



Across the Generations

The History of the Queensland Justices Association - 1918 to 2018



Faces of QJA - across the generations

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Introduction:

The records maintained by the Queensland Justices Association, in particular the periodic member publication - originally called *The Queensland Magistrate*, then *JP*, *Justice and the JP* and more recently the *QJA Journal* - is the primary source for the content of this review of QJA's first century of existence.

For those years where we have been unable to locate past issues of the relevant member publication, other historical sources like the resources of the Queensland State Library and the Trove website have been researched. The Griffith University's *The Prosecution Project* was also a valuable source of information about the history of Queensland's court system.

While an earnest endeavour has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this publication, we accept that there are some gaps in the available source data and that the interpretation we have placed on some of the historical occurrences may differ from the recollection of those who actually experienced the events.

The purpose of this historical account is to pay homage to the first 100 years of QJA's heritage. We examine the organisation's origins and trace its development through sometimes turbulent, sometimes exciting and sometimes mundane periods through to the present day. Wherever possible, important milestones have been identified and there is an explicit account of the difficult and disturbing times QJA encountered during the 1990s. Some readers will have their own vivid recollections of that period.

This is a "warts and all" tribute to QJA's opening century. This approach adds some vital colour, interest and intrigue to what otherwise might have been a somewhat less inspiring story. In the end, it is a "feel-good" tale. Even though the organisation was on the brink of self-destruction in the mid-nineties, with the strong governance and good will of its leaders in the following years, it has recovered to once again become the vibrant and influential body it had evolved to be in the preceding seventy-five years.

This is an account that pays due respect and acknowledgement to the personalities who influenced the establishment and development of the organisation over the last 100 years. Each of the ten decades represents a chapter in this account of QJA's history. We also include a chapter devoted to the leaders and another analysing relevant financial and membership statistics and trends. The back page is a pictorial examination of the history of the QJA membership publication (the *Journal*) and the QJA brand.

The QJA Board trusts you find this publication informative, interesting and enjoyable.

John Carpendale, QJA President, 2018

Chapter 1 – The Beginning (1918-1928)

The Queensland Justices Association was established a few short years after the introduction of the *Justices Act Amendment Act 1909* which terminated the somewhat prestigious adjudicating role previously performed by some justices of the peace (as honorary magistrates in respect of minor judicial matters) and allowed only legally trained (and salaried) magistrates to perform these duties.

As revealed in the following extract from the *Brisbane Courier*, on 17 September 1918, a meeting was called to form a membership association for Queensland justices of the peace. This was just a few weeks before the signing of the Armistice to end World War I.

The Brisbane Courier
Thursday, September 19, 1918

QUEENSLAND JUSTICES' ASSOCIATION

A general meeting of justices of the peace in Brisbane who have applied to become members of the Queensland Justices' Association was held at the association offices, Fitzroy Building, Adelaide Street, Brisbane on 17th last, about 40 justices being present. In the absence of the president, Mr A. L. Petrie M.L.A., a vice-president took the chair.

After discussion it was decided to form an association of justices of the peace of Queensland, and to write his Honour Sir Pope A. Couper to accept the position of patron. Alderman J. W. Hetherington was re-elected president, Messrs J. D. Bell, George Down, T. McWilliam, A.L. Petrie, and W.E. Moxon were elected vice presidents, and Capt. Taylor, Messrs S. Knowles, I. Dixon, W. Johnson, B.G. Harding, E. G. Oxley and A. J. Leaver were elected councillors.

The councillors were deputed to draw up the necessary rules and regulations and submit them to a future meeting. Messrs Morris and Fletcher were appointed hon. solicitors and Messrs Flack and Flack hon. auditors. Circulars will be sent out to all justices who have not already enrolled. So far 200 justices have enrolled and 40 others have promised to do so.

The objects of the association include among others, to assist in raising and maintaining the status of the office; to help members in the performance of their responsible duties, to educate public opinion in the direction of removing the appointment of justices from the political arena; to promote support, and protect the status and interests of justices of the peace generally; and to promote the honourable practice, to repress malpractice, to settle disputes, and to decide all questions of usage or courtesy between justices.

Whether this JP association was established as an advocacy group to lobby the government for a restoration of their lost judicial function is a matter of conjecture, as available records are silent on this issue. However, it is apparent from the title and content of the periodic membership publication (*The Queensland Magistrate* – started in 1919) that judicial matters were virtually the sole consideration of the QJA leaders and members in the association's formative years.

The composition of the inaugural QJA Council was a potpourri of Queensland's social, political and business personalities.



QJA's first **President** was former Mayor of Brisbane and Official Chief Magistrate, Ald John W. Hetherington who held the position for just the first year.

The Presidents to follow Hetherington during the first decade were W. E. Moxon, A. L. Petrie, E. Griffith Oxley, F. W. Sabine and S. M. Newman, each of whom served for two years.

While holding the office of QJA President in 1921 and 1922, Andrew Lang Petrie (a member of one of the most prominent pioneer



families of Brisbane) was also a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). Mr Petrie held the seat of Toombul/Hamilton for 32 years (1893-1925). He died in 1928.



The initial QJA **Patron** was the sometimes controversial Sir Pope Alexander Cooper, Queensland Chief Justice (1903-1922), University of Queensland Chancellor (1915-1922) and intermittent Lieutenant-Governor.

In 1924, a nineteen year old Thomas Alfred Hiley replaced the inaugural QJA **Registrar**, S. R. F. Allom (who held the position for the first six years). Mr Hiley would remain in the Registrar's chair for the next twenty-two years (finishing in 1945).

In April 1944, Hiley was elected to the Legislative Assembly as the member for Logan. He



was later to represent Coorparoo (1950-60) and Chatsworth (1960-66) and become leader of the Liberal Party. In 1957 the Country Party-Liberal Party coalition took office, with Frank Nicklin as Premier and Hiley as State Treasurer, a portfolio he held until stepping down in 1965. He was knighted in 1966.

Images of this era:



WWI Peace celebrations – Brisbane 1918



Tivoli Theatre – Brisbane 1920s



Brisbane Tram – 1920s



Brisbane City Hall – 1920s

Decade in review

Over its first 10 years of existence, key QJA leadership positions were occupied by persons of significant influence and acumen. As a result, from modest beginnings, the organisation flourished.

Membership grew from the initial 250 to over 1,000 ten years later and the association's financial reserves began to accumulate soundly.

For the duration of this decade, the association office was situated in the Fitzroy Building, Adelaide Street, Brisbane.

Chapter 2 – The Female Influence Era (1929-1938)

QJA's first public signing site

The following is an extract from a report published by notice in the *Brisbane Courier* on Saturday 2 March 1929 in relation to a meeting of the association held on the preceding Thursday:

Final arrangements were made in connection with a service to the public which the association will shortly undertake. On five days of the week, justices of the peace will be in attendance at the association offices between the hours of noon and 2 p.m.

