



Queensland Branch

ANNUAL REPORT

2021



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

at

the 42nd Annual General Meeting

Monday 21 March 2022

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

To celebrate and promote outstanding Australian citizenship'

The Order of Australia Association Limited ACN 008 812 664 – A Company Limited by Guarantee



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1. Summary

It is with pleasure that I present the forty-first Annual Report of the Queensland Branch of The Order of Australia Association in my second year as Chairman.

Despite the Covid 19 pandemic continuing to impact upon our lives in 2021, the Queensland Branch was able to maintain a diverse array of events both in the Brisbane metro area and in the regions for the benefit of Queensland Branch members.

I again express my admiration for my fellow Queenslanders in their stoic and ready compliance with mandated Covid protocols from Official Health Authorities. Without doubt this community adherence to professional advice and edicts has provided the best safety and well being outcomes humanly possible.

It was very pleasing that two of our major Queensland Branch events cancelled due to the pandemic in 2020, could be staged in 2021. These were the Queen's Birthday Dinner held at the Tattersall's Club in Brisbane on Monday 14 June and the Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards Presentation at Parliament House, Brisbane on Friday 17 September.

Another highly successful combined Welcome Celebratory Lunch for both the 2021 Australia Day and Queen's Birthday award recipients was staged in the Ballroom at Victoria Park on Tuesday 26 October. We welcomed a record number of 65 new award recipients at this event attended by a bumper gathering of 238 guests.

Additionally there were also fourteen entertaining and interesting functions held in the regions throughout the year including five morning teas, seven lunches, one informal get together and a dinner. Members enjoyed some fabulous guest speakers at these functions, including the lunch organized by the Central Queensland Regional Group on Monday 21 June in Rockhampton, which it is believed may be the very first regional event organized within a Branch of the Association where an incumbent Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and Chancellor of the Order of Australia was present. All fourteen functions will be described in greater detail later in this report

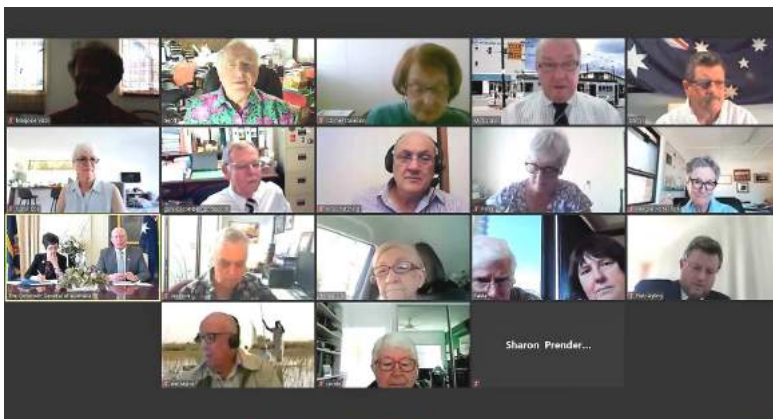
An interesting statistic worth recording in this summary is the total number of bookings received for the combined Queensland Branch functions in the metro area and the fourteen regional group functions. The four metro functions totalled 598 bookings and the fourteen regional group functions 694. That is a staggering 1292 bookings for functions in 2021. Not a bad outcome, given that Covid 19 has at times presented interesting challenges along the way. Well done to the Queensland Branch Committee and the Regional Conveners on an outstanding collective effort in staging good quality functions, cognizant of mandated Health requirements, with such impressive guest numbers.

The Branch finished the financial calendar year on a sound footing 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 2021 as a useful service to members. I offer my thanks to *Kathy Wooldridge OAM*, the merchandising officer for maintaining this service with help from husband *Peter Wooldridge*.

There were eleven well attended committee meetings throughout the year, where considerable Queensland Branch business was transacted. These meetings were a fairly even spread of face to face meetings at the Toowong Library and virtual meetings using Zoom technology due to fluctuating Government Covid 19 mask wearing requirements throughout the year. In addition business was transacted “out of session” via “flying minutes” or by email communication.

The Committee also joined with Queensland Branch regional group conveners in an historic Zoom meeting on 6 October 2021 hosted by His Excellency, *the Honourable General David Hurley AC DSC (Ret’d)*, Governor-General of Australia, in his capacity as Chancellor of the Order of Australia and *Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley*. This meeting was useful to hear the themes of enhancement of the Order of Australia under consideration as well as providing Committee members and regional group conveners an opportunity to raise matters relating to the Order directly with Their Excellencies and Government House staff also present. *David Jackson OAM*, the Townsville Regional Convener, drawing on his first hand experiences in the media, suggested that a media kit ought to be made available before the biannual award announcements. This suggestion has received favourable consideration by the Governor General’s office.



The Committee and regional group conveners at the historic Zoom meeting hosted by His Excellency, the Honourable General David Hurley AC DSC (Ret’d), Governor-General of Australia, in his capacity as Chancellor of the Order of Australia and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley on 6 October 2021.



Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley concluded the meeting with a song with His Excellency the Governor-General listening with great admiration.

Despite the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic continuing in 2021, the Queensland Branch maintained a healthy uptake of new award recipients taking out membership of the Association. This aspect will be reported in greater detail later in this report as item 10 on page 21. Suffice to say that the membership uptake of the 2021 Australia Day award recipients and the 2021 Queen’s Birthday award recipients were 33 out of 83 recipients (39.8%) and 59 out of 122 recipients (48.4%) respectively.

The following items record the more detailed highlights of the activities of the Queensland Branch since the previous Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in March 2021 and leading up to tonight’s AGM.



2. The 2021 Queensland Branch Committee

The following members of the Association were elected or re-elected under their three year terms to the Branch Committee at the 41st Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Monday 22 March 2021.

