



Queensland Branch

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



To be presented by
Dr Gary Bacon AM,
Chairman, Queensland Branch

at

the 41st Annual General Meeting

Monday 22 March 2021

The VC Suite, Level 1, Kedron Wavell Services Club,
21 Kitty Hawk Drive, Chermside, Brisbane

*"To foster love of and pride in Australian citizenship and
to uphold the high principles and prestige of the Order of Australia."*

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1. Summary

It is with pleasure that I present the fortieth (40th) Annual Report of the Queensland Branch of The Order of Australia Association in my first year as Chairman.

It has been a year unlike any other in our four decade history with the COVID 19 worldwide pandemic taking centre stage and as a consequence curtailing a number of our regular annual activities.

It is appropriate to mention here at the start of reporting, the awe and respect in which I hold the individuals and communities of Queensland for their compliance with the many edicts issued by authorities to ensure our safety and wellbeing in the face of this deadly pandemic assault. The undoubted success and manifestation of this whole of society uptake and alignment with designated protocols is to be found in the metrics, viz.

Total cases: 1,347	Cases per 1M: 269	Deaths : 6	(Queensland)
29.002	1130	909	(Australia)
116M	14,978	2.59M	(World) (at 7 March 2021)

I am proud to be a Queenslander.

Despite the imposed constraints on face to face meetings, social distancing and travel, the viability of the Association within Queensland, together with a strong commitment to serving our dispersed membership was maintained. This was effected by a dedicated and always enthused Branch Committee and the Regional Conveners. We found new means of keeping in personal touch with our constituents (WhatsApp and the like) and holding virtual Branch meetings via ZOOM. Our first joint meeting between Branch Committee and Regional Conveners was facilitated on the ZOOM platform. TEAMS was the preferred app with National office.

Little did we realise that our 2020 Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner on 24 February would soon be followed by March lockdowns across Australia. Just before the boom was lowered, 45 members attended a lunch at Bongaree on Bribie Island and our Branch participated in the Commonwealth Day Multi-Faith Service conducted by the Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship, Brisbane at St John's Cathedral on 9 March. Then started the lean period with Government House Investitures markedly reduced to almost on an individual private basis and meeting venues closed for neigh six months. Resurgence began on 14 September when easing of restrictions enabled our Central Queensland Regional Group to conduct an excellent lunch at Rockhampton with 35 members in attendance. This was followed by,

- 50 members lunching at Birtinya, Sunshine Coast on 29 October 2020;
- 71 members attending morning tea at the Gardens Club in the Brisbane City Botanic Gardens on 26 November 2020;
- 57 members meeting for lunch at the Downs Club, Toowoomba on 16 December 2020;

- 171 guests including 47 new award recipients attending a Welcome Celebratory Lunch for 2020 Award Recipients at Kedron Wavell Services Club, Brisbane on 10 February 2021.
- 63 guests including 2 new award recipients meeting for Lunch at Gunabul Homestead, Gympie on 4 March 2021.

Thus we ended the reporting year on a high note with a “flurry” of events which gave a lot of cheer to members who had before September, been starved of social interaction.

The Branch also finished the financial calendar year on a sound high as reported separately by our efficient Treasurer *Ronda Nix OAM*. I thank her for her meticulous oversight and assistance with event bookings.

Association merchandise sales took place at several events during 2020 as a useful service to members. My thanks to *Paula Penfold AM*, the merchandising officer for maintaining this service with help from husband *Graham Hyde OAM*.

Two casualties of the pandemic in 2020 were the Queen’s Birthday Dinner and the annual Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards presented at Parliament House. I am pleased, however, to report that the Queensland Branch intends to revive both in 2021, with Tattersalls Club booked for 14 June for hosting the former with the Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship, Brisbane.

The Queensland Branch Committee continued to meet each month, seven by ZOOM technology and five in-person at the Toowong Brisbane City Council library. The Branch decided to purchase ZOOM –Pro given its demonstrated usefulness.

There was a successful inaugural combined meeting of the Branch Committee and Regional Conveners held on line using ZOOM for Meetings on 9 December 2020. Nine Committee members and four of the 8 Regional Conveners attended. All in attendance, particularly the Regional Conveners, voted this communication channel and airing of challenges such a great success that another such meeting is planned later this year.

The following are the highlights of the activities of the Queensland Branch since the previous Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in February 2020 and leading up to tonight’s AGM.



2. The 2020 Queensland Branch Committee

The following members of the Association were elected to the Branch Committee at the 40th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 24 February 2020.

