



Queensland Branch

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



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

at

the 43rd Annual General Meeting

Monday 20 March 2023

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

To celebrate and promote outstanding Australian citizenship'

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1. Summary

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

Coming out of the worst of the COVID-19 restrictions and working in a more relaxed environment, the Queensland Branch was able to deliver a diverse array of events, both in the Greater Brisbane metro area and in the regions, for the benefit of Queensland Branch members.

The year 2022 was significant for two key Royal events. Firstly, we all enjoyed the warm celebrations world-wide during June of the much anticipated Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, only to be woken up in September with the sad news that our well loved Queen had passed away peacefully and instantly it was "God save King Charles III." Her Majesty's passing meant that two events scheduled to take place during the official period of mourning, were postponed to a later time. Government House delayed the investitures at Government House, Brisbane for the 2022 Queen's Birthday award recipients from September to dates in November 2022. The Queensland Branch followed suit by delaying its planned Welcome Celebratory Lunch for these award recipients, planned to coincide with the Government House investitures from Thursday 22 September to Wednesday 23 November.

One special activity that went ahead during the national mourning period with the concurrence of Government House and the Parliament House venue was the annual Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards on Friday 16 September. Her Honour, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland, Helen Bowskill, presented plaques to 13 selected Grade 12 students before a supportive family, teachers' and friends' group of 109 persons. This annual event since 1999, initiated by former Branch Chairman, *Dina Browne AO*, is our most visible exposure to the young cohort of our State and by leverage we enter the homes of many with our core OAA message of the positive value of citizenship.

The Welcome Celebratory Lunch held on Wednesday 23 November 2022 for Queen's Birthday awardees had a lower than expected attendance, attracting 108 guests and 15 new award recipients, due in part to being postponed to a later date. The earlier Welcome Celebratory Lunch held on Thursday 12 May for 2022 Australia Day award recipients fared better with 128 guests including 25 new award recipients.

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Queensland Branch joined with the Victoria League Brisbane for Commonwealth Friendship in co-hosting a special Dinner at Parliament House, Brisbane on Friday 13 June. This was a most enjoyable occasion in the presence of Her Excellency the Honourable Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland and Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD.

Additionally, our regions across Queensland arranged fourteen entertaining and interesting functions throughout the year including three morning teas, eight lunches, one mayoral reception, one informal get together and a dinner. Members enjoyed some

fabulous guest speakers at these functions. 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 thirteen of the regional group functions, where numbers were recorded. The five metro functions (including the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Dinner co-hosted with the Victoria League Brisbane totalled 577 bookings and the thirteen regional group functions 543. That is an impressive 1 120 bookings for functions in 2022. Well done to the Queensland Branch Committee and the Regional Conveners on an outstanding collective effort in staging good quality functions with impressive guest numbers.

A big thank you to our efficient Treasurer *Ronda Nix OAM* for maintaining the finances for the Branch and for ensuring the financial calendar year ended on a sound footing. Thank you also Ronda for your valued contribution in assisting with event bookings.

Association merchandise sales took place at several events during 2022 as a useful service to members. Thank you *Kathy Wooldridge OAM* for maintaining this service as our merchandising officer with help from husband *Peter Wooldridge*.

There were eight well attended committee meetings (five virtual meetings using Zoom technology and three face to face meetings at the Toowong Library) throughout the year, where considerable Queensland Branch business was transacted. Business was also transacted, where necessary, "out of session" via "flying minutes" or by email communication. There was also a virtual combined meeting of the Branch Committee and regional group conveners across the State in June, where issues and concerns regarding regional matters were raised and shared. This was a successful initiative well worth maintaining on an annual basis.

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 2022 and leading up to tonight's AGM.



2. Queensland Branch Committee 2022

The following members of the Association were elected or re-elected under their three year terms to the Branch Committee at the 42nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Monday 21 March 2022.

- **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 and Queensland Branch Webmaster)
- *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)
- *Mr Darryl Seccombe OAM* (Regional Groups Coordinator)
- *Mrs Marjorie Voss OAM* (also Convener, Sunshine Coast Regional Group)
- *Mrs Kathy Wooldridge OAM* (Merchandise Officer)



Members of the newly elected Queensland Branch Committee who were present at the Annual Dinner on Monday 21 March 2022 from L to R – *Geoff Cowles OAM; Ronda Nix OAM; Darryl Seccombe OAM; Dr Gary Bacon AM; Marjorie Voss OAM; Dr Mick Davis AM ASM; Kathy Wooldridge OAM; Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ; Paula Penfold AM and Ross Patching OAM.* Absent were *Graham Hyde OAM* (left hand inset) and *Dr Carol Cox AM* (right hand inset).

Brief updated Bios of each Branch Committee member are attached as Appendix B on page 35.

On 8 December I arranged for all members of the Queensland Branch Committee and their spouses or partners to join with me to celebrate the Christmas season with an informal lunch at the Gaythorne RSL Club in Brisbane. This was the ideal opportunity to thank the members of the Committee for their loyal and dedicated support to me during a very busy year of activity. In addition, *John Hardy OAM*, the newly appointed Convener of the Far North Queensland Regional Group attended, since he happened to be in Brisbane at the time.



Present at Gaythorne RSL – Left hand Table clockwise from bottom left – *Dr Gary Bacon AM; Darryl Seccombe OAM; Carol Bacon; Elaine Davis; Dr Mick Davis AM ASM; Royce Voss OAM; Marjorie Voss OAM; Paula Penfold AM; Graham Hyde OAM; John Hardy OAM.* **Right hand Table** clockwise from bottom left – *Keith Nix; Ronda Nix OAM; Peter Wooldridge; Dr Carol Cox AM; Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ; Lorraine McMurtrie MStJ; Kathy Wooldridge OAM; Charyl Cowles; Geoff Cowles OAM.*

3. Queensland Branch Annual Dinner 2022

One hundred and fourteen guests attended the Annual Dinner on Monday 21 March 2022 in the Blue Pacific Ballroom at Kedron Wavell Services Club in Brisbane. It was a memorable evening where everyone enjoyed 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.

At this year's Annual Dinner we were thrilled to hear *Mark Knowles OAM*, Olympic Gold Medallist, four-time Olympian and quadruple Commonwealth Games gold medallist and captain of the Australian Kookaburra's hockey team deliver a stirring after dinner address on his chosen topic of "*My Journey - then, now and onto 2032*". Mark "stole the show" with his bright and breezy style speaking without a lectern and sprinkling his talk with some wonderful nostalgic PowerPoints highlighting his stellar career. His talk was one of never losing sight of a dream, triumphing over adversity and cherishing the "golden" moments. He spoke with pride at receiving the rare honour of being flag bearer for the Australian team at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in 2018. He concluded his talk by highlighting the opportunities aplenty for today's promising young sporting boys and girls to aim high to become part of the 2032 Brisbane Olympic dream. The audience was captivated by Mark's talk – he had them in the palm of his hand throughout and you could almost hear a pin drop.

