



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Our major focus recently has been organising and hosting the Association's National Conference. I wish to congratulate and thank the Conference Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr Mick Davis AM ASM for their considerable hard work in ensuring a stimulating and rewarding experience for all attendees.

My sincere congratulations to all those who have recently had their contributions to our society recognised by an award in the Order of Australia. They received their awards at ceremonies held at Government House in early May. I am pleased that there was a representative of the Queensland Branch Committee of our Association attending each of the ceremonies. My thanks to Carole Miller OAM who represented me at the awards ceremony recently held in Cairns.

In February members attended our adjourned Annual General Meeting held at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha and also enjoyed morning tea. This was followed by a briefing from the Gardens' Curator and staff. The conducted tours of the Gardens, which followed, provided a wonderful opportunity for members to gain an appreciation the very extensive collection of trees and shrubs being carefully nurtured in the wide range of environments included in the gardens.

We are looking forward to the coming combined event with the Victoria League Brisbane for Commonwealth Friendship to celebrate the Queen's Birthday and the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. This very special event will be a cocktail reception to be held on Friday 7 July on Level 41 William Street, Brisbane. You are warmly invited to attend.

John Harden AM, FAIAS

BUNDABERG REGIONAL GROUP

The Bundaberg Regional Group organised a lunch at the Hervey Bay QCWA rooms on Saturday 18 February 2017. The 22 guests in attendance enjoyed a lovely meal prepared by the Hervey Bay members of the Queensland Country Women Association (QCWA).

The guest speaker was Audrey Sorrenson who told us of her childhood growing up in a dairy farming family around the Kingaroy region and being the only girl in a family of five. She told us of the bursary she was awarded by the QCWA to further her education in Brisbane. She eventually became a teacher. On retirement she became a member of the University of the Third Age in Hervey Bay. She expressed her sincere gratitude to the QCWA for their vision in giving her the bursary to study and further her education - because without that bursary, she would not have had the opportunity to live the life she has led as an educator.

The next event for the Group is planned for mid-year and most likely somewhere in Bundaberg.

Donna Duncan OAM, Convener



The ten Order of Australia awardees at the Bundaberg Regional Group lunch. Back row from L to R – Theo Jamieson OAM, Doug McIvor OAM, Terry Meehan AM, Lex Roland OAM, Dr Darryl Gauld OAM and Judith Hunter OAM. Front row from L to R – Donna Duncan OAM, Dawn Kling OAM, Tom Jehn OAM and Don Jones OAM.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND A PLETHORA OF BRISBANE'S FLORA

The Queensland Branch held its adjourned meeting to complete the Branch's 37th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the Auditorium at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha on Tuesday 21 February 2017.

To make this important meeting attractive for members to attend, a morning tea incorporating talks by Dale Arvidsson, the Curator of the Gardens and Wendy Peden OAM, one of the Gardens' most senior guides, was organised, as well as guided tours of these splendid Botanic Gardens. Forty-seven attended the event including 29 members.

The Queensland Branch Committee catered a delicious morning tea. Dale's talk dovetailed the virtues of the two Botanic Gardens in Brisbane, this one at Mt Coot-tha, in the Brisbane western suburbs, and the older, more established one in the Brisbane CBD.

He explained how both complement each other with each providing important contributions to the Brisbane flora landscape in their own unique ways. He outlined the history of the Mt Coot-tha Gardens and provided an insight into the plethora of flora these Gardens have to offer the people of Brisbane and visiting tourists. Mary Peden OAM, who received her award in this year's Australia Day honours and who was a former winner of the Association's Senior Volunteer Award, spoke with great passion about why she was inspired to become a guide of the Gardens so many years ago and her love of the many floral exhibits that make the Mt Coot-tha Gardens so special today.

The 37th AGM held on Monday 21 November 2016 was adjourned because the national accounting period (financial year) of the Association had changed from "1 October to 30 September" to "1 January to 31 December". The last financial year



Enjoying the tranquility of the Japanese Garden, a feature at the Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha during the visit on Tuesday 21 February are from L to R – Professor Tony Webber AM, Geoff Cowles OAM, Rosemary Kennedy, Christopher Kennedy OAM, and Darryl Seccombe OAM.

therefore was extended to a one off 15 month accounting period from 1 October 2015 to 31 December 2016, so that future financial years will then reflect the new accounting period. The meeting held prior to the morning tea on Tuesday 21 February duly passed the Queensland Branch accounts to 31 December 2016 thus completing the unfinished business from the AGM held on 21 November last year.

Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND REGIONAL GROUP



At the Central Queensland Group's function (L to R) Dr Ray Boyle, Eleanor Dean OAM, Raymond Young OAM and Catherine George.

Twenty members and guests of the Central Queensland Regional Group met for morning tea in Rockhampton on 13 March 2017 and were addressed by Dr Ray Boyle, retired engineer, part-time academic and regional historian.

Dr Boyle's passion is for the history of the famous Mount Morgan Mine which closed in 1990 after operating continuously for one hundred and eight years. Dr Boyle spoke of some of the more significant initiatives made by Mount Morgan Mine, including those which had the most influence on local life. He said that from 1932 onward the mine supported the town in the provision of electric power, assisted with the provision and maintenance of the first reticulated water supply, constructed first class sporting facilities and donated the building which now houses the excellent Historical Museum.

Very importantly, the mine trained almost seven hundred trade apprentices and professional cadets, over ninety-one percent of whom completed their indentures. Many went on to hold important positions both nationally and internationally.

The meeting was also addressed by Catherine George, Chair of the Museum of Central Queensland Association. Catherine spoke of the Museum's projects to date including the production of "Researching the history of your Central Queensland house- a guide to uncovering its past" by Dr Barbara Webster. Catherine also spoke of the need for a venue to stage exhibitions of cultural, historical and sporting achievements of Rockhampton and Central Queensland.

Catherine applauded Mayor Margaret Strelow's recent proposal for development of a Cultural Precinct in Rockhampton and suggested it could include a venue to stage exhibitions.

Our Annual Dinner will be held on 11 September 2017.

Raymond Young OAM, Convener

DARLING DOWNS GROUP MEETS CONFERENCE VISITORS

Members of the Darling Downs Regional Group joined Order of Australia Association members and guests participating in a Pre-Conference tour to the Darling Downs when the visitors enjoyed a visit to the DownsSteam Tourist Railway and Museum on 18 April 2017. Following a guided tour of the many exhibits, all enjoyed afternoon tea before the visitors returned to Brisbane to attend the 2017 National Conference.

Paul McNally OAM, Convener

CELEBRATING OUR WONDERFUL SENIOR VOLUNTEERS

Nominations are now being received for the 2017 **Senior Volunteer Awards**. This is a great way to honour senior members of our communities (women and men sixty years and over) who devote so much of their time and effort to serving community organisations as volunteers.

The Senior Volunteer Awards were established by the Queensland Branch of the Order of Australia Association in 2013 as a means of providing public recognition to those thousands of senior volunteers whose unheralded contributions to the community are so vital to the organisation and operation of our society.

In the last issue of *The Order* (Summer 2017) you were able to read the citations for the three 2016 recipients of the Award, Tony Fox, Deirdre Hargreaves and Judy Muir. There are thousands of outstanding

volunteers like them who deserve our recognition and gratitude for the unselfish and valuable contributions they make.

Any Queensland member of our Association can submit a nomination. A flyer about the Award and a nomination form is included in this issue of *The Order*. The nomination form can also be found at the Association's web-site in the Queensland section www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/branches/qld. The form is only two pages long and is easy to complete. If you know of a senior volunteer whom you believe should be considered for a Senior Volunteer Award 2017, please nominate that person.

Don't forget nominations close on Friday 25 August 2017 with the Queensland Branch Secretary, Geoff Cowles OAM. So don't delay – act today.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN YOUTH CITIZENSHIP

Initiated in 1999 by the Order of Australia Association, Queensland Branch, the annual **Secondary Schools Citizenship Award** is a jewel in our crown. In Term 2 each year all Queensland secondary schools are invited to nominate Year 12 students for these Awards. The schools select their nominees based on their involvement and commitment to the ideals of citizenship and community service and provide written examples to demonstrate what the student has undertaken and achieved.

Students who are nominated 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.

On Friday 15 September 2017, the students selected to receive Awards will be presented with them at Parliament House, Brisbane. When possible, the Awards are presented by His Excellency the Governor of Queensland. All members of the Association are warmly invited to attend the presentation ceremony and meet the young recipients. Please include the event in your diaries. An invitation will be sent in due course to all Association members.