- **Chairman:** *Dr Gary Bacon AM*
- **Deputy Chairman:** *Dr Mick Davis AM ASM* (also appointed by the Committee as Membership Officer)
- **Secretary:** *Dr Carol Cox AM*
- **Treasurer:** *Mrs Ronda Nix OAM*

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

- *Mr Geoff Cowles OAM* (Awards and Metro Events Coordinator)
- *Mr Graham Hyde OAM* (Newsletter Editor)
- *Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ* (Also re-elected at the AGM as Queensland Branch Nominated Director on the National Board)
- *Mr Ross Patching OAM* (Assistant Secretary)
- *Ms Paula Penfold AM* (Governance and Policy Review Officer – newly created position)
- *Mr Darryl Seccombe OAM* (Regional Groups Coordinator)
- *Mrs Marjorie Voss OAM* (also Convener, Sunshine Coast Regional Group)
- *Mrs Kathy Wooldridge OAM* (Merchandise Officer)

Brief updated Bios of each Branch Committee member are attached as Appendix B on page 31.



The 2021 Queensland Branch Committee members with two visiting Regional Group Conveners at the Annual General Meeting held on 22 March 2021

From L-R *Queensland Branch Committee members* - Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ; Graham Hyde OAM; Paula Penfold AM; Ross Patching OAM; Dr Carol Cox AM (Secretary); Marjorie Voss OAM (also Sunshine Coast Regional Group Convener); Ronda Nix OAM (Treasurer); Geoff Cowles OAM; Dr Gary Bacon AM (Chairman); *Townsville Regional Group Convener* – David Jackson AM; *Queensland Branch Committee members* Kathy Wooldridge; Dr Mick Davis AM ASM (Deputy Chairman) and *Central Queensland Regional Group Convener* -Dr Wallace Taylor OAM. Missing from the main photo but present at the AGM - Darryl Seccombe OAM (*Queensland Branch Committee member*) – refer to inset photo on right hand side.

To thank all members of the Queensland Branch Committee for their loyal and dedicated support to me during a very busy year of activity, I arranged for an end of year Christmas event where Committee members and their spouses or partners were invited to attend. We visited the impressive headquarters of the Queensland Family History Society at Gaythorne in Brisbane and were given an excellent tour of their facilities and an awareness of their family history tracing processes. We also enjoyed a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation from *Sue Reid*, the Society's newest fellow on the topic "*How do I trace my family history*". I presented the Society with a Certificate of Appreciation to commemorate the visit. Afterwards the Committee joined with members of the Society for lunch at our own expense at the Gaythorne RSL Club across the railway line.



"School's in" – The Queensland Branch Committee members and their spouses enjoy the presentation "*How do I trace my family history*" at the Queensland Family History Society visit.



Presenting the Queensland Family History Society with a Certificate of Appreciation to commemorate the visit. From L-R Sue Reid, Society Fellow, Dr Gary Bacon AM, OAAQ Chairman, and Kevin Haley, Society President.



3. The 2021 Regional Group Conveners

I offer my sincere personal thanks to the following members who have continued in their role as Regional Group Convener of their respective regional groups throughout 2021.

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

Our regional groups play a very significant role in servicing members outside the Greater Brisbane Metro area and keeping them interested and involved in the Association. Queensland is a very decentralized State with 48 % of the total Queensland Branch membership (565 out of 1178 members) residing outside the Metro area in these regions. The importance of having strong regional groups cannot be overstated and I reiterate my thanks to the Regional Conveners for keeping each dispersed Regional Group strong and viable.

During December 2021 *Professor Paul McNally OAM* decided to “pull up stumps” and step down from his role as the Convener of the Darling Downs Regional Group after an amazing 32 years of continuous service. The members of the Darling Downs Regional Group are indebted to Paul’s loyalty and dedication in maintaining keen member interest in the region over such a long period of time and for his organization of so many wonderful functions with strong support from his wife Margaret. During that period Paul also served 8 years on the Queensland Branch Committee from 2011 to 2019 and was a former Queensland Branch Newsletter Editor.



Paul’s successor, who has benefitted from Paul’s tutorage for the past two regional functions, is *Megan McNicholl OAM* from Dulacca, 250 kilometres north-west of Toowoomba. Happy retirement Paul and we look forward to a good working rapport with you Megan in the future.

I extend my thanks to *Darryl Seccombe OAM* 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 2021 ‘Black Tie’ Annual Dinner

One hundred and seventeen guests attended a most memorable and enjoyable Annual Dinner on Monday 22 March 2021 in the Blue Pacific Ballroom at Kedron Wavell Services Club in Brisbane. It was a perfect opportunity and venue for Queensland Branch members to enjoy good fellowship together in a relaxed and happy atmosphere.

A well attended Annual General Meeting of the Queensland Branch preceded the Dinner in the VC Suite.

This year’s outstanding and accomplished guest speaker was *Georgina Somerset AM*, a South Burnett beef and rural leader with experience in agribusiness, marketing and regional development, recognised in the 2020 Australia Day Honours. Her many and varied roles include being General President of Agforce Queensland, representing 5500 members of the cattle, grain, sheep and wool and cane industries as well as a director of

the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and founder of the Queensland Rural, Regional and Remote Women's Network.

Her inspiring talk on the topic "*From the Bush to the Board Room*" demonstrated her passionate love of country and was sprinkled with beautiful extracts of Australian poetry and supported by interesting PowerPoint slides of pleasing rural scenery. The audience was thoroughly captivated throughout Georgina's address.

At the Dinner three outstanding Queensland senior volunteers, *Kathy Cavanagh* from Bribie Island; *Christine Houston* from Brisbane and *Janet White* from Townsville received their Queensland Branch Senior Volunteer Awards from *Michael Rayner AM* representing Blight Rayner Architecture, the award sponsor.

At the AGM



Photos from the AGM in the VC Suite

Top left - A good attendance at the meeting.
Top right -Dr Gary Bacon AM, OAAQ Chairman delivering the Annual Report.
Centre - Ross Patching OAM, outgoing Secretary (left) and Dr Carol Cox AM, incoming Secretary handing out ballot papers and AGM papers.



