

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND BRANCH



QUEENSLAND BRANCH CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT - 2014

**For presentation at the
35th Annual General Meeting**

6:15pm – Monday 24 November 2014

**The Captains' Room, The Pavilion, Allan Border Field, 1
Greg Chappell Street, Albion, Brisbane.**



**To be presented by Professor Tony Webber AM,
Chairman, Queensland Branch 2014**

34th Annual Report

1. Introduction

It gives me great pleasure to present the thirty-fourth Annual Report of the Queensland Branch of The Order of Australia Association in my fourth and final year as Chairman.

It has been a very busy year with a great variety of events organized by a hard working branch committee. Our regional groups continued to provide great service to the lifeblood of our members throughout the year. A major achievement during the year was the appointment of Professor Elizabeth Harman AO as the new convener for the Far North Queensland Regional Group in March and to see that group again organizing events for the local members.

The Branch organized two outstanding celebratory lunches for new award recipients during the year with great attendances at both events; 160 guests at the event in May and 182 at the one held during September. Two wonderful Brisbane morning teas were also arranged; a visit to the Gallipoli Barracks at Enoggera in April and the Brisbane Botanic Gardens at Mt Coot-tha in August with 64 and 59 attendees respectively

The Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards (SSCAs) and the Senior Volunteer Awards were maintained in 2014. It was pleasing that our new Governor of Queensland His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, accompanied by Mrs Kaye de Jersey, accepted our invitation to present the SSCAs to the winning students at the Presentation at Parliament House on 19 September, so early in his term as Governor.

These and other events organized during the year in Brisbane and also in the ten regions are reported in greater detail in the body of this report.

Thanks as always to our diligent and loyal Treasurer Royce Voss OAM who handled the finances of the Branch prudently to ensure a small surplus was achieved. Also it would be remiss of me not to also mention the considerable contribution of Geoff Cowles OAM, our hard working Secretary, who ensured that all events ran smoothly and that the administration of the Branch was effectively maintained. I would also like to thank each and every member of the Branch Committee who worked hard throughout the year supporting me as well as Royce and Geoff. It was indeed a great pleasure to be Chairman of such a strong and united team.

On the membership front there were 175 Queensland recipients receiving awards in the Order of Australia in 2014 and 70 of these are now members. While this represents seven extra new recipients taking up membership over last year, the percentage of recipients actually taking up membership is down to 40% this year compared with 42% the previous year. These membership trends do fluctuate from year to year and it is difficult to pinpoint precisely why this is so. In 2014 we welcomed 57 Queensland recipients at our two lunches in May and September and of these 36 (63.2%) joined the Association. In 2013 the percentage of lunch recipients joining was 81% so the take up of members from lunch recipients was much lower this year. The branch committee works hard in striving to get new recipients to take up membership of the Association and will continue to do so in 2015. Our Secretary, Geoff Cowles OAM, has updated his interesting membership trend statistics which are appended to this report on page 14 as **Appendix A**.

The following is a summary of the main highlights of 2014.

2. The Queensland Branch Committee for 2014

The following members of the Association were elected at the 34th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 25 November 2013 unless indicated otherwise.

- **Chairman:** *Professor Tony Webber AM*
- **Secretary:** *Mr Geoff Cowles OAM*
- **Treasurer:** *Mr Royce Voss OAM (elected at the 34th AGM as an "other member" and subsequently appointed by the Committee as Treasurer on 10 December 2013)*

Other members of the Committee

- *Dr Christine Bundesen AM*
- *Mr Mick Davis AM ASM*
- *Associate Professor John Harden AM*
- *Mr Bruce Howden OAM;*
- *Mr Peter McMurtrie AO;*
- *Professor Paul McNally OAM;*
- *Adjunct Professor Mary Mahoney AO;*
- *Associate Professor Brian Miller AM;*
- *Mr Simon Newcomb OAM;*
- *Mr Raymond Young OAM;*

There were eight committee meetings throughout the year and all were held in the community meeting room, Toowong Library, Toowong Village, Toowong, Brisbane at no cost to the Association.