Also at the Dinner three outstanding Queensland senior volunteers (*Gail Bonser* from Coolangatta, Gold Coast; *Donna Hedges* from Gaythorne, Brisbane, and *Kevin Stroud* from Currimundi, Sunshine Coast) received their Queensland Branch Senior Volunteer Awards from *Michael Rayner AM* representing Blight Rayner Architecture, the award sponsor).

The evening was rounded off with two special presentations. The first, a moving presentation of an Association Appreciation plaque to the Late *Emeritus Professor Dr Mary Mahoney AO* for her dedicated long service to the Queensland Branch Committee, received by her husband Patrick. This was followed by a long service certificate of appreciation to *Professor Paul McNally OAM* who had retired as the Darling Downs Regional Group Convener after an amazing 32 years of continuous loyal and dedicated service.

AT THE AGM

Left hand photo

A good turnout of OAAQ Members at the AGM in the VC Suite.

Right hand photo

2022 Regional Group Conveners who attended the AGM – from L-R – *Darryl Seccombe OAM* (Qld Branch Committee Regional Groups Coordinator); *Carole Miller OAM* (Far North Queensland); *David Jackson OAM* (Townsville); *Carmel Daveson AM* (Whitsunday Isaac Mackay); *Dr Wallace Taylor OAM* (Central Queensland); *Marjorie Voss OAM* (Sunshine Coast) and *Professor Paul McNally OAM* (Darling Downs)



AT THE ANNUAL DINNER



Table 2- from L-R – John Holmes; Beryl Holmes OAM; Professor Tony Webber AM; Valerie Webber; Mario Pennisi AM; Helen Pennisi; Kay Basford AM; Alan Basford



Table 6- from L-R – Dr John Arvier OAM; Denise Schellbach OAM; Kathy Wooldridge OAM; Peter Wooldridge; Paula Penfold AM; Kate Copeland AM; Elaine Unkles OAM; Louise Arvier



Our guest speaker – Mark Knowles OAM



Dr Gary Bacon AM, Queensland Branch Chairman (right) makes Special Presentations to the Late Emeritus. Professor Mary Mahoney AO (pictured on overhead), accepted by her husband Patrick Mahoney (left) and to Professor Paul McNally OAM (centre), former Convener, Darling Downs Regional Group.



Two hockey stalwarts together – Ronda Nix OAM, OAAQ Treasurer (right) presents a gift and certificate of appreciation to guest speaker Mark Knowles OAM

4. Queensland Branch celebratory events to welcome new 2022 award recipients

In 2022, with Covid 19 restrictions considerably eased, the Queensland Branch reverted to its usual practice of hosting two Welcome Celebratory Lunches for Award Recipients, one at the time of the Investitures at Government House for the Australia Day awardees and one at the time of the Investitures for the Queen's Birthday awardees. The following is a brief outline of each function organized.

4.1 The Welcome Lunch to celebrate with recipients of awards in the 2022 Australia Day Honours - May 2022

Twenty-five of 99 Queensland recipients of Order of Australia Awards in the 2022 Australia Day Honours were special guests at the Luncheon on Thursday 12 May 2022 in the Kitty Hawk Room, Kedron Wavell Services Club, Chermside, Brisbane. In total 128 guests were present, including recipients, their families and friends and 29 Association members and their guests. The numbers were marred slightly by 13 guests having to pull out at the last minute due to the Covid pandemic.

A highlight was the "a cappella" rendition of the National Anthem, performed by one of new award recipients *Evelyn Bury OAM* from Bundaberg to commence proceedings. Evelyn received her award for service to country music



Left hand photo - Our twenty-five award recipients in attendance at the Welcome Celebratory Lunch on Thursday 12 May 2022. Standing behind the seats from L-R – Dr Margaret Kay AM; Susan Gunn OAM; Professor Alex Haslam AM; Angela Wright OAM; Dyllys Bertelsen OAM; Don Gore OAM; Lyn Thomas OAM; Peter Ellis OAM; Professor Alfred Lam AM; Des Lawson OAM; Dianne Cant OAM; Steve Wilson OAM; Keran Maguire OAM; Louise Quinn OAM; Jo-Anne Bragg OAM; Robert Reid AM; Evelyn Bury OAM; Professor Brad Murphy OAM; Bob Millar OAM; and Dr Barbara Bain AM. Seated on the front seats from L-R – Irma Howell OAM; Charles Clark OAM; Heather Prior OAM; Janice Blackford OAM and Simone Patterson OAM.

Right hand photo – The large cohort of stellar hockey girls supporting new award recipient Lyn Thomas OAM at the Lunch From L-R Heather Scraggs OAM, Lesley Bennett, Karin Walduck, Noala Gordon OAM, Ronda Nix OAM, Kath Proctor, Faye Wastell OAM, Denise Von Nida, Lyn Thomas OAM, Cheryl Kann, Jenny Tidey OAM, Jenny Heron, Jan Hadfield AM

4.2 The Welcome Lunch to celebrate with recipients of awards in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours - November 2022

Fourteen of 74 Queensland recipients of Order of Australia Awards in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours and 1 recipient from the 2022 Australia Day Honours who missed the 12 May 2022 function, were special guests at the Luncheon on Wednesday 23 November 2022 in the Blue Pacific Room, Kedron Wavell Services Club, Chermside, Brisbane. In total 108 guests were present, including recipients, their families and friends and a wonderful turnout of 35 Association members and their guests.

This event had originally been planned for Thursday 15 September 2022; however it was rescheduled, as a mark of respect, during the official mourning period for the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. This in part contributed to the lower than anticipated number of new award recipients attending the lunch.



Photo above
Our new award recipients at the 23
November 2022 Lunch.

Back row standing from L to R

*Helen Park OAM; Oleg Stepanov OAM;
Natasha Vlassenko OAM; Dr Robert Edwards OAM;
Dr Steven Hanbleton AM; Elena Gosse OAM; Lenore
Grice OAM; Greg Beale OAM;
Patrick Murray AM.*

Front row seated from L to R

*Emeritus Professor Linda Worrall AM;
Beryl Sutcliffe OAM; Judith Blacker OAM;
Patrick Ringold OAM;- Viv Kissane OAM; John
Pearce OAM;*



Portion of the gathering enjoying fun and
fellowship at the Welcome Celebratory
Lunch on 23 November.

