

# THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND BRANCH



## QUEENSLAND BRANCH CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT - 2016

For presentation at the  
37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

6:15pm - Monday 21 November 2016

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



**To be presented by Associate Professor John Harden  
AM, Chairman, Queensland Branch 2016**

## **36<sup>th</sup> Annual Report**

### **1. Introduction**

It gives me great pleasure to present the thirty-sixth Annual Report of the Queensland Branch of The Order of Australia Association in my second 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 Branch organized two outstanding celebratory lunches for new award recipients during 2016 in addition to an excellent morning tea in April visiting the Kedron Park Emergency Services Complex and as a variation, an afternoon tea in August to witness the naming of Newcomb Park in honour of Simon Newcomb OAM

The Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards (SSCAs) and the Senior Volunteer Awards were maintained in 2016. It was pleasing that the Governor of Queensland, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, accepted our invitation to present the SSCAs to the winning students at Parliament House on 16 September for the third year in a row.

Another important event in the 2016 calendar was the Gala Dinner to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday co-hosted by the Association and the Victoria League Brisbane for Commonwealth Friendship at the Queensland Club on Monday 13 June.

These and other events organized by our regional groups are explained in greater detail throughout this report.

The following is a summary of the highlights of 2016.

### **2. The 2016 Queensland Branch Committee**

The following members of the Association were elected to the Committee at the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 23 November 2015.

- **Chairman:** *Associate Professor John Harden AM \**
- **Vice Chairman:** *Mr Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ (elected at the 36<sup>th</sup> AGM as an "other member" and subsequently appointed by the Committee as Vice Chairman on 10 February 2016)*
- **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*
- *Mr Patrick Galligan OAM ( Membership Officer);*
- *Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO;*
- *Professor Paul McNally OAM ( Newsletter Editor);*
- *Mrs Marjorie Voss OAM*
- *Mr Raymond Young OAM.*

The following additional "other member" was appointed by the Committee on 1 April 2016.

- *Professor Tony Webber AM ( past Queensland Branch Chairman)*

\* Associate Professor John Harden AM was appointed by the Committee to the additional position of Director of the National Board representing the Queensland Branch, on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015.

There were eight well attended committee meetings throughout the year. In addition, the appointments of Director of the national Board and Professor Tony Webber AM, the additional committee member, were determined by “flying minutes” held between meetings with the decisions formally ratified at the next available face to face meeting. In addition, considerable business was transacted “out of session” by email communication with all committee members.

### 3. The 2015 Annual Dinner

The event was held at The Pavilion, Allan Border Field, Albion, in Brisbane on Monday, 23 November 2015.

The 93 guests ( 10 down on guest numbers at the 2014 Dinner) enjoyed good food, great fellowship and an excellent after dinner presentation by our special guest **Distinguished Professor Judith Clements AC**, Principal Research Fellow of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) of Australia who also leads the Cancer Program at the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, QUT, based at the Translational Research Institute on the Princess Alexandra Hospital Biomedical Precinct in Brisbane. Professor Clements was made a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in the 2015 Queen Birthday honours.

Another highlight of the evening was the announcement of the three winners of the 2015 Senior Volunteer Awards presented by the Queensland branch and proudly sponsored by CoxRayner, Architects, Refer to separate item 6 on page 6 of this report.



Distinguished Professor Judith Clements AC, addressing the gathering at the 2015 Annual Dinner.



A Happy “Table 9” at the Annual Dinner

## **4. The Luncheons to celebrate with recipients of awards in the Order of Australia**

The branch committee organized two excellent luncheons to celebrate with new recipients of awards in the Order of Australia; one for Australia Day recipients in May 2016 at a new venue at Moda at Portside, Hamilton, and the other for Queen's Birthday recipients at our regular venue at Hillstone St Lucia in September 2016, These were very successful and key events in the Queensland branch calendar.

