



Dated February 2019

Vision Impaired Accessible Document



ART, DIPLOMACY & ACTIVISM

Art and artistic expression have for millennia embraced a cocktail of the aesthetic, individual talent and skill, social and political commentary. That cocktail can often be heady and confrontational.

This edition includes details of two of our Association members, Ms Jenny Bowker AO and Ms Di Johnstone AM, who have been recognised within the Australian Honours system for their 'art cocktail'!

Each are attempting to use their chosen 'art' to foster international and national understanding of confronting issues affecting the African continent; literally from its northern to southern extremes.

NOTICES & EXCLUSIONS:

This is our second attempt at an accessible version, feedback would be welcome.

This version of our National magazine is not intended for general distribution to the wider public but is prepared as a service to those of our members who require the use of vision-impaired screen-reader technology. Thus, certain pages of the hard-copy version involving complex graphics or page layout have been omitted.

A summary of these pages and other notes of a general nature will be listed here.

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION.

National Office – Email: oaasecretariat@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

National Secretary – Phil Morrall AM, CSC Email: natsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

NATIONAL CONFERENCE – HOBART APRIL 2019.

Our National Conference including the Annual General Meeting of our Association will be held in Hobart from 11 to 14 April 2019.

For further information about the conference, tourism venues, suggested places to visit, or matters generally relating to Tasmania please contact the Conference Committee Chairman and we will do our best to give you the answers you need.

Alastair Douglas. Phone 03 6225 2012 Mobile 0418 127 897

Email to Tasmania Conference: TasConference@TheOrderOfAustralia.asn.au

BRANCH FLYERS & FUNCTION RETURN SLIPS

Included in the hard-copy and E-copy mailout of this edition of the Magazine are separate flyers relating to the following, details can be obtained from the respective Branch committee see details in the Branch pages.

South Australia – River Murray cruise reply form for: Captain Proud riverboat cruise and lunch. Murray Bridge wharf at 10.30am, on Tuesday 26th march, 2019. *please reply by Monday 25th February, 2019.* Contact: Tony Metcalf OAM . Email: metcalf1942@optusnet.com.au

NOTICE REGARDING THE 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Thirty-Third Annual General Meeting of The Order of Australia Association Limited will be held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart Tasmania on Saturday 13 April 2019 at 9.30AM.

AGENDA

I have received notice from Mr Anthony Metcalf OAM of South Australia of his intention to submit a Petition seeking inclusion of a Special Resolution on the AGM Agenda.

At this time of committing this edition of The Order to print, I have no details of the subject of the intended Petition nor the likely date of its submission to me as required by our By-Laws, other than it will be submitted no later than 35 days prior the AGM.

Therefore, I am unable to advise the Agenda for the meeting and I am unable to draft and distribute an appropriate Proxy Form.

This information and documentation will therefore need to be distributed to members in a separate mailout, at additional cost, at an indeterminate date but not later than 21 days prior to the AGM.

I regret any inconvenience.

P L Morrall AM, CSC

National Secretary

Email: natsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Postal Address:

National Secretary

The Order of Australia Association

Old Parliament House

18 King George Terrace

PARKES ACT 2600

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I wish all members a happy and fulfilling year in 2019.

A striking feature of 2018 has been the dramatic increase in nominations for the Order of Australia. This reflects strong leadership by the Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove, State Governors, the secretariat at Government House and the supporting efforts by our Board and Branches of the Association to encourage nominations, especially of more women and groups not adequately recognized so far. Total nominations in 2018 were 45% greater than in 2017 (and 70% greater than in 2016). The proportion of the total in respect of women increased from one third to 40%. A significant contributing factor has been the new streamlined arrangements for online nomination, carefully developed to ensure no compromise of the confidentiality and integrity of the selection process. There is the prospect that the number of citizens honoured (currently around 36,000 since 1975) will rise over time to create a 'critical mass' making the Honours system better known.

Under the energetic leadership of Barry Nunn your Board has had a very successful year. Across Branches there have been many initiatives fostering pride in citizenship and appreciation of Australia's strong institutions. At the national level, administration has been streamlined, a new business plan introduced, membership put on a more businesslike basis, finances are on a stronger basis (especially with generous assistance from Deputy Chairman Paul Wheelton), and there has been increased use of the cloud and email (with Phil Morrall National Secretary managing this) while fully respecting the wishes of those older members

wishing to continue with hard copy arrangements. The Membership Director, Helene Bender, has carried further the important work undertaken by her predecessor Jane Arthur to ensure the Board and Branches have accurate current and historical data on membership. We should be well positioned to ensure that the increased number of honours leads to an increase in membership of the Association.

Like so many Australian institutions our strengths lie at Branch level. It is the Branches who arrange functions, engage the community and who seek new members. And when it is their turn, individual Branches organize the national conference. The national Board designs the garden while the Branches and regional groups make the flowers bloom.

Finally, the Board continues to be conscious that many of our members confront uncertainties as the international economy slows, share values slide, and as many experience utility costs, health insurance and rates increasing at a pace faster than family income.

Under the Constitution my term as President will finish at the conclusion of the AGM in Hobart in April. I am grateful for your friendship and cooperation and especially appreciative of the hard work by all who have served on the Boards at national and Branch level. I am delighted that my successor will be one of Australia's most distinguished business women Heather Ridout AO. Heather is Chair of AustralianSuper Pty Ltd, has served as a Board member of the Reserve Bank of Australia, the Australian Stock Exchange and has fulfilled many other prestigious roles.

