



Queensland Branch Bulletin

The Order of Australia
Association

Issue 2 2005

August

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Reception for Recipients of Australia Day Honours

The reception for the recipients of Australia Day Honours 2005 was held at the United Service Club on Friday 15th April and was a very pleasant evening. The staff did very well attending to an unexpected number of guests – 192!



Members of the Association and their families and friends toasted the achievements of the very diverse and deserving group who had been invested with their Honours over the previous two days. The Hon Warwick Parer AM responded to the toast on behalf of the recipients. There is always such a buzz of excitement and pride at these receptions which is very infectious!

In addition to honouring and celebrating the new recipients, this was also an opportunity to explain what the Association stands for. The Chairman of the Queen-

sland Branch of the Association, Mrs Dina Browne AO, is shown speaking at the function. She also introduced the OAA Foundation Bursary and there was a brief address from bursary winner, Queensland student, Melissa Bowtell and her mentor, Dr Cherrell Hirst AO.

It was pleasing to see awardees in the Queensland Police Service attending and to know that they, and several other new recipients, had already joined the Association. We know they will find membership rewarding.

Dates for your diary (more details inside)

Morning tea

Friday August 17th,
United Services Club,
Wickham Terrace

OAA Student Citizenship Awards presentation

Monday, Sept 5th,
Old Legislative Council Chamber,
Parliament House

Multi-faith Observance

Sunday, Sept 11th
Brisbane City Hall

Reception for Recipients of Queen's Birthday Honours

Friday, Sept 16th
Parliamentary Annexe

See acceptance slip inside

Brisbane April Morning Tea

On 22nd April, 40 members and their guests enjoyed another excellent morning tea, organized by Thelma Rowatt OAM. The speaker was Leo Walsh OAM who spoke about his passion for preserving Queensland's military heritage. Leo is photographed speaking with Alice Sowa, wife of the Hon Secretary. He is currently the Curator and Special Projects Officer of

the Victoria Barracks Historical Society Brisbane Inc. This Society holds a valuable collection in trust for the people of Queensland. He spoke about the plans for Brisbane to house the second largest military museum in Australia - should

space be obtained at the Old Brisbane Domestic Terminal.



Forthcoming Regional events

See page 4

Qld Branch AGM & Annual Dinner

November 11th
Parliamentary Annexe.



Chairman's message

What a lot of activity there is to report on since the March issue of the Bulletin.

First and foremost, I would like to extend congratulations to the 72 Queenslanders who were among those awarded honours in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2005. We look forward to meeting many of you at the Reception for new recipients on September 16th.

I thought you might be interested in these general statistics which you may not have seen in the papers at the time. The Queen's Birthday 2005 Honours List (General Division) included the following appointments and awards – 7 Companions of the Order of Australia, 44 Officers of the Order of Australia (4 Qld), 158 Members of the Order of Australia (20 Qld), 321 Medals of the Order of Australia (47 Qld and 1 Qld in the Military Division). The Queen's Birthday 2005 Honours List included 156 females and 374 males. 60.3% of nominations considered by the Council for the Order of Australia were successful in receiving an award. 64.3% of nominations considered for women received an award.

It is always with great sadness that we record the deaths of members of the Association but I need to make special mention in this report of the recent deaths of three people who had all served on the Queensland branch committee, Mr Alex Freeleagus AO CBE AM (Mil) RFD AE, Dr Diana Cavaye OAM and Mr Bill Appleby OAM. I had the pleasure of working with all of them so I am aware of the great contribution each made to their community and to the Association. They were truly distinguished Australians who gave freely of their time and skills to further the aims of the Association.

Alex's obituary described him as a man who wore many hats with distinction – his great passions were the law, service to the community, the air force and music. Alex was a key figure in the incorporation of the Association and was the first chairman of the Queensland Branch committee - our meetings were held for many years in the boardroom of the legal firm, Clayton Utz, thanks to Alex. He always attended Association functions and was memorably involved in redirecting the Annual Conference dinner guests to the alternative venue after a fire closed the restaurant we were booked into!

