

**THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA  
ASSOCIATION  
QUEENSLAND BRANCH**



**QUEENSLAND BRANCH  
CHAIRMAN'S  
ANNUAL REPORT - 2015**

**For presentation at the  
36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

**6:15pm – Monday 23 November 2015**

**The Captains' Room, The Pavilion, Allan Border  
Field, 1 Greg Chappell Street, Albion, Brisbane.**



**To be presented by Associate Professor John Harden  
AM, Chairman, Queensland Branch 2015**

## **35<sup>th</sup> Annual Report**

### **1. Introduction**

It gives me great pleasure to present the thirty-fifth Annual Report of the Queensland Branch of The Order of Australia Association in my first year as Chairman.

It has been another busy year with a great variety of events organized by a hard working branch committee. Our regional groups continued to provide great service to the lifeblood of our members throughout the year. The national board meeting held in Perth in March this year approved the formation of our eighth regional group – The Mackay-Whitsunday Regional Group and the group organized its first event in June this year at the home of Carmel Daveson AM, its Convener.

The Branch organized two outstanding celebratory lunches for new award recipients during the year with a record attendance of 271 guests at the event in May and 103 at the one held during September. Two wonderful Brisbane morning teas were also arranged; a visit to the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Amberley Air Base in April and the Queensland Club in August with 64 and 61 attendees respectively

The Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards (SSCAs) and the Senior Volunteer Awards were maintained in 2015. It was pleasing that the Governor of Queensland His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, accepted our invitation to present the SSCAs to the winning students at Parliament House on 18 September.

These and other events organized during the year in Brisbane and also in the eight regions are reported in greater detail in the body of this report.

The following is a summary of the highlights of 2015.

### **2. The 2015 Queensland Branch Committee**

The following members of the Association were elected to the Committee at the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 24 November 2014, unless otherwise indicated.

- **Chairman:** *Associate Professor John Harden AM \**
- **Vice Chairman:** *Mr Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ (elected at the 35<sup>th</sup> AGM as an "other member" and subsequently appointed by the Committee as Vice Chairman on 21 January 2015)*
- **Secretary:** *Mr Geoff Cowles OAM*
- **Treasurer:** *Mr Royce Voss OAM ( elected at the 35<sup>th</sup> AGM as an "other member" and subsequently appointed by the Committee as Treasurer on 8 December 2014)*
- **Immediate Past Chairman:** *Professor Tony Webber AM ( automatically elected to the Committee by virtue of section 7.1 of the Branch Model Rules)*

**Other members of the Committee** (Committee appointed roles in brackets)

- *Mrs Christine Bundesen AM;*
- *Mr Mick Davis AM ASM ( 2017 National Conference Convener);*
- *Mr Patrick Galligan OAM ( Membership Officer);*
- *Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO;*
- *Professor Paul McNally OAM ( Newsletter Editor);*
- *Ms Sue Norrie OAM \*\**
- *Mr Raymond Young OAM.*

\* Associate Professor John Harden AM was appointed by the Committee to the additional position of Director of the national Board representing the Queensland Branch on 8 December 2014.

\*\* Ms Sue Norrie OAM resigned from the Committee on 10 September 2015

There were seven well attended committee meetings throughout the year and all were held in the community meeting room, Toowong Library, Toowong Village, Toowong, Brisbane at no cost to the Association. In addition, the appointments of Treasurer and Director of the national Board were determined by "flying minutes" held between the AGM and the meeting held on 21 January 2015 with the decision ratified at the 21 January 2015 meeting.

### **3. The 2014 Annual Dinner**

The event was held again at The Pavilion, Allan Border Field, Albion, in Brisbane on Monday, 24 November 2014. There is a considerable advantage in choosing a Monday rather than a Friday night because The Pavilion is able to drop the usual price by \$10 per person.

The 103 guests enjoyed good food, great fellowship and an excellent after dinner presentation by our special guest Tim Fairfax AC.

While all of these aspects were memorable, the highlight of the evening was the announcement of the three winners of the 2014 Senior Volunteer Awards presented by the Queensland branch and proudly sponsored by CoxRayner, Architects.



Tim Fairfax AC, our eminent guest speaker addresses the gathering at the 2014 Annual Dinner

## **4. The Luncheons to celebrate with recipients of awards in the Order of Australia**

The branch committee organized two excellent luncheons to celebrate with new recipients of awards in the Order of Australia; one for Australia Day recipients in May 2015 at the Broncos Leagues Club and the other for Queen's Birthday recipients at Hillstone St Lucia in September 2015. These were very successful and key events in the Queensland branch calendar.