So, as early as 1929, QJA was involved in providing a witnessing & certifying service for members of the Queensland public.



The introduction of this service coincided with a change in office accommodation with QJA leaving the Fitzroy building to lease premises in the T&G building, 141 Queen Street, Brisbane (left).

During the first four months of commencing this service, it was reported (*The Brisbane Courier*, 18 July 1929) that approximately 800 documents were attested.

The ladies join

Although the first female justice of the peace in Queensland (Matilda Hennessey) was appointed in 1918, for the first fourteen years of its existence, QJA was exclusively a male organisation – women were not considered for membership.

This all changed in 1932 by which time there were about 300 female justices of the peace in the State. A meeting of female justices elected to accept an invitation to become a part of QJA rather than establish their own, separate association. (*The Telegraph*, 20 May 1932).



With immediate effect, the composition of the QJA Council was changed to include three female members: Mrs Elizabeth Mary Goldsmith (pictured) as Vice-President and Mrs I Collinson and Miss S Wilson as

councillors. Since that time, the QJA Council/Board has continuously included female representation. Mrs Goldsmith remained as Vice-President for 19 years (until 1950 when she was made a Life Member).

Office Bearers

For the entirety of this decade, the QJA journal **editor** was F T Grove, the Registrar was T A Hiley and the **Patron** was Chief Justice Sir James William Blair (pictured). In addition to being Chief Justice, Blair was also lieutenant-governor for a period and was knighted in 1930.



Five (5) different officers held the position of **President** during this decade, the sequence being: A H Langdon, J C Penny, J E S Plumridge, E Griffith Oxley (again), J A Boden and J C Penny (again).



Alfred Henry Langdon was also Mayor of Redcliffe from 1930 to 1943. It was under Mr Langdon's leadership that QJA commenced to provide a regular (5-days-a-week) attestation service to members of the Queensland public.

John Curwen Penny was a director of the Pleystowe Sugar Mill (near Mackay) while holding the position of QJA President. It was during Mr Penny's first term as President that the QJA membership rules were amended to admit female justices of the peace.



Decade in review

QJA's fortunes continued to prosper during its second decade of existence. Membership numbers stabilised at around 1,000 and financial reserves remained constant.

The major achievements for the decade were the commencement of a regular justice of the peace service to the public and the admission of female justices, not only to the membership ranks but also to QJA's governing body (Council).

Images of the era



George Street, Brisbane 1930s



Queensland Museum 1930s



Queensland Parliament 1930s



Pleystowe Sugar Mill 1930s



Central Railway Station 1930s

Chapter 3 – World War II Era (1939-1948)

The advent of World War II (1939-1945) had a significant economic, social and political impact on the lives of all Australians. The following extract from the Australian War Memorial website explains:

During the Second World War Australians at home did not suffer the miseries and privations that many civilian populations in other parts of the world had to endure, but the war did have a profound impact on the Australian home front.

The nation experienced attacks on its own soil for the first time and the Australian people faced fear and uncertainty as Japan advanced in the Pacific. The Government implemented a wide range of measures in preparedness for the situation of "total war" and national security.

The urgent need was to increase available manpower for the services and munitions production. On the grounds of national danger, resources were increasingly marshalled under government control and civilians accepted the surrender of many of their individual rights.

People were expected to work harder and avoid luxuries and waste. Despite the difficulties and hardships experienced on the home front, many Australians remember this time for its sense of unity, a time when people worked hard and pulled together.

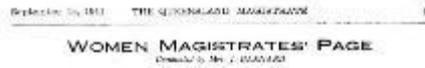
Like all businesses, the Queensland Justices Association was affected by the war-time disruption to normal life routines. Shortly after the outbreak of the war and in recognition of the financial hardship impacts, the QJA Council made the decision to reduce the annual membership fee from 12/6 to 10/-. Even so, QJA membership was not a major consideration for justices of the peace at this time and membership numbers declined.

The periodic member publication – *The Queensland Magistrate* – continued to be produced but at less frequent intervals than previously. During the period March 1945 to June



1947, publication was suspended altogether.

In 1941, a *Women's Magistrate* section of the publication was introduced.



On 20 August 1948, QJA became an incorporated association.

Office Bearers

For the duration of this decade, only three officers held the position of **President**: J C Penny (1937-39), W T Smillie (1939-1945) and J E S Plumridge (1946-1950), while Mrs E M Goldsmith remained as Vice-President throughout.

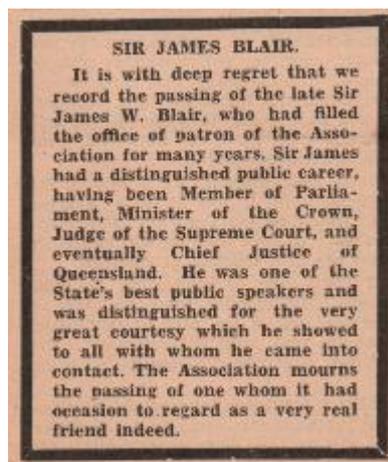
Following his election as an MLA in 1944, Thomas Hiley finished up as QJA **Registrar** in 1945 – after devoting twenty-two years to the role. He was replaced by Mr L W Doggett (pictured).



The **Editor** of the *Queensland Magistrate* since 1928 had been Mr F T Grove, Barrister-at-Law, until his death in 1943. Eventually, in June 1947, QJA found somebody else to perform the role as journal editor.

A twenty-six year old lawyer, Walter Campbell, accepted the honorary position which he performed with distinction for the following six years. After ceasing to be QJA journal editor, Walter Campbell became a Supreme Court Judge (1967), Chief Justice (1982) and Queensland Governor (1985-1992). He was knighted in 1979.

Sir James Blair KCMG remained as QJA **Patron** until his demise in 1944.



Images of the era



Soldiers in Queensland 1940s



Queensland Heat Wave 1940



University of Queensland 1940s



Brisbane streets 1940s



Bellevue Hotel 1940s

Decade in review

The affairs of QJA were adversely impacted by the war years - membership declined and business initiatives stagnated. However, the results of a 1948 membership drive saw numbers increase from 740 to 2290 and financial reserves restored to pre-war levels.

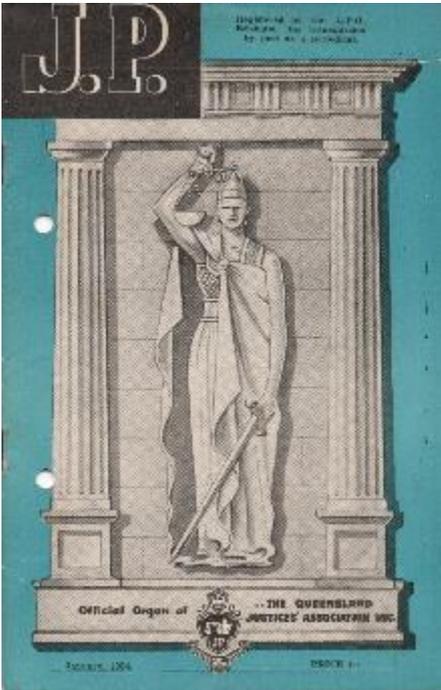
The quarterly journal was recommenced in 1947 under the inspired guidance of an enthusiastic Walter Campbell and by the end of the decade, QJA had become an incorporated association.