### ***4.1 The Luncheon to celebrate with recipients of awards in the 2016 Australia Day Honours***

Twenty-six of 72 Queensland recipients of Order of Australia Awards in this year's Australia Day honours were special guests at the Luncheon on Friday 6 May 2016 at Moda at Portside at the Brisbane Cruise Ship Terminal and affording stunning views of the Brisbane River from its balcony. Given the lower than usual number of award recipients in this year's Australia Day Honours, a very acceptable 131 people attended the gala event including the recipients, their families and friends and 30 Association members and their guests. At the equivalent event last year at the Broncos Leagues Club there were 271 attendees and 33 new recipients; however such a large number as occurred last year is a rarity and unlikely to be repeated often.

The Committee found the surroundings at the new venue at Moda at Portside very pleasing indeed. A further highlight of the event was the performance by two musical ensembles from nearby Clayfield College. On behalf of the Queensland Branch I presented each of the musicians with a special Certificate of Participation.



The twenty-six award recipients with the Queensland Branch Chairman ( 3<sup>rd</sup> from left in front row) - Moda at Portside celebratory Lunch.



A portion of the 131 guests at the Moda at Portside Celebratory lunch

### ***4.2 The Luncheon to celebrate with recipients of awards in the 2016 Queen's Birthday Honours***

Eighteen of 71 Queensland recipients of Order of Australia Awards in this year's Queen's Birthday honours were special guests at the Luncheon on Thursday 22 September 2016 at Hillstone St Lucia. Ninety-nine people attended the gala event including the recipients, their families and friends and 12 Association members and their guests. At the equivalent event last year there were 113 attendees and 16 new recipients. These lower numbers both this year and last year can be attributed in part to the investitures being

held in the September school holidays and North Queensland award recipients attending local investitures rather than at Government House, Brisbane.

We were entertained on arrival at the Mango Terrace by two pipers from the Brisbane Boys College Pipe Band who also piped in the guests to their tables. I am indebted to Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ, the Vice Chairman, for hosting this event in my absence while overseas.



The eighteen award recipients at the Celebratory Lunch at Hillstone St Lucia



Some of the guests enjoying great fellowship at Hillstone St Lucia at the Celebratory Award Recipients Lunch.

## **5. 2016 Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards (SSCA)**

Mr Tim Fairfax AC continued to provide the sponsorship necessary to enable these awards to be presented in 2016.

This year we had 112 people attend the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Presentation of awards, comprising secondary school students, family members, education representatives and OAA members from across Queensland.

The event was held on Friday 16 September 2016 at Parliament House, Brisbane. Guest of Honour, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland presented commemorative plaques and Certificates of Merit to 10 students and 2 representatives of absent students, and Professor Tony Webber, AM, the past Chairman of the Queensland Branch of the Association presented Certificates of Community Service to 11 selected local students. Ms Sharon Schultz, Principal of Woodridge State High School presented the response speech on behalf of the Schools.

Nominations were received for 61 students from 44 secondary schools throughout Queensland. This year's judging panel again comprised Mrs Dina Browne AO and Mr Bruce 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. I would also like to thank Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ, the Vice Chairman for acting as host for the event in my absence overseas.

Bruce Howden OAM very capably took on the role again of compere for the event. The event was made special by the presence of the Cannon Hill Anglican College's Ebony



Ensemble providing musical interludes and the playing of the National Anthem. All ensemble members received Certificates of Participation from the Association.

Jessica Honan from Atherton State High School was unable to attend the Presentation at Parliament House as she was overseas taking part in a cultural experience visit to Atherton High's partner school in Kyoto, Japan. Ms Anne Honan, Jessica's mother, received the award on Jessica's behalf.

Asha Mortel from Cleveland District State High School was unable to attend the Presentation at Parliament House as she was in Borneo presenting her work at the South East Asia Global Issues Network Conference and then at the Green School in Bali. Mr Paul Bancroft OAM, Principal, Cleveland District State High School, received the award on Asha's behalf.

