



# Order of Australia

## Victoria Branch

*“fostering love of and pride in Australian citizenship”*

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### Editor's message

Welcome to the fifth and final edition of the State Electronic Newsletter for 2015

Welcome to those members who have recently provided their email address and are receiving this e-newsletter for the first time. A welcome is also extended to those members who have signed up to receiving a 'hard copy' of the newsletter and also will be receiving this e-newsletter for the first time.

Copies of all past editions of the State Electronic Newsletter and the National Magazine, "The Order" can be viewed on the Order of Australia website [theorderofaustralia.asn.au](http://theorderofaustralia.asn.au)



In this edition there are reports of the Remembrance Day Services in which various regional groups participated. Also there reports of the **Annual General Meetings** and associated events held by groups in conjunction with their Annual General Meeting

I draw reader's attention to the report from the South Central Suburbs Regional Group and in particular the article outlining their program of visiting community groups promoting the Order of Australia Association and promoting nominations for awards.

I was recently asked the question regarding the purchase of replacement or additional lapel pins, these can be obtained from the Secretary, The Order of Australia, Government House, Yarralumla ACT 2600. Telephone: (02) 6283 3533 or Email: [honours@gg.gov.au](mailto:honours@gg.gov.au)

Once again may I refer you the Order of Australia website to view a copy of the Brochure and Registration form for the 2016 National Conference being held in Sydney between 11th and 16 March 2016.

I thank all Regional Group representatives and members for their support and contributions during this first year as we establish and distribute the e-newsletter. I wish all members and their families a Merry Christmas and safe and rewarding 2016.

Deadline for items to be included in the next edition of this State Electronic Newsletter is **13 March 2016**

**Fred Harrington OAM**

## Chairman's message

I am humbled to assume the role as Chair of the Victorian Branch of the Association for the next 3 years. I also congratulate Diane James AM on being appointed Deputy Chair - Metropolitan.

Also Congratulations to Fred Harrington who moves from secondment to the Branch and to Dr John Bosarin OAM on his election to the branch committee.

There are very large shoes to fill after the tireless work put in by Past Chairman David Mann OAM, to get the Victoria Branch to where it is now.



However there is no "I" in team and it is the team on the Victoria Branch that represent you all who are the ones that drive the Association.

We have developed a strategic approach to our goals and have been putting in place actions to head towards positive outcomes with those goals.

Our key Victorian priorities are.

1. Develop a yearly oration titled "Inspiring Australians". We wish to have a very high profile Australian deliver an oration that will inspire our members and Australians at large. We hope to publish the oration and also have media take an interest in this annual event .
- 2.To support our Foundation and commence funding of a scholarship with the Foundation for a student in Victoria. We see an emphasis on Regional Universities to be important as they have been excluded from previous scholarship allocations.
3. Support our regional groups in all areas. This could include seed funding for Regional projects. We will increase resources at the State Branch level to aid in the functioning of the regional meetings and communication to branches.

Part of the Chair role includes placement as a Director on the National Board I will be taking an agenda of positive change involving application of proven business principle to the meetings.

I look forward to meeting you all as I fulfil the role you have entrusted to me.

**Paul Wheelton OAM**

## Immediate Past Chairman's Message

It's an honour to be able to present my final report as Chairman of the Order of Australia Victoria branch with what I presented at the AGM which entailed a review of the last 12 months and some thankyou's to important individuals who helped me through my term as Chairman.



Initiatives over the past 12 months have included the strategic review that is well underway, the relationship with theatrical entrepreneur John Frost AM that enables discounts on all of his theatrical performances for Association members and a vastly increased merchandise range resulting in greater profits for Victoria branch and proceeds to National branch. During the year we had some excellent attendances and great networking at the Australia Day oration and presentation at the Shrine of Remembrance on the 26<sup>th</sup> January, the Recipients function at the Seasons Botanical hotel for this year's Australia Day and Queens Birthday recipients and also another great National Gallery of Victoria exhibition tour and luncheon organised by Julian Stock AM our Treasurer.

To top it off in November, Lord Vestey (Master of the Horse) gave us a very insightful presentation on his role within Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Executive Staff Members and in particular his role with her thoroughbred and ceremonial horses along with the hunting horses.

For the last time in my role I would like to extend a big thank you to the Board members of the Victoria State Branch and the members of the Regional branches who have made the Association in Victoria a leader within the States and Territories of Australia. Our new National Chairman Bill Galvin OAM comes from a business background and is settling in very well with great support for what we are doing in Victoria.

In the past I have given profiles on our retiring members, but once again, I thank Bill Horman AM APM, Richard Rozen OAM and David Rayner OAM for their wonderful contribution to the State Branch and in the same space I welcome our new members Dr John Basarin OAM and Fred Harrington OAM as a Committee member who was formerly co-opted to State Branch. Thanks again to the Honourable Linda Dessau AM, the Governor of Victoria for accepting Patronage of our Association and also to her retiring Official Secretary Charles Curwen who has been a great supporter of the Order of Australia Association. Its timely to thank our sponsorship partners, the RACV for their generous donation that assists with the newsletter and publication of The Order and also to Paul Wheelton OAM for his sponsorship of the recently announced scholarship and help with many other Association costs.

A thank you should be extended to the Macquarie Media Group for their donation of the 3AW Boardroom for each of the monthly Victoria State Branch meetings and also to another special lady Stephanie Orr for bringing us into the real world of website development, updating and continual transformation of what is so important to us, our State Branch website.