### **4.1 The Luncheon to celebrate with recipients of awards in the 2015 Australia Day Honours**

Thirty-three of 93 Queensland recipients of Order of Australia Awards in this year's Australia Day honours were special guests at the Luncheon on Friday 8 May 2015 at Hillstone St Lucia. A record 271 people attended the gala event including the recipients, their families and friends and 26 Association members and their guests. At the equivalent event last year there were 166 attendees and 27 new recipients. The increase this time round is extremely pleasing to report, helped in part by the increase in new recipient numbers and several large award recipient contingents in attendance.

A highlight of the event was the performance by the six member Celli Choir from Kelvin Grove State College; who provided lovely background music on arrival and then a stirring rendition of the first two verses of the National Anthem which we sang with great voice. On behalf of the Queensland Branch I presented each of the musicians with a special Certificate of Participation.



"Packed to the Rafters" at the Broncos Leagues Club on 8 May 2015 – A portion of the 271 guests at the Australia day Award Celebratory Lunch

## **4.2 The Luncheon to celebrate with recipients of awards in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours**

Sixteen of 57 Queensland recipients of Order of Australia Awards in this year's Queen's Birthday honours were special guests at the Luncheon on Wednesday 23 September 2015 at Hillstone St Lucia. One hundred and three people attended the gala event including the recipients, their families and friends and 8 Association members and their guests. At the equivalent event last year there were 182 attendees and 30 new recipients. The lower numbers at this year's event can be attributed to the low number of new awardees in this year's Queen's Birthday honours.

We were entertained on this occasion on arrival at the Mango Terrace by the the Strings A Ensemble from St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School, Corinda. They also provided the music for the singing of the National Anthem and it was especially pleasing that the performers agreed to take time from their school holidays to perform for us.

## **5. 2013 Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards (SSCA)**

Honeycombe's Property Group after providing over 10 years of continuous sponsorship of these awards ceased their sponsorship this year. As an Association we are indebted to Peter Honeycombe and the Honeycombe's Property Group for their interest and very strong support of these awards over many years. I am pleased to announce that Mr Tim Fairfax AC, kindly agreed to take up sponsorship of these awards for this year and also for 2016 and 2017. This means that this excellent initiative will continue for the next two years.

This year we had 102 people attend the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Presentation of awards, comprising secondary school students, family members, education representatives and OAA members from across Queensland.

The event was held on Friday 18 September 2014 at Parliament House, Brisbane. Guest of Honour, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland presented 11 students with commemorative plaques and Certificates of Merit, and Mr Tim Fairfax AC, our new awards sponsor presented Certificates of Community Service to 9 selected local students. Mr Peter Fullagar, Headmaster, St Joseph's Nudgee College presented the response speech on behalf of the Schools.

Nominations were received for 79 students from 49 secondary schools throughout Queensland, compared with 70 nominations representing 45 schools last year. This year's judging panel again comprised Mrs Dina Browne AO and Mr Bruce Howden OAM from the Association and Mr Chris Lassig from Education Queensland. The Association thanks all three judges for their contribution. To Geoff Cowles OAM, thank you for agreeing to again add to your considerable workload as Secretary by tackling with such enthusiasm the coordination role of this year's awards program.

This year's presentation was compered by Bruce Howden OAM, one of this year's judges who stepped in at the last minute to replace Mr Howard Ainsworth AM, our regular MC, who passed away suddenly. The event was made special by the presence of Guitar and Clarinet ensembles from St Joseph's Nudgee College providing musical interludes and the playing of the National Anthem. All ensemble members received Certificates of Participation from the Association.

Daniel O'Brien from Moreton Bay Boys' College, who received a Secondary Schools Citizenship Award, was unable to attend the Presentation at Parliament House as he was performing active community service with his College raising funds for Camp Quality on the day of the ceremony. Mr Tony Wood, Head of College received the award from His Excellency on Daniel's behalf.

Geoff Cowles OAM, the Secretary, represented the Association on 28 October 2015 at Brisbane Boys' College and presented four Certificates of Community Service to their four unsuccessful nominees at their end of year College Assembly.



The 2015 winning students with His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland

## **6. 2015 Senior Volunteer Awards (SVA)**

The Association continued its Senior Volunteer Awards program in 2015.