Philip Flood AO

National President

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I hope that all members enjoyed Christmas and New Year and approach 2019 with renewed enthusiasm. We can look back on the Association activities of 2018 with a great deal of satisfaction. We have improved member communications at national, branch and regional levels by the increased use of electronic technology. This has resulted in both significant cost economies and the provision of more immediate information. Attendance at branch and regional functions and activities has been encouraging and reflects the hard work of volunteers throughout our enterprise. Efforts of our members have significantly contributed to an increase in the number of nominations in the Order, recognition of a higher proportion of under-represented groups and a pleasing increase in new recipients joining the Association.

Our 2018 AGM in Adelaide saw changes to our constitution aimed at increasing member involvement in the appointment of Association management.

Branches have now completed their 2019 AGMs and in many cases new members have been inducted into management committees. I wish to thank all outgoing committee members for their vital contribution to the success of our organisation during the past year and in some cases for several past years. Incoming members have a challenge both to do as well as their predecessors and to meet the needs of the Association in 2019 and beyond.

Throughout my term as National Chairman I have enjoyed the support and wise counsel of our National President, Philip Flood AO. Philip's calm approach, deep insights and thoughtful observations have been of great value to us all, particularly during vigorous Board deliberations. Philip will retire at the conclusion of the 2019 AGM and we look forward to then welcoming as our new National President Heather Ridout AO. Heather will bring a wealth of experience to our Association and we look forward to working with her.

I encourage all members who can do so to attend our National Conference 11th to 14th April in Hobart. An engaging programme of speakers and activities has been arranged and participation in our AGM and Member Forum will give you the opportunity to have your say in the future of our Association.

I look forward to meeting many of you in Hobart.

Barry Nunn AO

National Chairman

NATIONAL SECRETARY REPORT

AGM Registration and Voting

The agenda for the AGM to be held in Hobart on 13 April 2019 is yet to be resolved (see Notice above). If there are Special Resolutions on the agenda, they require special voting arrangements.

Association members attending the National AGM will be required to register at the door, so please allow sufficient time prior to 9-30am to complete this administration. The process will include:

- Certification of current Association financial membership and the signing of the attendance register.
- Possible distribution of Ballot Papers.

Call for 'topics' for Members' Forum

Suggestions for discussion at the Members' Forum may be forwarded to the National Secretary (preferably by email) no later than 25 March 2019.

natsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Questions may be asked from the floor without prior advice.

Discrimination and Harassment Policy

Members might recall my previous reference to the mandated Insurance requirement that we have a Discrimination and Harassment policy. This requirement has been fulfilled the policy can be found at the following hyperlink to our website:

<https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/national/policies/>

National Directors Governance Obligations and Responsibilities

Our Association's Governance is controlled by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. Their requirements of and guidance to Directors can be found at the following link to the ACNC website:

<https://www.acnc.gov.au/tools/guides/governance-good-acncs-guide-charity-board-members>

If you wish to understand the regime within which your Directors, as volunteers, are required to operate, please read the information at the link. The requirements carry legal, professional and personal obligations.

Phil Morrall AM, CSC

National Secretary

Western Australia Branch

WA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Since the last edition of The Order, the WA Branch completed 2018 with the annual Christmas lunch and regional events. These social gatherings are reported in detail below. Most importantly, these gatherings helped provide a basis for fellowship among the members of the WA Branch.

In addition to the regular receptions to honour new awardees and the annual dinner, events proposed for this year include:

- A talk at the Maritime Museum on the subject of finding HMAS SYDNEY.
- A very special evensong at St. George's Cathedral.
- And, a walk among the wildflowers in King's Park.

The first Branch event for 2019 will be the Annual General Meeting and brunch at Fremantle Sailing Club on Sunday 24 February. Members will have received the Notice of Meeting and other details by email or in the post. All committee positions are up for election. The Branch is especially keen to receive nominations for the position of Treasurer, as Ian Williams AO must retire after five years of dedicated service on the committee. A position description was provided with the Notice of Meeting to help inform potential Treasurers.

The Branch Committee continues its work in promoting the Objects of the association. As always, the committee need not be the only ones undertaking this work. Similar to recruit squad patrons at the WA Police Academy, volunteers are always welcome. If any member has a good idea for a community project or, would just like to help in coordinating events, please contact any of your committee members. The committee is keen to hear new ideas about how the Branch might help:

- Recognise individuals, institutions and organisations which operate in WA to alleviate poverty, promote harmony, or otherwise benefit WA communities.
- Encourage continuing meritorious appointments to and awards in the Order of Australia of worthy West Australians.
- Inform West Australians of Australia's history, its national institutions, traditions and culture.

I wish you all the best for 2019.

Mark Bonser AO, CSC.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA - COMING EVENTS

February 24th

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at 10.00
at the Fremantle Sailing Club, 151 Marine Terrace
to be followed by Brunch

20th March

Australia Day Reception
At Perth City Council

Early April final date TBA

Fremantle Maritime Museum visit
and talk on the Finding of HMAS Sydney

16th June

Choral Evensong at 5.00 pm
St George's Cathedral, Perth

August – date TBA

Queen's Birthday Reception

2nd October

Wildflower Walk in King's Park
followed by morning tea at the Cafe

Great Southern Highlights

The Great Southern Regional Group held a very moving church service, followed by a memorable Christmas lunch in Albany over the weekend 17/18 November. Great Southern membership attendance was swelled by a contingent of 14 members and partners who travelled down from Perth to enjoy the hospitality and friendship of local members.