Chapter 4 – The Post War Recovery Era (1949-1958)

For the first time in March 1949, the *Queensland Magistrate* publication featured the QJA logo (pictured). This design (with only minor modifications) was resurrected in 2004 as QJA's brand for the 21st century. It continues to be the model for the current generation of QJA badges, emblems and logos.



In 1952, the title and design of the periodic member publication was changed. The title "JP" replaced "The Queensland Magistrate" which had been the publication's title for the previous thirty-three years.



Although the prescribed authority granted to justices of the peace continued to include the power to undertake the judicial bench duties of a magistrate, in practice, salaried stipendiary magistrates performed the vast majority of these roles and the bulk of the work performed by honorary justices was administrative in nature. Even so, large sections of the publication continued to be devoted to judicial matters.

From the early 1950s, QJA commenced to organise member meetings to be addressed by prominent speakers on topics of relevance to justices of the peace. By the mid-1950s, such meetings were being conducted twice annually and later in the decade, the holding of mock trials became a regular feature.

In 1957, the annual membership fee was restored to 12/6 – the reduced amount of 10/- having been maintained for eighteen years from the outbreak of World War II (1939).

The November 1957 edition of the *JP* included a section termed "Questions and Answers" (Q&A) which then became a regular (and popular) part of the publication as it continues to be today.

Office Bearers

The following photo of the 1952 QJA Council includes many of the influential office bearers for this decade.



QJA Council 1952

Six officers held the position of QJA **President** during this period:

J E S Plumridge (1946-50) – *back row far right*

W J Horn (1950-52) – *front row 2nd left*

I H Kerr (1952-53) – *front row 4th left*

R L Higgins (1953-55) – *front row 3rd left*

H W H (Wilf) Johnson (1955-57) – *back row 2nd left*

WRL Riddell (1957-59) – *not pictured*

The photograph also includes the QJA **Registrar**, L W Doggett (*back row, centre*) who held this office from 1946-63 and **Vice Presidents** Mrs A E Robertson (*front row, 2nd right*) 1951-68 and Mr J C Penny (*front row far right*) who was a QJA Councillor 1921-59.

Several officers performed the role of **journal editor** in this decade:

W B Campbell (until 1952)

I T Hockings (1953)

W J Cuthbert (1954-56)

M B Hoare (from 1957)

Each of the editors was a qualified Barrister-at-Law.

Decade in review

For QJA, this was a decade of growth and prosperity. Membership grew by over 60% (from 2,290 to 3,811) while financial reserves virtually doubled (from £1,258 to £2,310).

Images of this era



Brisbane homes and outhouses -1950s



Brisbane's Anzac Square – 1950s



Ipswich 1950s

Chapter 5 – The Space Age (1959-1968)

Although the first successful space satellite (Sputnik I – USSR) was launched in 1957 and the USA followed suit in 1958, the intensive space race really occurred during the years 1959-68 when announcements of space-related initiatives were almost a weekly occurrence.

Back on earth, in Queensland, normal routines continued albeit at a pace perhaps a little more brisk than previously. For QJA, the twice-annual member meeting became an established feature of business. One meeting was generally held in May and the other in August to coincide with the Brisbane Show holiday – thus affording country visitors the opportunity to attend.

Some of the prominent personalities to address the member meetings in this decade were:

R F Carter, Chief Crown Prosecutor
 Judge Grant-Taylor
 F E Bischof, Police Commissioner
 G Healy, CO, Metro Fire Brigade
 Dr H G Watkins, Director-General of Education
 P J Hocker, Law Lecturer, Uni of Qld
 W E McKenna, Retired Chief Stipendiary Magistrate
 W A Park, GM, Qld Trustees Ltd
 W J Riddell, GM, McDonnell & East
 Arthur Vine, British Trade Commissioner
 Tom Cross, President, Brisbane Development Association
 R T Matthews, Children's Court Magistrate
 Sub-Inspector L J Bardwell, CIB Scientific Division
 C R Bevan, Chief Probation Officer
 Harry Lowe, Dep Commissioner of Main Roads
 Dr P R Delamothe, Minister for Justice and Attorney-General
 Wilson Irving, GM, Channel 7

Because of the quality and reputation of the presenters, the member meetings were very popular and well attended.

In 1961, the QJA Council wrote to the Premier suggesting qualifications that should be applied when assessing the suitability of candidates for appointment as justices of the peace. The Premier's response indicated *"your representations will have consideration if and when it is decided to review the question of appointments to the Commission of the Peace for Queensland"*

Office Bearers

Five officers held the position of QJA **President** during this period:



W R J Riddell (1959) who was Manager, Director and Secretary of the Brisbane department store, McDonnell & East

W J (Jack) Horn (1959-61 and 1967-69) who held the position of Manager with Brisbane department store McWhirters Limited.



H W H (Wilf) Johnson (1961-63 and previously 1955-57) was partner and officer manager with a firm of growers' agents in Brisbane Markets.

J C (Jim) Arkell MBE (1964-65), a former Chairman of the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade.



R W Duncan (1965-67).

In 1959, John Curwen Penny retired from the QJA Council after a continuous period of thirty-eight years, including two separate terms as President and multiple years as Vice-President. He was awarded Honorary Life Membership.



After eighteen years in the position of **Registrar**, L W Doggett departed in 1963 to be replaced by Ian G Hiley (son of former Registrar, Tom Hiley).

Marcus B Hoare continued as journal **editor** through to leaving in 1965 when Alan G Demack took his place.

Decade in review

Membership numbers increased by 40% from 3811 to 5290 and financial reserves improved by 90% from \$4,620 to \$8,810 in this decade.

In 1965, membership subscriptions were increased from \$1.25 to \$1.50 while the cost for each issue of the journal remained at 10cents.

In 1966, the QJA office left the T&G building (after 37years of occupation) and moved to 127 Eagle Street.

At the close of this decade (1968), QJA clocked up its fiftieth year of operation but the publications from that year pay scant regard to this significant milestone.

Images of the era



Television arrives in Queensland



McDonnell & East store, Fort. Valley 1960s



Rockhampton Migrant Hostel, 1960s



Flinders Street, Townsville 1960s



Brisbane CBD 1960s



Brisbane tram 1960s

Chapter 6 – The Growth Decade (1969 -1978)

On 20 July 1969, the cherry on the top of the space race was achieved by the Americans when Apollo 11 astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon. Almost the whole world, including the staff at the QJA office and QJA members throughout the State had eyes glued to their television sets to witness this momentous event.

In 1970, the QJA office moved to 27 Turbot Street, Brisbane, bringing four years' tenancy at 127 Eagle Street to an end.