Geoff Cowles OAM, the Secretary, represented the Association on 25 October 2015 at the Presentation Night at Cleveland District State High School and presented Asha Mortel with her secondary schools citizenship award personally in front of her school peers. Geoff also re-presented the secondary schools citizenship award to Jack Sims of Brisbane Boys College at the College Assembly on Tuesday 19 October 2016.



The ten winning students who received their awards at Parliament House with His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland



Asha Mortel receiving her award from Geoff Cowles OAM at the Presentation Night at Cleveland District State High School

## **6. 2016 Senior Volunteer Awards (SVA)**

The Association continued its Senior Volunteer Awards program in 2016.

The judging panel of Paul McNally OAM, Mick Davis AM ASM and Mary Mahoney AO have 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 and reward 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 whom they believe meets the selection criteria.

I encourage members of the Association to nominate worthy senior volunteers in 2017.

I also wish to acknowledge the ongoing sponsorship of the awards by CoxRayners, Architects and particularly Michael Rayner AM, a director of the company.



At last year's Annual Dinner - from L to R Associate Professor John Harden AM, Qld Branch Chairman, two of the senior volunteer winners - Mary Peden and Dell York and Richard Coulson, CoxRayners, award sponsor.



Geoff Cowles OAM, the Secretary, presents the third 2015 senior volunteer award to Iris Worboys at a special Presentation at St George, in south Queensland,

## **7. Queensland Branch morning and afternoon teas**

This year the Queensland branch committee organized two well attended events - a morning tea visit to the Kedron Park Emergency Services Complex in April 2016 and an afternoon tea to witness the naming of Newcomb Park at Riverhills in August 2016.

### **7.1 Visit to the Kedron Park Emergency Services Complex, Brisbane - Wednesday 20 April 2016**

Fifty-two members visited the Queensland Ambulance Service Kedron Operations Centre and State Disaster Management Centre at Kedron Park, Brisbane for their April morning tea function.

The visitors were welcomed to the Kedron Complex by Dr Steve Rashford representing Commissioner Russell Bowles, Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) and by Assistant Commissioner Steve Grant representing Commissioner Katarina Carroll, Queensland Fire and Emergency Service (QFES). A very robust morning tea followed this initial briefing.

David Sell and Col Allen from QAS State Operations guided the large group through the Kedron Emergency facilities and with the help of QFES personnel ensured they were given a full insight into how QAS and QFES operations function daily and in natural disaster situations.

The visitors were equally impressed with the new technology in the State Disaster Management Centre that will significantly improve Queensland's flood warning systems.

I presented a commemorative plaque to the Complex and spoke of how impressed our group was with the work of Queensland paramedics and emergency medical dispatchers (EMD).

### **SOME IMAGES FROM VISIT TO THE KEDRON PARK EMERGENCY SERVICES COMPLEX**



Some of the gathering at the morning tea at the Kedron Emergency Services Complex



Listening intently and learning much about Queensland's emergency services capability.



During the guided tour of the State Disaster Management Centre



At the conclusion of the visit - from L to R - *Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ* and *Mick Davis AM ASM*, event organisers; *Col Allen*, Director State Operation Centres, Queensland Ambulance Service; *David Sell*, Executive Manager - State Operation Centres, Queensland Ambulance Service and *Associate Professor John Harden AM*, Queensland Branch Chairman.

## **7.2 Afternoon Tea event - Naming of Newcomb Park, Riverhills, Brisbane - Saturday 6 August 2016**

Early in 2016 the Brisbane City Council gave approval to “Newcomb Park” as the name for the public park at the end of Sumners Road, Riverhills, in the western suburbs of Brisbane, in honour of Simon Newcomb OAM, an inspirational driving force in the building of the Centenary Rowing Club and founder of Youth Row Australia.

On Saturday 6 August 2016 a contingent of twenty-four from The Order of Australia Association, Queensland Branch, joined with many local residents and members of the Centenary Rowing Club to witness Councillor Matt Bourke from the Brisbane City Council



and Simon Newcomb OAM officially open the park by unveiling the park sign post with the name "Newcomb Park".