Diana had a distinguished career in research and ethics and was a passionate supporter of the Student Citizenship Awards and believed the Association had a significant role to play in promoting citizenship ideals in young people. She and her husband Graham were also great supporters of our events and will be sorely missed.

Bill Appleby was treasurer of the Branch Committee when I joined it – he had an extraordinary memory for detail and as a very long serving member, provided valuable advice with a historical context. He was also in charge of merchandise. I remember him as a devoted and loving nurse to his ill wife Jean and as someone who was always ready to assist at OAA functions and who contributed immensely to discussions about our direction.

The National Committee will come to Brisbane in September, for their bi-annual meeting and I will include a comprehensive report on activity on the National front in the next issue of the Bulletin. Mr Mick Davis AM has been elected Director to represent Queensland on the National Committee. I am delighted to advise that Dr Neil Conn AO, National Chairman, has agreed to attend our Annual Dinner in November – it promises to be a most entertaining evening.

Professor Stella O'Donnell AO has kindly volunteered to take over the role of Editor

for The Bulletin. Stella is responsible for the design and layout and for sourcing the great variety of content (see survey results in this issue). It is a very big task and we are most grateful for her energy and commitment. Stella is on the look-out for interesting news of members, so please remember to send her items that may be suitable for inclusion in the Bulletin.

The regional groups have been very active and I have enjoyed travelling to meet members at functions in Toowoomba, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Bundaberg. I will also be going to Townsville for their annual dinner in early August. The convenors of the regional groups do a wonderful job in getting members together for fun and fellowship and the functions are always well planned and informative. Stimulating discussions about future directions for the Association are always particularly valuable.

Finally, just a reminder about upcoming Association functions throughout Queensland. Please put the dates in your diary and respond as early as possible to help make planning easier.

The O of A National Conference Perth, WA - Feb 16-19th, 2006

This conference will be held from Feb 16-19th 2006. It will be only the second time that the annual national meeting of the Order of Australia has been held in Perth.

FOR INFORMATION AND TO PRE-REGISTER, CONTACT: Kevin J Turtle Tel: (08)9481 5055; Fax: (08) 9482 5065: E-

Support for the Bulletin

The frequency of this Bulletin is limited by available Funds. The Chairman, Dina Browne, would be pleased to hear from any members who may be in a position to offer support to the Branch, either through access to an economical quote for printing, stuffing and mailing work or alternatively through an acknowledged sponsorship of the Bulletin itself.



Forthcoming Events

Brisbane August morning tea

Friday August 19th 10am – 12 noon

United Services Club, Wickham Terrace

\$15 Per person

The speaker is Mr Chad Sherrin, Development Manager of Legacy

Parking is available behind the Club. Enter car park from Upper Edward Street - cost of parking is \$4

See acceptance slip in this issue

These relaxing occasions, hosted by Thelma Rowatt OAM and Jim Rogers-Rudnick OAM are popular with members (picture was taken at the April event). Come along and enjoy fellowship and the sharing of experiences, a substantial morning tea and music - and win the lucky door prize!

All members are welcome and are warmly invited to bring family and friends



OAA Student Citizenship Awards

We are delighted to report that Her Excellency, The Governor of Queensland, Ms Quentin Bryce AC, has agreed to present the OAA Student Citizenship Awards on Monday 5th September. As you can imagine, receiving the Award from the Governor will be a highlight of the students' year and, together with a guided tour of Parliament House, will indeed make this an occasion to remember for 12 outstanding young people from across the State.

Members of the Association are encouraged to attend the function – you'll find it inspiring and a great afternoon out! The Old Legislative Council Chamber at Parliament House is a most impressive venue for an Awards presentation and the Speakers Green is a lovely setting for the delectable afternoon tea served afterwards.

The presentation of the OAA Student Citizenship Awards

Monday, 5th September - 2pm

See acceptance slip in this issue.

Once again, Honeycombes Property Group is sponsoring the Awards and we are very grateful for their generosity and support.