5. Queensland Branch Members' Fellowship Lunch – August 2022

In lieu of a morning tea, the Queensland Branch embarked on something different by hosting a Members' Fellowship Lunch incorporating an after lunch guest speaker in the Vineyard Room at Nudgee Golf Club on Thursday 18 August 2022.

Our excellent guest speaker was *Dr Con Aroney AM*, one of Brisbane's leading cardiologists, who shared with us his insights on the topic "Determining your risk of Heart Attack...and how to prevent it." Con was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2007 Australia Day Honours for service to medicine in the field of cardiology, to the National Heart Foundation of Australia and to the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand. Con delivered a highly informative talk and there were many members who took the opportunity to ask questions afterwards in a lively Q and A session.

This first Members' Fellowship Lunch was well attended with 72 guests including 44 Members.

Main rectangular image – Portion of the 72 guests enjoying the Fellowship Lunch at Nudgee Golf Club.

Top right round image - Our impressive guest speaker – *Dr Con Aroney AM*

Bottom right oval image - *Associate Professor John Harden AM* (left) presents Dr Aroney with a gift and Certificate of Appreciation

Bottom left hand image – Our Master of Ceremonies - *Geoff Cowles OAM*, Queensland Branch Awards and Metro Events Coordinator.



6. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Dinner (combining with the Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship, Brisbane)



We were graced by the presence of Her Excellency, the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland, accompanied by Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD at a special Dinner on Friday 3 June, to celebrate the 70th Anniversary (Platinum Jubilee) of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The function was held in the combined Premiers' and Speakers' Halls at Parliament House in Brisbane. Her Excellency addressed the gathering, paying tribute to Her Majesty's considerable contribution to the Commonwealth and the World over the past seventy years. The formal part of the programme also included key congratulatory speeches, one which I delivered on behalf of OAAQ members and another by *Dr Dimitri Kopanakis*, the Chairman of Victoria League Brisbane. There was a thoughtful Toast to Her Majesty proposed by our own *Kathy Wooldridge OAM*, who also supplied the impressive table decorations.

Other VIP guests attending were *Ms Fiona Simpson MP*, Member for Maroochydore, who hosted the evening, *Commander Fiona Southwood RAN*, and the *Very Reverend Dr Peter Catt*, Dean of Brisbane.

During the evening guests were entertained with music delivered by the Royal Australian Navy Jazz Ensemble. Some of the guests, towards the end of proceedings, even "let their hair down" a little, by dancing between the tables to this wonderful music.

This was indeed a wonderful and memorable occasion enjoyed by the 155 guests in attendance



The Official Party at the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Dinner photographed prior to entering the Premiers' Hall at Parliament House, Brisbane – from L-R - *Dr Dimitri Kopanakis*, Chairman, Victoria League Brisbane for Commonwealth Friendship; *Mrs Kopanakis*; *Her Excellency the Honourable Jeanette Young AC PSM*, Governor of Queensland; *Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD*; *Carol Bacon*; *Dr Gary Bacon AM*; Chairman, The Order of Australia Association, Queensland Branch.

Photo highlights of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Dinner



Parliament House just happened to be specially lit up on the night of the Dinner.



Kathy Wooldridge OAM provided a neat floral decoration for each table



A great atmosphere at the Queen's Jubilee Dinner at Parliament House.



Enjoying pre dinner drinks in the Premiers' Hall foyer.



All guests were upstanding for the Toast to Her Excellency, the Governor of Queensland.



During the evening guests were entertained with music delivered by the Royal Australian Navy Jazz Ensemble.



Her Excellency, the Governor of Queensland addresses the gathering.



Table 17 enjoying the moment –from L-R Judeen Airey; Andrew Petrie; Dr Ian Airey OAM; Ross Cartmill OAM; Judy Cartmill; Dr Carol Cox AM; Dr John Cox OAM; and Glenda Powell AM.

7. Queensland Regional Groups – 2022 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 2022.

Regional Group	Convener
Gold Coast	Clive Mitchell-Taylor OAM
Sunshine Coast	Marjorie Voss OAM
Darling Downs	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
	John Hardy OAM (since Nov 2022)

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 48.8% of the total Queensland Branch membership (572 out of 1172 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.

The following is a table showing the breakup of Queensland Branch Members across the metro area and the 8 Queensland regions as at 1 March 2023.

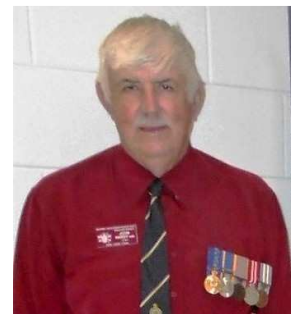
Name of Region	Members	% of total members
Greater Brisbane Metro Area	600	51.2%
Gold Coast	138	11.8%
Sunshine Coast	144	12.3%
Darling Downs	75	6.4%
Wide Bay Burnett	49	4.2%
Central Queensland	42	3.6%
Whitsunday Isaac Mackay	16	1.4%
Townsville	54	4.6%
Far North Queensland	51	4.3%
NSW Members aligned to Qld Branch	3	0.2%
TOTAL	1172	100%

During November 2022 *Carole Miller OAM* retired as the Convener of the Far North Queensland Regional Group, based in Cairns. Carole has held the Regional Group in Cairns together for the past 6 years and in more recent times was instrumental in securing an Annual Mayoral Reception for new Order of Australia award recipients in Cairns, which greatly promoted the Order of Australia and the Association in the Far North Queensland Region. Carole has decided to return to Darwin.



Carole Miller OAM

Carole's successor, who is no stranger to many Brisbane members is *John Hardy OAM* from Tolga on the Atherton Tableland, around 88 kilometres inland from Cairns. Happy retirement Carole and we look forward to a good working rapport with you John in the future.



John Hardy OAM

I extend my thanks to *Darryl Seccombe OAM* who continued in the role of coordinating the activities of the regional groups in 2022 with drive and enthusiasm, acting as a trusted conduit between the Regional Conveners and the Queensland Branch Committee throughout the year.



8. Queensland Regional Groups – 2022 Functions

8.1 Central Queensland Regional Group Lunch – March 2022

Sixty guests met for lunch at the Frenchville Sports Club, Rockhampton on Wednesday 30 March.

The Guest speaker was *Professor Graeme Samuel AC* who provided insight into ESG (Environment, Sustainability & Governance) compliance approaches by leading modern companies in Australia and globally.



Guest speaker, *Professor Graeme Samuel AC* addresses the gathering.