This is a great honour for Simon who received his Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2007 Australia Day Honours for service to the sport of rowing in Queensland through administrative and coaching roles. Simon is a former Queensland Branch Committee member.

After the naming ceremony an excellent afternoon tea was provided courtesy of the Centenary Rowing Club and the Brisbane City Council



Cr Matthew Bourke,  
Brisbane City Council (left)  
congratulates  
Simon Newcomb OAM



Some of the OAAQ members enjoying  
the moment - from L to R -Ronda Nix  
OAM, John Harden AM, Geoff Cowles  
OAM; Simon Newcomb OAM; Tony  
Webber AM; Mary Mahoney AO and  
Mick Davis AM ASM

A large crowd comprising OAAQ members, Centenary Rowing Club identities and local residents were on hand to witness the occasion.



## **8. Gala Black Tie Dinner to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday - Monday 13 June 2016 - Queensland Club**

A most memorable Black Tie Gala Dinner was organised jointly by The Order of Australia Association, Queensland Branch (OAAQ) and the Victoria League Brisbane for Commonwealth Friendship (VLB) on Monday 13 June at The Queensland Club in Brisbane to celebrate Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

One hundred and fifteen guests including sixty-eight from OAAQ made sure that the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> was celebrated in grand style.

The event was made extra special by the presence of His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, our Queensland Governor, who attended as His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia and gave an excellent speech to mark the occasion. Mrs Kaye de Jersey accompanied His Excellency

A real highlight was our performing soprano for the evening, Louise Winton.

It gave me much pleasure to propose the Toast to Her Majesty on this most auspicious occasion.



Enjoying a moment at the Gala Dinner - from L to R - Di Harden, Associate Professor John Harden AM, Queensland Branch Chairman; His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Qld and Marjorie Voss OAM.



The "star of the show" at the Gala Dinner - Ms Louise Winton, soprano



A most impressive welcoming party for the arrival of His Excellency the Administrator and Mrs Kaye de Jersey - from L to R - Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary, OAAQ; Barry Dineen, President, VLB; Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ, Vice Chairman, OAAQ; Associate Professor John Harden AM, Chairman, OAAQ; Mick Davis AM ASM, Master of Ceremonies and OAAQ and VLB member; His Excellency the Administrator, the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC; Mrs Kaye de Jersey; Royce Voss OAM, Treasurer, OAAQ; Bill Willcocks, Chairman, VLB; Susan Oag, Treasurer, VLB and Dina Browne AO, Vice President, VLB and former National OAA Chairman.

[OAAQ = The Order of Australia Association, Qld Branch and VLB = Victoria League Brisbane for Commonwealth Friendship]

## 9. 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 significant role in keeping members interested and involved in the Association at the local grass roots level.

A summary of a range of the events organized follows:

### **9.1 Bundaberg Regional Group**

[Convener: Donna Duncan OAM]

- **12 December 2015 - Christmas Lunch - "Rossendale" - property of Lyn Kelman AM and her husband, John.** Guest speaker - Mrs Lillian Coyle, local historian

### **9.2 Central Queensland Regional Group**

[Convener: Ray Young OAM]

- **7 March 2016 - Morning Tea - Rockhampton Leagues Club** - Guest speaker - Oskar Stünzner OAM 35 guests.
- **5 September 2016 - Annual Luncheon - Rockhampton Leagues Club** - Guest speaker Wallace Taylor OAM

### **9.3 Darling Downs Regional Group**

[Convener: Paul McNally OAM]

- **13 May 2016 - Morning Tea - Milne Bay Military Museum, Toowoomba** - 42 guests. Professor Tony Webber AM represented the Queensland Branch Committee at this event.
- **28 October 2016 - Morning Tea - Town and Country Club, Toowoomba.** Guest speaker Dr Carol Cox AM. Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ represented the Queensland Branch Committee at this event.

