



QUEENSLAND
WATTLE
LEAGUE

1912-2012
CENTENARY OF SERVICE



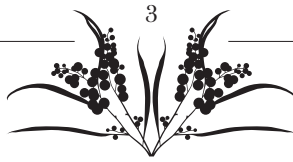
FIRST EDITION



A NOTE ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This is a first draft of our history.
There is much more to learn and write and we need your help.

If you have memories of our past, documents, corrections or
comments please contact Open Minds on 07 3896 4222
or email: centenary.project@openminds.org.au



Many Queenslanders will remember the Wattle League as a patriotic, awareness and fundraising organisation that focussed activities around Wattle Day. Far fewer will be aware that the organisation still survives and thrives today as Open Minds.

The story of the transition from a group that promoted art to a multi-million dollar service provider is a fascinating one. Indeed, the development of the Wattle League is intricately linked with major events in Queensland, Australia and the wider world.

The real story, though, revolves around the people who have been involved. The various Board members, staff, clients, family members, funders and volunteers who shaped the Wattle League represent a group of remarkable people. Some of whom overcame significant challenges to make their contribution.

This document is an attempt to summarise those stories and has been pieced together with the help of many sources. We hope it is just the beginning as the centennial celebrations encourage others to share their recollections of the League.

What is clear, is that the past hundred years has seen the Queensland Wattle League, and later Open Minds, touch the lives of a great many people and leave a lasting legacy as it enters its second century of service.

MIKE GILMOUR • TOM ROBERTS
CHAIR HISTORIAN





FORMATION → 1920

THE QUEENSLAND WATTLE DAY LEAGUE IS FORMED IN 1912. THEIR FIRST ART SCHOLARSHIP IS WON BY DAPHNE MAYO BUT THE NEEDS OF SERVICEMEN RETURNING FROM WORLD WAR ONE BECOME THE MAIN FUNDRAISING FOCUS.

In 1899, a 'Wattle Club' was formed in Victoria by naturalist, Mr. A. J. Campbell. For several years the club organised 'bush outings' on the 1st of September, the first day of spring. In 1908, Campbell first proposed that a national wattle day should be held on the first day of spring each year. National Wattle Day finally achieved near national acceptance at the Australian Wattle Day League Conference, January 1913, in Melbourne.



MRS. F. C. PAPI
Founder of the Wattle Day League

A meeting to encourage annual observance of Wattle Day in Queensland was held in the Town Hall on 4th May, 1912. The Mayoress of Brisbane, Mrs. A. J. Raymond, presided. It was decided at this time that a Queensland branch of the Wattle Day League should be formed and money raised should be used for the establishment of a Wattle Day Scholarship. Those present formed themselves into a provisional committee, and it was decided to hold a public meeting later that year.

The public meeting was held on October 12th and saw the official inauguration of the Queensland Wattle Day League. Central to the formation of the League was Mrs. F. C. Papi (wife of prominent scholar and educationist, Mr. F. C. Papi).

Wattle Day soon became an annual event in Queensland. Volunteers sold sprigs of

Golden Wattle in the streets, at stalls in locations around Brisbane's inner city and in other towns across the state. All people, young and old, were encouraged to fasten a sprig of wattle to their lapels, a message circulated widely through local newspapers, including The Brisbane Courier and The Queenslander.

The Queensland League set itself apart from the other states by devoting its early fundraising efforts towards establishing a 'travelling arts scholarship', designed to support emerging,

talented, young Queensland artists to further their studies overseas. In 1913, the League invited submissions for its inaugural scholarship. Four entrants were considered for the prize which was ultimately awarded to sculptor, Daphne Mayo. The League provided over £574, which enabled her to take a four year course of tuition in London and Paris.

The onset of World War I intervened, however, and plans to send Mayo overseas were put on hold. Instead, she spent six months during 1914 studying at the Ashton Art School in Sydney. During the war years, Mayo worked as a volunteer with the Red Cross before finally setting sail for England in 1919 under the League's scholarship.

After returning from overseas, Mayo continued her close relationship with the





League including service on the League's management committee and her monumental works in Brisbane cemented her place as one of Australia's finest artists.

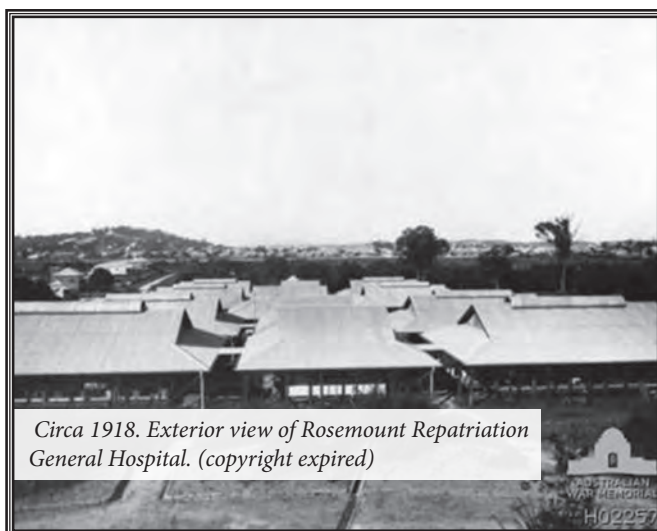
As the terrible impact of World War I became clear, it was impossible for the League to ignore the plight of those returning from the conflict. From 1914 to 1920, all of the League's fundraising efforts were devoted to alleviating the suffering of wounded and distressed soldiers and sailors, and their families. More than £8,000 was raised during that time and donated to a variety of institutions. Donations from the public on the annual Wattle Day account for a large part of this contribution but further fundraising efforts were carried out to widen the scope of the League's charitable activities.

In 1915, £763 was raised for the "Courier" Wounded Soldiers Fund and £762 for the Red Cross Recreation Hall at Kangaroo Point. The hall was lauded as a wonderful asset for returned servicemen during their recovery from injury and trauma sustained in conflict. Rehabilitation from loss of limbs was an all-too-common experience amongst returned servicemen, made more difficult by the Government's refusal to provide artificial limbs.

At the time, affected servicemen paid for replacement limbs themselves through automatic deductions from their pension. The compounded affects of injury, loss of income and additional medical expenses took a heavy toll on servicemen and their families. In 1916, the League moved to raise funds to provide artificial arms and the League raised over £736. The fund continued up until 1918, at which point the Government agreed to provide artificial limbs for soldiers.

Victims abroad were not forgotten and, in 1917, funds exceeding £1,100 were handed over to the Franco-Queensland League of Help for the destitute women and children of France who at that time were in dire need of assistance.

With the Government's decision in 1918 to provide soldiers with artificial limbs, the League resolved to devote the credit balance of the Artificial Limb Fund to the establishment of an Orthopaedic Hospital. Brisbane lacked such a facility at the time, and medical professionals saw this as a major gap in the effective treatment of severely maimed and shell shocked soldiers.



Circa 1918. Exterior view of Rosemount Repatriation General Hospital. (copyright expired)

INITIAL AIMS OF THE QUEENSLAND WATTLE DAY LEAGUE

- Working towards the official recognition of the Golden Wattle as the floral emblem of Australia and establishing Wattle Day as 'Australia's Day'.
- Cultivating a love of the plant amongst school children.
- The planting and caretaking of wattle trees wherever possible.
- The establishment of an Art Scholarship.



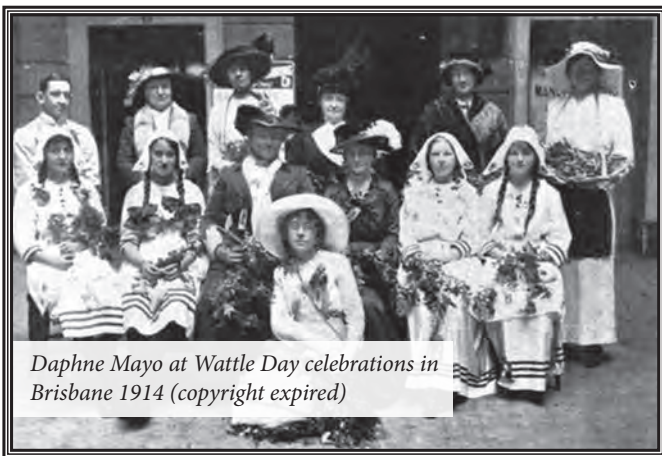


The League raised funds totalling £3,993. This funded the building and fitting-out of a specialised Orthopaedic Unit at the Rosemount Military Hospital in Windsor. The new hospital was opened free of debt in October 1919, and reports from the time rated this hospital as the finest institution of its kind in the entire Commonwealth. In 1919, a further £1,938 was raised for additional equipment and ongoing maintenance of the hospital.



At an early stage, the League also recognised the value of work as a therapeutic activity for servicemen caught up in the pain and tedium of rehabilitation. A second collection day was held in September 1919, the proceeds of which were used to establish a workshop providing industrial training to maimed soldiers within the Rosemount compound. These were described as a 'curative metal workshop' and 'curative boot-repairing workshop', both operational before the end of 1919.

DAPHNE MAYO



Daphne Mayo at Wattle Day celebrations in Brisbane 1914 (copyright expired)

Born in Sydney in 1895 and raised in Brisbane, the young Mayo was beset with various health problems including chronic asthma which forced her early departure from Eton High School, Hamilton (now St. Margaret's, Clayfield). This was not to dampen her passion for the arts, however, and by 1911, Mayo had enrolled in Brisbane Central Technical College, aged sixteen.

By the age of 18, Mayo achieved critical acclaim for work exhibited in the Queensland Art Society's annual exhibition

of 1913 and later that year, she was named as the inaugural recipient of the Queensland Wattle League's Travelling Art Scholarship. The scholarship provided Daphne four years of study at the prestigious Royal Academy Sculpture School, London. The onset of war halted these plans, and Mayo instead spent six months studying at the Ashton Art School in Sydney before returning to Brisbane to volunteer for the Red Cross.

On the 13th August 1919, Mayo finally departed for London after being entertained by the League at a farewell tea party presided by the Mayoress of Brisbane, Mrs. C. P. Buchanan. Mrs. Buchanan



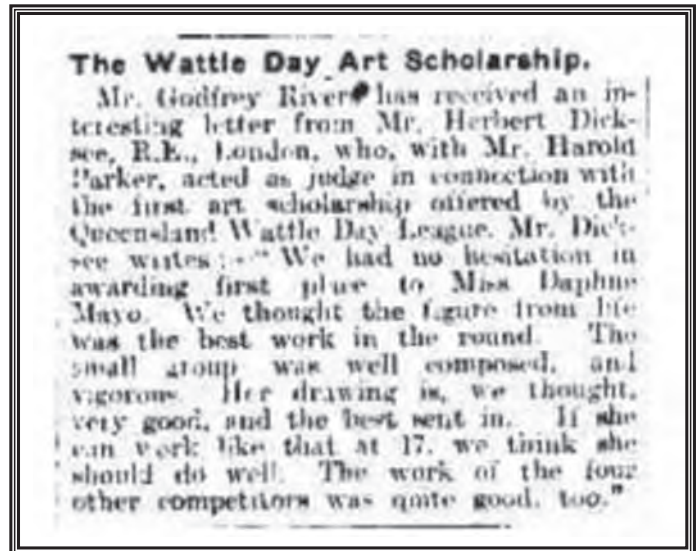


also presented Mayo with the gift of an autograph album to carry with her on her travels. League founder and Vice-President, Mrs. F. C. Papi said that it was a great privilege for the League to help further the career of any artist possessing Mayo's talent.

