



The Order of Australia Association

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

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Patron: *His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC*
Governor of Queensland

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Communique from the Chair

Hearty Greetings to fellow members of the Queensland Branch of The Order of Australia Association (OAA).

The two month time span between my communiques seems to be getting shorter. The peerless scientist, Albert Einstein, postulated that when traveling at speeds near the speed of light special relativity predicts that time is dilated. Thus relative to another inertial frame (where perhaps a stationary twin sits) time for the moving twin is slowing down. Hence the stationary twin is aging faster. Do you, like me, feel at times like the aging stationary twin? Alas, there is no Tardis to board.

Queenslanders have continued to keep the lid on COVID-19 infections and despite minor bumps the uptake curve remains essentially flat. Full statistics can be found at, <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/statistics> and for 24 September can be summarised as,

Total cases = 1,153 (1,072). Total tests = 1,084,841 (466,479). Lives lost = 6 (6). The figures in parentheses are those of 2 months back.

These favourable data have led the authorities to relax some elements of public venue openings and gatherings, though the themes of good personal hygiene and social distancing/interaction are still emphasised. Current information on public health directions and gatherings are available at, <https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/government-actions/roadmap-to-easing-queenslands-restrictions>

Queenslanders deserve a pat on the back in achieving such favourable outcomes and so a few lines attributed to Spike Milligan are apt.

Smiling is infectious,
you catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner
and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled I realized
I'd passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile,
then I realized its worth.
A single smile, just like mine

could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin,

don't leave it undetected.

Let's start an epidemic quick,

and get the world infected!

Your Branch Committee has 'virtually' met now on 6 occasions via Zoom since imposition of pandemic constraints. Given our very positive experiences using this communication technology we are scheduling an inaugural combined meeting with all eight Regional Convenors using Zoom Pro later this year. Branch inputs have been made towards the national reviews of the OAA Constitution and By Laws and a Queensland Branch banner designed and constructed for stationary and mobile future use.



New Queensland Branch banner.

The Queensland Branch acknowledged and welcomed via formal correspondence the 114 new Australia Day honours awardees and the 122 new Queen's Birthday honours awardees across the State. Unfortunately, we have not yet been able to host a congratulatory lunch. Such will be effected as soon as appropriately sized and certified venues become available.

It is a real pleasure to report that the first in-person OAA activity in the State was held on 14 September in Rockhampton at the certified Frenchville Sports Club. The Central Qld Region team, led by Convenor, Dr Wal Taylor OAM, welcomed 35 participants to an informative and enjoyable lunch addressed by the Chancellor, CQ University, John Abbott AM. Further details with pixels on this 'drought ending' event will be covered in the next issue of THE ORDER due out mid- November. One aside I can now relate involved a unique, belated, handover item from the outgoing Convenor, Ray Young OAM, to two 'new' incumbents. It was a novel Anti-Stress Kit, caption pictured below, which bemused all.

R. Young OAM



14.9.20

Order of Australia [Qld Branch] Chairman

Anti Stress Kit

A PENCIL to help you "work it all out"

An ERASER to make all those little mistakes go away

A MARBLE for those days when you think you're lost yours

FIVE CENTS so you will never be completely broke

ELASTIC to help you stretch beyond your current limits

STRING to hold it all together when it seems to be falling apart

A SWEET to remind you that someone cares

Far North Qld, Sunshine Coast and Brisbane regional teams are now planning restricted open events. Hopefully, regeneration of functions that populate our OAA diaries, Statewide, will soon be evident.

In signing off I reiterate wishes of good health to you and yours.

Kind regards

Gary



Dr Gary Bacon AM, Chair OAA Queensland Branch.