The judging panel of Tony Webber AM, Mick Davis AM ASM and Susan Norrie OAM have selected three worthy volunteers to receive this Award. My thanks to Tony, Mick and Susan for agreeing to be on the judging panel this year. The awardees will be announced and presented with their awards during the Annual Dinner tonight.

The purpose of the Senior Volunteer Awards is to recognise and reward outstanding voluntary contributions made by senior Queenslanders to their communities, independently or through organisations with which

they are associated. Any current member of The Order of Australia Association, Queensland Branch, residing in Queensland may nominate a volunteer who is 60 years or older whom they believe meets the selection criteria required.

I encourage members of the Association to nominate worthy senior volunteers in 2016.



The 2014 senior volunteer award winners presented with their awards at last year's Annual Dinner on 24 November 2014.  
From L to R – Noel Edwards, Robert Ketton and Noel Williams .

## **7. Brisbane morning teas**

This year the Queensland branch committee organized two well attended Brisbane morning teas.

### **7.1 Visit to the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Amberley Air Base – Wednesday 29 April 2015**

Sixty-four attendees including 39 members visited the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Amberley Air Base, 10 km south west of Ipswich on Wednesday 29 April 2015. Security entry requirements were made easier because we travelled as a group in two comfortable buses.

The group were afforded a most comprehensive windscreen guided tour of the Base travelling in our buses with expert commentary provided by Base personnel.

The highlight was a morning tea in the Officers' Mess in the presence of Air Commodore Scott Winchester, the officer in charge of Headquarters, Combat Support Group. As Queensland Branch Chairman, I presented a commemorative plaque from the Association to the Combat Support Group which was accepted on behalf of the Group by the Air Commodore.

The event concluded with a visit to the wide range of air force exhibits and air force planes on display at the Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre.



The thirty-nine Order of Australia Association award recipients with Air Commodore Scott Winchester, HQ Combat Support Group at the RAAF Amberley Air Base.

## 7.2 A Morning Tea in the Brisbane CBD – Wednesday 26 August 2015

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Brisbane morning tea was a return to a more traditional format of a grand venue in the Brisbane CBD with an excellent guest speaker.

Sixty-one people enjoyed a morning tea at the Queensland Club in the historic George Street precinct and were enthralled by an inspirational talk from Dr Dimity Dornan AO who provided insight into how she and her husband Peter founded "Hear and Say", a centre providing an auditory-verbal therapy program for children who are deaf or hearing-impaired.

A highlight was the presence of Chloe Yapp, a 2013 Secondary Schools Citizenship Awardee who played the cello as musical accompaniment. My thanks to Bruce Howden OAM, a former Branch Committee member and a member of the Queensland Club who acted as host to allow us to have morning tea in this splendid iconic venue.



The magnificent exterior of The Queensland Club - venue for our August 2015 morning tea



Our guest speaker Dr Dimity Dornan AO presented with flowers by Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO, a member of the Queensland Branch Committee

## 8. Regional Group activities

While the Association provided some excellent events at the Queensland branch level, there were also some stimulating regional events. Our regional groups play a significant role in keeping members interested and involved in the Association at the local grass roots level.

A summary of the notified events organized follows:

### 8.1 **Bundaberg Regional Group**

[Convener: Donna Duncan OAM]

- **29 November 2014 – Luncheon – Golden Orange Hotel Motel, Gayndah** – 29 guests - Guest speakers Chern'ee Sutton (promising indigenous artist) and Jan Lutney ( recalling the life of her grandfather Rashid Lutney, a very successful local businessman in both the Bundaberg and Gayndah areas)
- **15 August 2015 – morning tea and tour of Paragon Theatre, Childers** - 30 guests – The tour of the Theatre was conducted by its owner Merissa Craft. My wife Di and I represented the Queensland Branch Committee at this interesting event held in a very historic setting.

### 8.2 **Central Queensland Regional Group**

[Convener: Ray Young OAM]

- **16 March 2016 – Morning Tea – Rockhampton Leagues Club** – Guest speaker - Eleanor Dean OAM
- **7 September 2015 - Dinner** – Rockhampton Leagues Club – 30 guests. Guest speaker Hon Alan Demack AO Topic "*Australia – the path to nationhood.*" A copy of this interesting presentation is available to members on request.