### **9.4 Far North Queensland Regional Group**

[New Convener: Carole Miller OAM - The former Convener, Professor Elizabeth Harman AO resigned October 2016]

- **7 November 2015 - Lunch at Ochre Restaurant, Cairns** - 22 guests. Members shared their stories about how they received their awards.
- **25 June 2016 - Lunch at Yungaburra** Visit to local craft markets.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Elizabeth Harman AO for her contribution as Convener of the Far North Regional Group over the past 30 months which she took on with great enthusiasm. I also thank Carole Miller OAM for agreeing to be the new Convener and wish her well in her new role.

### **9.5 Gold Coast Regional Group**

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

- **18 May 2016 - Lunch - The Southport Golf Club** - Guest speaker - Lance Smith AM
- **12 November 2016 - Annual Garden Party - Lakeview Restaurant on the Palm Meadows Golf Course in Carrara** - 30 guests. Patrick Galligan OAM represented the Queensland Branch committee at this event.

### **9.6 Mackay-Whitsunday Regional Group**

[Convener: - Carmel Daveson AM]

- 11 November 2016 - Annual "Meet and Greet" - Home of Carmel Daveson AM -

### **9.7 Sunshine Coast Regional Group**

[Convener: - vacant - Keith Swan OAM, the former convener, resigned in December 2015 and has not been replaced]

- No events were organized in 2016

### **9.8 Townsville Regional Group**

[Convener: - Michael Johnson OAM]

- No events were organized in 2016.

A challenge for the new Queensland Branch Committee in 2017 will be to find a new convener to lead the Sunshine Coast Regional group. A further challenge will be to have discussions with the Townsville Regional Group aimed at having at least one function held in the region in 2017.

## **10. Membership Trends**

There were 143 Queensland recipients who received awards in the Order of Australia in 2016 and 67 of these are now members of The Order of Australia Association. This represents 46.9% of the total number of Queensland recipients joining the Association compared with 40.0% last year (60 of 150 recipients joining). New recipients joining as members this year are an encouraging 6.9% up on last year.

In 2016 we welcomed 43 Queensland recipients at our two lunches in May and September and of these 36 (83.7%) joined the Association. In 2015 the percentage of lunch recipients joining was 61.2% (30 of 49 recipients attending the lunches). The uptake of memberships by lunch recipients is considerably better than last year. This is a very pleasing outcome.

In November 2015 the total number of Queensland Branch members with up to date address listings was 1092. In November 2016 the total is 1108 which is a modest 1.5% increase in membership - any increase, even small in membership numbers is welcomed. Finally it is worth mentioning that since the introduction of the 3 year membership option just over 12 months ago there are 35 new Queensland members who have taken up this option.

Geoff Cowles OAM, has updated his interesting new award recipient membership trend statistical tables compiled since 2011 which are appended to this report on page 17 as **Appendix A**. Added to these statistics are interesting tables showing the ratio of male and female award recipients since 2011 and the number of awardees by region since 2011.



## 11. 2017 National Conference Committee report

In my report for 2015, I reported that a Conference Committee had been formed to plan activities for the 31<sup>st</sup> National Conference to be hosted by the Queensland Branch from 20 to 23 April 2017.

The Committee has met on eleven occasions and planning for the various conference events is well advanced. The Committee brings a great deal of experience and expertise to the planning table and has been working well under the leadership of Mick Davis AM ASM, the Conference Convener.

During the year a full colour brochure was produced and handed out to delegates at the 30<sup>th</sup> National Conference in Sydney in February this year. The Committee had a presence at the Sydney Conference by manning an information and promotional stall throughout the Conference at most key event venues. The brochure has also been made available to the various Queensland regional groups

Bookings to date for the Conference in April next year have been steady and the Committee is looking for many more members to attend, particularly from Queensland. In fact, the regional group conveners have been asked to not organize local regional events during the Conference period and instead encourage their members to attend the Conference in Brisbane.

Promotion of the Conference has also been via the national magazine *The Order* with a four page centerfold in each of the May, August, November 2016 editions with a final centerfold to be included in the February 2017 edition for last minute bookings. A series of articles has also appeared in the Queensland pages of *The Order* for the May, August and November editions showcasing specific conference venues.