Meetings were well attended throughout the year.

The meetings in 2015 will continue to be held at the Toowong Library meeting room.

3. The 2013 Annual Dinner

The event was held again at The Pavilion, Allan Border Field, Albion, in Brisbane on Monday, 25 November 2013. There is a considerable advantage in choosing a Monday rather than a Friday night because The Pavilion is able to drop the usual price by \$10 per person.

The 112 guests enjoyed good food, great fellowship and were thoroughly entertained by Rupert McCall OAM, our very own talented Queensland modern poet, who was an outstanding guest speaker.

While all of these aspects were memorable, the most significant highlight of the evening was the announcement of the three winners of the inaugural 2013 Senior Volunteer Awards presented by the Queensland branch. Our guest of honour was Michael Rayner AM from CoxRayner Architects who presented the awards to our three outstanding volunteers. CoxRayner were the sole sponsor of the 2014 Senior Volunteer awards.

Commemorative achievement plaques were presented to Professor Klaus Bremhorst AM for his long service as the Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards Coordinator and posthumously to Phillip Blakey OAM for his 10 years of service to the Committee. Phillip's plaque was accepted on behalf of the Blakey family by his son David. Sadly Phillip passed away just one month prior to the Annual Dinner.

It was pleasing to note that the attendance of 112 guests was 11 more than the 2012 Annual Dinner.

4. The Luncheons to celebrate with recipients of awards in the Order of Australia

The branch committee organized two excellent luncheons to celebrate with new recipients of awards in the Order of Australia for both Australia Day recipients in May 2014 and for Queen's Birthday recipients in September 2014. Both events were again held at Hillstone St Lucia, overlooking the St Lucia Golf Links in St Lucia in Brisbane. These were very successful and key events in the Queensland branch calendar.

4.1 The Luncheon to celebrate with recipients of awards in the 2014 Australia Day Honours

Twenty-seven of 102 Queensland recipients of Order of Australia Awards in this year's Australia Day honours were special guests at our Luncheon on Tuesday 13 May 2014 at Hillstone St Lucia. One hundred and sixty people attended the gala event including the recipients, their families and friends and 24 Association members and their guests. At the equivalent event last year there were 122 attendees and 21 new recipients. The increase this time round is pleasing to report, albeit helped considerably by one new award recipient bringing 38 guests.

A highlight at this year's event was the presence of two music ensembles from Brisbane Boys College; the Strings Trio who entertained the guests on arrival on the Mango Tree Terrace and the Brass Quintet who provided the stirring music to assist the singing of the first two verses of the National Anthem to commence the Lunch proceedings. A special book presentation was made to the College, in appreciation of these ensemble's contributions and each member of the Quartet received a commemorative participation certificate.

4.2 The Luncheon to celebrate with recipients of awards in the 2014 Queen's Birthday Honours

Thirty of 73 Queensland recipients of Order of Australia Awards in this year's Queen's Birthday honours were special guests at our Luncheon on Thursday 11 September 2014 at Hillstone St Lucia. One hundred and eighty-two people attended the gala event including the recipients, their families and friends and 22 Association members and their guests. At the equivalent event last year there were 130 attendees and 27 new recipients. This was our most patronised celebratory lunch since we began organizing these in May 2011.

We were entertained on this occasion on arrival at the Mango Terrace by the Chamber Strings Ensemble from Indooroopilly State High School. As a pleasing

variation the school provided vocalists to lead us in the singing of the first two verses of the National Anthem at the commencement of the lunch proceedings. I presented the school with a book for the College Library to commemorate the visit.

5. 2013 Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards (SSCA)

This year we had 112 people attend the 16th annual Presentation of awards, comprising secondary school students, family members, education representatives and OAA members from across Queensland.

The event was held on Friday 19 September 2014 at Parliament House, Brisbane. Guest of Honour, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland presented 11 students with commemorative plaques and Certificates of Merit, and Mr Peter Honeycombe, Managing Director of our sponsor Honeycombes Property Group, Townsville presented Certificates of Community Service to 9 selected local students. Dr Alan Campbell, Headmaster, Anglican Church Grammar School (Churchie) presented the response speech on behalf of the Schools at the Presentation. Mrs Kaye de Jersey accompanied His Excellency at the Presentation.

