



Queensland Branch
ANNUAL REPORT
2019



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

at

the 40th Annual General Meeting

Monday 24 February 2020



The Ballroom, Victoria Park, Victoria Park Golf 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



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Faces of Hanworth House



1. Summary

It gives me great pleasure to present the thirty-ninth Annual Report of the Queensland Branch of The Order of Australia Association in my fifth and final 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.

An annual highlight of the Queensland Branch calendar is its two outstanding celebratory lunch events to welcome new award recipients. In 2019 these were held in May for new Australia Day award recipients and at the end of October for Queen's Birthday award recipients. Branch morning events in the Brisbane area were also held at historic Hanworth House in East Brisbane in July and the Centre for Hypersonics at The University of Queensland at St Lucia in November.

The Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards (SSCAs) and the Senior Volunteer Awards were maintained in 2019. It was pleasing that *His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, the Governor of Queensland* accepted our invitation to present the SSCAs to the winning students at Parliament House on 20 September: the fourth occasion that he has done so.

Another important event in the 2019 calendar was the Black Tie Queen's Birthday Dinner co-hosted by the Association and the Victoria League Brisbane for Commonwealth Friendship (VLB) at the Tattersall's Club in Brisbane on Saturday 11 June 2019. Added to the calendar was a novel Christmas event, also co-hosted with the VLB, in November, being the premiere of "*Bring them Home*" the Musical about the State of Origin, preceded by a cocktail reception, in the iconic, historic Princess Theatre at Woolloongabba.

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 February 2019.

2. The 2019 Queensland Branch Committee

The following members of the Association were elected to the Branch Committee at the 39th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 25 February 2019.

- **Chairman:** *Associate Professor John Harden AM*
- **Deputy Chairman:** *Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO*
- **Treasurer:** *Mrs Ronda Nix OAM*

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

- *Dr Gary Bacon AM*
- *Ms Irene Cayas OAM* (resigned voluntarily on 22 March 2019)
- *Mr Geoff Cowles OAM* – subsequently appointed Branch Secretary - explanatory note 1

- *Dr Carol Cox OAM*
- *Dr Mick Davis AM ASM (Regional Groups Coordinator)*
- *Mr Patrick Galligan OAM (Membership Officer; Merchandise Officer);*
- *Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ – subsequently elected as Queensland Branch Nominated Director of the National Board – see explanatory note 2*
- *Ms Paula Penfold AM*
- *Mr Darryl Seccombe OAM*
- *Mrs Marjorie Voss OAM*
- *Mr Royce Voss OAM*
- *Mr Raymond Young OAM.*

Mr Graham Hyde OAM - The Branch Committee at its meeting held on 6 March 2019 co-opted Graham onto the Branch Committee for the purpose of Queensland Branch Newsletter Editor, in accord with By Law 20.8 (h).

Explanatory note 1 re Branch Secretary : During 2018 the Association's National Board had expressed its concern that *Geoff Cowles OAM*, Secretary, together with *Mick Davis AM ASM*, *Mary Mahoney AO* and *Raymond Young OAM*, had notified their intention to continue as members on the Queensland Branch Committee, despite having apparently exceeded their tenure as Committee members as set out in the By Laws. The Queensland Branch was instructed to put up a case to the Board for extension of tenure under extenuating circumstances for these members. Under these difficult circumstances *Geoff Cowles OAM*, had decided on his own volition to not to re-contest the position of Secretary at the AGM. A casual vacancy existed for the position of Secretary after the AGM as there was no nomination for the position received by the due date for nominations and no nomination was forthcoming from the floor of the meeting.

The Branch Committee, at its meeting held on 6 March 2019 appointed *Geoff Cowles OAM* to fill the casual vacancy for the position of Queensland Branch Secretary until the next AGM in accord with By Law 20.8(g). Upon his elevation to Queensland Branch Secretary, Geoff relinquished his position of "other member" of the Committee.

Explanatory note 2 re Queensland Branch Nominated Director of the National Board: The Branch Committee, at its meeting held on 6 March 2019 elected *Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ* as its nominee for Director on the National Board representing the Queensland Branch.

There were eight well attended committee meetings throughout the year. In addition, considerable business was transacted "out of session" via three "flying minutes" as well as email communication with all committee members .



2019 Queensland Branch Committee members at the Celebratory Welcome Lunch for Australia Day Award recipients – Kedron Wavell Services Club – Friday 10 May 2019

Back row from L-R – Patrick Galligan OAM; Dr Carol Cox AM; Darryl Seccombe OAM; Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ (Qld Branch Nominated Director); Marjorie Voss OAM; Dr Gary Bacon AM; Dr Mick Davis AM ASM; Royce Voss OAM. **Front row from L-R** Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO (Deputy Chairman); Geoff Cowles OAM (Secretary); Raymond Young OAM; Associate Professor John Harden AM (Chairman); Ronda Nix OAM (Treasurer) **Absent:** Paula Penfold AM; Graham Hyde OAM (co-opted) - see separate photo below



Graham Hyde OAM being introduced at the Celebratory Lunch for award recipients on Wednesday 30 October 2019 at Kedron Wavell Services Club, with Paula Penfold (seated) looking on.