Photos from the Annual Dinner

Top left - Our exceptional guest speaker Georgina Somerset AM.

Top right -L-R Michael Rayner AM (sponsor) with the three senior volunteer award winners Janet White, Christine Houston and Kathy Cavanagh

Bottom right - Geoff Cowles OAM presents Georgina with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Bottom left - Portion of the 117 guests enjoying good fellowship in the Blue Pacific Room.



At the Annual Dinner



5. Queensland Branch celebratory event to welcome new 2021 award recipients – *Tuesday 26 October 2021*

Government House, Brisbane, due to the Covid pandemic continuing to take the limelight, persevered with individual investitures for new 2021 award recipients throughout the year rather than opting for their usual two weeks of multiple recipient investitures in May and October. As such, the Queensland Branch Committee again decided to conduct one delayed combined Welcome Celebratory Lunch for both the Queensland 2021 Australia Day and Queen's Birthday award recipients. This took place on Tuesday 26 October in the Ballroom at Victoria Park, Herston, Brisbane.

A record number of 65 new award recipients (22 from Australia Day and 43 from Queen's Birthday) attended the event, eclipsing the previous record of 47 recipients at the February 2021 lunch.



Photo left – New award recipients on parade at the Welcome Celebratory Lunch on the Victoria Park verandah.



Photo below – A Bumper crowd of 238 guests fill the Victoria Park Ballroom at the lunch on 26 October 2021.

We also had our second best overall attendance ever with 238 guests attending and it was pleasing that there were 41 Association members (who were not new awardees) also present. The Ballroom looked a real treat with the colourful array of 24 tables all filled with guests enjoying the festivities.

With so many award recipients to introduce and welcome at the event, the Committee opted for two sessions of introductions on this occasion and to have two presenters; *Marjorie Voss OAM* convening the first session and *Ronda Nix OAM* the second. This approach was welcomed by the guests in attendance.

6. Gala Black Tie Queen's Birthday Dinner (combining with the Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship, Brisbane)

This was one of our annual functions which did not proceed in 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic. It was, therefore, pleasing that it could be staged this year.

One hundred and twenty guests attended a most memorable and enjoyable Queen's Birthday Dinner on Monday 14 June 2021 in the Ballroom at the Tattersall's Club in Brisbane. It was a perfect opportunity for 86 Queensland Branch members to join with 34 members of the Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship, Brisbane to enjoy good fellowship together in a relaxed and happy atmosphere and to celebrate the 95th Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The theme of the evening was Colonial Queensland and our accomplished guest speaker was *Dr Denver Beanland AM*, author, historian, former Queensland Member of Parliament, Brisbane Alderman and Deputy Mayor. He delivered a well-researched speech with the theme "*The Queen's land: Queensland*". Guests were led on an interesting and historical journey from early settlement to the establishment of the colony of Queensland in December 1859. Denver's unusual title of his talk stemmed from the fact that 'Queen's Land' was as it was first written by Queen Victoria and that Secretary of State for the Colonies, Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, amended it to one word 'Queensland'.

During the evening the guests were thoroughly entertained by two performances of colonial and contemporary Australian songs from a young singing trio *Elizabeth and Emma Hambleton* and *Elizabeth Wheeler* with guitarist *Harry Jans*. A highlight was their stirring performance of Bruce Woodley's "*I am Australian*" with everyone invited to join in, which they did with great voice.

The function was ably compered by *Mrs Dina Browne AO*.

The event was organized by a planning committee comprising members from both organizations. *Marjorie Voss OAM*, *Royce Voss OAM*, *Dr Mick Davis AM ASM* and myself represented the Queensland Branch which was the lead organization for planning on this occasion. My thanks to Marjorie, Royce and Mick for their valued contributions towards the success of the function.



Great crowd and great atmosphere at the Queen's Birthday Dinner

Gala Black Tie Queen's Birthday Dinner



Great entertainment performed by singing trio *Elizabeth and Emma Hambleton* and *Elizabeth Wheeler* with guitarist *Harry Jans*.



Guest speaker, Dr Denver Beanland AM (left) being presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from Dina Browne AO, the evening's MC.



Dr Denver Beanland AM,
the evening's accomplished
guest speaker

7. 2021 Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards

Members may recall that the 2020 event was postponed due to Covid 19 Government restrictions, so it was most satisfying that the awards could go ahead in 2021. We received an excellent response of 62 nominations of worthy year 12 students from 53 Secondary Schools comprising a good sprinkling of both State High Schools and private colleges from across Queensland.

The Honourable Paul de Jersey AC CVO, as Governor of Queensland, presented the Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards at the 22nd annual Awards Presentation Ceremony in the Premiers' Hall of Queensland's Parliament House on Friday 17 September 2021. This was the fifth occasion during his tenure as Governor of Queensland that he has presented these awards and we are indebted for his sustained support.

Secondary Schools Citizenship Award plaques were presented to twelve outstanding students selected by a three person judging panel. The Awards showcase some impressive Queensland secondary school students performing demonstrable examples of selfless community service and promoting true Australian citizenship. The acceptance speeches from the students were inspirational and the students brought great credit to the schools they represented.

Music was provided during the Presentation by the CHAC String Quintet from Cannon Hill Anglican College.

One hundred and twenty-three guests including students and their families, school principals and representatives, State Members of Parliament and twenty members of the Association attended.

The Queensland Branch of the Association thanks Mr Tim Fairfax AC for his continued support and sponsorship of the awards programme over a number of years and for presenting Certificates of Community Service to nine local students at the Presentation, prior to the main awards. All other nominated students, who were not awardees, were issued with Certificates to be presented at their respective schools.

I would also add my thanks to *Geoff Cowles OAM*, the Awards and Metro Events Coordinator for his dedicated coordination of the awards programme.

The transfer of the Parliament House venue from the former Legislative Council (Red) Chamber to the Premiers' Hall, due to maximum guest numbers permitted under Covid 19 social distancing requirements, proved to be a real winner. The Committee plans to utilize this new venue for the 2022 Presentation as a consequence.