GOLD COAST REGIONAL GROUP

Members of the Gold Coast Regional Group will hold a luncheon at the Southport Golf Club on Monday 5 June 2017. Invitations will be sent soon to all our members.

Bill Collins AO, Convener



SOMETHING DIFFERENT IS HAPPENING ON 7 JULY

A Cocktail Reception to celebrate the Queen's Birthday and the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

The Queensland Branch of the Association is joining with the Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship, for this exciting Cocktail Reception on sensational **Level 41 of 1 William Street** in the Brisbane CBD, from **4:30pm to 6:30pm**, as the sun sets over the Brisbane River and Mt Coot-tha.



The Towering splendour of 1 William Street with Queensland Parliament House in the foreground

His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland and Mrs Kaye de Jersey will be present

The cost is \$75 per person, dress code is Cocktail / Lounge suit and the RSVP date is Friday 30 June 2017.

A booking form is included with this edition of *The Order* or can be downloaded from the Association's website at www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au

As part of security/entry requirements for 1 William Street you must bring with you photo ID (such as a driver's licence, passport or some other photo ID card such as a government proof of age card). Aim to arrive no later than 4:15pm.

For all enquiries please contact Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary (phone 07-3351 4991 or secqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)

THE GALLIGAN FAMILY – OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

According to Queensland Branch Committee member, Patrick Galligan OAM, community service is part of his family's DNA. Their community service has been recently recognised in Ipswich.

A newly constructed street was named Galligan Way by the Ipswich City Council to recognise the community service of his family (including his late father and himself) over several decades. Pat's father, Len Galligan, was a tireless worker for the community and was made a Life Member of four different associations.

The street is the last one in Goodna before the old Redbank Rifle Range where several of Pat's uncles and cousins trained when they enlisted to serve in the Army during the Second World War.



Ipswich Mayor Cr. Paul Pisasale with Patrick Galligan OAM at the Ipswich City Australia Day Awards ceremony on Saturday 21 January 2017.

Pat was also honoured at the 2017 Ipswich Australia Day Awards ceremony. He was presented with a City of Ipswich Medalion by the Mayor, Cr. Paul Pisasale, to recognise his contribution to the city over many years through Rotary and other community associations.

IN MEMORIAM

Michael Ruffin Aitkin OAM
Terrance Neil Betts OAM
Leo Owen Donovan OAM
Frederick John Faircloth OAM
Peter Sydney Fardoulis AM
James Bower Forwood AM
Horst Herman Frey OAM
Betty Patricia Grant OAM
Edmund Herbert Grohn OAM
Jack Holingsworth OAM
Marle Richard Juster OAM
Maurice John Kelly OAM

Douglas Gordon McKenzie OAM
John Joseph Newman OAM
Meryl Ellen Papas OAM
Raymond Kingsley Phippard OAM
Brian Keith Robinson OAM
Colin Taylor OAM
Thomas Hedley Robert Thomas AM
Joan Florence Urquhart OAM
Richard Fredrick Walker AM
Neil Harvey Weekes AM
Yvonne June Zardani OAM

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland

Chairman

Associate Professor John Harden AM, Tel: 07 3408 2005 (H); 0418 988 659 (M)

Vice Chairman

Mr Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ, 0408 887 923 (M)

Secretary

Mr Geoff Cowles OAM, Tel: 07 3351 4991 (H); 0413 833 720 (M)

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Mr Royce Voss OAM, Tel: 07 3410 0348 (H); 0419 729 953 (M)

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Mr Patrick Galligan OAM, Tel: 3288 2276 (H); 0408 703 276 (M)

Newsletter Editor

Mr Paul McNally OAM, Tel: 4632 2286 (H); 0407 584 886 (M)

Conference 2017 Convener

Dr Mick Davis AM ASM

Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO, Member

Mr Darryl Seccombe OAM, Member

Mrs Marjorie Voss OAM, Member

Emeritus Professor Tony Webber AM, Member

Mr Raymond Young OAM, Member

All correspondence to Geoff Cowles OAM, Hon. Secretary, 16 Kanturk Street, Ferny Grove, Qld 4055 or email secqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

QUEENSLAND REGIONAL GROUP CONVENERNERS

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