- **Chairman:** *Dr Gary Bacon AM*
- **Deputy Chairman:** *Dr Mick Davis AM ASM*
- **Secretary:** *Mr Ross Patching OAM*
- **Treasurer:** *Mrs Ronda Nix OAM*

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

- Dr Carol Cox AM (Regional Groups Coordinator)
- Mrs Marjorie Voss OAM
- Mrs Kathy Wooldridge OAM
- Mr Darryl Seccombe OAM (Membership Officer)
- Mr Graham Hyde OAM (Newsletter Editor)
- Ms Paula Penfold AM (Merchandise Officer);
- Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ (subsequently elected as Queensland Branch Nominated Director on the National Board)

Associate Professor John Harden AM – The By Laws at the time provided John automatic membership on the Branch Committee for one year as the Immediate Past Chairman of the Queensland Branch.

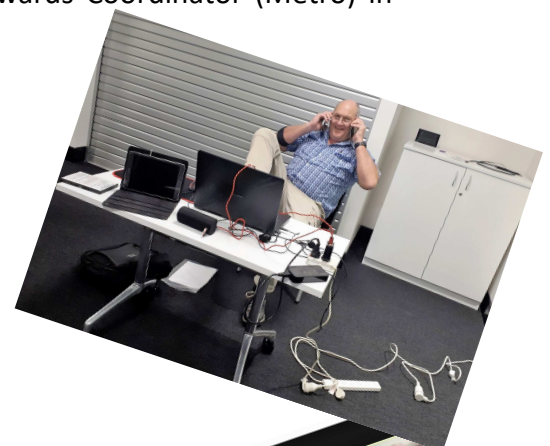
Mr Geoff Cowles OAM - The Branch Committee at its meeting held on 11 March 2020 co-opted Geoff onto the Branch Committee as Events and Awards Coordinator (Metro) in accord with the then By Law 20.8 (h).



The 2020 elected Committee introduced at the AGM on 24 February 2020

From L – R – Darryl Seccombe OAM; Graham Hyde OAM; Paula Penfold AM, Marjorie Voss OAM; Ronda Nix OAM; Dr Mick Davis AM ASM; Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ; Kathy Wooldridge OAM; Dr Gary Bacon AM; Dr Carol Cox AM; Ross Patching OAM. **Additional Committee members -Left Insert** Associate Professor John Harden AM (automatic election as Immediate Past Chairman). **Right Insert** Geoff Cowles OAM (co-opted after AGM)

Top right – A wired up Queensland Branch Secretary Ross trying to work out Zoom connections at the November 2020 Committee meeting in the Toowong Library.



Bottom right – A moment during the September 2020 Committee meeting conducted by Zoom technology with all members working from home.



With the agreement of all the Committee, brief Bios were written and entered into the Queensland Section of the OAA web site for the information of the Queensland Branch membership. These are attached as Appendix B on page 25. It is my intention, with the consent of the new Committee, to expand these Bios to include the Regional Conveners in 2021. In addition, Position Descriptions were compiled for all Branch Committee positions so that current and future incumbents have an aide-memoire re duties expected. There were thirteen well attended committee meetings throughout the year. In addition, business was transacted “out of session” via “flying minutes” as well as email communication with all committee members.



3. The 2020 Regional Group Conveners

I offer my personal thanks to the following members who have continued in their role as Regional Group Convener of their respective regional groups throughout 2020.

Regional Group	Convener
Gold Coast	Clive Mitchell-Taylor OAM
Sunshine Coast	Marjorie Voss OAM
Darling Downs	Professor Paul McNally OAM
Wide Bay Burnett	Donna Duncan OAM
Central Queensland	Wal Taylor OAM
Mackay Whitsunday	Carmel Daveson AM
Townsville	David Jackson OAM
Far North Queensland	Carole Miller OAM

All Regional Group Conveners have been invited and assisted to attend this Annual General Meeting. Our eight regional groups play a very significant role in servicing members and keeping them interested and involved in the Association. Queensland is a very decentralized State with 48.1% of the total Queensland Branch membership (560 out of 1163 members) residing outside the Brisbane Metro area in these regions. The importance of having strong regional groups cannot be overstated and the Regional Conveners are the “glue” that keeps each Regional Group strong and viable. I thank the National Office for such recognition via financial support.

I extend my thanks to *Dr Carol Cox AM* who took on the role of coordinating the activities of the regional groups with drive and enthusiasm, acting as a trusted conduit between the Regional Conveners and the Queensland Branch Committee throughout the year.

4. The 2020 Annual Dinner

One hundred and twenty-three guests attended a most enjoyable Annual Dinner on Monday 24 February 2020 in the Ballroom at Victoria Park in the Victoria Park Golf Complex at Herston in Brisbane.

As has been past practice, the Annual General Meeting of the Queensland Branch preceded the Dinner and was well attended by forty-one Association members.

