



## Chairman's Report

I am pleased to report that the year to date has been very successful. The activities hosted by the Queensland Branch and the regional groups have been very well attended and enjoyed by members of the Association, their partners and friends. The luncheon for 2015 Australia Day awardees held at the Broncos Leagues Club in Brisbane on Friday 8 May was particularly well attended with 33 new awardees and a total attendance of 271.

The regional groups have also been active, organising functions at the Gold Coast, Toowoomba and Mackay since the last edition of *The Order*. The Mackay-Whitsunday Group, which has only recently been formed, met for the first time on Friday 26 June. We are looking forward to the Sunshine Coast Regional Group lunch on 23 July, the Bundaberg Regional Group morning tea on 15 August and the Central Queensland Regional Group dinner on 7 September. I wish to thank regional group coordinators for their continued enthusiasm and hard work. As Chairman, I will endeavour to attend regional group functions to meet with members, encourage membership, enhance communication and gather ideas. If I am unavailable, then we will endeavour to have another Queensland Branch Committee member attend. This is a challenging task in our decentralised State.

On Friday 12 June members of the Queensland Branch joined with the Victoria League Brisbane for Commonwealth Friendship in a wonderful Black Tie Gala Dinner held at the Queensland Club to celebrate the Queen's Birthday. Guests were honoured by the attendance of His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland and Mrs Kaye de Jersey. The Governor delivered a very interesting address emphasising service, the Monarchy and his meetings with Her Majesty. I wish to thank Bill Willcocks, Chairman of the Victoria League Brisbane and his Committee for their cooperation and organization of this event.

I encourage members to attend the Thanksgiving Matins Service to be held at St. John's Cathedral Brisbane on Sunday 23 August. This service will commemorate the moment in time when Her Majesty The Queen becomes the longest reigning Monarch.

May I remind members to return the survey form included in the last issue of *The Order*. This survey seeks comments from members on what they think about the new format of including dedicated Branch pages in lieu of a Branch newsletter. After careful consideration your Branch Committee will be recommending that the number of issues of *The Order* be reduced from four to three per year. This will still achieve the major objectives of the Association of communicating with members and promoting the Association while reducing the costs and also the workload of Branch editors/correspondents and regional group conveners.

**Associate Professor John Harden AM**



VIPs at the Gala Black Tie Dinner - from L to R Bill Willcocks, Victoria League Brisbane; HE the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland; Mrs Kaye de Jersey and Associate Professor John Harden AM

## COMMEMORATIVE THANKSGIVING SERVICE FOR HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN – “LONG TO REIGN OVER US”

Members of the Order of Australia Association, Queensland Branch, are invited to join in celebrating the long reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her impending moment in time when she becomes the longest reigning Monarch, at a special church service at St John's Anglican Cathedral, 373 Ann Street, Brisbane on Sunday 23 August 2015 at 9.30am. His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland and Mrs Kaye de Jersey will be in attendance.

All denominations are invited to attend. The service format will be Matins. The service will include a procession of the flags of the Commonwealth and music from Her Majesty's coronation in 1953.

Members are encouraged to wear their large medals and decorations.

The event promises to be a spectacular and colourful commemoration of this historic moment in time. No bookings required – just turn up. You need to be seated by 9:15am. Parking is available at 410 Ann Street at the weekend \$10 flat rate with entry from Ann Street opposite the Cathedral. There is also excellent public transport available into and out of the Brisbane CBD.

St. John's Cathedral is a superb gothic cathedral with an interior of elegant sandstone columns and arches supporting

the only stone vaulted ceiling in the Southern Hemisphere. The Cathedral is 19th century Gothic-Revival style designed in 1888 by John Loughborough Pearson.



Photo courtesy The Australian Women's Weekly/bauersyndication.com.au

**How to become a Member of our Association check our website [www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au)**



2015 Australia Day award recipients at the Broncos Leagues Club on 8 May 2015.

Top two rows from L to R – Michael Cosgrove OAM; Dr Ian Wells OAM; Kenneth Bird OAM; Robin Kleinschmidt OAM; Garry Davey OAM; Beverley Giles OAM; Kenneth Hurling OAM; Prof. John Aaskov OAM; Ross Wiseman AM; Peter McGregor OAM; Dr Peter Ho AM; Prof. Paul Martin OAM; Dr Christina Steffen AM; Alan Clayton AM; Dr Walter Wood OAM; Fred Ainsworth OAM; Robin Murphy OAM; Stan Pilecki OAM; Winifred Smith AM; John Gaskin AM.

