

Selfies, sexting, savagery and suicide

Dr Lynette Maguire JP (Qual), Author, Marriage Celebrant and Social Commentator, kept us enthralled with her topic 'Selfies, Sexting Savagery and Suicide'. She spoke about what she describes as the 'Era of Narcissism' where bullying, cyberbullying, violence, and desensitisation to violence has become an everyday occurrence, particularly for the younger generation. Value changes, parenting changes and technology are responsible for and have facilitated these behaviours to flourish, claims Dr Maguire.

In her academic work, Dr Maguire (pictured below) has studied how the core values of the different generations have shifted from valuing community above all, through to



favouring independence and entrepreneurship, while emerging modern generations appear to value self-image, avid consumerism, lack empathy and show no remorse about being self-centred.

The statistics she presented on suicide, domestic violence, and cyberbullying in Australia

were quite depressing. However, she does suggest that with appropriate education and parenting workshops, coupled with managing and monitoring young people's use of digital devices, things can be turned around in the long term.

2020 Annual State Conference

At the close of yet another very successful annual conference, President John Carpendale announced the **Gold Coast** as the location for Conference 2020.

QJA AWARDS DINNER



Patrons gathered at the Maroochydore Surf Club for the Conference Dinner and the announcement of the QJA Awards. Guests were entertained throughout the night by the delightful Gypsy Jazz Band, 'Swing Dynamique' whose music invited some members (Bill and Kerri Silvey pictured above R) to the dance floor to show off their 'fancy footwork.'



After dinner, Vice President Bruce Birtwell undertook his first official duty in his newly elected role to announce the winners of all four QJA Award categories.

Marian Vierveyzer of the Roma Branch, pictured here, is awarded **Honorary Life Membership** recognising her outstanding achievements and dedication to the Board. For 14 years, 7 of those as Vice-President, Marian has toiled away on the Board to raise the standards and help the association flourish. Congratulations to Marian



Nominations for **Member of the Year** included Stewart Purdie from Brisbane North, and Brooke Batley from Logan Branch, both dedicated QJA members and experienced trainers. Many members will be familiar with both of these fellows and will understand what a challenging job it was for the judging committee to make a decision. But a winner was chosen and it was **Brooke Batley** who took out the award. Brooke is pictured here receiving his award from President John Carpendale.

