



The Order of Australia Association

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Ross Patching OAM, Secretary, PO Box 96 Petrie, Qld 4502
Telephone: 0412 914 394 Website: www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au

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

Communique from the Chairman

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

This communique has two purposes.

First, I wish to introduce the 2020 Branch Committee and update the current array of Regional Group Coordinators. Second, and on behalf of the 2020 team, I wish to check on your well-being during this testy period of health concerns attendant to the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

1: At the recent AGM there was a partial transfer of batons within the Queensland Committee. We said goodbye to a number of stalwarts who collectively have given over 35 years of meritorious service to the Queensland Branch, namely Associate Professor John Harden AM, Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO, Geoff Cowles OAM, Pat Galligan OAM, Royce Voss OAM and Ray Young OAM. It was my privilege to welcome onto the 2020 team two new members, Ross Patching OAM as Secretary and Kathy Wooldridge OAM as a Committee member. At our initial meeting on 11 March other changes in office positions were effected and these are listed together with a short bio for all Branch Committee members in Attachment a. At that meeting, Geoff Cowles OAM, the former Secretary, was coopted onto the Committee as Events and Awards Coordinator (Metro).

The current Regional Coordinators are listed in Attachment b. We gladly welcome Wal Taylor OAM to Central Queensland region and Clive Mitchell-Taylor OAM to the Gold Coast region.

2: As Committee members and Regional Co-ordinators of OAA Queensland Branch we are acutely aware that many of our fellow members scattered over Queensland are in an age profile that is deemed more susceptible to COVID-19 than other segments of the population.

We are, as caring individuals, all in uncharted territory here but one of the advantages of having lived longer is that we have dealt with various crises before in our communities. We are all experienced volunteers within our respective communities.

You are encouraged to take every personal precaution and reach out via phone contact to those around you, particularly those living alone, in alignment with recommendations from Australian GPs working at the coal-face, viz.

<https://www.gps-can.com.au/covid19-blog/a-guide-elderly>

Practical tips for understanding and dealing with the pandemic include;

- If you develop a cough, fever, breathing difficulties of any sort or other upper respiratory symptoms, you should phone your local doctor for advice.
- Do not go to the surgery or the hospital without phoning ahead and alerting the staff to your symptoms.

- Avoid close contact with others (keep a “ bubble” of a body length of personal space around you and avoid hugging, kissing, hand-shaking etc for now).
- Be vigilant with personal hygiene - use tissues or your elbow if you cough or sneeze to minimize droplet and aerial spread of the virus and clean surfaces more often.
- As we are coming into our seasonal cold and ‘flu season be aware that some symptoms at the beginning are much the same (check Attachment c).

There are many activities that can keep us safely occupied at this time, including, a spot of maintenance, tidy the cupboards, whip the garden into shape , enjoy reading the big tomes, play music, re-find artistic endeavours, research the great grandparents etc.

Above all keep your spirits up and stay safe and healthy.

Contact us in Brisbane or your Regional Conveners to ascertain where to go for more help and advice.

We’re all in this together (but keeping our distance for now!)

Kind regards

Gary



Dr Gary Bacon AM, Chairman OAA Queensland Branch.



Chairman - Dr Gary Bacon AM BSc (Hon), PhD,
FIFA

Email: gary-bacon@bigpond.com

Mobile: 0400 733 822

Gary held senior research and management positions in New South Wales and Queensland Government forestry trading enterprises and in the land management division within Primary Industries. He served as elected National Secretary and National President of the Institute of Foresters of Australia (1983-87) and was awarded the 2000 N W Jolly medal. He chaired the Australian organising team for the 2005 International Union of Forest Research Organisations World Congress. For the last decade plus he was a JAS-ANZ auditor, Industry consultant and Adjunct Professor in the Environmental Futures Institute at Griffith University mentoring overseas post-graduate students. Gary was elected as the Grand Master of Queensland Freemasons and a Director of Masonic Charity (2013), appointed a Member in the Order of Australia in the Queen's birthday list (2016) and joined the Presidents 100, Qld State Library Foundation (2017).