This year we proudly distributed the Business Administration grants, although they were not forthcoming from National and we also had the opportunity to nominate some more Association members to become Australia Day Ambassadors. As mentioned in the last newsletter, the sad passing of Richard Williams OAM is still with us as on so many occasions, Richard would have been there to give advice and help out, we miss his wonderful smile.

Our Regional Groups go from strength to strength and with the merger of two groups recently, hopefully we haven't let any Association members down, as the fact is once you receive your honour, hopefully somewhere close by there is a regional group that you can become a member of.

The Annual General Meeting was attended by over 70 members with quite a few formal apologies and all positions were declared vacant and the nominations received matched the positions that were available with the retiring members. I am pleased to announce that the new Chairman is Paul Wheelton OAM, Deputy Chair Metropolitan Dianne James AM, Deputy Chair Regional Duncan Stalker OAM, Treasurer Julian Stock AM, Secretary Marion Lau OAM and Committee Members, Voi Williams OAM, Neil Soullier OAM, Christine Unsworth AM, Cathy Roth OAM, Fred Harrington OAM and Dr John Basarin OAM. A special thank you to Tony Smith OAM for his invaluable support with membership and getting all of the records up to date and to Max Chester OAM for his attention to detail with the Australia Day event.

On a final note, I am pleased that we have embraced the Foundation and at the Annual General Meeting luncheon one of the young recipients of a foundation scholarship gave a terrific insight into his life experiences and work experiences which was followed up by our special guest speaker Athol Guy AM who spoke of life as "A Seeker" and his nine points of encouragement and guidance he gives to young people in setting their life pattern. It was completely sold out at the William Angliss Restaurant in the city and it was very pleasing to see many people who have had such influence in the Association including past Chairman Don Hyde AM and many others who have held executive positions over the years with the Association.

I depart knowing that the Victoria State branch representing you has good succession planning in place, is in a good position financially to be able to accommodate the upcoming scholarships and other projects that we anticipate throughout the next 3 years. The 2014 conference still stands as one of my highlights and once again I thank Duncan Stalker OAM who was our Conference Convener and the wonderful sponsors who contributed to make many of the events free or at a greatly reduced rate.

I was pleased to hear at the first address from our new Chairman Paul Wheelton OAM that he will continue to focus support on our Regional groups and to enhance what's in it for a member of the Association and how those members can give back to this great State and Country of ours.

Thank you for your support and Happy Christmas.

**David Mann OAM**

## Forthcoming events 2016

### January

Tuesday 26 January, Victoria Branch: March Past and Flag Lowering Ceremony at The Shrine of Remembrance, St Kilda Road, Melbourne commencing at 4:20 pm. Invitation / acceptance form is attached.

Tuesday 26 January, South West Victoria Regional Group: Commencing at 4:00pm in Warrnambool the annual South West group "Lowering the Flag" Australia Day ceremony at the City War Memorial: Air Force Cadets, Pipes and Drums: Student choir and noted vocalists. Reception to follow at 4:30pm. Contact Duncan Stalker 0417 163 477

### February

Sunday 28 February Barwon Regional Group: Afternoon tea reception for members and guests to meet 2016 Australia Day recipients, from 3.00pm to 5.00pm at RACV Torquay. Guest speaker Toni McCormack OAM. Cost \$38 per person. Invitation will be sent to members early January.

### March

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March South Central Suburbs Regional Group: Visit to the Australian National Aviation Museum at 1 Second Avenue Moorabbin Airport commencing at 9:30 am. The guided tour is for a maximum of 40 people. The entrance fee of \$5 per person—with a morning tea planned at an additional cost. Contacts Roger Wilson M: 0418395946 or Ross Newton P: 95555549

### April

Sunday 10 April, North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley: Church service followed by a luncheon at Rutherglen. Church detail TBA. Luncheon, midday, at The Tuileries Restaurant, 13 Drummond Street, Rutherglen. Guest speaker - The Hon Tim Fischer AC.

### May

Thursday 26 May, 2016. Barwon Regional Group: Citizenship Award presentation and morning tea 10.30am to 12noon at Geelong RSL. Primary School 2016 is the second year of this Award. Cost: Free for members and one guest per member. Event invitation will be sent to members early April.

### July

Thursday 21 July, Victoria Branch: National Gallery of Victoria – Winter Masterpieces "Degas – A New Vision" is an exhibition of 200 works of the French impressionist artist Edgar Degas. The OAA has organised a lecture and visit to the exhibition followed by lunch at the Café Vic. More information will be provided in the next newsletter. For further information contact Julian Stock at [jbstock@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jbstock@bigpond.net.au)

## August

Sunday 14 August, North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley: Luncheon at The Shamrock Hotel, Numurkah, beginning midday. Member interviews are planned to discover more about our members' lives

## November

Sunday 13th November, North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley: Luncheon and **Annual General Meeting** beginning midday. Location TBA

# News from the State Branch Committee.

## Annual General Meeting.

This year's **Annual General Meeting** was held at the William Angliss Institute and attended by 47 members and guests.

