



Chairman's Report

WELCOME FROM JOHN HARDEN AM, QUEENSLAND BRANCH CHAIRMAN



Happy Queenslanders at Government House, Perth - from L to R - Peter McMurtrie AO; Mick Davis AM ASM; Geoff Cowles OAM; Charyl Cowles; Stella O'Donnell AO; John Harden AM; Di Harden; Royce Voss OAM; Marjorie Voss OAM; HE the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AO, Governor of Western Australia; Valerie Webber; Tony Webber AM; Kay Benson; Elaine Davis and Kevin Benson OAM.

I wish to congratulate and welcome those from Queensland who recently received awards in the Order of Australia. We enjoyed meeting many of you at the investiture ceremonies held at Government House in early May. The Queensland Branch also enjoyed hosting several of these new award recipients and their families and friends at a luncheon held in their honour on 8 May at the Broncos League Club.

The National Conference and the Annual General Meeting of the Order of Australia Association were held recently in Perth. The Queensland Branch was well represented at the conference by twelve members and six partners.

The Conference and the associated activities were excellent. The weather was perfect and all events very well attended by the more than 250 registrants.

Congratulations to Barry and Margaret Nunn and their team for organising and hosting this very successful event.

I encourage members to plan on attending the next conference in 2016 on the theme 'Back to Basics' being hosted by the NSW Branch and held in Sydney from 11 to 13 March. The registration form and brochure are already available on the Association's website at www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au.

It was pleasing to have a new regional group approved, based in Mackay, following the Queensland Branch's submission to the National Board meeting in Perth. To be known as the Mackay-Whitsunday Regional Group it will be capably led by Carmel Daveson AM as its first convener.

The regional groups are a very important part of the Order of Australia Association in stimulating and providing services to our membership. They provide a wonderful opportunity to meet and interact with other Association members and to promote the Order within the community.

We are looking forward to an exciting year of events and fellowship. Please join us at every opportunity.

I look forward to meeting as many of our members as possible during the year.

All the best for a successful and rewarding year.

John Harden AM

NEW REGIONAL GROUP APPROVED

Congratulations to Carmel Daveson AM and members from the Mackay area on the establishment of the Mackay-Whitsunday Regional Group. As mentioned in the Queensland Branch Chairman's report, approval for the new regional group's establishment was given by the National Board of the Association at its recent meeting in Perth. Members of the Association in the Mackay area have held informal meetings in the past year and the formal establishment of their regional group brings to eight the number of regional groups operating in Queensland to provide the benefits of Association membership to as many of our members as possible living in the non-metropolitan regions of our state.

SENIOR VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2015

Now is the time to identify senior members of the community who make outstanding voluntary contributions to organisations in which they are involved and nominate them for a Senior Volunteer Award. Any current member of The Order of Australia Association residing in Queensland may nominate any person 60 years or over who resides in Queensland and is still actively involved in voluntary activities in the community.

All members of the Queensland Branch received a copy of the nomination form with their recent Queensland Branch Communique. You can also access it on the Queensland section of the Order of Australia Association web site. The nomination form is not lengthy and is easy to complete.

In the Summer 2015 issue of The Order we featured an article about the three outstanding senior volunteers who received the 2014 awards. There are so many senior women and men who make a major contribution as volunteers in our communities and who are deserving of our recognition. The Senior Volunteer Award is an excellent opportunity for these volunteers to be recognised for their work. Your nominations will be very welcome. Nominations with the Secretary, Geoff Cowles OAM, close on Friday 28 August 2015.

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND REGIONAL GROUP

The first function for 2015 was the Annual Morning Tea held on 16 March in Rockhampton. Mrs Eleanor Dean OAM, who is the deputy convener of the Central Queensland Regional Group, spoke about "Her Journey to two Gold Medals". She received the first Gold Medal in 1992 for services to the Anglican Church and the community of Rockhampton. She recently received her second Gold Medal which was the Kellion Victory Medal which recognises diabetics who have lived with Type 1 diabetes for over 60 years and which was presented to her by a representative of Diabetes Australia.