A MOST MEMORABLE PRESENTATION IN THE PREMIERS' HALL, PARLIAMENT HOUSE BRISBANE



His Excellency with the 2021 award students – Back row from L-R – Eleanor Barker (*Kirwan State High School*); Angelique Hallett (*Glasshouse Christian College*); Millie Kent (*Brigidine College*); Sienna Haxton (*Mountain Creek State High School*); Crystal-Rose Paul (*Dysart State High School*); His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC CVO, Governor of Queensland; Kelly-Ann Sparks (*Cannon Hill Anglican College*); Tahnee Dilger (*Atherton State High School*); Lilliana Swainson (*Somerset College*); and Jack Watson (*Burnside State High School*). **Front row – from L-R** Corey McCormick (*North Lakes State College*); Matthew Stoward (*Cannon Hill Anglican College*) and Emmett Withers (*Whitsunday Anglican School*).



The three side photos

Top - His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC CVO, Governor of Queensland addresses the gathering.

Centre - Music was provided during the Presentation by the CHAC String Quintet from Cannon Hill Anglican College.

Bottom – Dr Gary Bacon AM, OAAQ Chairman moves a vote of thanks to His Excellency.

8. 2021 Senior Volunteer Awards

The Association continued its Senior Volunteer Awards program in 2021.

The judging panel for the 2021 awards, *Dr Mick Davis AM ASM* (Chairman of the Panel), *Professor Paul McNally OAM*, and *Mrs Kathy Wooldridge OAM* has selected three worthy volunteers to receive this Award. My thanks to Mick, Paul and Kathy for agreeing to be on the judging panel again 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 2022.

I again 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.

AWARDEES OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS 2018 - 2020



2018 – L-R - **Blanche McNelley** (St George); **Sandra Shepperd** (Minyama, Sunshine Coast); **Dr Stuart Stieler** (Bribie Island) and **Michael Rayner AM** (awards sponsor)



2019 – L-R – **Marion Emery** (Brisbane); **Ken Mewburn OAM** (Caloundra, Sunshine Coast); **Joyce Ridgway** (Harristown, Toowoomba). *Note- Ken Mewburn received his OAM after receiving his senior volunteer award.*



2020 – L-R – **Janet White** (Townsville); **Christine Houston** (Brisbane) and **Kathy Cavanagh** (Bribie Island)

9. Regional events in 2021

9.1 Central Queensland Regional Group Morning Tea – Tuesday 16 March 2021

This function was not reported in the previous Annual Report and is highlighted here for the record.

Thirty-five guests attended the morning tea event at the Frenchville Sports Club at Rockhampton.

The guest speakers were Filly Morgan PSM, Deputy Director General, Queensland Premier's Department and the Queensland representative on the Council of the Order of Australia and Ms Fleur Anderson, Statewide director of the Office of Rural and Regional Queensland.

Ms Anderson outlined the role of the recently established Office of Rural and Regional Queensland in responding to the need for a fully coordinated approach across Government, Business, Education and Civil Society at the local level.

Ms Filly Morgan PSM, outlined the processes of nominating, evaluating, selecting and recommending people for Australian Honours. Ms Morgan strongly urged attendees to actively nominate local people for consideration by the Australian Honours Council.



Graeme Brady OAM (Frenchville Sports Club chair); Filly Morgan PSM; Dr. Wallace Taylor OAM (Regional Group Convener); Fleur Anderson; Grant Cassidy OAM (chair Regional Development Australia, Central and West Queensland)

9.2. Townsville Regional Group Lunch – Saturday 17 April 2021

The Townsville Regional Group hosted its first function in over 12 months on Saturday 17 April at Seagulls Resort, Townsville. The long wait was due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

There were 25 attendees and I was pleased to be able to attend and “fly the flag” for the Queensland Branch and to address the gathering on a range of Queensland Branch matters.

The guests also listened intently to *Mrs Margaret Shaw OAM*, who spoke on her efforts to improve the costs of insurance for homeowners throughout North Queensland.



L-R - Dr Gary Bacon AM, OAAQ Chairman joined Margaret Shaw OAM, Gracelyn Smallwood AM and Townsville Regional Group Committee member, Ron Piper OAM at the luncheon at Seagulls Resort on 17 April 2021.

9.3 Gold Coast Regional Group Lunch – Thursday 29 April 2021

On Thursday 27 April 2021 the Gold Coast Regional Group hosted 43 members and guests at a lunch at the Southport Golf Club. The guests included eight recent local awardees in the Order of Australia, four from 2020 and four from 2019 who were individually introduced to the gathering.

There was a large contingent of Queensland Branch Committee members who took the drive down to Southport from Brisbane to lend support to the regional group. Joining me on the day were *Geoff Cowles OAM*, *Ronda Nix OAM*, *Kathy Wooldridge OAM*, and *Graham Hyde OAM*. I addressed the attendees as the Queensland Branch Chairman and *Ronda Nix OAM* spoke enthusiastically about nominating fellow Australians for an award in the Order.

The function was made memorable when the scheduled guest speaker did not turn up, having set aside Friday, the next day. Fortuitously *Charles Wright AM* was on hand, and with zero preparation, saved the day by giving an interesting and well received address concerning his time as Chair of the RSPCA and Legacy, together with the shenanigans involved in fund-raising and managing some fairly disparate expectations.



Left – Portion of the 43 guests enjoying good fellowship at the Lunch.

Right– Charles Wright AM saves the day with his impromptu talk.



9.4 Darling Downs Regional Group Morning Tea – Friday 21 May 2021

Forty guests met for morning tea at the Town and Country Club in Toowoomba. Three Darling Downs residents whose awards in the Order of Australia were announced on Australia Day 2021 were introduced and warmly welcomed – *Kerry Betros AM*, *Valerie Lehman AM* and *Raymond Smythe OAM*.

