



The Order of Australia Association

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

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Patron: *His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC*
Governor of Queensland

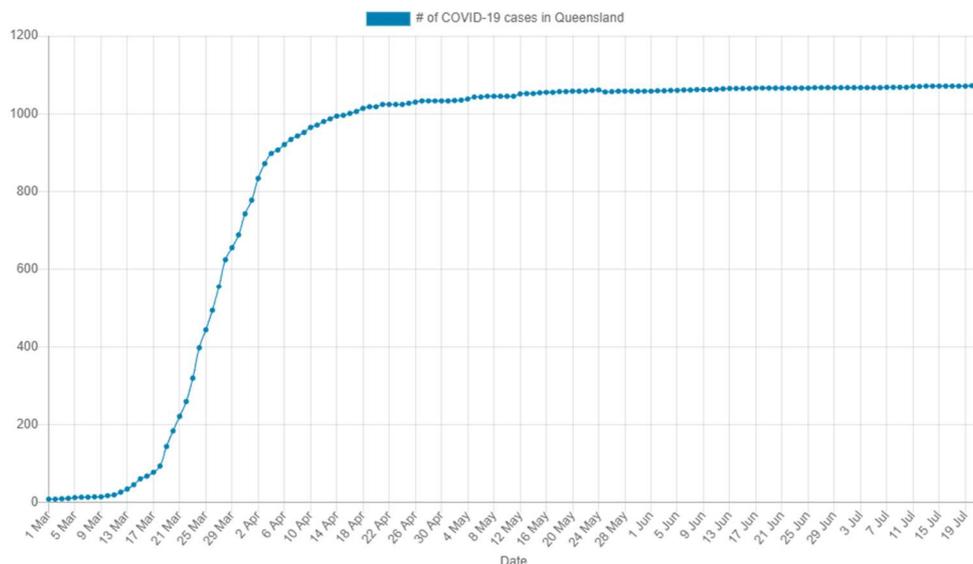
24 July 2020

Communique from the Chair

Hearty Greetings to fellow members of the Queensland Branch of The Order of Australia Association (OAA).

Another two months have smartly passed by since I was in last contact. The purpose of this communique is two-fold.

First, I wanted to reiterate my esteem for each of you and our fellow Queenslanders for achieving a splendid result to date of 'flattening' the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) uptake curve. This is demonstrated in the graph next below which plots the number of confirmed cases in Queensland over time.



Queensland COVID-19 statistics at 21 July 2020 can be summarised as:

Total cases = 1,072 (1,058). Total tests = 466,479 (166,877). Lives lost = 6 (6). The figures in parentheses are those of 2 months back. Of the total 1,072 cases only 22 percent were acquired locally, that is, 834 of the total cases were acquired overseas. Queensland has been a very safe place to live during this pandemic. Indeed, there are a dozen Regional Council areas that have recorded zero locally acquired infections.

Detailed statistics are available at: <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/statistics>

These positive outcomes have come from a disciplined and sustained approach to social distancing and isolation over the past months. As we have seen from the recent Victorian experience of a renewed pulse of infections, the protocols and constraints that the medical advisers to government have prescribed need to be maintained.

Current information on public health directions and gatherings are available at, <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/public-health-directions/movements-gatherings>

Remember to continue to practice physical distancing as much as possible and:

- wash your hands regularly with soap and water, and use alcohol-based sanitiser
- avoid hugs, kisses and handshakes
- wherever possible keep at least 1.5 metres away, two big steps, from people you don't live with.

Given the opportunity we have all had to read widely I came across a poem (attached) composed this year by Kitty O'Meara. The poem has become shorthand for a silver-linings perspective during the coronavirus outbreak — the hope that something good can come out of this collective state of "together, apart."

Second, I wanted to advise that your Branch Committee has 'virtually' met a further two times via Zoom (17 June and 15 July) to keep abreast of National Office and Government pronouncements. Using two hosts per meeting we are able to cascade the free Zoom time to well over the hour. We have designed and ordered a Queensland Branch banner for future use and made submissions on the National Constitution and Benefits of OAA Membership. A copy of the latter is attached for your referral. The Queensland section of the OAA web site has been updated, <https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/queensland/about-us/>

Last week we were advised that our Queensland Branch Committee member Graham Hyde OAM was appointed National Secretary and he takes on the role with the best wishes of us all. The still restricted gathering measures and limited opening of Government House have continued to curtail all the usual functions that populate our OAA diaries. You will be advised as soon as possible when we can once more schedule activities to service our esteemed membership.

The Order magazine ought to be available towards the end of next week. We would like to fill our Queensland contribution pages for the following issue with uplifting stories of personal help and assistance given to those living alone and in need. I urge this OAA group of exceptional volunteers to contribute accordingly via your respective Regional Co-ordinators.

In signing off I wish you and yours good health and know that you will continue to assist others in keeping spirits up.

Kind regards

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Dr Gary Bacon AM, Chair OAA Queensland Branch.