



# Order of Australia

## Victorian Branch

*"fostering love of and pride in Australian citizenship"*



### Editor's Message

Welcome to this third edition of the State Electronic Newsletter.

The commemoration, this year, of the 100th anniversary of the ANZACs landing at Gallipoli led to significant increases in the number of people attending various ANZAC Day services.

Examples of this are some 5,000 attending the service at Mt Macedon and 8,000 attending the service at Warrnambool. This edition of our State Electronic Newsletter contains highlights the activities of several Regional Groups on Anzac Day.

Again this month there is a profile of one of our members, John Brown AO, Deputy Chair of the North East Victoria and Goulbourn Valley Regional Group. In the lead-in to John's profile you will read of the process of the group to obtain and distribute a compendium of the profiles of all their members.

In my role with the Eltham Cemetery Trust, I recently attended the Cemetery and Crematoria Associations Victoria Country Conference at Creswick. At the conference I had the chance to talk to a number of OAA members including Helene Bender OAM and Lloyd Gosling AM, members of the Geelong Cemetery Trust along with recent OAM recipient Paul Jenkins OAM from the Ballarat Cemetery Trust.

It made me wonder just how many of our OAA members serve on the 500 Cemetery Trust throughout Victoria.

**Fred Harrington OAM**

### Submissions

The following are the cut-off dates for submission of articles for inclusion in the newsletter together with the anticipated mail out dates for this year's editions of the electronic newsletter:

<b>Cut-off date</b>	31 Aug	23 Nov
<b>Approx mail out date</b>	5 Oct	21 Dec

Articles can be sent to [fred.harrington@gravity.net.au](mailto:fred.harrington@gravity.net.au)



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### Chairman's Message

**As the days get shorter and the nights get colder and we receive some of the much needed rain, it's a good time to catch up on some reading.**

With that in mind I hope you are enjoying the e-newsletter that is created on a regular, or as needs basis that will keep you updated, along with the publications of 'The Order' that have been expanded.

A huge thank you to Fred Harrington OAM - quite a remarkable gentleman who has been co-opted to the Victoria State Branch Committee and one of his priorities is to look after the State Electronic Newsletter. I have already received some wonderful phone calls, emails and face to face recognition of Fred's great work, with what has already been an e-newsletter of substance covering many different areas and regional groups and with some excellent light reading. Fred doesn't look for any recognition for what he is doing, but if anyone gets a chance when you see Fred face to face, perhaps extend your congratulations to him.

It's timely with some reminders of activities Victoria State Branch are involved with and in particular a few projects that are coming up. Every single chance I get I will give merchandise a mention as Victoria created it, manages it via Richard Rozen OAM and Neil Soullier OAM, and we benefit substantially by sales of merchandise, as does the entire association when we distribute a big percentage of the profits to national.

I chair many other Boards and sit on a number of other committees and our merchandise is by far the most competitively priced and relevant to the Organisation.

In another area, details are slowly coming out about Mr John Frost AM and his organisation; The Gordon Frost Theatrical Company, who have put in place a special offer for Association Members in Victoria and one that we are rolling out nationally. You will read in 'The Order' and in this newsletter, details of Mr Frost and his significant contribution to Australian theatre and also his way of giving back to our members.



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There will be a code to enter when booking tickets of productions Mr Frost is presenting, where you will substantially save on the ticket price, and occasionally he will allocate tickets for our use when his shows are performing in various States across Australia. For this wonderful gesture we thank Mr Frost and his entire organisation and we look forward to being a part of great shows such as 'Anything Goes' and 'Legends' both currently playing in Australia.

A couple of people that I have had the pleasure to speak to and get their okay dependent on timing and availability to become guest speakers at Victoria Branch functions are our Governor General, Sir Peter Gosgrove, as well as the Keeper of Her Majesty's horses, Lord Vesty. For both of these gentlemen, when we manage to arrange a date and a venue we will give you plenty of notice and I can assure from personal experience from working with both of them, they will be most informative, entertaining and very welcomed guest speakers to one of our meetings.

As you would have noticed in the last copy of 'The Order', there was a form asking for feedback about the trial of including State information. It is most important for you to 'tick the boxes' and send it back where they will be collated at the National Office and that will determine if 'The Order' goes back to its previous format of very much national based articles with limited circulation throughout the year, or in a larger format as in recent times, with all States and Territories represented with more issues throughout the year.

This e-newsletter has come about, as one of the biggest expenses is the mailing of newsletters and event updates and obviously our business administration grants are affected from National to State branches if their costs are blown out with the postage. If you know of someone who is not receiving this e-newsletter because they do not have an email address, politely see if one of their family or friends has an email address they could use, or if you know them, perhaps you could print off an extra copy for them.

I would like to congratulate all of the Queen's Birthday recipients of an Order of Australia and I look forward to writing to each of them to welcome them and to invite them to join the Association.



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Victoria leads the way with the conversion rate with recipients who receive an Honour within the Order of Australia and become members of the Association, but we would always welcome more. That is very much up to State Branch and branch committees of every Regional Group to make one on one contact via letter or phone to our new recipients.

Last time at Government House, for the Governor's last investiture of recipients, it was a record number and our Governor, Alex Chernov and Mrs Chernov, were delighted that it was one of their final functions within their term and one of the largest groups ever presented and the ceremony is now streamed live via the internet.

I know that on behalf of all members of Victoria Branch, our Regional Groups and all Association members, I would like to thank our retiring Governor and his wife for their commitment to the position, their friendliness and support of the Association and more importantly, for all the wonderful events they attended without fanfare or media, simply because they are two great Australians.

Personally, I have seen Mr & Mrs Chernov on Christmas Day for the past two years, where they have attended on their own time, the Malvern Town Hall for the pensioners, single parents, physically and mentally disadvantaged and wards of the State Christmas luncheon, where they are served three courses, entertainment, a take home pack of goodies and most importantly friendship, a hand shake, a smile, a kiss, and have someone around them who cares on a very special day. The Governor and Mrs Chernov serve soup on the day and mix and mingle with all the guests and are never in a hurry to leave, but give quality time for those in attendance.