### 8.3 **Darling Downs Regional Group**

[Convener: Paul McNally OAM]

- **29 May 2015 – Morning Tea** – Morning Tea at the Town and Country Club – 54 guests – Guest speaker – Graham Burstow OAM, one of Australia's outstanding photographers. I was very pleased that I could attend to represent the Queensland Branch with my wife Di. We had a very enjoyable time.
- **30 October 2015 – Morning Tea - Town and Country Club, Toowoomba.** 40 guests. Guest speaker Hon Mike Horan AM, former Member of the Queensland Parliament

#### **8.4 Far North Queensland Regional Group**

[Convener: Professor Elizabeth Harman AO]

- **28 March 2015 – Lunch at Yorkey's Knob Marina** – 30 guests. Guest speakers David Corrie, founder of the Marina and Harald Falge OAM and wife Sally talking about their work looking after homeless young people in Cairns

#### **8.5 Gold Coast Regional Group**

[Convener: Air Vice Marshall Bill Collins AO (Retd)]

- **26 January 2015 – Annual Official Flag Raising and Citizenship Ceremony** – Council Chambers, Bundall – a number of new award recipients attended
- **15 May 2015 – Lunch – The Southport Golf Club** – a record 81 guests attended. Guest speaker: Peter O'Reilly OAM - Topic "The history of O'Reilly's Guesthouse". Geoff Cowles OAM represented the Queensland Branch Committee at this event.
- **21 November 2015 – Annual Garden Party – Fox and Hounds Country Inn**, Wongawallan just off the Oxenford/Tamborine Road. Geoff Cowles OAM and his wife Cheryl represented the Queensland Branch committee at this event.

#### **8.6 Mackay-Whitsunday Regional Group**

[Convener: – Carmel Daveson AM]

- **26 June 2015 – Inaugural regional group "Meet and Greet" – Home of Carmel Daveson AM** - 12 guests. Guest speakers Rev James O'Haire AC and Wendy Downes OAM. Ray Young OAM represented the Queensland Branch Committee at this event.

#### **8.7 Sunshine Coast Regional Group**

[Convener: – Keith Swan OAM]

- **23 July 2015 – Lunch - Tranquil Park, Maleny**. 62 guests. Guest speaker Kevin Oxley OAM talking about his interesting life leading to his becoming a prominent local artist. I along with Royce Voss OAM, Geoff Cowles OAM and our wives attended from the Queensland Branch Committee.

#### **8.8 Townsville Regional Group**

[Convener: - Michael Johnson OAM]

Mick Johnson OAM has advised that no events were organized for the Regional Group in 2015 due to a number of factors including his unavailability to organize events and no other member of the group offering to help out in his stead. Mick is very hopeful that he will be in a better position to represent the Group in 2016.

## 9. Membership Trends

There were 150 Queensland recipients who received awards in the Order of Australia in 2015 and 60 of these are now members of The Order of Australia Association. This represents 40% of the total number of Queensland recipients joining the Association compared with 45.7% last year (80 of 175 recipients joining). New recipients joining as members this year are 5.7% down on last year.

In 2015 we welcomed 49 Queensland recipients at our two lunches in May and September and of these 30 (61.2%) joined the Association. In 2014 the percentage of lunch recipients joining was 77.2% (44 of 57 recipients attending the lunches). The uptake of memberships by lunch recipients was much lower this year. The branch committee works hard to encourage new award recipients to join the Association and will continue to do so in 2016.

In November 2014 the total number of Queensland Branch members with up to date address listings was 1104. In November 2015 the total is 1092 which is a 2% reduction in membership. A disturbing statistic not included in the 1092 current members is a total of 104 current members, mostly life members who have either moved residences and have not provided their new addresses or they have passed away and the Association is unaware of this situation.

Geoff Cowles OAM, has updated his interesting new award recipient membership trend statistical tables compiled since 2011 which are appended to this report on page 17 as **Appendix A**.

## 10. 2017 National Conference Committee report

A 2017 Conference Committee was formed to plan activities for the 31<sup>st</sup> National Conference to be hosted by the Queensland Branch in 2017.

