

This first of our Newsletters for 2011 not only arrives in a new colour format, it heralds some significant changes in the composition of the Branch Committee and in the way we plan to engage with and welcome new members of the Order.

First let me introduce myself, as I arrive into the role of Branch Chairman without the benefit of becoming known to you by serving as a member of the Branch Committee. I have been a life member of the Association since becoming a Member of the Order on Australia Day 1993 with the citation "For service to education and research, particularly in the field of health science". Retiring from the Queensland University of Technology as Dean of Science in 1996 I have continued to support research and in particular clinical research through the formation of my own company and its membership of the Queensland Clinical Trials Network, of which I am the President. I feel very honoured to have the opportunity to be Chairman of your branch and look forward to meeting many of you in the days ahead.

New to the committee is Geoff Cowles OAM, who has agreed to take on the role of Honorary Secretary and Paul McNally OAM, who, while continuing to be Darling Downs Regional Convener, has taken on the additional responsibility of editing the newsletter. Also new to the committee is Bruce Howden OAM, who has agreed to investigate ways to "re-vamp" the Primary Schools Citizenship Award, while past National Chairman Dina Browne AO is a co-opted member with

Welcome

from Queensland
Branch Chairman
Tony Webber AM

responsibility for the Senior Schools Citizenship Awards and Mick Davis AM takes the role of immediate past Chairman. John Harden AM has accepted the role of Vice-Chairman and convener of the morning teas events. I am grateful for the support I have received from the new and continuing members of the committee and in particular Treasurer Royce Voss OAM as we work to take the Queensland Branch of the Association forward.

The committee aims to implement a new way of welcoming new recipients of an award and drawing their attention to the Association.

To foster love of and pride in Australian citizenship and to uphold the high principles and prestige of the Order of Australia

Departing from the tradition of an evening reception in the Parliamentary Annex, awardees will now be invited to be guests of OAA at a lunch, at a venue in the vicinity of Government House, on at least one of the days that the investitures will be held. Awardees will be encouraged to bring guests and branch members invited to join in welcoming new members to the Order. More details will be available closer to the investitures, which will be held toward the end of May 2011.

My wife Valerie and I had the pleasure of attending



the National Conference in Hobart on 10-11 February and I held my first board meeting as your Branch Chairman on the 9th. The conference was excellent and a credit to the hard working members of the Tasmanian Branch. The conference also marked the end of a four-year tenure as National Chairman by Dina Browne AO, for which she was formally acknowledged, as was Mick Davis AM for his service on the National Board.

In closing I am sure that many members of the Association have been touched in some way by the natural disaster events to have hit Queensland in recent months. While there are government and formal charities, like Red Cross, to cater for individual hardship, there are many community facilities, often developed by volunteer effort over many years that require help. Brisbane Lord Mayor Campbell Newman has appealed for established organisations to "adopt" a community cultural or sporting group to assist their rebuilding. Is this an area in which the OAA should seek to extend its influence? The Branch Committee would appreciate your thoughts on this matter. Please write or email Hon. Secretary, Geoff Cowles OAM, whose contact details can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.



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Dina Browne AO reviews her term as National Chairman

My term as National Chairman of the Order of Australia Association finished at the Annual General Meeting in Hobart this February and our Bulletin Editor has asked me to give some brief reflections on my time in office, having served as a National Director, Deputy Chairman and Chairman over a period of several years.



Dina Browne AO at National Conference Ecumenical Service

Seeing the OAA as a national organisation made me realise what a lot of work we do collectively through branches and regional groups. Student awards, sponsorships, youth support schemes, mentoring programs and so on create an OAA presence in our communities.

My first and most enduring observation is that generosity underpins everything we do:

- all the Honours recipients who gave of themselves and their time to serve Australia and its communities;
- their nominators who actually bothered to complete nomination forms so that deserving people could be recognised;
- all the Association members who support the work we do and who volunteer in so many ways to ensure the organisation runs efficiently and effectively;
- all the donors, large and small, who contribute to the Foundation so we can offer wonderful tertiary scholarships to tomorrow's leaders.