Secretary - Ross P. Patching OAM Mobile: 0412 914 394

Ross was an Engineering Surveyor before joining the Queensland Police Service in 1980 where he served for 35 years as a sworn officer in diverse roles until age retired in 2015. Roles included Task Force, Emergency Squad, Witness Protection, Workplace Training, Senior Police Prosecutor, State Domestic Violence and LGBTI Coordinator, State and District Duty Officer, Major Events and Planning, and Senior Policy Officer. During his service Ross was awarded the National Police Service Medal, the National Service Medal and two Assistant Commissioner's Certificates; one for Dedication to Duty, Courage and Resourcefulness in resolving a siege situation in 1988, and another for Writing and

Publishing Training Manuals in 1991. In 1995, Ross graduated from Griffith University with a Bachelor of Adult and Vocational Teaching. Ross is a national and international pistol shooting competitor and official with 10 National Titles to his credit. He was President of Queensland Police Pistol Club for 23 years. Ross is the Communications Director of Pistol Shooting Queensland Ltd and is State Team Manager, a Judge, Coach, Trainer and Assessor.

In 1999, Ross volunteered to join the Management Committee of the Caboolture Regional Domestic Violence Service Inc. and was elected President in 2005. After 13 years in this position Ross retired from the Management Committee in 2018 which had evolved into the Centre Against Domestic Abuse Inc. and had grown tenfold providing services to those affected by domestic and family violence and received numerous awards for devising and implementing effective initiatives. He is an active Life Member of the organisation and a strident advocate against domestic abuse.

On Australia Day 2016 Ross was awarded his Medal of the Order of Australia '*for service to the community through social welfare initiatives, and to the sport of pistol shooting*'. On Australia Day 2017, Ross received a Dickson Community Award '*for outstanding service to the community*' for his work in reducing domestic violence in the community.



Source: Quest Newspapers

***Deputy Chair* - Dr Michael John (Mick) Davis AM, ASM - FPA, LMFPA, FCHSM, LFAIES, MBA.**

Mick retired from QAS in 2013 after 50 years-service in operational and management roles and was assigned the role of Volunteer Manager Qld Ambulance Heritage & History. In 1964, he began as an Honorary Officer in Rockhampton QATB and was appointed to the permanent staff in 1969. Mick is Deputy Chairman/Treasurer of the KJ McPherson Education & Research Foundation, past director, Board of the Order of Australia Association, past Qld Branch Deputy Chairman/Treasurer and Past Chairman and currently Queensland Branch Deputy Chairman. He is a past Institute of Ambulance Officers (Aust) President and has served in most executive roles of the Institute, which became ACAP (now Paramedics Australia) and was Treasurer/Director until 2016, playing a key role in that organisation's evolutionary transitions. He served as Director and Treasurer of the Health and Community Services Workforce Council for 15yrs and is currently a member of the Central Qld University Brisbane Campus Community Engagement Committee. Mick has served as Branch President and Director of Australasian College of Health Service Managers (ACHSM). He was appointed "Member" (AM) of the Order of Australia in June 2000 and awarded the Ambulance Service Medal (ASM). In 2012. In 2013, he was awarded the Surgeon-General John White Medal for Services to Health. In Dec 2016 he awarded the status of "Doctor of the University" by the Chancellor of the Central Queensland University. Mick started his work life as an apprentice Fitter in 1960 and soon became a member of the Qld Railway Ambulance Corps.



***Treasurer* - Ronda L. Nix OAM**

Ronda brings a background in Business Management and IT to the role of Treasurer. She was a Company Director and Company Secretary for several decades.

Ronda also has considerable experience in voluntary administrative roles as a President/Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and has served on numerous committees, including Constitutional Committees and Finance Committees responsible for preparing large budgets. In the 1990s she was Secretary of the State Hockey Centre Association formed to build the Queensland State Hockey Centre. It was completed at a cost of over thirteen million dollars. During the project, Ronda managed the progress payments to the contractors and acquitted grant monies spent to the State Government.

Ronda has received numerous awards such as Life Memberships, Distinguished Service and Long Service for her service to organisations including Girl Guides and hockey. She has been recognised by all levels of government for her work with hockey and in 2013 she received an OAM for her service to the sport. She is an internationally qualified Tournament Director who currently conducts officiating workshops, and mentors and assesses officials for State and Australian accreditation



National Director - Peter James McMurtrie. AO, KStJ, JP(Qual.)

FPA(Hon.), FAIES(Life), FAIM, AFCHSM(Life), MBA(HRM), Gr.Dip.HSM, CHM.

