



## Chairman's Report

### WELCOME FROM JOHN HARDEN AM, QUEENSLAND BRANCH CHAIRMAN

Thank you Tony for your outstanding contribution to the Queensland Branch as Chairman. The past four years have been a period of continuing development for the Queensland Branch. The functions organised by both the Branch and the Regional Groups have been well attended and drawn very positive comments from members.

Thank you to the members for electing me as Chairman for 2015 and also as the Director representing the Queensland Branch on the National Board of the Order of Australia Association. I am honoured to have been elected and will work closely with the Branch Committee to service the interests of members. The newly elected Committee met for the first time on 21 January to plan activities for 2015.

Briefly, looking forward, we have the National Conference and AGM of the Order of Australia Association in Perth

from 19 to 22 March. I encourage all members to attend this major activity. It will be an excellent opportunity to meet with colleagues from throughout Australia who have been honoured by an award in the Order. Members will also be interested to know that the Queensland Branch will be hosting the National Conference in 2017. Planning has commenced under the capable direction of Mick Davis AM, a Branch Committee Member and past Chairman. I encourage members to provide Mick and the working party with as much assistance as possible. Successful conferences require considerable planning and organization and I wish to thank those already involved.

I look forward to an exciting year of stimulating activities. May I conclude by wishing all members of the Association a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

## A VERY MEMORABLE 2014 QUEENSLAND BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER

**Geoff Cowles OAM, our Secretary, reflects on the highlights of the Annual Dinner held on Monday 24 November 2014.**



*A selection of guests at the Annual Dinner and at the main table in the foreground at the main table from L. to R. Prof. Susan Street AO, Tim Fairfax AC and Gina Fairfax*



*Tim Fairfax AC delivering his thought provoking talk at the Annual Dinner*

This was the 4th Annual Dinner 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. One hundred and three guests, including fifty-three members, attended this year's Dinner and enjoyed good food, great fellowship and a most thought-provoking talk from Tim Fairfax AC, our eminent guest speaker. 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.

Tim Fairfax spoke about his life and touched on the circumstances and achievements that lead to his becoming such a successful businessman and philanthropist leading to his receiving his award in the Order of Australia. In particular, he emphasized that philanthropy is not simply being rich and giving money away to needy causes, but also includes the contributions of countless volunteers in this world who give of their time and talents in extraordinary ways to help and support others. His talk was particularly relevant given that Noel Edwards, Robert Ketton and Noel Williams, our senior volunteer award winners for 2014 were in attendance, as well as many members of the Association who give of their time and talents so freely. (For profiles on all three winners refer to the separate article "Meet our Senior Volunteer Award winners".)

Paul McNally OAM handled the master of ceremonies' role most capably and ensured that the event ran smoothly throughout the evening. Formalities commenced with the singing of the National Anthem. Royce Voss OAM said Grace; Associate Professor Brian Miller AM presented the Loyal Toast; Professor Mary Mahoney AO delivered the Toast to the Order of Australia and Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ completed proceedings with a worthy vote of thanks to our speaker Tim Fairfax AC.

The Dinner was a memorable occasion; particularly for our three senior volunteers receiving their awards. We hope to see many more members at the next Annual Dinner in November this year.

## THE 2015 QUEENSLAND BRANCH COMMITTEE – A CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Queensland Branch of the Association, held prior to the Annual Dinner on Monday 24 November 2014, elected a new Committee for 2015 with some new faces as well as saying goodbye to some loyal former members.

After four years at the helm **Professor Tony Webber AM** has stepped down as Queensland Branch Chairman and Director on the National Board. The new Chairman elected at the AGM and a new Director is **Associate Professor John Harden AM**.