3. The 2019 Annual Dinner

The 2019 Annual Dinner was held in the Ballroom, Victoria Park at Herston Road, Herston on Monday 25 February 2019.

A record 145 guests including 68 Association members enjoyed good food, great fellowship and an excellent after dinner presentation from our outstanding guest speaker *Emeritus Professor Roly Sussex OAM: Chevalier des Palmes Académiques*, who spoke on the interesting topic "*Australian English and Australian identity*". His speech was full of good humour and nostalgia with his references to Australian idioms that have long disappeared from the Australian vocabulary. The attendance at the 2018 Annual Dinner was 133 guests so it was pleasing to see a few more attending the 2019 Dinner.

During the evening the three winners of the Queensland Branch's 2018 Senior Volunteer Awards, proudly sponsored by Blight Rayner, Architects, were announced. Refer to separate item 6 on page 9 of this report.



Photos – clockwise starting top left –

1. Our eminent guest speaker – *Emeritus Professor Roly Sussex OAM: Chevalier des Palmes Académiques*
2. Guests enjoying pre dinner drinks on the Ballroom Balcony
3. A portion of the record 145 guests in attendance at the Annual Dinner
4. A special presentation to Paul McNally OAM and his wife Margaret on his retirement from the Qld Branch Committee

4. The celebratory events to welcome new award recipients 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 2019 Australia Day recipients and another for Queen's Birthday recipients. These continue to be very successful and key events in the Queensland branch calendar. Both events were held at a new venue, the Kittyhawk Room, Kedron Wavell Services Club, Chermside, Brisbane.

4.1 The Welcome Lunch to celebrate with recipients of awards in the 2019 Australia Day Honours -10 May 2019

Thirty-eight of 154 Queensland recipients of Order of Australia Awards in this year's Australia Day Honours were special guests at the Luncheon on Friday 10 May 2019 in the Kittyhawk Room at Kedron Wavell Services Club at Chermside, a northern suburb of Brisbane. The event had been scheduled for the Marquee at Victoria Park in Herston. However, the event was so over-subscribed, numbers wise, that a new venue had to be found at the eleventh hour. The new venue was well received by all guests attending the event. On arrival, guests enjoyed listening to music provided by the Brisbane Girls Grammar School Year 10 String Quartet.

An impressive 171 guests attended the event including the recipients, their families and friends and 26 Association members and their guests. At the equivalent event in 2018 at Boulevard Gardens, Indooroopilly there were only 92 guests and 19 new recipients. It needs to be stressed, however that the larger number of award recipients attending the lunch is a reflection of the large number of award recipients in this year's Australia Day honours (154 compared to 71 last year).



PHOTOS – CLOCKWISE starting with top left

1. Our new Australia Day award recipients on parade
2. The Kittyhawk Room at Kedron Wavell creates a great atmosphere
3. Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO introducing the award recipients

4.2 The Welcome Lunch to celebrate with recipients of awards in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours – 30 October 2019

Thirty-three of 114 Queensland recipients of Order of Australia Awards in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours were special guests at the Luncheon on Wednesday 30 October 2019 in the Kitty Hawk Room, Kedron Wavell Services Club, Chermside, Brisbane. Another great attendance of 178 guests was present, including recipients, their families and friends and 19 Association members and their guests. At the equivalent event at Victoria Park in September last year there were 125 attendees and 21 new recipients. The higher than expected attendance at this event was very favourable given that there were roughly equal numbers of Queen's Birthday award recipients this year compared to last year (115 in 2018 and 114 in 2019.)

A highlight was the rendition of the National Anthem performed by *Carmela Bozzi OAM*, one of the new award recipients, to commence the formal proceedings.



New award recipients in attendance at the celebratory lunch at Kedron Wavell Services Club on Wednesday 30 October 2019

5. 2019 Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards

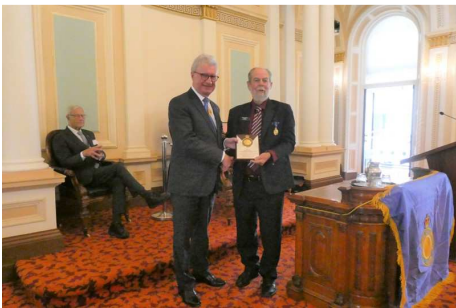
Mr Tim Fairfax AC continued to provide the sponsorship necessary to enable these awards to be made in 2019.

This year we had 119 people attend the 21st annual Presentation of awards, comprising secondary school students, family members, education representatives from across Queensland and Association members.

The event was held on Friday 20 September 2019 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 11 of the 12 winning students and *Mr Tim Fairfax AC*, the awards sponsor presented Certificates of Community Service to 7 selected unsuccessful local students. *Mr Richard Usher*, Principal, Cavendish Road State High School in Brisbane, and a strong supporter of the Awards, presented the response speech on behalf of the Schools.

Music for the 2019 Presentation was provided by The All Hallows' School String Quartet.