We are so lucky to have wonderful people that we as Association members can network with and I continue to encourage all of us to think how we can make Australia a better country, how we can mentor the young and how we can continue to give back where ever possible.

**David Mann OAM**



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### Forthcoming Events 2015

July	Tues 28th	<b>Eastern Suburbs Regional Group. Christmas in July Luncheon</b> , commencing at 12:30 pm, with guest speaker at Bucatini restaurant, Mitcham. Maximum of 50 people, cost \$30 per head. Further information or bookings to Dot Browne OAM by 20 July <a href="mailto:dotandcol23@bigpond.com">dotandcol23@bigpond.com</a>
August	Fri 14th	<b>Mornington Peninsula Regional Group. Annual Luncheon and Schools Award presentations</b> commencing at 12.30pm at the Safety Beach Sailing Club, Marine Drive Safety Beach. For further information and bookings contact Brian Stahl OAM JP at <a href="mailto:ber.bri@bigpond.com">ber.bri@bigpond.com</a>
	Sun 16th	<b>North East Victoria and Goulbourn Valley Regional Group. Luncheon at Trawool Resort</b> – Key note speakers Kevin Butler OAM & Rhonda Butler OAM of BlazeAid fame. Contact Irene Cracknell OAM for more details and reservations - <a href="mailto:icrackne@bigpond.net.au">icrackne@bigpond.net.au</a> or 02 6032 9429
	Sun 30th	<b>Gippsland Regional Group Luncheon</b> . For further details contact Beth Delzoppo OAM at <a href="mailto:bdelzoppo@bigpond.com.au">bdelzoppo@bigpond.com.au</a>
October	Fri 9th	<b>Barwon Regional Group AGM followed by Annual Luncheon</b> . The agenda pack and luncheon invitation will be emailed later. For further information and bookings contact Helene Bender OAM at <a href="mailto:helenebender@westnet.com.au">helenebender@westnet.com.au</a>
	Thurs 15th	<b>State Branch. Visit to National Gallery Victoria to view "Masterpieces from the Hermitage: the Legacy of Catherine the Great"</b> . 11am start for lecture followed by entry to the exhibition. An optional lunch follows at 1 pm lunch at the Café Vic. Price per person - \$35 for lecture and exhibition and \$35 for lunch; total \$70. A booking form for this event is attached to this newsletter.
	Wed 21st	<b>Gippsland Regional Group -Macfarlane Burnet Dinner and Oration</b> . For further details contact Beth Delzoppo OAM at <a href="mailto:bdelzoppo@bigpond.com.au">bdelzoppo@bigpond.com.au</a>
	Fri 23rd	<b>Mornington Peninsula Regional Group - Annual Dinner and Roy Ward Prize presentation</b> . Commencing 6.30pm at Brooklands Convention Centre, Tanti Ave Mornington. For further information and bookings contact Brian Stahl OAM JP at <a href="mailto:ber.bri@bigpond.com">ber.bri@bigpond.com</a>
November	Wed 11th	<b>Mornington Peninsula Regional Group. Remembrance Day Service</b> commencing at 10.30am in Memorial Garden Canadian Bay Road, Mt Eliza. Bookings not required. For further information email Brian Stahl OAM JP at <a href="mailto:ber.bri@bigpond.com">ber.bri@bigpond.com</a>
	Sun 15th	<b>North East Victoria and Goulbourn Valley Regional Group. Mayday Hills, Beechworth</b> – Key note speaker Prof. Brendan Crabb AC of the Burnet Institute. Contact Irene Cracknell OAM for more details and reservations <a href="mailto:icrackne@bigpond.net.au">icrackne@bigpond.net.au</a> 02 6032 9429
	Thurs 26th	<b>State Branch AGM and Luncheon</b> . Further details in next edition of this newsletter.



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## ANZAC Day within the groups

### *Gippsland*

We are proud that we have greatly increased our formal Anzac Day participation this year, with wreaths being laid at Traralgon, Bairnsdale, Moe, Newborough, Warragul and Drouin.

Doug Caulfield OAM attended the Gallipoli service and Beth Delzoppo OAM was present at the Villers Bretonneux ceremony.



*Left: Gippsland Regional Group representative John Hutchinson OAM (right) and his wife Norma, along with RSL and military representatives at the Anzac Day Wreath Laying Service at Yallourn Newborough RSL.*

### *Barwon*

One of our members, Rodney Meeke OAM JP, officially opened and cut the ribbon to the Remembrance Garden at Simmonds Stadium, Kardinia Park on Sunday April 26, 2015 at the ANZAC Tribute AFL Round. The official party at the opening included Hon. Richard Marles MP Federal Member for Corio, Brian Cook CEO Geelong Football Club, Rodney Meeke OAM Senior Vice President Geelong RSL and proud Geelong Cat's member plus Bob Gartland Vice President Geelong Football Club and Chair of Honouring The Past Management Committee. They were joined by Christine Bowden from the Geelong City Band who as always played the Last Post magnificently. The Remembrance Garden, created with a generous grant through the ANZAC Centenary Local Grants program, serves as a place for quiet contemplation and reflection within the busy grounds of Simmonds Stadium, Kardinia Park home of the Geelong Football Club.



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The garden honours the achievement and sacrifice of the 206 Geelong Football Club players who have served their country overseas or at home, 13 of whom made the ultimate sacrifice.