The following members have been appointed to the 2017 Conference Committee:-

Convener:	Mick Davis AM ASM
Deputy Convener:	Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ
Secretary	Peter Ho AM
Treasurer	Royce Voss OAM

Other members

Geoff Cowles OAM  
Sally Fraser OAM  
Patrick Galligan OAM  
Mary Mahoney AO  
Sue Norrie OAM  
Graham Thomson AM  
Marjorie Voss OAM  
Tony Webber AM  
Ray Young OAM  
John Harden AM ( ex officio)



**The 2017 Conference Precinct** – Everything within close proximity  
Far left – Albert Street Uniting Church (National Oratorion); Middle – Brisbane City Hall (Gala Dinner) and Far Right - The Brisbane Pullman ( our Conference Hotel – AGM and Farewell Dinner)

The Committee has met on four occasions and planning for the various conference events is well advanced.

The draft program is as follows

Monday 17 and 18 April – 2 day – 1 night overnight pre conference tour to Toowoomba and surrounds

Wednesday 19 April – post conference day tour to Tamborine Mountains  
- 1630 to 2200 hours – Directors' Dinner

Thursday 20 April

- 900 to 1500 hours Board Meeting
- 900 to 1200 hours – local Brisbane tours
- 1600 to 1730 hours – Premier's Reception – Parliament House
- 1800 to 2200 hours – Meet and Greet Dinner – possibly Kookaburra Queen

Friday 21 April

- 900 to 1200 hours – Conference Forum – Theme "*Innovating for Society*" – Pullman Hotel
- 1430 to 1600 hours – National Oration – Albert Street Uniting Church
- 1730 to 1900 hours – Government House Reception

Saturday 22 April

- 915 hours – 1000 hours Annual General meeting
- 1045 to 1200 hours – Members' Forum
- 1330 to 1500 hours – Regional group Representative's Forum
- 1830 to 2230 hour – Gala Conference Dinner – City Hall

Sunday 23 April

- 900 to 1000 hours – Wreath Laying Ceremony – Anzac Square
- 1015 to 1100 hours – morning tea – City Hall
- 1100 to 1215 hour – City Hall tours
- 1230 to 1400 hours – Farewell Lunch – Pullman Hotel

Monday 24 April – post conference tour to Sunshine Coast Hinterland

We will have a printed brochure available the 2017 Conference at the Sydney Conference in March 2016. We will man an information stand at the Sydney Conference to promote the Conference to the national membership.

## **11. Representations at Government House, Brisbane**

### **11.1 The Order of Australia Award Investitures**

The Association is fortunate to be afforded VIP status at the Investitures each year for new award recipients listed in both the Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Honours. I wish to thank His Excellency, the Governor, who is our Patron, for this recognition and continuing support. The Association was represented at the following Investitures by the following Committee members -

(a) Australia Day Award Investitures

- Wednesday, 6 May at 10 am - *Geoff Cowles OAM*
- Wednesday, 6 May at 2 pm - *Ray Young OAM*
- Thursday, 7 May at 2 pm - *Christine Bundesen AM*
- Friday, 8 May at 10 am - *Associate Professor John Harden AM*

(b) Queen's Birthday Award Investitures

- Monday 21 September at 2 pm - *Patrick Galligan OAM*
- Tuesday 22 September at 10 am - *Emer. Professor Mary Mahoney AO*
- Tuesday 22 September at 2 pm - *Royce Voss OAM*
- Thursday 24 September at 2pm - *Patrick Galligan OAM*

Professor Liz Harman AO, the Far North Queensland Regional Group Convener, represented the Queensland Branch at a very significant Investiture in Cairns on 27 May 2015 where fourteen awardees were able to attend, to be presented awards listed in the 2015 Australia Day Honours for their unstinting work in and for Cape York Indigenous communities through the work of the Family Responsibilities Commission (FRC). This agency established in 2008 is a key element of Cape York Welfare Reform. The awards were presented by His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland.

Mr Ron Crew OAM, a long standing member of the Far North Queensland Regional Group, represented the Queensland Branch at the Investiture Ceremony in Cairns on 16 October 2015 where North Queensland award recipients in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours were presented their awards by His Excellency, the Governor of Queensland.

### **11.2 Government House Open Days**

There was no Open Day organized for Australia day this year because Government House was undergoing renovations. The Open Day held in June was not the traditional Queensland Day celebration but was celebrating 150 years of Government House. As such, outside organizations were not invited to participate with promotional stalls on this day.

### **11.3 Other significant events at Government House where the Queensland Branch had representation**

Di and I were honoured to be invited by His Excellency, the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, the Governor of Queensland and Mrs Kaye de Jersey to a formal dinner held at Government House on 7 May 2015 in honour of the Officers of the Order of Australia (AO) announced in the 2015 Australia Day Honours list.