Following the elections the State Branch committee includes:

<b>Chair:</b>	Paul Wheelton OAM
<b>Deputy Chair Metropolitan:</b>	Diane James AM
<b>Deputy Chair Country:</b>	Duncan Stalker OAM
<b>Secretary:</b>	Marion Lau OAM
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Julian Stock AM
<b>Committee:</b>	
	Cathy Roth OAM
	Christine Unsworth AM
	Voi Williams OAM
	Neil Soulier OAM
	John Basarin OAM
	Fred Harrington OAM
<b>Seconded:</b>	
	Tony Smith OAM (Membership Secretary)
	Richard Rozen OAM (Merchandise Officer)

## Reception with Lord Samuel Vestey KCVO.

Over 160 members and guests were at the Soffitel to hear Lord Vestey deliver a humorous and interesting address outlining his life from his early schooling at Yering Primary School (Yarra Valley) through to his early business career through to his time now as Master of the Horse for Queen Elizabeth .

Lord Vestey explained that the Master of the Horse is the third most senior position at the palace and the role dates back many centuries He did note that five of the former holders of the position were beheaded! Today he is responsible for all the Queen's ceremonial horses and coaches and her vehicles and he often travels in the carriage with the Queen to race meeting. He also spends time riding horses with the Queen when she is on holidays.

Following the address by Lord Vestey members and guests enjoyed finger food and fine Brown Brothers wine.

Congratulations to Christine Unsworth AM, Julian Stock AM and their team for the wonderful organisation of the reception for Lord Vestey. Also sincere thanks to John Brown AO for providing the wine for the evening.



*Above: Chairman David Mann OAM presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Lord Vestey.*

### ***Australia Day 2016 flag march past and flag lowering service***

Guest speaker at this coming year's Australia Day event will be Professor Antonio (Tony) Giuseppe Sagona AM, B.A (Hons), Dip. Ed., PhD, FSA, FAHA (pictured). Professor Sagona presently leads a major field project on the Gallipoli Peninsula



This Joint Historical and Archaeological Survey of the ANZAC Battlefield, is a unique project tasked with recording the remnant features of the ANZAC campaign. Both his standing in archaeology and his connections with Turkey, led to the Australian Government inviting him to direct the fieldwork.

Despite the centrality that the Gallipoli Peninsula and the 1915 campaign have in the psyche of many Australians, the Battlefield itself has not been studied in great detail. Utilising non-invasive survey techniques and a multi-disciplinary approach, the project is opening a new chapter in the ANZAC story.

This tri-nation project, involving Australian, Turkish and New Zealand experts, is funded by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (Canberra), and welcomed by Turkish authorities.

What is unique about this field project, is that the survey work is being undertaken using Global Positioning Systems (GPS), on both sides of the battlefield.

The results tell a rich but sad story of a conflict of our involvement as a Nation, on these distant shores

### ***Member survey***

The Victoria Branch Committee has been anxious to distribute as much news as possible electronically. Consequently, in September the branch mailed 681 letters (together with reply-paid envelopes) to members who did not have an email address listed in the National Membership database. By the end of November 120 members had provided email addresses, and 10 more had indicated that they would read the Victorian newsletter on the OAA website. This has resulted in the ability to communicate with 70% of Victorian members electronically.

## Remembrance Day within the Regional Groups.

### ***Barwon Regional Group***

Nearly 200 people attended the Remembrance Day service in the Geelong Peace Memorial at Johnstone Park reflecting on the sacrifice of those who fought and fell in battle and remembering the freedom we experience today came at a price.

Geelong RSL Sub-Branch President Andrew Hanns led the service, Geelong Mayor Darryn Lyons gave the address and Major Anthony Paul Krupa (R'td) was an inspiring guest speaker. Both made reference to Remembrance Day being an important day to stop and to honour the men and women who have served, or are serving Australia in our Defence Forces.

Major Krupa who has served with distinction during operations in East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan, said it was time to reflect on those who made the ultimate sacrifice and also remember those who lived but suffered physical and or psychological challenges. "The injuries you don't see are those that haunt our service men and women in ways that only those who suffered, can truly understand" Major Krupa said.

The service also included dedications, the Ode, Last Post, reflective silence and laying of more than 25 wreaths. Barbara Abley AM layed the wreath on behalf of the OAA Barwon Regional Group. The Mayor hosted a light finger food lunch at City Hall after the Remembrance Day Service.



*Above: Barbara Abley AM (Chair) laying the OAA Barwon Regional Group wreath.*

### ***Mornington Peninsula***

The group attended and participated in the Remembrance Day service on 11<sup>th</sup> November held in the Mt Eliza Memorial Garden and organised by the Rotary Club of Mt Eliza. Chairman Brian Stahl OAM laid a wreath on behalf of our Regional Group. It was pleasing to see representatives of local schools attending and the Peninsula School Cadets and Band played a leading role in the service.

### ***South West Regional Group***

The South West Group again participated in a number of Remembrance Day services across the region. At the Warrnambool service Andrew Suggett OAM and Ray Welsford OAM represented our group by laying a wreath (pictured).



Above: Ray Welsford OAM and Andrew Suggett OAM laying a wreath on behalf of the South Western Regional Group

## Regional Groups

### *Central Suburbs*

The Central Suburbs Regional Group held its **Annual General Meeting** on 26 September at the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club. The guest speaker for the luncheon was The Right Reverend the Honourable Dr Peter Hollingworth AC OBE. Dr Hollingworth spoke on the topic of "Things I learnt as Governor General". It was a most informative talk that invoked many questions from the audience.