The congregation of the Holy Family Catholic Church welcomed visiting members and the significance of the Order was emphasised during the service.

Christmas lunch was, as in previous years, a very happy occasion. Great Southern Convenor, Ken Peck OAM welcomed all, Barry Nunn AO, National Chairman spoke of national matters and Bill Hassel AM reported on activities in the WA Branch.

While in the Great Southern region several visitors took the time to explore Fitzgerald National Park and its abundance of wildflowers, dined out on local produce and visited the ANZAC Field of Lights.

The ANZAC Field of Lights installation is a poignant tribute to all those who passed through Albany en-route to WWI. It is to remain in place until ANZAC Day 2019.

WA BRANCH -Office holders and Committee Members

Patron

Hon Kim Beazley AC Governor of Western Australia

Chairman

RADM Mark Bonser AO CSC (Retd)

Immediate Past Chairman

Mr Bill Hassell AM JP

Secretary

Miss Margaret Lobo AM

Treasurer
Mr Ian Williams AO

Committee Members
Capt. Michael Bleus OAM
Mr Geoffrey Cattach AM
Mrs Bettine Heathcote AM
Professor Warren Kerr AM
The Hon Barbara Scott OAM
Professor Robin Watts AM

Regional Coordinators
South West Region
Mrs Glenys McDonald AM

Great Southern Region
Mr Ken Pech AM JP

Contact Information
wabbranch@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Mail: PO Box 4222
Mosman Park WA 6912

Australian Capital Territory Branch

ACT BRANCH OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

Gen Peter Gration AC OBE

Chair

Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM mandmcrane@live.com 0467 719 020 (M)

Secretary

Robert Altamore OAM

Treasurer

Terry O'Brien OAM RFD

Committee Members

Duncan Smith OAM

Sam Wong AM

Bill Maiden PSM OAM

Narelle Hargreaves OAM

Gabrielle Cooper OAM

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



A very happy new year to all Association members! By the time you read this, the ACT Branch will already have held its 2019 Australia Day breakfast, with Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC (Retd) as guest speaker.

We will also have held our Annual General Meeting and heard a presentation from the Senior Australian of the Year, Sue Packer AM. We'll have reports on those events in next quarter's *The Order*, but in the meantime, we trust you enjoy reading in this edition about our 2018 Student Awards. The Student Awards are always inspiring, and 2018 was no exception: students of all ages from schools all over Canberra were recognised in late November for their outstanding community service and citizenship. May I extend particular thanks to Bill Maiden PSM, OAM and

his team for their wonderful work in pulling the Awards together.

2019 promises to be another busy year for the Branch, with all the traditional elements of our program once again on offer. We do hope Branch members and interstate visitors alike will join us to enjoy fellowship and the many other benefits of the Order of Australia Association.

Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM
Chairman ACT Branch

STUDENT AWARDS PRESENTATION

The annual OAA-ACT Student Awards Presentation was held at the Royal Canberra Golf Club on Thursday 22 November. This is always a special event on our calendar where the Branch can acknowledge the good citizenship examples displayed by ACT students. The presentation of plaques, medals and certificates were made by the Branch Patron Gen Peter Gration AC, OBE.

The judging panel of Ms Trish Keller OAM, Ms Narelle Hargreaves OAM, Ms Elizabeth Grant AM, Mr Les Blackley OAM and Student Awards coordinator Dr Bill Maiden PSM, OAM, were impressed by the quality of nominations where the students exhibited initiative, concern for others, leadership, and made contributions reflecting the values inherent in active Australian citizenship.

Ms Natalie Howson, Director General of the A.C.T. Directorate of Education and Early Childhood Development was in attendance and the Principal of MacKillop College, Mr Michael Lee, spoke on the values of citizenship developed in the students represented at the event.

Harry Blake – Year 12 – Radford College – awarded the Order of Australia ACT Branch's 2018 Medallion for Outstanding Individual Leadership by a Year 11 or Year 12 Student

Harry's nomination cited his extraordinary contribution to service activity and contributions to the community during his final three years at the College. Amongst his many contributions are regular visits to assist at schools in the Gamilaraay country in north-western NSW, his faithful weekly attendance at the school's recreational activity for people with an intellectual disability and his dedicated involvement with all school-based service and fundraising activities. He is very modest about his many commitments, accomplishments and the widespread respect he has earned through giving so much to his own and the wider community.

Harry



Blake



Hannah McGilvray and Ruan Janse van Rensburg – Year 12 – Brindabella Christian College – awarded the Order of Australia ACT Branch's Group Community Service and Citizenship Plaque

Hannah and Ruan have displayed significant servant leadership both inside and outside their school in their roles as school captains. Their nomination indicated that the high quality of their team leadership has had a most pronounced and positive effect on the entire school. These two leaders organise leading and running the College's charity events and assist the middle school and junior students to conduct their SRC meetings. They also organise and run social and fundraising events as well as perform the roles required of school captains. Both are also active contributors to the outside community.

Hannah McGilvray and Ruan Janse van Rensburg

Lauren Murphy – Year 6 – Holy Spirit Primary School – Highly Commended Certificate



Since the age of seven, Lauren has shown her initiative in thinking of ways to financially support those less fortunate in her community. Over that time, she has individually, or engaged her friends, to help raise considerable funds through, for example, a cupcake and cookie stall, a cafe at her house, selling painted gift cards, a recycling service, and the making and selling of string puppets. She is highly regarded as a determined, courageous and caring leader within her school's student

body.