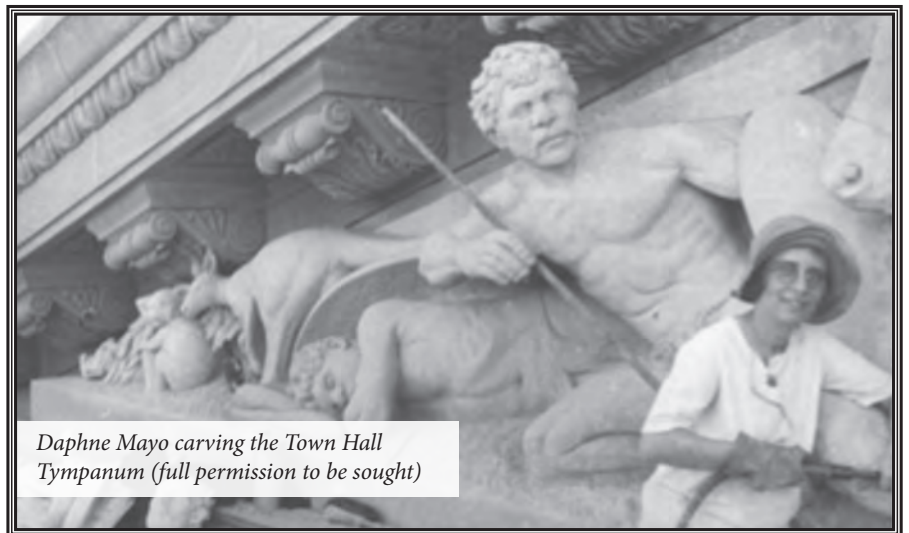
In 1920, Mayo was admitted to the Royal Academy of London Sculpture School where she won the Royal Academy's Landseer Scholarship and Bronze Medal in 1921 and two Silver Medals in 1922. In 1923, Mayo won the Gold Medal and the Edward Stott Travelling Scholarship and went on to travel in Italy and France in 1924.

She returned to Brisbane in 1925 and launched into the first of what would become an illustrious list of private and public commissions around Brisbane, including:

- The Brisbane City Hall Tympanum
- The Queensland Women's War Memorial in ANZAC Square
- The Tattersall's Club frieze
- A sculpture of Major General and former Nationalist Party Senator, Sir Thomas William Glasgow, (located in Post Office Square)



In fact, some of the earliest meetings of the Queensland Wattle League were held from 1913 at the old Town Hall, usually in the rooms of the Lady Mayoress. By the late 30s, a new Town Hall was under construction with a Tympanum designed by Mayo – the first Wattle League scholarship winner.



In addition to her own artistic works, Mayo was a tireless advocate for the arts and alongside her friend, Vida Lahey, Mayo devoted much energy to promoting art education for Queensland children. Three years after Mayo's death in 1982, The Fryer Library of the University of Queensland acquired Mayo's collection as part of its own 75th anniversary celebrations, and these remain available to the public.





1920 → 1930

THE LEAGUE CONTINUES TO RAISE MONEY TO HELP RETURNED ‘DIGGERS’ BEFORE RETURNING TO FUNDING ART SCHOLARSHIPS LATER IN THE DECADE. ROBERT PERCY CUMMINGS WINS THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP OFFERED BY THE LEAGUE.

Further contributions to alleviate the impact of the war were in fact made for many years after the fighting finished. In 1920, £270 was raised for the Bursary Fund for the benefit of children of deceased or disabled soldiers and sailors. Funds totalling £283 were raised in 1921, and shared equally between the Brisbane Institute of Social Services and the Mayo Scholarship Fund. In 1922 the League raised over £1,100 for the Distressed Diggers Fund who were, along with their families, in urgent need of assistance.

In presenting the 11th Annual Report of the Queensland Wattle League in 1923 the President, Alderman Maurice Baldwin, announced that the League would revert back to the original aims regarding the encouragement of the arts. Funding a new scholarship would present some challenges, however.

Although five years had now lapsed since Armistice, the Rosemount Orthopaedic Hospital – initially funded and established by the League - was still in heavy demand. The League had continued to assume some responsibility for its ongoing maintenance. At its peak, the hospital was providing care to an average of 400 soldiers a week and even by 1923, around 306 soldiers were still receiving care on a weekly basis.

At the same Annual Meeting, League Patron, Sir Matthew Nathan spoke about this tension:

“We want to be proud of Australian art as we are of Australian nature... particularly of Australian human nature.”

He went on to state that the Red Cross Society should step up and take the Rosemount Hospital under its wing, and that the fundraising efforts of the League should be allowed to revert to its original purpose, namely the support of talented local artists. Members of the League had retained strong sentiments around the arts scholarship, and the recent successes of Daphne Mayo only strengthened their view that such an arrangement should continue into the future.

This sentiment was echoed by League Secretary, Mrs. Colin Campbell, who also emphasized the importance of the arts, not solely for the sake of art itself, but for other pragmatic purposes. Mrs. Campbell brought attention to the high infancy mortality rate in Queensland at the time, and believed that this was directly attributable to the poor quality of housing stock prevalent throughout the state. She framed this as a key architectural issue, and it was decided at this point to establish a second scholarship, for architecture.

Key to success in making this a reality was the Repatriation Department (which had recently taken over control of Rosemount from the Department of Defence in 1921) upping its support for the hospital, and embarked on additional building and refurbishment projects. This freed funds raised by the League in 1923 to fund an Architectural Scholarship to the value of £750 which would enable the holder to take a three year course of Architecture in London. The scholarship was awarded to Robert Percy Cummings in 1924, thus helping launch another significant Australian career.





ROBERT PERCY CUMMINGS



*Mr R.P. CUMMINGS
the Queensland Wattle Day League
Architectural Scholar, who has been
awarded the Rome Scholarship*

Robert Percy Cummings was born in September 1900 at Kelvin Grove, Brisbane. His interest in architecture was sparked during his early teens when he worked in the timber-manufacturing firm of Brown & Broad Ltd. He enrolled in Brisbane's Central Technical College where he took evening classes from 1916 onwards. From 1919 to 1923, Cummings worked as an architectural draftsman for the Commonwealth War Service Homes Commission before winning the second Queensland Wattle League's travelling art scholarship in 1924.

The scholarship enabled Cummings to study for three years (1925-1928) at the Architectural Association School, London, where he was awarded a Diploma of Architecture. In 1927, he was awarded the Rome Scholarship in Architecture, and resided for two years at the British School in Rome, prior to becoming an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1928. After some time spent travelling, he returned to London and accepted an invitation to join the staff of the Architectural Association, Belford Square.

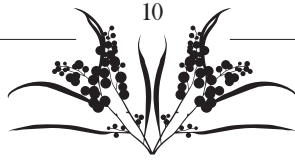
Cummings returned to Brisbane towards the end of 1930. During the mid-1930s, Cummings was the director of Architecture at the Central Technical College, the same place where he himself had commenced study some fifteen years earlier. Much of Cummings' subsequent career took place at The University of Queensland, first in the Faculty of Engineering and then in the Faculty of Architecture, established in 1948. The Faculty of Architecture appointed Cummings Foundation Professor in 1949 and finally, upon his retirement in 1966, Emeritus Professor.

Cummings, like Mayo, also fulfilled a variety of public roles and completed some notable commissions during his career including the First Church of Christ on North Quay (1939) and extensions to the Binna Burra Lodge in Lamington National Park. He was a trustee of the Queensland Art Gallery from 1939 to 1967 and of the Royal Queensland Art Society from 1944 to 1969.

The League had also moved in 1923 to refocus its attention on other objectives of the wattle movement, including efforts to stimulate a love of the wattle in the minds of school children. The League sponsored an essay competition open to all school students, with a junior

division (12 years old and under) and a senior division for students aged 13 years and above. The junior competition asked students to provide 'A description of the wattles grown in their district', while the senior topic was 'The Industrial and Decorative Uses of Australian



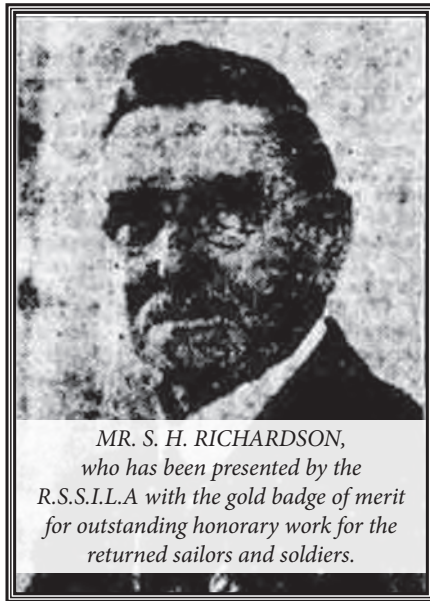


Wattles'. The competition was backed by the Minister for Education who approved that submissions could be composed during normal school hours. The senior competition was won by Miss Veronica Connolly, a 13 year old pupil of the Newmarket State School who delighted the judges with her submission.

Wattle Day celebrations continued to gain in popularity. Reports from the mid-1920s indicate that nearly every school in the state was decorated with wattle on Wattle Day. The Minister for Public Instruction (now Education) lent support to the movement by encouraging all teachers across the state to draw their students' attention to the objects of the Wattle Day celebrations so as to stimulate Australian national sentiment and a love for the national flower. The League also awarded prizes for the most amusing and artistically decorated cars driven in the Wattle Day procession.

Funds raised on Wattle Day were also on the increase, reaching an all-time high in 1927. This trend enabled the League to strike a short-lived balance between its two chief missions of the day (i.e. supporting the arts and easing the distress of returned soldiers and their families). Ongoing support was provided to Robert Cummings who was already making his mark in Europe. At the League's AGM that year, Mrs. Campbell was delighted to announce that in his first two years abroad, Cummings had already accomplished more than was expected from the full three year scholarship – his recent award of the prestigious Rome Scholarship was a source of particular pride to the League.