During the Presentation it gave me immense pleasure to present *His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC* with a special commemorative plaque in recognition and celebration of his five years as our Governor and patron of the Queensland Branch. He and his wife Kaye are excellent examples of the highest order of community service. We thank them for their dedication to serving our very decentralized communities throughout Queensland



His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC (left) receiving a special plaque to commemorate five years as Governor of Queensland, from Associate Professor John Harden AM, Queensland Branch Chairman,



The winning students with His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland



The event was held in the ornate historic Old Legislative Council (Red) Chamber of Parliament House, Brisbane

Nominations were received for 51 students from 38 secondary schools throughout Queensland. This year's judging panel comprised *Mrs Dina Browne AO* from the Association, *Mr Daryl Hanly OAM*, a principal education consultant and a former Secondary School Principal of vast experience and *Mr Chris Lassig* from Education Queensland. The Association thanks all three judges for their contribution. Mr Hanly replaced *Bruce J Howden OAM* on the judging panel this year due to Bruce's poor health. Sadly Bruce passed away in August 2019 and will be greatly missed for his outstanding contributions to the Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards programme over many years. My thanks also to *Geoff Cowles OAM* for continuing as awards coordinator this year.

Romeo Lor from Gordonvale State High School was unable to attend the Presentation at Parliament House. *Mr John Hardy OAM*, an enthusiastic member of the Association from Tolga in North Queensland kindly agreed to attend the Presentation and receive the award on Romeo's behalf. In addition John represented the Association on 12 November 2019 at the Presentation Night at Gordonvale State High School and presented Romeo with his secondary schools citizenship award personally, in front of his school peers.

Congratulations to the awardees and our thanks to their parents, teachers and supporters for making this such a memorable event.

6. 2019 Senior Volunteer Awards

The Association continued its Senior Volunteer Awards program in 2019.

The judging panel of *Professor 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 again 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 2020.

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



The 2018 Senior Volunteer awardees with sponsor Michael Rayner AM from Blight Rayner Architects at the 2019 Annual Dinner

From L-R

- (1) **Blanche McNelley** from St George, 510 km west of Brisbane.
- (2) **Sandra Shepperd** from Minyama, Sunshine Coast.
- (3) **Dr Stuart Stieler** from Banksia Beach, Bribie Island.
- (4) **Michael Rayner**, sponsor

7. Brisbane based morning outings

During 2019 the Queensland Branch Committee organized two well attended morning outings for Brisbane based members – a morning tea and tour of inspection of historic Hanworth House at East Brisbane in July and a tour of The University of Queensland's Centre for Hypersonics at their St Lucia campus in Brisbane in November which was followed by a fellowship lunch.

7.1 Visit to Hanworth House on Thursday 18 July 2019

The Queensland Branch organised an excellent morning tea and tour of historic Hanworth House located in East Brisbane on Thursday 18 July 2019. We had 51 in attendance.

One of the oldest and most iconic properties in inner Brisbane, we were taken on a special tour hosted by *Marisa Vecchio AM*, the House's current owner. Guests were given an insight into Hanworth's rich 155 year history to its restoration following an arson attack which destroyed 80% of this magnificent house and current provision of a beautiful variety of accommodation options as well as a venue for some of Brisbane's finest events.



PHOTOS – Clockwise starting top left

1. Members enjoying the garden party style morning tea
2. The Queensland Branch Chairman presenting Marisa Vecchio AM with a commemorative plaque for Hanworth House.
3. The magnificent main living room inside the restored Hanworth House.
4. The visit to Hanworth House article was the cover story of the November 2019 edition of *The Order*.

Our morning tea was memorable for its garden party style with guests seated at tables under a huge marquee overlooking the Brisbane city skyline. I presented on behalf of the Queensland Branch a commemorative plaque in appreciation of Marisa hosting the event.

This visit was featured in an article in the Queensland pages of the November 2019 edition of the national magazine *The Order*. It is very pleasing to report that the national editor chose to feature the article on Hanworth House as the front cover story for this edition.

7.2 Visit to The University of Queensland's Centre for Hypersonics on Wednesday 27 November 2019

Queensland Branch members were introduced to the fascinations of research into hypersonic flight at a special visit to The University of Queensland's Centre for Hypersonics at their St Lucia campus in Brisbane on Wednesday 27 November 2019. Fifty-four guests attended.



Members examining the X3 Expansion Tunnel



Members examining a scramjet engine at the T4 StalkerTube.



Great fellowship after the tour at the Vietnamese style lunch at the Lakeside Café



"Back to School" – Members gaining an insight into the world of hypersonics

Our visit was hosted by *Professor Richard Morgan*, the Director of the Centre and *Professor David Mee* and included a comprehensive presentation about the Centre and its research work. Tours were also arranged of the T4 scramjet test Laboratory and the T4 Shock Tunnel where more than 6000 scramjet experiments have been conducted and the Expansion Tube Laboratory to see the X2 and X3 facilities. These can re-create conditions during the entry of probes into the atmosphere of the earth or other planets such as Mars.

I was pleased to present the Centre with a commemorative plaque in appreciation of their hosting this interesting event.