The program of regular public member meetings was continued throughout the decade with the organisation of two and sometimes three meetings per year, each featuring prominent and relevant presenters.

In 1973, the public meeting program was supplemented by the holding of QJA's first member professional development seminar - held over two days.



This first seminar proved to be popular with members and very successful. In 1974 and 1978, similar weekend seminars were conducted with the duration being condensed to a single day.

Over the course of this decade, the focus of the content of the QJA journal "JP" gradually changed from the previously judicial-prominent emphasis to the examination and explanation of more matters of an administrative nature.

Significantly, the passing of the *Justices of the Peace Act 1975* introduced substantial changes to the administration of the Queensland Justices of the Peace program.



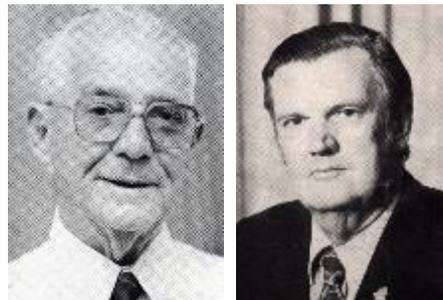
Following the implementation of this legislation, the responsibility for administration of the justices of the peace program passed from the Premier's Department to the Justice Department and office of Registrar of the program was established.

In 1978, QJA sent its first representatives to the annual meeting of the Australian Council of Justices' Associations (ACJA).

Office Bearers

During this decade, six officers held the position of **President**, each serving for two consecutive years:

- W J Horn 1968 & 69
- I G Tucker 1970 & 71
- R V Knowles 1972 & 73
- C W Latham 1974 & 75 (below L)



C P A Fenwick 1976 & 77 (above R) and E T Vickery 1978 & 79 (below)

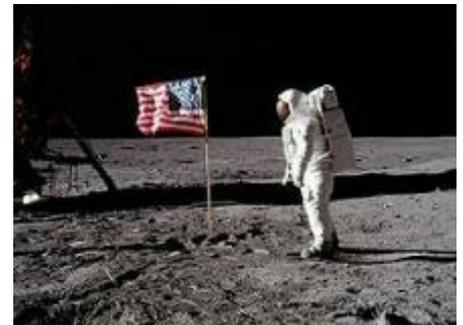


The QJA **Registrar** for the whole decade was I G Hiley and four officers performed as journal **editor** (A G Demack [1965-70], T R Hartigan [1971-73], R A Mulholland [1974-76] and P A Butler [1977 onwards]).

Like many of his predecessors, QJA journal editor Alan G Demack (1965-70) went on to achieve bigger and better things (Family Court judge 1976-78 & Supreme Court judge 1978-2000).



Images of the era



Man walks on the moon - 1969



Brisbane floods 1974



Gold Coast apartments - 1970s

Decade in Review

For QJA, the period 1969-78 featured extensive growth in both membership numbers (from 5,290 to 8,872 – a 68% increase) and financial reserves (from \$8,810 to \$32,013 – a lift of 260%). The annual membership fee did increase from \$1.50 to \$4.00 and the cost per issue of the journal doubled to 20cents.

Chapter 7 – Ladies to the Lead (1979-1988)

This decade featured some substantial changes in the evolution of QJA, particularly in terms of office bearers - a new Registrar replaced the incumbent for the previous nineteen years and, after 60 years of exclusively male Presidents, QJA elected its first female to this role.

After years of lobbying by QJA for structured training courses for JPs, a pilot TAFE course was held in 1979.

On 30 October 1980, Lena Dobbin (right) became QJA's inaugural female President. Following the success of the previous year's pilot, formal TAFE education courses on JP practice were introduced during 1980.

QJA's membership exceeded the 10,000 mark for the first time in 1982.

The QJA office moved to MacArthur Chambers in Queen Street in August 1983. At the same juncture, long term Registrar, Ian Hiley, retired and, under the direction of the replacement Registrar, the periodic member publication was substantially revamped (new title [see column 3], style and content).



In 1984, a new QJA logo (above) was introduced and in November of that year the organisation's second female President (Dorothea Linton-Smith) was elected to office.

In 1985, the concept of regional sub-committees (forerunner to today's Branches) was adopted in principle and this was formalised with the introduction of enabling by-laws under the QJA constitution in 1986.

By 1988, there were regional sub-committees in Toowoomba & Gold Coast (from 1985); Cairns, Townsville & Rockhampton (1986); Warwick (1987) and Mackay, Sunshine Coast & South Burnett (1988).

Office Bearers

The officers to hold the position of **President** during this period were:

Edgar Vickery (1979-80) – *prev. page*

Lena Dobbin (1980-82) – *below L*



Owen Curtis (1982-84) – *above R*

Dorothea Linton-Smith (1984-86) – *below L*



Clive Lanham (1986-88) – *above R*

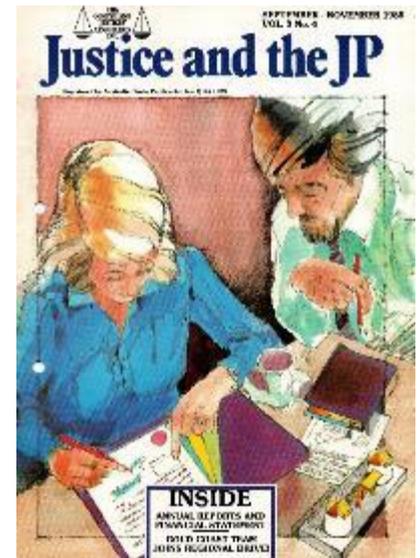
As mentioned previously, Ian Hiley finished up as **Registrar** (a position he held for nearly 20 years) and was replaced in 1983 by Peter MacDonald who initially held the position in an acting capacity while his company, Peter MacDonald Consultancy provided services to QJA.

The role of **journal editor** was performed by P A Butler until he ceased in 1982. From 1983, production of the journal was undertaken by Peter MacDonald Consulting, with the incumbent President accepting responsibility for editorial content.

Decade in review

Membership grew by 13% during this decade (from 8,872 to 10,021) and financial reserves increased by 80% (from \$32,013 to \$57,936) while the annual membership fee was elevated by 500% (from \$4 to \$20). This was certainly a decade of significant milestones which laid the foundations for subsequent events.

Images of the era



QJA journal cover – 1980s



Police breath-testing – 1980s



Coolangatta beach – 1980s



Queen Street, Brisbane – 1980s



QJA Sunshine Coast group started - 1988

Chapter 8 – Taken to the Brink (1989-1998)

QJA's eighth decade of existence was a time of unparalleled drama and turmoil - featuring not only the celebration of the organisation's 75th anniversary (in 1993) but also digging itself into a giant hole from which it almost failed to emerge and, in the process, suffering damage that could easily have been irreparable.

