



## QUEENSLAND NEWSLETTER MARCH 2011

### OFC

The first gathering for 2011 took place at Toscani's at Garden City on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February; present were 4727 Mike Edden, 5450 Dick Howlett, 6303 Peter Nortje, 6604 John Gold and 7012 Mike King. Apologies were received from 6278 Gerry Dyer, 7432 Will Keys and Goofy Lawrence.

It was hot and humid and our thoughts were with our members and the public in North East Queensland as Cyclone Yasi bore down on the coast. For the benefit of members outside Australia, this is a big one, category 5 and the water surge could be as high as 6.2m so there is serious concern as to how much of the north will survive the next 24 hours. Nothing like this has hit Australia before.

As the world now knows, some 60% of Queensland was under water, including areas of the capital Brisbane, roughly the size of France and Germany combined and with the additional rainfall I calculated that it probably included the size of the UK and Spain as well.

The damage was horrendous but the most amazing aspect was the thousands of volunteers who came to help clean up the State. One has to be proud of the efforts of so many people to support their fellows in times of trouble.

The second gathering also took place at Toscani's on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March; present were 4727 Mike Edden, 5450 Dick Howlett, 6278 Gerry Dyer, 6604 John Gold, 7012 Mike King, 7432 Will Keys, 28014Z Mike Hayes and Goofy Lawrence. We were particularly pleased to welcome Mike Hayes at this gathering as we haven't seen him for some time. Apologies were received from 5757 Ian Milton and 6303 Peter Nortje.

There were two items of business discussed which were the dates for subsequent meetings and the venues. It was agreed that future coffee mornings would remain at Toscani's on either the first or third Wednesday in the month.

Will Keys confirmed the invitation to the OFC to lunch at the Brisbane Club, which will probably be held on a Friday during July.

Copies of the DVD of the Memorial were distributed leaving two to be posted to Nortje and Milton.

Gerry Dyer asked that at the next coffee morning I finally tell the gathering about Plan B!

### **NJUZI AND THE RIVER PEOPLE**

Andy Field from Harare kindly offered to download the chapters onto a DVD but, while thanking him for the offer, I pointed out that the articles were ready to go to the publisher in the USA, once I can resolve the question of the photographs.

### **FINANCE**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February, John Gold handed over the cheque book for the funds we hold with Qld Police Fund with four cheques signed by he and Mike King. I cleared with them to make a cheque out for Cash to cover the cost of entertaining the Oberholsters from South Africa on their very short visit to their son Gary over Xmas and the New Year and the cost of posting the Programmes and DVDs to members further afield.

### **HEALTH**

5147 Wally Wilton has been in touch with me and reported that having spent some time in Hospital he is on the mend and full of nonsense yet again. This is good news, so too is the fact that Ian Milton continues to make progress after his ops.

I have to report that while I continue to feel as fit as a fiddle, my arthritis is making serious inroads into my ability to get around without a stick or some other form of assistance.

### **VISITORS**

Rosemary and I had the pleasure of entertaining Jeannie Henson, wife of Barry Henson, the UK Branch Secretary for five days in February after she had been visiting her sister in Cairns; on that score we are all sorry to learn that Barry will be giving up the post later this year as it conflicts with his employment with the United Nations.

### **FUTURE PUBLICATIONS**

The UK Branch expects to be releasing a new film-length DVD documentary shortly entitled "The BSAP Remembered".

### **VISITS**

Rosemary and I thoroughly enjoyed a visit to one of our members Louise Bradley on 5<sup>th</sup> March, where we were royally entertained to a superb seafood lunch by Louise and her husband Sean. Louise was the daughter of a member of the force 4589 Roy Jennings and also had connections with CIO when I was serving that organisation.

Best wishes Mike Edden  
ADMINISTRATOR