Megan McNicholl OAM was the guest speaker. Megan received her award in the Order of Australia on Australia Day 2007 “For service to education as an advocate for improved services in rural and remote areas, and to the community by raising public awareness of issues affecting women.” Megan is a rural educator and cattle producer who has lived most of her life west of the Great Divide. Megan spoke on her involvement for some 13 years in the advocacy work of the Isolated Children’s Parents’ Association (ICPA) including 4 years as Federal President.

Paula Penfold AM, *Graham Hyde OAM* and *Dr Carol Cox AM* represented the Queensland Branch Committee at this event.

9.5 Central Queensland Regional Group Lunch – Monday 21 June 2021 -

“The Day the Governor-General came to town”

I felt privileged and thrilled to be able to attend this very special event in Rockhampton as Chairman of the Queensland Branch of the Association. *Geoff Cowles OAM* from the Queensland Branch Committee also made the trek from Brisbane to be in attendance to lend support to the regional group.

Wal Taylor OAM, the Regional Group Convener pulled off the coup of the decade in skillfully negotiating with Government House, Canberra to secure the Governor-General's presence. *His Excellency the Honourable General David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd)*, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia thrilled the large turnout of 185 guests with his inspiring speech as Chancellor of the Australian Honours System, explaining how the honours system works and to encourage local people to nominate worthy local people for consideration. He was accompanied by *Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley*.



Left photos - His Excellency addresses the gathering
Top right –Dr Gary Bacon AM, OAAQ Chairman
proposes a Toast to the Order of Australia.
Bottom right – Student leaders with Their Excellencies.

The large gathering of 185 guests was made up of local Members of the Association, community leaders, Principals and senior student leaders from nine local High Schools as well the local National Youth Science Forum winners and the Queensland Youth Parliamentary representatives for Rockhampton and Keppel. Convener Wal secured a formidable participation via personal contact and spoke with his world experience on fostering community well being.

There was a proud contingent of war veterans present, who met with Their Excellencies at the Wall of Remembrance, adjacent to the main Club entrance, on their arrival.

I was honoured to propose the Toast to the Order of Australia at the lunch and to take the opportunity to thank Their Excellencies in taking time out from their busy schedules to be present at this special event.

9.6 Sunshine Coast Regional Group Lunch – Thursday 24 June 2021

The Alex Surf Club at Alexandra Headlands was a pleasing 'first time' venue for the Sunshine Coast Regional Group's lunch on Thursday 24 June 2021. A great turnout of 62 guests made for a pleasant day of good fellowship for the local membership. Guests enjoyed lunch at the Lookout Terrace of the Surf Club affording excellent ocean views.

The guest speaker was *Dr Peter Dornan AM*, Senior Australian of the Year 2020; Co-Founder of the Qld Branch of Sports Medicine; Fellow of Sports Medicine; and Founder and Convener of Brisbane Prostate Cancer Support Network. Peter's entertaining and informative talk was titled "*From Kingaroy to Kokoda to Kilimanjaro and Beyond...*" Guests present enjoyed hearing Peter the Physiotherapist, Author, Sculptor, Climber and much more and the wonderful life tale he had to tell.

The Queensland Branch Committee was represented by *Darryl Seccombe OAM*; *Kathy Wooldridge OAM*, *Paula Penfold AM* and *Graham Hyde OAM*.



Portion of the 62 guests enjoy good fellowship at the Alex Surf Club.



At the Alex Surf Club Lunch – L-R – Dr Peter Dornan AM (guest speaker); Dr Dimity Dornan AO; and Marjorie Voss OAM (regional group convener). The horse in the foreground is one of Peter's sculptures.

9.7 Far North Queensland Regional Group Lunch – Saturday 31 July 2021

The Far North Queensland Regional Group organized an entertaining lunch at the historic Mountain View Hotel at Little Mulgrave, 34 kilometres south of Cairns. There were 29 guests present.



The 29 guests enjoy a wonderful atmosphere at the Mountain view Hotel.



At the Little Mulgrave Lunch – L-R Carole Miller OAM (regional group convener); Bill Frazer (guest speaker); Bill's daughter Lorraine and Darryl Seccombe OAM (OAAQ Regional Groups' Coordinator)

Darryl Seccombe OAM, the Queensland Branch Regional Groups Coordinator, attended as my representative from the Queensland Branch Committee. Darryl addressed the gathering on Queensland Branch matters.

The theme on the day was to regale members with the history of the Gillies Highway. Very informative talks on this theme were provided by *Carole Miller OAM*, the Regional Group convener and a local *Bill Frazer*.

9.8 Central Queensland Regional Group Lunch – Monday 27 September 2021

Fifty-one guests attended the lunch at Frenchville Sports Club at Rockhampton on Monday 27 September 2021 where the guest speaker was *Everald Compton AO*, elevated from Member of the Order to Officer of the Order in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours for distinguished service to the aged welfare sector through advocacy and advisory roles, to the Uniting Church in Australia, and to the community.

Everald gave an interesting talk touching on key aspects of his life spanning 90 years including his vision for an inland railway to be established in Australia.



At the Central Qld Regional Group Lunch – L-R Ray Young OAM ((immediate past regional group convener); Margaret Lyons; Everald Compton AO (guest speaker) and Rondha Taylor.



9.9 Sunshine Coast Regional Group Morning Tea – Thursday 30 September 2021



Some of the faces at the Sunshine Coast Lunch at Bribie Island



Fifty-seven guests attended a morning tea arranged by the Sunshine Coast Regional Group at the Volunteer Marine Rescue Bribie Island Function Room at Bellara, Bribie Island.

Guest speaker was Keith Boulton who is an Honorary Life Member/Volunteer at the Queensland Maritime Museum, Southbank. He spoke on the topic "*Interesting and Remaining Wrecks in Moreton Bay*". Keith's presentation included many interesting and historical photos and took the guests present on a journey to unwrap the very interesting history of 11 of these wrecks plus 2 from the Bribie area.