Middle row from L to R – Desleigh Butler OAM; Wendy Downes OAM; Margaret O'Driscoll OAM; Aileen Heathwood OAM; Joy Boyle OAM; Beres McCallum OAM.

Front row from L to R - Emer. Prof. Thomas Cochrane AM; Terence Meehan AM; Sel Pfeiffer OAM; Givenda Braga OAM; Thelma Dooley PSM OAM.

Absent from photo – Alan Barlow OAM; Wendy Tisdell OAM.

## RECORD ATTENDANCE AT CELEBRATORY LUNCH FOR 2015 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD RECIPIENTS

What a celebration we had at the Broncos Leagues Club in Brisbane on Friday 8 May. The record attendance of 271 guests filled the main auditorium and more importantly we were able to welcome 33 wonderful Queenslanders who received an award in this year's Australia Day Honours. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the event and the large crowd created an enormous buzz around the place. It was great to experience this.

The main highlight was the segment where we welcomed individually each new recipient by reading out their name, award and citation. The fields of achievement of the 33 recipients were very varied and included service to the community; the building and construction industry; civil engineering; medicine; community health; aged care; rugby union; competitive sailing; the Australian Red Cross; nursing and education to name a few. Congratulations to all recipients on your wonderful individual achievements leading

up to receiving your awards. While most of the recipients were from Brisbane and surrounding areas, we were pleased that two came all the way from Cairns and one from the Mackay district.

Another highlight of the lunch was the presence of the six-member Celli Choir from Kelvin Grove State College who provided lovely background music on arrival and gave us a stirring rendition of the first two verses of the National Anthem which all in attendance sang with great voice. Associate Professor John Harden AM, the Queensland Branch Chairman, presented each of the musicians with a special Certificate of Participation from the Association after their performance.

Our celebratory lunch for this year's Queen's Birthday award recipients will be held in September. The actual date will be announced after Government House in Brisbane advises when the Investitures for these recipients will be held.

### THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL DINNER AND AGM

Please note in your diaries that the 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Annual Dinner will be held on **Monday 23 November 2015 at The Pavilion**, Alan Border Field (the Home of Queensland Cricket), 1 Greg Chappell Street, Albion, Brisbane.

The AGM will commence at 6:15pm to be followed by the Annual Dinner at 7:00pm commencing with canapés and drinks on arrival at the Picket Fence Café followed by our three course dinner in the Captains' Room. The cost will be \$93 per person. We will have an interesting after-dinner guest speaker and we will also present our Senior Volunteer Awards to three outstanding Queenslanders.

More details in the next edition and on the website, when available. Official notice of the AGM including a call for nominations for the 2016 Committee and proxy form is included in a flyer with this edition of The Order.

Enquiries with Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary.



## MACKAY-WHITSUNDAY REGIONAL GROUP: QUEENSLAND'S NEWEST REGIONAL GROUP



Queensland's newest group meets at Mackay  
Front row from left: Wendy Downes OAM; Elspit Mulherin OAM; Jessie Rogers OAM; Norma Shuttlewood OAM; Raymond Young OAM; Carmel Daveson AM  
Back row from left: Bob Sim OAM; John Langford AM; Greg Whitmore AM; Ray Braithwaite OAM; James Haire AC; Reg Butler OAM.

The inaugural "Meet and Greet" for the Mackay Whitsunday Regional Group was held on 26 June 2015 at the home of Carmel Daveson AM in Mackay. Mr Raymond Young OAM, from Rockhampton, represented the Queensland Branch Committee.

Queensland's latest Regional Group covers the geographic local government areas administered by the Mackay and Whitsunday Regional Council areas. Some of townships are Sarina, Mirani, Mackay, Proserpine, Cannonvale, Airlie Beach, Bowen and Collinsville.

The group welcomed the area's new awardee Mrs Wendy Downes OAM and her husband John who had travelled down from Cannonvale. Wendy was awarded her honour for "service to the community of the Whitsundays and to recreational running."