An election of office bearers was held as part of the AGM, with Dr Peter Habersberger AM and Mr Jed Macartney OAM both having to step down from their respective roles as Chair and Secretary/Treasurer due to time expired. The group thanked both Peter and Jed who have both been office bearers since the inception of the group, with Peter serving as Secretary and Chair and Jed as Deputy Chair and Secretary/Treasurer.

The new committee was elected as follows:

- Chair: Mrs Suzette Gallagher OAM
- Deputy Chair: Archdeacon Philip Newman OAM
- Secretary/Treasurer: TBA (Jed Macartney OAM will continue in this role until a suitable nominee is found)
- General Committee: Professor Sandra Legg AM, Sister Margerat Noone AM, Dr Peter Habersberger AM

The committee is looking for more members and particularly someone interested in the Secretary/Treasurer role.

### *Mornington Peninsula*

Dr David Price OAM was the guest speaker at the Mornington Peninsula Shire Citizenship Ceremony on Thursday 10th September 2015 at Peninsula Community Theatre Mornington and reported that there were 65 candidates from 16 countries who received citizenship on the night. As usual it was an impressive and enjoyable ceremony. The Regional Group is invited to provide a Guest Speaker at each of the six Citizenship Ceremonies held each year.

The Annual Dinner was held at Brooklands Mornington on Friday 23rd October 2015 and was attended by 62 members and guests who enjoyed a very sociable evening together. Guest Speaker on the night was Neil Soullier OAM who gave an interesting and insightful address outlining his successful business career, the unique career changing opportunity he was given in working closely with Cliff Young on his amazing runs from Sydney to Melbourne and then in 1988 becoming involved in the formation of the Tynan-Eyre Memorial Foundation which led to his eventual appointment as CEO of the Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation.

Allan Pizzey AM Convener of our Schools Awards Program, presented a comprehensive report which showed 14 nominations from 11 schools across the City of Frankston and Mornington Peninsula Shire, had been received this year this was very pleasing and obvious reward for his effort in making direct contact with the teachers involved. Allan also acknowledged the invaluable Sponsorship of the Schools Awards Program by Spowers Architects which ensures continuation of the program over the next three years.

Miss Mackenzie Sweetnam, pictured below, a yr 12 student from John Paul College Frankston is the 2015 winner of the Roy Ward Prize. Mackenzie was presented with a cheque for \$500 and gave an inspiring acceptance speech giving all present an insight into her passion for social justice. Although in her VCE year Mackenzie carried out a major leadership role at John Paul College always willing to help others, helping to facilitate College contemplative retreats for younger year levels, organising fundraising activities, volunteered at Ozanam House and Casey Soup Van and was selected to participate in the College's annual pastoral mission to East Timor. She did not just attend but formulated ongoing programs for skill's acquisition and the development of infrastructure. A worthy winner and an inspiring young person.



Above: L/R Ros Magee—CEO Spowers, Allan Pizzey AM, Brian Stahl OAM JP, Mackenzie Sweetnam , Donna Mathews and Malcolm Thomson –John Paul College.

## Barwon

The **Annual General Meeting** and Annual Luncheon were held on Friday October 9, 2015 at the Geelong Racing Club.

Voi Williams OAM State Regional Groups Co-ordinator and her husband John joined 61 members and guests.

At the AGM, the passing of Barwon members and partners of members during the year was noted with one minute silence.

Office Bearers elected for 2015/16:

- Chair Barbara Abley AM
- Deputy Chair Alston Park AM
- Treasurer Wayne Myers OAM
- Secretary Helene Bender OAM
- Committee Peter Doak OAM, Margaret Hughes OAM and Mary Lewis OAM

The following message was delivered by group Chair Barbara Abley AM.

*"As we conclude another busy year, I have been honoured to serve as your Chairman for 2015. The Barwon Regional Group Committee has worked diligently to maintain good communication links with its members, and to involve you all in the planning of events and activities.*

*As an Association member you will have had access to a variety of low cost events both at regional and state levels. However, we have experienced limited participation in some of the activities provided.*

*Our challenge to you – how can we heighten the awareness of existing members to the many benefits of membership and strengthen participation in the planned low cost social and community events?*

*From the current perspective, the year 2016 can be viewed as a year of challenge or a year of tremendous opportunity. I look forward to working together to bring about new membership initiatives, to continue to collaborate with our members across all levels (regional, state, national), and moving forward with programs that promote membership and encourage broader participation.*

*To fulfil our mission, "fostering love of and pride in Australian Citizenship" we must work together to build upon our great foundation, to challenge each member to participate and work to grow our Association and increase the enjoyment which membership brings.*

*We thank the Order of Australia Association for the encouragement it provides to all members to continue to serve the community through its alumni".*

Margaret Lewis OAM was MC at the Annual luncheon, Margaret Hughes OAM led the National Anthem, Wayne Myers OAM proposed the toast to the Queen then Alston Park AM proposed the toast to the Order of Australia Association.

Guest speaker was Dr Mimmie Claudine Ngum Chi Watts. Dr Ngum Chi Watts has a PhD (Public Health) from La Trobe University and a Masters of Public Health from Melbourne University; she is an Academic at the College of Health & Biomedicine Victoria University. Her skills and expertise include migrant and refugee health, women's health, social inclusion & health and community policy. Mimmie is published in international journals and is a reviewer and editor in public health related journals. Improving health needs for women, providing better education for girls and disadvantaged persons and increasing opportunities amongst disadvantaged groups are key areas of interest. Mimmie is currently a Director on the board of Western Health, AMES (Adult Multicultural Education Services) and African Think Tank and a Patron for Women's Federation for World Peace.