A sizable contingent from the Queensland Branch Committee comprising *Dr Carol Cox QAM*, *Dr Mick Davis AM ASM*; *Kathy Wooldridge OAM*, *Paula Penfold AM* and *Graham Hyde OAM* offered great support at the event.

9.10 Townsville Regional Group Annual Dinner – Friday 17 September 2021

Thirty –one members attended the Annual Dinner of the Townsville Regional Group held at the Townsville RSL on Friday 17 September 2021.

The excellent guest speaker was *Derek Smith OAM*, a retired Major in the Australian Army who spoke of his involvement with an orphanage in Vietnam and the work that had been carried out to improve the conditions for the children in the facility. Derek received his OAM in the General Division of the 2019 Australia Day Honours “for service to international community through humanitarian aid”.



PHOTO LEFT
L-R Derek Smith OAM (guest speaker); Dr Wendy Smyth OAM (2021 Queen's Birthday award recipient) and Peter Smyth.



At the Townsville Annual Dinner are L-R – Robert Pack OAM; Wendy Pack and Mark Stoneman AM.

It was not possible for a Committee member to attend as the date clashed with the Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards Presentation in Brisbane on the same day.



9.11 Darling Downs Regional Group Morning Tea – Friday 15 October 2021

A morning tea arranged by the Darling Downs Regional Group at the Town and Country Club in Toowoomba on Friday 15 October 2021 attracted 44 guests.

The guest speaker was *Maryanne Walsh OAM* recognized in the 2020 Queen's Birthday honours.

Maryanne is the Executive Principal of the Centenary Heights State High School, Toowoomba, a position she has held since 2003. Prior to assuming her current position, Maryanne held senior leadership roles at Maroochydore, Nanango and Burnside State High Schools. She is a Fellow of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders and is widely recognised as an outstanding educational and community leader

Dr Mick Davis AM ASM; Ronda Nix OAM; Marjorie Voss OAM and Dr Carol Cox AM from the Queensland Branch Committee were in attendance.

9.12 Far North Queensland Regional Group Informal Devonshire Tea – Tuesday 6 November 2021

An informal Devonshire Tea was arranged for members of the Far North Queensland Regional Group on Tuesday 6 November 2001 at the Nerada Tea Plantation at Malanda. Twenty-eight guests attended.

Carole Miller OAM, the Regional Group Convener (second on left in the photo below) gave an interesting talk on the history of tea.



Enjoying the informality at the Nerada Tea Plantation

9.13 Mackay-Whitsunday Regional Group Informal Get Together – Friday 19 November 2021

The Mackay-Whitsunday Regional Group is based in Mackay and has the smallest membership of our regional groups with just 18 members. As such, the region has opted to running occasional informal get-togethers, usually in the home of the Convener *Carmel Daveson AM* instead of a function at a professional hospitality venue.

An informal get together was arranged in Carmel's home at Mackay on Friday evening 19 November 2021 with 16 guests including 10 local members



Happy group of guests at the Mackay Get Together – *Back row* - from L-R –Ray Braithwaite OAM;; Elspit Mulherin OAM; Wendy Downes OAM; Josephine Rogers OAM; and Carmel Daveson AM. *Front Row* – from L-R – Norma Shuttlewood OAM; Rev. Emeritus Prof. Ian Haire AC; Professor Judith Brown AM; Paul Maguire OAM and Reg Butler OAM.

9.14 Gold Coast Regional Group Lunch – Tuesday 30 November 2021

The Arundel Tavern at Arundel on the Gold Coast was the new venue chosen by *Clive Mitchell-Taylor OAM*, the Gold Coast Regional Group's convener for their lunch on 30 November 2021. This was a most pleasing venue offering good food and outstanding service.

Forty-six guests attended and enjoyed a most interesting talk from Trevor Shelley LM (Medal of the Papua New Guinea (PNG) Order of Logohu), who received his award in 2012 for years of service to rural development and community affairs in PNG. After a successful career as an Army Engineer, Trevor spent 34 years working in PNG, much with his wife Lindal. He offered great insight about the country, its people and development.

I attended in the company of *Geoff Cowles OAM* and *Dr Mick Davis AM ASM*.



Guests enjoying the great atmosphere at the Arundel Tavern

Trevor Shelley LM (Medal of the Papua New Guinea (PNG) Order of Logohu) – a most relaxed and interesting guest speaker.



10. Membership Trends

10.1 Membership uptake by new award recipients

There were 205 Queensland recipients who received awards in the Order of Australia in 2021 and 92 of these are now members of The Order of Australia Association. This represents 44.9% of the total number of 2021 Queensland recipients joining the Association compared with 35.4% last year (84 of 237 recipients joining). This satisfactory increase in membership uptake probably reflects Queenslanders feeling greater consumer confidence paralleling reduced Covid restrictions compared to this time last year. The high number of new award recipients attending the combined Welcome Celebratory lunch would have also assisted.

10.2 Current Queensland Branch Member statistics as at 1 March 2022

As at 1 March 2022 there were 1178 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 March 2021, in brackets.

Type of membership	1 March 2022		March 2021	
	Number	% of total current members	Number	% of total current members
Paid lifetime members	641	54.4%	(646)	(55.6%)
Lifetime members by installment	15	1.3%	(11)	(1%)
Annual Members	328	27.8%	(341)	(29.3%)
Three Year Members	193	16.4%	(164)	(14.1%)
Ten Year Members	1	0.1%	(n/a)	(n/a)
Total Qld Branch Members	1178	100%	(1162)	(100%)

Despite the satisfying increase in the percentage of new awardees in 2021 taking up membership the overall number of financial members in the Queensland Branch is disappointingly year on year constant. Apart from natural attrition we have no feedback on causes of members leaving. Aging and immobility could be significant factors. This aspect of membership monitoring deserves attention.