Nominations were received for 70 students from 45 secondary schools throughout Queensland, compared with 81 nominations representing 48 schools last year. This year's judging panel again comprised Mrs Dina Browne AO and Mr Bruce Howden OAM from the Association and Mr Chris Lassig from Education Queensland. The Association thanks all three judges for their contribution. To Geoff Cowles OAM, thank you for agreeing to again add to your considerable workload as Secretary by tackling with such enthusiasm the coordination role of this year's awards program.

This year's presentation was compered by Gary Thorpe OAM, the Managing Director of Classic Radio 4MBS, who stepped in at the last minute to replace Mr Howard Ainsworth AM, our regular MC, who had to decline this year on medical grounds. The event was made special by the presence of the Brisbane Grammar School's String Quartet providing musical interludes and the playing of the National Anthem. A presentation of a book for the College's library was accepted by Sean Tran, one of the winning students from Brisbane Grammar School and all members of the Quartet received participation certificates from the Association.

Anna McArthur-Dowty from Brisbane Girls Grammar School, who received a Secondary Schools Citizenship Award, was unable to attend the Presentation at Parliament House due to her leaving for a school exchange in France on the day of the ceremony. Mrs Lynne Mungomery, Director of Service, Brisbane Girls Grammar School received the award from His Excellency on Anna's behalf.

6. 2014 Senior Volunteer Awards (SVA)

The Association continued its Senior Volunteer Awards program in 2014.

The judging panel of myself, Mick Davis AM ASM and Susan Norrie OAM have selected three worthy volunteers to receive this Award. My thanks to Mick and Susan for again agreeing to be on the judging panel this year. The three

awardees will be announced and presented with their awards during the Annual Dinner to follow the AGM tonight.

The purpose of the Senior Volunteer Award is to recognise and reward outstanding voluntary contributions made by senior Queenslanders 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 submit a nomination of a volunteer 65 years or older whom they believe meets the selection criteria required.

I encourage members of the Association to nominate worthy senior volunteers in 2015.

7. Brisbane morning teas

This year the Queensland branch committee organized two well attended Brisbane morning teas.

7.1 The Officer's Mess, Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera - 16 April 2014

On Wednesday 16 April, 64 attendees (35 members and their guests) visited the Officers' Mess at Gallipoli Barracks.

Courtesy of an excellent briefing from Colonel Gavin Duncan, Chief of Staff, the group gained valuable insight about the role and function of the HQ of the 1st Division / Deployable Joint Force Headquarters. This was followed by a most interesting briefing from Major Jeremy Webb about the development of the Australian Defence Force's emerging amphibious capability. The event was coordinated well by Captain Matthew Barletta who made sure that everything ran smoothly during the morning.

During the morning tea following the formal briefings there was an exchanging of gifts where I presented a commemorative plaque to the 1st Division/Deployable Joint Force Headquarters, which was accepted by Colonel Duncan who in return presented me with a commemorative plaque to the Association in appreciation of the visit.

Adding to the novelty of the event was the bus ride from the meeting place at Brookside Shopping Centre at Mitchelton to the Barracks and back, which greatly aided the entry and exit security checking process on the day.

7.2 Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha visit – 28 August 2014

Our 2nd Brisbane morning tea was held at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens at Mt Coot-tha hosted by Ross McKinnon AM, the former Curator of the Gardens.

A most enjoyable morning tea was held on the outside deck of the Botanical Café where Ross briefed the 59 attendees (32 members and their 27 guests) on the history and features of the Gardens. Following the morning tea and talk by Ross there were guided tours arranged with volunteer guides which included a short walk visiting the Cool Temperate Gardens; Cacti and Succulents Gardens; Japanese Garden; Fernhouse; Tropical Display Dome and the Bonsai House.