Ms Anna D'Amico, Lauren Murphy, Bill Maiden PSM, OAM

Maddy Garfarth - Year 11 – St Mary MacKillop College – Highly Commended Certificate

Over the last five years, Maddy has immersed herself within the community by selflessly donating her time to the 'Sweet ChariTea' initiative. Amongst other things, her volunteering work has involved social media marketing, communication with sponsors and packing gift bags in supporting fundraising for Canberra Hospital's Paediatric Unit. In addition, she has packed kits for child birthing in third world countries and door knocked for Vinnies. She has demonstrated a long-term and sustained generosity of spirit in her volunteering work.



Michael Lee, Maddy Garfarth, Caitlyn Williams, Ellen Scott, Gen Peter Gration AC OBE Photo: Aidan Brunskill.

Ellen Scott and Caitlyn Williams – Year 10 – St Mary MacKillop College – Highly Commended Certificates

In conjunction with the National Council of Young Women Australia's 'Sister Act' program, Ellen and Caitlyn have researched, collaborated, designed and presented a leadership program in ACT Catholic High Schools designed to combat gender balance issues in the workplace and develop the leadership skills of young women. They initiated and led a series of workshops for aspiring and potential female leaders across three Catholic High Schools, engaging guest speakers to help develop skill sets in confidence-raising, communication, interpersonal relations, networking and leadership.

Ava Starling – Year 6 – Forrest Primary School – Highly Commended Certificate



Ava is an outstanding school citizen who goes above and beyond in caring about and supporting others in her community. Examples of her long-term initiatives and leadership include persuading her school of the need to use recycled toilet paper, organising a dress-up day to fundraise for the World Wildlife Fund and educating her school's student body of declining quokka numbers. She has also organised a book drive for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation which resulted in a collection of 18 boxes of books to send to disadvantaged school libraries in remote communities.

*Natalie Howson, Christine Pilgrim,
Ava Starling, Carolyn Davis*

SUE PACKER AM – SENIOR AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Branch member Dr Sue Packer AM, who has been named Senior Australian of the Year. Dr Packer's nomination follows a lifetime of work as a paediatrician and working to protect and enhance the rights of children. Her work has included caring for abused children and babies, and she was named Canberra Citizen of the Year in 2013 "in recognition of her personal efforts and significant contributions to the ACT community, particularly as an advocate for the safety and wellbeing of children." Sue was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in January 1999 *for service to child welfare, to Paediatric medicine and to the community.*

Sue Packer AM Photo: ACT Government

Victoria Branch

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



In welcoming 2019, we thank Diane James AM for her sixteen-month commitment to the role of Victoria Branch Chairman. Diane has been appointed to key roles within the Water Industry that now precluding her from devoting the time she would like to the Victoria Branch and hence her decision to resign late November. During her time as Chair, Diane had a strong focus on increasing the number of women nominated for Australian Honours.

I am pleased to take on the role as Chair of the Victoria Branch; I have been Barwon Regional Group Secretary since 2013, VIC Branch committee member since 2016, National Board Nominated Director (VIC) 2017 and National Membership Director since May 2018.

The change of leadership and upcoming AGM will see due to years of tenure and personal health and family reasons some changes on the Victoria Branch committee, with change comes new ideas and opportunities for the Branch to build on the solid foundation set by others.

Victoria Branch of the Order of Australia Association has excellent Regional Groups who are determined to grow nominations, increase membership and retain members. The aim of the VIC Branch is to work with the Regional Groups ensuring diversity of nominations including age, gender and culture.

The final Branch event for 2018 was the annual lunch at William Angliss College with guest speaker inspirational Olympic medalist Steve Moneghetti AM. OAA Foundation Scholarship awardee Juanita Kelly-Mundine spoke about the advantages of the scholarship which allows her to fully focus on her studies.

2018 finished on a high for William Lye OAM a Victoria Branch committee member and our nominated Branch member on the National Board. Late last month the Victorian Bar welcomed the appointment of 25 of its members as Senior Counsel by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Victoria. One of the new senior counsel is William Lye OAM. The silk ceremony bow was held late November in the Supreme Court of Victoria, and then at the Federal Court of Australia and the Family Court of Australia.

The excitement of a new year also brings a list of new Honours awardees that have gone above and beyond. These awardees have received a letter of congratulations from our National Chairman Barry Nunn AO together with an invitation to join the Association brochure and membership application. I have also sent a letter of congratulations on behalf of the Victoria Branch and I am confident Regional Groups will welcome and encourage our Australia Day 2019 awardees to become members.

The Victoria Branch third Inspiring Australians Oration at 11.00am on Wednesday February 27, 2019 at Deakin Edge Federation Square will be delivered by Sally Capp who was elected Lord Mayor of Melbourne May last year. Sally is the first woman to be directly elected as Lord Mayor. She is also the first woman to hold the post of Agent-General for Victoria in the UK, Europe and Israel. Sally served as the CEO for the Committee for Melbourne and COO of the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

This is a free event however bookings are essential for seating requirements and the catering of light refreshments, please use the following link: <https://www.trybooking.com/449839>

Helene Bender OAM

JERSEY BOYS:



The Victoria Branch has been offered the opportunity to sell tickets to the charity performance of Jersey Boys on Friday 1st March 2019. Every ticket sold from that night will be part of a donation to four community organisations, of which OAA is one. So, by purchasing tickets you will be helping fund our scholarship winner who is undertaking their studies at a regional university in Victoria. It is a perfect present for the family and friends. You can book tickets at the

following link – <https://jerseyboys.com.au/>

Jersey Boys is the story of how a group of blue-collar boys from the wrong side of the tracks became one of the biggest American pop sensations of all time – The Four Seasons. The musical features all of their biggest hits, including; *Big Girls Don't Cry*, *Walk Like A Man*, *Sherry* and *Can't Take My Eyes Off You*.