Dr Ngum Chi Watts has an extensive bio. Members and guests welcomed the opportunity to hear from her about the challenges and opportunities in public health, plus her journey from her place of birth where she was raised in Cameroon to Australia.

Since the Annual luncheon Dr Watts is one of six new commissioners to be appointed to the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC), chaired by Helen Kapalos.

Peter Doak OAM thanked the guest speaker and noted her work in the migrant and refugee community, before presenting her with a gift.

A new initiative for the Barwon Regional Group this year was the presentation of 30, 25, 20, 15 and 10 year membership Certificates of Appreciation by Deputy Chair Alston Park AM and the reading of citations to the following:

Ken Carr AM, MAJ Adrian Sherriff AM (Ret'd), COL David Lawrence AM, Geoff Neilson AM, Ian Martin AM, Peggy Taylor AM, George Ballas OAM, Richard Brady OAM, Rev Alec Hilliard OAM, Graeme Goldsworthy AM.

Thank you to the members who have taken the time to advise us of their email address ensuring we are able to reduce our overhead printing, stationery and postage expenses.

On behalf of the OAA Barwon Regional Group Committee we thank Crowe Horwath in Geelong for use of their Boardroom for our meetings and the tea and coffee service provided during the year.

The time is right to say thank you to our members for their support during 2015. Best wishes to you and those close to you for the festive season and a new year filled with peace, happiness and good health.



Above: Barbara Abley AM Chair, Andrew Katos MP Member for South Barwon, Peggy Taylor AM 25 year member, Dr Mimmie Watt guest speaker, Voi Williams OAM State Regional Groups Co-ordinator.

#### *North Central Suburbs.*

#### **Annual General Meeting**

The group held its **Annual General Meeting** on 19 November. The 35 attendees heard guest speaker, former Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police, Kel Glare AO APM, talk about his life from the time of his early childhood in the Mallee, through his four years in local government. He also spoke about his experiences as he worked his way through the police force in various roles until he was appointed Chief Commissioner in November 1987.

This function also included the recognition of three of the 2015 award recipients and two of the 2014 award recipients. The group also acknowledged and welcomed the three former members from the former Northern Suburbs Regional Group who were in attendance.

Thirty five members and guests attended. Within those attending are three of our 2015 award recipients and three former members of the northern Suburbs Regional Group.

The new committee was elected as follows:

- Chair: David Doherty OAM
- Deputy Chair: Fred Harrington OAM
- Treasurer: Eddy Abraham OAM
- General Committee: Bill Horman AM APM, Joyce McGrath OAM, Warwick Leeson OAM, Don Kinsey AM

### *Central Highlands*

The 2015 **Annual General Meeting** was held in the hall of St John's Church, Soldiers Hill on 15<sup>th</sup> November. when all Office Bearers were returned for another year.

The group's Spring Luncheon was held in Horsham which gave members from the far west of the state the opportunity to participate without the necessity of driving for some hours.

A highly informative illustrated talk was given by John and Margaret Millington of Nhill – both of whom have been awarded Medals of the Order of Australia. Their topic was a report of their stewardship of and experiences with over 160 Karen refugees from Burma who have settled in the Nhill area. It appears a most successful venture with the majority of the refugees finding work in the large local duck industry and the families are contributing enormously to the local region.

The Group continues to host the School's Citizenship Awards in conjunction with the City of Ballarat. These awards are greatly appreciated by the pupils, parents and teachers and the congratulations of the Association members go to each of the winners. The selection committee, again headed by Mr Geoff Wickham AO, are to be commended for their commitment to sourcing the most worthy recipients.

### *North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley*

Seventy-one members and guests of the NEGV OAA Group converged on the George Kerferd Hotel, Beechworth, for the final luncheon of the Group for 2015. The hotel is situated among the splendid exotic trees planted in the grounds of the former in the nineteenth century Mayday Hills Psychiatric Hospital.

Guest speaker at the luncheon was Professor Brendan Crabb AC, CEO and director of the Burnett Institute. His message of hope in the developing world as a result of improvements in health, especially through control of infectious diseases, was most uplifting. Prior to his speech, a toast to France following the recent terrorist attacks, was conducted in the presence of the French chef, Michel Renoux.

The NEGV Group's recent luncheon coincided with the **Annual General Meeting**. John Brown AO was re-elected to the Chair, while Adrian Twitt OAM and Irene Cracknell OAM, were elected Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Barbara Thomas OAM was elected Deputy Chair. Isabel Dunstan OAM retired after many years of valuable service on the committee and the vacancy was filled by Graham Kerr OAM. All other committee members were re-elected.

The City of Greater Shepparton held a civic reception in November to recognize recent recipients of the Order of Australia. John Brown AO represented the NEGV Group at this function and spoke on behalf of the OAA. We encourage other municipalities to similarly recognise recipients of the Order.

The groups next event is on Sunday, April 10th 2016 at the Tuileries, Rutherglen, with the Honourable Mr Tim Fischer AC as speaker.