8. Regional Group activities

While the Association provided some excellent events at the Queensland branch level, there were also some great regional events organized by our regional groups. Our regional groups play a significant role in keeping members interested in the Association at the local grass roots level.

A summary of a range of the events organized follows:

8.1 **Bundaberg Regional Group**

[Convener: Donna Duncan OAM]

- **22 February 2014 – Coach trip to Eidsvold** – 29 members and guests. Visit and tour of RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre and lunch at Eidsvold Bowls Cclub. Guest speaker – Anthony Coates OAM – topic – *History of farming in Eidsvold area*.
- **20 September 2014 – Lunch – Bundaberg CWA Rooms** – 34 members and guests. Guest speakers Don Lynch AM and Elaine Lynch OAM – Topic: *Bike riding around Australia*

8.2 **Central Queensland Regional Group**

[Convener: Ray Young OAM]

- **10 March 2014 – Morning Tea – Rockhampton Leagues Club** – Guest speaker – Sandra Thomson Topic: *Aged Care Today*
- **1 September 2014 - Capricornia 'Improving our Community' Awards Presentation and Lunch** – Rockhampton Leagues Club - 42 members and guests. .

8.3 **Darling Downs Regional Group**

[Convener: Paul McNally OAM]

- **30 May 2014 – Morning Tea** – Downs Steam Tourist Railway hosted by Robert Ketton – 46 members and guests. Tour and morning tea in a Queensland Railways Stainless Steel Carriage. Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary represented the Queensland Branch Committee at the event.
- **10 October 2014 – Luncheon - Town and Country Club, Toowoomba.** 43 members and guests. Guest speaker Paul McNally OAM Topic: *Development of Toowoomba as a centre for education over the past 140 years*". Ray Young OAM represented the Queensland Branch Committee at the event.

Regional Group activities continued

8.4 **Far North Queensland Regional Group**

[Convener: Professor Elizabeth Harman AO]

- **29 March 2014 – Lunch at Cairns RSL Club**

This event was organized by the Queensland Branch Committee from Brisbane to try to re-invigorate the group and to appoint a new convener to replace Deirdre Ford AM who had found it hard to continue to organize local events in more recent times.

46 members and guests attended. I attended with my wife Valerie and Geoff Cowles OAM, the Secretary and his wife Charyl. The guest speaker was Dr Patrick O'Neill, Superintendent of the Cairns Base Hospital who spoke on the topic " *Rewards and Challenges for the GP in Remote Control*"

Professor Elizabeth Harman AO accepted the position as the new regional group convener. I presented Deirdre Ford AM with a certificate of appreciation for her efforts as the past convener.

- **1 August 2014 – Patio Lunch – home of Elizabeth Harman AO, Yorkey's Knob** - 12 members and guests – informal gathering with no guest speaker
- **23 August 2014 – Lunch – Lake Barrine, Atherton Tableland** - - 12 members and guests – informal gathering with no guest speaker

8.5 **Gold Coast Regional Group**

[Convener: Air Vice Marshall Bill Collins AO (Retd)]

- **26 January 2014 – Official Flag Raising and Citizenship Ceremony** –Council Chambers, Bundall – 20 new award recipients attended
- **23 June 2014 – Lunch – The Southport Golf Club** - 51 members and guests. Guest speaker: Normie Rowe AM Topic: *My passion for Australia*"
- **25 October 2014 – Annual Garden Party** – "Jabiru", Mudgeeraba, the home of Alison Kearney, the wife of the Late John Kearney AM QC – 41 members and guests. My wife Valerie and I attended this excellent annual event representing the Queensland Branch Committee.

8.6 **Sunshine Coast Regional Group**

[Convener: – Keith Swan OAM]

- **24 July 2014 – Lunch - Tranquil Park, Maleny.** 44 members and guests. Guest speaker David Spethman OAM Topic; *Early Military*

History of Colonial Queensland". Geoff Cowles OAM, the Secretary, represented the Queensland Branch Committee at the event.