*Above: Rodney Meeke OAM JP Senior Vice President Geelong RSL at the official opening of the Remembrance Garden at Simonds Stadium Kardinia Park Geelong Football Club on Sunday April 26, 2015*

Wayne Myers OAM Barwon Regional Group Treasurer, attended the Dawn Service at Ocean Grove (for the first time) and found it quite moving in the dark. Then the march and service at Barwon Heads – which this year had a greater focus on young people with excellent speakers – a Barwon Heads Primary School Captain, whilst reading an Anzac poem had his papers blow away but it didn't fluster him, knowing the poem by heart he continued without notes. Finally the service and march at Drysdale which was dramatically larger in number this year. They have always involved young people, but did more this year to make it extra special. During the service they did a visual presentation of the Drysdale WW1 people who did not return from war and at the cenotaph service, had crosses placed for each. The guest speaker at their service was a young serving female soldier who gave an impressive speech.



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In the presence of a record number of attendees (including OAA members) at the Geelong RSL Service on ANZAC Day, Barbara Abley AM Barwon Regional Group Chair, had the honour of laying a wreath on behalf of members of Barwon Regional Group, Order of Australia Association. The Speaker at this Wreath Laying Service was Lieutenant Todd Austin (RAN). He said that we meet not to glorify war or praise victors, but to remember those who have served our country during times of conflict and crisis, to reflect upon their service and commitment, to honour and thank them. The standards that they set and the birth of the ANZAC spirit have been handed down ever since to Australian service men and servicewomen both past and present, from WW2 to Korea, Malay, Borneo, Vietnam, the Gulf and many peacekeeping operations in the middle east, in Timor Leste, Pakistan, southeast Asia, Africa, the Solomon Islands and other locations. The ANZAC spirit forged in 1915 will never be forgotten. We should be proud of our heritage. This is the spirit of ANZAC; the spirit that we must pass to new generations of Australians. May we never forget.



*Left: Barbara Abley AM Chair of Barwon Regional Group laying the OAA Barwon Wreat*

Queen's Birthday 2013 recipient Rodney Meeke OAM JP is Senior Vice President Geelong RSL and provides the following overview. The Geelong RSL Sub Branch conducted 3 services on ANZAC Day. The first service was the traditional 4.15am dawn service held in the Peace Memorial with a large crowd attending; there were two large screens set up outside to ensure that the people unable to get into the memorial were able to see and hear the service conducted inside, an estimate of

this crowd was well in excess of 2 thousand and 24 wreaths laid. The 9.30am wreath laying service held at Geelong RSL Belmont was again well attended with numbers nearing a thousand and 34 wreaths laid.



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The main service commenced after the march at 11.30am in Johnstone Park. It is believed up to 10 thousand people attended. The RSL was pleased by the attendance at all services which was well up on previous years; we believe a reflection of the centenary of the ANZAC's landing at Gallipoli. The RSL was also impressed with the number of school children, younger people and families that continue to grow indicating that we will remember them (Anzacs).

100 years ago the ANZAC Legend began, and still the ANZAC spirit remains strong as Helene Bender OAM Barwon Regional Group Secretary saw at the Geelong RSL this year with a thousand attending the 'Commemorating the ANZAC Centenary landing at Gallipoli' wreath laying service at the cenotaph forecourt. Andrew Hanns President of Geelong RSL positioned the RSL commemorative flame for all to see and then warmly welcomed everyone. Rev. Russell Trickey from Christ Church Geelong led us in prayer Wreaths were laid by many dignitaries, organisations, schools and individuals overseen by the catafalque party. Andrew Hanns then read the traditional ANZAC Day Ode and Bailey Blake from Geelong High School played the Last Post. The OAA Barwon Regional Group congratulates everyone involved in this year's ANZAC Day Service at the Geelong RSL. Lest we forget. Our thoughts are also with those currently in active service.

### *North East Victoria & Goulbourn Valley*

Anzac Day services in Wangaratta had a record attendance despite inclement weather. While the dawn service was held at the shrine in pouring rain resulting in a sea of umbrellas the 11.00 am service was relocated to the Performing Arts Centre. The NEGVOAA laid a wreath during the well-executed service. Due to the enormous crowd only about one third were able to be in the huge hall.



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### News from the state branch

The intention of this item is to advise of the activities being undertaken by the State Branch. However this editions report commences with a listing of State Branch Committee members who we wish a speedy recovery from their recent medical conditions:

- Bill Horman AM PSM. Back in February Bill suffered a mild bleeding of the brain stroke. Bill's recovery is progressing albeit not as quickly a Bill would like but he is now able to travel and attend a very limited amount of functions.
- Neil Soulier OAM. Neil recently suffered a heart attack and thankfully is now on the road to recovery following his time in hospital.
- Christine Unsworth AM. Christine recently slipped down an embankment at her property and broke her ankle and fibula. Christine has undergone surgery - pins, plates and the whole caboodle and is now looking forward to the time she is fully mobile again.

Congratulations are extended to our State Branch Secretary Marion Lau OAM on her appointment to the Justice Health Ministerial Advisory Committee – new appointment and reappointment to Queen Victoria Women's Centre Trust ( was previously one of the inaugural Trustees)

Congratulations are also extended to Richard Rozen OAM who recently celebrated his 80th Birthday and to State Treasurer Julian Stock AM and wife Dianna on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

### *Theatre Tickets - Support from John Frost AM*

John Frost, the Managing Director of The Gordon Frost Organisation, is Australia's leading theatre producer, and has a special offer for readers of The State Electronic Newsletter, for two of his current hit productions 'Anything Goes' and 'Legends!'. The classic musical by Cole Porter, Anything Goes, stars Caroline O'Connor, Todd McKenney and Gerry Connolly, is currently playing in Melbourne before touring to Brisbane and Sydney. 'Legends!' is a hilarious comedy starring Hayley Mills, Juliet Mills and Maxwell Caulfield about two feuding Hollywood stars of yesteryear brought together to star in a Broadway play.