### *Eastern Suburbs*

The ESRG held its **Annual General Meeting** on 4 November 2015. Office bearers elected for the ensuing year are:

- Chair: Barbara Thompson OAM
- Deputy Chair: Ken Lyons OAM
- Secretary: Graeme Patterson OAM
- Treasurer: Robert Law AM
- Activities Co-ordinator: Dorothy Browne OAM
- Minutes Secretary: Colin Browne OAM
- Committee Members: Nicole Evered OAM, Margaret Hammon OAM, Terry O'Callaghan AM, Allan Paull OAM
- Activities Sub-committee: Co-ordinator Dorothy Browne; Coopted Member: Joan van Houten OAM; Members: Nicole Evered OAM, Ken Lyons OAM, Margaret Hammon OAM, Barbara Thompson OAM, Terry O'Callaghan AM

The newly elected Chairman, Barbara Thompson, paid tribute to Terry O'Callaghan, for his role as Chairman over the previous three years.

At the conclusion of the formal meeting, those in attendance were treated to an excellent presentation by the Guest Speaker, Ian Crawford, who was one of the creative forces in Crawford Productions. Ian provided an overview of the role of the Crawford family in pioneering Australian television drama and presented some interesting behind the scenes vignettes of the trials and tribulations associated with the development, production, promotion and success of some its well-known dramas including, Homicide, Division 4, Matlock Police and The Sullivans.

### *South Central Suburbs*

#### Presentations to Community Groups

This was a new objective for the Association locally that is increasingly being adopted by other Groups in Victoria. We have shared all of our presentation material with these Groups. The aim is to assist in raising community awareness of the Order, to generate more nominations, especially to recognise those who tirelessly serve their local communities.

The group commenced with local Rotary Clubs and sent them a short letter, offering to do presentations to their members and asking for a response. We strongly promoted the 'It's an Honour' website in the letter, so even if they did not respond, we had at least pointed them in the right direction.

A number of clubs did respond and we expect to complete about six presentations before Australia Day 2016. These are done by volunteer Committee Members.

Feedback on presentations to date by Alan Rae, OAM, Annemarie Lanteri, AM and Cheryl Threadgold OAM has been very positive.

To support the presentations the group has developed an *Order of Australia Handout and Presentation Notes*. These have both been reviewed, and updated and now represent the 'approved' version from the Office of the Governor General.

The group also now has:

- a presentation pack, with a presentation format/sequence and supporting data
- a high quality Powerpoint presentation, approved by the Office of the Governor General (as mentioned above)
- two large, high quality colour framed charts (with lightweight stands). The charts are also suitable to display at Group events
- supplies of the 'approved' handouts on the Order of Australia, mentioned above.

Over recent days, we have added 2 x portable indoor flagpoles, with 1.8m x 0.9 m Australian flags. When we have a guest speaker representing another Nation we change one of the Australian flags to their National Flag (if possible).

The overall idea was to contact other community groups after reviewing the rollout of the program to Rotary Clubs, with the presentations becoming a routine annual activity.

We are also hoping to enlist the three local Councils in this awareness raising program to help promote the Order to the community. Councils are often aware of those who provide outstanding community service, to meet the needs of their own internal awards programs.

#### New member function/local welcome to the Order event

This event is planned, hosted and conducted by each of the three Councils in our Region, in turn each year. The involvement and leadership of the Councils in staging this event is very much appreciated.

The event this year was hosted by Bayside Council on Friday 14 August 2015. This was a very well planned and conducted event under Mayor Felicity Frederico, supported by Governance Manager Terry Callant. The event was attended by 66 people, including 13 Councillors and nineteen Committee members and partners (at the insistence of the Council), twelve recipients with their partners and two MPs.

The group invited new recipients of the Order from both the Australia Day list and Queen's Birthday list; the event was conducted at the Brighton Grammar Middle School which was a beautiful and stylish venue. A chamber music quartet from the School entertained us on arrival.

It is an event that provides an opportunity for the local community to meet and congratulate their new Award recipients, many of whom are recognised for serving that same community. For the Association, it is often our first contact with prospective new members. The Council selected Rear Admiral John Lord, AM as the guest speaker for the event who spoke well on the significance of the Anzac anniversary.

To help ensure a continual high standard and consistency in this event and to build on experience to date in conducting these events, we have drafted, and trialled with Bayside Council, a comprehensive New Member Function Event Guide. It is now into second draft and is available to other Groups/Regions on request.

Both the Event Guide and the Powerpoint Template will also assist the Association acquire more new members by ensuring that their first contact with us is of a high standard. We are happy to share these documents with other Regions.

At the function, the group presented an envelope to each new Recipient containing; an Association Membership Form, a handout on the Order of Australia, an information sheet appropriate to their Award level and an invitation to the next event on the social calendar

With so many Councillors in attendance, the group also took the opportunity to give each of them an envelope, inviting them to assist us in informing community groups about the Order of Australia; to date, we have only had a response from Bayside Council

#### Support to the Secondary Schools Debating Competition

The Group has been supporting the Debaters Association of Victoria schools debating competition for some years now, with sponsorship support from local business.

The nature of the support is the provision of medallions and cheques to the winning teams, with local sponsors covering the cost of the cheques.

In return we get to present our message, usually to a large group of students with some parents and teachers also attending.

In the past two weeks, Team One comprising Ross Newton, OAM and Geoff Oscar AM, and Team Two of Rayleen Haig, OAM and Annemarie Lanteri, AM have presented the awards to students at St Leonard's College and Wesley College respectively. This year our Vice Chairman Ross Newton was able to present to the whole School Assembly at St Leonard's College, with up to 1,000 students.

Thanks to Buxton Brighton for their willing co-sponsorship again this year.