Peter McMurtrie was born in Melbourne and educated at Northcote High. He first worked in Town Planning and later in electrical wholesale lighting. In 1967, following 6 years as a volunteer first aider for St. John Ambulance he commenced with the Ambulance Service in Melbourne. In 1988 he was appointed District Superintendent Goulburn Valley Ambulance at Shepparton.

He has a vast experience in Major Incident Operations including the West Gate Bridge collapse, Hoddle Street and Queen Street shootings, multi fatality fires at Pentridge Jail, Ahmad factory and William Booth Home and the Violet Town Southern Aurora rail crash. He was for 10 years the City of Preston Civil Defence Controller (SES).

He has been active in many allied organisations including 59 years with St. John Ambulance rising to Commissioner, He was elevated to *Knight of Grace of the Most Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem* within the Order of St. John, and is an Honorary Fellow of Paramedics Australasia. He was admitted to the Australian Institute of Management as a Fellow, an Associate Fellow, Councillor, Queensland President and Life Member of the College of Health Service Executives, a Life Fellow of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services and was National Secretary of the Australian Resuscitation Council. He completed a Master of Business Administration (HRM) at the University of Southern Queensland and a Graduate Diploma in Health Services Management at Melbourne University (R.M.I.T.).

Peter came to Queensland from the Goulburn Valley in 1991 as Deputy Commissioner, with Queensland Ambulance Service. In 2004 he received an Australia Day Council Achievement Medal and the United Nation's – International Year of the Volunteer Medal through service to AIES. In 2013 he was awarded as an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) and in 2013 was elected to the Queensland Committee of the Order of Australia Association. In 2018 he was appointed as Queensland's nominated Director on the National Board of the Order of Australia Association.

Committee Member/ Sunshine Coast Region Convenor - Marjorie M Voss OAM



Marjorie was born in Bundaberg and spent the war years helping on her parents' dairy farm and in their local store. This is when she learnt that caring for and sharing with people was "a way of life". Since then she has spent 50 years with the Girl Guides as a Sea Ranger; Brownie Leader (Active & Lones); State Council (involved in many areas); Trefoil Guild and is still involved in State matters. In 1960 Marjorie became a member of the Worldwide Mothers' Union (now AMUA) serving on the Diocesan and National Committees and holding the position of Diocesan and National Promotion & Development Coordinator/Caritas Leader for 7 years. During this time, she was involved with members around Australia and Overseas.

From 2004 to 2017 Marjorie sat on the Management Committee of National Council of Women of Qld. and held the positions of Vice President and State Child and Family Adviser. Before her retirement in 2002 Marjorie spent 23 years on the teaching staff at St. Lucia Kindergarten where she was actively involved in Early Childhood and C&K matters as well as being an employees' representative in the Independent Teachers Union. She was also Secretary of the Queensland Child Watch Committee for eight years until 2014. Marjorie has also assisted with the organizing of two OAA National Conferences. Of acknowledgments received over the years the most cherished are the Emu Award for Guiding and the OAM.



Membership Officer - Darryl R Seccombe OAM

Darryl was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Australian Honours on 13 June 2011.

Darryl is the current Chairman of The Lady Bowen Trust Board of Advice, a charitable trust established by the Queensland Government in November 2006 to assist the homeless. He has been Chairman for the past 14 years since its establishment.

Darryl was Managing Director and had been the Principal of DSA Financial Pty. Ltd. a successful Estate and Financial Planning practice prior to his retirement from this industry in January 2017. He was a Certified Financial Planner and a Certified Insurance Professional. Darryl is a former Director of the AFA Investment Fund Pty. Ltd. an Investment Trust for the Association of Financial Advisers of which he was the Queensland Trustee, and is also a former Director and Vice President of the Valley Chamber of Commerce Incorporated and former President of the Valley Business Club. He is a Past President of the Association of Financial Advisers Queensland.

Darryl was the Founder and Managing Director of Charitable Bequest Services (Australia) Pty. Ltd. which specialised in deferred bequests through the donations of life insurance. Through its Australian network, it was successful in assisting various not-for-profit organisations and other foundations to raise long – term deferred bequests. With extensive experience in charitable fundraising Darryl has been a past Secretary of The Australasian Institute of Fundraising (Qld Chapter). He has also written various articles on Charitable Life Insurance for the "Fundraising Australasia Journal".