SOUTH CENTRAL SUBURBAN REGIONAL GROUP - END OF YEAR DINNER

On a beautiful sunny spring evening, 72 members, guests and friends met at the Victoria Golf Club Cheltenham for an evening of friendship and fine food. They would not and should not have been disappointed.

Chairman Ross Newton OAM was unwell and was under his Doctor's orders not to attend, so Vice Chairman Graeme Woolacott OAM deputized for the evening as well as being the MC. Guests were welcomed including Mrs. Margaret Bland who attended with Mrs. Judy Newton. New members recognised and awarded during the course of this year, were specifically mentioned and welcomed as well.

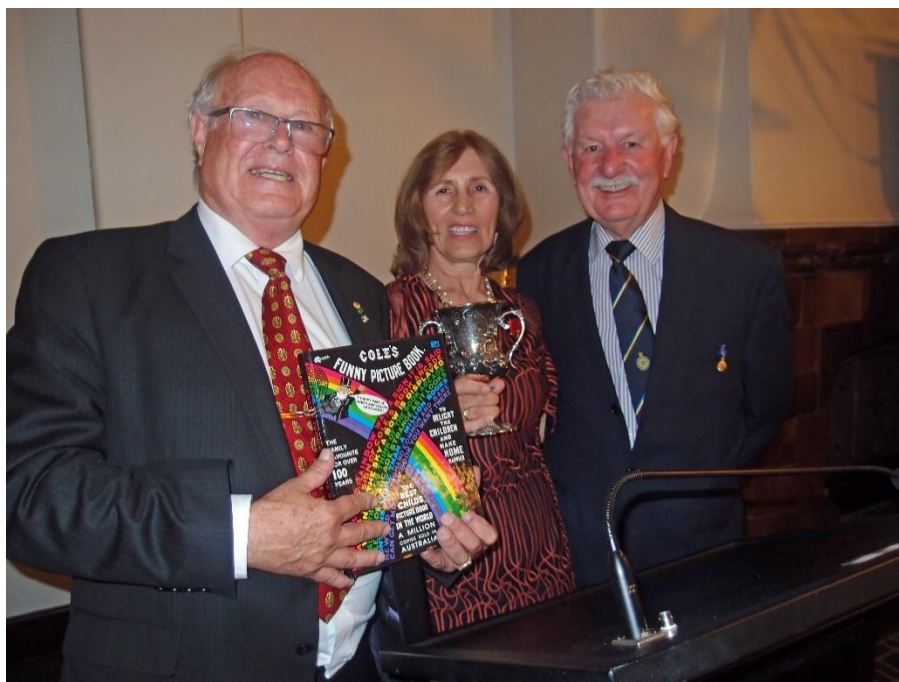
Formalities started with the Loyal Toast being given by Cheryl Threadgold OAM and the Toast to The Order of Australia Association was then proposed by Rayleen Haig OAM. Both toasts were warmly accepted and praised later as "the best I have heard".

Following the main course there was a short address by Mr. Tony Killen OAM. Tony is the immediate ex-captain of Victoria Golf Club, having stood down in October after three years. He is also a member of 43 years standing within the Club. He spoke of the history of the Club including the original site in Fishermans Bend around the current Ingles Street area and the move to Cheltenham. His love of his Club and its achievements shone through with pride when he spoke of their two favourite sons, Doug Bachli MBE amateur golfer and Peter Thompson AO CBE MBE professional golfer.

The Guest Speaker for the evening was Mr. Ian Armstrong OAM JP [a member of our Regional Group] who baffled us firstly with some curios which were passed around the tables for a later guessing game with prizes and secondly with anecdotes and stories of his love of collecting, his meetings with the members of the Royal Family, his business and farming interests.

To try and encapsulate Ian's very eclectic, humorous and amazing talk is difficult, but here are some of the highlights, in no particular order:

- Graduated with Commerce Degree from Melbourne University,
- 3rd Generation shoe retailer,
- Why collect? War time deprivation,
- Suggested royalty transgressions by NASA, Commonwealth Games Committee,
- Sold collection of 500,000 cigarette cards to help purchase a beach house,
- Had Australia's largest coin robbery when robbed and cleaned out,
- The Armstrong Collection - 368 tokens, world's largest private collection,
- Has owned two antique shops,
- Sold copper Charlotte medallion to help purchase main residence,
- Issued world's first inflation proof dollar [story in itself],
- Cultural Gift Valuer for Army, Telstra, Police, VRC and many others,
- BHP Award for Excellence and Victorian of the Year,
- Has a tram previously owned by Sir Elton John CBE,
- An extensive collection of Georgian shoe buckles,
- Has the 1949 Melbourne Cup won by Foxzami.



Ian Armstrong OAM, Mary Armstrong and Graeme Woolacott OAM;

Mary is holding the 1949 Melbourne Cup.

