

SUMMER 2018

MIC-ING ABOUT

QUEENSLAND NARRATING SERVICE VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

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In this Newsletter

**50th Annual General Meeting, Special Thanks
News & Interesting Information**



THE 50th AGM OF QNS

QNS celebrated its 50th year at the AGM on Friday 10 November at Queen Alexandra Home. The morning was well attended by our volunteer base located in Brisbane and representatives from blindness organisations and special guests including past narrators and committee members sharing in the celebrations. It was wonderful to have William (Bill) Smith as guest speaker. Bill had been a member of the Jaycees and it was through this group that he spoke of his involvement with the organisation back in its infancy and continued friendship with President Don Cottrell. The Brisbane Jaycees received an award for their project to assist blind individuals in 1969. Bill shared with us photos of those early years. These photos included photos of Don Cottrell, Bill Smith and Ian Stewart, who was made a life member of QNS in 1987. Ian received a MBE in 1981 (which was shown in the photo.) Pierce was invited to share the history (published in the past newsletter) of QNS to celebrate the organisations 50th Birthday. The talented Steve Sparrow entertained us with his wonderful music.

The Management Committee as elected for 2018 is:

Hon President	- Janet Poole
Hon Vice President	- Pierce Bragg
Hon Secretary	- Kathy Kunde
Hon Treasurer	- Adrian Tavarayan
System Administrator	- Vacant
Narrator Representative	- Kaye Stevenson
Narrator Representative	- David Kennedy
Consumer Representative	- Peter Price

Janet Poole, Peter Price, Helen Boardman, June Curyer, Kay Murray, Lynne Scofield, Tony Millett, Elizabeth Oats and Margaret Williams were conferred as life members. If you would like a copy of the 2017 Annual Report please contact the QNS office either by phone or email and a copy will be emailed to you.