In his time as Chairman, Tony has served the Queensland Branch with distinction. He and his wife Valerie have also capably represented the Branch at several significant events during his four year term. During his chairmanship the Committee introduced celebratory lunches for award recipients replacing the previous evening receptions at Parliament House. The Committee has also invigorated the Brisbane morning teas considerably during Tony's tenure as Chairman. Tony was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia on Australia Day 1993, joined the Association in February 1993 as a Life Member and was appointed Chairman of the Queensland Branch in December 2010. Tony remains a member of the 2015 Committee as Immediate Past Chairman for 12 months.

John, the new Chairman, has a strong agricultural background and was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia on Queen's Birthday 2000 for service to agriculture through education and research in the areas of plant production and protection, particularly integrated pest management and integrated crop management. He joined the Association as a life member in August 2000 and has served on the Branch Committee since November 2009. The Queensland Branch Committee looks forward to having John as its Chairman and wishes him smooth sailing in the role.

### TONY WEBBER AM, QUEENSLAND BRANCH IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN, SIGNS OFF

My report has two objectives - firstly to thank members of the Queensland Branch for giving me the honour of being your Chairman for the past four years and secondly to welcome Associate Professor John Harden AM as your new Chairman.

I found all aspects of the role of Chairman to be very rewarding, whether it was being present at Government House as new awardees were invested, hosting welcoming receptions for new awardees, visiting Regional Group functions or simply attending branch morning teas.

The opportunity to meet with others, from all walks of life with whom I share the honour of having received an award in our Order, is a unique reward for having served as your Chairman.

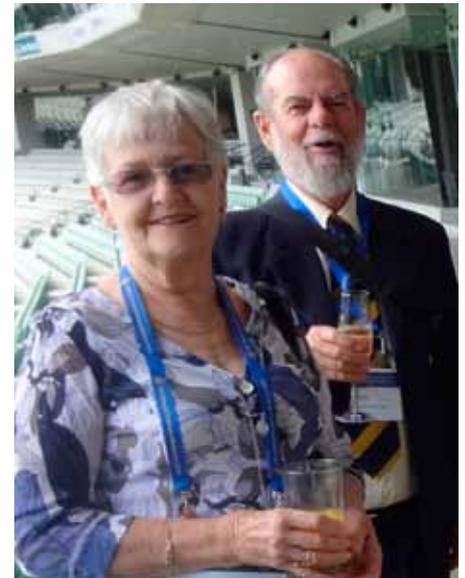
In welcoming John Harden AM as your new Chairman, I am sure he will be as well supported, as was I, by an enthusiastic and hard working committee.



Past Chairman Tony Webber AM with his wife Valerie

The two new Committee members are **Susan Norrie OAM** and **Patrick (Pat) Galligan OAM**. Susan received her award in June 2008 for service to the nursing profession and to the community through a range of leadership and advisory roles. She has been a member of the judging panel for the Senior Volunteer Awards for 2013 and 2014. Pat is a more recent addition to the Order of Australia receiving his award in the 2014 Australia Day honours for service to the community through service groups. Pat brings to the Committee his very strong Rotary background.

Leaving the Committee is **Bruce Howden OAM** who, for the past four years, has provided great assistance with the development of the operational plan for defining the Committee's goals and structure, the Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards and Senior Volunteer Awards.



New Chairman John Harden AM with his wife Di

Also leaving the Committee are **Simon Newcomb OAM**, who served for three years and provided expertise on media and sponsorship issues and **Associate Professor Brian Miller AM**, who in more recent times has taken on the important role of merchandise officer. Brian has indicated he is happy to continue to maintain that role. All three members have made a sterling contribution to the betterment of the Queensland Branch and we extend our very sincere thanks.

Finally we thank the following members for their willingness to continue to serve on the Committee for 2015. **Royce Voss OAM** as Treasurer; **Geoff Cowles OAM** as Secretary; together with **Ms Christine Bundeson AM AM**; **Mick Davis AM ASM**; **Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ**; **Adjunct Professor Mary Mahoney AO**; **Paul McNally OAM**; and **Ray Young OAM**.