The Background



The character at the core of QJA's most turbulent days was employee Peter MacDonald. Initially engaged as a consultant in 1983, over the ensuing years he became an integral and influential factor within the organisation's fabric – assuming the role/title of Acting Registrar, then Registrar (1985) and finally General Manager (1993).

A former press secretary to Premier Sir Joh Bjelke Petersen, his family business (Peter MacDonald Consultancy) provided expertise in Public Relations, Government Relations, Promotions / Publicity & Corporate Development. When the QJA office moved to MacArthur Chambers in 1983, the space they occupied was a shared arrangement with this consulting business.

Subsequently described as having “an inappropriate and unhealthy degree of influence over successive councillors” and as “garrulous, plausible (in some eyes) and aggressive”¹, the traditional focus of QJA's business was pushed in a different direction under his guidance.

The build up



In July 1989, QJA embarked on a brave new initiative – the holding of a “Satellite Seminar” - utilising the facilities of 41 reception sites throughout the State (TAFE colleges, education centres and state schools) to allow registered QJA members to participate in a television broadcast four-hour professional development seminar. It was a huge success with several hundred satisfied participants.

A ninety-minute videotape of the 1989 Satellite Seminar highlights was then produced and offered for sale to members.

The QJA Council also decided to produce its own JP training program and commissioned a legal consultant to assist in the development of this program. These initiatives were part of the Registrar's commitment to make QJA “more professional”.

The first sign of unease about the integrity of QJA's business operations was the reporting (Nov 89 journal) of a Corporate Affairs investigation which revealed some *Companies Code* breaches.

In 1990, QJA conducted a further Satellite Seminar and put into effect constitutional changes allowing two-year terms for councillors (previously one year only). In the same year, the Attorney-General (Dean Wells) introduced a Green Paper on the “*Future Role of the JP in Queensland*”. QJA organised public forums to enable its members to discuss and debate the content of this paper proposing significant changes to existing JP arrangements.

It was also in this year that QJA became embroiled in the first of many legal actions when it financially supported the Registrar in his defamation case against a former office holder of the association.

The ASC investigation

In July 1991, following allegations of “improper activities” by QJA and its Registrar, the ASC (Australian Securities Commission) delivered QJA with a Notice of Investigation. The outcome of the year-long ASC investigation was that Mr MacDonald was charged with gaining “improper advantage” in personally receiving undisclosed funds during 1989 from the sale of the QJA Satellite Seminar videotapes.

To settle the matter, Mr MacDonald agreed to plead guilty to this charge. At the November 1992 hearing, the Queensland Magistrates' Court ordered he make restitution of the monies received and imposed a fine of \$2,000. In the following year, Mr MacDonald appealed the severity of this judgement and the Brisbane District Court of Appeal upheld this appeal, amended the fine to \$500 and ordered that no conviction be recorded.

On the basis that the charge against their Registrar also implied impropriety by the QJA Council, the organisation funded the significant legal costs incurred by its employee through both court proceedings

After the November 1992 ASC court action, Mr MacDonald stood down as QJA Registrar but continued to manage the QJA office - eventually becoming the General Manager.

The Attorney-General

In early 1992, the QJA Council initiated its own legal proceedings against the State Attorney-General (Dean Wells) to challenge the legality of the Government's planned basic training program for JPs. QJA had invested heavily in developing its own comprehensive training program – an investment which would be seriously undermined by the intended Government program. This QJA legal challenge was dismissed by the Supreme Court with the legal cost of the unsuccessful QJA challenge being more than \$32,000.



To supplement the court case, the QJA journal throughout the early and mid-nineties included articles heavily criticising the incumbent Attorney-General and the Labor government generally on a range of justice-related matters - not restricted to the justice of the peace program. The previously sound relationship between QJA and the Justice Department deteriorated markedly as a result.

The Training Program



Determined to develop and implement a high-quality training program for Queensland JPs, QJA engaged a high-profile (and expensive) consultant to undertake the task. Under the *Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Act 1991*, JP training courses needed approval by the Minister who endorsed a more basic course offered through TAFE colleges. The non-endorsed QJA courses did not attract the expected student numbers and the program failed – resulting in a loss of more than \$100,000.

¹ Judicial Registrar Bolton, FIRC, 30/06/1997

The Lock-out

After the upheavals of 1991-1993, QJA life resumed somewhat of a more normal pattern throughout 1993-1995. During 1993, the QJA office was again relocated, this time to level 2, 349 Queen Street which was to become the scene for the next chapter in the QJA drama.

By May 1995, then QJA President (Pat Tiley) had become concerned at what he considered may have been the financial mismanagement of the association and the withholding from Council of adequate financial information.

After receiving independent legal advice, the President served a notice of suspension on the General Manager and engaged an independent auditor to examine the QJA books. When the General Manager refused to accept his suspension, police officers were called to escort him from the building.

Overnight, the General Manager enlisted the support of a majority of the councillors to overturn the President's decree, changed the locks and engaged security guards to protect the premises. When the auditor's party attempted to gain entry on the next morning, a fracas ensued, a glass door was broken and the General Manager suffered a flesh wound.

At that time, the QJA solicitor (who was also the General Manager's personal solicitor) ruled the suspension and proposed audit were invalid – so the attempted intervention was unsuccessful.

The sackings

A period of 12 months was to pass before the next episode in the saga transpired. In June 1996, President Tiley and one of his Vice-Presidents (Irene Patterson) applied to the Supreme Court alleging serious financial misconduct in the operational management of the company by the General Manager. After considering the evidence presented, Justice Paul de Jersey made an immediate order to transfer QJA funds to a trust account and to appoint a provisional liquidator.



In July 1996, the Court ordered the offices of all ten QJA councillors be declared vacant and that an extraordinary general meeting be

scheduled as soon as practicable to elect a replacement Council. The provisional liquidator reported to the Court that a sum of approximately \$173,000 was estimated to have "gone missing" from QJA funds. The Court enhanced the powers of the provisional liquidator to hire and fire staff - the result being Mr MacDonald's immediate dismissal from QJA employment.

The new Council

None of the eight former councillors who had supported the General Manager were successful in the August 1996 EGM election. Only the two former councillors who sought the Court intervention (Patterson and Tiley) were re-elected to the new Council.

In February 1997, the Court ordered that the provisional liquidator be discharged and management of the company be returned to the newly elected council - on condition that it accept responsibility for paying liquidator and legal costs totalling \$354,359.

Further legal costs of \$40,000 were incurred in successfully defending an action by Mr MacDonald for unfair dismissal in the Federal Industrial Relations Commission (FIRC). The new Council committed itself to repaying all these debts over the following three financial years.

If QJA members thought all their problems were now behind them, they were sadly mistaken as this newspaper clipping from August 1998 (referring to QJA) reveals:

**JPs in
strife:
1150
resign**

Over the years 1997 and 1998, the new QJA Council showed itself to be equally as dysfunctional as its predecessor. The 1998 President, Bill Skinner and councillor John Brodie (who Skinner had recruited to fill a casual vacancy on Council) were forced to resign when they lost the confidence of fellow councillors over their proposal to reconstitute the Council. The departing councillors threatened to start up rival JP associations and took their story to the press.