Two new arrivals to the Mackay Region, Reverend Professor James Haire AC KStJ and his wife Reverend Dr Julia Pitman, were also welcomed. Reverend Professor Haire's award was "for eminent service to the community through international leadership in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue, the promotion of religious reconciliation, inclusion and peace, and as a theologian."

The Regional Group enjoyed listening to both Mrs Downes and Reverend Professor Haire speak of their experiences in facilitating community and spiritual well-being at both a local and international level. We also had the pleasure of celebrating the 90th birthday of Norma Shuttlewood OAM and acknowledging the major contribution she has made to the cultural life of the district over many long years.

**Carmel Daveson AM, Convener**

## GOLD COAST REGIONAL GROUP



*Air Vice Marshal Retired Bill Collins AO, Gold Coast Regional Convener, Mrs Lesley Freeman OAM, Mr Peter O'Reilly OAM, Mrs Annette O'Reilly.*

The Gold Coast Regional Group held a lunch on 15 May 2015 at the Southport Golf Club. Eighty-one members, relatives and guests attended. The guest speaker was a local Association member, Mr Peter O'Reilly OAM of O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat in the Lamington National Park. He spoke of the history of the guest house and the rescue of the survivors of the Stinson aircraft crash of February 1937 by his uncle Bernard O'Reilly. As is their custom, Mrs Lesley Freeman OAM and Mr Bill Freeman MBE invited eighteen of their friends to the lunch. Geoff Cowles OAM, the Branch Secretary, represented the Queensland Branch Committee at this event.

The Gold Coast Regional Group has held ten garden party style afternoon teas at "Jabiru" the home of the late Mr John Kearney AM QC and Mrs Alison Kearney. With the passage of time "Jabiru" is no longer available for such functions. The Association members in the region who have attended these functions are very grateful to the Kearneys for their hospitality.

Accordingly the nature and location of the next function tentatively planned for October is currently unknown. Once determined it will be shown on the Queensland Branch website and invitations will be sent to Gold Coast Regional Group members.

**Bill Collins AO, Convener**

## CENTRAL QUEENSLAND REGIONAL GROUP

The next function for members of our Group and their guests will be a dinner to be held on 7 September 2015 at the Rockhampton Leagues Club at 6.30pm for fellowship and dinner at 7.00pm. Our guest speaker will be the Hon Alan Demack AO who will address us on the topic, "Australia – the path to nationhood." Members will receive invitations in due course.

**Raymond Young OAM, Convener**

## FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND REGIONAL GROUP

A unique investiture ceremony was held on 27 May in Cairns where Far North Queensland Group Convener, Liz Harman AO, represented the Queensland Branch of the Association. Fourteen awardees were able to attend, to be given awards made in 2014 for their unstinting work in and for Cape York Indigenous communities through the work of the Family Responsibilities Commission (FRC). This agency established in 2008 is a key element of Cape York Welfare Reform.

The FRC is an independent statutory body comprised of a legally qualified Commissioner and six Local Commissioners for each of four Cape York Welfare Reform communities (Aurukun, Coen, Mossman Gorge and Hope Vale). The group comes together in Cairns once a year for meetings, training and development. On this occasion, an investiture was organised and we were privileged to join with family and friends when His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland and Mrs Kaye de Jersey attended to recognise the very special contributions made by these people in the very far north. The nature of Cape York makes it difficult for many of this group to participate in Association events, but there is a possibility that we can organise one in 2016 around the scheduled time of the next FRC annual get-together.

The next Regional Group event for 2015 is a pre-Christmas lunch to be held on Saturday 7 November in Cairns.

**Liz Harman AO, Convener**



*At the Cairns investiture*

*Back row from left - Coen Local Commissioner May Kepple OAM; Hope Vale Local Commissioner Doreen Hart OAM; Hope Vale Local Commissioner Victor Gibson OAM; Aurukun Local Commissioner Edgar Kerindun OAM; Coen Local Commissioner Garry Port OAM; Aurukun Local Commissioner Ada Woolla OAM; Mossman Gorge Local Commissioner Loretta Spratt OAM; Aurukun Local Commissioner Doris Pookamelya OAM.  
Front row from left - Hope Vale Local Commissioner Brian Cobus OAM; Mossman Gorge Local Commissioner Karen Gibson OAM; Commissioner David Glasgow AM; His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC Governor of Queensland; Aurukun Local Commissioner Vena Koometa OAM; Coen Local Commissioner Peter Peter OAM; Coen Local Commissioner Elaine Liddy OAM.*

## DARLING DOWNS REGIONAL GROUP

At a morning tea in Toowoomba on 29 May fifty-four members and guests of the Darling Downs Regional Group were treated to a fine presentation by Graham Burstow OAM of photographs he has taken over many years as one of Australia's foremost photographers. Many of the photographs shown have been included in exhibitions at various venues in Australia and overseas. Graham is regularly invited to judge at important photographic competitions in Australia.