I was also honoured to be invited to Government House on 9 September to attend a special Dinner hosted by His Excellency, the Governor of Queensland to celebrate the great occasion when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II became the longest serving British Monarch.

Geoff Cowles OAM, the Secretary, represented the Queensland Branch at a Reception for the Governor's patronage organisations held in the Investiture Room of Government House on 30 March 2015.

## **12. Branch Communications**

### **12.1 The Order Magazine**

During the year the Queensland Branch joined with the other State and Territory Branches in the 12 month trial where dedicated Queensland pages were incorporated along with pages for the other States and Territories in an expanded version of *The Order*, the national magazine, which was produced 4 times a year.

The trial provided difficulties for the Queensland Branch in that the production dates of 15 August; 15 November; 15 February and 15 May did not align with Queensland Branch events, to the extent that the inclusion in each edition of any promotional flyers for these events would result in Queensland members receiving information about events far too late to make bookings. On the one occasion that the Queensland Branch asked for two flyers to be included in the August 2015 edition of *The Order* the flyers did not reach the Queensland members.

The Queensland Branch Committee continued its practice of providing Queensland members with two Communiqués, accompanied by promotional flyers for events; one in March and the other in early October 2015. By doing so, the Queensland Branch has been successful in maintaining its high attendance numbers to its events; an outcome it believes would not have occurred had the Branch relied solely on the 4 pages in the expanded national magazine. The postage for the Communiqué has come at an additional cost to the Queensland Branch; however it has been an expense well justified.

The 12 month trial ended when the August 2015 edition was published. Subsequently at the national board level it was decided to make the trial arrangements permanent and to maintain four editions annually. The Queensland Branch Committee would have preferred to have reduced the number to three which would have given much needed breathing space for Branch editors seeking new material for their pages, not to mention that the move would have resulted in 25% less expenses in producing the magazine for members.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to both Paul McNally OAM, the Queensland Branch newsletter editor and Geoff Cowles OAM, the Secretary. They have had to overcome a number of challenges in dealing with the national editor in the production of the four Queensland pages with stricter deadlines and less flexibility than were available when producing our own Bulletin newsletter.

## **12.2 Communicating to members via the Association website**

The Queensland segment of the website was again maintained by Phil Morrall AM, the national webmaster, relying heavily on material provided by Geoff Cowles OAM, our Secretary. The website contains lots of advice about upcoming events as well as information and nomination forms for both the Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards and the Senior Volunteer Awards. Archival material has been kept up to date as far as was practicable.

The section on regional groups has been upgraded to show in greater detail the locations of each of the eight Queensland regional groups. It also now includes a very clear statement that any member from throughout Australia including Queensland may attend any regional group or metro capital city activity regardless of where they live. The opportunity for travelling members to attend events being organized during their travels is greatly encouraged.

I urge members to make it a habit to visit our website from time to time to keep up to date with what is happening in the Association, particularly national matters.

## **13. Branch activity at national level**

I was very pleased to be a part of the 18 strong contingent from the Queensland branch that attended the national conference in Perth from 20 to 22 March. Last year we had 20 attendees and I am looking forward to a good number attending the 2016 conference to be held in Sydney, New South Wales in March. The 2015 conference was well organized by the Western Australian branch and was an outstanding success. My thanks to Major General Barry Nunn AO for convening the very successful conference in Western Australia and for sharing with us the programmes they developed to manage the conference to assist us with the 2017 Conference to be held in Brisbane. At this point in my report it is appropriate to advise that under the fine stewardship of Mick Davis AM ASM the Queensland Branch Conference Committee has plans well advanced for the 2017 Conference which will be held in Brisbane from 20 to 23 April 2017.

On 19 March, the day before the Perth conference, I attended the national board meeting that was held at the conference venue. I also participated in the national Board teleconference on 21 May 2015 and attended a face to face national board directors' meeting in Sydney. It was good to meet other branch chairmen and gain an understanding of their specific branch issues as well as the National Board at these meetings.

Much can be said about the importance of having a national organization. However, we must continue to remember that The Order of Australia Association relies for its success on individual membership. Therefore the importance of Regional Groups and State Branches cannot be underestimated as they seek to service members' interests.

I thank again Regional Group Conveners, the members of the State Branch Committee and the 2017 Conference Organizing Committee for their untiring work on our behalf.