It is interesting to note the steady increase in three year memberships from 14.1% of the total membership last year to 16.4% this year. The Queensland Branch will be watching with keen interest to see how many new awardees and renewing members take up the new 10 year membership option recent approved by the National Board to commence from 2022. The above table shows that one person has already taken up this new option.

As at 1 March 2022 there were 1063 members out of the total of 1178 members (90.2%) who 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. This compares with 1031 out of 1162 members (88.7%) in March 2021.

Dr Mick Davis AM ASM added the role of Membership Officer to his position as Deputy Chairman and has worked with the National office on tracking additions and removals from the membership data lists and I record my thanks.

I thank *Geoff Cowles OAM*, the Awards and Metro Events Coordinator, for updating membership statistical tables compiled over the past 5 years, which are appended to this report on page 27 as **Appendix A**. These statistics include the ratio of male and female award recipients and the number of awardees by Queensland regions.



11. Queensland Branch Communications

11.1 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.

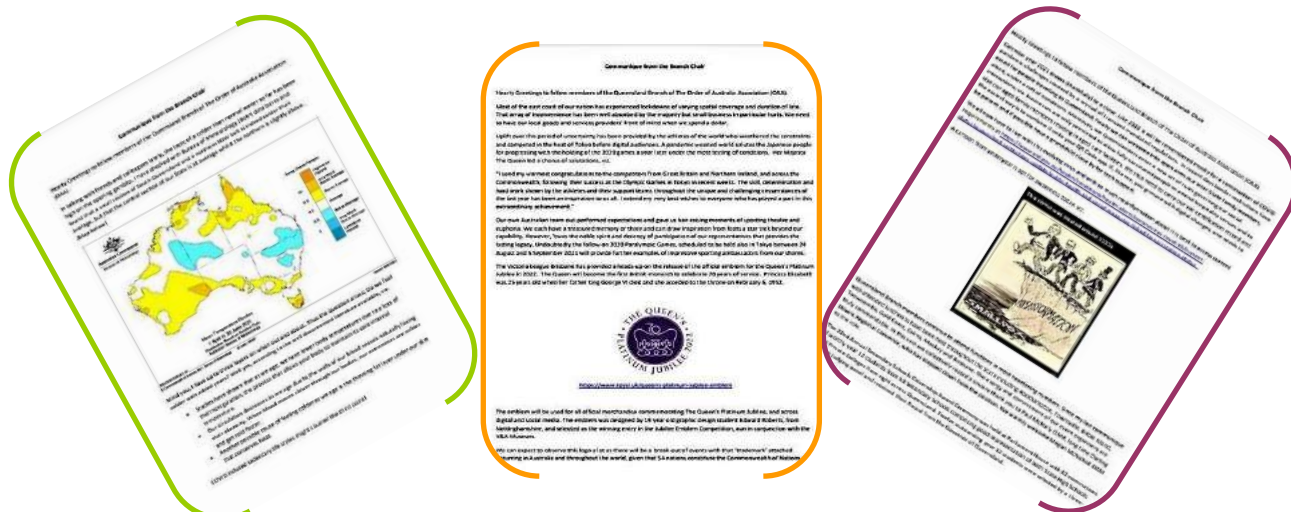
Graham Hyde OAM continued as Editor of the Queensland Branch pages of *The Order* and I thank Graham for his dedication in this role.



11.2 Communicating to members via Communiqués from the Queensland Branch Chairman

To supplement the quarterly communication members receive via *The Order* National magazine, I have continued my practice of sending out short Communiqués via broadcast emails, some with additional attachments, to Queensland members at various times throughout 2021. This continues to prove a means to bring newsy items of interest (hopefully) to the attention of members that would not be possible to convey in a timely fashion within *The Order* magazine.

Communiqués were sent out in July, September and December 2021 making seven direct tidings from me during the year when you add my regular column in each quarterly edition of *The Order*. More than enough I hear you retort. I thank Ross Patching OAM, the Assistant Branch Secretary for distributing the three Communiqués.



11.3 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 Awards and Metro Events 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.



Above: Queensland Branch Homepage at <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/queensland/about-us/>



Right: The website contains a range of pictorial highlights of past events – this is page 1 of the 2021 Annual Dinner highlights

11.4 Queensland Branch and COVID 19 Plans

The welfare of our members and friends is paramount and thus the Queensland Branch continued to take 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 mandated under State Medical Officer protocols.



12. 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 continued in his role as National Secretary and discharged his administrative duties with due diligence.

Throughout the year the Queensland Branch Committee was kept up to date with National Board matters by receiving copies of the minutes of the Board meetings when convened. The Queensland Branch Committee was required to provide input into revisions of national policy and procedure documents from time to time and provide comment to the relevant Director on the National Board. *Paula Penfold AM*, who has taken on the new role on the Queensland Branch Committee of Governance and Policy Officer was charged with providing comment and recommendations to the Queensland Branch Committee prior to Committee discussion. I thank Paula for her efforts in these national matters.

At time of publication it appears that the National Conference in Canberra from 19 to 22 May 2022 will be going ahead. With restrictions on travel between most interstate borders having now been lifted, it is hoped that many inter- and intra-state members will take the opportunity to attend the Conference and enjoy the excellent programme of events on offer, always cognisant of current pandemic threats.

13. 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 gladly record my indebtedness to the members of the Queensland Branch Committee and to the Regional Group Conveners for their sustained personal support, 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 *Dr Carol Cox AM* who has carried out her demanding role with cheerful aplomb.

It was my privilege to represent the Order of Australia Association at Queensland Government House at:

- two farewell functions (20 and 21 October 2021) held to mark the term exit of our Branch Patron, *His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, CVO* the Governor of Queensland . A formal letter of appreciation for his personal support was recorded.

- a greeting function (1 November 2021) to welcome the new Governor, *Her Excellency The Honourable Dr Jeanette Young PSM*.