#### Lunch with the Former First Lady of Timor Leste

On the 11th November the group conducted our final event for the year at the Sandringham Club, with 71 members and guests attending. Included were representatives of the Friends of Laleia established by Bayside Council and the Friends of Manatuto sponsored by Kingston Council who both spoke briefly near the end of the Lunch about their work to support Timor Leste.

The guest speaker was Kirsty Sword Gusmao AO the first First Lady of Timor Leste, our nearest neighbour (it is a 1 hour flight from Darwin to Dili) and the newest nation on the planet.

As part of the event, Francez Suni, a Masters student at RMIT sang the National Anthem of Timor Leste and there were toasts to both nations. The Sandringham Club is a delightful venue and all attending were treated to a very memorable lunch.

Kirsty now lives in Australia and spoke about the history of the Nation and also about her role in it. She also spoke about the Allola Foundation which she established to improve the lives of women and children in Timor Leste.

The group were delighted to make a small contribution to the Allola Foundation to assist Kirsty in her work.

Prior to lunch, the group arranged for Kirsty (supported by four Committee members) to call at the Sandringham East Primary School where she laid a wreath and addressed the students, teachers and parents who attended the Remembrance Day service and then joined the teachers for morning tea.

Kirsty presented books to the teacher's and children's libraries and in turn was presented with a lovely bouquet of flowers, a book on the history of the School and a children's book for her to present to a School in Timor Leste

All attendees were moved by the children reading out the poems that they wrote on Remembrance Day; it was an experience never to be forgotten. The School were excellent hosts.



*Above: Kirsty Sword Gusmao AO addressing the luncheon guests.*

### Visit to Aviation Museum

The first event for 2016 is a visit, in the morning of Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 9.30AM, to the Australian National Aviation Museum at 1 Second Avenue Moorabbin Airport

The Aviation Museum which was founded in 1962 is run by a dedicated group of volunteers and members, with the museum housing not just 50 aircraft and engines but models, uniforms and many other items associated with Australia's Aviation History

Amongst the collection of 50 Aircraft there are some very rare and unique examples of Australian made aircraft, including a Wirraway A20-10, a Victa Air Tourer and a DAP Mk21 Beaufighter

The guided tour is for a maximum of 40 people. The entrance fee is \$5 per person—with a morning tea planned at an additional cost

Contacts Roger Wilson M: 0418395946 or Ross Newton P: 95555549

### *South West Victoria*

The **Annual General Meeting** of the South west Group was held during a function in Hamilton on December 4. The Hamilton meeting was held in two parts with firstly a visit to the heritage homestead Murndal, followed by a luncheon in Hamilton at the Grange Burn Motel. Murndal is situated on the banks of the Wannon River and has been the home of the Winter Cooke family for five generations. The homestead is of historic, aesthetic and architectural significance to Victoria

Guest speaker for the luncheon was Jarrod Hodgson, a recipient of an OAA Foundation scholarship. Jarrod also spoke at our Victoria Branch AGM and lunch. Jarrod included in his talk some details of his Macquarie Island research for Australia's Antarctic Research Division.

A major Australia Day service will be again conducted by the Group, in partnership with the Warrnambool RSL, on January 26. This "Lowering the Flag" service mirrors our Victoria Branch service held at the Shrine and has a broad representation of the Warrnambool community present as guests, together with members of the public. Many of the tourists come off the beach to attend the 30 minute service. The program includes primary and secondary students, the Air Force cadets, a youth choir, soloists and a guest speaker. The service is followed by a reception.

### *Gippsland*

The highlight of the year was the third Macfarlane Burnet Dinner and Oration in Traralgon. The group feel that they now have worked through the teething troubles and were very happy with the way the evening ran.

Guest Speaker was Professor Brendan Crabb, AC, CEO and Director of Burnet Institute, with whom the group have built a great relationship. His address, directed at a non Professional audience, was very well received.

One hundred and twenty attended the event, including ten students sponsored by Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, two who took advantage of the students' concession and one sponsored by a member of the Gippsland Group of the Order.

The group has already had requests for people to be notified of next year's event, including some from outside Gippsland. It is hoped that the visitor attendance from outside Gippsland is expanded.

The group did appreciate the support of local businesses and of members of the public who attended as this provided a chance to publicise the Association. The group were able to donate to Centenary House and Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases from some of the proceeds of the evening.

The group also appreciate the seeding grant from the State Branch two years ago and are pleased to be able to pay back the final instalment.

The **Annual General Meeting** was held at Centenary House Traralgon on 22nd November. Paul Wheelton OAM was the Guest Speaker and assisted in the conduct the elections. Beth Delzoppo OAM was elected Chair and Anne Macarthur OAM elected secretary for the coming year.



*Above: Professor Brendan Crabb AC, CEO and Director of Burnet Institute with Regional Group Chair Beth Delzoppo OAM.*

### *Western Suburbs*

The August meeting of the Western Suburbs Regional Group was held at the Galli Restaurant, Plympton. Councillor Sophie Ramsey, Mayor of the City of Melton was in attendance and guest speaker was an officer of the Council, who gave an interesting insight to the future development of the area.

Most sadly, our immediate past Group Chairman, John Alexander Nicol OAM passed away late in August. He took on these reins when the Regional Group started up again four years ago, in addition to his role as Werribee Football Club President and a range of on-going community work. That over 700 people attended his funeral was some testimony to the respect and admiration the surrounding communities held for John. Our deepest sympathy was extended to Pauline and family.