This year’s colourful guest speaker was *Bill Kitson PSM*, one of Queensland’s best known surveyors and a highly respected spatial historian. Bill spoke on the topic “*Surveying Heritage, Our Glorious Past*’. Bill proved to be a highly effective communicator. His passion for preserving surveying heritage and his generosity in sharing his unsurpassed knowledge of the spatial industry was very evident. The audience was privileged to see first hand some amazing historic photos of early Queensland during Bill’s presentation. As is his wont, Bill spoke “off the cuff” and without a lectern.

The 2020 Annual Dinner - continued



Three images from the Annual Dinner

Top left Enjoying a pre dinner drink on the Ballroom Verandah

Top right – Our colourful guest speaker – Bill Kitson PSM – speaking splendidly “off the cuff”

Bottom left A section of the 123 guests enjoying Bill Kitson’s presentation

At the Dinner three outstanding Queensland senior volunteers received their Queensland Branch Senior Volunteer Awards from *Michael Rayner AM* representing Blight Rayner Architecture, the award sponsor. (Refer to separate article on page 15 of this report.

During proceedings the Queensland Branch also recognised the collective long service of *Associate Professor John Harden AM* (retiring Branch Chairman); *Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO* (retiring Deputy Chairman); *Mr Geoff Cowles OAM* (retiring Secretary) as well as retiring Committee members *Mr Royce Voss OAM*, *Mr Patrick Galligan OAM* and *Mr Raymond Young OAM*.



5. Queensland Branch celebratory event to welcome new 2020 award recipients – *Wednesday 10 February 2021*

It has been usual practice for the Queensland Branch Committee to hold two Welcome Celebratory Lunches for Award Recipients each year, one in May at the time of the Investitures at Government House for the Australia Day awardees and one in October at the time of the Investitures for the Queen's Birthday awardees. However, in this most unusual year where COVID 19 took the limelight, Government House opted for individual Investitures spread across several months of 2020, to meet social distancing protocols, as opposed to groups of Investitures over 4 days in May and October. As a consequence, the long established practice of Government House affording the Association VIP status at Investitures each year for new award recipients in both the Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Honours also had to be curtailed.

Against this background the Queensland Branch Committee decided to conduct a delayed event on 10 February 2021 for both the award recipients from Australia Day and Queen's Birthday 2020 from the greater Brisbane Metro area.

Forty-seven of 127 Queensland recipients of Order of Australia Awards in the 2020 Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Honours from the Greater Brisbane Metro Area were special guests at the Luncheon on Wednesday 10 February 2021 in the Blue Pacific Room, Kedron Wavell Services Club, Chermside, Brisbane. In total, 171 guests were present, including recipients, their families and friends and 24 Association members and their guests. 26 of the 47 award recipients were from the 2020 Australia Day Honours and 21 from the Queen's Birthday Honours.



What a marvelous parade of outstanding Queenslanders on show at the one time – 43 of the 47 award recipients from the 2020 Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Honours, present at The Order of Australia Association, Queensland Branch celebratory welcome lunch in the Blue Pacific Room, Kedron Wavell Services Club on Wednesday 10 February 2021.

Queensland Branch celebratory event to welcome new 2020 award recipients – continued



Left – Portion of the 171 guests in attendance at the Celebratory Welcome Lunch



Right – The 47 award recipients standing as one to thank the Queensland Branch for hosting the event.

Acknowledging the uniqueness of the 2020 year and impact on Awardees, the Queensland Branch Committee decided, in addition, to welcome local 2020 Awardees at all the regional group lunches. These events are described later in this report.



6. Queensland Branch Morning Tea

“Coming out of Covid Morning Tea with a Historical Twist” – The Gardens Club, Brisbane City Botanic Gardens – Thursday 26 November 2020

As mentioned previously, following the Annual Dinner and AGM held on 24 February 2020, no further events were organised by the Queensland Branch Committee for the next nine months due to Government public indoor dining restrictions in Queensland designed to control the COVID 19 pandemic.

The easing of these restrictions enabled the Queensland Branch to stage its “Coming out of Covid Morning Tea with a Historical Twist” on Thursday 26 November 2020 at the Gardens Club, located in the beautiful Brisbane City Botanic Gardens.

The Art Nouveau style building used by the Gardens Club is steeped in history. It was built as a curator’s residence in 1908 and is the third home to be built here; the other two succumbing to the weather. During World War II it was used as a ward room for the WRAN officers of “HMAS Moreton”. After the War it was again used as a curator’s residence until the 1980s when Harold Caulfield AM, the last curator of these gardens

retired. As part of the 1987 redevelopment, it was remodelled into a restaurant and kiosk and was opened in September 1989. The building's interior boasts some very endearing features. It is one of Brisbane's hidden gems.