SNAPS FROM THE DAY



Joe Kelly, Member for Greenslopes

William Smith



Steve Sparrow

Life Member Recipients



Janet Poole receives her life membership from Pierce Bragg



Helen Boardman receives her life membership from Janet Poole



Peter Price receives his life membership from Janet Poole

SNAPS FROM THE DAY



**Janet with the photo of Don Cottrell,
William Smith and Ian Stewart**



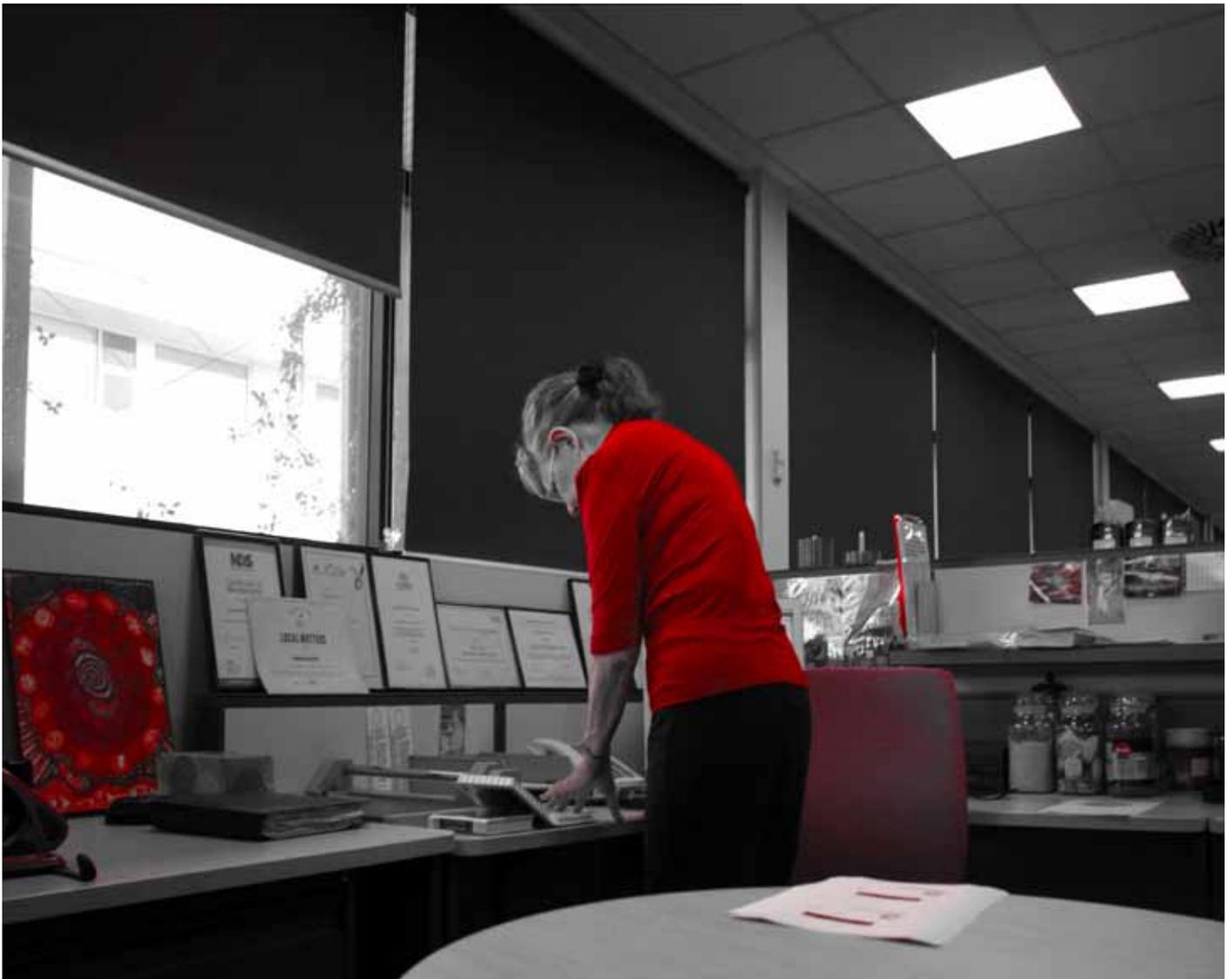
**L-R
Jean Hornsby and
Joan Alexander**



**Janet Poole and Bill Smith cut
the cake**

SPECIAL THANKS

QNS would like to pay tribute to two very special office volunteers who are always there in a crisis. The first is Derek Christy. Although Derek retired from the position of systems administrator several years he continually avails himself when assistance is required with the QNS IT system. The second is his lovely wife, Judy Christy who is always at the ready to fill an order of audio books for a library.



Judy Christy

Photo editing by Derek Christy

NEWS & INTERESTING INFORMATION

Public Works by Bronwyn Watson - The Weekend Australian 10-11/2/2018

For more than 50 years, Richard Frank Tunley painstakingly laboured in his home workshop in the suburbs of Brisbane on ingenious handcrafted constructions, which he sent all over the world.

It was a pursuit for which he was never paid. Rather, he did it because he was particularly passionate about helping vision-impaired children overcome the stigma that blindness was considered a curse or an illness.

At the time, in the early 1920s, it was thought the blind weren't capable of learning, and therefore education was considered a futile exercise for them. Tunley decided to change all that.

For starters, in 1924 he successfully campaigned to make education compulsory for blind and deaf children in Queensland.

Furthermore, a great believer in the benefits of braille, he began making objects incorporating braille. Some of these are believed to be the only ones of their kind in the world.

Based in his Brisbane workshop, he made globes and relief maps, all labelled with braille.

But he also made toys such as a doll house, model sail boats and train sets, again all labelled with braille. It gave the children a way to experience the world through touch.

Some of these items Tunley donated to schools from New Zealand to India, but most of his legacy was in Brisbane. He was known as the "fairy godfather of blind children" to the students of what was then the Queensland Blind, Deaf and Dumb Institution (now Narbethong State Special School).

Each year he would ask every child at the school what they wanted for Christmas, and he would create those toys especially for each child.

Tunley first became interested in helping the vision-impaired because he was born partially deaf. He found deafness isolating and thought blindness would be the same. A successful businessman, he ran his own blind-making business.

He was fond of joking that he “made blinds for a living and lived for the blind”.

The State Library of Queensland is currently displaying Some of Tunley’s inventions as part of the Magnificent Makers exhibition.

One of the most intriguing objects on display is a rare globe from 1947 made of wood and aluminium, with braille letters punched into the aluminium. The globe is accompanied by several braille index plates that provide contextual information. With no room for naming every country Tunley linked the countries to numbers and created a pullout index plate where you find the number that then tells you the name of the country. The braille is worn from children at Narbethong State Special School interacting with the globe and discovering the world.

The library has received \$10,000 in funding to recreate a replica of the globe using photogrammetry and 3-D printing technology. When it eventually goes on display, it will be possible to touch the new globe, just as Tunley intended.



Richard Frank Tunley

Braille globe on stand, 1947. Collection John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland. On display in exhibition Magnificent Makers, Philip Bacon Heritage Gallery, State Library of Queensland, Brisbane, until June 3.