Speaking at the Annual Meeting of the Queensland Wattle League, the President of the Sailors' and Soldiers' Fathers' Association,



*MR. S. H. RICHARDSON,
who has been presented by the
R.S.S.I.L.A with the gold badge of merit
for outstanding honorary work for the
returned sailors and soldiers.*

MR S H Richardson painted a vivid picture of the need to support "Diggers'. In doing so, he neatly summarised the ongoing pressures for the League in balancing its desire to promote the arts with the obvious needs within the community of returning servicemen.

A newspaper report of the meeting summarises his speech. "Mr Richardson said the men whom they were assisting were good men, who

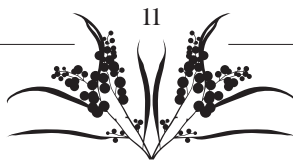
did not want a dole, but were forced to accept assistance after they had tried earnestly, and in vain, to get work. While art was a very fine thing, they must first think of the starving."

In response, Mrs J Williams (senior Vice President of the League at the time) said that while it had not been decided how to distribute the following years funds, she felt it would be "hardly humane" to devote it to anything else when there were women and children "practically starving in this country".

Unfortunately, 1928 proved to be a more difficult year for fundraising. "Without exception the poorest result we have experienced since 1912 when the [Wattle Day] collections were instituted" was the verdict of League Secretary, Mrs. Colin Campbell. Only around half of the previous year's total could be collected with a shortage of collectors as well as the poor economic situation being blamed. The money that was collected was again passed to the Father's Association.

By 1929, pressure was again growing within the League to find funds for a new arts scholarship but there was recognition that ongoing support was still required by the Father's Association.





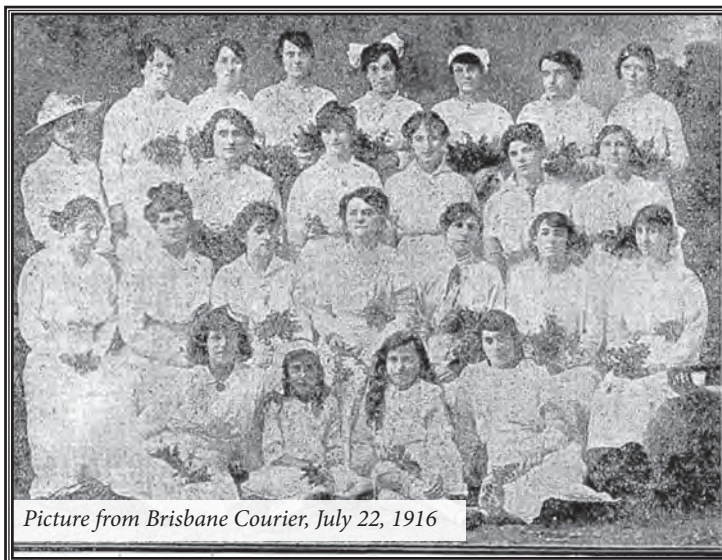
SAILORS' AND SOLDIERS' FATHERS' ASSOCIATION

The Sailors' and Soldiers' Fathers' Association and the Queensland Wattle League developed a close relationship in the years following the First World War. The Fathers Association was established to alleviate distress amongst dependents of returned soldiers and sailors. It was desperately in need of funds and the League was impressed that the Fathers Association investigated each case individually to ensure no money was wasted.

Mr S H Richardson (Samuel Henry) helped to found the Association in 1918 and served as Honorary Secretary (later President) for over 20 years. He addressed Wattle League meetings regularly and eventually went on to become President of the Wattle League itself for much of the 1930s. The Fathers Association was also known as the Dad's Association with Richardson himself affectionately referred to as "dad". It appears that Richardson worked in an almost full time capacity for the Fathers Association and an office was kept at Anzac House where those in need could visit and discuss their case with Richardson.

As well as financial grants, the Association would pay rent, buy clothes and purchase food. Richardson was awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours list announced at the start of 1936.

MRS (COLIN) CAMPBELL



A stalwart of the league for many years, Mrs Campbell was almost always referred to as Mrs Colin Campbell. In fact, she was Marie Campbell, born in Denmark and an arrival in Australia at the age of seven.

She served as Wattle League Secretary for at least 17 years and was closely involved throughout its early years. She was pivotal in the establishment of Wattle Day and in fundraising for patriotic purposes during World War I. Her obituary notes that during World War II, she made garments for British

victims of the Blitz. She also received a King George V Jubilee Medal for her services.

Not only was Mrs Campbell central to the formation and early success of the League; she also appears to have played a vital role in the transition to a revived League in the 1950s. She was the author of a 1949 letter to the newspaper urging a reformation of the Wattle League and a meeting with Miss Doris Thain "inspired" Thain to re-establish the League.

She died at the age of 84 in 1954, but not before moves were underway to re-establish the League.





1930 → 1945

DURING THE THIRTIES, WATTLE DAY GRADUALLY BECOMES MORE FOCUSED ON SCHOOLS. FURTHER ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS ARE PROVIDED FOR STUDY WITHIN AUSTRALIA. THE SECOND WORLD WAR MEANS ALMOST ALL MONIES RAISED GO TO ‘PATRIOTIC PURPOSES’ AS WAR RAGES ACROSS THE GLOBE. THE LEAGUE ENTERS A PERIOD OF HIATUS FROM 1945.

In 1930, the charitable activities of the League followed much the same path as in recent years. A gift of £500 was again given to the Father’s Association. For the funds raised during Wattle Day, two thirds were given to the Lord Mayor’s Fund for the Relief of Families in Distress and the remaining third set aside for the scholarship fund.

Mr. H. A. Feather, then President of the Fathers’ Association, shared his gratitude to the League through the press, describing the donation as “...a godsend to the association at the present time.” He continued, adding that “...without this generous help, many of the Diggers and their dependents would have gone hungry and destitute.”

By 1931, progress was finally being made on the establishment of a further scholarship. This was no doubt aided by the election of a new President of the Wattle League, Mr. P. Stanhope Hobday, who was also president of the Royal Queensland Art Society. On taking up office, he stated his intention to bring about greater co-operation between the two organisations, both having aims in common to give opportunities to young Queensland artists.

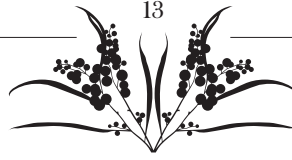
The League set an aim of raising £600 for another art scholarship and decided that fundraising should be devoted equally between the Fathers’ Association and the arts scholarship.

Although the annual collection of funds was not as successful due to the depression, the League was able to set aside some money to begin a scholarship fund. Money was also given (£100) to the Lord Mayor’s Fund for the Relief of Families in Distress.

The difficulties in fundraising continued throughout the early 1930s and in 1933, members of the League began to question whether an arts scholarship within Australia instead of abroad was more realistic. It was noted that sufficient funds existed to do this almost immediately.

This period also saw a change in the patterns of income for the league with schools now accounting for a growing proportion of fundraising. It was noted that more schools than ever were now taking an interest in the activities undertaken by the League and there had been a dramatic increase in receipts sent to schools for Wattle Day donations between 1933 and 1934 alone. By the later years of the decade, schools fundraising represented the bulk of the income and Wattle Day street collections were not taking place on anything like the scale of previous years. In 1938, the collections effectively ended.

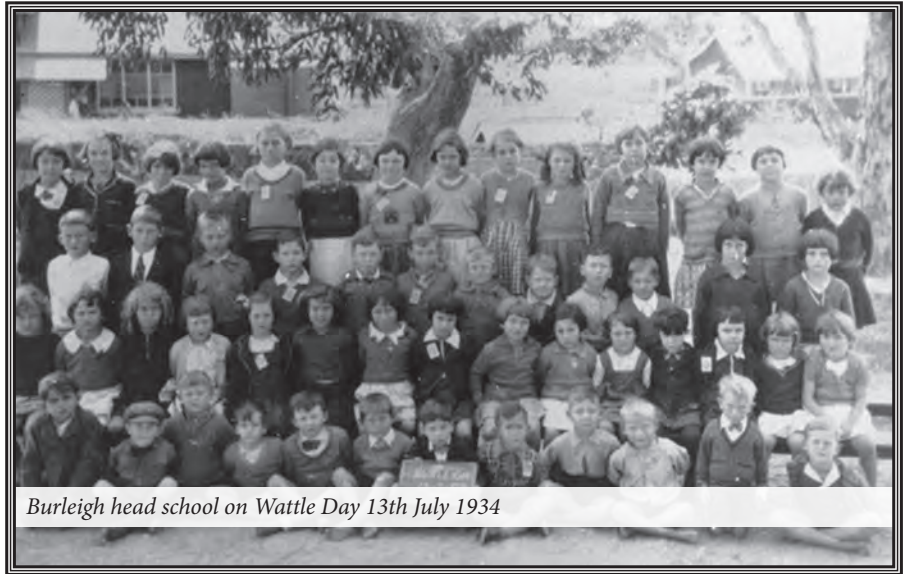




WATTLE DAY

Throughout its early history, much of the fundraising activity for the league focussed on Wattle Day. The format and numbers involved varied from year to year but usually involved setting up stalls across the city.

For example, Wattle Day on 8th July 1932 included sites at the G.P.O. opposite the



Burleigh head school on Wattle Day 13th July 1934

Customs House; Kodak Building, Stewart Dawson Corner, Australian Hotel Corner, corner of Queen and George Streets, and in front of Lennon's Hotel.

Lady collectors would offer sprigs of Wattle and take up a street collection. At various times, street processions were arranged and prizes given for the most effectively decorated cars. Activities also took place outside of Brisbane.

Later years saw efforts focussed more exclusively on schools with a combination of fundraising and promotion of the Wattle. At its peak, 120 000 Wattle badges were ordered for the annual fundraising efforts with 100 000+ going to schools.

As early as 1937 it was reported that members felt the street collections were not worth the significant efforts and by 1939, it was noted in the Courier Mail that no collections were planned. Receipts from the collections were reported as £65 in 1935, £58 in 1936 and £43 in 1937. Meanwhile the schools receipts for 1937 were £78.

Brisbane Courier articles on Wattle Day suggests widespread recognition of the importance. The article to the right is from June 1926.





THE QUEENSLANDER FOR AUGUST 1, 1914—(PAGE 25.)

Wattle Day in Brisbane



The Physicists of Brisbane with the Central Committee of the South Hill



The A.N.A. Stand at the G.P.O.



Mrs. C.R. Briggs and Associates at the Courtenay Building



Mrs. W.C. Harris and Associates at the South Brisbane Town Hall



A Small Wattle Queen



Mrs. T.W. Bullens and Associates at the Valley Corner



A Decorated Motor Car with an Australian "Native" in the Cages



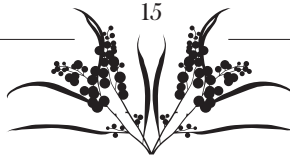
A Wattle Day Queen



Another Well Decorated Motor Car

Wattle League activities as seen in the Queensland in 1914 (currently seeking a better quality version)





In 1936, the League introduced a new arts scholarship in conjunction with the Queensland Technical College. The Scholarship was based on an examination of freehand drawing. Candidates were assessed by their schools, and the top six scoring candidates had their work judged by members of the League.