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Born in Adelaide, John Frost began in show business at the age of 16 as a dresser for J.C. Williamson on their production of 'Mame'. Since then he has worked his way up the showbiz ladder: Wardrobe Master, Stage Manager, Company Manager and now Producer. In 1983 he teamed up with the late Ashley Gordon to form The Gordon/Frost Organisation. Together they negotiated the lease for Sydney's Footbridge Theatre, where they successfully produced a range of shows including, 'Jerry's Girls', 'Night Mother', 'The Venetian Twins' and 'Women Behind Bars'.

The company then moved into large scale musicals such as 'Big River', 'The King and I', 'South Pacific', 'Hello Dolly!', 'The Secret Garden', 'Smokey Joe's Café', 'Cabaret' and 'Crazy for You'. He co-produced Sir Peter Hall's acclaimed productions of Oscar Wilde's 'An Ideal Husband' starring Googie Withers and John McCallum, and 'Lady Windermere's Fan' starring Vanessa Redgrave and Joely Richardson at the Theatre Royal Haymarket in London.

In 1998, John Frost joined forces with Sports and Entertainment Limited (SEL) to produce Grease – The Arena Spectacular! The production broke all box office records for an arena event in Australia. His production of 'The King and I' on Broadway won the coveted Tony Award® for Best Revival of a Musical, as well as the Drama Desk and New York Outer Critics Circle Award. John has also been the recipient of two Mo Awards and a Sydney Critics' Circle Award and a Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999 from GLUGS.

In 1999, John Frost and SEL presented 'The Main Event', which toured to critical acclaim and huge box office success. This was followed by a production of the Tony Award®-winning play 'Art' starring Tom Conti.

A hugely successful production of 'The Sound of Music' starring Lisa McCune was followed by 'Annie' with Anthony Warlow, 'Man of La Mancha', 'The Wizard of Oz' and 'Footloose'.

In 2004/2005 John co-produced around Australia 'The Producers'. This highly acclaimed production garnered five Helpmann Awards® including Best Musical for 2005. In the same year John also co-presented an arena production of Grease starring John Farnham. John was represented on Broadway with the smash hit musical Hairspray for which he won his second Tony Award®. Since January 2006 he has produced the national tours of the National Theatre of Great



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Britain's celebrated production of 'An Inspector Calls', the Broadway theatre icon Mandy Patinkin and Hollywood and cabaret legend Debbie Reynolds.

In partnership with The Really Useful Company Asia Pacific, John presented 'The Phantom of the Opera' Australian tour starring Anthony Warlow.

In 2009 John was represented on Broadway with the play, 'Exit the King', starring Geoffrey Rush and Susan Sarandon. Also in that year, John brought Mandy Patinkin back on tour to Australia with fellow theatre icon Patti LuPone.

In London, John was one of the producers of 'Priscilla, Queen of the Desert', and in 2010 he produced Julie Andrews in the concert event 'The Gift of Music' at the O2 Arena.

John produced the Australian tours of the West End hit Calendar 'Girls', 'Fame the Musical' and the Australian and Asian tour of 'Chicago'. More recently he co-produced the Australian and Asian tours of 'Doctor Zhivago' and the Broadway blockbuster 'Wicked', the Australian tour of 'Annie', Geoffrey Rush in 'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum', the Lincoln Center production of 'South Pacific' with Opera Australia, 'Legally Blonde the Musical', 'Grease' and 'Once'. Most recently he presented 'An Evening With Julie Andrews', 'Driving Miss Daisy' starring Angela Lansbury, James Earl Jones and Boyd Gaines and 'The King and I' with Opera Australia.

Currently touring Australia are 'The Rocky Horror Show', 'Wicked', 'Dirty Dancing', 'Anything Goes' and the play 'Legends!'.

John was recently represented in London's West End with the hit shows 'The Bodyguard' and 'Blithe Spirit'. In the 2014 Queen's Birthday Honours John was awarded an AM for his contribution to the Arts.

### **LEGENDS! - Special offer for The Order \$69.90\* tickets**

The must see comedy of the year, 'Legends!' is a fast-paced play takes audiences on a joyous journey from the glamour of Hollywood to the excitement and promise of a new lease of life on Broadway and stars Hayley Mill and Juliet Mills with Maxwell Caulfield.

Book at Ticketmaster or Marriner Theatre box office (Princess and Regent) [www.ticketmaster.com.au](http://www.ticketmaster.com.au) Please use password ORDER.



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Booking and Transaction fees apply – subject to availability

Valid at performances from 2 to 6 September:

Wednesday, 2 September 2015	8pm
Thursday, 3 September 2015	8pm
Friday, 4 September 2015	8pm
Saturday, 5 September 2015	2pm 8pm
Sunday, 6 September 2015	3pm

**ANYTHING GOES - Save \$10\* on tickets to the hilarious Broadway musical, Cole Porter's Anything goes.**

Winner of three Tony Awards including Best Musical Revival and Choreography during its most recent Broadway revival, 'ANYTHING GOES' is a stunning nautical favourite. For decades, Anything goes has captivated millions with its delightful story of madcap antics aboard the S.S. American. This dazzling musical celebration features a hilarious tale of topsy-turvy relationships, mistaken identities and foiled plots, peppered with some of musical theatre's most memorable standards including 'You're The Top', 'I Get A Kick Out Of You', and of course the title song, 'Anything Goes'. With an all start cast; including Caroline O'Connor and Todd McKenney, this is a first class musical extravaganza!

Offer excludes Saturday evenings.

Tuesday/Wednesday 1:00pm - A reserve \$89.90\* normally \$99.90

Wednesday to Friday 7.30pm - A reserve \$99.90\* normally \$109.90

Saturday 2pm and Sunday 3pm - A Reserve \$109.90 normally \$120.90

Enter Password ORDER to get this offer. CALL 1300 111 011 or  
ANYTHINGGOESMUSICAL.COM.AU

Tickets are available for all performances excluding Saturday nights from June 2. Please note tickets are limited and subject to availability. \*Additional fees apply.