At the Central Queensland lunch on 30 March are L-R – *Grant Cassidy OAM*; *Dr Alan Samford AM*; *Professor Graeme Samuel AC*; *Rebecca Cassidy*; *Judith Tatow OAM*; *Rondha Taylor* and *Dr Wallace Taylor OAM*.

8.2. Sunshine Coast Regional Group Lunch – March 2022

Fifty guests met for lunch at Gunabal Homestead in Gympie on Thursday 31 March.

The Guest speaker was *Ian McConachie AM* who shared his story “The Macadamia: Australia’s Gift to the World”

I attended this event as Queensland Branch Chairman and was joined by fellow Branch Committee members *Dr Mick Davis AM ASM*, *Kathy Wooldridge OAM*, *Paula Penfold AM*, *Graham Hyde OAM* and *Marjorie Voss OAM*, Regional Group Convenor.



Portion of the guests enjoying lunch in the magnificent dining room at Gunabal Homestead. Seated at main table -from L-R - *Marjorie Voss OAM* (Regional Group Convenor); *Dr Gary Bacon AM*, (Qld. Branch Chairman); *Ian McConachie AM* (guest speaker); *Janet McConachie*; *Dr Mick Davis AM ASM* (Qld. Branch Deputy Chairman); and *Elaine Davis*.

8.3 Wide Bay Burnett Regional Group Lunch – April 2022

Eighteen guests met for lunch at the Kingaroy RSL, Kingaroy on Saturday 23 April 2022.

The Guest speaker was *Keith Campbell*, immediate past Mayor of the South Burnett Regional Council who spoke on the topic “The Past, Present and Future of the South Burnett Region”.

I attended this event as Queensland Branch Chairman and was joined by fellow Branch Committee members *Ronda Nix OAM* and *Marjorie Voss OAM*.



Left hand photo – *Elaine Madill OAM* presents a gift of appreciation to *Keith Campbell*, the guest speaker.

Right hand photo – *Keith Campbell*, the guest speaker, addresses the gathering.

8.4 Townsville Regional Group Lunch – May 2022

The Townsville Regional Group organized their annual Lunch at the Sun Hotel, Townsville on Friday 6 May 2022. There were 28 guests in attendance.

The Guest speaker was *Hon Peter Lindsay OAM*, the former Federal Member for Herbert who shared with the group his experiences during his time in parliament and he offered some interesting insights into life as a federal politician.



Left hand photo

Hon Peter Lindsay OAM, the guest speaker.

Right hand photo

Enjoying the Townsville lunch are L-R – *Dorothy Sellers, Bill Whitburn OAM and Pauline Woodbridge OAM*

8.5 Darling Downs Regional Group Morning Tea – May 2022

Forty -four guests met for morning tea at the historic Downs Club in Toowoomba on Friday 20 May 2022.

The Guest speaker was *Julia Spicer OAM*, a successful Goondiwindi business leader, who received her award in the 2022 Australia Day Honours for service to her community. Julia spoke about her life experiences that shaped her belief in the value of contributing to the greater good.

I attended this event as Queensland Branch Chairman and was joined by fellow Branch Committee members *Dr Carol Cox AM, Paula Penfold AM and Graham Hyde OAM*.



Present at the Darling Downs morning tea are L-R *Graham Hyde OAM; Paula Penfold AM; James Massey OAM; Carol Paterson OAM and Roni Bau OAM*.



At the Darling Downs morning tea *Darryl Rice OAM* (left) greets *John Standley OAM*

8.6 Sunshine Coast Regional Group Lunch – June 2022

An impressive attendance of 67 guests attended the lunch at the Alex Surf Club, Alexandra Heads on Thursday 23 June 2022.

The Guest speaker was *Brent Hall* who shared with the group his experiences as a Helicopter Pilot, serving both his Country and the Community.

The Queensland Branch Committee was represented at the event by *Ronda Nix OAM*, *Paula Penfold AM*, *Kathy Wooldridge OAM* and *Marjorie Voss OAM*, Regional Group Convenor.



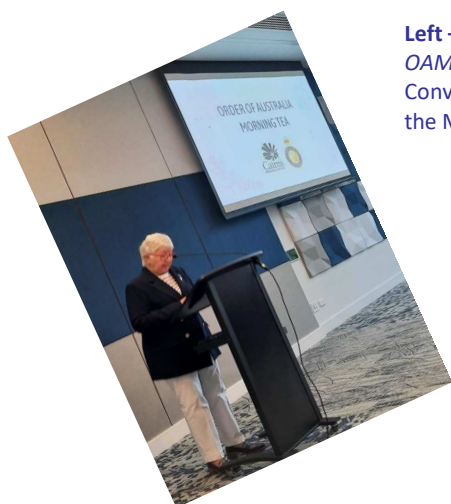
At left – A great time enjoyed by all at the Alex Surf Club

At Right - *Brent Hall* receives a Certificate of Appreciation as Guest Speaker from *Kathy Wooldridge OAM* representing the Queensland Branch Committee.

8.7 Far North Queensland Regional Group – Mayoral Reception – August 2022

Carole Miller OAM, the Regional Group Convenor, was again instrumental in arranging for *Bob Manning OAM*, the Mayor of Cairns Regional Council to host a Mayoral Reception for the local award recipients on Tuesday 2 August in the Cairns Council Chambers.

I enjoyed the opportunity at the lunch afterwards of attending as the Queensland Branch Chairman and meeting a good cross section of the far northern constituency who have received awards.



Left – *Carole Miller OAM*, FNQ Regional Convenor speaking at the Mayoral Reception

Right – *Lillian Bowen OAM*, one of the local award recipients introduced to the Mayor at the Reception.



8.8 Gold Coast Regional Group Lunch – August 2022

Thirty-seven guests met for lunch at the Southport Golf Club on Wednesday 24 August 2022.

The Guest speaker was *Dr Mick Davis AM ASM*, the Queensland Branch Deputy Chairman, who is also the Curator of the Queensland Ambulance Museum at Wynnum, Brisbane. Mick gave an interesting presentation on the History of the Queensland Ambulance.

In addition to Mick, the Queensland Branch Committee was represented by *Peter McMurtrie AO, KStJ*, *Darryl Seccombe OAM* and *Kathy Wooldridge OAM*.



Left image – Portion of the guests at the Gold Coast Regional Group Lunch at Southport Golf Club

Right image - Guest speaker *Dr Mick Davis AM ASM* addresses the gathering.

8.9 Whitsunday Isaac Mackay Regional Group – Informal Get Together – August 2022

The Mackay-Whitsunday Regional Group is based in Mackay and has the smallest membership of our regional groups with just 16 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 Saturday evening 27 August 2022 with 14 guests including 9 Order of Australia awardees.