The 'prize' would be worth £50 annually to the winner and could be extended to a second year if the quality of work submitted is deemed to be outstanding. Prior to the outbreak of World War II, the League was finally able to offer scholarships on a regular basis including:

- **1937 & 38 – Mr. Wyclef E Huston**
(from Allora, who was enabled to study art at the Central Technical College. Later he was helped to continue his studies in Sydney, and won the Philip Muskett Prize, which is awarded on the decision of the director of the National Art Gallery in Sydney.)
- **1939 – Miss Betty Quelhurst**
(£50 scholarship – from Fairfield who is noted as being in her fourth year of art studies at the Central Technical College). She went on to be a Arts Teacher at Ipswich Grammar School.
- **1940 – Miss Barbara Abbott Cottam**
(A fourth year student at the Central Technical College)
- **1941 – Miss Marie Ethel Young**
(A 16 year old student at the Central Technical College)
- **1942 – Mrs Jacqueline Boxall**
(18 year old student at the Central Technical College)

Mr Archie Day (organist and pianist) and Mr W E Huston are also mentioned as prize winners with dates unknown at present.

The outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 and the spread of the conflict globally began to impact on the work of the League. Again, the needs of injured service personnel came to the fore. A Courier Mail report in October 1941

reports a meeting of the League at which it was decided to donate the proceeds of the year to "patriotic purposes". £25 was donated to the Red Cross, £25 to the Australian Comforts Fund and £10 to the Union Jack Club. This is reported as being the total funds for the year which suggests fundraising was at particularly low ebb. It is also reported that the League used remaining funds to provide the art scholarship and postponed the sale of Wattle badges early in the 1940s – initially, this was to be only until the war ended but there is no evidence of them being sold after 1945.

In 1942, Wattle League treasurer, Mr C. A. Powell was appointed Chief Air Raid warden for Brisbane and it seems likely that other members of the League were similarly involved in wartime activities at home or abroad. Indeed, two previous art scholarship winners (Miss Barbara Cottam and Miss Betty Quelhurst) enlisted as wireless operators in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.



Above: The Art Scholarship did not exist in isolation of the war either as this article on the 1942 winner shows. Her entry is a poster recruiting for the AIF (Australian Imperial Force). Brisbane Courier, 23 April 1942

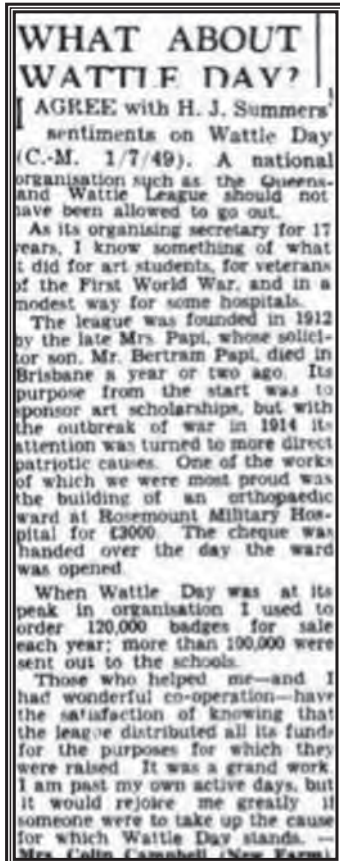




1945 → 1960

THE LEAGUE IS RECONSTITUTED IN 1954 WITH A FOCUS ON THE NEEDS OF DISABLED PEOPLE. AFTER A DIFFICULT START, MEMBERSHIP GROWS AND LADY CILENTO IS APPOINTED AS PATRON.

Reports on the activities of the League are limited during the later war years. However a number of Courier Mail articles report that the League was incorporated by the "Half Dozen Group of Artists" who disseminated the remaining funds (approx £400) by providing art scholarships. The number of members involved in Wattle League activities were seen to be dwindling and many were advancing in years.



To ensure the survival of the scholarship, it was decided to transfer money to the Group of Artists and the President and Honorary Treasurer of the League became members of the Half Dozen Group. In essence, it would appear that it is at this point that the aims relating to the arts and those relating to the wattle and social welfare are separated.

The scholarship continued to be awarded by the Half Dozen Group but it appears that the wider aims of the League (specifically, promoting the wattle etc) were not continued in any meaningful way in the immediate post war period. A fact that is bemoaned by long-time Secretary of the League, Mrs Campbell,

in a letter to the Courier Mail in 1949 (left). Thus began a continued campaign to commemorate and revive the Wattle league. A further example is seen in an article from



the following week (below) in which it is proposed that a new league should fundraise for the "founding of a

Conservatorium of Music in Brisbane".

So despite a period of hiatus, the Wattle League was not forgotten. Largely thanks to the continuing efforts of people like Mrs Campbell and friends. The pressure paid off and in 1952 a Provisional Committee sponsored by Miss D. M. Thain was formed to re-establish the League.

This followed a meeting between Mrs Campbell and Miss Doris Thain which inspired Thain to reform the League. At this point it was proposed that the reconstituted League would focus on the needs of "handicapped people". Initially, it was hoped to build a "home" to plug a gap in provision which saw very limited options for handicapped people once they reached the age of 16.

The League was formally reconstituted on September 29th, 1954, at the National Fitness Association Council Rooms. Miss Thain was elected secretary and, in an early declaration of the intent of the new League stated "There was a segregation of handicapped people in Queensland as bad as the segregation of negroes in the United States".





She went on to argue that parents of handicapped children were ashamed to take their children out because they feared people would “point them out in the street”. Indeed, many handicapped children had never been out of their homes. She argued it was vital that “Handicapped children should mix with the other children, attend the same schools, and travel by the same buses”.



The league was described as a “fellowship for handicapped people and friends”. As well as children, the needs of disabled adults were also of concern and a very current one at the time. The return of thousands of injured and disabled servicemen in the years immediately following World War II introduced a new level of need for services and support. It was strongly felt that many of these needs were not being adequately addressed by existing statutory provisions. The League sought to identify and fill gaps and firmly believed that the flexibility of a voluntary organisation was best suited to dealing with such varied and changing needs. This vision was expressed in the stated objectives in the League and are an early representation of the ethos behind the emerging Non-governmental organization sector in Australia at the time.

During its first year, the League received many calls for advice and assistance, demonstrating a clear need for the organisation. The League at this time was particularly devoted

to supporting people as they struggled to adapt to war injuries, and assistance given to the League from various Orthopaedic Advisors was particularly well received by the association.

These promising new beginnings for the League hit a stumbling block at the 1954-1955 Annual General Meeting which ultimately lapsed because a quorum of members was not present. A second attempt to hold a quorate meeting also failed. The Board expressed its disappointment that the quorum set in the League’s Constitution was unreasonably high for an organisation still in its first year, particularly since the bulk of its members lived with physical disabilities that placed significant restraints on their mobility. Sadly, this brought the League to a halt in November, 1955, despite its best efforts to work through these difficulties in the Constitution.

It was decided shortly after to form a new association and correct the problems in the original Constitution and Regulations adopted by the League. During the latter half of 1956, the League moved to register itself as a new association under the Companies Act, as a company limited by guarantee and not having its capital divided into shares. The League was to embody the same objectives and general conditions as those of the original association, but to provide greater protections to its members as well as an organisational structure better suited to its needs. Preparation of the Memorandum and Articles of Association for registration was completed by the end of 1956.

Towards the end of the 1950s, ongoing increases in membership and demand for the League’s services brought about the recognition that further growth in the League’s capacity was required. Although the early premises of the League were well furnished and conveniently located close to the centre of Brisbane (Wickham Street, Fortitude Valley) it was felt already that larger premises were required.





She cooks from a wheelchair

FAIR-HAIRED Miss Josephine Hickey helped to

cook dinner for nine last night as usual. Just an ordinary house. "Much is being done to hold back, perhaps, but with the handicapped child," she said, "but not did her cooking from a wheelchair nearly enough is being done for the handicapped adults."

Josie Hickey started walking at eight months, and she walked until she was 18 months old, when she fell down some steps fracturing her spine. She never walked again.

She is now 31, and has spent 16 years in hospital.

But walking is about the only thing she cannot do.

As this slight, incomparable young woman bustled herself with pots and pans last night she said she owed



Josephine Hickey everything to the Montrose Home for Crippled Children.

For 11 years she lived and earned at Montrose and now she puts this knowledge to good use at home in Hendra, where she lives with her widowed mother, Mrs. E. G. Hickey (who is station mistress at Hendra), three sisters, a brother, aged 19, and brother-in-law and his two children.

Josie runs all the affairs of the home besides doing the cooking and finds time for her hobbies of leatherwork and knitting.

But her greatest interest is trying to help other handicapped people, particularly adults.

"Much is being done to aid the handicapped child."

She is chairwoman of the Extension (Handicapped) Guides Conference, and is Captain of the 1st Post Guiding Company.

Josie was the first Guide in Queensland to receive one of the highest honours a Guide can earn—the Badge of Fortitude.

In addition she has 22 Guide proficiency and ser- young badges.

Among them are badges for toy making, needlewoman, laundress, embroidress, child nurse, sick nurse, first aid, basket maker, homemaker, and war service. For this badge she did 100 hours war work, cooking for Comforts Fund stalls, making sandbags for air raid shelter at Montrose, and knitting for soldiers.

Nursing, too

"My brother Patrick, who is a Scout, has 12 badges and is trying to outdo me," she said.

She is a member of the nurses section of the St. John Ambulance Brigade (Fire Guides Division, and attends lectures at Girl Guide headquarters.

One of Josie's latest activities is with the work the Old Montrosians Association is doing in the reorganisation of the Wattle League.

"The aim of the League will be to help handicapped people throughout Queensland."

And so Josie Hickey carries on with her daily tasks and her self-imposed duty of helping others to find the richness and fullness that she enjoys in life.

The financial situation of the League was also regarded as a limiting factor. The League initially survived on the voluntary contributions of the Board and members and the organisation started to explore ways to increase the funds available to the League. This included a publicity campaign for funds and more members. It soon became clear that full-time paid staff would be necessary to secure ongoing success and growth. The increase in memberships and the successful publicity campaign for assistance and funds created an excessive amount of work for the standard office bearers and by the end of the decade, a full time clerk was hired.

Many discussions within the League revolved around how to secure employment for members which was seen as the best long term solution to their difficulties. A committee was established in 1955 to look at employment and this eventually resulted in plans to set up workshops to develop employment skills.

In summary, despite the early difficulties relating to the League's Constitution, the fifties were regarded by the League's Board and members as a period of great progress. The steady increase in membership was felt to reflect an increasing public awareness of, and interest in, the welfare of people with physical disabilities. There was some concern however that membership was not being taken up by people who were not themselves physically disabled, including family members and close associates. Through its publications, the League frequently encouraged members to spread the word and to tell others in the community about the League and its objectives.

