



Chairman's Report

The year 2015 has been very successful thanks to the very active Queensland Branch Committee and the regional group coordinators. The many events have been well attended and my annual report, available on the web site, provides a very detailed record of the year's activities.

The recently held AGM and the Annual Dinner were well attended and I am pleased to welcome two new members who were elected to the Queensland Branch Committee -Marjorie Voss OAM and Winston Fraser OAM. Sue Norrie OAM and Christine Bundesen AM did not seek nomination for the committee in 2016 and we thank them for the valuable contributions they made to the Committee's activities during the year. I thank Professor Tony Webber AM, the past Chairman, for his support and wise counsel during my first year as Chairman.

One of the highlights of the Annual Dinner was announcing the winners of the 2015 Senior Volunteer Awards - Mary Peden, Dell York and Iris Worboys. The Queensland Branch was very pleased to recognise the outstanding contributions these volunteers make to the community. Another highlight was the address by Distinguished Professor Judith Clements AC, the guest speaker.

We are already planning events for 2016 and I encourage you to refer to the web site and *The Order* for details of those events. A major national event in 2016 is the National Conference of the Order of Australia Association which is being held in Sydney from 11 to 13 March. I encourage you to attend this Conference and look forward to meeting you there. Can I conclude by wishing all members of the Association, their partners and friends a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

John Harden AM

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2015 QUEENSLAND BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinners held every November are always very memorable occasions. For those who attend, they give an opportunity to reflect on how the year went for the Queensland Branch, to wish each other a merry Christmas and to enjoy a great deal of fun and fellowship over a nice meal and a glass or two of preferred beverage.

This year's Annual Dinner was again held in the Captains' Room at The Pavilion, the home of Queensland Cricket and overlooking the lovely Alan Border Field at Albion, five kilometres north of the Brisbane CBD. The 93 guests, including 43 members, were treated to a most thought-provoking after-dinner talk from our special guest, Distinguished Professor Judith Clements AC. Earlier the guests enjoyed a drink on arrival and were served canapés in the adjacent Picket Fence Café before the actual dinner commenced at 7:30pm.



Professors on parade at the annual dinner – from L to R - Professor Adrian Herington (Judith Clement's husband); Distinguished Professor Judith Clements AC (Guest Speaker); Emeritus Professor Tony Webber AM (former Qld Branch Chairman) and Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO (current Branch Committee member).

We were so pleased that Judith Clements AC, a most eminent Queenslander, accepted our invitation to be this year's guest speaker at the Dinner. Judith is a Principal Research Fellow of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) of Australia and leads the Cancer Program at the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, QUT, based at the Translational Research Institute on the Princess Alexandra Hospital Biomedical Precinct in Brisbane. She is also Scientific Director of the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre - Queensland located on this campus. Her areas of expertise include prostate and ovarian cancer, with respect to the Kallikrein proteases and their utility as biomarkers and therapeutic targets for cancer progression. She has over 190 publications in scientific journals and collaborates widely with colleagues in the US, Canada, the UK and Europe. She is the Chair of the national prostate cancer tissue bank - the Australian Prostate Cancer BioResource, which is a key resource that underpins prostate cancer research nationally and is co-leader of the Queensland node of the international genome wide association study consortium for prostate cancer. Judith was made a Companion of the Order of Australia in last year's Queen's Birthday honours.

In her talk, Judith highlighted her life and her philosophies and how she commenced her distinguished career. She touched on the people and early circumstances that motivated her to take on her chosen field of endeavour. A key message that flowed throughout the talk was that one should never give up on one's dreams and aspirations despite the hardships and challenges that will inevitably get in the way; and that people can reach their goals with a degree of perseverance.

The Annual Dinner was also the occasion when we announced the three winners of this year's Queensland Branch Senior Volunteer Awards and two of the recipients, Mary Peden of Brisbane and Dell York of Hervey Bay were present with their friends and family to receive their award from Richard Coulson, a Director of Cox Rayner Architects, the sponsor of the awards. (For profiles on all three winners including Iris Worboys from St George who could not attend the Dinner please refer to the separate article "Three outstanding Queenslanders who thrive on volunteering".)

THREE OUTSTANDING QUEENSLANDERS WHO THRIVE ON VOLUNTEERING

The winners of the 3rd annual Queensland Branch Senior Volunteer Awards were announced at the Annual Dinner on Monday 23 November 2015.

The 2015 winners of the awards as selected by the judging panel appointed by the Queensland Branch committee were –

- Mary Peden of Taringa, Brisbane;
- Dell York of Pialba, Hervey Bay (290 km north of Brisbane); and
- Iris Worboys of St George (500 km west of Brisbane).