Rival organisations

During this decade of strife, several former QJA councillors and officers were involved in establishing rival organisations - some of which have survived to the present time.

Office Bearers

The officers to hold the position of **President** in this period were:



Ian Finlayson (1989) *left*
G Merle Clancy (1990-93) *centre*
Pat Tiley (1994-97) *right*
& GW (Bill) Skinner (1998 no image)

Holding the position of **Registrar** during this decade were:



Peter MacDonald (left) *till 1993*
Karolyn Leadbetter (centre) *1993-95*
Nathalie Lobbegeiger (right) *1997-99*

The role of **journal editor** was performed by Peter MacDonald until 1993. Although available records do not disclose who performed this role in subsequent years, the style and content of the publication suggest evidence of MacDonald's continued influence until his removal from office in 1996.

Decade in review

Membership numbers fluctuated from 10,000 in 1988 to 12,000 in 1992 to less than 5,000 by 1998. Many members lost confidence in the organisation once they became aware of its financial mismanagement and dysfunctional governing body. Who could blame them?

Financial reserves deteriorated from +\$52,000 in 1988 to **-\$167,000** ten years later. The annual membership fee escalated by 250% (from \$20 to \$50) over this period. Taken to the brink of expiration by the adverse events of this decade, QJA was just beginning to claw its way back from this precarious position as the new millennium approached.

Image of the era



QJA Journal April 1994

Chapter 9 – The Rebuilding Years (1999-2008)

With indebtedness approaching \$200,000, the focus of the QJA Council for the initial years of this decade was, by necessity, the curtailment of expenses so that all available revenue could be applied to debt repayment.

Cost-cutting measures included moving the State Office away from Brisbane's expensive CBD to share a Woolloongabba building (663A Stanley Street) with the QJA business manager (a rent-free arrangement). As well, printing costs for the quarterly journal were halved when Peter Scott, a QJA member and printing business owner, offered a deal to produce and print this publication.

In 1999, the QJA Council canvassed the views of members (via an open letter) about the future of the organisation, including the prospect of winding-up (if funds could not be found to clear the debt). The member response strongly supported toughing it out. By the end of the 2000-01 financial year, all debt had been cleared and financial reserves were back in the black.

In 2000, QJA ventured again into the training area with Vice-President Damian O'Carrigan voluntarily filling the role of senior training officer, bringing another source of revenue to the business. In 2002, QJA commenced formalities to become a Registered Training Organisation.

Annual State Conferences were also recommenced with the 2001 event being at Mudgeeraba, then Brisbane (2003 & 2004), Rockhampton (2005), Ipswich (2006), Bundaberg (2007) and Townsville (2008).

QJA's regional presence was decimated by the turmoil of the '90s with only three divisions remaining at the start of this decade. The re-establishment of regional committees became the successful objective of QJA's leadership so by 2008, there were twenty-six (26) regional groups in operation.



In 2002, the QJA office moved to its current location at 751 Stanley Street, Woolloongabba (QJA House) and registered the website domain: www.qja.com.au.

In 2004, a revised constitution was endorsed by the membership with the Council being replaced by a Board of directors and the regional divisions became branches. The Chief Justice (Hon Paul de Jersey) agreed to be the **QJA Patron**, the 1950's logo style was also re-embraced and a new journal presentation was introduced:



In 2005, associate membership status was implemented for students undertaking the QJA pre-appointment training courses. At the same time, it was decided it was time to replace the honorary administration by directors with a full-time Registrar. By 2006, QJA had re-established relationships with the State government.

Office Bearers

At this time in its history, QJA was desperately in need of inspired and committed leader-managers. The office bearers who successfully restored the ailing business to put it back on a sound foundation were:

Presidents:



Noel Hosking (Dec 1999 – Apr 2002)

Nathalie Lobegeiger (Apr 2002-Dec 03)

Joseph Law (Dec 2003 – Dec 05)

Bob Pilkington (Dec 2005 – 2009)

Registrars/Office Managers:



Nathalie Lobegeiger (1997-2003)

Martin Richardson (2004)

Mark Davis (2005 & 2006)

Greg Cuthbert (2007 – 2009)

Journal editors:



Nathalie Lobegeiger (2002-03)

Anthony Watson-Brown (2004-07)

Ray Burrows (2008 – 09)

Images of the era



QJA Council 2003



2006 State Conference – Ipswich



2004 Dinner with Patron



2007 State Conference – Bundaberg



2004 State Conference – Brisbane



2008 Brisbane North Refresher Workshop

Decade in review

Membership numbers stabilised at about 5,000 and financial reserves grew from **-\$167,000** to **+\$59,000** while the membership fee started and finished at around \$50pa.

Chapter 10 – Back on track (2009-2018)

After the successful rebuilding efforts of the previous decade, QJA entered the current era in a position to resume its former progressive trajectory path.

Finally, in 2009 the training industry regulator granted RTO (Registered Training Organisation) status to QJA and in September of that year the very first edition of the *QJA Guide to JP Practice* was released.

Revenue from training grew slowly but steadily in the early part of the decade. At this stage, QJA was only a minor player in the JP training business. By 2010, thirty QJA Branches were coordinating some fifty separate signing sites throughout the State. The inaugural QJA International Women's Day function was conducted in 2011.

In 2012, the State Government made pre-appointment training mandatory for C.decs as well as JPs and allowed only private sector RTOs to provide this training (excluding the Justice Department which then dominated this area). QJA then made a strategic decision to enhance its capability as a training organisation. QJA also embraced *Facebook* and *Twitter* activity at this time.

In 2013, QJA employed a dedicated training program coordinator and revenue from training climbed substantially making QJA the lead provider of pre-appointment training for Queensland JPs and C.decs – a position it continues to hold to the present time.

The major QJA initiative in 2015 was the introduction of an electronic version of the *QJA Journal* (the *eJournal*). This allowed not only a quicker and cheaper delivery of the periodical but it also enabled the insertion of hyperlinks which provided readers the opportunity to access enhanced features like video files.

The QJA Board governance framework was strengthened in 2016 with the installation of a Finance and Audit subcommittee and at the end of 2017, a subcommittee for RTO Compliance was added.

New initiatives in 2016 included the introduction of annual QJA Awards (to recognise outstanding performance by individual QJA members, Branches and for community engagement) and Membership Milestone Awards (recognising the

achievement of twenty-five, forty and fifty membership years).

In 2017 the Board introduced a program of regional forums to allow Branch committees representatives to interact with their counterparts from neighbouring Branches and representatives of the QJA Board.

The primary focus for 2018 has been promoting QJA's centennial year and associated events including the presentation of commemorative member badges and the holding of a celebration conference and dinner.