Darryl assisted in introducing the Make- A- Wish Foundation to Australia after seeing a presentation by Make- A- Wish in San Francisco USA in 1985. Make- A- Wish Foundation Australia Limited was officially established in November 1985 in Victoria. In 1986 Darryl introduced the National Charity to Queensland and was an integral part of its development over the years, with its early years run from Darryl's financial planning practice. In 2015 the Make- A- Wish Foundation of Australia celebrated its 30year anniversary, as one of the most recognised successful and trusted charities in Australia. In 1985 Australia was the first country to establish Make- A- Wish outside the USA and it is now established in 44 nations throughout the world.



Editor - Graham Hyde. OAM. PHF FIPA, FFA. (UK), FCHSM(Hon), FIML, FRSH(UK), AFAAQHC.

Graham was awarded an OAM in the 2019 Australia Day Honours List and awarded a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Mullumbimby in 1992 to acknowledge 11 years of service to the Club and serving in all Board positions culminating in being President and Immediate Past President.

Graham has fellowships from the Institute of Public Accountants, the Institute of Financial Accountants (UK), the Australasian College of Health Service Management (ACHSM), the Institute of Managers and Leaders, the Royal Society of Health (UK) and an Associate Fellowship from the Australian Association for Quality in Health Care.

Graham's award was for services to: Medical Administration (28 years), the Anglican Church (Organist, Parish Councillor, Synod Representative for many years), ACHSM Queensland Branch as Registrar and then as President (8 years), ACHSM National Board Director and Treasurer (5 years), Councillor of the Royal School of Church Music Queensland and National (5 years), an Assessor for the Australasian Council on Health Care Standards (ACHS) (23 years) , and to Rotary (11 years).

Currently Graham has a small consultancy business specialising in quality management systems, organisational development; financial accounting and auditing under ISO 9001.2000, 2008 and 2015. Current community roles include: Member Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service Human Research Ethics Committee; Chair ACHSM Audit and Risk Committee; Member Toowong Anglican Parish Council; Assistant Organist St Thomas' Toowong; and Lead Assessor ACHS.



Committee Member - Kathy Wooldridge OAM RN, RM

Kathy was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2019 Australia Day honours list for her services to Nursing.

Kathy qualified as an Enrolled Nurse from St Andrews Hospital, Adelaide and as a Registered Nurse from University of South Australia. Kathy has worked as a Remote Area Nurse (RAN) and Community Health Nurse in the Northern and Far Western district of SA where she had key roles as mentor and member of the Roxby Downs Community Board, Founding Chair of the Outback Network Group and setting up various health promotion programs for women, men and youth. Kathy also worked in Arnhem Land and Central Australia where she worked extensively within Aboriginal Communities. Kathy spent time in PNG and volunteered with the International Red Cross Lihir Branch which supported women and families in the local community. Kathy was a committee member of the Qld Branch of the Royal College of Nursing now known as the Australian College of Nursing. Kathy currently does casual work with Micah Projects with their street to home program.

Kathy was awarded the Roxby Downs 2002 Australia Day Citizen Award and the 2005 South Australian Nursing and Midwifery Award.

Kathy considers she has been fortunate in having the life experiences and the opportunity to meet many amazing and wonderful people on the way.



Merchandise Officer - Paula Penfold AM, BSc (UK), RN, RM, CCHV (UK), Ethicist, JP (Qual), AFCHSM.

Paula was awarded an AM in the 2016 Australia Day Honours List and a Silver Duke of Edinburgh award in 1964 and a Surf Life Saving Certificate also in 1964. She was a finalist in Australian Executive Woman of the Year Award 1995.