The theme of the Conference is “Innovating for Society” and will include a Conference Forum featuring four prominent innovating Queenslanders. The Annual General Meeting of the National Association and the Members’ Forum will be held during the Conference in addition to a Regional Groups’ Forum. The National Oration will be delivered in the historic Albert Street Uniting Church. There will be a Premier’s Reception at Parliament House and a Governor’s Reception at Government House as well as a Welcome Dinner at the Summit Restaurant at Mt Coot-tha with sunset views of Brisbane and the Conference Dinner will be a gala black tie occasion in the Auditorium of the refurbished Brisbane City Hall. Also included in a very busy program will be a special commemorative service at Anzac Square in Brisbane and the Conference will conclude with a Farewell Lunch at the Pullman, Brisbane, the hotel venue for the Conference. Add in a visit to Old Government House and QUT’s the Cube plus interesting pre and post conference tours and it is evident that there much being organized to maintain member interest.

I would encourage all of our Queensland Branch members to attend the excellent Conference events in Brisbane and help to make the Conference in Brisbane a resounding success as well as promoting what Queensland has to offer and the Order of Australia.

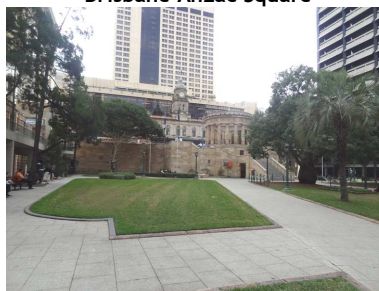
Welcome Dinner -  
Summit Restaurant



Brisbane City Hall - venue  
for Conference Dinner and  
The Pullman (right) -  
the Conference Hotel



Commemorative Service  
Brisbane Anzac Square



The National Oration  
Albert Street Uniting Church



## **12. Representations at Government House, Brisbane**

### **12.1 *The Order of Australia Award Investitures***

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

There were four Australia Day Award Recipients' Investitures held at Government House, Brisbane on Tuesday 3 May; Wednesday 4 May (2) and Thursday 5 May. I attended one of these as Queensland Branch Chairman and *Ray Young OAM*, *Paul McNally OAM* and *Professor Tony Webber AM* from the Committee represented me at the other three.

There were five Queen's Birthday Award Recipients' Investitures at Government House, Brisbane held on Monday 19 September; Tuesday 20 September (2) and Wednesday 21 September (2). I was unable to attend any of these because I was overseas at the time. However I was ably represented by *Marjorie Voss OAM*, *Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO*, *Mick Davis AM ASM*, *Patrick Galligan OAM* and *Winston Fraser OAM* from the Committee.

Ms Carole Miller OAM from the Far North Queensland Regional Group, represented the Queensland Branch at the Investiture Ceremony in Cairns on Saturday 10 September 2015 and Mick Johnson OAM, the Convener of the Townsville Regional Group represented the Queensland Branch at the Investiture Ceremony in Townsville on Sunday 16 October 2016. These ceremonies were arranged so that North Queensland award recipients in both the 2016 Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Honours could be presented with their awards by His Excellency, the Governor of Queensland.

### **12.2 *Other significant events at Government House where the Queensland Branch had representation***

Di and I were honoured to be invited by His Excellency, the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, the Governor of Queensland and Mrs Kaye de Jersey to a Reception held at Government House in June 2016 to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen.



## **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 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.

The Queensland Branch Committee continued its practice of providing Queensland members with two Communiqués, accompanied by promotional flyers for events; one in March and the other in early October 2015. By doing so, the Queensland Branch has been successful in maintaining its high attendance numbers to its events; an outcome it believes would not have occurred had the Branch relied solely on the 4 pages in the expanded national magazine, because the publication dates do not align well with our Queensland Branch events. The postage for the Communiqué has come at an additional cost to the Queensland Branch; however it is an expense well justified.

### ***13.2 Communicating to members via the Association website***

The Queensland segment of the website was again maintained by Phil Morrall AM, the 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.