Eleanor said she was very proud to be the recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia. She spoke about her early life and the fact that she was so fortunate to have been born to such loving parents – her father was a Norwegian who sailed around the world twice as a young man and never lost his sense of adventure and her mother who was raised on a sheep property in Central Queensland. They shared 49 years of devoted marriage before they died within 8 weeks of one another.

After school days she went to work as a receptionist for well-known and well-loved local doctor, Dr N Talbot. It was during this time she developed diabetes. After a period of medical treatment in Brisbane and Sydney she returned to Rockhampton and was offered a position at St. Paul's Cathedral which she enjoyed for some 40 years. She was Secretary to six different Deans of St. Paul's Cathedral and in 1961 married her own Dean – Mr. Terry Dean. She said her 40 years at the Cathedral gave her great joy as she shared the lives of the parishioners, their highs and their lows and became part of their families. She was very honoured that they felt her worthy to be nominated for a Medal of the Order of Australia.

Our next function, our annual September event, will be a Dinner. It will be held on 7 September 2015 at the Rockhampton Leagues Club – 6.30pm fellowship and dinner commencing 7.00pm. I look forward to welcoming you all.

Raymond Young OAM, Convener

DARLING DOWNS REGIONAL GROUP

The next meeting of the Darling Downs Regional Group will be a morning tea on Friday 29 May 2015 at the Town and Country Club, 58 Neil Street, Toowoomba commencing 10.30am. Members will be treated to a very special presentation by one of Australia's outstanding photographers, Graham Burstow OAM. Graham is the only Queenslander who has a Fellowship in each of the Australian, British and American Photographic Societies. Graham's photographic works are represented in many of Australia's leading galleries and he regularly has public exhibitions. He is often called on to judge important national photographic competitions. Members have been sent invitations to this event and are invited to RSVP to the Convener by 22 May.

Paul McNally OAM, Convener

GOLD COAST REGIONAL GROUP

The next Gold Coast Regional Group function is a lunch on 15 May 2015. Invitations have been distributed electronically and in written form over Easter. The speaker is Mr Peter O'Reilly OAM of O'Reilly's Rain Forest Guest House.

Peter O'Reilly was awarded his OAM for service to tourism as Managing Director of O'Reilly's Rainforest Guest House in the Lamington National Park. He speaks regularly at the Guest House about the O'Reilly family history in the area and this will be the basis of his presentation at lunch.

Bill Collins AO, Convener



Central Queensland Regional Group – Eleanor Dean OAM, Raymond Young OAM at the Rockhampton function

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL GROUP

The annual luncheon for the Sunshine Coast Regional group will be held at Tranquil Park Maleny on Thursday 23 July - arrive midday for a 12.30 pm start. The cost will be \$28.00 per person. The guest speaker has not yet been chosen but, as always, we will invite someone who will deliver a talk on an interesting topical subject. Tranquil Park is a venue with very pleasant surroundings and wonderful views of the Glass House Mountains and surrounding area. The price is slightly higher this year as Tranquil Park has had to increase its prices. I am sure that as usual, they will provide a wonderful meal to enhance the enjoyment of the occasion.

We look forward to seeing as many members as possible. All recent award recipients will also be invited.

Keith Swan OAM, Convener

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The Order of Australia Association Queensland Branch is joining with the Victoria League Queensland for Commonwealth Friendship to celebrate the Queen's Birthday in fine style with a gala black-tie dinner at the Queensland Club, George Street, Brisbane on Friday 12 June 2015. His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland will be present. The cost is \$115 per person and includes a three course dinner and drinks and hors d'oeuvres on arrival.

Members of our Association are warmly invited to attend. The registration/ payment form is available at the Queensland section of the Association's website at www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au. The form is also available from the Queensland Branch Secretary, Geoff Cowles OAM.