Seventy-one (71) guests attended, which represented a magnificent turnout for a Queensland Branch morning tea. No doubt this was in part, a response to members having been deprived of social interaction for such a long period.



Top left - The Art Nouveau style building used by the Gardens Club is steeped in history.

Top right – Dr Denver Beanland AM addresses the gathering

Bottom right – Dr Beanland emphasizes a key point during his address.

Bottom left – Portion of the 71 guests enjoying fellowship at the morning tea.

Our guest speaker, recognized in the 2020 Australia Day Honours, was *Dr Denver Beanland AM*, who, in addition to his distinguished past service to the Queensland Parliament and the Brisbane City Council, is also Chairman of the Royal Historical Society Queensland. Dr Beanland gave a most interesting and stimulating insight into the first decade of Queensland from 1859 to 1870, highlighting the humble beginnings of Queensland and the key “movers and shakers” of the day.

This event was just the tonic the Queensland Branch metro members needed after such a long period of inactivity.

7. Regional events in 2020

7.1 The Sunshine Coast Regional Group Lunch – Wednesday 4 March 2020

Just in time before the enforced pandemic lockdowns, the Sunshine Coast Regional Group organized an enterprising lunch at Serenity at the Waterways, Bongaree, Bribie Island. The event was attended by 45 guests including a good contingent of Queensland Branch Committee members who made the trip up to the event from Brisbane to support the local group.



Left – Some of the guests in attendance enjoy fellowship over morning tea

Right – Gary Voss, the guest speaker addresses the gathering.

Centre - Allan, on behalf of Allan and Louise, the managers of Serenity at the Waterways receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Marjorie Voss OAM, Regional Group Convener.

Guest speaker was Mr Gary Voss, a retired Engineer who is a rescue boat skipper with VMR Bribie Island and a senior crew trainer for the squadron. He is secretary of the Executive Committee of VMR. As well as leading a rescue crew on Bribie Island, Gary is involved in the development and delivery of maritime training to VMR squadrons across Queensland and regularly leads public safety awareness seminars both at VMR and in the community. His talk about his activities was well received by those present.



7.2. The Central Queensland Regional Group Lunch- Monday 14 September 2020

As first Queensland cab off the rank after the enforced hiatus, a full venue of thirty-five (35) attendees (members and guests and new award recipients) enjoyed an excellent luncheon event organized by *Wal Taylor OAM*, the Central Queensland Regional Group Convener at the Frenchville Sports Club, Rockhampton on Monday 14 September 2020.

The Central Queensland Regional Group Lunch- Monday 14 September 2020 - continued

Three (3) local 2020 award recipients were welcomed and introduced and their citations read out.

The excellent Guest speaker was *John Abbott AM*, the Chancellor of the Central Queensland University and one of the 2020 award recipients present. He spoke about his journey from an engineering graduate to his career in Gladstone and working in power, oil and gas and minerals processing before becoming University Chancellor. He is a passionate advocate of regional development and higher education.

During proceedings there was a novel handover ceremony organized by the former Regional Group Convener, *Ray Young OAM* “passing on the baton” to the new Convener *Wal Taylor OAM* who gave a memorable introductory speech to the gathering.

Representing the Queensland Branch Committee at the event were *Dr Gary Bacon AM*, (OAAQ Branch Chairman); *Ronda Nix OAM*, (OAAQ Branch Treasurer); and *Dr Carol Cox AM*, (OAAQ Regional Groups Coordinator).



At the Central Queensland Regional Group Lunch – L-R Wal Taylor OAM (Regional Group Convener); Ronda Nix OAM (Qld Branch Treasurer); Dr Gary Bacon AM (Qld Branch Chairman); Dr Carol Cox AM (Regional Groups Coordinator) and John Abbott AM (guest speaker)



During proceedings there was a novel handover ceremony organized by the former Regional Group Convener, Ray Young OAM (left) “passing on the baton” to the new Convener Wal Taylor OAM (right)



7.3 The Sunshine Coast Regional Group Lunch – Thursday 29 October 2020

A full venue of fifty-one (51) attendees (members and guests and new award recipients) took part in the lunch organised by *Marjorie Voss OAM*, the Sunshine Coast Regional Group Convener, at the Mercure Sunshine Coast Kawana Waters Hotel at Birtinya, a suburb of Kawana Waters on the Sunshine Coast, on Thursday 29 October 2020. Seven (7) local 2020 award recipients were welcomed and introduced and their citations read out.

The Guest speaker was *Ian Mansfield AM CSC*, a consultant specialising in humanitarian assistance and post conflict activities, particularly in the field of landmine action, who was honoured in the 2010 Queen’s Birthday honours who spoke on the interesting and stimulating topic “*Stepping into a Minefield.*”

The Sunshine Coast Regional Group Lunch – Thursday 29 October 2020 – continued

There were several members of the Queensland Branch Committee who made the trip up from Brisbane to attend the event.