8.7 Townsville Regional Group

[Convener: - Michael Johnson OAM]

- **27 October 2014 – Annual Dinner – Townsville RSL Club - 58** members and guests. Guest speaker Brigadier Roger Noble DSC CSC, Commander of the 3rd Brigade. Ray Young OAM represented the Queensland Branch Committee at the event.

8.8 Mackay-Whitsunday Informal Group

[Steering convener: – Carmel Daveson AM]

This group held an informal gathering of interested members and non member award recipients in the local area on **4 July 2014** to discuss the feasibility of setting up a Regional Group.

While the number of members in the area is small compared to other regional groups the difficulties for those members attending events is the distance from Rockhampton (336 km) and Townsville (389) km where regional group events are held. Such distances preclude these members from attending regional group events in either city. Currently members in this area form part of the Central Queensland Regional Group.

Carmel Daveson AM is the steering convener and main driver in advancing a case for having a small regional group established. For the moment the informal group is still weighing up its options.

9. Promoting The Order of Australia

During the year the Queensland branch committee produced an excellent PowerPoint Presentation on The Order of Australia with particular emphasis on providing information to prospective nominees nominating worthy people for an award in The Order. After developing the Presentation to a suitable final draft stage, the work was handed over to a work colleague of Christine Bundesen AM, a member of our Committee, who utilized her technical expertise to put the finishing touches to the Presentation, turning it into a very professional production indeed.

It is envisaged that Committee members and other interested members of the Queensland Branch may avail themselves of this PowerPoint Presentation when visiting groups or organizations to present talks promoting The Order and to encourage nominations of suitable people for awards.

A number of promotional talks to service groups such as Rotary and Lions were conducted by committee members during the year.

10. Representations at Government House, Brisbane

10.1 The Order of Australia Award Investitures

The Association ensured that it was represented at all 8 Investitures carried out at Government House in Brisbane; four organized by The Honorable Ms Penelope Wensley AC, the former Governor of Queensland for the 2014 Australia Day Awards during May 2013 and four organized by His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, the present Governor, for the Queen's Birthday Awards during September 2014. Representation at these Investitures was shared amongst various Committee members. A pleasing innovation for the investitures held during September was His Excellency and Mrs de Jersey greeting all the VIP guests together, including the Association's representative, before each investiture took place in the newly restored library of Government House.

10.2 Government House Open Days

Two public Open Days were organized at Government House for Australia Day and for Queensland Day in June.

Our displays were again in the Investiture Room on both occasions and included some public Power Point presentations on the Order of Australia and the Honours system presented by Mick Davis AM ASM. We were kept busy answering questions on a range of topics including the nomination process, the role of the Association and the distinction between the various awards.

At the event held in June for Queensland Day we successfully road tested our new PowerPoint Presentation which the Committee developed during the year, to great effect.

10.3 New Governor accepts patronage of the Queensland Branch

I am pleased to advise that His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, the 26th Governor of Queensland, has agreed to be our Patron for the duration of his term as Governor. This follows on from the wonderful patronage we enjoyed throughout the previous 6 years with the previous Governor, the Honourable Penelope Wensley AC.

The Queensland Branch Committee has sent a letter of congratulations to His Excellency on his appointment and looks forward to His Excellency and Mrs. de Jersey accepting invitations to attend Association events in the future.

The Queensland Branch Committee also sent a letter of best wishes and thanks to the previous Governor, the Honourable Penelope Wensley AC wishing Ms Wensley and Mr. Stuart McCosker all the best for their future and thanked Ms. Wensley for the wonderful contribution she gave to the people of Queensland during her term as our 25th Governor.

11. Branch Communications

11.1 Communicating to members via the Association Newsletter

It is with some regret that I report that the Queensland Branch was not able to produce for the Queensland membership, its popular Bulletin newsletter.

Instead, the Queensland Branch joined with the other State and Territory Branches in a 12 month trial where dedicated Queensland pages would be incorporated along with pages for the other States and Territories in an expanded version of *The Order*, the national magazine, to be produced 4 times a year. This followed a decision of the national board to proceed with the trial despite Queensland Branch Committee objections.