Far North Queensland Regional Group – Long term Members Ron Crew OAM and Mena Crew at the Marina lunch

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND REGIONAL GROUP

The Yorkeys Knob Marina was a beautiful venue for our first lunch in 2015 in Far North Queensland on 28 March. A pleasing turnout of over 30 members and guests enjoyed several hours of camaraderie and good food. The crowd was a good mix of regular attendees and some new faces. We welcomed guests June and David Corrie, a founder, patron and Number 1 life member of the Marina. David entertained us with stories about his life and the history of the Marina that has grown from a shed and fishing club to an impressive facility that is now a major boating facility, social centre and landing point for the passengers of passing cruise ships visiting the tropical north. We also heard from our own member, Harald Falge OAM accompanied by his wife Sally. They have together committed their lives to helping homeless young people in Cairns. Harald set out the challenges this dedicated couple has overcome to support their 14-18 year old charges in overcoming their own hurdles and go on to successful and happy lives.

Elizabeth Harman AO, Convener

BUNDABERG REGIONAL GROUP

I have touched base with some of our members who live in the North Burnett area near Bundaberg and who were affected by cyclone Marcia in February 2015. It is dreadfully difficult for the primary producers in the North Burnett who are experiencing their third flood in 4 years - and this one is every bit as bad as the 2013 deluge. It is such a shame the crops are ruined, new fences are tangled and the feeling is one of devastation, frustration and shock. Being a farmer, I understand and feel their pain - it is a tough life at times, and we are a very proud bunch who hates to be in need of a hand! We offer our thoughts, prayers and a helping hand if they need support or anything else - they need just pick up the phone.

We offer our deepest sympathies and prayers for comfort and peace to Judith Hunter OAM (from Hervey Bay) and her family on the death of her daughter.

Donna Duncan OAM, Convener

VALE OUR ESTEEMED AUSTRALIANS

Graeme Harold Brien AM, Eva Burrows AC, John Andrew Cummins OAM, Colin Wauchope Dodd OAM, Harry Gordon AM CMG, Bruce Thomas Haley OAM, John Edward Harrison AM, Barbara Jean Hebden OAM, Austin John Hogan OAM, Neil John Jamison OAM, John Maxwell Jones OAM, Ida Maud Kennedy OAM, Oliver Nicholas Landers OAM,

Austen (Larry) Loveday OAM, Kenneth Hugh Munro OAM, Henry Nowik AO OBE, Geoffrey Robert Patch OAM, Robert Samuel Phillips OAM, Conrad James Primmer OAM, Rex Peter Taylor OAM, Nicholas Xynias AO BEM

CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

In response to requests from members for the Association's Constitution, the full document and the related By-laws can be viewed at the Association's web-site www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au

HARRY GORDON AM CMG – A TRIBUTE

With the death of Harry Gordon AM CMG in January 2015 Australia has lost a remarkable and highly respected journalist. The Order of Australia Association has lost a strong supporter and his many friends from all walks of life have lost a real gentleman. Born and growing up in Melbourne in the 1920's Harry moved to Sydney after completing high school and became a copy boy in a daily newspaper. With World War II depleting the ranks of journalists he was soon writing stories and articles. He served briefly in the RAAF training as a pilot but the War ended before he saw active service.

At the outbreak of the Korean War he became the youngest correspondent to cover that War and then became a correspondent in London. In 1952 he covered the Helsinki Olympic Games which started his 70 year involvement with the Olympic movement. He reported on ten Summer Olympics and wrote 15 books, several of which covered the Olympic movement and its athletes, culminating in his last book published in 2014 *From Athens with Pride - the Official History of the Australian Olympic Movement 1894 - 2014*. He received several awards from both the Australian and International Olympic Committees for his service to the Olympic movement.

By the 1970's he was on the staff of the Courier Mail in Brisbane and in 1980 he was appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) for service to journalism in Queensland.

In 1993 he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for service to the community and to the promotion of Australian sport.

He would always reply to an invitation to attend an Order of Australia Association function on the Gold Coast but often his reply would be a regret that he would be travelling overseas again on the day of the function.