The seven local 2020 award recipients welcomed at the lunch.
From L-R Maria Boland OAM; Col Richard Parker AM; Ross Paine OAM; Brian Taylor OAM; Fay Baker OAM; Marlene Owen OAM; and Kenneth Howes OAM



Ian Mansfield AM CSC, the guest speaker is “in full flight” during his talk to the gathering.



A full venue of 51 attendees at the lunch.

7.4 The Darling Downs Regional Group Lunch – Wednesday 16 December 2020

Fifty-seven (57) attendees (members and guests and new award recipients) thoroughly enjoyed the lunch organised by *Paul McNally OAM*, the Darling Downs Regional Group Convener, with able assistance from *Dr Carol Cox AM*, at the historic Downs Club (established in 1889) in the Toowoomba CBD on Wednesday 16 December 2020. Seven local award recipients (six 2020 awardees from the Darling Downs Region and one 2019 awardee from Wondai) were welcomed and introduced and their citations read out.

The Guest speaker was *Sheena Liley OAM*, a trustee and Chair of the Empire Theatre Foundation which helps develop performing arts skills in talented youth across the Toowoomba region, and one of the 2020 award recipients present. Sheena gave good insight into the effect that the COVID 19 pandemic has had on Toowoomba’s iconic Empire Theatre.

Representing the Queensland Branch Committee at the event were *Dr Gary Bacon AM*, (OAAQ Branch Chairman); *Ronda Nix OAM*, (OAAQ Branch Treasurer); *Geoff Cowles OAM*, (OAAQ Events and Awards Coordinator [Metro]) and the local *Dr Carol Cox AM* (OAAQ Regional Groups Coordinator).

The Darling Downs Regional Group Lunch – Wednesday 16 December 2020- continued

The Group was very privileged to be able to hold the event in the historic Downs Club. For many years, this former private club was “off limits” to the general public but is now available to interested outside groups for social events. The late Victorian building is fully restored but still retains the elegance and charm of an earlier era.



7.5 Sunshine Coast Regional Group Lunch – Thursday 4 March 2021

Sixty-three (63) attendees thoroughly enjoyed the lunch held in Gympie at Gunabal Homestead, a magnificent “Queenslander” built in 1885, complete with an imposing verandah overlooking a scenic golf course. The event took place in the very ornate functions room with its 13 foot ceilings.



The guest speaker was Brian Taylor OAM, a local author, who shared stories about his incredibly interesting life as a drover, stockman, fencer, shearer and saddler and his involvement in the development and mapping of the Bicentennial National Trail. Two (2) local 2020 award recipients were welcomed and introduced and their citations read out and a special guest was Glen Hartwig, the Mayor of Gympie Regional Council.

8. 2020 Senior Volunteer Awards

The Association continued its Senior Volunteer Awards program in 2020.

The judging panel for the 2020 awards consisted of *Dr Mick Davis AM ASM* (Chairman), *Professor Paul McNally OAM*, and *Mrs Kathy Wooldridge OAM*. The panel has selected three worthy volunteers to receive this Award. My thanks to Mick, Paul and Kathy 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 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 2021.

I also wish to acknowledge the continuing generous 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.



At the Annual Dinner at the Victoria Park Ballroom on 24 February 2020. Flanked by the Queensland Branch Chairman, Dr Gary Bacon AM (far left) and the Awards sponsor Michael Rayner AM from Blight Rayner, Architects (far right) are the three winners of the 2020 Senior Volunteer Awards, from L-R – Marion Emery, Yeronga; Ken Mewburn OAM (Caloundra) * and Joyce Ridgway (Harristown).

* Note: Ken Mewburn OAM received his OAM in the 2021 Australia Day Honours after receiving his Senior Volunteer Award.

9. Membership Trends

9.1 Membership uptake by new award recipients

There were 237 Queensland recipients who received awards in the Order of Australia in 2020 and 84 of these are now members of The Order of Australia Association. This represents 35.4% of the total number of 2020 Queensland recipients joining the Association compared with 41% last year (118 of 268 recipients joining). This decrease in membership uptake of 5.6% can be attributed in part to the extended period of event inactivity within the Queensland Branch due to the pandemic and the resultant need to delay our Celebratory Welcome lunches.

We welcomed 65 Queensland 2020 recipients at lunches and of these 32 (49.2%) are members. In 2019 the percentage of lunch recipients joining was 78.9%. Given the challenges of this year this lower than previous uptake of lunch recipients joining the Association is acceptable.

9.2 Current Queensland Branch Member statistics as at March 2021

As at 7 March 2021 there were 1163 current members of the Queensland Branch. The following table provides a breakdown of the various types of current memberships, with corresponding statistics as reported in the previous Annual Report in February 2020, in brackets.