It is with pleasure that I report that the new Governor agreed in formal correspondence to be our Patron for the duration of her term of office. In consequence, a TEAMS video briefing meeting with the Governor was held on 22 February 2022 and the Branch was invited to participate at an Open House *in situ* event at Government House on 13 March 2022 to mark the commencement of celebrations honouring the 70th anniversary of the coronation of Her Majesty The Queen.

I also represented the Queensland Branch at,

- the Queensland Day Dinner hosted by the Royal Historical Society of Queensland at the Brisbane Club on Saturday 5 June 2021; and
- the National Flag Day hosted by the Brisbane City Council and the Australian Flag Association at City Hall on Friday 3 September 2021.

The Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship Brisbane hosted on 15 March 2022 the colourful and entertaining 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.

My goal to visit every region and attend at least one of their events is five eights complete. 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. One is truly humbled when one reads of the selfless and commendable contributions each has made to our society. Do not forget the opportunity of nominating for an Order of Australia award those fellow Australians who by dint of hard work and sacrifice have convinced you of their worth and public acknowledgement.

I am pleased indeed to highlight that 48.0% of this years (2022) Australia Day Queensland awardees are women. This is the highest proportion recorded in the last 5 years at least. A splendid result that aligns with the thrust of communiqués delivered by our hands-on Chancellor of the Order.

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 2022.

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, Awards and Metro Events Coordinator, in researching much of the information in this report and for many of the photos.

APPENDIX A TO THE 2021 Queensland Branch Annual Report

Item 10, p 21 - Membership Trends – Award recipients 2017 through to 2021

Compiled by Geoff Cowles OAM, Awards and Metro Events Coordinator

A. 2021

A.1 Australia Day 2021 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
83	33	39.8%	22	18	81.8	26.5%

A.2 Queen's Birthday 2021 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
122	59	48.4%	43	35	81.4%	35.2%

A.3 Combined 2021 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
205	92	44.9%	65	53	81.5%	31.7%

B. 2020

B.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%

B.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%

B.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

C. 2019

C.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%

C.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%

C.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%

D. 2018

D.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

D.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

D.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%

E. 2017

E.1 Australia Day 2017 only

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
87	30	34.5%	16	11	68.8%	18.4%

E.2 Queen's Birthday 2017 only

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
75	31	41.3%	13	11	84.6%	17.3%

E.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%

F. Summary of all Queensland awardees by year 2017 to 2021

YEAR	Total No of recipients	No who joined	% of total recipients joining	Recipients invited to a lunch	No who came to Lunches *	% of invited recipients coming to lunch	No of lunch recipients who joined.	% of lunch recipients joining
2021	205	92	44.8%	205	65	31.7%	53	81.5%
2020	237	84	35.4%	177	65	36.7%	32	49.2%
2019	268	118	41%	268	71	24.7%	56	78.9%
2018	186	68	36.6%	186	40	21.5%	28	70.0%
2017	162	61	37.6%	162	29	17.9%	22	75.9%
Totals	1058	422	39.9%	998	270	27.0%	191	70.7%

Queensland award recipients by region – Australia Day 2017 – Australia Day 2022

[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 2017	87	49	9	5	9	6	1	0	5	3
QB 2017	75	39	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
QB 2021	122	58	23	12	7	4	4	1	8	5
AD 2022	98	53	14	11	4	6	1	4	4	1
Totals	1156	621	155	106	76	50	27	17	51	53

Ratio of male (M) to female (F) Queensland recipients – Australia Day 2017 through to Australia Day 2022

Honours	Total No.	M No.	M %	F No.	F %
Australia Day 2017	87	54	62.0 %	33	38.0 %
Queen's Birthday 2017	75	48	64.0 %	27	36.0 %
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 %
Queen's Birthday 2021	122	78	64.0 %	44	36.0 %
Australia Day 2022	98	51	52.0 %	47	48.0 %
Total – AD 2017 to AD 2022	1156	743	64.3 %	413	35.7 %



APPENDIX B to the 2021 Annual Report

2021 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 - 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!

2021 QUEENSLAND BRANCH COMMITTEE BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES 2



Deputy Chairman/ Membership Officer - Dr Michael John (Mick) Davis AM,
ASM - FPA, LMFPFA, FCHSM, LFAIES, MBA.

Mick retired from QAS in 2013 after 50 years-service in operational and management roles and was appointed 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. He now has 57 years with Qld Ambulance.

Mick is President QAS Retired Officers' Assoc, 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, Paramedics Australia and is now Australasian College of Paramedicine, and was Treasurer/Director until 2016, playing a key role in that organisation's evolutionary transitions. He served 15yrs as Director and Treasurer of the Health and Community Services Workforce Council 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. In 2020 He was awarded the Centenary Medal by RQHS for services to Qld History. 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

2021 QUEENSLAND BRANCH COMMITTEE BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES 3



Branch Nominated 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 Convener - 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. In 2011 she was elected by the Mothers' Union Worldwide Council to be an Incorporated Member. In 2021 Marjorie was awarded by AMUA the 60 year Long Service Award and badge. 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 OAM, the Emu Award for Guiding and the Worldwide Mothers' Union 60 year Long Service award and badge.

2021 QUEENSLAND BRANCH COMMITTEE BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES 4



Regional Groups Coordinator - 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 a current Board Member 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 (Nov 2006 - Aug 2020). 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.



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

Graham is also the current OAA National Secretary. 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.

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Merchandise Officer - 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.



Governance and Policy Review 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.

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Awards and Metro Events Coordinator - 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. Geoff is married to Charyl and has two boys, Peter and David. 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 organisations, 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."* He also holds life memberships with Brisbane North Junior Cricket Association, Youth Hostels Association and The Order of Australia Association. Prior to his current role in The Order of Australia Association, Queensland Branch he served nine years as its Secretary.



Committee Member - Ross Patching OAM B. Ad. Voc. Teach

Assistant to Secretary

Former OAAQB Secretary 2020. 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 (NPSM), the National Service Medal (NSM) 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.