*\*A payment processing fee of no more than 1.95% applies to purchases by credit card, debit card or gift card. The payment processing fee includes (but is not limited to) credit and debit card fees and expenses, administration and associated infrastructure costs. The payment processing fee will be added to the price displayed.*



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### Vale

#### **Shirley Jean Cheshire OAM**

Passed away on 9th April at the age of 94. Mrs Cheshire received her award on Queens Birthday 1994 and joined the Association as a Life Member shortly after. Shirley's citation read "In recognition of service to Women, particularly through the National Council of Women of Victoria and to youth".

#### **Ken Smith OAM KSJ**

Passed away on 18 April at the age of 97. The service celebrating his life included speakers Keith Payne VC OAM DSC, Gary Williams, Chairman of the Board of Directors of TRY Australia, Helen Robinett and RSL representative, Jim Muir.

Born in Daylesford in 1917, Ken was employed for 50 years in the hardware trade, retiring in 1981. He served in the Royal Australian Air Force between 1940 and 1945 and was appointed Christian Science Minister for Armed Services Personnel during National Service and the Vietnam War.

A Life Member of the Probation Officers' Association, the Victorian Association of Youth Clubs, and Life Governor of TRY Youth and Community Services, Ken received an Order of Australia Medal in 1989 for Service to Youth. Ken's long association with TRY included Board member, President, establishing suburban and regional Australian Army Cadet Corp Units, becoming a Legend of TRY Youth and Community Services in 2008 for outstanding service and was appointed in 2014 to the TRY Australia Hall of Fame, with a Lifetime Achiever Award. In 2005, the Ken Smith OAM Club was opened by Keith Payne VC Vietnam at the 5/6th Royal Victorian Rifles Brimbank Headquarters. In 2011, Ken was invested as a Knight of Honour of The Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller.

Married to late wife Mollie for 61 years, Ken is survived by one son, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Ken was a great supporter of South Central Suburban Regional Group events, which he attended in recent years with friend Lorraine Carroll. Ken's cardiologist Dr Peter Habersberger AM was thanked for his wonderful care over many years.

'A true gentleman who dedicated his life to helping others.'



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### **Juris (George) Mellens OAM**

In his 93rd year Juris (George) Mellens OAM a Barwon Regional Group member passed away on Thursday May 21, 2015 in Geelong Private Hospital. George was born in Tinuzi, Latvia, husband to Lilija (Lily) and adored father to Kristie and her family.

George was an Order of Australia recipient Queen's Birthday 1995, for service to the Latvian Community. A tireless leader of Latvians in Geelong and a well-respected member of other committees in the greater Geelong region.

### **Teresa Varapodio**

North East Victoria and Goulbourn Valley are very sad to note the passing of Teresa Varapodio, the wife of Santo Varapodio OAM, a prominent orchardist family and great community contributors from Shepparton.

### **Peter Ellis OAM**

Although not a member of the Loddon Campaspe Branch, members were saddened to hear of the sudden passing, in his 70th year, of Peter Ellis OAM. Peter, who resided in Bendigo, is regarded by many people as a national treasure. He is known to be one of the leading collectors of traditional dance tunes, folklore and dance music in Australia. Peter collected the largest collection of dance related material stored in the National Library Archives in Canberra. Material was gathered throughout his lifetime from all over Australia. Rare and valuable recordings make up an irreplaceable collection.

Peter Ellis was a charter and Life Member of the Bush Dance and Music Club of Bendigo and the Victorian Folk Music Club. He was a member of the Wedderburn Old Timers Band for 28 years also founder and leader of the Emu Creek Bush Band which has been giving pleasure to many for over 27 years.

Peter Ellis was also a keen member of the Bendigo Field Naturalists and loved wandering in the Australian bushland.

Peter Ellis OAM will be remembered by for his lifetime of research and active contribution to the rich history of music and dance in Australia.



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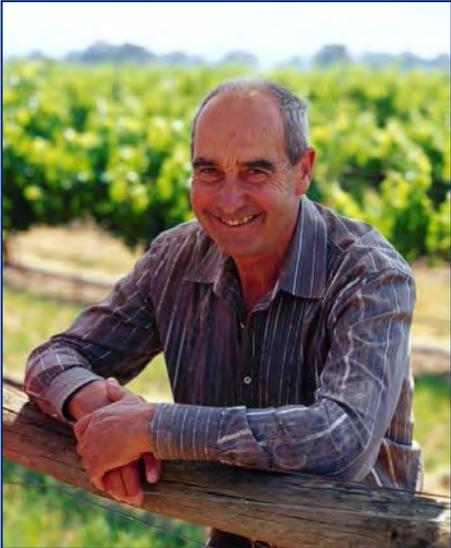
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## Member Profile – John G Brown AO

The purpose in presenting this profile of John Brown AO is twofold. First and foremost to highlight the significant achievements of John both before and after him receiving his Order of Australia recognition.

Secondly it is to promote the initiative of the North East Victoria and Goulbourn Valley Regional Group. In summary the format of this profile for John is one that the group has all members complete when they join the group. As each member's profile is completed it is copied and distributed to each member to place in a compendium provided by the group. This then results in each member having a full compendium of all members' profiles.

Attached at the end of this newsletter is a copy of the template used for this initiative.

Brown John. G. AO	Spouse: June – nee Ellis
 <p data-bbox="384 1787 564 1823">Winemaker</p>	 <p data-bbox="1031 1787 1211 1823">Textile Artist</p>



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**Name:** John Graham Brown

**Address:** 280 Milawa Bobinawarra Road, Milawa, Vic, 3678.

**Phone:** M. 0429 101 900, W. 0357 205 401, H. 0357 273 285

**Email:** jgbrown@brown-brothers.com.au

**Awards:**

Officer of the Order of Australia

Granted: 13th June 2005

Citation: For service to promoting rural and regional economic development initiatives in Victoria, to the community through sporting and emergency services activities and to the wine industry.