MORNINGTON PENINSULA- THE 2018 ANNUAL SCHOOLS PROJECT AWARDS

The Order of Australia Association, Mornington Peninsula Regional Group members were the guests of Beleura House and Garden on 16th November 2018. Some 50 Members and Guests attended the presentation to the winners of the Annual Schools Project Award. Before the presentation, members and guests were privileged to enjoy a guided tour of the historic house and surroundings.

The Annual Schools Project Award is open to schools in the Mornington Peninsula Shire and the City of Frankston who submit school projects that exemplify pride in responsible Australian Citizenship and improves the quality of life in the community.

The winning entry judged by the Selection Panel was submitted by Monterey Secondary College titled "Monterey Connecting Sport Connect and Industry Connect". The Sports Connect Project aims to enable students to qualify as youth coaches in major sporting codes. The schools Industry Connect project emanated from an approach from Monash University's Allied Health Department to participate in a Frankston North adaption of the Federal Government's "Be Connected" Program and aimed at ensuring that everyone in Australia is connected online and is confident to use technology including mobile phones, computers and tablets, with the target group being Seniors, fifty years and over.

Mrs. Jones-Pinkett (Deputy Principal), Ms. Susan Bollard (Coordinator of VET) and students Hayley Bounds, Tyler Streker and Tyreese Gillett-Khotsimeuang from Monterey Secondary College accepted the engraved plaque and the cash prize.

The Runner Up entry titled "See The Person Not The Disability - Scope Community Service" was received from Mornington Secondary College. Using the SCOPE theme of their structured, while flexible, learning program provided extension projects within the School and the wider community. This provided Mornington Secondary College students with the skills to understand disability and diversity in the community, to successfully communicate with people with a disability, to be aware of the challenges faced by people with disabilities and to encourage students to see the person not the disability. Students interviewed local community organisations and worked closely with people with disabilities, with the aim of identifying particular issues and investigating the support systems within and missing in the community

Ms. Amanda Jones Year 12 Team Leader from Mornington Secondary College accepted the framed certificate and cash prize.

Following the presentation of the Schools Project Awards those present were treated to a piano recital performed by Ashley Hribar. He is an internationally recognised Australian born pianist-composer who has developed a reputation as a versatile musician embracing multimedia, world music and cross-disciplinary arts forms. The audience gave Ashley a standing ovation having thoroughly enjoyed his hour-long recital.

Afternoon tea was served by the Beleura House Volunteers. Regional Chairman Brian Stahl OAM JP thanked the volunteers, Mr. Anthony Knight OAM, Director and the Beleura Management for their organisation and splendid presentation of the afternoon at this heritage property.



Monterey Secondary College - Winners

Students [L-R]: Hayley Bounds, Tyler Streker and Tyreese Gillett-Khotsimeuang

VERNON ANDREW KNIGHT AM JP – ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, LA TROBE UNIVERSITY, CHAIRMAN, MALLEE REGIONAL GROUP, VICTORIA BRANCH FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS

Vernon was born in 1947 and grew-up in one of Melbourne’s leafy eastern suburbs. He was the second of three children. While his family were not well-to-do, he had the privilege of attending Carey Baptist Grammar while completing his secondary education. Reflecting on his career, Vernon feels it was inevitable that he was destined to work in child protection and community welfare. Vernon had been active as a volunteer youth leader including a long-term involvement with the Collingwood Adventure Group, a program which aimed to assist vulnerable children living in the inner suburbs of Melbourne. After studies at the Institute of Social Welfare, Vernon was engaged to establish a pilot program in a Victorian youth detention service. This led to his employment as the Principal of the Andrew Kerr Memorial Home and subsequently, founding Director of the Children’s Welfare Association of Victoria, now known as the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare.

This was a rapidly changing era and Vernon was an eager player in Victoria’s reform of child and family welfare services. Four years on and Vernon was recruited to establish a new service in the Westernport region, known then as Dandenong Family Care. It was a region of significant challenge and the success of the new service saw Vernon offered a similar assignment in the Mallee region [Mildura area]. It was always intended that Mallee Family Care would become an independent entity but not envisaged was Vernon’s desire to continue as its Executive Director until his retirement in 2016. This new service eventually became home to some sixty programs in north-west Victoria, south-west NSW and the Riverland of South Australia.

While Vernon is only too quick to indicate that its achievements were only ever the result of the collective efforts of its staff of around 300 and a volunteer ‘army’ of more than 500,

Vernon's leadership role has been well recognised. In addition to his membership of the Order of Australia, Vernon's other awards include the Centenary Medal, the Equity Trustees award for Long-Term Achievement, a Prime Minister's Award for Community-Business Partnerships and a Tattersall's Award for Enterprise and Achievement.

Vernon has been equally active outside in the wider Mallee region having served as a Mildura Councillor and Deputy Mayor, Chair of the Victorian Alliance of Councils for Rail Freight Development, Chair of the Mildura Base Hospital Advisory Board and a member of the Sunraysia Higher Education Committee. He has served as the President of Mildura Rotary and was made a Paul Harris Fellow in 1997. Vernon regards the establishment of the Mildura Campus of La Trobe University and Chances for Children as his most satisfying achievements. Together with his wife Christine (OAM), they have fostered more than 30 children.



Vernon and Christine Knight at Gallipoli, in front of the Lone Pine Memorial during the OAA 2018 Battlefields Tour

South Australia Branch

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As I look to make my thoughts known in this edition of The Order I do so on the basis that it is my last as Chairman of the South Australian Branch.