Paula's professional qualifications include being a Qualified Quality Assessor in Health; Certified Lead Auditor Qld Human Services; Qualified Assessor of Third-Party Verification; Qualified Quality Assessor Nation Safety and Quality Health Care Standards; Registered Auditor/Lead Auditor (qualification based) Quality Management Systems; Justice of Peace Qld; Business Development Certificate (MLC). Paula is a member of various associations and Deputy Chair of the Queensland Children's Health Services Research Ethics Committee since 1981. She is listed on the Register of The Women's Policy Unit, Office of Cabinet, Qld Cabinet; and is also a Life Member of the Muscular Dystrophy Association Qld. Paula was one of several parents who commenced the Association in 1980. Paula chaired the Association for a period of 10 years. Her work over the years has been varied from writing Policy and Procedure and Constitutions in the Not for Profit area to Training Soldiers in Medical retrieval prior to their embarkation to Vietnam and retrieving Wounded Soldiers from the War zone back to Australia. Following Paula's return from the UK she was involved in Benchtop research into Neuro – Endocrine disorders and was part of the team to have two papers published back to back in the British Medical Journal of Endocrinology. During the 1990's Paula owned and operated a business where Mothers with young children could access advice from a qualified Midwife/Maternal & Child Health Nurse in a pharmacy near their home. This successful business was developed throughout the Eastern seaboard of Australia into South Australia. Paula is still involved in Child Health on a consultation basis.



Regional Groups Coordinator - Dr Carol Cox AM, MBChB (Edinburgh), FRCP, FRAGP, Dip. of Family Planning, Rtd Lecturer UQ Rural Clinical School, Fellow USQ.

Dr Cox is a medical practitioner with 40 years' experience in Australian general practice. She provided GP services in Toowoomba and eight rural and remote communities in South West Queensland and the Gulf under the auspices of Royal Flying Doctor Service. Carol has an interest in communication skills and women's health. She enjoys teaching and team building and she also served on the USQ Ethics Committee 1996-2006 and was appointed to USQ Council 2009 as Governor-in-council appointee

Memberships: Member and ex-president of Local Medical Association and member of Australian Medical Association; Life member of Family Planning Queensland; Ex-executive member of GP Connections; Previously Member of Sports Medicine Australia; Qld Member of Australian Menopause Society; Member of Sexual Health Society; Member of WHERS committee.

Skills: Governance and communication skills; Proof-reading; Risk management skills; Health service delivery; Team building; Teaching life skills to promote mental and physical well-being; Organizational skills.

Her hobbies include beekeeping, gardening, grannyng, and she loves to sleep in a swag under the stars!

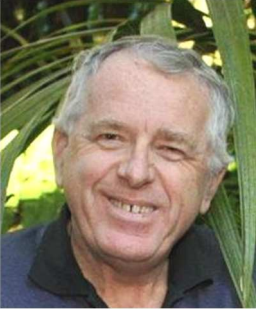


Immediate Past Chairman – Assoc. Prof. John Harden AM, Sc.(1st Hon), MSc (Dist), CTE

John held several academic positions at Uni of Qld including Lecturer in Botany then at Qld Ag College and UQ as Senior Lecturer and then Associate Professor. He had administrative positions including Head Dept. of Plant Protection; Chair Board of Studies and Deputy Head School Agriculture and Horticulture. He established the Centre for Pesticide Application and Safety, C-PAS, carrying out National and International projects. He was Director of FarmSafe Queensland, Technical Director of Chemcert Training Queensland and Australia developing the, user pays, competency-based training in safe pesticide use accrediting more than 30,000 Queenslanders.

John has been visiting Professor at the Universities of Reading and Cranfield in the UK and Uni. of California. His International Consultancy activities in Plant Protection and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) include projects in Singapore, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. Consultancy to Industry included a dual appointment with Uni of Queensland and Agrevo to develop the Company Academy training and accrediting Australian and South East Asia staff.

He was elected in 1996 as a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science, FAIAS and Appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia, AM in 2000. He has been a member of the OAA Qld Branch Committee, Chairman of the Branch and OAA Board Director.



Events and Awards Coordinator (Metro) - Mr Geoff Cowles OAM, JP (Qual)

Geoff was born in Ipswich, England in 1949, and migrated to Australia on the *SS Otranto* in 1956. He enjoyed a 47year regulatory career in agriculture initially with the Department of Primary Industries and later with Biosecurity Queensland. His principal roles included registration before sale of agricultural inputs such as pesticides, veterinary medicines, fertilisers and stock foods, promoting responsible agricultural and veterinary chemical use and regulating the fledgling Queensland industrial hemp industry.

Geoff is very community focused. He was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) on Australia Day 2007 *“for services to the community through a range of youth, sporting and church groups.”* He received an Australian Sports Medal in 2000 *“In recognition of more than 10 years involvement with junior cricket. Significant involvement in the Ferny Districts Cricket Club.”* Prior to his current role in The Order of Australia Association, Queensland Branch he served nine years as its Secretary.