

A BRISBANE MORNING TEA

Friday 18 April 2008 saw a total of 40 members and their guests attend a morning tea in the magnificent Grand Moreton Function Room at the historic United Services Club, Wickham Terrace, Brisbane.

Attendees came from as far afield as Cairns and Bargara and many acquaintances were renewed.

The convenor, Thelma Rowatt OAM, welcomed everyone and then called on Paul Sowa OAM, Vice Chair and Ross Dwyer OAM, Honorary Secretary to provide an update on planning for the 2009 National Conference to be held in Brisbane in February 2009

The guest speaker, Emeritus Professor Stella O'Donnell AO, spoke on "The Medicines you take" and provided a fascinating insight into her chosen fields of pharmacy and pharmacology. She took those present on an

interesting journey through three areas of medicines in which she had worked. Professor O'Donnell firstly detailed the advancement of medicines since the 1960's, in particular in her special area of pharmacological research into the "reliever" and "preventer" medicines for asthma. She then explained how drugs are regulated through the Therapeutic Goods Administration and her role as Chair of the Therapeutic Goods Committee. Professor O'Donnell concluded her talk by explaining about Home Medicines Reviews, a government funded scheme which assists persons who take five or more types of medicines in their home environment. She pointed out that studies show that more than 14,000 people a year are hospitalised due to problems with their medication. She left us with a take-home message that we should all heed, "A medicine will only work if you take it and do so correctly, as directed".



Thelma Rowatt OAM; Ross Dwyer OAM; Prof. Stella O'Donnell AO; Maureen Dwyer



Kathleen Carroll; Margaret Hickey; Molly Courts OAM; Aileen Colley OAM



Convenor Thelma Rowatt OAM with Guest Speaker Professor Stella O'Donnell AO