His funeral on the Gold Coast on 29 January attracted over 300 friends, including many sporting and media identities. I attended representing the Association and had an interesting and challenging time identifying the many public faces attending.

AVM Bill Collins AO (Retd), Gold Coast Regional Group Convener.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST QUEENSLAND MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Welcome to our forty new Queensland members who have joined the Association since the Spring 2014 Edition of The Order.

AUSTRALIA DAY 2015 HONOURS (31)

The Hon Justice Roslyn Atkinson AO, Christopher Madden AO, Brian White AO, Adjunct Professor Daniel Wood AO, Alan Clayton AM, Professor Thomas Cochrane AM, Mr Glenn Ferguson AM, David Glasgow AM, Dr Peter Ho AM, Professor Sylvia Rodger AM, Winifred Smith AM, Ross Wiseman AM, Professor John Aaskov OAM, Capt Alan Barlow OAM, Kenneth Bird OAM, Joy Boyle OAM, Gwenda Braga OAM, Albert Callcott OAM, Thelma Dooley PSM OAM, Denise Durnford OAM, Leslie Kleinschmidt OAM, Bernadette Lane OAM, Beres McCallum OAM, Peter McGregor OAM, Jack Mackay OAM, Professor Paul Martin OAM, Robin Murphy OAM, Mr Selwyn Pfeffer OAM, Pamela Thomas OAM, Ian Wells OAM, Dr Walter Wood OAM

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY 2014 HONOURS (5)

Donald Currell OAM, Professor Douglas Hargreaves AM, John Langford AM, Mark Townend AM, Keith Young OAM

AUSTRALIA DAY 2014 HONOURS (3)

Adele Rice AM, Ian Smith AM, Joan St Clair OAM

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY 2001 (1)

William Whitburn OAM

We hope you will find membership of benefit to you and we look forward to seeing you at future events being organised by the Queensland Branch.

NOMINATE A WORTHY QUEENSLANDER FOR AN AWARD

I am sure you remember that special moment in your life when you opened up that envelope from Government House in Canberra and read your letter advising you that you are soon to receive an award in the Order of Australia. You will do doubt recall the thrill and excitement that you experienced receiving this wonderful news and sharing it with family and friends.

What is significant about your wonderful moment is that one of your fellow Australians nominated you for your award. They were no doubt watching and listening and taking mental notes about you and came to the realisation that you were worthy for receiving such high recognition for the service that you had given to the nation and your community.

One of the great things you can do in return is to look around you and see if there are worthy fellow Queenslanders that YOU can nominate for an award.

You can obtain a nomination form online at the Honours website at www.itsanhonour.gov.au or you can leave your name and postal address on the Honours free call, 24 hour answering service – 'phone: 1800 552 275. You can also write to The Secretary, The Order of Australia, Government House, Yarralumla ACT 2600.

Know someone that fits the bill? Well why not nominate them now.

Keep up to date with what is happening in your Branch by checking our Association's website www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au

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)

Immediate Past Chairman

Emeritus Professor Tony Webber AM, Tel: 07 3848 0939 (H); 0419 701 177 (M)

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
Mr Raymond Young OAM, Member

All correspondence to **the Secretary**:

Postal: 16 Kanturk Street,
Ferny Grove, Qld 4055
secqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

REGIONAL GROUP CONVENERS

Bundaberg: Donna Duncan OAM

donna_dd@bigpond.net.au

Central Queensland: Raymond Young OAM

raymond@cyberoz.com.au

Darling Downs: Paul McNally OAM

pmcnally1@bigpond.com

Far North Queensland: Elizabeth Harman AO

liz.harman22@gmail.com

Gold Coast: Bill Collins AO

wmandrjc@qld.chariot.net.au

Mackay-Whitsunday: Carmel Daveson AM

- carmel@ehw.net.au

Sunshine Coast: Keith Swan OAM

swanslaguna@bigpond.com

Townsville: Mick Johnson OAM

michael.johnson25@defence.gov.au