of the Association expressed at the Annual General Meeting, fresh elections for the non Branch Directors on the National Board were called. The election took place at a face to face meeting of the National Board held in Sydney on 10 July 2017 and five new non Branch Directors were elected with *Major-General Barry Nunn AO* elected as the new National Chairman.

The new National Board has wasted no time in making changes it considers necessary for the better governance of the Association at the national level. As the Queensland Branch Nominated Director on the National Board, I, like my fellow Board members, have had to sustain an increased workload as a consequence. There have been at least three face to

face meetings of the Board and numerous teleconferences since the new Board was elected. Considerable progress has been made to improving the Association's image at the national level in a relatively short timeframe.

It was good to meet other Branch Chairmen and Branch Nominated Directors and gain an understanding of specific branch issues as well as the National Board at these meetings.

I was pleased that *Patrick Galligan OAM* from our Queensland Branch was elected as the new National Membership Director initially. Unfortunately Patrick has since had to retire from the position for health reasons. However, I do thank Patrick for his valued contribution during the early deliberations of the new Board.

Much can be said about the importance of having a national organization. However, we must continue to remember that The Order of Australia Association relies for its success on individual membership. Therefore the importance of Regional Groups and State and Territory Branches cannot be underestimated as they service members' interests.

15 Closing remarks

The Queensland Branch has had a very busy and successful year. I thank again the members of the Queensland Branch Committee for their enthusiasm, professionalism, friendship and support. We have a strong team dedicated to servicing the members and their interests.

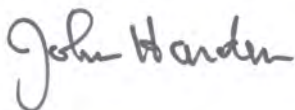
I also appreciate the efforts of the 2017 Conference Committee. Many of the members of the Conference Committee were also on the Queensland Branch Committee and I really appreciated the double load they have taken upon themselves leading up to and during the very busy week of our Conference.

I look forward to comments and suggestions on the Association, its activities and service to members.

I encourage you to take an interest in the Association's activities and participate in events organized for the benefit of members in 2018.

Thank you all for your support during 2017 and I look forward with enthusiasm to 2018 and meeting as many of you as possible during the year.

I commend my report to you and move its adoption.



John Harden AM
Chairman

Acknowledgement

I wish to acknowledge the contribution of Geoff Cowles OAM, Queensland Branch Secretary, in the production of this report.

Membership Trends – 2011 - 2017

APPENDIX A TO THE 2017 Queensland Branch Annual Report

Membership Trends – Award recipients 2013 through to 2017

Compiled by Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary

A. 2017

A.1. Australia Day 2017 only

No of recipients	No who have joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
87	30	34.5%	16	11	68.8%	18.4%

A.2 . Queen's Birthday 2017 only

No of recipients	No who have joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
74	31	41.9%	13	11	84.6%	17.3%

A.3. Combined 2017 Recipients – Australia Day and Queens Birthday

No of recipients	No who joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
161	61	37.9%	29	22	75.9%	18.0%

B. 2016

B.1. Australia Day 2016 only

No of recipients	No who have joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
72	35	48.6%	25	21	84%	34.7%

B.2 . Queen's Birthday 2016 only

No of recipients	No who have joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
71	32	45.1%	18	15	83.3%	25.6%

B.3. Combined 2016 Recipients – Australia Day and Queens Birthday

No of recipients	No who joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
143	67	46.9%	43	36	83.7%	30.1%

C. 2015

C.1. Australia Day 2015 only

No of recipients	No who have joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
93	41	44.1%	33	24	72.7%	35.5%

C.2 . Queen's Birthday 2015 only

No of recipients	No who have joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
57	24	42.1%	16	6	37.5	28.1%

C.3. Combined 2015 Recipients – Australia Day and Queens Birthday

No of recipients	No who joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
150	65	43.3%	49	30	61.2%	32.7%

D. 2014

D.1. Australia Day 2014 only

No of recipients	No who have joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
102	31	30.4%	27	20	74.1%	26.5%

D.2 . Queen's Birthday 2014 only

No of recipients	No who have joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
73	49	67.1%	30	24	80.0%	41.1%

D.3. Combined 2014 Recipients – Australia Day and Queens Birthday

No of recipients	No who joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
175	80	45.7%	57	44	77.2%	32.6%

E. 2013

E.1. Australia Day 2013 only

No of recipients	No who have joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
71	33	46.5%	21	17	80.9%	29.6%

E.2. Queen's Birthday Day 2013 only

No of recipients	No who joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
79	30	40.0%	27	22	81.5%	34.2%

E.3 Combined 2013 Recipients – Australia Day and Queens Birthday

No of recipients	No who joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
150	63	42%	48	39	81.2%	32%