Office Bearers

Those officers helping to guide QJA on its path in these years were:

Presidents:



Bob Pilkington (2005-09)

Ray Burrows (2009-13)

Keith Revell (2013-17)

John Carpendale (2017-)

Registrars:



Greg Cuthbert (2009)

Angela Yin (2010-13)

Wendy La Macchia (2014-)

Journal Editors:



Ray Burrows (2009)

Keith Revell (2010-13)

John Carpendale (2014-17)

Joan Kennedy (2018-)

Patron:

Successive holders of the position of Chief Justice agreed to also perform the role of QJA Patron:



Hon Paul de Jersey (2004-Jun 2014)

Hon Tim Carmody (Jul 2014-Jul 2015)

Hon Catherine Holmes (Sep 2015-)

Decade in review

Membership grew from around 5,400 in 2008 to about 6,500 in 2014 where it stabilised and has since remained. Financial Reserves climbed almost 700%, starting below \$60,000 and finishing at almost \$400,000 in 2018. Regular membership fees increased gradually from \$49pa (2008) to the present rate of \$62pa. In each year, a well-attended State Conference was held at centres throughout the state. By most measures, this has been a successful era for QJA.

Images of the era



State Conference – Redlands 2009



State Conference – Hervey Bay 2010



State Conference – Noosa Heads 2011



State Conference team - Ipswich 2012



State Conference – Bundaberg 2013



State Conference – Caboolture 2015



State Conference team – Rockhampton 2016



State Conference team – Toowoomba 2017

Chapter 11 – QJA Leaders and Prominent Personalities

President



Presidents' Honour Board at QJA Office

During the first 100 years of QJA's history, thirty-seven (37) officers were elected to the position of President. As shown in the table below, several of these served for multiple terms.

Name	Period
J W (John) Hetherington	1918-1919
W E Moxon	1919-1920
A L (Andrew) Petrie	1920-1922
E Griffith Oxley	1922-1924 1933-1935
F W Sabine	1924-1926
A M Newman	1926-1928
A H (Alfred) Langdon	1928-1930
J C (John) Penny	1930-1931 1937-1939
J E S Plumridge	1931-1933 1946-1950
J A Boden	1935-1937
W T Smillie	1939-1945
W J (Jack) Horn	1950-1952 1959-1961 1967-1969
I H Kerr	1952-1953
R L Higgins VD	1953-1955
H W H (Wilf) Johnson	1955-1957 1961-1963
W R J Riddell	1957-1959
J C (Jim) Arkell MBE	1963-1965
R W Duncan	1965-1967
I G Tucker	1969-1971
R V Knowles	1971-1973
C W (Clive) Latham	1973-1975 1986-1988
C P A Fenwick	1975-1977
E T Vickery	1977-1979
Lena Dobbin AM	1979-1981
O J (Owen) Curtis	1981-1984
Dorothea Lindon Smith	1984-1986
I R (Ian) Finlayson	1988-1989
G Merle Clancy	1989-1994
P A (Pat) Tiley	1994-1996
G W (Bill) Skinner	1997-1998
Noel B Hosking	1999-2002
Nathalie Lobegeiger	2002-2003
Joseph Law	2003-2005
Robert (Bob) Pilkington	2005-2009
Ray Burrows	2009-2013
Keith Revell	2013-2017
John Carpendale	2017-

Note: The President's position was vacant for six months in 1996 when the Council was dismissed by court order. Following a resignation in August 1998 and until the next (December 1999) election, two vice-presidents shared the role as Acting President.

Notable of the listed officers are John Hetherington (the inaugural President [1918-19]) and Lena Dobbin (the first female President [1979-81]). Also worthy of special mention is Nathalie Lobegeiger who performed multiple roles (many concurrently - Vice-President / President, honorary Registrar and Journal Editor) when QJA desperately needed intensive care and guidance (1997-2004).



J Hetherington



L Dobbin



N Lobegeiger

Registrar

Since 1918, only twelve officers have performed the duties of this position:

Name	Period
S R F Allom	1918-1923
Thomas A Hiley	1923-1946
L W Doggett	1946-1964
Ian G Hiley	1964-1983
Peter H MacDonald	1983-1992
Karen Leadbetter	1993-1996
Nathalie Lobegeiger	1997-2004
Martin Richardson	2004-2005
Mark Davis	2005-2007
Greg Cuthbert	2007-2009
Angela Yin	2010-2014
Wendy La Macchia	2014-

Note: This table does not include an appointee who filled the position for few short weeks in early 2010. Available records do not disclose who performed the role for several months in 1992 and for another period in 1996 in between the officers listed above.

The two most note-worthy (for varying reasons) of the QJA Registrars were Thomas Hiley (who subsequently became a State Member of Parliament, the Treasurer of Queensland and was knighted in 1966 – see page 3) and Peter MacDonald (closely associated with QJA's turbulent times in the 1990s) – see story pages 9-11.



A young Thomas Hiley



Peter MacDonald

Journal Editor

Name	Period
F T Grove	1928-1942
W B Campbell	1947-1952
I T Hockings	1953
W J Cuthbert	1954-1956
M B Hoare	1958-1965
A G Demack	1966-1970
T R Hartigan	1971-1973
R A Mulholland	1974-1976
P A Butler	1977-1981
Peter MacDonald	1983-1992
Nathalie Lobegeiger	2000-2003
Anthony Watson	2004-2007
Ray Burrows	2008-2009
Keith Revell	2010-2013
John Carpendale	2014-2017
Joan Kennedy	2018-

Note: There are several years where published records did not disclose the editor's identity.

Particularly in the first sixty-five years, many of the editors were qualified barristers. Most distinguished of these were Walter Campbell (page 5) and Alan Demack (page 8).



Sir Walter Campbell



Patron

Name	Period
Sir Pope A Cooper	1918-?
Sir James Blair KCMG	1927-1944
Hon Paul de Jersey	2004-2014
Hon Tim Carmody	2014-2015
Hon Catherine Holmes	2015-

Note: Prior to 2004, there was only scant published information about QJA Patrons

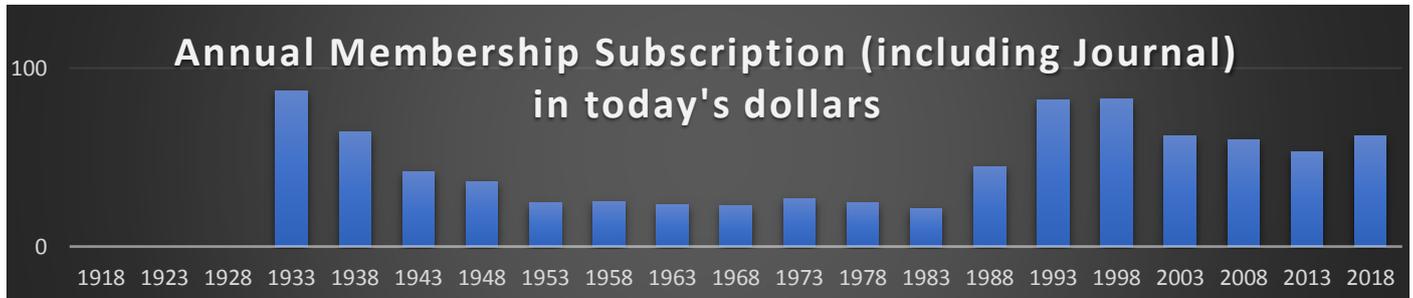
Details of Patrons Cooper and Blair are on pages 3 & 4. Patron de Jersey is the current State Governor and current Patron Holmes was the first female Chief Justice in Queensland.