The National Directors (usually the Branch Chairman of each state) and the Executive Directors (President, Chairman, Deputy Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Membership Secretary) meet twice a year for a day-long session. Finance, membership, national and branch activities and our profile have been the major topics for discussion as far back as I can recall. Of course, they are all interrelated and are critical to the survival of the Association. The global financial crisis happened mid-term for me, and if it had not been for the astute management of the Association by the executive, which meets four or more times a year, my record may have looked pretty bleak! The financial environment is improving and while we still have to be prudent, the Association is solvent and can carry out its business.

Unfortunately, we seem to see ourselves more as branch entities so the Association's achievements nationally go unacknowledged. A prime task of the National Committee is to foster our national identity, among members and the general public. I believe we have much more work to do on this – the Foundation, of which I am a staunch supporter, is a great start.

Given the huge resource (our membership) that we have at our disposal, the OAA can do much more to be a significant contributor to the national picture. My experience shows that members from all walks of life are happy to assist when called upon, from guest speaking to making coffee. I am sorry we have not harnessed this largesse and our intellectual capital more profitably – ideas have been put forward but there is a big gap between suggestion and resolution!

I look back with pleasure on many National Conferences – the amount of volunteer work that goes into staging a conference is staggering and it is a pity that guest numbers are always an issue. We have tried over the years to reduce costs and at the same time increase the value of attending. Achieving the balance is difficult especially as our conferences don't attract professional development tax benefits. The next conference is in Darwin in April 2012, a great destination and a great excuse for a holiday!

I have had the pleasure of working with wonderful people and consider myself immensely fortunate to have been a part of the management of the OAA. □

Thank-you



At its meeting on 15 December 2010 the Branch Committee recorded its sincere vote of thanks to Mick Davis AM for his significant contribution to the Association as Queensland Branch Chairman over a number of years and as a National Director.

Paul Sowa OAM, past Vice-Chairman of the Queensland Branch and long-serving member of the Branch Committee, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Chairman Tony Webber AM following a meeting of the Branch Committee on 16 February 2010. Paul was accompanied to the presentation by his wife Alice. □

Tony Webber AM presents Certificate of Appreciation to Paul Sowa OAM

Annual General Meeting 2010

The thirty-first Annual General Meeting of the Queensland Branch of the Order of Australia Association was held at the Queensland Club, George Street, Brisbane on 19 November 2010 prior to the Annual Dinner.

In his Annual Report Chairman Mick Davis AM congratulated and thanked the committee members, regional conveners and School Citizenship Awards coordinators for their hard work during the year. He acknowledged those members retiring from the committee: Paul Sowa OAM, Paul Stevenson OAM, Margaret Rankin AM and Ross Dwyer

OAM. He overviewed the many activities and successes of the year including receptions, morning teas and School Citizenship Awards. In concluding his report, Mick said "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."

Queensland Branch Committee

At the Annual General Meeting and subsequently at a meeting of the Branch Committee on 15 December 2010 the Branch Committee for 2011 was elected. The names of the members of the committee are listed on the last page of this bulletin. □

Government House Open Day, Australia Day 2011

Geoff Cowles OAM, Hon. Secretary, reports that the Association provided an information stand at the Open Day at Government House, Brisbane on 26 January 2011, Australia Day, from 10am to 3:30pm.

Representing the Association were Mick Davis AM; Royce Voss OAM, accompanied by his wife Marjorie; Geoff Cowles OAM and Phillip Blakey OAM. Our stand was located in the very impressive Investiture Room, where award recipients accept their awards from the Governor of Queensland each year.

Mick Davis AM delivered three fine PowerPoint presentations throughout the day and about 100 people took the time to listen in and learn more about Australia's Honours system. Her Excellency, the Governor, Ms Penelope Wensley AC graced

us with her presence in the Investiture Room at 2:30pm.

We were kept busy answering numerous questions on a range of topics including the nomination process, the role of the Association and the distinction between the various awards.



This was my first time at one of these Open Days and what a great way to celebrate Australia Day. What really impressed me was the

number of children very keen to ask questions. We wore our large medals on the day, which proved to be a very good strategic move because many children posed the question "How did you get your medal?" That was a great lead in to give the children and all those around them our own story of who nominated us, why they nominated us and that one day someone may even nominate them. There is nothing better than conveying first-hand real-life accounts.