Members present were able to meet and welcome two recent recipients of awards in the Order of Australia, Barry Rodgers OAM and Stephen Jones AM. Associate Professor John Harden AM, the Queensland Branch Chairman, and his wife Di were in attendance.

Our next function will be held in October and members will receive invitations in early September.

**Paul McNally OAM, Convener**

## BUNDABERG REGIONAL GROUP

The Group's next gathering will be in the newly restored Paragon Theatre in Childers on 15 August 2015. There will be morning tea followed by a tour of the building to see work already done and what is planned for the future. We will finish with a movie. The morning will start at the Paragon at 9.00am and there is plenty of parking in the street outside the theatre.

I regret to inform you that Mrs Elvia Slack OAM has been severely injured in an automobile accident in Gayndah when she stepped off the footpath and failed to see an approaching vehicle. Elvia has a long road ahead of her to fully recuperate and I am sure all our Bundaberg Regional Group members join me in wishing her a speedy recovery.

Mrs Barbara Hovard OAM from Maryborough is our region's newest awardee. She was awarded her Medal of the Order of Australia in this year's Queen's Birthday honours list. We congratulate her and look forward to seeing her at our functions.

**Donna Duncan OAM, Convener**

## QUEENSLAND SECONDARY SCHOOLS' CITIZENSHIP AWARDS – NOW IN THEIR 17TH YEAR



*Winning students around the historic centre table in the ornate Old Legislative Chamber, Parliament House, Brisbane*

The Queensland Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards have been an integral and important part of the Queensland Branch calendar since 1999.

The Awards showcase some outstanding Queensland secondary school students performing some amazing community service and fostering true Australian citizenship.

Selected students may not necessarily be academic or sporting high-achievers, but they will have displayed a commitment to bettering the world in which they live and will be excellent role models. Schools are encouraged to nominate not only school leaders but also worthy students who may not have a school leadership role but nevertheless demonstrate outstanding citizenship and community service commitment.

The awards recognise students for their community service and remind us all of the significant level of volunteering undertaken by young Australians. The awards encourage students to think about Australian citizenship and the importance of contributing to their community through service and involvement; and make them more aware of the Australian Honours system and the ideals of good citizenship that it enshrines.

The Queensland Branch is again looking forward to receiving a good number of nominations of worthy students from schools throughout the length and breadth of Queensland before the deadline date of 3 August 2015. These nominations will be assessed by a judging panel who will select the successful students, usually twelve.

The 2015 programme will culminate in a moving ceremony held in the Old Legislative (Red) Chamber at Parliament House, Brisbane where His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland will present these prestigious awards to the winning students.

This year's Presentation will be on Friday 18 September 2015 from 1:30pm. We would be delighted to see many of our members attending. Please make it a date claimer in your diaries. A registration/payment form can be downloaded from the Association website.

## IN MEMORIAM

Ralph Beckingham OAM

Henry Charles Denyer OAM

Lindsay Charles Hamilton AM

Norman William Jenner OAM

Ian George Mavor OAM

Arch Nicholson OAM

Kenneth George Richards OAM

James Joseph See OAM

Paul Anthony Sherman OAM

John Duncan Thompson OAM

## THE 2017 NATIONAL CONFERENCE – WELCOME TO BRISBANE

A big, warm Queensland welcome will await all the delegates to the 2017 National Conference being held in the Sunshine State's beautiful capital, Brisbane, from 20 to 23 April 2017. The Conference Committee of the Queensland Branch, very ably led by its Convener, Mick Davis AM ASM, and Deputy Convener, Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ, is already well advanced in organising a wonderful program full of interesting events that Association members and their guests will enjoy. Now is the time to include the Conference dates in your diaries and plan to be there to experience great hospitality, stimulating presentations and friendly social occasions. Queensland members of the Association look forward to welcoming fellow members from around Australia to Brisbane in April 2017. We are sure everyone will have a terrific time.