Type of membership	March 2021		February 2020	
	Number	% of total current members	Number	% of total current members
Paid life members	646	55.5%	(663)	(58.5%)
Life members by installment	11	1%	(7)	(0.6%)
Annual Members	341	29.3%	(336)	(29.6%)
Three Year Members	164	14.1%	(127)	(11.2%)
Honorary Members (Governor of Queensland)	1	0.1%	(1)	(0.1%)
Total Qld Branch Members	1163	100%	(1134)	(100%)

As at 7 March 2021 a pleasing 1031 members out of the total of 1163 members (88.6%) have provided email addresses for the membership database. Broadcast emails are the preferred means of communicating upcoming events and Association news to the wider membership.

Darryl Seccombe OAM has worked with the National office on tracking additions and removals from the membership data lists and I record my thanks.

Geoff Cowles OAM, the Events and Awards Coordinator (Metro), has updated his statistical tables relating to membership uptake of new award recipients, compiled over the past 5 years, which are appended to this report on page 21 as **Appendix A**. Added to these statistics are tables showing the ratio of male and female award recipients and the number of awardees by Queensland regions over the same 5 year period.



10. Queensland Branch Communications

10.1 The Order Magazine

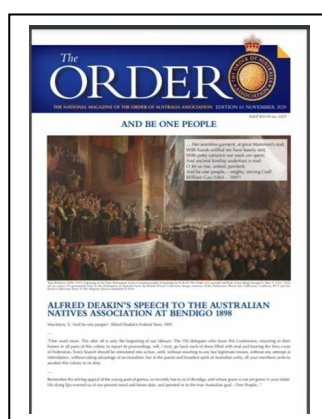
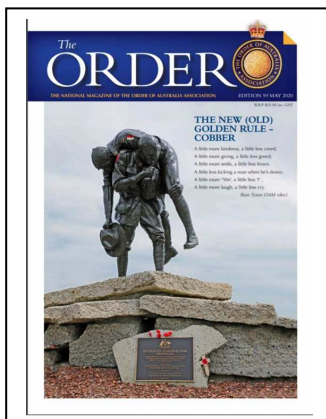
Newsworthy articles for the dedicated three pages assigned to the Queensland Branch in each of the four editions of the national magazine *The Order* continued to be produced to a high standard. Our pages have been well received by the Queensland membership and interested members from other Branches. Out of interest, 36% of Queensland Branch members have chosen to receive *The Order* electronically.

Graham Hyde OAM continued as Editor of the Queensland Branch pages of *The Order* and I thank Graham for his dedication in this role.

10.2 Communicating to members via Communiqués from the Queensland Branch Chairman

To supplement the quarterly communication members receive via *The Order* National magazine, I have been sending out short Communiqués via broadcast emails, some with additional attachments, to Queensland members at various times throughout 2020. This has proved a means to bring newsy items of interest to the attention of members that would not be possible to convey in a timely fashion within *The Order* magazine. A core theme concentrated on the pandemic and its effects, reminding members to keep in safe contact with those in the community who needed support and observe Government directions and any restrictions imposed at the time.

Communiqués were sent out in March, May, July and September 2020.



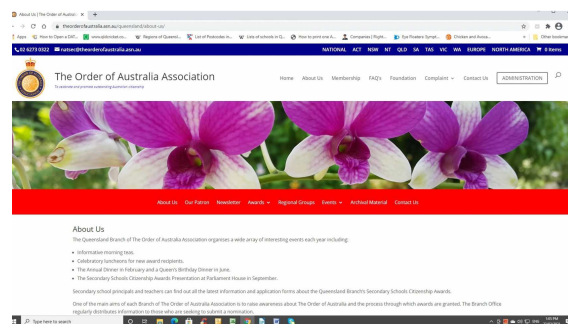
Covers of *The Order* Magazines – left: May 2020 and Right: November 2020

Portion of 1st page of The Chairman's Communiqué - September 2020

10.3 Communicating to members via the Association website

The Queensland segment of the OAA National website was maintained with material provided to the national webmaster by *Geoff Cowles OAM* (OAAQ Events and Awards Coordinator). The website contains lots of advice about upcoming events and our two awards as well as listing the Branch Chairman's quarterly Communiqués. Pictorial records of recent past events have been added and archival material has been kept up to date as far as is practicable.

I urge members to make it a habit to visit our website from time to time at <http://theorderofaustralia.asn.au> to keep up to date with what is happening in the Association, particularly national matters.