The Queensland Branch did produce an excellent March 2014 edition of the Queensland Bulletin before reluctantly agreeing to become part of the 12 month trial in the national interest. The 12 month trial is to end after the production of the August 2015 edition of *The Order*, after which an evaluation will be made as to whether the trial will become a permanent fixture of the national landscape for the Association.

The Queensland Branch has been fortunate in securing 4 dedicated pages in each edition of the expanded *The Order* compared with some other States who were given less pages to work with.

Nevertheless, the trial has provided difficulties for the Queensland Branch in that the production dates of 15 August; 15 November; 15 February and 15 May do not align with Queensland Branch events, to the extent that the inclusion in each edition of any promotional flyers for these events would result in Queensland members receiving information about events far too late to make bookings.

Consequently, the Queensland Branch Committee took the bold step to post to all Queensland members two Communiqués, accompanied by promotional flyers for events; one in early August and the other in early October 2014. By doing so, the Queensland Branch has been successful in maintaining its high attendance numbers to its events; an outcome it believes would not have occurred had the Branch relied solely on the 4 pages in the expanded national magazine. The postage for the Communiqué has come at an additional cost to the Queensland Branch; however it has been an expense well justified. The Queensland Branch would prefer to send this Communiqué and promotional flyers via email to save costs; however, only a handful of members have provided their email addresses despite repeated requests in communications for members to do so.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to both Paul McNally OAM, the Queensland Branch newsletter editor and Geoff Cowles OAM, the Secretary, who have had to overcome a number of challenges in dealing with national editors in the production of the four Queensland pages with stricter deadlines than were required when producing our own Bulletin newsletter.

10.2 Communicating to members via the Association website

The Queensland segment of the website was again maintained by Phil Morrall AM, the national webmaster, relying heavily on material provided by Geoff Cowles OAM, our Secretary. The website contains lots of advice about upcoming events as well as information and nomination forms for both the Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards and the Senior Volunteer Awards. Archival material has been kept up to date as far as was practicable.

The Queensland segment of our website now includes a section on "Our Patron" where members can read a most interesting biography about the outstanding career and wonderful life that His Excellency has already enjoyed leading up to his becoming our Governor. The section also includes a very fine official photograph of the new Governor with Mrs de Jersey at Government House.

I urge members to make it a habit to visit our website from time to time to keep up to date with what is happening in the Association, particularly national matters.

11. Branch activity at national level

I was very pleased to be a part of the 25 strong contingent from the Queensland branch that attended the national conference in Melbourne from 13 to 16 February. Last year we had 24 attendees and I am looking forward to a good number attending the 2015 conference to be held in Perth, Western Australia in March. The 2014 conference was well organized by the Victorian branch and was an outstanding success. On 12 February, the day before the conference, I attended the national board meeting that was held at the conference venue.

I also represented the branch at a face to face national board directors' meeting in Sydney on 2 October as well as teleconferences held during the year where issues relating to the governance of the Association were addressed. It was also good to meet other branch chairmen and gain an understanding of their specific branch issues as well as the national board at these meetings.

One important decision reached at the meeting I attended on 2 October was national agreement for the dates for the 2017 National Conference in Brisbane. The national board approved 20 to 23 April 2017 as the dates for the Conference. This later time will ensure that the Conference will be held in less hot and humid conditions usually associated with February in Brisbane when the Conference had initially been scheduled.

I am pleased to advise that Mick Davis AM ASM has accepted the appointment as the 2017 Conference Chairman.

12. Relationships with outside organizations

In my report last year I reported on the formation in 2013 of the Combined Patriotic Societies (CPS), a loose alliance of kindred organizations including the Queensland Branch of the Association. Last year the CPS together with the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) organized a scholarship around the

CHOGM theme announced by Queen Elizabeth II and the winning scholarship was announced at a Gala Black Tie Dinner celebrating the Queen's Birthday last year.

This year the scholarship was repeated around a new CHOGM theme of "Opportunity through Enterprise.". This year's winner was Ms Tory Shenstone who received her award from the former Governor of Queensland the Honourable Penelope Wensley AC at a Gala Black Tie Dinner held at the Queensland Club on 5 June. I attended this event with my wife Valerie and eight other representatives from the Queensland Branch. The event was well coordinated by the Victoria League on behalf of all the patriotic societies.