The final 2015 gathering for the Regional Group was on 19th November and included the **Annual General Meeting** and elections for office-bearers for 2016. Guest speaker was Sr. Joan Healy AM, who has spent many years assisting refugees in Cambodia and surrounding areas.

### *Loddon Campaspe*

#### Annual General Meeting

The Loddon Campaspe **Annual General Meeting** was held at the Kangaroo Flat Sports Club on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

Nineteen members of the Loddon Campaspe Branch were present together with guests. Apologies were received from eighteen members, including Voi Williams OAM and our Scholarship holder, Lisa Cain.

Chairman Gordon McKern OAM featured the following in his report:

- A Civic Reception in the Bendigo Town Hall in December 2014 for recent recipients of Awards
- The laying of a wreath on Anzac Day
- A Luncheon in June at The Capital Theatre featuring Guest Speaker Hon. Howard Nathan QC
- Guided tours of the new state-of-the-art Ulumbarra Theatre
- Thanks to office bearers for the 2013-14 year and in particular Ass.Professor Dr Elaine Murphy AM for mentoring Scholarship holder, Lisa Cain.

#### Office Bearers for 2015 – 16:

- Chairman John Higgs OAM,
- Secretary Deb. Fleming OAM,
- Treasurer Lola Miller AM BEM
- Committee, Gordon McKern OAM, Prof. Barry Hart AM, Richard Guy OAM, John Riches AM and Dawn Colbourne OAM

Update on Lisa Cain, the La Trobe University recipient of our Regional Educational Scholarship.

Lisa is studying Health and Physical Education at Bendigo and is undertaking some really challenging experiences. Her studies are progressing well and she has just returned from an educational placement in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Lisa met with teachers from Taylor's International School and pre-service teachers from Taylor's University and La Trobe. Lisa hopes that, in the future, she will be able to connect her classroom with theirs to share international understanding. Earlier in the year Lisa spent a Semester in Washington State, USA, as part of her current studies.

With holidays almost upon her she is about to undertake casual work in the laboratory at GrainCorp whilst the grain harvest is on. Her other passion is Cricket and she is involved with the Northern Rivers Girls' Cricket Pathway. Training and practice matches will be intense before the January State Championships.

*Mallee*

The guest speaker at this year's **Annual General Meeting** was Dr Debbie Neal, the Campus Director of La Trobe University in Sunraysia.

Dr Neal spoke about the history and development of the campus and the importance of locally-based tertiary education in regional Australia.

The meeting agreed to redirect the funds from the previously conducted essay project to the establishment of a scholarship at La Trobe Mildura.

The group plan to review this initiative at the Australia Day 2016 meeting and possibly consider other areas where a local contribution can be made.

As a result of elections Ross Lake OAM was reappointed Secretary/Treasurer and Vernon Knight AM was appointed chairman following the retirement of Brian Grogan OAM.

*We recognise the ongoing and generous support of the  
Royal Automobile Club of Victoria in the publishing of this newsletter*





*The Chairman, and the  
State Committee of the Victoria Branch of  
The Order of Australia Association  
invite members and friends to an*

**Australia Day 2016  
March Past and Flag Lowering Ceremony  
At The Shrine of Remembrance, St Kilda Road, Melbourne  
Tuesday 26th January 2016**

- 4.20pm Assemble at the Second World War Forecourt (in the vicinity of the Eternal Flame)
- 4.20-4.25pm Collect Name Tags
- 4.30pm Members and Guests to be seated
- 4.30-4.50pm a) Laying of the Wreath  
b) Flag Lowering Ceremony
- 4.50 - 5.05pm Guest Speaker Professor Antonio Saguna AM, Gallipoli Commemoration
- 5.10 pm Members and Guests move to Visitors' Centre for Reception. Entry will be by Name Tag
- 6.30pm Function concludes.

**Dress:** Gentlemen – Lounge Suit; Ladies – Afternoon Wear.  
Full Size Orders and Decorations

Early RSVP would be appreciated.

To attend, please complete the form below and return by **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016** to:

Marion Lau OAM, Secretary

The Order of Australia Association, Victoria Branch, Post Office Box 18389, Collins Street East, Melbourne. Vic. 8003 - Contact telephone number: 0418 966 143

**I wish to attend the Australia Day 2016 Flag Ceremony and March Past, and the Reception, at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, on Tuesday, 26th January 2016**

Enclosed is my cheque for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) @ \$30 per person, totalling \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Please make cheques payable to: The Order of Australia Association (Victoria Branch)
- Mail to Order of Australia Association, P.O Box 18389, Collins St East, Victoria 8003
- Direct deposit to OAA Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000, Account 1424 94384
- VISA or MasterCard with: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiry date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

**Please print names clearly for name tag purposes.**

**If there is insufficient room below please use the back of this reply slip.**

Member's Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Nominal(s): \_\_\_\_\_ (Awards/Decorations e.g. OAM, AM, OBE).

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Access for the Disabled**

Please advise, if any of your party, wishes to obtain temporary access only to the Shrine Forecourt prior to the Ceremony. Note: The vehicle is to be parked elsewhere after delivery.

Name of Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Registration: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions will be submitted to you accordingly prior to the Ceremony.

**Ex Members of the Armed Forces**

Ex members will be invited to participate in the March Past at the Shrine.

Please assemble prior to the March Ceremony