

## Communique from the Branch Chair

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

Most of the east coast of our nation has experienced lockdowns of varying spatial coverage and duration of late. That array of inconvenience has been well absorbed by the majority but small business in particular hurts. We need to have our local goods and services providers' front of mind when we spend a dollar.

Uplift over this period of uncertainty has been provided by the athletes of the world who weathered the constraints and competed in the heat of Tokyo before digital audiences. A pandemic wearied world salutes the Japanese people for progressing with the holding of the 2020 games a year later under the most testing of conditions. Her Majesty The Queen led a chorus of salutations, viz.

"I send my warmest congratulations to the competitors from Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and across the Commonwealth, following their success at the Olympic Games in Tokyo in recent weeks. The skill, determination and hard work shown by the athletes and their support teams throughout the unique and challenging circumstances of the last year has been an inspiration to us all. I extend my very best wishes to everyone who has played a part in this extraordinary achievement."

Our own Australian team out-performed expectations and gave us hair raising moments of sporting theatre and euphoria. We each have a treasured memory or three and can draw inspiration from feats a star trek beyond our capability. However, 'twas the noble spirit and decency of participation of our representatives that provides the lasting legacy. Undoubtedly the follow on 2020 Paralympic Games, scheduled to be held also in Tokyo between 24 August and 5 September 2021 will provide further examples of impressive sporting ambassadors from our shores.

The Victoria League Brisbane has provided a heads-up on the release of the official emblem for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The Queen will become the first British monarch to celebrate 70 years of service. Princess Elizabeth was 25 years old when her father King George VI died and she acceded to the throne on February 6, 1952.



<https://www.royal.uk/queens-platinum-jubilee-emblem>

The emblem will be used for all official merchandise commemorating The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and across digital and social media. The emblem was designed by 19 year old graphic design student Edward Roberts, from Nottinghamshire, and selected as the winning entry in the Jubilee Emblem Competition, run in conjunction with the V&A Museum.

We can expect to observe this logo a lot as there will be a break-out of events with that 'trademark' attached occurring in Australia and throughout the world, given that 54 nations constitute the Commonwealth of Nations. The

concentration of activities during 2022 will naturally be within the 15 Commonwealth Realms who in addition to the UK have The Queen as their Monarch. If you care to investigate further the respective compositions then head over to: <https://www.royal.uk/commonwealth-and-overseas>

On our local scene a well -attended Far North Queensland region function was held 31 July at the Mountain View Hotel, Little Mulgrave and heard about the history of the Gillies Highway. Unfortunately due to pandemic constraints the Metro morning tea scheduled for the Queensland Club was cancelled. Still on track are;

- The Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards to be held in Parliament House, Brisbane on 17 September with our Patron the Governor in attendance. 62 nominations were received this year from 53 separate schools.
- The Townsville region dinner at the Townsville RSL on 17 September with two local Awardee speakers.
- Central Queensland Regional lunch in Rockhampton on 27 September with Everal Compton AO, a previous long-term Chair of National Seniors Australia, as guest speaker.
- OAAQ Sunshine Coast Regional morning tea 30 September 2021 at the Bribie Island Volunteer Marine Rescue function room. The guest speaker will be Keith Boulton who is an Honorary Life Member and a volunteer of the Queensland Maritime Museum.
- The Queensland Awardees of a 2021 Order of Australia will be hosted at a lunch by the Queensland Branch in the Ballroom, Victoria Park, on 26 October.

Early this coming September two special National focus days arise.

The first occurs on the first of the month. In 1992, 1 September (the first day of spring) was formally proclaimed as National Wattle Day. This year Australia Post will release a Wattle Wonders series depicting three wattles that do not have yellow flowers, viz. *Acacia leprosa* with red flowers, *Acacia purpureopetala* with purple flowers and *Acacia alata* var. *biglandulosa* with white flowers.



On Friday 3 September 2021 we celebrate the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of flying the first Australian National Flag. The following summary has been gleaned from a number of government portals.



The Australian National Flag is Australia's foremost national symbol and has become an expression of Australian identity and pride. The flag is paraded by our defence forces and displayed around the country at sporting events and by service organisations, schools, community groups and private citizens.

Australian National Flag Day, proclaimed in 1996 as a national day, celebrates the first time the flag was flown on 3 September 1901. On that day Prime Minister Edmund Barton announced the winners of a competition to design a flag for Australia. A large flag, 5.5 metres by 11 metres, was flown over the dome of the Exhibition Building in Melbourne, which was then the seat of the federal government. At that time the flag was known as the Commonwealth blue ensign; later, the flag became known as the Australian National Flag.

The Australian National Flag has three elements on a blue background: the Union Jack, the Commonwealth Star and the Southern Cross. The Union Jack acknowledges the history of British settlement. The Commonwealth or Federation star has seven points representing the unity of the six states and the territories of the Commonwealth of Australia.

As citizens of this favoured nation we ought all to celebrate with pride this special anniversary of the Australian National Flag.

A reminder that more information on The Order of Australia Association both nationally and amongst the State Branches can be readily accessed at; <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/>. There are still some of our members without web access. Perhaps you can assist their digital contact via a family member or friend.

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

28 August 2021



Dr Gary Bacon AM, Chair OAA Queensland Branch.