Fourteen locals join with Regional Group Convener *Carmel Daveson AM* (wearing red top), at her home in Mackay for an Informal Get Together



Some of the guests continued the informality on the verandah at Carmel's home.

8.10 Sunshine Coast Regional Group Morning Tea – September 2022

Forty-one guests met for morning tea at the Volunteer Marine Rescue Headquarters. Bribie Island on Friday 9 September 2022.

The Guest speaker was *Dr Dimity Dornan AO* who shared with the group her knowledge and expertise in promoting bionic solutions to benefit people with some previously untreatable medical problems.

I attended this event as Queensland Branch Chairman and was joined by fellow Branch Committee members *Dr Mick Davis AM ASM*, *Paula Penfold AM*, *Kathy Wooldridge OAM* and *Marjorie Voss OAM*, Regional Group Convenor.



Left image – The guests listened intently to the talk given by guest speaker *Dr Dimity Dornan AO*.

Right image – *Dr Mick Davis AM ASM* presents *Dr Dimity Dornan AO* with a Certificate of Appreciation.

8.11 Townsville Regional Group Annual Dinner – September 2022

Thirty-seven guests attended the Regional Group's Annual Dinner at the North Queensland Club, Townsville on Friday 9 September 2022.

The guest speaker was *Dr Don Bowley OAM*, long-time medical officer at the Royal Flying Doctor Service, who attended all the way from Mt Isa. Don spoke enthusiastically about his many experiences in his role as an outback medical officer.



Above –At the Annual Townsville Dinner are L-R – *Peter Lindsay OAM*; *Mark Stoneman AM*; *Joan Stoneman* and *Margaret Lindsay*.

Right - Guest speaker at the Annual Townsville Dinner *Dr Don Bowley OAM* with *Meagan Bowley*

8.12 Central Queensland Regional Group Lunch – October 2022

Forty guests attended the lunch at the Frenchville Sports Club, Rockhampton on Wednesday 12 October 2022.

Guest speaker was *Emeritus Professor Debbie Clayton AM*, from Central Queensland University who spoke on education and skills development to meet Australia's workforce needs. The talk encouraged an energetic question time.

I am grateful to *Peter Milne AM* for stepping in and organising this event for the Regional Group while the Regional Group Convener *Dr Wallace Taylor OAM* was recuperating from surgery at the time.



At the Lunch at the Frenchville Sports Club on 12 October are from L-R – Rick Palmer; Debbie Clayton AM (guest speaker); Penny Palmer; Peter Milne AM (acting Regional Group Convener); Carolyn Milne; Grant Cassidy OAM and Andrew Palmer OAM.

8.13 Darling Downs Regional Group Morning Tea – November 2022

Megan McNicholl OAM, the Regional Group Convener organized a most innovative and novel format for the morning tea held at the Downs Club, Toowoomba on Wednesday 2 November 2022.

Megan arranged for a lively speakers' panel led by Goondiwindi business leader *Julia Spicer OAM*, who was guest speaker at the Group's earlier event in May. Other panel members included *Emily Pullen*, the CEO of Jim's Jerky and 2019 NAB Agribusiness Beef Industry Rising Champion; artist *Cheryl Moggs OAM* and *Dr Peter Bevan OAM*, a Toowoomba GP. Together they held a conversation sharing their insights of leadership, community contribution, and where they see opportunities for the Order of Australia to reach new demographics across the Darling Downs region.

The 51 guests in attendance voted this event a real winner.

Representing the Queensland Branch Committee were *Dr Carol Cox AM*, *Ronda Nix OAM*, *Paula Penfold AM*, *Kathy Wooldridge OAM* and *Darryl Seccombe OAM*.



Guests enjoying morning tea in the elegant dining room at the Downs Club, Toowoomba.



Julia Spicer OAM (far left) starts the conversation with fellow panel members from L-R – *Emily Pullen* (Jim's Jerky); *Dr Peter Bevan OAM* and *Cheryl Moggs OAM* during the formal part of the morning tea.

8.14 Sunshine Coast Regional Group Lunch – November 2022

Fifty-six guests met for lunch at the Caloundra Power Boat Club, Golden Beach on Wednesday 16 August 2022.

The Guest speaker was *Professor Peter Ellis OAM*, who received his award in the 2022 Australia Day Honours for service to medicine as a forensic pathologist. Peter has a special interest in Disaster Victim Identification and shared with the group his significant contributions in this field which included the Victorian Bushfires, first Bali bombing and the Fromeilles WW1 mass grave project.

I attended this event as the Queensland Branch Chairman and joining me from the Queensland Branch Committee were *Dr Mick Davis AM ASM*, *Kathy Wooldridge*, *Paula Penfold AM*, *Graham Hyde OAM* and *Marjorie Voss OAM*, Regional Group Convener.



Left – Our guest speaker – *Professor Peter Ellis OAM*



Right -A great atmosphere of fun and fellowship at the lunch at the Caloundra Power Boat Club ➡



9. Queensland Branch 2022 Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards

The Honourable Chief Justice Helen Bowskill, presented the Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards at the 23rd annual Awards Presentation Ceremony in the Premiers' Hall of Queensland's Parliament House on Friday 16 September 2022. We thank Her Honour for her keen support of our awards programme and for her address to the gathering on the value of citizenship and community service.

Secondary Schools Citizenship Award plaques were presented to thirteen 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.

We received an excellent response of 74 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.

Music was provided during the Presentation by the Amadeus Strings Ensemble from Corinda State High School.

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

Mr Chris Lassig from Education Queensland and a member of the judging panel presented Certificates of Community Service to twelve local students, who were not awardees, 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 like to thank *Mr Tim Fairfax AC* for his continued support and sponsorship of the awards programme over a number of years. My thanks also to the judging panel of *Dina Browne AO*, *Peter Blatch OAM* and *Chris Lassig* who once again selected a wonderful group of worthy students from throughout Queensland to receive these awards. I would also add my thanks to *Geoff Cowles OAM*, the Awards and Metro Events Coordinator for his dedicated coordination of the awards programme.