Our Queensland Branch Home page at
<https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/queensland/about-us/>

10.4 Purchase of a Queensland Branch Promotional Banner

The Queensland Branch Committee has been keen for some time to participate in an Anzac Day March. We agreed that an approach be made to the Anzac Day March Committee to try to have the Queensland Branch included in the 2020 Parade. All those plans were turned upside down due with the Anzac Day March being cancelled in Brisbane in 2020.

Nevertheless the Queensland Branch Committee agreed to proceed with the purchase of an impressive promotional banner for the dual purposes of using this at selected events and for a possible future Anzac Day March or other outside events the Branch may care to organize in the future.



10.5 Queensland Branch and COVID 19 Plans

The welfare of our members and friends is paramount and thus the Queensland Branch took most seriously the need to acknowledge and conform to regulations relating to the use of COVID 19 Plans.

To this effect we insisted that all activities that were conducted under the banner of OAA Queensland required the event organizer to formally report in accordance with the National Office COVID plan, the modified Queensland Branch COVID Plan and conformity with the venue obligations certified under State Medical Officer protocols.



11. Queensland Branch Activity at the National Level

Our 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 essential task for the Queensland Branch members.

Graham Hyde OAM, a member of our Queensland Branch Committee, was appointed in July 2020 as National Secretary to fill the casual vacancy that existed for the position. He is expected to seek election to the position at the coming National elections. Congratulations Graham on accepting this important national position.

During 2020 the governance documents for the Association (the Constitution and By-Laws) continued to be reviewed and the Queensland Branch Committee had input into the review process taking every opportunity to make comment on various drafts of these documents when invited to do so. The new Constitution was approved at a special National Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) held virtually via TEAMS platform on 17 December 2020. The By Laws were adopted by the National Board on 21 December 2020.

It is with regret that due to the pandemic the much anticipated Darwin National Conference scheduled in May had to be cancelled. I am aware that quite a number of Queensland members had booked for that event. However the decision by the National Board to cancel the event is perfectly understandable. A decision was also reached that there will be no National Conference during 2021 either, with the next Conference scheduled for Canberra in 2022.

12. Closing Remarks

In spite of the obvious and documented challenges encountered, I put to you that the Queensland Branch has had a successful year. The year ahead is full of promise with agendas for regional and metro events well into the planning stage.

I reiterate my thanks to the members of the Queensland Branch Committee and to the Regional Conveners for their enthusiasm, and professionalism during these sometimes testing times. We have a happy, strong, inclusive team dedicated to servicing the members and their interests. I would, in particular, thank our Secretary *Ross Patching OAM* who has had to bear the brunt of the myriad of technology and health issues in organizing our virtual and in-person meetings. Ross has gone about his work with dedication and a minimum of fuss.

2020 was my first year as Chairman of the Queensland Branch.

I had the pleasure of representing the Queensland Branch at three events hosted by the Governor of Queensland who is also our Patron, viz.

- 1 October 2020 – Queen’s Birthday afternoon tea
- 8 March 2021 - 72nd Commonwealth Day luncheon
- 15 March 2021 – Launch of the publication ‘*The Governors of Modern Queensland*’

The Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship Brisbane hosted the colourful and entertaining 2020 and 2021 Commonwealth Day Multicultural Services at St John’s Cathedral which I attended with other Branch Committee members. Our Deputy Chairman *Dr Mick Davis AM ASM* is a fine link between the two organisations as he is a paid up senior member of both.

On Australia Day 2021 I gave the formal address at the Caboolture Historical Village sponsored by the Light Horse Troop and Military Museum Association.

It is a goal of mine to visit every region and attend at least one of their events. Only three of the eight regions have so far been ticked. I do here thank the Conveners of the Sunshine Coast, Rockhampton and Darling Downs regions for their kind invitations.

I continue to enjoy the satisfaction and uplift that comes from the privilege of meeting you and the many Awardees and Members who are outstanding Australians. When one reads of the selfless and commendable contributions each has made to our society, you know that any effort expended in their service is just mandatory. The structural fibre of our unique country is enhanced by every one of you and your colleagues and associates who have been recognized by the award of an Order of Australia. Do not forget the opportunity of nominating for award those fellow Australians who by dint of hard work and sacrifice have convinced you of their worth and acknowledgement.

In closing I do sincerely thank you for your presence here this evening. I encourage you to continue to take an active interest in the Association’s activities and participate in events organized for the benefit of members in 2021.

Keep well and safe.

I commend my report to you and move its adoption.

Dr Gary Bacon AM, Chairman

Acknowledgement

I wish to acknowledge the contribution of Geoff Cowles OAM, Events and Awards Coordinator (Metro) in the production of this report.

