



Chairman's Report

The brochure for the National Conference to be hosted by the Queensland branch in April 2017 has aroused considerable interest from members and registrations are now being received. Can I strongly encourage members of regional groups to consider making attendance at this Conference a major activity for 2017.

I continue to receive very positive feedback on the welcome luncheon hosted by the Queensland Committee and members for new awardees on 6 May. The excellent venue, Moda Events Portside at Hamilton on the river, the first class catering and format all contributed to a convivial and successful function. I am pleased that many of the new awardees have joined the Association and sincerely thank all those who attended.

The Gala Black tie dinner, held in conjunction with the Victoria League Brisbane for Commonwealth Friendship, at the Queensland Club on 13 June to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday was well attended by members and their guests. This wonderful function was held in the presence

of the Governor the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC acting as the Administrator of the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia and Mrs Kaye de Jersey. Members and guests enjoyed the presentation by His Excellency and enthusiastically toasted Her Majesty as part of a very successful joint function.

I wish to thank those members who supported Simon Newcomb OAM at the naming ceremony of Newcomb Park at Riverhills in the western suburbs of Brisbane on Saturday 6 August and the afternoon tea that followed. The naming of Newcomb Park is recognition of the contribution Simon has made to make our society a better place, notably through his rowing pursuits.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that our Annual General Meeting and Black-tie Annual Dinner will be held in The Ballroom, Victoria Park at Herston on Monday 21 November. I encourage members to attend and enjoy the company of other members and their guests.

John Harden AM

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY YOUR MAJESTY

A most memorable Black Tie Gala Dinner was organised jointly by The Order of Australia Association, Queensland Branch (OAAQ) and the Victoria League Brisbane for Commonwealth Friendship (VLB) on Monday 13 June at The Queensland Club in Brisbane to celebrate Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth's 90th Birthday.

One hundred and fifteen guests including sixty-eight from OAAQ made sure that the Queen's 90th was celebrated in grand style.

The event was made extra special by the presence of His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, our Queensland Governor, who attended as His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia and gave an excellent speech to mark the occasion. Mrs Kaye de Jersey accompanied His Excellency

A real highlight was our performing soprano for the evening, Louise Winton. We were treated initially to an entertaining impromptu song during the pre-dinner drinks in the Gold Room and after the Vice Regal party entered the Dining Room, Louise lead us all in the singing of the National Anthem "Advance Australia Fair" followed by the singing of "God Save the Queen" to mark the significance of the occasion. Louise also sang a range of songs in between meal courses including one of her own compositions "Grandfather's Bugle" celebrating the Anzac spirit, which touched all of our hearts by its wonderfully inspiring and uplifting words. Louise was a most enjoyable star of the show at this event. Her Majesty, if she were present, would have been suitably impressed.

This then was a great celebration for a remarkable lady who at 90 has reached a most significant milestone in her remarkable life and who has served her subjects with loyalty, dedication and charm for over 64 of those 90 years. Long may she continue to reign over us.

Geoff Cowles OAM



A most impressive welcoming party for the arrival of His Excellency the Administrator and Mrs Kaye de Jersey – from L to R – Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary, OAAQ; Barry Dineen, President, VLB; Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ, Vice Chairman, OAAQ; Associate Professor John Harden AM, Chairman, OAAQ; Mick Davis AM ASM, Master of Ceremonies and OAAQ and VLB member; His Excellency the Administrator, the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC; Mrs Kaye de Jersey; Royce Voss OAM, Treasurer, OAAQ; Bill Willodes, Chairman, VLB; Susan Oag, Treasurer, VLB and Dina Browne AO, Vice President, VLB and former National OAA Chairman



Captivating the audience with her wonderful voice – Louise Winton, soprano, performing a superb rendition of the aria "Oh Mio Babbino Caro" at the Gala Dinner for the Queen's 90th Birthday – Monday 13 June 2016.

2016 QUEENSLAND BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER AND AGM

Keep Monday **21 November 2016** free in your diaries for our Annual General Meeting at 6:15pm to be followed by the Annual Dinner at 7pm. More details will be available in the coming months. However, what we can reveal now is that the Annual Dinner this year is being held in a fabulous new venue – **The Ballroom at Victoria Park** in the Victoria Park Golfing Complex, Herston and the cost will be **\$93 per person**.