Life Membership awards

On this page, a purple coloured font has been used to identify those office-holders who were also granted honorary life membership (in recognition of their exemplary service to QJA). Other QJA members have also been awarded this status. However, because the records of these awards are incomplete, we have not attempted to identify all QJA life members in this publication.

Chapter 12 – History of Finance & Figures



All values in the top two diagrams are expressed in today's dollars. Financial Reserves (Chart 1) exclude Branch funds.

Chapter 13 – Summation

The Graphs

The damaging outcome of QJA's tumultuous 1990s era is clearly evident in each of the above charts – the absolute demolition of eighty years of accumulated financial reserves (top chart), the spike in membership subscriptions (middle) and the dramatic collapse of membership confidence (bottom).

Equally apparent is the amazing restoration achievement of the most recent twenty year period – financial reserves now at an all-time high, membership subscriptions stabilised at around the long-term average (\$60pa) and membership confidence once more on an upward trend.

The Journal and QJA branding

The periodic member publication has been a relative constant in QJA's legacy. The back page of this booklet is a pictorial display of the various forms it took. QJA's diverse brand history is also pictured – from the original motto "Audax at Fidelis" (Bold but Faithful) on the front page of early journals through to the current logos.

Across the generations

From modest beginnings in 1918, the Queensland Justices Association has extended its influence in a journey across several generations of justice administration in Queensland.

By the end of the first decade (1928), the organisation's assets (both financial and membership) were accumulating slowly but soundly.

The highlights of decade two (1929-38) were the commencement of a public witnessing / certifying service and the admission of women as both members and councillors.

The advent of World War II caused a temporary fall-off in membership, financial reserves and business initiatives in decade three (1939-48)

Over decades four, five, six and seven (1949-88), the business grew steadily, expanded into new areas of member services and attracted many additional members to the fold. The strategy to introduce regional groups in the 1980s laid the foundation for building our most valuable ongoing asset – the QJA Branch network.

Decade eight (1989-98) was a turbulent and distressing time (as explained in detail at *pages 10-11*). This was almost the end for QJA.

The successful business resurrection / rebuilding operations of decade nine (1999-2008) prepared the way for the continued progress achieved in the last decade (2009-2018), completing a journey well worth reflecting upon.

QJA's heritage

This documentation of QJA's history contains facets of the good, the bad and the ugly. It certainly hasn't been all plain sailing. But everything that happened in our past is an integral part of QJA's heritage.

What we are today is a function of our past experiences. To optimise what we can be tomorrow, we must never forget the lessons – both good and bad – from our past. Going forward, it is important to acknowledge and embrace all elements of our history.

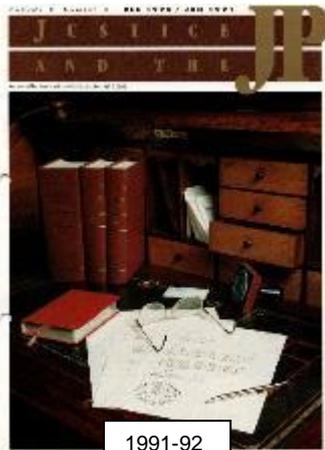
Thank You

Our sincere gratitude to **Zink Print Group** for their generous support in the production of this publication.

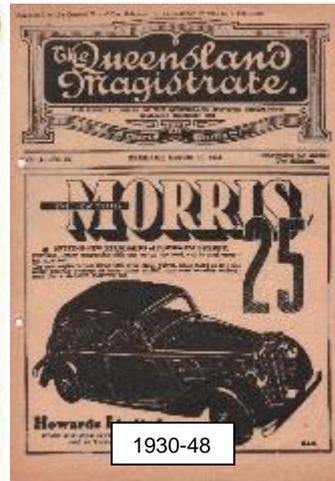
Chapter 14 – QJA Journal & Brand History



2012-16



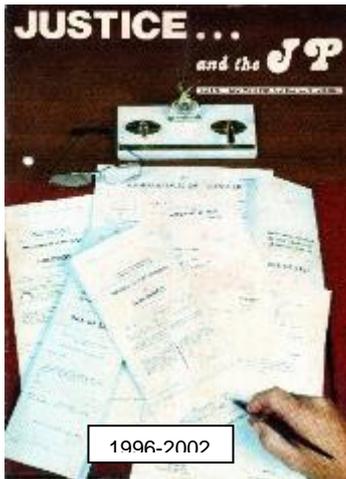
1991-92



1930-48



2004-12



1996-2002



2004-16 logo



1983-93 logo



1993-2003 logo



1952-83



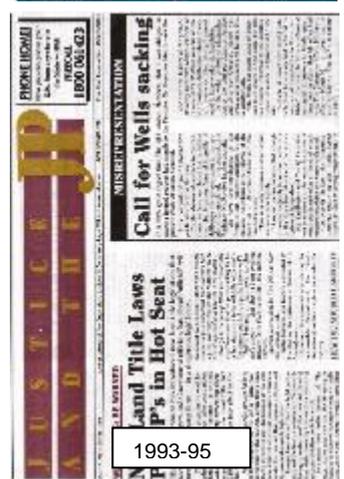
1983-84



1952-83 logo



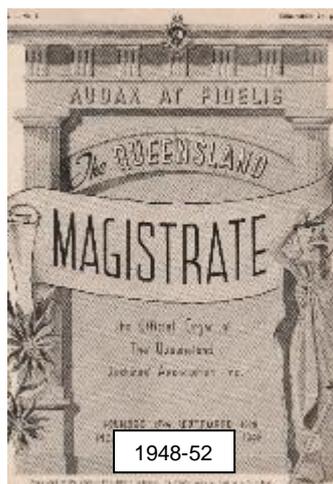
2017-18 logo



1993-95



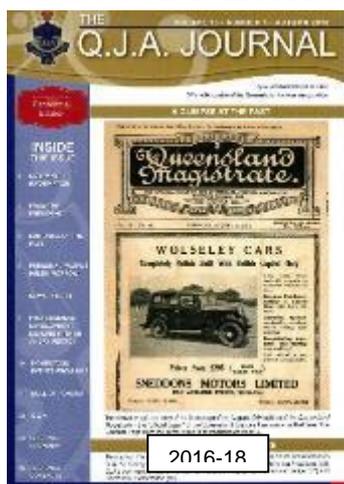
2002-04



1948-52



1984-90



2016-18