Multi-Faith Observance

The third of these events conducted by the Queensland Branch of the Association will be held on

**11th September at 2pm
Sherwood Room of the City Hall (Anne Street Entrance).**

The Queensland Branch committee hopes that this will become an annual gathering of members of all faiths and cultures in a celebration of peace that embraces the values of citizenship and equality, transcending sectarianism and racism. Members of the Islamic, Buddhist, Christian, Jewish and Hindu faiths and of our indigenous culture have been invited to take part. It is hoped that State and city dignitaries will also attend. We encourage members to support this event.

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND MEMBERS

A luncheon is being planned for October at the Colonial Club in CAIRNS. Invitations, with all details and RSVP, will be mailed to members in the Region. Enquiries can be made to Councillor Deidre Ford AM (Tel 4044 3078).



Queensland Regional Convenors

The Queensland Branch currently has seven regional groups. The convenors would be pleased to hear from members who would like to be kept informed of activities.

Bundaberg: Mr Kevin Gould OAM (Tel: 4153 1287)

Rockhampton: Mr Ian Power OAM (Tel: 4928 7378)

Townsville: Ms Averill Chadwick OAM (Tel: 4779 5180)

Far North Queensland: Cr Deidre Ford AM (Tel: 4044 3078)

Darling Downs: Co-convenors: Mr Paul McNally OAM (Tel: 4632 2286) and Mr Wally Freyling OAM

Gold Coast: Mr Bill Collins AO (Tel: 5538 7375)

Sunshine Coast: Mr Malcolm McDonald OAM (Tel/Fax: 5428 1115). email: malmcdon@microed.com.au

Regional Reports

These reports are a summary of events in the Regions since the last Bulletin. The Regions hold a variety of functions that enable members to meet socially and also to obtain information on the Association, its activities and future directions. The Chair of the Queensland Branch of the Association, Mrs Dina Browne AO, was a guest at the functions held by the Sunshine Coast, Darling Downs, Gold Coast (*see page 5*) and Bundaberg (*see page 6*) regions.

Sunshine Coast May luncheon

The luncheon was held on 18th May at Rosemount Gardens Restaurant outside Nambour. The picture shows some of the attendees with the Chair, Dina Brown AO. The guest speaker was Murray Armstrong AM and he gave an interesting account of his visit to Anzac cove where he attended the events of the Memorial Service. He made very



positive comments about the behaviour of the young Australians he had observed at the ceremony. This led to a most interesting discussion about patriotism, cultural identity and our young people.

Darling Downs May morning tea

The Darling Downs Regional Group gathered for morning tea at the Town and Country Club, Toowoomba, on 13th May. Attendees came from all points of the Darling Downs, some having driven several hours to attend the function. Three Brisbane members also travelled to enjoy the Fellowship and enjoy a splendid morning tea provided by the CWA. By the end of the event, things were well underway for a complete weekend of activities for October 15-16. ALL members of the Branch are encouraged to take a trip to the Downs to join in the fun!

NEXT REGIONAL FUNCTIONS

The details of the next Regional Group functions are below. Members from any part of Queensland are welcome to attend these if they will be in the area at the time. Members already on the Regional lists will be mailed invitations. **Please contact the Convenor for the Region (see opposite)** if you need more information or wish to attend and have not received an invitation.

TOWNSVILLE: The annual Dinner will be held **on Friday, 5th August**, at the North Queensland Club.

BUNDABERG: The next Luncheon will be held **on Saturday, 5th November**, at the Hervey Bay RSL.

ROCKHAMPTON: The next Luncheon will be held on **Monday 19th September**, 12.30pm, at the Rockhampton Leagues Club.

SUNSHINE COAST: The next Luncheon will be held on **Wednesday, 7th September**, 12 noon, at "Rosemount on Petrie".

GOLD COAST: A garden party style afternoon will be held on **Saturday, 8th October**, 2.30pm, at "Jabiru", Somerset Drive, Mudgeeraba, the home of Mr John Kearney, AM, QC and Mrs Alison Kearney,

DARLING DOWNS: The "Dining on the Downs" Dinner will be on **Saturday, 15th October**, 7.30pm, at the Church Theatre, Toowoomba. There will also be a Cobb and Co. Museum visit on Saturday 16th (2 pm) and a wine tasting and luncheon at the Old Gowrie Winery and house on **Sunday 16th October** at 11am.



