

**ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION**

**QUEENSLAND BRANCH**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**19 NOVEMBER 2010**



## Queensland Branch Chairman's Annual Report

**19 November 2010**

It is my honour to present the Thirtieth Annual Report of the Queensland Branch of The Order of Australia Association and, my tenure as Chairman expiring at this Annual General Meeting tonight, my last report to you for the time being.

### **Vale**

Firstly, it is with great sadness that we record the passing of a number of our members during the past year.

### **Appreciation**

The year under review has been successful, productive and busy. This outcome is directly attributable to the outstanding contribution of your State Branch Committee, Regional Convenors and Specialist Coordinators for the Secondary and Primary School Citizenship Awards. On behalf of our members, I extend a sincere thank you to this very special group of people.

### **Annual General Meeting November 2009**

The Twenty-Ninth Annual General Meeting was held prior to the Annual Dinner on 20 November 2009, with 29 members signing to confirm their attendance.

The Office Bearers and Committee elected for the 2009-2010 year were:

Chairman	Mr Mick Davis AM
Vice Chairman	Mr Paul Sowa OAM
Honorary Secretary	Mr Ross Dwyer OAM
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Royce Voss OAM

Committee	Mr Philip Blakey OAM Air vice Marshall Bill Collins AO (Retd) Dr Mary Mahoney AO, Prof John Harden AM Mr Tony Stokes OAM, Mr Paul Stevenson OAM, Mrs Margaret Rankin AM Mr Raymond Young OAM
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Committee Members retiring at that AGM were Mrs Jennette Lavis OAM. Jennette's contribution was duly commended.

### **National Conference 2010**

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the OAA was held in Adelaide between 11-13 February 2010 with over 200 registered attendees.

## **The Annual Dinner**

The 2009 Annual Dinner was held at the Queensland Club on 20 November with approximately 80 members and guests in attendance. Dr Neil Conn AO President of the Order of Australia Association and Mrs Lesley Conn AM were guests of Honour. Dr Conn was the Occasional Speaker, and gave a challenging presentation on the future of the Association.

## **Committee**

The Branch Committee continued to meet each month. Meetings were held in the Brisbane City Council Library at Reddacliffe Place. The Committee acknowledges the wonderful support of the BCC staff for so generously providing facilities for meetings. Committee members have all willingly contributed to the success of activities and thereby helped to ensure that our programs continue.

We are again indebted also to Royce Voss OAM for his careful and outstanding contribution as Honorary Treasurer of the Qld Branch. Royce has agreed to stand for nomination for this role again in 2011.

Honorary Secretary, Ross Dwyer OAM has made a significant commitment to the role of Secretary since his election in November 2007, and has performed the duties in exemplary fashion. May I officially commend Ross for his efforts on your behalf on his retirement from office and from the Qld Branch Committee here tonight.

May I also acknowledge a number of other retirees from the Branch Committee here this evening. Firstly Paul Sowa OAM who has served as Committee Member, Secretary and Branch Vice Chairman, along with carrying the role of "Merchandise Officer" through each level of contribution. Paul Stevenson OAM has also tendered notice of retirement from the Committee Paul's contribution has been significant over a number of years as Convenor of the "Multi-Faith Ceremonies" and then taking the role of Official Photographer on the retirement of Jennette Lavis. Margaret Rankin AM, Editor of the Branch Newsletter, has also indicated that she is retiring and I sincerely acknowledge Margaret's contributing to the production of the newsletter.

## **Award Functions**

In 2009-10 we again honoured our commitment to the Student Citizenship Awards by successfully staging the Primary School Citizenship Awards and the Secondary School Student Citizenship Awards. In 2010, 9 students received the Award with the quality of submissions continuing to be high.

Nine primary schools were each granted the Award for their school-based projects fostering good citizenship among students. These Awards were presented on Monday 18th October 2010 by Former Queensland Governor Major-General Peter Arnison AC, CVO. . Approximately 100 guests attended the presentation ceremony. We gratefully acknowledge Dorothy Campton OAM for the concept and Peter Blatch OAM for again expertly convening these Primary School Awards with the help of our Honorary Secretary and our State Branch Committee.

Private and state secondary schools Year 12 students across Queensland were nominated by teaching staff for the 2010 Secondary School Student Citizenship

Awards. The panel of Judges, Ms Dina Browne AO, St Laurence's College teacher, Ms Sally Freney and Dr Bruce Cook, Retired Headmaster, The Southport School selected 9 of the most meritorious to receive the Gold Medallion and Certificate of Merit from Her Honour, Justice Margaret McMurdo AC, President of the Queensland Court of Appeal. The presentation was held in the Old Legislative Council Chamber, Parliament House and was attended by over 100 guests, including teachers, parents, representatives from education authorities and government and members of the Association. Our sincere thanks go to Professor Klaus Bremhorst AM, Convenor of these Awards.

These two Student Citizenship Awards not only engender the value of the extensive community service performed by these young Australians, but also enhance awareness of the Order.