About 1800 people filed through Government House and its beautiful grounds to attend the Open Day. Many visited our stand and many left with a better knowledge of Australia's Honours system than when they first arrived. That was a great outcome that made our Association's presence all the more worthwhile. □

2010 Annual Dinner

A happy group of approximately 75 members and guests attended the 2010 annual dinner at the Queensland Club on Friday 19 November 2010. Our special guest and occasional speaker was the Hon. Shane Stone AC QC, National President of the Association. Shane gave an inspiring address that encouraged

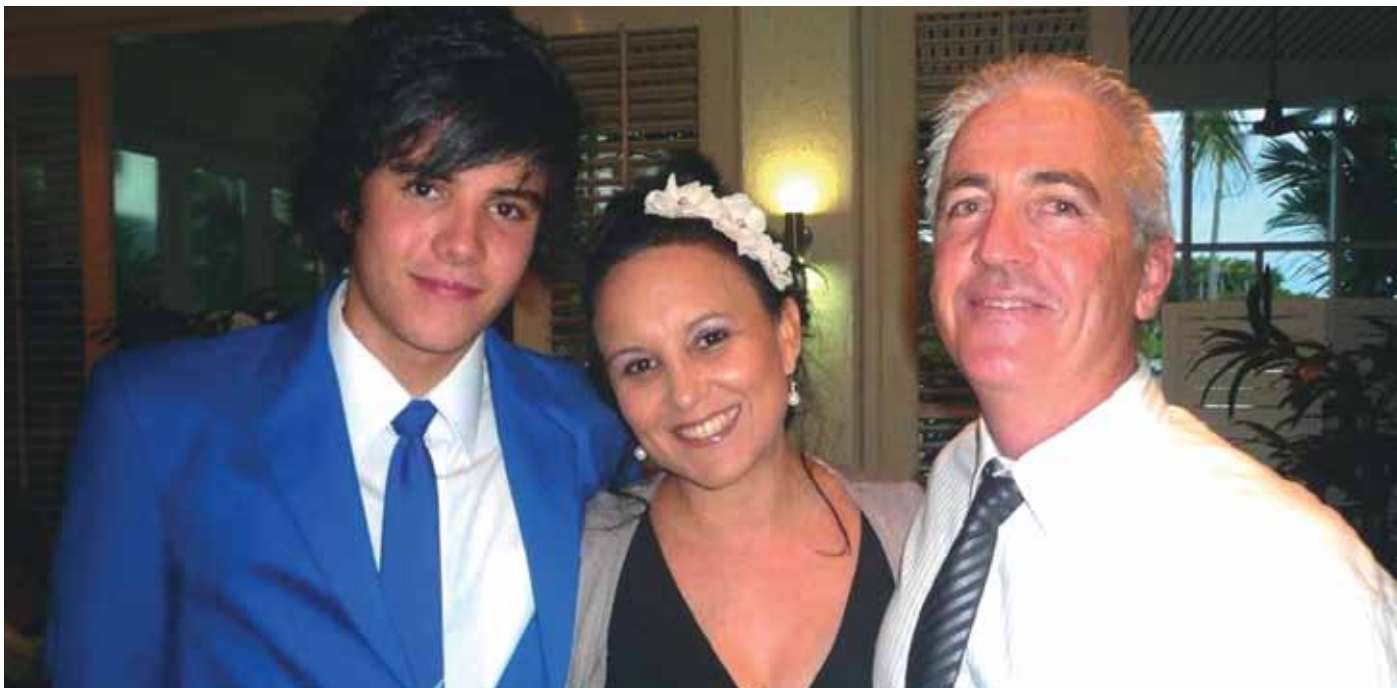
recipients to nominate people doing outstanding things in their communities for the Order of Australia.

In the course of the dinner Shane made presentations of Association certificates and plaques to retiring members of the Queensland Branch Committee and Regional Coordinators for their contribution

to the Association, including Mick Davis AM, Ross Dwyer OAM, Malcolm McDonald OAM and Paul Stevenson OAM. Paul Sowa OAM received a presentation at a later date.

The evening was one of harmony and goodwill enhanced by the quality food and helpful staff of the Queensland Club. □

OAA Senior Student Citizenship Awards



Our Branch's Senior Student Citizenship Awards have been running for the past 12 years. Each year, schools nominate Year 11 and Year 12 students who have shown a real commitment to their schools and communities as leaders and volunteers.