National Medal

Granted: 26th March 1998

National Medal - 1st Clasp

National Medal - 2nd Clasp. Note: A clasp is awarded for each additional 10 years of service.

Citation: The National Medal is awarded for diligent long service to the community in hazardous circumstances, including in times of emergency and national disaster, in direct protection of life and property.

Centenary Medal

Granted: 1st January 2001

Citation: For service as chairman and managing director of several local businesses and organisations

Country Fire Authority Medal: Granted 29th October 2011. For 55 years of service.



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### LIFE JOURNEY

**DOB/location:** 23/10/1941 Wangaratta

**Primary education:**

Milawa Primary School 1946 – 1952

**Secondary education/qualifications:**

Wangaratta High School years 1953-55

Scotch College Melbourne 1956-8, Matriculation

**Tertiary education/qualifications:**

RMIT – Diploma of Applied Science - Food Technology

**Working career: Brown Brothers of Milawa 1958 – 2009.**

Jack of all Trades & Winemaker 1958 – 1988

CEO 1988 – 2001

Chair 1988 – 2007

Deputy Chair 2007 - 2009.

**Sporting career:**

School - cricket, football, shot put and rowing

Post school - football, snow skiing, scuba diving.

**Recreation:** Australian Outback & Overseas travel

**Community involvement/positions held:**

- Milawa & Moyhu Group Fire Brigade 1956/1988 – Comms & Deputy Group Officer
- Milawa Young Farmers Club - Chair
- Wangaratta Ski Club - Chair & Life Member
- Victorian Winegrowers Association – Chair
- Riverina College of Adult Education Advisory Committee – member
- Australian Wine Research Institute Committee of Review - Chair
- Wangaratta Regional Development Corporation 1991/96 - Chair



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- Alpine Valleys Agribusiness Forum 1996/2002 – Inaugural Chair
- Premier Kennett's Regional Forum 1999 - Chair
- Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program 1999/06
- Convener, Inaugural Chair & Patron (2006)
- Wangaratta Unlimited 1996/2011 – Inaugural Chair
- N.E .Water for Agriculture 1999 – Committee member
- Champions of the Bush 2002 - 2012 – Inaugural Chair
- Wangaratta St John's Aged Care fund raising Committee 2002/04 - Chair
- Victorian Regional Development Victoria Advisory Committee 2003/08 - Member
- Convenor of Victorian Regional Executives Group
- Wangaratta Water & Wastewater Advisory Committee 2005 - 2010 – Inaugural Chair
- "Farmers Five" Memorial Committee 2005 – Inaugural Chair
- Oxley Pioneers Memorial Banquet Committee 2007 - Chair
- Wangaratta Tech. Education Centre "Industry Reference Group" 2007/11 Inaugural Chair
- Wangaratta Technical Education Centre "Management Team" 2007/11 - Inaugural Chair
- Milawa Heritage Group Inaugural Chair 2008 - current.
- Milawa & Markwood Development Association. Inaugural Chair. 2010 - current
- NEGV Order of Aust. Association. Deputy Chair 2010 – current.
- Mt Buffalo Chalet refurbishment project 2010-2012. Chair.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

John Brown was born into a family tradition of winemaking beginning in 1889.

John's "hands on" winemaking career extended from 1958 till 1988, a period during which the family business achieved strong brand recognition and grew its production almost 100 fold.



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In 1988 the Brown Family appointed John as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, replacing his father. In 2001 he passed the CEO role over to his brother, Ross, while retaining the Chairman's role. He has now stepped down to the position of Deputy Chairman.

The business won the Victorian, and then the Australian Family Business Awards in 2003 for the "fourth generations" category, thus rewarding the business development work done. Brown Brothers has also won numerous wine show awards and "Victorian Vineyard of the Year" awards for three of its vineyards.

Key leisure activities have included snow skiing, scuba diving and extensive Australian remote area travel. Overseas countries visited include USA, Canada, UK, Italy, France, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, China, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Samoa.

He has been chairman of many organizations including the "Champions of the Bush", a group of proud, successful businesses which are committed to raising the profile and economic success of regional Australia.

John has played a key role in establishing community and business leadership development groups in his region to foster a prosperous and attractive lifestyle for its people.

In October 2003 he was appointed to Minister John Brumby's Regional Development Advisory Committee then followed by Minister Jacinta Allen.

John has been active in community involvement having been awarded a National and CFA Medals for his services to the Fire Brigade and a Centenary Medal for community leadership.

The 2005 Queen's Birthday honours included John's appointment as an "Officer of the Order of Australia" and on Australia Day 2006 was appointed as Wangaratta's Australia Day Ambassador.

Recently he has become chairman of the Industry Reference Group and the Senior Management Team for the GOFAFE/High School Technical Education Centre alliance in Wangaratta, a Milawa Heritage Preservation group and also a Milawa Development Association.

John has two children and two grandchildren.



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## Regional Group Reports

### *Gippsland*

May 31st, the group held a luncheon at the Traralgon Winery, at which Vicki Hamilton OAM, CEO of Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Inc, was guest speaker. This voluntary organisation helps victims and their families with visits and information. Part of the proceeds of the luncheon was donated to Centenary House, a wonderful facility sponsored by Rotary, which provides accommodation for outpatient cancer sufferers from all over Gippsland.



Plans are well in hand for the third annual Macfarlane Burnet Dinner and Oration, at which the Guest Speaker will be Professor Brendan Crabb AM, CEO of Burnet Institute. The Dinner will be held on 21st October at the Premiere Reception Centre in Traralgon, the town in which Sir Macfarlane Burnet was born. We greatly appreciate the support and cooperation of the Burnet Institute in this project.