Two of the recipients, Mary Peden and Dell York received their awards at the Annual Dinner on Monday 23 November. Unfortunately, Iris Worboys could not attend the Dinner to receive her award because of ongoing health and mobility issues so Geoff Cowles OAM, the Branch Secretary, visited St George and presented Iris with her award at a special event organized by the St George Anglican Church on Wednesday 2 December.

The following are the citations for our three worthy senior volunteers which were read out at the Annual Dinner.

Mary Peden is very deserving of a 2015 Senior Volunteer Award.

Mary has lived a life of distinguished community service through voluntary and charity work.

As well as her dedicated volunteer work with the Red Cross, Riding for the Disabled, Open Gardens Australia and Rotary International, Mary is perhaps best known for her more than 26 years' service with the Voluntary Guide Scheme at the Brisbane Botanic Garden, Mt Coot-tha.

Her outstanding leadership and commitment in that organisation has led to her being the recipient of several prestigious awards including a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellowship and a long-service award made by Brisbane Lord Mayor Graham Quirk.

Mary remains the only inaugural guide out of 16 initially recruited still serving today. Her vast experience and mentoring of other guides is highly respected.

Iris Worboys is a very worthy recipient of a Senior Volunteer Award for 2015.

Living in St George, Iris has contributed in a very significant manner to her community for over two decades.

Amongst her many activities over the years, Iris has volunteered as an organiser and worker at St George Pony Club, St George Girl Guides and Venturers, St George Swimming Club, St George Meals on Wheels and St George Anglican Church Sunday School, Guild and Op-shop.

Now 86 years of age, she remains a stalwart and committed member of the St George community. While she is now no longer able to be as active as she once was, she continues to assist in the work of the Op-shop.

As her nominator commented, "She is a much loved and valued member of the St George community and of her Church family."

Dell York has been a member of the Wide Bay Hospital Museum Society since 1992 and has been Secretary continuously since 1996.

She has also served in dual capacities as President and Treasurer when necessary. In her role of Secretary, Dell has been a major contributor to the development, organisation and operation of the Wide Bay Hospital Museum which cares for and displays items and documents relating to Maryborough's public hospitals which date from the 1860's.



L to R – Associate Professor John Harden AM (Queensland Branch Chairman); Mary Peden (Senior Volunteer Awardee); Dell York (Senior Volunteer Awardee) and Richard Coulson, Director, Cox Rayners, Architects (the Award sponsor).



Geoff Cowles OAM, Queensland Branch Secretary presenting Iris Worboys of St George with her senior volunteer award at a Presentation Dinner held at the St George Anglican Church on Wednesday evening 2 December 2015.

Dell has been instrumental in preparing display panels for the Hospital Museum and educational materials suitable for distribution to district schools and visiting groups of school students.

Through more than twenty years of voluntary work Dell has made a significant contribution to the Maryborough and Wide Bay community.

Three more humble people you could not meet. They were thrilled to receive their awards. The Association acknowledges with gratitude the generosity of Michael Rayner AM, principal director of Cox Rayner Architects in Brisbane, who kindly provides the sponsorship for the event.

The winners this year received their award for not only outstanding community volunteer service but also continuing volunteer service as well. They epitomize the value of volunteering as a practical means of offering help, support and encouragement to noble causes that benefit their communities. All three awardees go about their work with a giving serving heart. Mary, Iris and Dell are certainly worthy winners of this year's awards.

Nominations will soon be open for the 2016 Senior Volunteer Awards and we would welcome receiving nominations of outstanding senior volunteers from our membership. Information on how to nominate and the nomination form will be available at the Queensland segment of the Association's website under "Senior Volunteer Award" at www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au in February 2016.



BRISBANE MORNING TEA – 20 APRIL 2016

Ever wondered what goes on at a busy Emergency Services Complex. Well you have your chance to find out by attending our next Brisbane morning tea at the Queensland Emergency Services Complex at 125 Kedron Park Road, Kedron.

The morning will include a briefing on the activities at the Complex, a tour of the Complex and afterwards an excellent morning tea.

A flyer with fuller details of timings and the program and costs will be available on the Association's website in late February or you can contact Geoff Cowles OAM, the Branch Secretary and he can email you a copy.

In the meantime make this a date claimer.



Alan receiving a Certificate from the Association for his talk on 29 August 2012 from Tony Webber AM, then Queensland Branch Chairman (left).

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND REGIONAL GROUP

The Far North Queensland Regional Group held a lunch on 7 November 2015 at Cairns' award-winning Ochre Restaurant. Twenty-two people attended and enjoyed a lively party and a superb two course meal. Several newly attending members told stories related to their awards. One of these talks was given by (Frances) Anne Atkinson AM whose memories of her days building a life in the outback gave us some profound insights into why she received her award for her role in geology and her pioneering field work on the origin of the Undara volcanic landscapes of Northern Queensland. These are now internationally recognised and are a significant tourist attraction and location of a unique three-day operatic event that has been run for over a decade by the Collins family and another of our members, Victor Collins AM.