I have some moments and occasions that are pivotal to the role and leadership of Chairman that have had a very positive impact and I have some others that have been disappointments.

We have seen the South Australian Branch's Student Citizenship Awards grow annually and the engagement of the Education sector is to be commended. Within that we have met some very competent young people who are the leaders of tomorrow.

Our Investiture Receptions for new recipients have been very well-accepted functions and they have enabled us to partner with our Local Government colleagues, initially at the Unley City Council – for one year – and then Norwood Payneham and St Peter's for the last 2 years. The warmth and support displayed by the Councils in joining with us has been welcomed by the Branch Committee.

While I have played a pivotal role in these, many of the Branch Committee and colleagues have been critical supporters in making them happen. To each of them I express my deepest thanks.

And of course we cannot forget the National Conference held in Adelaide in May 2018. It was exceptional and a credit to all involved.

On the down side, while we were able to influence the teaching principles in the national education curriculum, further work as a national project was not seen as a priority at the time. The concept of a training program about the Order and other prestigious awards and possibly having a training program and Association member engagement at schools has to date not been advanced.

Over the 3 year term we have had some great events and both Di and I have really enjoyed them. I express my appreciation to all the Committee members [and frequently their partners] I have worked with over the 6 years I have spent on the State body. I have enjoyed the wonderful support of my wife Di throughout that time and nothing has been too much trouble for her whether it be arranging the food for events and working with other helpers, or just helping with organizational matters.

As we head into 2019/20 I extend best wishes to Tony Metcalf OAM as he assumes the role of Chairman. Tony's support as Deputy Chairman has been very significant and really appreciated. I also wish the new Committee well. A strategic approach has commenced addressing the role and work of the Committee and I look forward to that unfolding.

I also express my deepest gratitude to Jan Forrest OAM who has concluded her statutory term. The amount of work this lady has done for the Committee defies belief. She will be sorely missed. Our best wishes go with her as she continues her significant community commitments. Allied to a portion of the work Jan has done is that of Elizabeth Rogers OAM. She concluded her term last year but has continued her untiring efforts in assisting with the SA component of 'The Order'.

To each of our members – thank you for being part of our audience, joining us at various functions and events. And if you feel like you can contribute to the work of the Branch Committee – that need not necessarily be as a Committee member – I invite you to contact Tony Metcalf, the Chairman of the Branch Committee, to discuss it further.

Ken Coventry OAM JP.

Chairman, SA Branch – *to February 16th 2019.*
Order of Australia Association

STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

In South Australia members are asked to present certificates to awardees at their local school. Member Anne Johnson AM agreed to present awards at Penola and reported she appreciated the opportunity in being involved. If you would like to present Student Citizenship award certificates to students at a local high school or college near you please contact Noel Hender OAM BEM, convener of the SA Branch the Student Citizenship Awards, at nrhender1@optusnet.com.au or mob. 0409 672 882.



Photo: Students Student Citizenship awardees, Gorgia Robbie and Emily Winter from Penola High School with SA Branch member Anne Johnson AM.

FLEURIEU REGIONAL LUNCHEON

The half yearly luncheon was held at the Meadows Hotel on Friday, 2nd November, 2018.

The guest speaker was member Ken Rowland OAM. Ken began missionary work in 1964 on Milingimbi Island having set out with his wife and 3 small children to build houses for the Mission and Indigenous people. He has extensive experience with indigenous Australians and in particular Arnhem Land. His presentation included power point slides of his experiences.

Branch Chairman Ken Coventry OAM, his wife Di and Judith Leeson AM, a Branch Committee member, were among those present. On behalf of the Branch Committee and membership, Ken expressed sincere appreciation to Jocelyn Bayly OAM for her past commitment as Regional Convenor [since the Regional Group's inception well over a decade ago] and also extended best wishes to Rex Keily AM JP who has assumed the role.

RIVER MURRAY 'CAPTAIN PROUD' PADDLE STEAMER CRUISE AND LUNCH

Join members for a three hour lunch cruise on the Paddle Steamer the '*Captain Proud*' out of Murray Bridge on Tuesday 26th March 2019. Boat **departs** Murray Bridge Wharf at 11.00am.

"Explore the vast and natural beauty that is our River Murray. Enjoy a fine meal and a drink to wash it down as you cruise slowly past majestic scenery. Experience the wildlife of the River Murray in all its untamed natural beauty. Cruise past the points of interest that you can only really see from the river. See the wonderful scenery as you take in the fresh air on the deck outside the dining room.

Learn of the wonderful history of the area as you relax in comfort with friends, loved ones, or business partners. The Captain Proud Paddle Boat boasts a fully decked out period-styled dining area and bar".

Cost: \$45 includes 3 hour cruise and a two course meal.

Transport: for those members travelling from Adelaide we have hired a bus Adelaide to Murray Bridge and return. Cost: \$45pp. The bus will pick up from three locations as follows:

- * The Kanga Coachlines Depot, 3 Dan Street, Mawson Lakes at 8.15 am (bus departs 8.30 am);
- * Bottom of the Convention Centre escalators on North Terrace, Adelaide at 9.15 am;
- * Bus Stop 14 SE Freeway 9.30 am (your vehicles may be parked in carpark of The Colonial Hotel).

Please advise on the Reply Form where you would like to be collected. If you are coming by private vehicle, please be at the wharf by 10.30am. Replies by Monday, 25 February 2019 on the form enclosed.