APPENDIX A TO THE 2020 Queensland Branch Annual Report

Item 9, p16 - Membership Trends – Award recipients 2016 through to 2020

Compiled by Geoff Cowles OAM, Events and Awards Coordinator (Metro)

A. 2020

A.1. Australia Day 2020 only

Total No of recipients	Recipients invited to a lunch *	No who have joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches *	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of invited recipients coming to lunch
115	91	39	33.9%	36	15	41.7%	39.6%

A.2 . Queen's Birthday 2020 only

Total No of recipients	Recipients invited to a lunch *	No who have joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches *	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of invited recipients coming to lunch
122	86	45	36.9%	29	17	58.6%	33.7%

A.3. Combined 2020 Recipients – Australia Day and Queens Birthday

Total No of recipients	Recipients invited to a lunch *	No who have joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches *	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of invited recipients coming to lunch
237	177	84	35.4%	65	32	49.2%	36.7%

* includes for 2020 four regional group events - Central Queensland, Sunshine Coast (2) and Darling Downs, in addition to the combined delayed Celebratory Welcome lunch in Brisbane

B. 2019

B.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%

B.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%

B.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%

Membership Trends – Award recipients 2016 through to 2020 continued

C. 2018

C.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

C.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

C.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%

D. 2017

D.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%

D.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%

D.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%

Membership Trends – Award recipients 2016 through to 2020 continued

E. 2016

E.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%

E.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%

E.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%

Ratio of male (M) to female (F) Queensland recipients – Australia Day 2016 through to Australia Day 2021

Honours	Total No.	M No.	M %	F No.	F %
Australia Day 2016	72	56	77.7	16	22.3
Queen's Birthday 2016	71	46	64.8	25	35.2
Australia Day 2017	87	54	62.0	33	38.0
Queen's Birthday 2017	74	47	63.5	27	36.5
Australia Day 2018	71	49	69.0	22	31.0
Queen's Birthday 2018	115	67	58.3	48	41.7
Australia Day 2019	154	108	70.1	46	29.9
Queen's Birthday 2019	114	82	71.9	32	28.1
Australia Day 2020	115	68	59.1	47	40.9
Queen's Birthday 2020	122	84	68.9	38	31.1
Australia Day 2021	83	54	65.0	29	35.0
Total – AD 2016 to AD 2021	1078	715	66.3	363	33.7

Queensland award recipients by region – Australia Day 2016 through to Australia Day 2021

[AD = Australia Day QB = Queen's Birthday]

Honours	Total No.	Metro	Gold Coast	Sunshine Coast	Darling Downs	Wide Bay Burnett	Central Qld	Mackay W'Sunday	T'ville	Far North Qld
AD 2016	72	45	5	6	4	4	2	0	1	5
QB 2016	71	31	8	6	10	6	0	1	4	5
AD 2017	87	49	9	5	9	6	1	0	5	3
QB 2017	74	38	11	7	4	2	4	2	1	5
AD 2018	71	42	13	6	3	1	0	2	1	3
QB 2018	115	60	8	10	9	9	1	2	9	7
AD 2019	154	82	22	13	15	4	4	1	5	8
QB 2019	114	65	14	11	2	5	3	1	7	6
AD 2020	115	68	11	11	7	6	4	1	1	6
QB 2020	122	60	17	11	11	5	3	1	8	6
AD 2021	83	45	13	9	5	2	2	2	2	3
Totals	1078	585	131	95	79	50	24	13	44	57



The Order of Australia Association

To celebrate and promote outstanding Australian citizenship



APPENDIX B to the 2020 Annual Report

2020 QUEENSLAND BRANCH COMMITTEE BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES



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.

2020 QUEENSLAND BRANCH COMMITTEE BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES



Source: Queensland Newspapers

Deputy Chair - Dr Michael John (Mick) Davis AM, ASM - FPA, LMFP, 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

2020 QUEENSLAND BRANCH COMMITTEE BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES



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.

2020 QUEENSLAND BRANCH COMMITTEE BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES



Membership Officer - Darryl R Secombe 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.

2020 QUEENSLAND BRANCH COMMITTEE BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES



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.

2020 QUEENSLAND BRANCH COMMITTEE BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES



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, BSc.(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.

2020 QUEENSLAND BRANCH COMMITTEE BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES



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 has lived in Brisbane since that time. He was educated at Seville Road State School, Holland Park (1956 to 1963) and Cavendish Road High School, Holland Park (1964 and 1965). Geoff gained a Certificate in Chemistry from Queensland Institute of Technology (now QUT) in 1970. He enjoyed a 47 year 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. Among a number of organizations he has served, he has been a member of the Ferny Districts Cricket Club Inc, Ferny Grove, Brisbane since 1991 and a life member since 2004. 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.



Notes

*“To foster love of and pride in Australian citizenship and
to uphold the high principles and prestige of the Order of Australia.”*

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