From the desk of the Hon Secretary

The Hon Sec. is Mr Paul Sowa OAM. Paul's full contact details are on the back page.

Association merchandise

Paul has stocks of the new Association tie and ladies scarf and also some ballpoint pens. Contact Paul to make a purchase - or see him at the next Morning Reception

Address changes - E-mails

Please advise Paul of any changes to your address or other details. The Branch is keen to establish an E-mail list of members so that invitations, an additional colour version of the Bulletin and other reports can be sent by that means to those members who would prefer. If you would like to be on the list, please send your E-mail address to Paul Sowa at pasowa@bigpond.net.au

Forms

Paul can provide: Nomination Forms for the Order of Australia. Please consider nominating worthy citizens.; Membership Application Forms for The Order of Australia Association.

Vale

The Branch would be most grateful if the Hon Secretary could be advised of members who have recently passed away.

Results - Member's Survey

Participation

Committee member Paul Stevenson OAM of Access Psychology kindly analysed the results of the recent survey of members for their views on active participation in Branch activities. About 8% of the membership responded (84 returns). This was rather less than had been hoped and the respondents tended to be at the elderly end of the age distribution of the Branch membership. The sample probably reflects a normal sense of complacency in any community and the desire of most members to have a passive, rather than active, link to the Association.

Why did members join?

Most joined the Association for the opportunity to mix with other Honours recipients - although some felt an obligation to join, having been awarded an Honour. Most valued contact with peers and believed that attendance at meetings fostered the dissemination of information. Respondents were happy to contribute to the Association but did not know how or found it difficult (due to age or lack of physical mobility). Respondents were keen to promote the Award system.

The Bulletin

Members were generally satisfied with the Bulletins although some suggested a review of the format. It was also suggested that more stories about recipients could be included (both of these suggestions have been addressed by the Editor of this issue!).

The Annual Dinner

There was, as expected, members who supported an Annual Dinner (vehemently!) and others who preferred an Annual Luncheon. Respondents living in Regional Queensland pointed out that they could not reasonably support either function in Brisbane. Many respondents had not attended the Annual dinner but gave no reason why. There was substantial support for the concept of inviting new award recipients to the Annual Dinner - as an incentive to join the Association.

Other Functions

There was no strong feeling that cost, access or public transport was a factor in whether they would attend a function - although, if anything, cost would be a factor. The survey suggested that, of all the functions currently listed (Receptions, Morning Teas, the AGM, the annual Dinner, and the Citizenship Awards) the most viable would be the Receptions and the annual Dinner. Other types of activities, such as excursions, were supported by Brisbane members but would not be of interest to those living in the Regions unless generated by organisers in the Region.

The Foundation

There was endorsement for all three options suggested for support of the Foundation i.e. an annual commitment, regional fund-raising, and a nominal donation of say \$10 per member.

Promoting the Association

Most members felt that they could talk either formally or informally about the Association but some requested that a template might be produced to assist them in providing a standardised presentation.

Some members indicated that they would be willing to engage in public speaking. There was a little enthusiasm for more community projects (visible as Association initiatives), for more emphasis on promoting nominations, and for more media presentations.

Ideas for committee consideration

- Promote peer contact; and encourage continuation of community service; promote the Association through its members and encourage attendance at branch functions as a way to gain up-to-date information about the Association. Recognise that the more elderly members of the Association cannot necessarily be active contributors.
- Continue with the Bulletin but with new format and more diverse content - including member's stories.

- Consider inviting all new award recipients to the gala event for that year.

- Consider an annual donation of say \$10 from all members, as well as other strategies, in order to raise funds for the O of A Foundation

- Develop a suitable standardised information kit for use in static displays

and public speaking engagements by members.