The culmination of a great day out was the fellowship lunch – Vietnamese Style, at the Lakeside Café overlooking UQ St Lucia's impressive artificial lake.

My thanks to *Professor Klaus Bremhorst AM*, a member of the Queensland Branch, for suggesting this event.

8. Combined events with the Victoria League Brisbane for Commonwealth Friendship

Every June The Order of Australia Association, Queensland Branch (OAAQ) joins with the Victoria League Brisbane for Commonwealth Friendship (VLB) in co-hosting an annual Queen's Birthday Dinner. This year's event was held on 11 June 2019. In a sign of the very good relationship that exists between both organizations, a second event was also co-hosted on 30 November 2019 to celebrate the première of *"Bring them Home"*, the Musical about the State of Origin. This was held in the historic Princess Theatre at Woolloongabba in Brisbane.

I would like to express my thanks to *Mr Bill Willcocks*, the President of VLB for the strong support he provides to these events.

8.1 Dinner to celebrate the Queen's Birthday Tuesday 11 June 2019

The prestigious Tattersall's Club in Brisbane's CBD was the venue for the annual Black Tie Queen's Birthday Dinner on Tuesday 11 June 2019.

Ninety six guests attended including 69 from OAAQ.

Our special guest speaker for the evening was *Major General Emeritus Professor John Pearn AO GCStJ RFD* who addressed the topic *"70 years of the Modern Commonwealth – the Queen's Role"*. His address was thought provoking and made all present aware of what it means to be a part of the Commonwealth and to have Her Majesty at the helm.

We were also ably entertained by *Mr Noel Stallard OAM*, a Bush Poet who received his award in the 2019 Australia Day Honours for service to literature. Noel commenced his rendition with a poem which he wrote to celebrate his receiving the OAM.

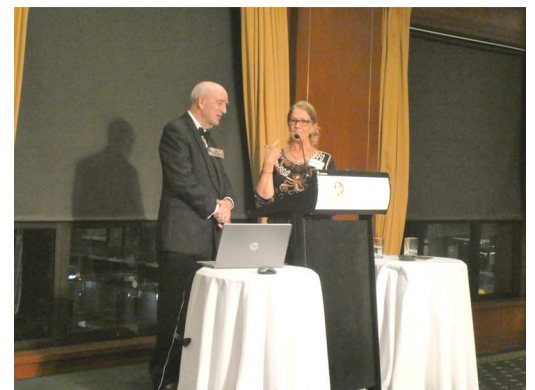
The Dinner was a wonderful event to celebrate the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II. My thanks to the members of the Queensland Branch Committee who contributed to the success of the evening.



Tattersall's Club provided a great atmosphere



Bush poet Noel Stallard OAM provided much fun and laughter



Mrs Dina Browne AO, the compere, thanks our guest speaker *Major General Emeritus Professor John Pearn AO GCStJ RFD* for his inspiring address.

8.2 *Première of “Bring them Home” – the Musical about the State of Origin – Princess Theatre, Woolloongabba – Saturday 30 November 2019*

On Saturday 30 November 2019 forty-four OAAQ members and guests joined with VLB members and the Brisbane general public at the iconic, historic Princess Theatre at Woolloongabba in Brisbane to witness the première of a Musical with a difference “*Bring them Home*”. The Musical highlighted the beginnings of Rugby League’s State of Origin and was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Prior to the performance the members of OAAQ and VLB enjoyed fellowship at a pre-arranged cocktail reception in a reserved section of the Theatre.

It should be noted that the event had to be capped at 44 for the OAAQ so that sufficient seats could be made available to the general public on the night. I am sure more members would have attended if seats had been available.



PHOTOS - Clockwise starting from top left

1. Great fellowship before the Musical performance – cocktail reception where OAAQ members met with VLB members in a relaxed setting in a dedicated area of the Theatre.
2. The classic exterior of the iconic, historic Princess Theatre at Woolloongabba
3. Waiting for the curtain to go up to start the performance

9. Regional Group activities

While the Association provided some excellent events at the Queensland Branch level in the metro area around Brisbane, 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 some of the events organized follows:

9.1 Central Queensland Regional Group

[Convener: *Ray Young OAM*]

- **11 March 2019 – Morning Tea – Rockhampton Leagues Club** – Guest speaker – *Dr Mick Davis AM ASM* – topic “*The 126 years History of the Queensland Ambulance – an Overview*” – 20 guests
- **14 October 2019 – Annual Lunch – Rockhampton Leagues Club** - Guest Speaker, Queensland Australian of the Year 2018 Local Hero, *Philippa “Pip” Russell*.

9.2 Darling Downs Regional Group

[Convener: *Professor Paul McNally OAM*]

- **14 June 2019 – Morning Tea – Town and Country Club, Toowoomba** – Guest speaker *Barry Rodgers OAM*, a director and life member of the Australian Light Horse Association, who was the tour leader and principal organiser of the “*In the steps of the Light Horse tours*” for the 90th, 95th and 100th anniversaries of the Charge at Beersheba. – 64 guests attended including five members of the Queensland Branch Committee.