Book for this gala event when registration forms become available closer to the time. Enquiries: Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary – phone 3351 4991 or email to secqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

2017 CONFERENCE DINNER TO BE HELD IN ONE OF BRISBANE'S GREATEST ICONS

The Black Tie Conference Dinner at the 31st National Conference on Saturday 21 April 2017 will be held in the Main Auditorium of Brisbane's magnificent City Hall and promises to be one of the great highlights for Conference visitors.

Since opening in 1930, Brisbane City Hall has been a symbol of civic pride and over the years has become one of Brisbane's greatest icons and the home of elegance and grandeur. Brisbane City Hall reopened in April 2013 following a 3 year, \$215m restoration program, with EPICURE as the newly appointed Venue Manager and exclusive caterer.

Designed by architectural firm, Hall and Prentice, City Hall has a great circular hall and corridors surrounded by offices and function venues. The main entrance from King George Square is emphasised by imposing Corinthian columns that are nearly 14 metres high. The building has a clock tower rising 92 metres above the ground. One of the main building features is its grand marble staircase.

The Main Auditorium is City Hall's single largest space. The copper dome over the room is the largest in Australia, spanning 31 metres in diameter. The dome is supported on a brick base that allows the interior of the Main Auditorium to be unobscured by columns. A showpiece in the Main Auditorium is the Brisbane City Hall Pipe Organ, one of best preserved examples of a five-manual Father Henry Willis Organ anywhere in the world and built in 1892 by Henry Willis and Sons of London. An organ recital will be a feature at our Conference Dinner.

The Queensland Branch of the Association welcomes your attendance at the Conference Dinner in this most splendid of Brisbane venues.



Brisbane's iconic City Hall and King George Square by night with the Brisbane Pullman, our Conference hotel just to the right of the City Hall.



The imposing Main Auditorium of Brisbane City Hall—venue for the Black Tie Conference Dinner

BRISBANE IN APRIL 2017 – YOUR CONFERENCE TO REMEMBER

With the Brisbane 2017 National Conference only nine months away, Association members have been registering their places at the Conference ready to enjoy Queenslanders' warm hospitality. The Conference is being held from 20 to 23 April – autumn in the sunshine state.

The Conference program has so much to entertain, challenge and delight those attending. The Conference Forum and Conference Oration as well as visits to the outstanding science facilities at the Queensland University of Technology will offer you challenging ideas about contemporary issues and innovation. The Premier's reception at Parliament House, the Governor's reception at Government House, the welcome dinner on the first evening and the Conference Dinner in the grand surroundings of the Brisbane City Hall will provide everyone with enjoyable social opportunities to meet old friends and make new ones.

For those who wish to see more of Queensland, pre and post-conference tours have been organised to the beautiful garden city of Toowoomba and the Darling Downs, the Gold Coast and its hinterland and to the Sunshine Coast.

Bookings can be made for Conference accommodation at The Pullman Brisbane Hotel (the main Conference venue) by telephoning 07 3229 9111 and quoting the Conference name and date. Accommodation members should identify themselves.

The Conference Committee is determined to make the 2017 National Conference an outstanding experience for all Association members and guests who attend. The detailed program and registration form is included in this issue of *The Order*.

Mick Davis AM ASM, Conference Committee Chairman

IMPRESSED BY OUR PARAMEDICS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCHERS

Fifty-two members of The Order of Australia Association, Queensland Branch visited the Queensland Ambulance Service Kedron Operations Centre and State Disaster Management Centre at Kedron Park, Brisbane for their April morning tea function. Association Branch Chairman John Harden AM spoke of how impressed the visitors were with the work of Queensland paramedics and emergency medical dispatchers (EMD).

The visitors were welcomed to the Kedron Complex by Dr Steve Rashford representing Commissioner Russell Bowles, Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) and by Assistant Commissioner Steve Grant representing Commissioner Katarina Carroll, Queensland Fire and Emergency Service (QFES). David Sell and Col Allen from QAS State Operations guided the large group through the Kedron Emergency facilities and with the help of QFES personnel ensured they were given a full insight into how QAS and QFES operations function daily and in natural disaster situations.

The visitors were equally impressed with the new technology in the State Disaster Management Centre that will significantly improve Queensland's flood warning systems.



Gathering together at the conclusion of the visit to the Kedron Park Emergency Services Complex – from L to R – Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ and Mick Davis AM ASM, event organisers; Col Allen, Director, State Operation Centres, Queensland Ambulance Service; David Sell, Executive Manager, State Operation Centres, Queensland Ambulance Service (displaying commemorative plaque presented to the Complex by the Queensland Branch) and Associate Professor John Harden AM, Queensland Branch Chairman.