Gold Coast July dinner

A dinner was held at the Southport RSL Club on 8 July. The Guest of Honour was Major General W.B. "Digger" James, AC, AO (Mil), MBE, MC (shown on the right with his wife Barbara). Both the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Queensland Branch of the Association attended this function. "Digger" James spoke on "What it means to be an Australian" and illustrated his talk with well-chosen examples and quotations from his research. Also shown in the photograph (from left) are the Regional convenor Bill Collins AO and Robyn Collins, and Rae and Noel Tanzer AC. The Association is grateful to John and Alison Kearney for graciously agreeing to make their garden available for the next luncheon function (see page 4). John was awarded the AM in this year's Australia Day Honours List.





Feature: Michael John Davis AM

Michael Davis AM, FACAP, LMACAP, AFCHSE, AFAIM, MBA, Grad Dip Mgt, BBus was elected this year as the Vice-Chair of the Queensland Branch of the Order of Australia Association.



Mick was awarded an AM of the Order of Australia in June 2000 for services to community health through the Queensland Ambulance Service and the Institute of Ambulance officers (Australia), particularly in the areas of education and training. Mick is married, has two adult children and is an executive manager and qualified paramedic in the Queensland Ambulance service (QAS) - he has 40 years of experience in both state and regional management.

He began his ambulance career in Rockhampton in 1964, as an Honorary Officer - he was appointed to the permanent staff of the QAS in 1969. Since then he has served in many positions and has taken the lead in many innovative changes to the service. He is currently working in QAS in Risk and Management Services.

Bundaberg June luncheon

A luncheon was held at the Bargara Berries restaurant in Bundaberg on June 18th and over 50 members and friends attended - a milestone for organiser Kevin Gould OAM (shown in the picture with Dot Hamilton AO). The group have been trying to break the 50 barrier for some time! The guest speaker was Rod Cullen OAM who spoke about his involvement in sugar research and the sugar industry in Queensland and overseas. Ron played a major role in setting standards for the sugar industry in Australia. This was such a successful function that it bodes well for the next one planned for 5th November.



VALE

Sincere sympathy is extended to family, relatives and friends of the following deceased members of the Branch

Mr Bill Appleby OAM, Bridgeman Downs
Mr WGCDR A. Freeleagus AO, Brisbane
Dr Bernard Stone AM, Fig Tree Pocket
Dr Diana E H Cavaye OAM, St Lucia
Lt Col J. O'Neill AM, Taigum
Mr L E Elliott OAM, Cairns

Nominate a Queenslander who makes us proud

The call for nominations in the various categories of the Australian of the Year Awards 2006 was launched by the Prime Minister, the Hon John Howard at Customs House, Sydney on July 11th. Nominations close on Monday 29th August 2005. Refer to the Australian of the Year website or call 1300 655 193 for information.

Queensland Branch Committee 2005

Patron: Her Excellency, Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor of Queensland

Chairman:

Mrs Dina Browne AO

Tel: (07) 3870 3427 (h)

Tel/Fax: (07) 3217 8330 (b)

Email: worthseeing@iprimus.com.au

Hon Secretary:

Mr Paul M Sowa OAM,

16, Alverstone St., Banyo, Qld 4014

Tel: (07) 3267 7216 (h/b)

E-mail: pasowa@bigpond.net.au

Hon Treasurer:

Ms Julie Brougham

Tel: (07) 3839 8100

Email: Julie.Brougham@ckgpartners.com.au

Immediate Past Chairman:

Mr Graham Thompson AM

Vice-Chairman:

Mr Mick Davis AM

Committee Members:

Mr Phillip Blakey OAM

Mrs Dorothy Campton OAM

AVM Bill Collins AO

Mrs Jeannette Lavis OAM

Mr Paul Stevenson OAM

Mr Anthony Stokes OAM

Association National Executive 2005

President:

Sir Guy Green AC KBE CVO - Tasmania

National Chairman:

Dr Neil Conn AO - New South Wales

Deputy National Chairman:

Mrs Dina Browne AO - Queensland

National Secretary:

Mr Jim Leedman AM - ACT

National Treasurer:

Mr Geoff Vincent AM - Victoria

National Membership Secretary:

Ms Colleen Thurgar AM - ACT

Directors:

State Chairmen