Often the student is a prefect, is academically strong, and is involved in sporting activities – but to earn the OAA medallion and Certificate of Merit, those selected must also have shown leadership in other areas and have demonstrated a keen sense of community spirit. The judging panel, tasked with the job of finding the 12 most exemplary students, looks for students who have gone the extra mile and are role models in their schools.

There are always strong claims from all the nominees and the judges are constantly inspired by the amount of volunteering done by young Australians.

Fundraising for numerous charities, doorknocking, 40-hour famines, Interact, visiting nursing homes, coaching junior sports and so on feature in many students' CVs. Add to this a range of other activities and you have well-rounded young adults providing the foundations for the future of this country.

Last year's winners were involved in an extraordinary number of activities outside their demanding academic commitments: qualifications in surf rescue, first aid, resuscitation and defibrillation; Queensland Youth Orchestra Wind Symphony member; recipient of a grant for Community Leadership and Civic Participation; Australian Defence Force Awards for Leadership and Teamwork; primary school music workshop tutor; music production mentor; Young Ambassador for the Regional Council; Science Ambassador; Environmental Ambassador; Global Leadership

Cairns OAA Student Citizenship Recipient Clinton Cave, Brigitte Cave and Brian Cave

Convention participant – and this is just a sample!

The awards recognise good citizenship, and the ripple effect of this is felt throughout our schools. Encourage the schools in your area to participate in nominating deserving students or, if you know of a Year 11 or Year 12 student who is really making a difference, help the school make the nomination. It will pay dividends all round!

And, if you can, attend the Awards presentation on 16th September 2011 in the Old Legislative Council Chamber at the Queensland Parliament, Brisbane – invitations will be in the July newsletter. It is a wonderful afternoon and you will find it time well spent.

Dina Browne AO is the convener for the Senior Student Citizenship Awards. □

Australia Day 2011 Awards

Sixty-four Queenslanders received awards in the Order of Australia on Australia Day 2011.

The Association extends congratulations to these outstanding members of our community each of whom has made a significant contribution to our nation.

Brisbane social gathering

Queensland Branch Vice-Chairman John Harden AM advises that a morning tea is being planned for April. The date is yet to be decided and members will be notified soon. The event will be held at the United Services Club, Wickham Terrace, Brisbane. It will be a pleasant opportunity for members and guests to meet and enjoy each other's company, hear an interesting address and receive a report on the recent National Conference. □

News from the Regional Groups

Dina Browne AO, Lorna Rickert OAM and Peggy Freyling at the Toowoomba function



Gold Coast Regional Group *Report: Bill Collins AO, Convener*

The last activity of the Gold Coast region for 2010 was a garden party held on 30 October at the residence of Mr John Kearney AM, QC and Mrs Allison Kearney. Thirty-five people attended the event including fifteen holding awards in the Order. The Kearneys organised a musical backdrop of four musicians from All Saints Anglican College.

On Australia Day 2011, seventeen members of the Association accepted the Gold Coast City Council's invitation to attend and be formally recognised as holders of awards in the Order at the official flag raising and subsequent citizenship ceremony held at the Council Chambers.

Darling Downs Regional Group – *Report: Paul McNally OAM, Convener*

On Friday 29 October 2010 members of the Darling Downs Group of the Order of Australia Association and their guests met for morning tea at the Town and Country Club, Toowoomba. We were especially pleased that the Association's National Chairman, Dina Browne AO, attended. Dina brought members up-to-date on Association activities and outlined several initiatives taken during her term of office as National Chairman.

Members extended a special welcome and congratulations to Lorna Rickert OAM and Rod Saal OAM, who received their awards in the Order of Australia on the Queen's Birthday 2010.

Professor Lyndel Prott AO, a member of the Darling Downs Regional Group, was guest speaker at the morning tea. Lyndel spoke about her involvement in the effort to stop the illegal trade in significant objects of cultural heritage with special reference to the situation in Australia. Lyndel is well qualified to speak on this complex and important topic.