It is important to recognise that the membership was largely made up of handicapped people and their carers – indeed, a number of members of the board were disabled. For example, Miss E. G. Helyar who served on the board from 1962 until her death in 1969 was a wheelchair user and worked as a social worker with a number of other agencies working with disabled people.

A very early example of using the media to challenge pre-conceptions about disability. Courier Mail – 19 June 1953





THE QUEENSLAND WATTLE LEAGUE AND THE ORIGINS OF QUEENSLAND COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE (QCOSS)

During 1958, the League conducted some basic research into the field of social services and determined that cooperation between organisations involved in social service is key to the provision of effective social work and the efficient allocation of resources. Reference at the time was also made to the emergence of peak social service bodies interstate.

The Board of the Queensland Wattle League convened a meeting in November 1958 and a second meeting in February 1959 where it brought together service providers and people with an interest in social service provision to gather opinions on the formation of such a peak body in Queensland. At this point, it was agreed that such a body would not encroach on the ground work being undertaken by existing organisations, but rather, to help foster cooperation and mutual aid, and further the study of social conditions and social problems. In the second meeting, the decision was made to proceed with the formation of this new association. The Rev. A. Preston, one of the League's Directors at the time, presided over both meetings, and two Wattle League Directors were members of the interim committee during the early stages of QCOSS.

One of the League's earliest interactions with QCOSS was a submission about a "Census of Handicapped People", and this was referred to a Sub-Committee and soon carried out. This was seen to reflect the role of the Council, as a means of achieving higher standards of social work and more efficient and economical use of community resources.

QCOSS remains an important part of the Queensland social service landscape to this day of which Open Minds is still a member.





1960 → 1970

A WORKSHOP IS ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE MEANINGFUL WORK AND REHABILITATION FOR HANDICAPPED CLIENTS. THE NAME OF THE ORGANISATION IS CHANGED TO QUEENSLAND WATTLE LEAGUE FOR THE DISABLED.

The decade began with the Board anticipating a move to larger premises but being frustrated by an inability to find suitable accommodation at an affordable cost. Specifically, the organisation required space to establish a workshop and employment opportunities. This did not entirely hinder the ongoing development of the organisation though. In 1960 a ladies auxiliary was formed and held a monthly meeting where women, either members or not, were invited to attend. Their fundraising efforts raised £136 in their first year.

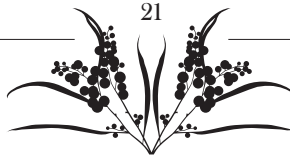
In addition to continuing to provide services, the League began to play a role in what can be seen as more political activities. The organisation participated in a successful campaign for the remission of Sales Tax on motor vehicles used in the transportation of disabled people to and from employment. The League also took part in an appeal for the amendment of The Aged Persons' Homes Act (1954-57) to include disabled persons. Under this agreement, the Government gave a grant of £2 for every £1 raised by an eligible organisation towards the capital cost of a Home for Aged Persons. Letters outlining key reasons for support were sent to influential Members of Parliament, a meeting was held with other interested organisations to obtain support and a publicity campaign mounted which included letters to newspapers. The appeal was not successful and the following year (1962) saw twenty-seven welfare organisations throughout Australia combine in a "Housing for the Handicapped" group to support a further appeal to Government.

The early 1960s also saw the first approach to the State Government with a view to their providing a subsidy to help the organisation better meet its objectives. This was considered but rejected with the government arguing that they could not subsidise one organisation supporting disabled people without funding all of the others who undertook such work. It was further argued that the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service provided much of the necessary support – an assertion that the League felt was inaccurate due to the significant restrictions on the benefits available. It was resolved to re-apply for a subsidy once a workshop was established.

Alternative means to increase the funds available to the League were developed. A contract was signed with a rag collector and plans were made to use a stencil duplicator initially bought to copy materials for the League as a money-making scheme. This was the beginnings of commercial operations that would play a significant part in both the funding and rehabilitation work of the League for many years to come.

An Appeals Committee was also established. Under their auspices a fundraising event entitled "Queen of the Nurses" ran until September 1962, which sought to raise money for the establishment and running of the workshop (although in the end, little was raised by this scheme). The Committee also began negotiations with The Commissioner for Railways for the use of premises that could be made suitable for a workshop.





It was arranged that a portion of a store building in the Roma Street Railway Yard, entered from Countess Street, be made available for lease to the Committee. The Workshop was officially opened on the 7th April 1962. Some small contracts obtained by the committee got the workshops up and running and by June, after sufficient funds and work appeared to be secured, the Workshop was put into active production. At that time a Works Supervisor was appointed and disabled employees were engaged. The office functions of the League also moved to Countess Street on June 6, 1962. However, they quickly outgrew these offices and the administration moved to basement rooms in the CTA Building, 283 Elizabeth Street in the City in December.

In its annual Report of 1961-62, the Board underlines its vision for the future arguing:

“The Board has emphasised that the transformation of disabled people from a state of dependency to a state of activity and productivity has a most important effect on the economic soundness of the country. When disabled people are neglected they constitute both a weakness in the social structure and a large drain on the economy. No country can make true progress unless its progress is shared by all its people and a sound economy is not possible when the productive efforts of one part of the community must be used to maintain another portion that is potentially productive.”

The financial position at the end of 1963 was not seen as satisfactory and the Board notes that it has had trouble controlling the administrative and overhead costs. In particular, there were substantial costs in setting up and rearranging the “rather limited workshop facilities” so that they could cope with the demands on them. The workshop is viewed as well located, but small, difficult to keep clean because of the rail traffic, and subject to risks arising from the use of the remainder of the building as a store for the railway workshop.

The Director General of Social Services agreed that the workshop be regarded as an approved sheltered workshop and that a rehabilitation allowance of not more than £3.10.0 a week to a single pension or £4 a week to a married pension may be paid by the workshop provided such payments “are of an incentive nature and not directly related to earning capacity”. This ensured that attendance at the workshop did not affect their entitlement to a pension on medical grounds.

MISS D. M. THAIN AND GEORGE THAIN

Miss Thain was a driving force behind the re-establishment of the League and served as President and Secretary, a post she held at the time of her death in 1962. She was the pivotal link between the old and the new Leagues and it was following a meeting with former League secretary Mrs Campbell that Doris Thain decided to reform the League with a focus on handicapped people.

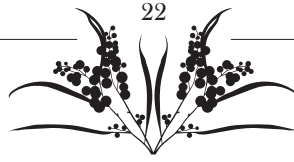
It is noted in the 1961-62 Annual Report that she was affected by ill-health for many years “yet her qualities did not alter; courage, sympathy, an astonishing capacity for hard work, never failing enthusiasm and perseverance.”

Her passion can be seen in these comments from a Courier Mail article in 1954: *‘I have always been interested in people who, through no fault of their own, have been forced to live within four walls, either by polio, paraplegia, or an accident of birth,’ ‘But there is no central body to help these people,’ ‘They have a pension, but the league feels more should be done for them’*

Her brother, W. G. Thain was also an important figure in the League and served as secretary and treasurer before acting as chairman between 1961 and 1975. He continued to be involved with the organisation right up to his death in 1979. His wife (Jean) was also an active Board member.

He was an architect who was involved in the centennial extensions (1958-59) to the State Library of Queensland which was located on William Street at the time.





WATTLE LEAGUE WORKSHOP

The following is taken from a report (possibly a draft appeal letter) dating to the early 1960s:

“ *The chief objectives of the association are to assist rehabilitation, provide employment, and aid the social and economic welfare of all types of handicapped people, most of whom are anxious to overcome the injury that has partially disabled them, and to find an outlet for the skill that many of them possess.*

Industry and commerce can only absorb a few who have special skills, so the rest are condemned to live in idleness, on a pension, unless they can get sheltered employment, where they can put the ability they have to some use, unpenalised by their disability.

Employment and Social Contact with others is just as important to a handicapped person as it is to anyone else and sheltered employment turns some of the vast amount of talent that is available in the handicapped population into productive work, which in turn, makes a contribution to the national economy.

The sheltered workshop conducted by the League is now firmly established, and about twenty five handicapped people are maintained in regular employment and earning a small wage. All are in receipt of pensions so their earnings are restricted.

“The work they do is usually under contract with professional, commercial, social and other types of business in the Brisbane area, and consists of typing and duplicating matter such as reports, newsletters, specifications, lectures etc., assembling and packaging small articles, such as the “Wattle four-legged walking aid”, which has become well known, and is supplied to Doctors and Hospitals throughout Queensland and northern New South Wales.

The output of the workshop is paid for at fair market rates, and most firms have become regular clients who deal with the workshop as a business where they get satisfactory service. The workshop does not do any sort of work at any price – it is not a source of cheap labour, nor does it seek work as a sympathy gesture; it is a production unit giving dependable service and is recognised as such by the people with whom it deals. It is worth noting that its value as an aid to rehabilitation is established by the fact that several people have passed through the workshop to full employment and surrendered their pensions.”





The League chose to pay all those attending a gratuity allowance but eventually ran out of funds during the year and had to restrict employment to “those disabled people most likely in its opinion to benefit from workshop activities.” Average workshop numbers for much of the decade hovered between ten and twenty participants.

Workshop orders are noted as often being from regular customers and involving the manufacture of large toys and four-legged walking aids as well as commercial typing, collation and duplication. Some wood and metal work is also undertaken. Walking aids develop as a key product line following an initial enquiry by the Geriatric Unit of the Princess Alexandra Hospital. Hundreds are manufactured and sold over the years.

Finances were further squeezed in 1964 when an accommodation crisis hit the League as the leases on both their administrative offices and workshop premises were terminated. Fortunately, the workshop and offices were able to relocate to another available Queensland Rail facility at College Road, Normanby where the League was able to remain well into the 1970s.

In an attempt to overcome the resulting financial difficulties, an approach was again made to the Australian Council for Rehabilitation of Disabled. Specifically, a capital and equipment subsidy for the workshop was requested as well as an increase in the permissible earnings for ‘employees’ before their pensions are affected. The Boards report of 1964-65 makes clear their frustration at the cool response from Government at the time:

“These approaches to the Government are a regular occurrence but no material benefits are received from them. Your Board cannot understand the Government’s attitude to matters having to do with assistance for

workshops for the disabled and the people employed in them. It is well known that Governments save in pensions and allowances more than the subsidies and other funds given to these workshops”

Throughout the 1960s (and into the 1970s), the League accounts show a loan from the long-time chairman Mr W. G. Thain that peaks at over \$6,700, helping to cover a significant proportion of the operating costs during this difficult time. Temporary advances of up to \$1,640 are also shown as coming from the same source. The League remains reliant, financially and in terms of personnel, on a small group throughout the decade.