9.3 Far North Queensland Regional Group

[Convener: *Carole Miller OAM*]

- **8 August 2019 – Cairns Mayoral Morning Tea** – hosted by *Cr Bob Manning OAM*, Mayor, Cairns Regional Council to welcome the 2019 far north Queensland award recipients – 60 guests. I was very pleased to attend this event as Queensland Branch Chairman, representing the Queensland Branch Committee, accompanied by my wife Di.

9.4 Mackay-Whitsunday Regional Group

[Convener: – *Carmel Daveson AM*]

No events were organized in 2019. However, *Carmel Daveson AM*, the Convener, is looking forward to planning an event in 2020.

9.5 Gold Coast Regional Group

[Convener: Clive Mitchell Taylor OAM]

- **27 May 2019 – lunch – The Southport Golf Club** – This event had to be cancelled due to insufficient bookings.
- **18 November 2019 – Lunch – The Southport Golf Club** – *Geoff Cowles OAM* and *Ronda Nix OAM* represented the Queensland Branch Committee at this event. At the lunch a commemorative plaque was presented to *Air Vice Marshall Bill Collins AO (Retd)*, the former Regional Group Convener, in appreciation of his 13 years of continuous service as Convener of this Group. – 50 guests attended.



Some of the fifty guests
at the Gold Coast lunch
on 18 November 2019

9.6 Townsville Regional Group

[Convener: – *David Jackson OAM*]

- **9 March 2019 – Luncheon – Seagulls Resort, Belgian Gardens** - Instead of a formal guest speaker two local members addressed the gathering highlighting the reasons behind the citation that came with their respective awards.
- **19 October 2019 – Dinner – Seagulls Resort, Belgian Gardens**

9.8 Wide Bay-Burnett Regional Group

[Convener: *Donna Duncan OAM*]

- **16 March 2019 – Lunch at the QCWA Rooms, Gayndah**
- **20 July 2019 – Lunch – 'Vintner's Secret Vineyard & Cellar Door'; Childers** – Wine tasting and Vineyard tour followed by lunch
- **9 November 2019 – Christmas Lunch - Wondai Regional Art Gallery, Wondai**

9.7 Sunshine Coast Regional Group

[Convener: – Marjorie Voss OAM]

- **5 April 2019 – Morning Tea – Serenity Restaurant, Bongaree, Bribie Island –** Guest speaker – *Sonia Colvin* from Hairdressers with Hearts, assisting people affected by domestic violence and elder abuse. Several members of the Queensland Branch Committee from Brisbane attended the event.
- **11 July 2019 – Lunch – Buderim Tavern, Buderim** - Guest speakers *Don Moffatt AM* and *Brent Hall* – Topic “ *How do Helicopters Fly*”. *Mr Ted O’Brien MP*, Federal Member for Fairfax was in attendance. – 70 guests.
- **3 October 2019 - Lunch – Gunabul Homestead, Gympie** - Guest speaker - *Sue Manton OAM*, the CEO of Little Haven Palliative Care in Gympie. .



Sonia Colvin from Hairdressers with Hearts addressing the gathering at the Sunshine Coast Regional group morning tea at Serenity Restaurant at Bribie Island on 5 April 2019

10. Membership Trends

There was a record number of 268 Queensland recipients who received awards in the Order of Australia in 2019 and 118 of these are now members of The Order of Australia Association. This represents 41% of the total number of 2019 Queensland recipients joining the Association compared with 36.6% last year (68 of 186 recipients joining). This represents a pleasing 4.4% increase in membership uptake.

In 2019 we welcomed 71 Queensland recipients at our two Lunches in May and October and of these 56 (78.9%) joined the Association. In 2018 the percentage of lunch recipients joining was 70% (28 of 40 recipients attending the lunches). The uptake of memberships by lunch recipients is 8.9 % higher than last year. It is worth noting that 31 more new award recipients attending the lunches compared to last year represents a very impressive 77% increase.

In January 2020, the total number of Queensland Branch members with up to date address listings was 1134 compared with 1068 in January last year, an increase of 66 members. Of these 1134 members there are 663 paid life members (58.5%); 7 life members paying by installment (0.6%), 336 annual members (29.6%); 1 honorary member

(Governor of Queensland) (0.1%) and 127 three-year members (11.2%). It is pleasing to see a steady increase each year in the number of members opting for the discounted three year membership.

The membership status of the last 100 Queensland members joining the Association since January 2019 were 52 annual memberships, 19 life memberships and 29 three year memberships.