Elizabeth Harman AO, Convener

BUNDABERG REGIONAL GROUP

Our Christmas gathering was held on 12 December 2015 at the property of Lyn Kelman AM and her husband, John, at Rossendale where we all had a delightful bar-b-que lunch. We met Barbara Hovard OAM, and her husband. Barbara is our newest recipient of an award in the Order of Australia. She was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia on the Queen's Birthday 2015 for service to local government, and to the community of Maryborough. After lunch, Lyn introduced us to Mrs Lillian Coyne who is a well-known local historian and has lived at Rossendale all her life. Barbara and I read stories that Lillian had prepared and we all viewed items from Lillian's extensive and interesting collection of photos and memorabilia.

Donna Duncan OAM, Convener

GOLD COAST REGIONAL GROUP

The Gold Coast Regional Group held a successful afternoon tea on Saturday 21 November 2015. As the temperature was in the high 30's and there was no sea-breeze, the function was held indoors instead of being held as planned outside as a garden party. The function was held in The Scottish Room of the Fox & Hounds Country Inn at Wongawallan. The Inn is a reconstructed British inn brought to Australia. Thirty-two members, relatives and friends attended and reports indicated all enjoyed themselves despite the heat. Geoff Cowles OAM represented the Queensland Branch Committee at the event.

Bill Collins AO, Convener

THE PASSING OF A MUSEUM LEGEND

Dr Alan Bartholomai AM, a great servant of the Queensland Museum and its longest serving Director from 1969 to 1999, passed away after a brief illness on 17 December 2015.

Alan was recognised for his outstanding service to the Museum in the 2012 Australia Day Honours and significantly in the Museum's 150th year.

Members who attended the Brisbane morning tea on Wednesday 29 August 2012 at the Queensland Museum will remember Alan's excellent talk "*Bringing the Museum into the 21st Century*" where he touched on his long and illustrious career and the challenges he had to face in overseeing the relocation of the Queensland Museum from the Fortitude Valley site to South Bank Cultural Centre.

A renowned authority on Cretaceous era fish fossils, Dr Bartholomai is well-known by the public for his work in describing the Australian dinosaurs *Muttaborrasaurus* and *Minmi*.

The Association offers sincere sympathy to Alan's family and friends over their loss.

Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary



Anne Atkinson AM speaking at the Cairns luncheon.

IPSWICH RECIPIENTS OF RECENT AWARDS IN THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

The city of Ipswich has long been known for its prominent politicians and great football players. Sir Joshua Francis, Sir Llew Edwards AC, Hon. David Hamill AM, Dr Don Cameron OBE and Hon. Bill Hayden AC all were senior ministers in State or Federal Governments. The Hon. Bill Hayden AC was also the 21st Governor-General of Australia.

Noel Kelly, Allan Langer AM and the three Walters brothers, Kevin, Steve and Kerrod, excelled at Rugby League while Paul McLean MBE and several members of his family did so at Rugby Union.

In recent times the Ipswich region has had several citizens recognized for their selfless community service.

It was my pleasure to represent our Branch Chairman, Associate Professor John Harden AM, at two Investitures held in September 2015 at Government House Queensland. As a proud resident of Ipswich, I was very pleased to notice the large number of awardees from the Ipswich Region. In the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours, 14% of the recipients in the general division in Queensland were residents of the city of Ipswich or nearby towns - Dr Ralph Neller AM, John Dredge OAM, June Mulcahy OAM, Vione Jorgensen OAM, Isabella Kearsley OAM, Judith Schmidt OAM, Peter McMahon OAM and Cr. John Brent OAM.

Patrick Galligan OAM



John Brent OAM (left) and Peter McMahon OAM at their investiture.

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND REGIONAL GROUP

The next function for members of the Central Queensland Regional Group will be held on 7 March 2016 when the guest speaker will be Oskar Stünzner OAM. His topic will be "The effects of geography and the social environment on the delivery of veterinary services in Samoa and similar Pacific nations."

Raymond Young OAM, Convener.

IN MEMORIAM

Wing Commander John Patrick Baker AM
 Dr Alan Bartholomai AM
 Prof Graeme Beardmore OAM
 Jack Bordujenko OAM
 Jeanette Covacevich AM
 Prof Teresa Rita Cramond AO OBE
 Austin Ray Croke AM
 Maj Gen Gordon John Fitzgerald AO
 Trevor (Barry) Gavin OAM
 Mary Elizabeth Hopkins OAM
 Maj Gen William (Digger) James AC AO MBE MC
 Sydney Whittle (Eric) Kay AM
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