*Left: Beth Delzoppo OAM Chair of Gippsland Group with guest speaker Vicki Hamilton OAM, CEO of Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support Inc*

### *Barwon*

The Barwon Regional Group of The Order of Australia Association presented the inaugural Primary School Citizenship Award to Newtown Primary School on Thursday May 14, 2015.

The intent of the Award was to encourage and recognise those regional primary schools which clearly demonstrated and incorporated the aims of The Order of Australia Association "to foster love of and pride in Australian citizenship" within their school's curriculum to promote the value of Australian citizenship in some way.



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All primary schools in the Geelong Region were invited to submit project applications for the award, with three schools asked to present to the judging panel and members of the Association about their citizenship projects – Geelong Baptist College, Newtown Primary School and Our Lady Star of the Sea Ocean Grove Primary School.

The standard of presentations by students from these schools was fantastic and gives us great heart for their future involvement in our community. All schools who presented received a certificate with the winner receiving the award cheque from Barwon Regional Group Chair Mrs Barbara Abley AM.

*Right: Primary School Citizenship Award presentation with the winning school Newtown Primary School – Riley Callow School Captain, Harry Roberts member of the RESPECT Action Team, Holly Barker School Captain and Amanda Hay School Principal, with the Spirit of ANZAC replica sculpture*



The presentation function was held at the Geelong RSL, which supported the initiative as it aligned to the national and state RSL goals of supporting children during the Centenary of Anzac. The Geelong RSL President, Andrew Hanns, also offered and presented, the Spirit of Anzac replica sculpture to be used as a perpetual trophy. A larger version of this sculpture originally created for the Returned Soldiers and Sailors Woollen Mill in Pakington Street, Chilwell in 1929, sits in Geelong's Johnstone Park.

Ms Amanda Hay, Principal of Newtown Primary School, said that the students had developed a major focus on Anzac Day each year with the creation of wreaths that linked to their study themes of the year. Recent themes have been about the symbols of Anzac Day, the involvement of specific soldiers, Anzac biscuits and the Gallipoli Oak. Students needed to undertake research as part of their projects that were led by the Respect Team of student leaders.

We look forward to growing this award in the years to come and thank Barwon Regional Group members who financially supported the award.



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### *Eastern Suburbs*

After a most successful visit and guided tour of the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance in April and then lunch in the Botanic Gardens for 30 guests, we are looking forward to our next three events and invite any members and their friends to attend.

Our second function for the year was a guided tour of our State Parliament House on Tuesday 16th June. Thirty-four members and their guests signed up and we met our guide in the foyer after going through fairly stringent security procedures during which most of us had our umbrellas confiscated. We were then treated to a wonderful tour by a former Speaker of the House, John Delzoppo OAM who had been Speaker from 1992 – 1996 during the period of the Liberal Kennett Government. We were firstly led into the Legislative Assembly Chamber where we were invited to be seated on the green plush seating where the parliamentarians usually sit. John stood up in front of the Speaker's chair and held court from there.

A prominent feature of the Assembly Chamber is the Table where important parliamentary proceedings take place. The Speaker's Chair is situated between a pair of Roman style Ionic columns and three Waterford crystal chandeliers are suspended from the ornate gold-leafed ceiling. John told us about the various procedures which take place before any debate can take place explained the role of the Mace and recounted several anecdotes which happened during his period of service.

Then it was time for inspecting the red velvet plush interior of the Legislative Council Chambers where we once again took our place on the comfortable seating.

John explained that tradition had been broken when Bruce Atkinson MLC had been elected to a second term of office as President of the Legislative Council and Member for the Eastern Metropolitan Region. He pointed out the Roman Corinthian Style architecture with its large freestone columns which surround the seating, the Royal Lion, Crown and Unicorn that sit on top of the Canopy behind the President's Chair and the magnificent bare-breasted statues which look down on proceedings from a great height just below the ceiling. John also pointed out the rich oak-leaf patterned carpet, green in the Lower House and red in the Upper.



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On our way up to the restaurant for a delicious two-course meal, we had a quick inspection of the wonderful oil-painted portraits of previous Prime Ministers which grace the walls of the Queen's Hall which separates the two Chambers, plus the huge marble statue of Queen Victoria which has dominated the east end of the Hall since 1883.

Bruce Atkinson MLC joined us in the restaurant and gave us many insights into his role as President of the Legislative Council. Those who attended this function seemed to enjoy the experience and we all felt we had learned something about how our Parliament works and we were thoroughly overwhelmed by the magnificence and grandeur of this historic building.

The group's next function will be a "Christmas in July" 2 course special luncheon at Bucatini Restaurant, 454 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham at 12.30pm on Tuesday 28th July. Our eminent Guest Speaker will be Dr. Heather Sheard on the topic "Australian Women Doctors during World War 1" and a Christmas Hamper will be raffled. We have had great experience of the Bucatini venue in the past and look forward to another very enjoyable afternoon of delicious food and great camaraderie. \$30 per head. All members and friends welcome.

Our fourth function for the year will be a Cocktail Party for 2015 Order of Australia Award recipients and will be held at Camberwell Town Hall on Wednesday, 7th October from 6 - 8pm. Finger food and drinks. Awardees free, guests \$30.00 per head.

### *North East Victoria and Goulbourn Valley*

The next meeting of the NEGVOAA will be a luncheon held at the Trawool Resort on the Goulbourn Valley Highway South East of Seymour, on Sunday 16th August. The guest speakers will be Kevin OAM and Rhonda Butler OAM of Blazeaid fame. See forthcoming events for further details.

Due to the proportion of our members who still have not registered an email address, the NEGVOAA will continue to mail out function invitations in hard copy. Provision is made on these forms for respondents to enter a current email address. In addition, a call is made at each event to record addresses on sheets placed on the tables. At the most recent event the notion of engaging a friend/family member/neighbour to receive electronic mail on their behalf seemed to be very



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well received, especially when advised that the newsletter will only come via email. Hopefully, we will soon be able to reduce the hard copy mail outs.

