

## 2016 AWARD WINNER PROFILES

The information on these pages has been extracted from the submissions made to QJA supporting the nominations of the successful award candidates, all of which demonstrated a commitment to the Board's **Community Engagement initiative**.

### **Marian Vierveyzer, Awards Committee Chairman Member of the Year**



**David Harris** is a highly respected and valued senior member of the Brisbane North Branch. David's diverse and admirable working life is reflected in his contribution to all branch matters. His successful careers as a businessman, builder, educator and education administrator were clearly the stepping stones to the leadership, role model and integrity standards that he has displayed for so many years in performing all manners of JP activities. He has been a QJA member for around 47 years (since November 1969).

#### **Member engagement and growth**

**Leadership.** David has been an accomplished leader for this year and many years before. He joined the Brisbane North branch in 2008 and in 2009 was elected Chairman and served in that capacity for four years. At that time the branch consisted of approx. 35 members and operated 3 signing centres for limited hours. The branch had been through some turmoil and morale was low. By the end of his tenure, membership was approaching the 100 mark, new signing centres had been opened and services were provided every day except Sunday.

#### **Training Excellence**

**Professional Development.** Because of his background, David places a high value on continued learning and self-improvement. Over the years he has been a regular attendee at state conferences both in Brisbane and around the state. He is always an enthusiastic participant in the Branch's bi-monthly Professional Development sessions and attends the Department of Justice Workshops in the local area. Among his peers he is known to have a great depth of knowledge and is often contacted for advice. He gives this advice willingly and with enthusiasm.

**Workshops.** As branch Chairman in 2013 he led and co-ordinated an all-day workshop. This was the first workshop the branch had organised since 2008 and was widely acclaimed as a particularly successful event. Since that workshop, David has volunteered each year to assist in the Branch's yearly workshop. During these workshops he has volunteered to join the planning committee and has cheerfully stepped up to accept whichever role he was assigned, including facilitator, master of ceremonies and time keeper.

**Mentoring.** David attended the first ever mentoring workshop when the mentoring programme was formally introduced. Since that time, he has mentored numerous people and continues to do so on a regular basis.

#### **Marketing**

**QJA profile.** David has been a member of QJA since 1969. This longevity alone is testament to his belief in the policies and advantages of being a member. When negotiating with people such as shopping centre managers and new branch

members he always emphasises the value of QJA support. In his role as a signing centre co-ordinator he always ensures that QJA branded materials are physically displayed and available to be handed out to interested parties.

**Recruiting:** Brisbane North branch has benefited from a steady increase in membership for a number of years. David has been, and continues to be an effective recruiter. It is obvious when listening to him outlining the advantages of membership that he always approaches it from a QJA perspective first and the branch second. He often uses his personal long involvement to illustrate the benefits of membership.

#### **Community Engagement**

**Activities.** David is active, and well known, within the community. He has been involved with the necessary negotiations to establish all the Branch's signing centres. He has been the co-ordinator of Brookside signing centre for a number of years and volunteers across four different signing centres to average four or five shifts a month. One of David's regular Signing sites is Prince Charles Hospital. The nature of the work there is somewhat disconcerting to a number of volunteers, but David was one of the original volunteers to step forward when this signing site was established.

In fact, whenever anything needs to be done, David is the first to volunteer to assist. Even though he always has a very full roster of shifts he also has his name highlighted as someone who is prepared to step in at short notice to fill in for other JPs when they are unable to perform their duty. At one stage when the Rostering Clerk was unwell, David took over the complex role of rostering for a year whilst also performing the role of Branch Chairman.

**Projects/events.** Among his many achievements, one that stands out occurred in 2013, but the benefits are still being enjoyed by the branch at the present time. In 2013 David prepared an application for a Commonwealth Grant from the Department of Housing, Family and Indigenous Affairs. The application was successful and the grant money was used to help set up a whole day workshop and also to purchase equipment for the branch such as a computer, projector etc. The workshop was a resounding success and the equipment is still being used on a regular basis.

#### **Summary**

It is noteworthy that in a branch of well over 100 members, when this award was discussed, the first name raised, unanimously, was that of David Harris. There is much that could be said about David as a JP, as a leader, as a mentor, as an outstanding community volunteer and proud QJA member – but his most outstanding attribute would be the way he is recognised as an exemplary role model by his peers and the community. These qualities were demonstrated throughout 2016, and at the same high standard for many preceding years

Brisbane North branch is indeed proud of David and welcomes the opportunity to nominate him for this award. We are totally confident that if successful, David Harris as the inaugural recipient would set the standard for the Queensland Justices Association's JP of the Year and enhance the prestige of the award.