In 1965, it was decided to change the name of the Queensland Wattle League to add the words “for the disabled”. It was felt that this better reflected the objectives of the organisation. The later years of the 1960s see a gradual improvement in the fortunes of the League and they are able to increase the numbers of

Workshop attendees. In 1967, a new scheme is introduced to take work to the houses of disabled people. This allows greater numbers to be employed and also accommodates those who cannot attend the workshop due to the nature of their disability and the lack of facilities (ramps) at the workshop.

This period also sees the relocation of some workshop staff to a manufacturing company to undertake work on their premises. This is seen as a success both in terms of expanding the work available to clients of the League but also a useful step towards commercial employment for participants.

In all, the decade started with a positive outlook and ended in a similar way. However, the intervening years contained some significant struggles to accommodate and develop the work of the League.





1970 → 1980

FOR THE FIRST TIME, SUBSIDIES ARE RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENT UNDER THE 'HANDICAPPED PERSONS ASSISTANCE ACT' AND THE 'SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT (ASSISTANCE) ACT'. AN ACTIVITY THERAPY CENTRE IS SET UP TO WORK WITH THOSE NOT ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORKSHOP.

The start of the decade was seen as a positive time for the League with the offices and workshop working at full capacity and finances stable. The organisation at this time is not dramatically different to the start of the previous decade. The workshop is run in an honorary capacity (by Mr E. R. Walker as Honorary General Manager and Mrs E. R. Walker as supervisor of female workshop employees) and the paid staff amounts to two clerk-typists. Fundraising is largely through donations, workshop trading income and rag collection. The Board continue to support the organisation financially and the loan from Mr W. G. Thain still stands at \$5,000 at the end of 1970.

The 70s were to bring tensions and challenges for the League as it sought to develop its services and stay relevant in the changing social services field. There were also, though, new opportunities in the form of grants from government. To begin with, the main challenge was seen as a lack of space in the workshops. The early seventies saw two workshops in operation – 'No.1' at College Road, Normanby and 'No.2' at Hocking Street, South Brisbane. The 1971-72 annual report differentiates them:

"Workshop No.1 can be deemed the admission section (occupational therapy) and Workshop No.2 the Industrial Therapy Section of the Association's activities for the employment of handicapped persons."

Both were verified as approved providers of sheltered employment under the 'Sheltered Employment (Assistance) Act' in September

1971. This opened the possibility of applying for grants and subsidies under the Act. Average numbers involved in the workshops peaked at around 50 in the early years of the decade and their development remained a key focus for the League.

By 1974, the first grants had been received under the Act and this was seen as hugely beneficial to the viability of the operations. For a long time, the League had relied on individual support from Directors with very little or no money for development of the services. Initial subsidies covered rental, wages, equipment and training fees. This allowed much needed investment to be made in the physical workshop set up and in the training and wages of the workers. The new equipment that was purchased along with better wages was reported to be delivering greater productivity and improved morale. Incentive and bonus schemes were also introduced at the Hockings Street workshop as a means of improving output and profitability.

A by-product of the receipt of the grants from government was the re-classification of the workshops to differentiate their activities. Hockings Street was identified as a Sheltered Workshop while Normanby became known as an Activity Therapy Centre (ATC). In essence, the Sheltered Workshop was more employment focussed with the ATC having more emphasis on social, recreational and therapy programmes. Productive work did still feature though but without the bonus schemes and targets.





The subsidies received for the workshop activity allowed them to become almost self-sufficient and fundraising efforts could focus on future development of the League. The limitations of the premises were identified as the greatest challenge to overcome and a 'building fund' was established. Negotiations were held with Queensland Rail regarding a possible sale of the Normanby site but this was hampered by a lack of clarity over whether Queensland Rail or the Roads Department required the site for future developments. The League had ambitions to rebuild on the site but this was thwarted by the lack of clarity on availability and security of tenure.

Instead, a new warehouse building at 27 Norfolk Road, South Brisbane was identified as an alternative and the organisation moved the Activity Therapy Centre to Norfolk Road in 1975. The long term target though remained to secure a building that was owned outright by the League.

ESTABLISHING THE ACTIVITY THERAPY CENTRE

The move to an Activity Therapy Centre was partly in response to the requirements of the prevailing legislation but also continued recognition that not all clients needs were met by workshop duties. Indeed, not all participants could manage the demands of the commercial workshop.

Parallels can be seen with the therapeutic programmes funded by the League for servicemen in the First World War. Invoices for the set up costs of the Therapy Centre list a piano, two pool tables, table tennis set, bowls mat and a dart board. Materials from the time outline four areas of activity with clients starting with work but also including social development, recreation and education.

There is roughly a 60/40 split in favour of vocational activities in the Centre and between 20 and 30 clients attend regularly.

By the start of the 1980s, the Therapy Centre was well established and linked closely to other support bodies such as clinics, training and rehabilitation services. Students attend placements at the Centre as do a number of Police cadets as part of their training. Classes are held in swimming, painting, sewing, dancing, cooking, caring for pets, creative writing and even puppetry. Outdoor activities include kayaking, orienteering and nature study.

By the middle of the decade, the transformation in the finances was obvious with assets standing at \$53,000 at the financial year end of 1976 and \$60,000 by 1977. No mean feat given the poor economic conditions at the time.

This positive position was not maintained until the end of the 70s. In fact, it is surprising how quickly the League finds itself in a difficult financial position but a reasonable summary would be that a number of changes in circumstance and costs combined to cause significant cash flow problems. In 1977, some difficulties were reported by the General Manager in attracting sufficient jobs for the workshop. The walking aid market that had been a core part of the workshop business is reported to be diminishing and a rent increase is received from the landlord. In addition, it is reported that workers were finding Social Security payments being reduced by \$2.75 per week for every \$2 they earned above their pension limit. The League is committed to paying maximum wages allowable and aims to pay 50 % of an adult wage for a 50% work level.

By 1978, further difficulties are reported in relations with the Department of Social Security. The lack of a qualified teacher in charge is not acceptable to the Department





and they argue that the amount of work is not justifying the rent. No subsidies are available without a qualified person in charge and payments from the Department stop for a period. Another complication is the additional work that is undertaken at Queensland Springs Ltd where workers participate on site under the auspices of the League. The League pays a rental to Queensland Springs for the space but it is traditionally donated back in full by the company. The fact that the League claims some of this rent in subsidy is seen as unacceptable to the Department.

Many of these difficulties will be familiar to not-for-profit organisations of today. Requirements to fulfil the stipulations of funders are a common feature nowadays. However, for the League which had begun the 70s looking very similar to the organisation set up in the 50s, it was a lot to take in. The League felt somewhat aggrieved at these challenges to its independence and it is probably fair to say that its Executive struggled to keep up with the rapid expansion.

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Temporary shortages in wages are covered from reserves and discussions are held on how to fundraise to fill a \$25,000 shortfall. Consultants are also approached to provide advice on the future of the organisation. At one point, the possibility of amalgamating with another body is discussed. Some of the tensions with the Department are eased by the appointment of a qualified person at the ATC but back pay for workers emerges as a further challenge.

After much discussion a fundraiser (Mr D. J. Willsher) is appointed in 1979 and begins a programme of bingo, lucky number machines placed in shops, a direct appeal and the formation of a 'friends' of the League organisation. 'Cash a Can' recycling is also undertaken at events and by local Scout groups to help fundraise for the League. Tensions continue though and a number of directors leave.

Frustrations are evident in the chairman's report to an Extraordinary General Meeting: *"We still have three months to complete the financial year - Directors and staff are doing their part - what about a special effort by all members and friends to achieve something constructive rather than remain passive and offer criticism of the hard work done to keep the ship on an even keel."*

A series of meetings end with a re-affirmed commitment to identifying their own premises and an objective is set to "Work towards the purchase of suitable land and buildings to have the Sheltered Workshop and Activity Therapy Centre."

Through these difficult times, it is important to remember that the work of the League was continuing. A client outing to Sunny Queen Egg Farm is noted in November 1979 followed by a cooking demonstration by the Egg Board. Occupational Therapy students are on placement at the centre and celebration of the Wattle is still a feature of activities. A commemorative Wattle Grove planting at Westlake (possibly Jindalee Park) receives television coverage during Wattle Week. Patron Sir Llew Edwards plants the first Wattle.





1980 → 1990

TOUGH TIMES AND CHANGE AS THE WORKSHOP CLOSES AND THE LEAGUE STRUGGLES TO SURVIVE FINANCIALLY. THE 1986 DISABILITY SERVICES ACT BRINGS MUCH NEEDED FUNDING AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH INCLUDING A MOVE INTO HOUSING PROVISION.

There is no doubt that the start of the 1980s saw the League at a low point. While much good work was being undertaken on a day to day basis, the long term viability of the organisation was in doubt. The 1980 chairman's address to the AGM notes "the affairs of the Association continue to be governed by our inability to accumulate adequate funds."

Early in 1980, the fundraiser appointed the previous year resigns as it becomes clear he is unable to raise enough to cover his costs. A replacement is not hired until 1982. The League effectively retrenches to survive and plans are developed to close the Sheltered Workshop at the end of 1980. A further change of premises is required and the league moves to Cordelia Street where it remains for the whole of the decade. Some production work does continue within the remaining facilities – printing is produced and leather wallets are manufactured. In 1982 a part time printer is appointed to help focus on that element of the business.

Finances remain difficult throughout the early 80s. Payment of wages is suspended in March 1982 and the organisation runs without a General Manager following the retirement of Mr Hawkins (a brief appointment is made but only lasts three months). The Chairman's report of 1982 shows little progress:

"The events of the past twelve months have done little to inspire confidence in the minds of the administrators of this charitable organisation. The very uncertain economic

pattern that prevails across the whole financial scene in Australia is reflected in the balance sheet of Queensland Wattle League."

At this same meeting, Mrs Madeline Cottee is elected as Chairman – she proves to be a vital figure in securing the future of the League although it is some time before the organisation can see a positive future with any confidence. The League remains almost entirely dependent on wage subsidies from the Department of Social Security but they do not even fully cover the wages let alone all of the operating costs. A separate finance committee is established in 1983, a General Manager is recruited and a personal loan from a Committee member is repaid.

Perhaps the biggest single influence on the future of the League was the Disability Services Act which was passed by the Federal Government in 1986. The Act was preceded by a nationwide survey in 1981 (International Year of Disabled Persons) which showed a wide variety of needs amongst the community, only some of which were being met. This convinced government that a national approach was required with reform to be influenced by changes to the funding available to groups working with disabled people.

Two major impacts of the Act were that larger accommodation service were required to downsize, and sheltered workshops were to be replaced by community-based employment.