Five Year Summary of total activity - Australia Day 2013 through to Queen's Birthday 2017 TOTALS OF A to E above

No of recipients	779
No who have joined	336
% of total recipients joining	43.1%
No who came to lunches	226
No of these who joined	171
% of lunch recipients joining	75.7%
% of recipients coming to lunches	29.0%

Statistics on the ratios of male to female Queensland award recipients since 2013 and the number of Queensland recipients by Queensland regions since 2013 appear on the next page 25 ➡



Ratio of male (M) to female (F) Queensland recipients since 2013

AD = Australia Day QB = Queen's Birthday

Honours	Total No.	Total %	M No.	M %	F No.	F %
AD 2013	71	100	54	76.0	17	24.0
QB 2013	79	100	47	59.5	32	40.5
AD 2014	102	100	67	65.7	35	34.3
QB 2014	73	100	53	72.6	20	27.4
AD 2015	93	100	57	61.2	36	38.8
QB 2015	57	100	38	66.7	19	33.3
AD 2016	72	100	56	77.7	16	22.3
QB 2016	71	100	46	64.8	25	35.2
AD 2017	87	100	54	62.0	33	38.0
QB 2017	74	100	47	63.5	27	36.5
AD 2018	71	100	49	69.0	22	31.0
Total – AD 2013 to AD 2018	850	100	568	66.8%	282	33.2%

Queensland award recipients since 2013 by region

AD = Australia Day QB = Queen's Birthday

Honours	Total No.	Metro	Gold Coast	Sunshine Coast	Darling Downs	Wide Bay Burnett see note 1	Central Qld	Mackay W'Sunday	T'ville	Far North Qld
AD 2013	71	37	5	8	7	4	3	0	5	2
QB 2013	79	45	7	10	4	5	1	0	5	2
AD 2014 ^{Note 2}	102	55	10	14	5	4	3	2	5	4
QB 2014	73	42	8	6	4	2	1	1	5	4
AD 2015	93	45	9	10	6	2	1	1	2	17 ^{Note 3}
QB 2015	57	35	5	7	2	1	1	1	2	3
AD 2016	72	45	5	6	4	4	2	0	1	5
QB 2016	71	31	8	6	10	6	0	1	4	5
AD 2017 ^{Note 4}	87	49	9	5	9	6	1	0	5	3
QB 2017	74	38	11	7	4	2	4	2	1	5
AD 2018	71	42	13	6	3	1	0	2	1	3
Totals	850	464	90	85	58	37	17	10	36	53

Notes

1. The Wide Bay /Burnett Regional Group was formerly known as the Bundaberg Group. It's renaming was approved at the Queensland Branch committee meeting on 14 February 2018.
2. The larger than usual number of recipients for AD 2014 – (102) included OAMs to all gold medalists at the London Olympic and Paralympics Games
3. The larger than usual number of recipients for Far North Qld region for AD2015 – (17) included OAMs to several Cape York indigenous workers.
4. The larger than usual number of recipients for AD 2017 – (87) included OAMs to all gold medalists at the Rio Olympic and Paralympics Games

31ST NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN BRISBANE 20 – 23 APRIL 2017 - “INNOVATING FOR SOCIETY” *A few extra photos - “Thanks for the memories”*



Photos clockwise from top left

1. **Saturday 22 April** - Some of the 260 guests at the Conference Gala Dinner – Main Auditorium, Brisbane City Hall
2. **Thursday 20 April** - A special 'Welcome to Country' performed by Uncle Albert Holt (far right) and the Hymba Yumba Community Hub prior to the Welcome Dinner at the Summit Restaurant, Mt Coot-tha
3. **Friday 21 April** - A large crowd of members and partners as well as invited guests assemble to witness a most interesting and entertaining Conference Forum in the Pullman King George Square Hotel discussing the theme “*Innovating for Society*”
4. **Thursday 20 April** – Tim Fairfax AC, Chancellor, Queensland University of Technology (QUT (left) accepts from Professor Tony Webber AM an Appreciation Certificate presented to QUT for hosting the Old Government House and The Cube morning tea and tour event –photo taken inside Old Government House
5. **Sunday 23 April** - The playing of *The Last Post* – Commemorative Service, Brisbane Anzac Square – Capt Paul Luckin AM CSTJ takes the Salute.
6. **Friday 21 April** – Official photograph at The National Oration – Albert Street Uniting Church – bottom to top – Philip Flood, OAA National President, Rev Lyn Burden, Superintendent Minister, Albert St Uniting Church, Hon Penelope Wesley AC, former Qld Governor (our distinguished Orator) and Associate Professor John Harden AM, OAAQ Chairman
7. **Friday 21 April** - Guests waiting outside Government House, Brisbane before being invited inside for the Queensland Governor's Reception .

These photos are additional to the photos included on page 6 of this report