## **14. Branch activity at National Level**

I was very pleased to be a part of the 20 strong contingent from the Queensland branch that attended the national conference in Sydney from 11 to 13 March. Last year we had 18 attendees at Perth and I am certainly looking forward to a much larger Queensland contingent attending the 2017 conference in April as it will be staged in Brisbane and hosted by the Queensland Branch.

On 19 March, the day before the Sydney conference, I attended the National Board meeting that was held at the conference venue. I also participated in national Board teleconferences during the year with Peter McMurtrie AO KstJ, the Vice Chairman, acting as proxy on my behalf at the teleconference on 13 July 2016.

It was good to meet other branch chairmen and gain an understanding of their specific branch issues as well as the National Board at these meetings.

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 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 are 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 are also on the Queensland Branch Committee and I really appreciate the double load you have taken upon yourselves leading up to 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 members' benefit in 2017. In particular I draw your attention to the 31<sup>st</sup> National Conference where together we can make this a wonderful and memorable occasion. I look forward to meeting many members from both the metro area and our eight regions at the Conference.

Thank you all for your support during 2016 and I look forward with enthusiasm to 2017 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





**APPENDIX A TO THE 2016 Queensland Branch Chairman's Report**  
**Membership Trends - new award recipients 2011 through to 2016**

Compiled by Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary - as at 15 November 2016

## **A. 2016**

### **A.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
<b>72</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>48.6%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>34.7%</b>

### **A.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
<b>71</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>45.1%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>83.3%</b>	<b>25.6%</b>

### **A.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
<b>143</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>46.9%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>83.7%</b>	<b>30.1%</b>

## **B. 2015**

### **B.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
<b>93</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>44.1%</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>72.7%</b>	<b>35.5%</b>

### **B.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
<b>57</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>42.1%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>28.1%</b>

### **B.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
<b>150</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>43.3%</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>61.2%</b>	<b>32.7%</b>

## C. 2014

### C.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%

### C.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%

### C.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%

## D. 2013

### D.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%

### D.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%

### D.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%

## E. 2012

### E.1. Australia Day 2012 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
49	22	44.9%	20	11	55.0%	40.8%

### E.2 Queen's Birthday Day 2012 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
62	43	69.4%	25	21	84.0%	40.3%

### E.3. Combined 2012 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
111	65	58.6%	45	32	71.1%	24.7%

## F. 2011

### Combined 2011 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 lunches
107	41	38.3%	28	16	57.1%	26.2%

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## Ratio of male (M) to female (F) Queensland recipients since 2011

Honours	Total No.	Total %	M No.	M %	F No.	F %
AD 2011	64	100	50	78.1	14	21.9
QB 2011	43	100	32	74.4	11	25.6
AD 2012	49	100	38	77.6	11	22.4
QB 2012	62	100	48	77.4	14	22.6
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
<b>Total - AD 2011 to AD 2016</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>70.1%</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>29.9%</b>

## Queensland award recipients since 2011 by region

Honours	Total No.	Metro	Gold Coast	Sunshine Coast	Darling Downs	B/berg	Central Qld	Mackay W'Sunday <small>Notional till 2015</small>	T'ville	Far North Qld
AD 2011	64	29	7	4	4	7	1	1	10	1
QB 2011	43	20	1	8	7	0	3	2	1	1
AD 2012	49	28	3	7	1	1	2	1	3	3
QB 2012	62	31	6	10	1	0	3	0	6	5
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 *	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 **
QB 2015	57	35	5	7	2	1	1	1	2	3
AD 2016	72	45	5	6	4	4	2	0	1	5
QB2016	71	31	8	6	10	6	0	1	4	5
<b>Total - AD 2011 to AD 2016</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>52</b>

Notes - \* The larger than usual number of recipients for AD 2014 - (102) included OAMs to all gold medalists at the London Olympic and Paralympics Games

\*\* The larger than usual number of recipients for Far North Qld region for AD2015 included OAMs to several Cape York indigenous workers.