Her Honour with the 2022 award students – Back row from L-R – *Eva Skinner* (Cavendish Road State High School); *Darcy Gray* (Moreton Bay Boys' College) *Micaela Anstey* (Corinda State High School); *The Honourable Chief Justice Helen Bowskill*; *Stefanie Stan* (Queensland Academies Creative Industries); *Bella Van Krieken* (Kirwan State High School); *Kerralyn Tucker* (Maroochydore State High School); and *Tia Fitzpatrick* (Brisbane Girls Grammar School).
Front row – from L-R *Mahsa Nabizada* (Fairholme College); *Ella Raymond* (Lourdes Hill College); *Bonita Norman* (Cavendish Road State High School); *Katura Halleday* (All Saints' Anglican School); and *Sophie Greenhalgh* (Mountain Creek State High School). **Absent from Presentation:** *Mercedes Kirwin* (The Cathedral College, Rockhampton) – see bottom right hand inset.

The three side photos

Top – *The Honourable Chief Justice Helen Bowskill* addresses the gathering.

Centre – *Dr Gary Bacon AM*, OAAQ Chairman moves a vote of thanks to *The Honourable Chief Justice* (seated at left). Also seated are *Dina Browne AO* (centre) and *Royce Voss OAM* (the MC).

Bottom – The Cavendish Road (Cav Road) State High Connection – *Geoff Cowles OAM*, the Awards Coordinator and former Cav Road student (2nd from left) with six Cav Road teachers who attended the Presentation and the two Cav Road awardees kneeling at front – *Eva Skinner* (left) and *Bonita Norman* (right)



10. Queensland Branch 2022 Senior Volunteer Awards

The Association continued its Senior Volunteer Awards program in 2022.

The judging panel for the 2022 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 2023.

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.



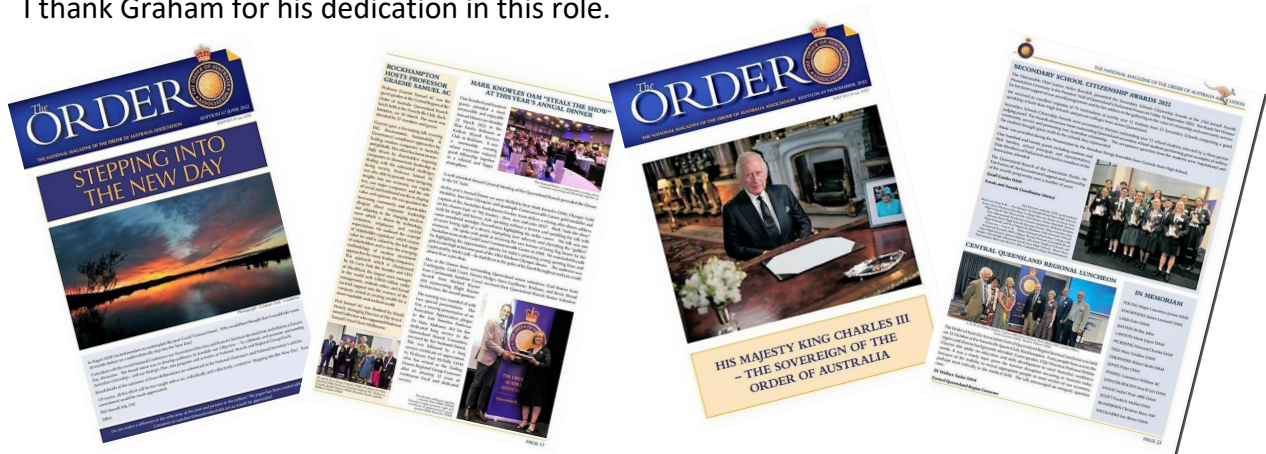
Showcasing the three senior volunteers receiving the 2021 Senior Volunteer Awards (SVAs) at the 2022 Annual Dinner. From L-R – *Dr Gary Bacon AM* (Chairman, The Order of Australia Association, Queensland Branch); *Donna Hedges*, Gaythorne, Brisbane (SVA Awardee); *Kevin Stroud*, Currimundi (SVA Awardee); *Gail Bonser*, Coolangatta (SVA Awardee); and Michael Rayner AM from Blight Rayner, Architects (Award sponsor).

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 2022. This continues to provide a means to bring items of interest (hopefully) to the attention of members. I know that I have one reader at least who corrected the earth revolutions from two to one in each 23 hours, 56 minutes and 4.09053 seconds !

Communiqués were sent out in March, July, September and December 2022 making eight reports from me during the year when you add my regular column in each quarterly edition of *The Order*. I thank Ross Patching OAM, the Assistant Branch Secretary for distributing the four Communiqués.




Queenslanders attending National Conference dinner

Delegates to National were provided with a most informative take home reference, The Adornment Book, Forests of the National Adornment Cemetery. For a forester who surveyed the 1917 oak trees (Queens oak) as a student in 1965, now included in Forest 1 in the adornment complex, the gift is a treasure. For those who might be interested in the composition of the adornment and in particular the world class botanical collection held at the village centre, you can find coverage on a recent ABC TV Gardening show (Episode 18, Friday 17 June).


I imagined in the last communiqué the major rainfall events that covered the far north and SE QLD in February this year. It made me think of past normal summer rain and the disappearance of petioles (Attachment 2).

In closing I warmly congratulate the 79 Queensland based notable citizens, including our Queensland Governor and Patron of the Queensland Branch, who were acknowledged by receipt of a 2022 Queen's Birthday Order of Australia award. The Queensland Branch looks forward to meeting Assemblies at Investitures and at a following congratulatory lunch, the timing of which will be conveyed after the Government House calendar is known.

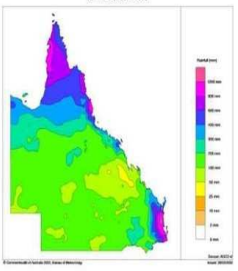
Kind regards,



19 June 2022



Dr Gary Bacon AM, Chair OAA Queensland Branch, gary.bacon@oaaqld.com.au



Queensland (cont) (cont) 1 January to 31 February 2022
Australian Standard Rain Gauge


Many were flooded, yet again a short time after the 2011 devastations. Again the Mud Army V2 reappeared and the support offered throughout the wider community direct and indirectly demonstrated the caring community we inhabit. I asked a colleague during clean-up and relocation did he know the 11 people in and about his damaged house. Only two, the remainder just walked in off the street. Food and drink for the workers miraculously appeared from angels wandering by. Public media reported the same uplifting help over all affected areas.

Last Monday 21 March I had the honour of presenting the 41st Annual Report for the Queensland Branch of the Order of Australia Association as a precursor to the annual black tie Dinner. This 2021 report will be made available on the Association's web site within the Queensland section <https://theorderofaustralia.org.au/queensland/>

Communiqué from the Branch Chair

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

We are all in mourning.