The Disability Services Act was premised on the belief that everyone is able to work in open employment to some degree and state funding was rapidly moved to programmes and services that connected people with disabilities to mainstream employment opportunities. This posed a challenge to the existing workshop model run by the League. There was a strong push on behalf of the State for the closure of all Activity Therapy Centres. For an organisation that was already in financial difficulties, and that had been running workshops as ‘core business’ since the early 1960s, this was naturally a huge pressure for the League.

Although the Disability Services Act had been enthusiastically embraced by the sector in terms of its overall intentions and core values, there were growing concerns around the way it was being implemented. Various service providers resisted the Government’s pressure to shut down their workshops on the grounds that many of their clients were simply unable to pursue open employment.

The Queensland Wattle League itself experienced intense pressure to do away with its workshop and to refocus on assisting clients to integrate into the mainstream labour market. Clients themselves and their families were particularly resistant. Along with a number of other organisations, the League resisted the move. In this, they were influenced significantly by the client-run workshop. Former General Manager, Ms Dianne Bain recounts;

“We were promoting [open employment] and trying to support the idea, and many believed that it was a wonderful experience for most people, but there was that small amount for whom ‘open employment’ was still not appropriate. We kept an Activities Centre to cater to these people.”

Ms Bain and others at the Wattle League defended the existing workshop for those members that had no realistic employment alternatives. And the League perhaps had more clients for whom this was the case than other similar organisations. Some of the larger organisations had to enforce more stringent rules around client conduct than the League in order to retain some control over their operations, and people with a tendency towards antisocial behaviours, for example, would be asked not to come. It was becoming increasingly common for such people to be referred to the Queensland Wattle League, either

THE DISABILITY SERVICES ACT (1986)

As a set of principles, the Act sought to uphold the fundamental rights of people with a disability. The benchmark for these rights was simply ‘other members of Australian Society’. Core standards were identified, including:

Individualisation

The needs and goals of individuals were to be seen as integral to the provision of effective support work. Where necessary, The Act stipulated that advocacy support be provided to people with a disability to assist with this objective.

The Act also sought to protect the autonomy of individuals by mandating that no single service provider controls all or most aspects of the affairs of any individual’s life.

Mainstreaming Disability

Service providers were required to ensure that the ‘conditions of everyday life’ for people with disabilities conform as closely as possible to those that are typical and valued in the community at large.

Representation

The Act called for service providers to always promote a ‘positive and competent’ image of people with disabilities.

Accountability

Service providers are expected to maintain full and open accountability to their clients and their representatives, to funding sources and to the public at large.





by themselves, by other organisations, or by family members. The League was in a strong position to provide more intensive, flexible support for those with complex needs and challenging behaviours.

Yet, pressure from the state for the closure of Activity Therapy Centres did not relent. In its negotiations, the Wattle League repeatedly asserted the needs of those clients with complex, challenging behaviours, but the Department of Communities were largely dismissive, and stated that such individuals are not part of their brief.

The solution devised was to carry on with the Activity Centre as a Bulk Mail and Packaging Business. The funding cutbacks meant the centre had to be made self-sufficient and it managed to achieve this through charges for services and the fact that the League owned the building meaning no rent was payable. Those who did work in the bulk mail operation still put in a great deal of work. Workers who came in every day, clocked in at 8.30/9.00am and worked through till 3.00pm with breaks for

morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. They were paid at the end of the week – although only around \$8 as they were all receiving government benefits.

Many saw it as a key part of their life that provided focus as well as an important part of their identity. For others, it was a place to socialise while learning some new life skills. The client group primarily experienced what we would recognise today as mental health issues – although often not diagnosed or disclosed.

By the end of the 80s and the end of Mrs Cottee's Chairmanship, the finances of the League had been transformed and it was able to report an operating surplus of \$56,320. Queensland Housing Commission had allocated two houses for use by clients – the start of the accommodation services still provided by Open Minds. The Therapy Centre was being maintained despite the pressures but the organisation was also re-shaping rapidly to take account of the new state requirements and the funding available.

MADELINE COTTEE

Mrs Cottee was a pillar of the Wattle League and, as Chairman for much of the 1980s, steered the organisation through challenges that could easily have seen the League fold.

Madeline was born in New South Wales in 1921 and spent her childhood on farms in northern NSW and southern Queensland as one of a large family of brothers and sisters. The years of the depression influenced her outlook and she was a committed community activist for much of her life.

Her first husband, Frank Smith, was an RAAF pilot. After the war, Frank flew with commercial airlines and was tragically killed in a plane crash in Brindisi, Italy in 1962. Madeline and daughter Julie returned to Australia where she worked in real estate and in her own catering business until her second marriage to Ernest Cottee in 1969. Unfortunately he died in May 1973.



Mrs Cottee(left) pictured with Earl Duus and Madeline Cottee achievement award winner in 2004





Madeline joined the board of Queensland Wattle League in 1979 and was elected Chairman in 1982. It is fair to say that the organisation was at a very low ebb at this time. The financial situation was critical and there were serious doubts about the future of the League. Many who remember her at the time describe her energetic fundraising which ranged from selling cakes to making approaches to government bodies. She also spent many hours each week at the League with clients, families and staff.

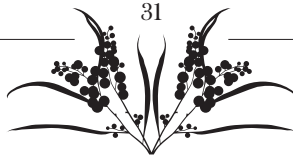
As well as her role at Open Minds/Wattle League, she was active in many other organisations including Soroptomist International (including time as Secretary, V.P and President of the Brisbane Club); English Speaking Union; Citizens' Advice Bureau; National Council of Women of Queensland (serving as State Secretary and later as Vice President); Keep Australia Beautiful Council, Meals on Wheels and the Open Garden Scheme.

Madeline's contribution to the Wattle League has been recognised in a number of ways. During the 80s a new residential care home in West End (Franklin Street) was named Chez Madeline. The Madeline Cottee Achievement Award has been made to Earle Duus Award runners up for many years.

Sadly, Mrs Cottee passed away during the writing of this document but speaking in a 2010 interview as part of the centenary preparations, she described some of the challenges that were faced. Money was in short supply and there were significant challenges in working with clients who had been turned away from other services. She recalled that the "Wattle League wasn't an easy place" but that it made a huge difference to clients and the family members who played a pivotal part in the league at the time.

Mrs Cottee herself downplayed the role she played in revitalising the organisation and keeping it on track through difficult times, merely commenting she was "*Doing a necessary job that happened sometimes to work*".





1990 → 2000

BEST PERSONNEL IS LAUNCHED AS A SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICE. THE LEAGUE PLAYS A MAJOR ROLE IN P300 TAKING INDIVIDUALS FROM INSTITUTIONAL CARE INTO THE COMMUNITY. THE EARL DUUS AWARD IS PRESENTED FOR FIRST TIME.

The Queensland Wattle League started the 1990s in a far stronger position than the previous decade. A healthier financial position and a clearer view of the future allowed the League to begin planning how it would develop its services. The Disability Services Act had given the League a taste of how the future would look with a much greater need to shape services to available funding and to work closely with funders on the design of those services.

As part of this process a 'New Directions' sub-committee of the Board was formed along with a new fundraising sub-committee. In order to deliver an employment service that met funding requirements, the Brisbane Employment Support and Training (BEST) was set up in 1991. Premises were secured (purchased) for BEST at the corner of Stanley and Reid Streets, Woolloongabba and funding was received from The Queensland Department of Community Services and Health. The rest of the organisation also moved during that year to Russell Street, West End.

Plans were also drawn up for the purchase of two (two bedroom) units to begin an accommodation service. This project became known as Rufaro and provided quality, affordable furnished units within the community, for people with a low income and who could live independently. The project only provided housing and tenants were responsible for their own support arrangements. Further housing was provided through the Department of Housing at Waterton Street and Chester Road.

The early to mid 90s sees the Wattle League becoming more recognisable as the organisation it is today. A service level agreement is signed with the Department of Family Services in 1993 and services are adjusted to allow for clients working in the community rather than visiting a central location.

BEST PERSONNEL

(Brisbane Employment Support and Training)

BEST Personnel was established by the League as an agency designed to offer assistance and opportunities to people with an "intellectual and/or psychiatric" difficulty to access work options. The service was available to people within a broad working age who were seeking work and required support to join the workforce. Clients had to be in receipt of a Disability Support Pension and be willing to participate in the Disability Review Panel's process.

The goal was to help people with disabilities to get and keep work. The work was to be meaningful and paid and jobs were to be in the open workplace. It was argued that this would bring benefits associated with having paid and meaningful employment (i.e. integration into society, meeting a broader group of friends, a source of self-esteem, and economic independence).

The service user, their advocate if required, family and an employment support worker from BEST would meet to discuss the type of work the service user would like to pursue. Plans would then be developed to make this a sustainable reality. This could include work experience, training and flexible support leading to paid employment.





By 1995 there are three main strands to the work of the League. The small business 'Stuff It' operates independently of government funding but is rent free via the League. It does small jobs that larger companies will not handle and has a particular focus on mailings and packaging. BEST Personnel provides a supported employment service and has around 35 clients. The Accommodation service is the third area of work and provides support to 25 clients living independently in the community. Housing is also provided in a number of properties. The Accommodation Support Service also establishes a "Continuum of Care Project" – which assists clients who have suffered a traumatic spinal cord or head injury to return to living within the community.

A pivotal moment for the organisation comes with the establishment of Project 300 by the Queensland Government in 1995 and funded through the Department of Queensland Health. It aims to assist a target number of 300 people with a psychiatric illness from three major Queensland psychiatric hospitals to leave hospital and live independently within the community. Assistance is provided from community support services tailored to the individual needs of each person (including mental health clinical services, disability support services and public housing). Ten clients are supported initially but this increases over time and is the launch pad for many of the community based mental health services provided by Open Minds today.

A particular challenge of this new programme was the individualised nature of the funding and the need to develop individual case plans. It can certainly be argued though, that Project 300 came at the right time for the Wattle League. The League's client base already included many people with mental health difficulties. In addition, most of the League's clientele were living within the general community, and the League therefore had gathered some experience in supporting people make the necessary adjustments to community-based living.

EARL DUUS LEGACY

In 1996, the Wattle League were notified of a legacy involving property at 51 Hawthorne Terrace (Redhill), contents of the house and shares. It is decided to auction the house and property and retain the shares as an investment.

The Board were initially unsure why Mr Earle Duus chose to leave money to the League and a sub-committee was formed to discuss the best use of the funds. As part of the divestment of the money, an award scheme in Duus' name is created to recognise the "advancement of psychiatric illness in the community". It is awarded during mental health week.

It has subsequently been suggested that his motivation for donating to the organisation was his own experiences living with chronic depression. Earle Duus was an accountant and was passionate about music and the Arts. His love of the Australian bush resulted in frequent trips to Queensland's National Parks, which he captured in the many landscape paintings he produced in his later years.