### OUR NEXT EXCITING BRISBANE MORNING TEA

**A high flying visit to Amberley RAAF Air Base - Wednesday 29 April 2015.**

**Cost \$38** – includes bus travel to and from the Base, a delicious morning tea in the Officers' Mess, a comprehensive tour of the Base and an informative visit to the RAAF Aviation Heritage Centre.

Download a booking form from the Association's website or contact Geoff Cowles OAM, the Secretary, to receive a copy.



## MEET OUR SENIOR VOLUNTEER AWARD WINNERS FOR 2014



L to R: Noel Edwards, Robert Ketton and Noel Williams

As mentioned elsewhere in the Queensland pages of this edition of The Order, the Queensland Branch presented its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Senior Volunteer Awards to three outstanding senior Queensland volunteers at the Annual Dinner on Monday 24 November 2014.

The 2014 winners of the awards as selected by the judging panel appointed by the Queensland Branch committee were –

- Noel Edwards of Regency Downs, west of Ipswich;
- Robert Ketton of Toowoomba; and
- Noel Williams of Buderim in the Sunshine Coast hinterland.

**Noel Edwards** is the recipient of a Senior Volunteer award for 2014, not only because of the length of his commitment to various rural communities in which he has lived, but also because of the way in which this involvement has improved the lives of so many people.

Over 28 years, Noel worked assiduously through a variety of service clubs in St George and Monto to support a wide range of charitable organisations. He was also a leading light in the administration of a local sporting club in Monto – the Monto Rugby League Club.

Not content with all these activities, Noel volunteered to be an honorary Chaplain at his local high school for four years. There he counselled students through many traumatic events in their lives.

## GOLD COAST REGIONAL GROUP

2014 was a successful year for the Gold Coast Regional Group with a highlight being our Garden Party style afternoon tea on 25 October 2014 attended by 43 members, relatives and guests. This was the 10th such function at “Jabiru” the home of Mrs Alison Kearney and the late Mr John Kearney AM QC. The next Gold Coast Region function will be a lunch before the end of May 2015. Arrangements are yet to be made and members will be advised in due course. As in previous years it is expected that the Gold Coast City Council will be inviting Gold Coast Regional Group members to its Australia Day Ceremony on 26 January 2015.

**Bill Collins AO, Convener**

**Robert Ketton** is well-known, and highly respected, for his voluntary work within the Toowoomba community.

For the past six years, he has been a very active member of the Board of Sunrise Way – a therapeutic community organisation for the treatment of drug and alcohol addicts. He played an important role helping Sunrise Way to develop a disused building into a half-house for those whom the organisation is helping.

Since retirement, Robert has also used his time to promote the Downs Steam Tourist Railway and Museum. In combination with other volunteers, he has demonstrated a vision to promote this facility as a marvellous tourist attraction for the area. Robert’s efforts in preparing educational packages on railway history for local schools are certainly worthy of mention.

**Noel Williams** is one of those very active citizens whose energy seems to have no bounds.

At the Buderim Historical Society, he redesigned the garden layout surrounding the Pioneer Cottage and has continued to apply his practical skills to maintenance of the building.

Noel has also been very involved in the restoration of a steam locomotive of the Buderim-Palmwoods Heritage Tramway.

Another interest has been the local Garden Club where he has upgraded the club’s mobile library and organised and assembled a memorial seat to the club’s late patron and former gardening media personality, Colin Campbell AM.

Noel is not frightened to take leadership responsibilities in these voluntary organisations and he has held a number of executive roles within groups across the Buderim area. Noel is indeed a person dedicated to volunteering.

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 Rayners, Architects in Brisbane, who kindly provides the sponsorship for the event.

Nominations are now open for the 2015 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 are available at the Queensland segment of the Association’s website under “Senior Volunteer Award” at [www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au)

Members have until Friday 28 August 2015 to nominate. If you know of some outstanding senior volunteer who should be nominated then please submit a nomination. People you nominate do not need to be a member of the Association.

We look forward to offering Senior Volunteer Awards to three more outstanding senior Queenslanders at this year’s Annual Dinner in November.

## SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL GROUP

Plans are in hand for the Sunshine Coast Regional Group to hold its usual luncheon in July, possibly at Tranquil Park. Members will be advised well in advance so they can include the luncheon in their diaries.

**Keith Swan OAM, Convener**

## VALE

- BALDERSTONE Sir James Schofield AC
- BURNETT Brian George OAM
- CAMPBELL Peter Matthew Langley OAM
- DUNLOP Robert OAM
- HAMPSON Terence John AM
- HEER Hans Erwin OAM
- HUNT Derek Herman Gough OAM
- THORNTON Barry AM

## BUNDABERG REGIONAL GROUP

Well here we are with another year over. The Bundaberg Group's final gathering for 2014 was a very enjoyable luncheon held on 29 November at the Golden Orange Hotel/Motel in Gayndah. We had two guest speakers – Chern'ee Sutton and Jan Lutney.

Chern'ee spoke about her achievements as an indigenous artist. Chern'ee, 18 years old, is a proud Kalkadoon contemporary indigenous artist who is passionate about her family's culture and history and wishes to share it with the rest of the world through her art. Chern'ee has been painting for just over four years and has had several exhibitions of her art work including at Queensland's Parliament House, the Australian Tennis Open, and the Queensland Indigenous Lawyers Association's World Congress. She has also received several awards and commendations

and was named National NAIDOC Youth of the Year for 2014. Chern'ee had the pleasure of meeting Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge during their royal visit to Australia in 2014 and she presented them one of her Reconciliation paintings.

Jan spoke about her late grandfather, Rashid Lutney who became a highly respected and successful businessman with businesses in both Bundaberg and Gayndah.

After lunch members and their guests visited the Gayndah Gallery.

The Bundaberg Group's next gathering will be held in March and members will be notified in the near future.

**Donna Duncan OAM, Convener**

## CENTRAL QUEENSLAND REGIONAL GROUP

The next opportunity for members of the Group to meet will be a morning tea on 16 March 2015 at the Rockhampton Leagues Club, Cambridge Street at 10.00am. The guest speaker is Oskar Stünzner OAM, who received his award in the 2014 Australia Day honours for service to the livestock industry in Samoa and the Pacific region.

**Raymond Young OAM, Convener**

## FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND REGIONAL GROUP

Planning for 2015 events in Far North Queensland is underway and final arrangements will depend on what appeals most to our members. The provisional programme is to have a lunch at Yorkeys Knob Boat Club Marina, Half Moon Bay, 20 minutes north of Cairns on the weekend of 28 & 29 March. With any luck, renovations will be complete and we will be able to enjoy the outing with a guest speaker who is a new 2015 awardee or one of our 2014 award recipients.

On the weekend of 11 & 12 July Mareeba will be holding its annual Rodeo and Festival. If enough members would enjoy the opportunity to see some of the action at this highlight of the Tablelands calendar, then we will be holding a get-together to coincide with the Rodeo.

Later in the year, we will kick-off an early Christmas with a festive lunch on the weekend of 28-29 November at one of the Cairns restaurants. This is also a chance to catch up with Queen's Birthday recipients of new awards.

If anyone is not already on our (e)mailing list and is interested in joining our events, please contact the convener, Liz Harman on liz.harman22@gmail.com or call 07 4055 8957.

**Liz Harman AO, Convener**



*At the Bundaberg Luncheon are (left) Donna Duncan OAM and Chern'ee Sutton*

## QUEENSLAND BRANCH

### OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Patron**

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

**Chairman**

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**Immediate Past Chairman**

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**Hon. Secretary**

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

**Hon. Treasurer**

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

Ms. Christine Bundeson AM, Member  
Mr Mick Davis AM ASM, Member  
Mr Patrick Galligan OAM, Member  
Dr Mary Mahoney AO, Member  
Mr Peter McMurtrie AO, Member  
Mr Paul McNally OAM, Member  
Ms Susan Norrie OAM, Member

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