Following an outstanding career at the University of Sydney where she held a professorship in cultural heritage law, Professor Prott undertook a series of appointments with UNESCO in Paris including that of Director of the Cultural Heritage Division from 2000 to 2002.

In 1991, for her major contributions to the protection of cultural and natural heritage, Lyndel Prott was made an Officer in the Order of Australia.

She has authored, co-authored or edited over 200 books, reports and articles and with her husband, Professor Patrick O'Keefe AM, who is also a member of the Darling Downs Regional Group, she has co-authored a fundamental research text on cultural heritage

law, *Law and the Cultural Heritage*.

The next activity for members of the Darling Downs Regional Group will be a morning tea on Friday 20 May for which members will be sent an invitation in April.

Far Northern Regional Group *Report: Deirdre Ford AM, Convener*

I was delighted to represent our Association at the Australian Honours and Awards Ceremony held in Cairns in October 2010. During her address, Her Excellency, Ms Penelope Wensley AO (now AC), Governor of Queensland, advised that it was her intention to alternate these ceremonies between Cairns and Townsville, thus giving an opportunity for more family and friends to attend these special days. In congratulating the recipients she emphasised what an honour and achievement it is to be recognised in the community with these awards.

For the first time the Association hosted a cocktail function to welcome these new awardees. Sadly, due to airline problems, our former secretary Ross Dwyer OAM and his wife Maureen arrived during the last half hour of the function but it was great to have them share the festivities.

Several recipients and their families attended as well as some of the students who received our Youth Citizenship Awards.



Beris Broderick OAM, Joan Copeland, Bill Copeland OAM and Betty Speed OAM at the Toowoomba function

Welch AM, founding Director of the Choir of Hard Knocks. On Saturday 30 October, Jonathon conducted four workshops for choirs

of different age groups and on Sunday provided workshops for two groups of conductors. That afternoon Jonathon led a concert in the Performing Arts Precinct at

All our special guests gave a short summary of their backgrounds and delight in receiving their award.

Clinton Cave was announced as the Junior Citizen of the Year at the Cairns Regional Council Australia Day Awards and members of our Association were delighted to see this recognition of such an enterprising young man.

Planning is under way for a luncheon mid year and it's been suggested that an informal lunch for our local members following the formal ceremonies would be a nice way to recognise this wonderful day and have fellowship with our members.

Central Queensland Regional Group

Raymond Young OAM, convener of the Regional Group, advises that the group will hold a morning tea on 21 March at the Rockhampton Leagues Club. The guest speaker will be Mrs Dorothy Demack who will talk on animal ethics.

Bundaberg Regional Group

Kevin Gould OAM, convener of the Bundaberg Regional Group, reports that the group held two functions in October/November 2010.

The first was a series of workshops conducted by Dr Jonathon

Mena Crew, Deirdre Ford AM and Marjorie Norris OAM at the Cairns function



OAM on 10 January. Ned was a regular attendee at Bundaberg Regional Group functions. He was a major figure in the sugar industry serving on many industry organisations including membership of the Queensland Cane Growers' Council from 1971 to 1992. Ned received the award of the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1991 and was a life member of the Order of Australia Association.

The next function planned for the group will be held on 12 March at which the guest speaker will be Dr Henry Ung OAM. □



OAA members at Gayndah lunch

Shalom College attended by 270 people. This was a very successful activity for the Regional Group.

On Saturday 6 November the group held a lunch at the Golden Orange Motel in Gayndah attended by twenty-seven members and guests. The guest speaker was Ted Kirk OAM, who gave a very interesting presentation of his life and times in community volunteering and industry. Ted brought a special guest to the lunch from Zonhoven in Belgium, Gayndah's sister city. Marie-Clare Hulsman delighted those present with her enthusiastic admiration of the Australian Honours model and outlined how the honours system works in Belgium. The Association's Queensland Branch Chairman Mick Davis AM also attended with his wife Elaine and informed the gathering on events and developments throughout the Association.

Kevin Gould OAM reported that he attended the funeral of the late Edwin Henry (Ned) Churchward

Queensland Branch

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Mr Bruce Howden OAM, Member
Dr Mary Mahoney AO, Member
Mr Paul McNally OAM, Member
Mr Raymond Young OAM, Member
Mrs Dina Browne AO, Co-opted Member