At the Gold Coast luncheon guest speaker Lance Smith AM (seated), Emeritus Professor Errol Maguire AM and Helen Smith.

FROM THE GOLD COAST REGIONAL GROUP

The Gold Coast Regional Group members held a successful lunch on 18 May 2016. The guest speaker was a local Association member Lance Smith AM whose address was entitled "The Brighter Side of a Death Threat". Lance spoke of the lead up to the opening this month of the Children's Hospice in Brisbane called Hummingbird House. Those attending lingered after the meal to discuss the issues Lance had raised and to socialise.

The next function will be later in the year and details will be shown on the Association website. There will be a mail out to Gold Coast Regional members once arrangements are confirmed.

Bill Collins AO, Convener

SENIOR VOLUNTEER AWARD 2016

It's time for Queensland members of the Association to send in their nominations for the 2016 Senior Volunteer Award. This prestigious annual award recognises and applauds the incredibly valuable contributions of so many outstanding older (60+ years old) volunteers. Nominations close on Friday 26 August, so if you haven't yet sent in your nominations to the Secretary of the Queensland Branch, Geoff Cowles OAM, now is the time to do so. Information on how to nominate and the easy-to-complete information form are available at the Queensland segment of the Association's website at www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au under "Senior Volunteer Award".

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND GROUP VISITS YUNGABURRA

The picturesque town of Yungaburra on the northern Queensland tablelands has a large and lively monthly market. On 25 June, members of the Far North Queensland Regional Group wandered the stalls and fire-juggling display before enjoying lunch at an adjacent restaurant. The conversations were easy and noisy. They ranged from speculation about the Brexit implications to memories of one of our regulars who died recently. Edna Wright OAM had a warmly generous, but humble personality. She was musically renowned and was much loved. We will miss her.

We welcomed new faces Carole Miller OAM and her partner Garth Abercrombie and Jan O'Donnell OAM and John O'Donnell OAM. At Carole's suggestion, we had a good discussion about working together to identify and nominate candidates for new awards in future.



Lunch at Yungaburra 25 June 2016.

We decided on plans for our next get-together to be a dinner over the weekend of 19-20 November with a chance for people to stay over near the likely venue at Trinity Park north of Cairns. Thanks to Gordon Wellham AM for his help with this upcoming event.

Elizabeth Harman AO, Convener

AWARD RECIPIENTS IN CELEBRATORY MOOD AT MODA

One hundred and thirty one guests including twenty-five award recipients from this year's Australia Day honours and one from last year's Queen's Birthday honours celebrated in style at Moda Events Portside on Friday 6 May.

Moda Events Portside is a stunning venue. Only a few minutes from the CBD, the outstanding state-of-the-art building is superbly located on the top level of the Brisbane Cruise Ship Terminal at Portside Wharf in Hamilton. Our guests enjoyed wonderful views of Brisbane city and the Brisbane River. The food and wait service were impressive and there was a good mood and atmosphere throughout the event. We all enjoyed the fine music accompaniment provided by two excellent student ensembles from nearby Clayfield College.

The real highlight, however, was meeting our 26 award recipients. A wonderful group of fine Queenslanders whose fields of endeavour were many and varied including representing their communities, dentistry, medicine, local government, early childhood, church activities, veterans' affairs, choral music, engineering, emergency rescue operations, muscular dystrophy and beef cattle production to name but a few.

A pleasing aspect was that thirty Association members were in attendance.



Meet the award recipients – Back row from L to R – Dr Ross Dunn AM; John Maccarone OAM; Ross Patching OAM; Paul Holley OAM; Paul Luckin AM CSJ; Alistair Gow OAM. 2nd row from back from L to R – Allan Fazldeen OAM; Noel Douse OAM; Joyce Rieck OAM; Bev Fraser OAM; Ann Robilotta-Glenister OAM; Beryl Holmes OAM; Dr Vlas Efstathis AM KStJ RFD; Paula Penfold AM; Dr Ralph Hultgren AM. 3rd row from back from L to R – Steve Efstathis OAM; Maxwell Barton OAM; Graeme Curnow OAM; Pastor Raymond Chapman OAM; Allan Sauer OAM; Dr Mick Tierney OAM; Richard Coventry OAM; Colonel Ashley Gunder AM. Front row from L to R – Lynne Foley OAM; Emeritus Professor Gwen Jull AO; Associate Professor John Harden AM, Qld Branch Chairman; and Pastor Linda Sivyer OAM.