15 Closing remarks

I would like to pay tribute to Bruce Howden OAM, Simon Newcomb OAM, and Associate Professor Brian Miller AM who have decided to stand down from the Committee and not re-contest their positions for 2015. Bruce was elected to the Committee in November 2010 and has played key roles in the development of the Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards; the Senior Volunteer Awards and our strategic planning. Simon was elected in November 2011 and brought to the Committee his marketing, sponsorship and media skills. Brian was elected in November 2012 offering his help where required and in recent times took over the role of merchandising officer from the Late Philip Blakey OAM. Brian has indicated his willingness to continue in this role even though he will not be on the Committee. To all three of you I offer my personal thanks for your valued contributions and I wish you well for your futures and look forward still seeing you at future events.

Welcome to Susan Norrie OAM who will be elected to the Committee at this AGM. Susan has been one of the members of the judging panel for the Senior Volunteer Awards for the past two years and I am sure she will add much to the diversity of skills of the current Committee.

As mentioned earlier in this report this is my last year as Chairman of the Queensland Branch. It has been an honour and a privilege to have been given the opportunity to serve in this role for the past four years. I wish to express my gratitude to the branch committee members and regional group conveners for their support and encouragement over these four years. In particular to Secretary, Geoff Cowles OAM, and Treasurer, Royce Voss OAM, who both work tirelessly to ensure that all activities undertaken bring credit to the Association. I wish to also thank the partners of committee members and in particular Cheryl Cowles, Marjorie Voss OAM and Val Webber whose "behind the scenes" contributions at our events have been greatly appreciated.

Finally I wish Associate Professor John Harden AM, the incoming Chairman all the very best as he takes on the leadership of the Queensland Branch.

I commend this report to you all.

AJ (Tony) Webber AM PhD
Chairman

APPENDIX A TO THE 2014 Chairman's Annual Report of the Queensland Branch of The Order of Australia Association.

Membership Trends @ 12 November 2014

A. 2014

A.1. Australia Day 2014 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
102	27	26.5%	27	15	55.5%	26.5%

A.2 . Queen's Birthday 2014 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
73	43	58.9%	30	21	70%	41.1%

A.3. Combined 2014 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
175	70	40%	57	36	63.2%	32.6%

B. 2013

B.1. Australia Day 2013 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	33	46.5%	21	17	80.9%	29.6%

B.2. Queen's Birthday Day 2013 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
79	30	40.0%	27	22	81.5%	34.2%

B.3. Combined 2013 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
150	63	42%	48	39	81.2%	32%

Membership Trends @ 12 November 2014 – continued

C. 2012

C.1. Australia Day 2012 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
49	22	44.9%	20	11	55%	40.8%

C.2 Queen's Birthday Day 2012 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
62	43	69.4%	25	21	84.0%	40.3%

C.3. Combined 2012 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
111	65	58.6%	45	32	71.1%	24.7%

D. 2012

Combined 2011 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 lunches
107	41	38.3%	28	16	57.1%	26.2%

APPENDIX B to the 2014 Chairman's Annual Report of the Queensland Branch of The Order of Australia Association.

A PICTORIAL RECORD

Our Australia Day award recipients who attended the celebratory lunch at Hillstone St Lucia on Tuesday 13 May 2014 – with the Qld Branch Chairman Tony Webber AM, (first left at back row) and Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary (last right at back row)



Guest speaker at the Annual Dinner on Monday 25 November 2013 – our own modern day poet Rupert McCall OAM



Some of the 182 attendees at the Queen's Birthday award recipient Celebratory lunch at Hillstone St Lucia on Thursday 11 September 2014



Winning students at the Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards Presentation with His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland – Friday 19 September 2014 at Parliament House, Brisbane



The Darling Downs regional Group Morning tea in a restored QR stainless steel railway carriage – Downs Steam Tourist Railway, Toowoomba – Friday 30 May 2014