2000 → PRESENT

SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IS ACHIEVED WITH NEW SERVICES INCLUDING ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY, PERSONAL HELPERS AND MENTORS (PHAMS) AND JOB CLUB. THE LEAGUE CHANGES ITS NAME TO OPEN MINDS AND MOVES TO ITS CURRENT OFFICES.

By 2000, Project 300 is supporting over 40 clients in the transition to independent living. Two coordinators and 40 support workers are employed and funding moves from the Department of Queensland Health to Disability Services Queensland. BEST Personnel is working with 71 job-seekers including newly developed links with Musgrave Park Aboriginal Corporation with the hope of better meeting the needs of members of the Indigenous community. Funding is also moving to a case-based formula as a further means of ensuring the development of support that is focussed on individual needs.

Similar developments are seen in Accommodation Support Services with “lifestyle support packages” put in place to increase stability in the lives of clients and improve family involvement. Support is tailored to the needs of the individual and is only limited by the support hours available through the Service. The project still seeks to assist people to develop the skills necessary to live independently within the community and access housing options of their choice.

The Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Support Service is established with the recruitment of a co-ordinator in late 2000. It is developed to fulfil a disability case management function by facilitating the development of individualised support programmes for people with an ABI. Essentially, the programme draws together different agencies to perform the various support roles in an individual’s life. In these

early years, around 97% of the client base is reported as being self funding, mostly through injury compensation settlements. This caused some early problems for the service as insurance companies were slow to pay and costs were high.

The primary concern behind the setting up of the ABI project was that those with a brain injury seemed to be falling between the available services. Many were ending up becoming homeless. People with an ABI did not fit services designed for intellectual disability and, while some of them had a physical disability, this was not the primary assistance they required. It was quite common for there to be behavioural issues as a result of their injury, which again made it difficult to access services. Finally, this type of injury and the resulting poor concentration makes it very difficult to hold down employment.

ABI workers sought to set up the necessary support to allow clients to live independently. This included learning to live with neighbours, budgeting, cooking and other lifeskills. Some people at the time had received significant compensation payouts but the money was only lasting a few years with a resulting homelessness cycle.

With the establishment of the ABI service, the Wattle League counts six services in its portfolio at the start of 2001: Accommodation Support, Rufaro (Community Housing), BEST Personnel (Supported Employment), Stuff It, Project 300 and the Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Programme.





Around this time, the League is also further developing its housing services. Housing need is a critical area for many clients and it makes sense for the League to be actively involved in providing housing.

In 2002, Chester Road is opened by Queensland Housing Minister, Mr Robert Schwarten. The design is carefully planned to afford privacy for the one bedroom units while also providing community space through windows, sliding doors, balconies and a common room. A solar power system is also included. The development is well received by Housing Commission and the success of the venture encourages the League to look at further housing.

The following year, consultants are hired to develop options in this area and in 2004 the League secures management rights from the Brisbane Housing Company for new fully furnished units at New Farm. Ten people are housed providing safe, affordable housing for clients who were in hostels, staying with family or homeless. Varying levels of support is available for those in the accommodation dependent on need. Further developments on the property front include the auctioning of the League's property at Franklin Street (for \$461,000 in 2003) and the subsequent purchase of 66 Annerley Road as a new headquarters.

Most of these developments are fuelled by the strategic planning process undertaken by the organisation and its stakeholders in 2003. This results in some dramatic changes and growth in the organisation. Perhaps most significantly, the Queensland Wattle League for the Disabled decides to change its name and become Open Minds to reflect the focus on mental health that is central to the new strategic plan. A number of other new initiatives are identified:

- The League identifies a need to become a registered training organisation (to allow Best Personnel to function effectively).

- A marketing and fundraising division is established to increase income, secure gifts in-kind and improve the Public Relations profile of the newly renamed charity.
- The position of Manager becomes Chief Executive.
- The Accommodation Support Service and P300 are joined under the banner of 'Lifestyle Support' to reflect the overlaps in the work and to facilitate more efficient management. It is also indicative of the greater range of service that the organisation is becoming able to provide on an individual basis.
- A Quality Assurance Manager is appointed (2004) to improve consistency in services and develop a culture of continuous improvement. Staff training and development is also given renewed importance.

These reforms lay the foundations for the growth and development that Open Minds is still experiencing today. The years between 2005 and the present day see new services brought into being, increased staff numbers and new offices opened.





Undoubtedly, the most significant expansion in the services during this period came with the Personal Helpers and Mentors programme (PHaMs). This Commonwealth Department funded initiative saw a number of agencies selected in early 2007 to establish demonstration projects. Open Minds operated such a service from their Woolloongabba office and were subsequently successful in winning tenders to provide PHaMs in South Brisbane, Bayside, Ipswich and Caboolture. The latter three required new office premises in those locations marking a significant expansion out from the organisation's traditional heartland.

PHaMs aims to provide increased opportunities for recovery for people living in the community whose lives are affected by mental illness. The programme is designed to focus on strengths – what people can do, rather than what they can't do. It also focuses on recovery and demonstrates that people with mental illness can lead fulfilled lives in the community. The programme seeks to ensure that services accessed by participants are coordinated, integrated and complementary to other services in the community. People who join the programme work with their own PHaMs Worker who supports them in their recovery and facilitates holistic support.

Funding changes by Government have also recently re-shaped some Open Minds services with the Personal Support Programme closing in 2009 as it was folded into Job Services Australia by the Federal Government. However, the following year sees the commencement of new Disability Employment Service contracts – Disability Management Services (DMS) and Employment Support Services (ESS). Open Minds is successful in its approach to deliver both.

Further service developments include the Lifelong Planning Support Programme which is a pilot programme established in 2008 in the Redlands area. It supports people and their families to access services in the

community and has a particular focus on community capacity building. PHaMs also receives additional funding for the Brisbane and Ipswich sites to improve support for homeless and Indigenous people respectively.

As well as continued growth of services, Open Minds can reflect on the past decade as a time of significant change in terms of attitudes and awareness of mental health issues. While there is undoubtedly much to do in ensuring that the one in five Australians who will experience mental health difficulties in their lifetime are accepted and supported across the community; great steps have already been made and Open Minds has played a significant role.

Perhaps most significant in Open Minds contribution is their part in aiding people to tell their stories. Recent annual reviews have seen client testimonials take centre stage and provide a powerful message that shows with the right support, individuals can take control of their lives and achieve great things – whether that be socially or in employment. Open Minds continued sponsorship of the Mental Health Week Awards and the continuation of the Earle Duus Award highlight those individuals and groups who are making a difference. The awards provide a platform to raise the issue of mental health in a positive way.

In 2011, two Open Minds clients were featured on television. ABC's 'Australian Story' interviewed Sam, an Open Minds Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) client, regarding his amazing achievements and recovery since sustaining a severe head injury in 2010. Earlier in the year, Channel 9's '60 Minutes' featured the story of Open Minds ABI client Nicole and the effects of encephalitis. These programmes exposed the wider public to the realities of brain injuries and have surely helped tackle some of the stigma and lack of understanding that people can face as they battle back from injury.





TED STEWART



Ted was appointed a Director in November 1986 and assumed the chairmanship a few years later. During his ten years as Chair from 1989 to 2009, the Wattle League/Open Minds underwent the most dramatic changes in its history with a change in name, new headquarters and a massive growth in the range and number of services offered.

Ted is a member of the prominent Stewart family of Brisbane who own a hospitality and property investment business that includes Stewarts Wine Company and, at various points in their history, has included the catering facilities at Eagle Farm Racecourse, the Criterion Hotel and the Osbourne Hotel.

His father, Sir Edward Stewart was patron of the Wattle League for over 25 years until his death in 2006. Ted continues in his role of director to the current day which sees the Stewart family contributing some 50 years of service to the Wattle League and Open Minds.

OPEN MINDS TODAY

One hundred years on, Open Minds is certainly much larger than it has ever been. Almost 800 people are currently supported throughout South East Queensland by over 200 staff.

The programmes and services of today include:

- Lifestyle Support Service - uses recovery based principles to support individuals with mental illness to live well and independently.
- Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Support Service – offering psychosocial rehabilitation and lifestyle support to facilitate successful recovery post injury.
- Residential Support Service – supporting people to live well and independently within an accommodation setting of their choice, including 24/7 supported accommodation.
- Employment Services – supporting individuals to obtain and sustain employment.
- Personal Helpers & Mentors Programme (PHaMs) – supporting individuals to work towards achieving recovery through outreach, access to community services and social connection.
- Lifelong Planning Community Support Initiative – a referral and information support service targeting the high risk, transition points in the lives of people with a disability aged 0-65 years, their families and carers.
- Transition & Post Care Support Initiative – assists young people with a disability aged between 15-21 years who are transitioning from statutory care or have exited statutory care.
- Respite Effect Services – supporting people with a disability who live with a carer over the age of 65 years.
- Do It Club – Peer-driven social inclusion and advisory group for Open Minds clients.





This long list of services would be unrecognisable to the founders of the Wattle League. However, many of the principles that underpin the work would strike a chord and the slogan 'people supporting people' could be applied to the work of the League during the First World War just as readily as it applies to the work of Open Minds today.

The Queensland Wattle League responded to need in the community that developed as a result of war. The reformed Wattle League for the Disabled in the 1950s focused on disability of all types and led the way in providing meaningful work for those that found it difficult to gain employment elsewhere. Open Minds today has a clear focus on mental health and is still active in providing support and promoting employment.

Families and carers have played a central role in the activities of the organisation across its history - as board members, as volunteers and as funders. From the moment that the League began to employ salaried staff, it has paid tribute in its reports and publications to their dedication and contribution to driving the organisation forward. Today, Open Minds has a low staff turnover and many staff members have been with the organisation for a long time.

Reading through the history of the Wattle League also shows the contribution made by some remarkable women - from Mrs Campbell, the long-time secretary in the early years to Mrs Cottee who turned the organisation around in the 1980s and sadly passed away during the writing of this document.

The role of the League in supporting the career of Ms Daphne Mayo, the determination of Miss Doris Thain to restart the Wattle League and Mrs Madeline Cottee's passion in keeping the League alive should not be overlooked either.

Attitudes of the public and government have changed dramatically and Open Minds can

be proud of the role it has played in tackling the stigma that can exist around disability and mental health issues. From the early days of highlighting the need for false limbs for servicemen after the First World War to the Earl Duus awards, Open Minds has sought to highlight the needs of those they support. This has consistently been done in ways that highlight the capacity of individuals to overcome the challenges they face with the right support and, sometimes, the right financial help. The early days of the League being turned down for subsidies are a notable contrast to today where over \$1 billion dollars is spent on public mental health services in Queensland. There are still gaps though and the generous support of donors allows Open Minds to innovate and develop its services without having to wait for government.

The future for Open Minds appears bright with a healthy financial situation, dedicated staff and a strong Board to take them forward. Whatever the future brings, the organisation will be able to draw on one hundred years of experience and an incredible ability to adapt and prosper.





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CENTENARY OF SERVICE