

QJA ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

The QJA Awards committee considered all applications against the published selection criteria with the objective of awarding those that could demonstrate the making of ambassadorial contributions to the advancement of the QJA. Details of entries and winners in each of the three categories are:

Community Engagement Award nominees were received from Rockhampton Branch for their involvement with the Heritage Village Markets and **Gold Coast Branch** (winner) for their Domestic Violence forum.



The Gold Coast branch submission explained how the Queensland Government had commissioned Dame Quentin Bryce AD CV to head up the Domestic and Family Violence Taskforce which made 140 recommendations, one of which was to set up a Specialist Domestic Violence Court. The Gold Coast was chosen as the location for such a court and local JPs and C.Decs reported seeing an increase in the number of documents related to family court matters.

Branch Members visited the Southport Courthouse where they were exposed to the workings of the **Specialist Domestic Violence Court**. Branch members were very interested in this topic and so a forum on domestic violence was organised inviting the general public who heard how to access services and get help when trying to deal with domestic violence issues and was open to non-members, giving an opportunity to promote the QJA and encourage people to take up membership.

The Forum was held in conjunction with a professional development workshop, giving contact with local service providers and a broader understanding of the subject. Advertising was done through varying media. Registrar Wendy La Macchia sent regular broadcast emails which proved to be an effective marketing strategy as registrations rose quite sharply following each email distribution.

Marketing to non-QJA members was carried out through the local signing centres and the alternative justice association. Fourteen (14) non-QJA members registered for the event. Marketing to the general public was done through the Local MPs communiques, a number of electronic billboards and two newspaper articles.

Branch of the Year Award nominees were Caboolture, Mackay, Rockhampton and Gold Coast branches. The winning **Gold Coast Branch** nomination addressed all of the selection criteria in a professional manner and, in doing so, demonstrated the following achievements:

Member Engagement & Growth was achieved by determining the professional development needs of the members through

a survey and responding to the concerns of its members.

Training Excellence - The Branch engaged a guest speaker at each general branch meeting and conducted two Professional Development Workshops in 2017. The June workshop which focused on Affidavits, and was attended by 37 members.

Marketing – raising the QJA profile - The branch advertised through local online publications, electronic bulletin boards, community radio, Council and MPs newsletters. Local MPs were invited to speak at workshops and at the domestic violence forum. The branch uses their branch banner prominently at workshops and other events. In appreciation for a meeting venue donated by the Nerang RSL, the Branch provides a weekly signing service which is continually promoted via rolling electronic billboards throughout the venue.

Community Engagement – The Branch held a domestic violence forum in February 2017 (2017 Community Engagement Award winner).

Member of the Year – Nominees were Pauline Kilburn from Redland City Branch and **Ron Court** from **Caboolture Branch** (the winner).

A joint entry nominating QJA Trainers – Chris Lancaster, Harvey Lloyd and Brooke Batley - for their outstanding effort as part of the sub-committee to develop training materials to fulfill the requirements of the new 10276NAT Course in Providing Community Justice Services (Justice of the Peace (Qualified) and Commissioner for Declarations) was recognised separately.

Ron Court, a member of the Caboolture branch was appointed as a JP (Qual) in October 2004. In 2011, Ron established the Caboolture Branch with a handful of members meeting at the local coffee shop. He served as Chairperson and Publicity Officer of the branch for six (6) years and, under his leadership, held Workshops, Refreshers and monthly meetings at various locations. Ron introduced and organised the first Friends and Neighbours day held at Redcliffe together with the Hornibrook Branch.



Ron remains the Branch's Trainer and has trained many of Caboolture's newest JPs and C.Decs. Ron served as a QJA Director from 2013-2015 and considers the 2015 State Conference as his leading achievement. Ron also holds the position of Secretary of the local RSL Branch and volunteers his JP services for Veterans.

Summary - The QJA Awards were created to recognise ambassadorial contributions to the advancement of the QJA and, as demonstrated above, our winners have delivered with outstanding efforts. The Board and the Awards Committee would like to congratulate the winners and thank the nominees for their efforts and challenge members to consider their nominations for 2018 where the winners will be awarded at the Centenary Dinner.

*Marian Vierveyzer, QJA Vice President
(& Awards Committee Chair)*