



The Order of Australia Association

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

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

22 May 2020

Communique from the Branch Chairman

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

It is now two months since I was in last contact. The purpose of this communique is two-fold.

First, I wanted to reach out to you all and record my admiration for a task well performed and continuing.

During the most significant shut down of personal freedoms in memory attendant to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, notably in domestic movement and social assemblage, you have all met the mandated requirements honourably and without rancour. In a manifestly Australian way, you have enthusiastically committed to the overall community cause of meeting the targets and protocols set by National and State referral bodies. The result of this surge of aligned interests has been the marked flattening of the predicted disease uptake curve and minimisation of deaths.

Queensland COVID-19 statistics at 21 May can be summarised as:

Total cases = 1,058. Total tests = 166,877. Lives lost = 6.

Detailed statistics and current information on health checks is available at:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19>

Our strong health response in Queensland does mean we are well positioned for recovery. A three phase 'Roadmap' for easing restrictions commenced 15 May and will be further enhanced on 12 June and 10 July 2020. Please refer for details at:

<https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/government-actions/roadmap-to-easing-queenslands-restrictions>

Many uplifting stories of personal help and assistance to those living alone and in need have aired in the media. I know that this OAA group of exceptional volunteers have contributed selflessly in this manner.

Second, I wanted to advise that your Branch Committee has met successfully twice via Zoom (8 April and 13 May) to keep abreast of National Office and Government pronouncements. The imposed isolation measures and closure of Government House have of course curtailed a number of planned functions including ANZAC day commemoration, Award presentations, luncheons to greet new Awardees and the Queen's Birthday dinner. We are primed for action once the capacity to undertake events is restored. I know that our Regional Coordinators are similarly anxious to get back

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to normal scheduling of activities. Our collective primary role is to service our esteemed membership.

The 2020 National AGM was held via TEAMS on Saturday 9 May. The total membership of OAA is now 8208. All reports are available at: <https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/national/agm/>. The following National positions have been filled: Treasurer: Muriel Barasso OAM; Membership Director: Helene Bender OAM; Deputy Chairman: John Archer OAM.

The Darwin 2020 National Conference was cancelled as a consequence of the COVID-19 situation. While the Board prefers that the 2021 National Conference be held in Darwin there are uncertainties re the COVID-19 situation (eg: State & Territory restriction differences, Airline availability, lead times for planning and member attendance) that make a definitive decision impractical at this time.

The Order magazine ought to be available on 25 May. Some 29% of members receive the journal electronically.

In signing off I wish you and yours good health and know that you will continue to assist others in keeping spirits up.

Kind regards

Gary



Dr Gary Bacon AM, Chairman OAA Queensland Branch.

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