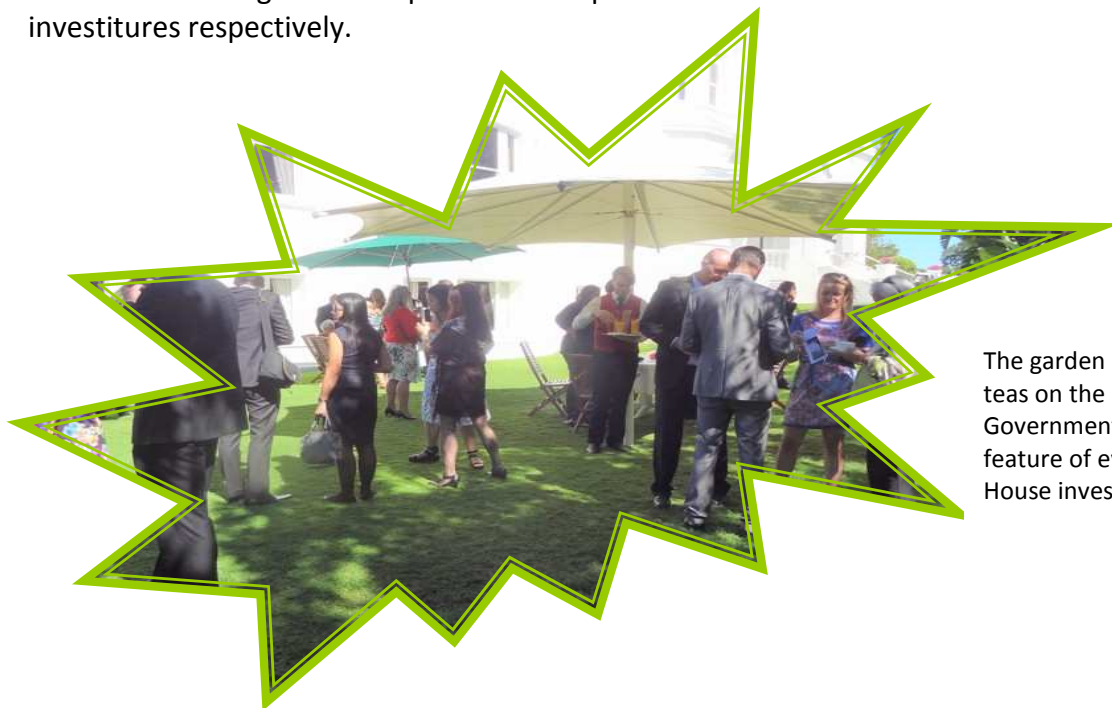
Geoff Cowles OAM, the Secretary, has updated his interesting new award recipient membership trend statistical tables compiled over the past 5 years, which are appended to this report on page 23 as **Appendix A**. Added to these statistics are interesting tables showing the ratio of male and female award recipients over the past 5 years and the number of awardees by Queensland regions over that period.

11. Representations at Government House, Brisbane

11.1 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 eight Australia Day Award Recipients' Investitures held at Government House Brisbane, four in the period 9 to 11 April 2019 and four in the later period 8 to 10 May 2019. In addition there were investitures held on Friday 3 May in Cairns and Saturday 25 May in Townsville. This unusually high number of investitures was due to the record 154 Queenslanders receiving awards in the 2019 Australia Day honours. I am pleased to report that I was able to attend two of the Government House investitures as Chairman and several other Queensland Branch Committee members represented me at the others. *Carole Miller OAM*, the Far North Queensland Regional Convener and *David Jackson OAM*, the Townsville Regional Group Convener represented me at the Cairns and Townsville investitures respectively.



The garden party morning teas on the lawn of Government House are a feature of every Government House investiture.

There were five Queen's Birthday Award Recipients' Investitures at Government House, Brisbane held in the period of 25 October to 30 October 2019 as well as an investiture in Cairns on Saturday 14 September. I attended two of the Government House investitures and other Committee members represented me at the other three. My thanks to *Carole Miller OAM* for again agreeing to represent me at the Cairns investiture.

11.2 Other visits to Government House

It was indeed a great honour for my wife Di and I to be invited to Government House to attend an excellent Dinner on the occasion of His Excellency's 5th anniversary as Governor of Queensland, held during August 2019.

I am also pleased to report that *Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO*, the Deputy Chairman, represented me at a special lunch time reception for organizations under His Excellency's patronage at Government House on 9 August 2019. Mary was accompanied at the reception by *Geoff Cowles OAM*, the Branch Secretary.



Government House organized an excellent tour of the gardens prior to the lunch reception on 9 August 2019

12. Queensland Branch Communications

12.1 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.

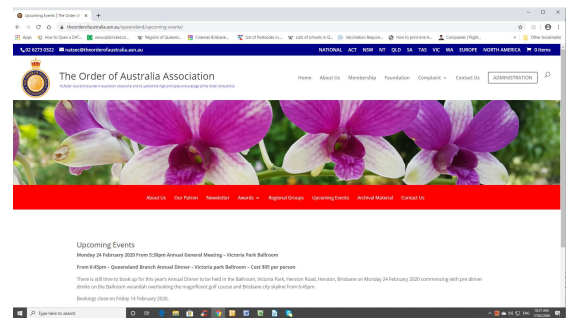
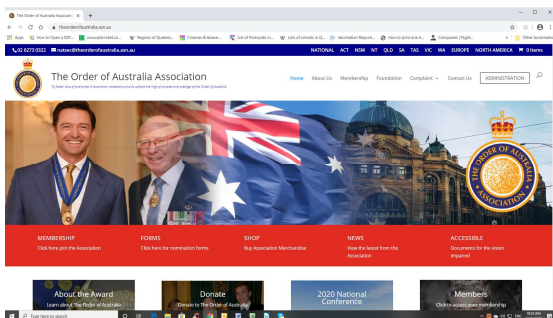
During February 2019 *Professor Paul McNally OAM*, retired as the Queensland Branch Newsletter after eight years of loyal, dedicated service in the position. He has been replaced by *Graham Hyde OAM*, who was co-opted onto the Queensland Branch Committee in March 2019 to take on this role. I would like to thank Paul for his contribution and also Graham for agreeing to be the new Editor.