Westminster Abbey

The passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, on 8 September 2022 whilst not unexpected in view of national human time frame and last images, still startled our community and nation given that just recently we had been celebrating her Platinum Jubilee. The manifest outpouring of genuine grief throughout the world surely confirmed what we already knew. Our Sovereign was unique in the potential of sustained and consummate duty and service. If ever we mortals need reassurance of the essential value of passionate commitment, volunteering and gratis input into our communities then her role model life is a guide.

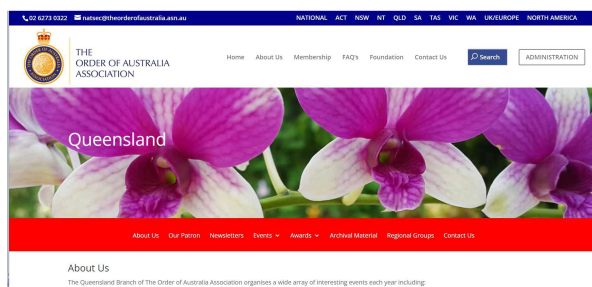
On behalf of the Queensland membership of the Order of Australia Association I recorded Condolences on both the Governor General's digital platform and a written record at Government House in the presence of Her Excellency and Professor Nimmo.

We mourn the passing of a beloved, unique Sovereign whose seven decades commitments to duty and service ensures her elevated memory for the ages."

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 advice about upcoming events and our awards as well as listing the Branch Chairman's Communiqués. Pictorial records of 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.



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

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. In addition, I am pleased to report that *Kathy Wooldridge OAM*, another member of the Queensland Branch Committee was appointed as the National Membership Director on the National Board during the year.

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 provided input into revisions of national policy and procedure documents from time to time and provided comment to the relevant Director on the National Board. *Paula Penfold AM*, the Queensland Branch Committee's Governance and Policy Officer, was charged with providing preliminary 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 the planning for the National Conference in Geelong, Victoria from 18 to 21 May 2023 is well advanced. 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.

13. Membership Trends

11.1 Membership uptake by new award recipients

There were 173 Queensland recipients who received awards in the Order of Australia in 2022 and 69 of these are now members of The Order of Australia Association. This represents 39.9% of the total number of 2022 Queensland recipients joining the Association compared with 44.9% last year (92 of 205 recipients joining). This is a disappointing decrease of 5% compared with last year. There was also a lower than expected uptake of new award recipients accepting our invitation to be our special guests at the Celebratory Welcome lunches with 23.1% of the total award recipients attending in 2022 compared to 31.7% in 2021. It is difficult to pinpoint any reasons for these new member trends, given that most of the COVID restrictions that were in place in 2021 have since been greatly relaxed.



11.2 Current Queensland Branch Member statistics as at 1 March 2023

As at 1 March 2023 there were 1172 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 2022, in brackets.

Type of membership	1 March 2023		1 March 2022	
	Number	% of total current members	Number	% of total current members
Paid lifetime members	632	53.9%	(641)	(54.4%)
Lifetime members by installment	10	0.9%	(15)	(1.3%)
Annual Members	307	26.2%	(328)	(27.8%)
Three Year Members	216	18.4%	(193)	(16.4%)
Ten Year Members	7	0.6%	(1)	(0.1%)
Total Qld Branch Members	1172	100%	(1178)	(100%)

The number of Queensland Branch Members has remained relatively static (from 1178 as at 1 March 2022 to 1172 as at 1 March 2023. That membership numbers have not increased to a marked degree may in part be a reflection on the 5% lower uptake of new award recipients joining in 2022 (69 out of 173 award recipients in 2022 [39.9%] compared with 92 of 205 [44.9%] in 2021.) The current membership position suggests that in addition to less new members joining, many former members have not continued their membership. Apart from natural attrition we have no feedback on causes of

members leaving, although in some instances aging and immobility could be significant factors.

In a detailed analysis of Queensland Branch membership that I presented to the May 2022 National Board's Futures Day, pre National Conference, the following trends appear:

The total financial membership has hardly moved over the time line 2014 - 2022 (1104 to 1178) while the total number of Order of Australia based awards has increased annually (150 to 205) and the number joining the Association also increased (60 to 92, Average 41 percent). The National Membership Officer provided the following categories of Queensland Branch membership loss over the 2017-2021 period: 40% due to death, 19% resigned, 41% became unfinancial. A list of possible reasons affecting retention, apart from members passing away could include: health (dementia etc), mobility, carer demands, individual finances, priority commitments, events do not appeal. Our skewed age class distribution where 19 % of our local members are over 85 years and a further 67% are 65-85 does not help retention per se.

It is interesting to note the steady increase in three year memberships from 16.4 % of the total membership last year to 18.4% this year. Also good to see is the interest in new members opting for the ten year membership option introduced by the National Board in 2022 with 7 members this year.

As at 1 March 2022 there were 1080 members out of the total of 1172 members (92.2%) supplying 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 1063 out of 1178 members (90.2%) in March 2022.

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 31 as **Appendix A**. These statistics include the ratio of male and female award recipients and the number of awardees by Queensland regions.



14. Queensland Branch Chairman's Closing Remarks

The past year was dominated by two once-in-a-lifetime events.

First we, as a grateful nation, celebrated the 70th year of the reign of our Monarch, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. If ever we needed a descriptor of The Queen's unique reign it is in the word SERVICE and all that it conjures up for each of us personally and as Australians. For most of us the one vital and valued constant throughout our lives in an ever changing world has been our one Sovereign, a role model of stability and service to

our nation and fellow citizens. These are the aspirational characteristics of the human condition manifest in commitment and contribution to our Australian society and communities in our uniquely Australian Honours system.

Second came the passing of the Queen on 8 September 2022. While not totally unexpected in view of notional human time frames and last images, we were still startled as a community and nation given that only recently we had been celebrating her Platinum Jubilee. On behalf of the Queensland membership of The Order of Australia Association I recorded Condolences on both the Governor General's digital platform and a written record at Government House Fernberg in the presence of Her Excellency and Professor Nimmo, with these words: *'We mourn the passing of a beloved, unique Sovereign whose seven decadal commitments to duty and service ensures her elevated memory for the ages.'*



Dr Gary Bacon AM directed to the Condolence desk at Government House by Her Excellency, the Honourable Dr Jeanette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland and Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD.

The body of this report captures the plethora of diverse events conducted throughout this decentralized State. Successful well attended regional events have been held since our 2022 AGM in Gympie, Rockhampton, Townsville, Kingaroy, Toowoomba, Caloundra, Southport, Mackay, Bribie Island, Alexandra Headlands and Cairns as well as metro events in Brisbane. The excellent guest speakers involved covered a Gaussian range of subjects and reinforces the impressive diversity of talent and experience held within the Association's membership.