The group congratulates Dr John Richards OAM from Yarrawonga, on being awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science on 10th April by LaTrobe University for his voluntary work in the fields of Health and Agriculture, particularly in the field of Aged Care. The award is the most prestigious honour of the University

The group also offers congratulations to member "proactive" Isabel Dunstan OAM who on Thursday 23 April celebrated two anniversaries- Her 80th birthday and the 60th wedding anniversary of her marriage to Ray.

Five members from NEGVOAA attended the Perth National Conference. All enjoyed the Conference dinner which filled the Duxton Hotel dining room to capacity.

The Foundation's 2014 Scholarship awardees were announced and presented by Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AO. The two young women gave remarkably articulate presentations in appreciation. They are Vaishali GHOSH who is studying Electrical and Electronics Engineering and Danielle Hardie who is studying Animal and Agricultural Sciences, both at The University of Adelaide. They will surely make a positive contribution to our nation!

That our Association can assist young people of this calibre in financing their studies when they would otherwise struggle, is surely a good argument for becoming financial members of the Association.

The arranged extracurricular activities of the Conference were very suitably chosen and well conducted. A key activity was the Governor's Reception at Government House where we were addressed by The Honourable Kerry Sanderson AO followed by a self-conducted tour of the residential areas of the House.

An enormous accolade must go to Conference Director Barry Nunn AO and Margaret Nunn who led the project and made the guests feel really welcome. Margaret was indefatigable in emailing updates and changes in arrangements and generally keeping everyone informed.



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### *Loddon Campaspe*

The Loddon Campaspe Branch held its Mid-Year Luncheon at The Capital Theatre, View Street, Bendigo on Friday 12th June. The Guest Speaker was The Honourable Howard Nathan QC, former Supreme Court Judge; his topic was "Caught in Court". One of the features of this event is that it was well attended, not only by Order of Australia awardees, but also friends and associates of members.

Every effort is being made to obtain the email of address of each member of the Loddon Campaspe Branch. Much progress has been made and we have established that several of our long-standing members do not have an email address. We will continue to communicate with these people by mail.

### *North Central Suburbs*

The committee has commenced planning for an end of year function, which will include recognition of new awardees, together with the AGM.

A 'hard' copy of the State Electronic Newsletter was distributed to those 'without' email addresses to both keep them up to date with OAA activities and to further encourage them to provide their email address.

Following invitations received from other regional groups, members have attended MPRG's open day at Cruden Farm and ESRG's tour of Parliament House.

The committee has also been assisting the Northern Suburbs Regional Group, during the hospitalisation of Doreen Akkerman AM, chair of the group through the distribution of invitations to OAA activities and distribution of a letter seeking members comments on the proposed future direction of their Regional Group.



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### Recently released books

#### **The Angry Ant - Kel Glare AO**

During his police service Kel Glare was commended seven times for exceptional performance of duty. He is the holder of the Good Conduct and Long Service Medal, received the Australian Police Medal for distinguished service in 1987, was admitted as an Officer in the Order of St John (O SrJ) in 1990 and was awarded an Order of Australia (AO) in 1993.

His outstanding career in Victoria Police culminated in being Chief Commissioner of Police between 1987 and 1992. This is Kel's life story.

#### **Retirement...what retirement - Bill Noonan OAM**

After a lifetime of work many people look forward to spending their golden years of retirement playing golf, travelling or sipping cocktails on the back decking.

When Bill Noonan retired, he wondered what retirement would be like and set out to record his activities on 2013, 'a year in retirement'. Having retired from the position of Secretary of the Transport Workers Union in 2009, his work as a volunteer had continued. Busy roles included chairing the Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation, the Institute for Breathing and Sleep and as Deputy Chair of Western Melbourne Regional Development Australia. This afforded Bill valuable and rewarding opportunities to engage with quality people, organisations and the community.

As the book evolved it became clear that Bill needed to document some of his childhood experiences, subsequent work life and the ongoing love and support of family and friends, to assist the reader to understand and appreciate the influences that have developed and guided him. Needless to say there has been no time available to join the Bingo set. Retirement, what retirement?

Both books are available through the Police Blue Ribbon Foundation [www.remember.org.au](http://www.remember.org.au)



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## National Conference - Sydney 2016

The 30th National Convention is being held in Sydney between March 11 and 13 2016. Full details of the conference together with a Registration Form are available on the OAA website.

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





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## National Gallery of Victoria Exhibition

### *"Masterpieces from the Hermitage: The Legacy of Catherine the Great"*

The Victoria Branch of the Order of Australia Association has arranged an exclusive 45 minute introductory talk followed by entry to this year's winter blockbuster. The exhibition contains over 400 works of art, including paintings by Rembrandt, Rubens, Velasquez and Van Dyke.

**When** – 11 am Thursday 15 October 2015

**Where** – National Gallery of Victoria, St Kilda Road, Melbourne

**How much** - \$35 per person

Those wishing to stay for lunch after the exhibition may care to visit Cafe Vic in the Arts Complex. Lunch has been arranged for members of the group at a cost of \$35 per person (main course, dessert, glass of wine, tea/coffee).

If you would like to come please complete the following and mail to OAA, PO Box 18389, Collins Street East, Victoria, 8003 or email to [jbstock@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jbstock@bigpond.net.au) as soon as possible but definitely before the final acceptance date of 8 October.

Member's name \_\_\_\_\_ Post Nominal \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Guest's name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cost – Lecture and entry \_\_\_ @ \$35 per person \$

Lunch \_\_\_ @ \$35 per person \$

**Total** \$.....

Payment options (please circle)

• Visa/MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date \_\_\_/\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

• Direct deposit to OAA – Bendigo Bank BSB 633-109 Account 1424 94384

• Cheque to PO Box 18389, Collins Street East, Vic 8003