12.2 Communicating to members via the Association website

The Queensland segment of the website was again maintained with material provided to the national webmaster 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.



12.3 Communicating to members by email

During 2019 the Queensland Branch made better and more effective use of emails as a means to send important communications to those members who have provided email addresses. As at January 2020 a total of 968 of 1134 Queensland Branch members have provided emails to the National membership database.

Regular no reply “broadcast” emails were sent out prior to important events as a means to promote the events to the members. In addition, when necessary, follow up reminder emails were also forwarded.

It is planned to continue to send out regular email communications to Queensland Branch members in 2020 to supplement what *The Order* magazine and the website provides.

13. Queensland Branch Activity at the National Level

13.1 National Board activity

Our strong representation on the National Board has been continued by *Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ* who was nominated by the Queensland Branch Committee to be the Queensland Branch Nominated Director on the National Board. Thank you Peter for carrying out this often difficult and important task for the Queensland Branch members.

Peter regularly attended meetings of the National Board and reported back to the Committee any items requiring Committee attention.

This was the first year whereby a member of the Committee other than the Branch Chairman was the Queensland Branch Nominated Director.

The Members' Forum at the National Conference in Hobart in April 2019 produced worthwhile discussion which was wide ranging. Many of the topics were subsequently discussed at a Futures Day event organised by the National Board in Melbourne on 14 June 2019 at which all Directors of the National Board and all Branch Chairmen were invited and encouraged to attend. I was pleased to represent the Queensland Branch at this event. I am pleased to report that the Board Directors and the Branch Chairmen spent a very productive day identifying and discussing all aspects of the Association and planning for the future. A Communiqué detailing the outcomes was made available to all Association members shortly after the event.

13.2 The 34th National Conference in Hobart, Tasmania – April 2019

The Queensland Branch continued to strongly support the annual National conference of the Association in 2019, this time in Hobart, Tasmania from 11 to 14 April 2019 with 31 delegates.

This was an excellent Conference and one highlight was the Traditional Queensland Dinner we organised for the Queensland delegates and their guests at the historic Hope and Anchor Taven on the Hobart CBD on Friday 12 April. We were pleased to welcome *Professor Alan Johnston AM* from the South Australian Branch and *Dr John Thorne AM* and his wife Shirley from the Tasmanian Branch as honorary Queenslanders .

This was an excellent dinner and it further strengthened the Queensland Branch members' participation and supported a tradition established several years ago by the Queensland Branch. We plan to continue this tradition at the conference in Darwin in May this year and I invite you to participate.



The Queenslanders and Honorary Queenslanders at the Traditional Queensland Dinner at the Hope and Anchor Tavern at Hobart on Friday 12 April 2019.

This year's Annual General Meeting created quite a degree of interest because of two special resolutions being proposed, one from the South Australian Branch seeking constitutional reform and one which I sponsored requesting that the National Board discuss with the State and Territory Branches the distribution of the membership subscriptions. I was pleased to present the case in favour of the resolution along with *Dr Mick Davis AM ASM*.

Both resolutions were narrowly defeated; however the National Board has taken notice of the Queensland Branch's genuine concerns, resulting in the Queensland Branch receiving an extra financial supplement to the Business Administration Grant (BAG) in recognition of the decentralized nature of its regional groups and their vast distances from Brisbane.

14. 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.

2019 was my last year as Chairman of the Queensland Branch. Under the Association's governance documents I am required to stand down after having served five years as your Chairman. In that time I have felt privileged to take on this role and to have been given the opportunity to serve the members of the Queensland Branch to the best of my ability.

I would like to thank the new Chairman-Elect *Dr Gary Bacon AM* for agreeing to carry on the leadership of the Queensland Branch and wish him well in his endeavours. I will be retained on the Committee for 2020 in the position of Immediate Past Chairman where I hope to be able to offer whatever assistance Gary feels he needs, particularly during the transition period.

2020 will also see the departure of the following valuable long serving members of the Committee – *Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO*; *Royce Voss OAM*; *Raymond Young OAM* and *Patrick Galligan OAM*, collectively totaling 36 years of Committee service. A brief synopsis of each member's contribution follows -

- *Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO*, has been a tower of strength and worldly wisdom for the past 10 years and a valuable team player at regular Queensland Branch events.
- *Royce Voss OAM* has served on the Committee with loyalty and distinction for the past 12 years providing his vast experience and insight on most issues including 10 years as Queensland Branch Treasurer which included his presiding over the demanding financial affairs of two National Conferences in Brisbane in 2009 and 2017.
- *Raymond Young OAM* has been staunchly loyal as the long standing Convener of the Central Queensland Regional Group as well as the Queensland Branch Committee for the past 10 years. He has maintained regular attendance at Committee meetings and most Branch events during this time, travelling to Brisbane from Rockhampton and return by train .