I reiterate gladly my thanks and indebtedness to the members of the Queensland Branch Committee and to the Regional Conveners for their sustained personal support, enthusiasm, and professionalism during the year under review. We have a collegiate, 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 role with cheerful aplomb and to *Ross Patching OAM* who took the reins when requested. I acknowledge here the background support that family members give our front line workers and notably during my term *Charyl Cowles, Desley Jackson, Keith Nix, Royce Voss OAM* and *Peter Wooldridge.*"

Our new Governor and Branch Patron. *Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeanette Young AC PSM* was appointed a Companion of the Order (AC) this year and we greatly appreciated the invitation for OAAQ to be welcomed and warmly received at all Award Investitures held at Government House and in Townsville and Cairns. It was rewarding on many levels to again be involved with awardees and their families at these signature events.

In addition to attendance at OAAQ Metro and Regional Group functions, I had the pleasure of representing the Queensland Branch during the year at a number of other events including

- Commonwealth Day Multicultural Service (March) at St John's Cathedral, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Dinner (June) and The Queen's Thanksgiving Service (September) hosted by our friends from The Victoria League Brisbane for Commonwealth Friendship at St John's Cathedral. Our Deputy Chairman *Dr Mick Davis AM ASM* is a fine link between the two organisations as he is a Committee member of both.
- Government House Open Day (March) along with several other members of the Queensland Branch Committee, to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Queensland Branch manned a promotional stand at this event.
- The 2022 National OAA Conference, Futures Day and Annual General Meeting over 19 -22 May, together with a group of intrepid Queenslanders who braved the Canberra cold environs.
- A meeting of the Australian Numismatic Society (June)
- National Flag Day celebrations hosted by the Lord Mayor, Brisbane City Council at City Hall (September)
- Remembrance Day 2022 address at the Atherton Masonic Centre (November).



Left - School children excel at the Commonwealth Day Multi Faith Service at St John's Cathedral in March.



Right - Members of the general public visit the Investiture Room of Government House during the Open Day in March and receive information from Queensland Branch Committee members on how to nominate Queenslanders for awards

This is my final report and thankfully I can tick off the initial goal of visiting all eight Regions. Again this year the Branch Committee and Regional Conveners met via ZOOM in a beneficial transfer of information.

It has been a three year journey of satisfaction and uplift that comes from the privilege of meeting you here present and the many Awardees and Members who are outstanding Australians. 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. Often times I have repeated the telling statistic, because it deserves highlighting, that only one person in 1100 among the Australian population has been recognized with an Order of Australia. You members of the Association are thus indeed special.

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.

The most pleasing aspect of the recent 2023 Australia Day awards was the higher proportion of women than men (60 to 40%) in the Member (AM) category. This surely is a first but no resting on laurels as the reverse proportions fit the numerically greater OAM category. Come on ladies, out with the nomination pens.

Many of us in aging bodies, including myself, have needed in this past year the intrinsic involvement of our health professionals. Largely unseen and unheralded until the critical need arises, we are the most fortunate peoples on earth to have access to such quality metier.

In closing, I 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 2023. I wish the incoming Committee every success in all its future endeavours.

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.

APPENDIX A TO THE 2022 Queensland Branch Annual Report

Item 13, p 26 - Membership Trends – Award recipients 2018 through to 2022

Compiled by Geoff Cowles OAM, Awards and Metro Events Coordinator

A. 2022

A.1. Australia Day 2022 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
99	35	35.3%	26	18	69.2%	26.3%

A.2 . Queen's Birthday 2022 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
74	34	45.9%	14	8	57.1%	18.9%

A.3. Combined 2022 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
173	69	39.9%	40	26	65%	23.1%

B. 2021

B.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%

B.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	58	47.5%	43	35	81.4%	35.2%

B.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	91	44.4%	65	53	81.5%	31.7%

C. 2020

C.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%

C.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%

C.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 the three regional group events at Central Qld, Sunshine Coast and Darling Downs in addition to the combined delayed Celebratory Welcome lunch in Brisbane

D. 2019

D.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%

D.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%

D.3. Combined 2019 Recipients – Australia Day and Queens Birthday

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
268	118	41%	71	56	78.9%	24.7%

E. 2018

E.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

E.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

E.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%

F. Queensland award recipients by region – Australia Day 2018 – Australia Day

2023 [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 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	99	54	14	11	4	6	1	4	4	1
QB 2022	74	38	12	10	4	1	4	3	1	1
AD 2023	99	38	7	22	6	4	3	2	3	14
Totals	1168	610	154	126	73	47	29	20	49	60

G. Ratio of male (M) to female (F) Queensland recipients – Australia Day 2018 through to Australia Day 2023

Honours	Total No.	M No.	M %	F No.	F %
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	99	52	52.5 %	47	47.5 %
Queen's Birthday 2022	79	48	60.8%	31	39.2%
Australia Day 2023	99	59	59.6%	40	40.4%
Total – AD 2018 to AD 2023	1173	749	63.9%	424	36.1%



NINE TIPS ON NOMINATING SOMEONE FOR AN ORDER OF AUSTRALIA AWARD – compiled by the Honourable Shane Stone AC PGDK KC, Chairman, Council of the Order of Australia. (extracted from the OAA website).

- 1. I believe that everyone who has received an honour has an obligation to nominate;**
- 2. Don't leave it too late: an award can only follow a nomination and posthumous Awards only occur when the nominated person has sadly passed on after a nomination has been received and the process has not yet completed;**
- 3. Provide the Honours Secretariat with as much information as possible about the person nominated; if you don't know something, for example a date of naturalisation, say so and the case officer will do the rest;**
- 4. Do not – under any circumstances – discuss the nomination with the person nominated;**
- 5. Stress the confidentiality to all who are assisting you with the nomination – family, friends and colleagues;**
- 6. Self-nominations or those made by immediate family are not precluded but to be frank a third party nomination has greater veracity;**
- 7. There are no State or Territory quotas – it's a myth. The Companion (AC); Officer (AO) and Member (AM) have numerical quotas. The Medal is quota free and typically represents the largest number. These are our community heroes, the glue that holds us together.**
- 8. When preparing the Nomination keep referring back to the published bench marks so that you are eliciting the critically important information in support;**
- 9. If anything changes refer to the case officer who first acknowledged your Nomination or ring the Honours Secretariat direct.**

APPENDIX B to the 2022 Annual Report

2022 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!

2022 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

2022 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.

2022 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.

2022 QUEENSLAND BRANCH COMMITTEE BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES 5



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.

2022 QUEENSLAND BRANCH COMMITTEE BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES 6



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.