Photographer Paul Stevenson OAM provides each secondary student and primary school attending the presentation with a CD of photographs taken at the function. This has proved immensely popular with students and their families.

### **Receptions for new Recipients**

Two receptions were held for new recipients of Honours in the Order of Australia. In May, approximately 100 guests attended a function at the Qld Parliamentary Annex to honour the recipients of the 2010 Australia Day Honours. In September, recipients of the Queen's Birthday Honours were guests at a reception at the Parliamentary Annexe. Some 110 guests attended including many members of the Association. At each reception, the new recipients were provided with information about the Association and Branch activities.

### **Morning Teas**

The first of the morning teas for 2010 was held at the Queensland Ambulance Museum – Wynnum with an attendance of approximately 40 members and guests. The United Service Club continues to be an attraction for many members who prefer daytime activities. Members are updated on the development of the Branch and the Association and an interesting guest speaker adds to the occasion. I sincerely thank Paul Sowa OAM and Stella O'Donnell AO for organising each of these.

### **The Branch Bulletin**

The importance of the newsletter as the conduit for information for Queensland members is evident by the positive comments from members. During the past year as Editor, Margaret Rankin AM, and Honorary Secretary Ross Dwyer OAM have produced the Bulletin to include all items deemed to be of interest to the membership. The active contribution and involvement of members is welcome especially with appropriate articles and contributions. The Bulletin still comes out 3 times a year. I extend our sincere appreciation to Margaret for her efforts in this regard. Our Secretary Ross Dwyer OAM is also closely involved through final proof-reading and distribution of the Branch Newsletter.

## **Regional Groups**

May I firstly acknowledge the retirement of 2 of our long-serving Regional Group Co-ordinators in Malcolm McDonald OAM (North Coast) and Kevin Gould OAM (Bundaberg). Their contribution is significant over time and they have arranged many an enjoyable and outstanding function for the benefit of the regional members.

The Convenors of the Regional Groups are very committed to providing members with enjoyable social occasions and to promoting an understanding of the Order and the Association objectives. Regional functions enjoy considerable local publicity which in turn enhances public knowledge of the Australian Honours system.

The Darling Downs Group had a very enjoyable and well-attended morning tea in May, followed by a highly successful luncheon in October organised by Convenor Paul McNally OAM and his committee.

The Gold Coast also held their Lunch Function in May 09, with an interesting speaker. In October, an elegant garden party was again held at the residence of Mr John Kearney AM QC and Mrs Kearney. Our sincere appreciation goes to the Gold Coast Convenor AVM Bill Collins AO (Retd) and his committee for these very successful functions.

Malcolm McDonald OAM continues to organise the Sunshine Coast activities and Kevin Gould OAM and his committee arranged two social gatherings for members in the Bundaberg Region, to which members came from far and wide. Of note was the attendance of special guest Todd Russell, survivor of the Beaconsfield mining tragedy, at the Bundaberg lunch. In Rockhampton, Ray Young OAM convened functions in March and September. The Branch is indebted to our Convenors in these regions for their commitment and enthusiasm.

The Townsville Annual Dinner was held in September under the expert guidance of Convenor Neil Weekes AM MC and the local committee and once again it was a very enjoyable function and a great success. The Guest Speaker gave a very interesting presentation, which was well received by all. Cairns also held their cocktail reception for new Recipients in October under the guidance of Convenor Deirdre Ford AM and Honorary Secretary Ross Dwyer OAM.

My fellow Committee members and I have had the pleasure of attending most of the regional functions during the year and will ensure that on-going and tangible support from the State Branch Committee makes the job of keeping the Regional Groups vibrant and meaningful somewhat easier. As the number of Association members outside of South East Queensland increases each year, the Regional Groups play a vital role in meeting the needs of the wider membership. The Branch Committee warmly acknowledges the contribution made by the Convenors and all committee members.

## **Branch Activity at National Level**

I attended the National Committee meeting which were held in Adelaide February and was ill and unable to fly to Sydney in September. Dina Browne AO, as National Chairman, has attended Executive sub-committee meetings. Reports have been made

back to the Queensland committee and a précis of the issues appear in the Chairman's Report in the Bulletin.

The 2009-10 year has been an active year for our Branch Committee with a busy workload as volunteers. It is in this context that again we have been able to successfully achieve our goals for the year and continue to promote the Association.

I have again found the role of Branch Chairman rewarding and extremely challenging and Dina Browne AO has provided wonderful support for the Queensland Branch as National Chairman. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with a most efficient and dedicated Committee who have all contributed to the running of the Branch with their wisdom and enthusiasm – each brings a number of very special skills.

As I pass from the position of Branch Chairman at the end of this Annual General Meeting I wish the incoming Branch Committee all the very best for an active and successful future. We seek your continuing support and participation in our Association over the forthcoming year.

**Mick Davis AM**  
Chairman  
Queensland Branch  
19 November 2010