## **14. Relationships with outside organizations**

- The Association's Queensland Branch combined with the Victoria League Queensland for Commonwealth Friendship (VLQ) in organising a Black Tie Gala Dinner at the Queensland Club on Friday 15 June 2015. The event was held in the presence of His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland and Mrs Kaye de Jersey. I had the honour of proposing a Toast and a vote of thanks to His Excellency after he spoke so enthusiastically to the gathering. The Order of Australia Association were well represented on the night providing 26 of the 66 guests present.
- On Sunday 23 August 2015 the VLQ also coordinated a very successful Matins Church Service attended by members of the Association and their partners at St John's Cathedral in Brisbane to celebrate the moment in time when Queen Elizabeth II became the longest British Monarch.
- On Thursday 3 September 2015 several members of the Association attended the annual National Flag Day Ceremony in King George Square organised by the Australian National Flag Association and the Brisbane City Council.

## **15 Closing remarks**

I would like to pay tribute to Christine Bundesen AM who has decided to stand down from the Committee and not nominate for the Branch Committee in 2016. Christine was elected to the Committee in November 2012 and has been a great asset with her very keen analytical mind and professional report preparation skills. Some of her achievements have included the fine-tuning of our current PowerPoint presentation promoting The Order of Australia; our current more contemporary letterhead and the selection of suitable questions for our 2013 membership survey. I would also like to offer my sincere thanks to Sue Norrie OAM for her albeit short contribution to the Committee. Sue has tendered her resignation citing her other community interests requiring more of her time. To both Christine and Sue I wish you well for your futures.

The Queensland Branch has had a very busy and successful year. I thank again the members of the Queensland Branch Committee for their enthusiasm, professionalism, friendship and support. We are a strong team dedicated to servicing the members and their interests.

I look forward to comments and suggestions on the Association, its activities and service to members.

I encourage you to take an interest in the Association's activities and participate in events organized for members' benefit in 2016. As awardees in the Order of Australia you have a responsibility to nominate other worthy Australians for an award and I strongly encourage you to do so.

Thank you all for your support during 2015 and I look forward with enthusiasm to 2016 and meeting as many of you as possible during the year.

I commend my report and move its adoption

**John Harden AM**  
Chairman

**APPENDIX A TO THE 2015 Queensland Branch Chairman's Report**  
**Membership Trends – new award recipients 2011 through to 2015**  
**@ 14 November 2015**

**A. 2015**

**A.1. Australia Day 2015 only**

No of recipients	No who have joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
93	39	41.9%	33	24	72.7%	35.5%

**A.2 . Queen's Birthday 2015 only**

No of recipients	No who have joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
57	21	36.8%	16	6	37.5	28.1%

**A.3. Combined 2015 Recipients – Australia Day and Queens Birthday**

No of recipients	No who joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
150	60	40.0%	49	30	61.2%	32.7%

**B. 2014**

**B.1. Australia Day 2014 only**

No of recipients	No who have joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
102	31	30.4%	27	20	74.1%	26.5%

**B.2 . Queen's Birthday 2014 only**

No of recipients	No who have joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
73	49	67.1%	30	24	80.0%	41.1%

**B.3. Combined 2014 Recipients – Australia Day and Queens Birthday**

No of recipients	No who joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
175	80	45.7%	57	44	77.2%	32.6%

## C. 2013

### C.1. Australia Day 2013 only

No of recipients	No who have joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
71	33	46.5%	21	17	80.9%	29.6%

### C.2. Queen's Birthday Day 2013 only

No of recipients	No who joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
79	30	40.0%	27	22	81.5%	34.2%

### C.3. Combined 2013 Recipients – Australia Day and Queens Birthday

No of recipients	No who joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
150	63	42%	48	39	81.2%	32%

## D. 2012

### D.1. Australia Day 2012 only

No of recipients	No who joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
49	22	44.9%	20	11	55.0%	40.8%

### D.2 Queen's Birthday Day 2012 only

No of recipients	No who joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
62	43	69.4%	25	21	84.0%	40.3%

### D.3. Combined 2012 Recipients – Australia Day and Queens Birthday

No of recipients	No who joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunch
111	65	58.6%	45	32	71.1%	24.7%

## E. 2011 Combined 2011 Recipients – Australia Day and Queens Birthday

No of recipients	No who joined	% of total recipients joining	No who came to Lunches	No of these who joined	% of lunch recipients joining	% of recipients coming to lunches
107	41	38.3%	28	16	57.1%	26.2%