**Stewart Purdie, Brisbane North Branch Chairman**

## Branch of the Year – Hornibrook



Symbolically named after the original bridge linking the Redcliffe Peninsula with Sandgate and environs to the north of Brisbane, Hornibrook Branch encompasses

22 suburbs within close proximity to the northern reaches of Moreton Bay. The Branch was launched in October 2012 following a meeting at the Clontarf State School when the inaugural executive committee was determined. Since then, the Branch has met monthly at the Redcliffe RSL Club and other assorted venues throughout the Branch territory. As with many new endeavours, Hornibrook Branch experienced early problems with gathering a strong following and at one point the support was perilously low. With a refreshed leadership team taking the reins at the end of 2013, the Branch gradually developed a new energy and maturity.

With 2014 as a transition year that focused on hosting JP training and fund-raising, Hornibrook Branch also engaged a variety of guest speakers on topics such as Crimestoppers, PCYC and Youth Programs. They also explored different meeting venues at Sandgate, Bracken Ridge and Brighton to build support outside Redcliffe. North Lakes Community Rooms became a regular alternative meeting site.

During 2015, the Branch turned to the idea of engaging more with the local communities. This began with Bunnings BBQ fund-raisers where the Branch name was proudly displayed. The committee believed that the idea of being exposed to different sectors of the community by being visibly out and about and available to talk to people in a relaxed way was a positive move. This led to a more ambitious event in 2015 with a combined visit to the Brisbane Airport Customs Service.

By 2016, the levels of meeting attendance became much more consistent and debate on different training topics and decisions continues to be lively. Community engagement reached a new level with successful outings to Parliament House, Brisbane Courts Precinct and QCAT, each attended by an average of twelve JPs who gained privileged access to these venues.



The added bonus of successfully securing a Grant to assist with expenses as well as internal fund-raising has placed the Branch in excellent financial health for 2016.

In sum, the plan to expand upon the possibilities for what it means to be a JP “in the community” was an overwhelming success on these measures: the level of individual involvement that were evident; the types of exchanges that were had within the group and with members of the public; the cohesion amongst the group in terms planning and co-operation; the experience of being respected and valued in a public manner; and the obvious learning that occurred in ways that were relevant to JP practice.

**Lisette Dillon, past Branch Secretary**

## Community Engagement - Logan Branch

The basis of the Logan Branch nomination is the group’s activities throughout its territory to connect its members more closely with the local community and, in turn, the local community with Branch members. This has not been at the expense of continuing “professional development” pursuits but rather an additional activity which is designed to connect Branch JPs and CDecs to the community in which they live and work and also for the community to engage with members and the services they provide.

During the latter part of 2015 (into the first few months of a new committee) the Branch conducted a “**Domestic Violence Forum**” which was not only promoted to Branch members but also to the wider community via the support of QJA, DJAG and Branch members in the Logan region and also promotional support from Logan City Council.



The Branch also produced a promotional flyer which was distributed by QJA to all members in the Logan Council area. Three high profile presenters were enticed to participate:

- Mick De Brenni, *State Member for Springwood*
- Mark Walters, *DV Connect*
- Snr Sgt Peta Jordan, *Logan Central Police*

As the title of the Forum implied, the subject was Domestic Violence in the community, the impact on those affected and the support services available to those in need. The local Member outlined the broader community implications of Domestic Violence and the measures implemented by the government to combat this scourge in society. Mark Walters identified the support services available to victims and their immediate family and the systems in place for their immediate protection. (The Logan Branch made a donation of \$500 to DV Connect from the proceeds of the Forum).

During 2015, Queensland Police had introduced a new initiative based in the Logan region and headed by Snr Sgt Jordan who was able to share with attendees the important role played by the Police Service in the overall program to support the victims of these crimes against the most vulnerable members of society.

It is difficult to gauge the success of a project of this type; however the Branch received much positive feedback from a variety of sources outside the immediate QJA family. The committee was also on a “learning curve” with the planning, organisation and promotion of the forum and learnt some valuable lessons for future community activities.

Recent speakers at Branch meetings have addressed issues like Ethnic Minorities support services and Animals in Crisis in Domestic Violence Environments. In 2017, the Branch plans to conduct another community workshop addressing “Ethnic Minorities and Community Support Services”.

**Brook Batley, Branch Chairman**