DARLING DOWNS REGIONAL GROUP ENJOYS MUSEUM VISIT

Fifty-two members and guests from the Darling Downs Regional Group visited the Milne Bay Military Museum in Toowoomba on 13 May 2015 and enjoyed an engaging address by Marion Jones, President of the Museum's Committee, on the defeat of Japanese troops at Milne Bay in Papua New Guinea in 1942 during World War II.

We were able to welcome Raymond Ashford OAM and Frank (Bill) Benjamin OAM who received their awards on Australia Day 2016. We also welcomed Emeritus Professor Tony Webber AM, a past Chairman of the Queensland Branch and currently a member of the Branch and 2017 Conference Committees.

Paul McNally OAM, Convener

FAREWELL MAX BOND AM

Lt Col (Retired) Frederick William Maxwell (Max) Bond AM RFD died on 15 May 2016, aged 83. Max was educated in Queensland and graduated from the University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering. He worked in the electrical generation and distribution systems in South-East Queensland for many years before establishing his own consultancy business. As a member of the Australian Army Reserve in the Corps of Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers he held a variety of positions including service in Vietnam before retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Max was a member of The Order of Australia Association from the time he received his award of Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in June 1981 for service to the Army Reserve. Max attended most Association functions on the Gold Coast and in Brisbane where he was well known and highly regarded. On hearing of Max's death one of the members of the Queensland Branch Committee stated *"I will miss saying my annual greeting of 'Bond by name; Bond by nature' with which I always greeted Max when he came to our dinners; and his very firm handshake."*

AVM Bill Collins AO

SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS TO BE RECOGNISED FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

Members are encouraged to attend the Presentation of the 18th annual Secondary School Citizenship Awards at Parliament House in Brisbane on **Friday 16 September 2016**.

His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC will be in attendance to present the awards to those outstanding secondary school students who have made significant contributions to society, through service to their school and their community.

Make this a date claimer in your diaries and look out for the registration form on the Association's website or contact Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary for more details.

KEITH'S SWANSONG – NEW CONVENER NEEDED FOR SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL GROUP

Early this year Keith Swan OAM advised the Queensland Branch Secretary that he is unable to continue as Convener of the Sunshine Coast Regional Group, a position he has held for the past three years.

The Queensland Branch Committee thanks Keith for his valued contribution over these past three years and wishes Keith and his wife Camilla all the best for the future.

An opportunity exists for an enterprising member of the Association residing in the Sunshine Coast Region to consider taking on this important voluntary role. The role of Convener is not an onerous one but does require someone who would enjoy organising an activity or two annually for the local members and is willing to take bookings for these activities. The Convener reports to the Queensland Branch Committee and from time to time is asked to provide a short article about past or future events for the Branch newsletter editor.

Geoff Cowles OAM will be pleased to receive a phone call from any member in the region who may be interested. He will be happy to provide further information about the role. Geoff's phone number is 3351 4991. Or you could email him to secqld@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)

Vice Chairman

Mr Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ,
0408 887 923 (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)

Membership Officer

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

Mr Mick Davis AM ASM,
Tel: 3355 7872 (H); 0411 554 955
Mr Winston Fraser OAM, Member
Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO,
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](mailto:secqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)

IN MEMORIAM

BENNETT, Dawn OAM
BENSON, Harold Cyril OAM
BEVAN, Colin Russell OAM
BOND, Fredrick William Maxwell (Max) AM
BRETTON, Ronald OAM
CLAFFEY, Barton Thomas OAM
GIURGOLA, Romaldo AO
HOLMAN, Haldane OAM
HYLAND, Phyllis Deirdre AM
LEE, Maxwell Curnow OAM
McLLWAIN, John Robert OAM
MILLER, Michael Douglas AO
MORELLE, Ruby Letitia OAM
RYAN, Leo Peter OAM
TAYLOR, Nowell Boyd OAM
WEBB, Henry Arthur (Harry) OAM
WHITESTYLES, William John OAM
WILLIAMS, Joan Beatrice OAM
WILLIAMS, Lesley Merle AM
WRIGHT, Edna Beatrice OAM