- *Patrick Galligan OAM* was elected to the Queensland Branch Committee at the Annual general meeting in November 2014 and in that time has proved invaluable serving in the dual roles of Queensland Branch Membership Officer and Merchandise Officer.

I wish these four members well in their retirement and thank them most sincerely for their commitment and service to the members of the Queensland Branch during their time on the Committee.

There will also be a changing of the guard in the position of Queensland Branch Secretary with *Geoff Cowles OAM* standing down after having served in this capacity for the past 9 years. Geoff has ensured that the administrative needs of the Queensland Branch have been maintained efficiently and professionally and he has remained loyal and dedicated to his role in all that time.

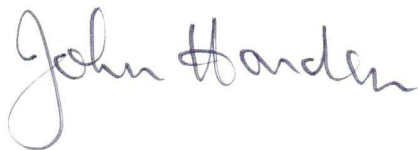
Unlike the other four members leaving the Committee, Geoff has indicated a willingness to be co-opted onto the Queensland Branch Committee in 2020, subject to the new Committee's approval, as the Events and Awards Coordinator (Metro), a new position created to reduce the duties of the Queensland Branch Secretary and make the Secretary position a purely administrative one.

I would like to express my thanks to *Ross Patching OAM*, the Secretary-Elect for nominating to take on this important role in 2020.

I encourage you to take an interest in the Association's activities and participate in events organized for the benefit of members in 2020

I recommend attendance at the National Conference in Darwin this year from 7 to 10 May. It is your opportunity to meet with interstate Awardees and very importantly participate in both the Association's Annual General Meeting and the Members Forum of the Association. This is your organisation and your opportunity to contribute to its direction, management and activities.

I commend my report to you and move its adoption.



John Harden AM, Queensland Branch Chairman

Acknowledgement

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

APPENDIX A TO THE 2019 Queensland Branch Annual Report

Membership Trends – Award recipients 2015 through to 2019

Compiled by Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary

A. 2019

A.1. Australia Day 2019 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
154	61	39.6%	38	33	86.8%	24.7%

A.2 . Queen's Birthday 2019 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
114	57	50%	33	23	69.7%	28.9%

A.3. Combined 2019 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
268	118	41%	71	56	78.9%	24.7%

B. 2018

B.1. Australia Day 2018 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	34	47.9	19	14	73.7%	26.8

B.2 . Queen's Birthday 2018 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
115	34	29.6	21	14	66.7%	18.3

B.3. Combined 2018 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
186	68	36.6%	40	28	70.0%	21.5%

C. 2017

C.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%

C.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
75	31	41.3%	13	11	84.6%	17.3%

C.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
162	61	37.6%	29	22	75.9%	17.9%

D. 2016

D.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%

D.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%

D.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%

E. 2015

E.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%

E.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%

E.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%

Five Year Summary of total activity - Australia Day 2015 through to Queen's Birthday 2019 TOTALS OF A to E above

No of recipients	909
No who have joined	379
% of total recipients joining	41.7%
No who came to lunches	232
No of these who joined	172
% of lunch recipients joining	74.1%
% of recipients coming to lunches	26.1%

Statistics on the ratios of male to female Queensland award recipients since 2015 and the number of Queensland recipients by Queensland regions since 2015 appear on the next page 23 ➡

Ratio of male (M) to female (F) Queensland recipients since 2015

AD = Australia Day QB = Queen's Birthday

Honours	Total No.	Total %	M No.	M %	F No.	F %
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	75	100	47	62.7	28	37.3
AD 2018	71	100	49	69.0	22	31.0
QB 2018	115	100	67	58.3	48	41.7
AD 2019	154	100	108	70.1	46	29.9
AD 2019	114	100	82	71.9	32	28.1
Total AD 2015 to QB 2019	909	100	604	66.4	305	33.6

Queensland award recipients since 2015 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 2015	93	45	9	10	6	2	1	1	2	17 ^{Note 2}
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
AD 2017 ^{Note 3}	87	49	9	5	9	6	1	0	5	3
QB 2017	75	39	11	7	4	2	4	2	1	5
AD 2018	71	42	13	6	3	1	0	2	1	3
QB 2018 ^{Note 4}	115	60	8	10	9	9	1	2	9	7
AD 2019	154	82	22	13	15	4	4	1	5	8
QB2019	114	65	14	11	2	5	3	1	7	6
Totals	909	493	104	81	64	40	17	11	37	62

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 Far North Qld region for AD2015 – (17) included OAMs to several Cape York indigenous workers.
- 3.The larger than usual number of recipients for AD 2017 – (87) included OAMs to all gold medalists at the Rio Olympic and Paralympics Games
4. From QB 2018 onwards a significant increase in the number of future awardees can be expected

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principles and prestige of
the Order of Australia.**



Notes