## SENIOR VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2015

Many nominations have already been received for this year's Senior Volunteer Awards and there is still time for you to send in nominations recognising those senior Queenslanders (over 60 years of age) who have contributed so much to our community. Don't forget the nominations close on Friday 28 August 2015 with the Secretary, Geoff Cowles OAM. All Queensland members of the Association have previously received a nomination form and details of the award in an earlier Branch Communiqué. The form is also available at the Queensland Branch website and it is easy to complete. So don't delay – act today.



Dr Dimity Dornan AO



The grand splendour of The Queensland Club

## “A MORNING TEA IN THE CBD” WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST 2015

Please join us on Wednesday 26 August 2015 to take morning tea in the grand splendour of the Queensland Club on the corner of George and Alice Streets in the historic precinct of the Brisbane CBD and to hear Dr Dimity Dornan AO, a remarkable Queenslander, tell her wonderful story about how she founded Hear and Say. There will be musical accompaniment provided by cellist Ms Chloe Yapp, who received one of the Association's Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards in 2013.

The Dimity Dornan story is a one like no other and is not to be missed. It describes how a new Auditory-Verbal Therapy program started and culminated in Hear and Say, a centre for children who are deaf or hearing-impaired and their families, being born on 6 July 1992.

The name 'Hear and Say' was chosen specifically to emphasise that children who are hearing-impaired can learn to listen and to speak. It was born out of humble beginnings with just six initial families offered speech and language therapy in Dimity's husband Peter's private practice

rooms. Today Hear and Say provides services for thousands of children and families across six Queensland centres, plus a telemedicine outreach program for rural, regional and international children and families.

This is just a teaser to get you interested. You will have to come to the morning tea to see how the story fully unfolds. It promises to be an inspirational and uplifting experience.

The cost of the event is \$35 per person and a flyer and registration/payment form with fuller details is included with this edition of The Order. There is free parking on site at the Queensland Club and the free City Loop bus stops right outside. Details on how to get there by this bus service are included on the reverse side of the flyer. Our host Queensland Club member for this event is Bruce J Howden OAM.

For enquiries contact Geoff Cowles OAM, our Secretary, on 3351 4991 or email [secqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:secqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)

We hope to have the pleasure of your company at this special morning tea.

## A THOROUGHLY ENJOYABLE VISIT TO THE RAAF AMBERLEY AIR BASE

Our visit to the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Amberley Air Base, 10 km south west of Ipswich on Wednesday 29 April 2015 was an enjoyable event with sixty-four attendees including thirty-nine members.

Security entry requirements were made easier because we travelled as a group in two comfortable buses. We were afforded a most comprehensive windscreen guided tour of the Base travelling in our buses with expert commentary provided by Base personnel.

The highlight was a very lovely morning tea in the Officers' Mess in the presence of Air Commodore Scott Winchester, the officer in charge of Headquarters, Combat Support

Group. Associate Professor John Harden AM, the Queensland Branch Chairman, presented a commemorative plaque from the Association to the Combat Support Group which was accepted on behalf of the Group by the Air Commodore.

The event concluded with a very good look at the wide range of air force exhibits and air force planes on display at the Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre.

This visit dovetailed nicely with the morning tea we enjoyed at the Gallipoli Barracks at Enoggera, Brisbane in April last year hosted by the Australian Army.

Our Air Force hosts on this occasion made us all very welcome and were the equal of their Army cousins with their hospitality.



Associate Professor John Harden AM, the Queensland Branch Chairman (left), presents the Combat Support Group of RAAF Amberley Air Base with a commemorative plaque accepted by Air Commodore Scott Winchester (right).

For our next Brisbane morning tea we will be at the Queensland Club for "A Morning Tea in the CBD" on Wednesday 26 August 2015. Our special guest speaker will be Dr Dimity Dornan AO. Fuller details of this event are provided elsewhere in the Queensland Branch pages of this edition of The Order.



The thirty-nine Order of Australia award recipients who attended the RAAF Amberley Base with Air Commodore Scott Winchester, HQ Combat Support Group.