ANTHONY JOHN (TONY) METCALF OAM

I received my award on Australia Day 2012 for Service to Youth, to Aged Welfare, and to Motor Enthusiast Organisations in S.A.

Following the Branch AGM in 2012 when there was no nomination for the position of S.A. Branch Treasurer, I contacted the then State Chair, John McKellar AM, and volunteered to fill in.

My working career commenced in 1958 as a junior clerk in the mail department of the State Bank of S.A., Head Office, Pirie Street, Adelaide. I worked at the Bank for 30 years, (where I met my wife Cheryl), completing qualifications on a part time basis as an Accountant, a Chartered Secretary, the Bankers' Institute and finally a Bachelor of Economics Degree. I left the Bank in 1988 as Chief Accountant, after the amalgamation of the State Bank and Savings Bank and joined Australian National Railways as Financial Controller until 1996, when I was made redundant as part of the privatisation of ANR. I then did some contract financial management work with Minda Incorporated. When that ran out I took on the job of Accounting Manager with McGrath Real Estate, Glenelg, until I retired in 2006.

During this whole time I was heavily involved with Scouting at 1st College Park Scout Group, Joslin, initially as a scout and venturer (Senior Scout) and then as a cub scout leader, scout leader, venturer leader, and group leader, finally taking on the position of Scouts S.A. Branch Treasurer in about 1990, a position I relinquished in 2008. I was made a life member of the association in 1987 and awarded the Silver Emu in 2004. Over my scouting service I was also heavily involved in the financial organisation of several national scout camps and jamborees, the largest involving over 12,000 youth and leaders.

My involvement with Motoring Enthusiasts arose out of my Scouting activities and regular camping and bushwalking trips to the Flinders Ranges, Tasmania, and the Victorian high country. I joined the Rover Car Club of S.A. in about 1982, which then led me to becoming involved in the formation of the Range Rover 4WD Club of S.A. in 1986 (as Treasurer! I also served several years as Treasurer of the Rover Car Club). After becoming President of the Range Rover Club, I was involved with a restructure of the State Body (4WD SA) and the rewriting of its constitution. I was State President for several years around 2000. I still hold the position of Hon. Auditor of 4WD S.A.

When I retired in 2006, I thought that I should rebuild my social network, as my employment-based network was then mostly not relevant. At that time National Seniors Australia was seeking interest in starting a local branch at Klemzig, and after attending the inaugural meeting I took on the position of Vice President, having decided that I did not want any more jobs as treasurer. I held this position for several years and then became President in about 2010. National Seniors Australia organises its branches into Zones for ease of administration. Each Zone comprises about 6 branches with a Zone Chair and Secretary elected annually. They meet on a semi regular basis to co-ordinate social activities and political lobbying. I was elected Zone Chair in 2012, and still hold the positions of Zone and Branch Chairs. I am also on the S.A. Zone Policy Committee. National Seniors Australia has recently revised its constitution to bring it up to date, something that I believe our National body should urgently address.

OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia

Chairman and Regional Co-ordinator

Mr Ken Coventry OAM

Secretary

Mr Paul Thomas AM

Treasurer and Deputy Chairman

Mr Anthony Metcalf OAM

National Director

Professor Alan Johnson AM

Branch Membership Office

Ms Jan Forrest OAM

Committee Members

Ms June Genders OAM

Mr Noel Hender OAM BEM

Mrs Judith Leeson AM

Mr John Phillips OAM

Mr Francis Wong OAM

Tasmania Branch

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The National Conference, that will be in Hobart during 11 to 14 April 2019, is a significant opportunity to meet members from around our country to renew or make friendships, exchange ideas and learn what innovative activities that people in other Branches are doing.

With the Christmas and New Year activities now behind us an increasing number of Tasmanian members are being involved to assist the organising committee with the 2019 National Conference. We are pleased with the progress to date and also with the early registrations already lodged by members across the country.

Hobart's visitor rates continue to be high placing pressure on the city's accommodation so we recommend booking as soon as you can. The Hotel Grand Chancellor, the base for the Conference, is holding rooms for us but there are some other hotels that will do their best to assist members too.

The Tasmanian Branch through its three Regions has continued with the activities it has historically conducted over the years such as having guest speakers, lunches, dinners and visits to interesting places. The Northern Region has been particularly active in promoting the existence and objects of the Order with Councils, many of which now display the framed medal board in their premises.

With the Regional and Branch annual general meetings to soon be held, members are invited to nominate for one of the various positions. New faces with new ideas are always welcome. The Branch AGM is being held centrally at Campbell Town with details contained in the notices to Branch members.

We look forward to greeting our interstate and Tasmanian members attending the Conference.

Alastair Douglas OAM
Branch Chairman

JENNIFER FRASER OAM



Jennifer Fraser OAM has always valued the importance of good communication skills and had a keen desire to foster that skill in our young people.

She began in 1989 with the National Coordination of Youth Speaks for Australia and Five Outstanding Young Australians. She has been involved at both the local, regional, State and National level of coordination of Rostrum Voice of Youth for the past twenty years. "It is equally rewarding encouraging a student to express their views for the first time in public as it is for one of my students to gain International recognition".

As a teacher, it was an opportunity to assist students develop their potential as speakers with six gaining national success, forty speaking in National Finals and nearly one hundred reaching state finals. Over a 25-year period, one of her goals was to encourage active student participation by coaching students in Lions Youth of the Year, Rostrum Voice of Youth, United Nations, Legacy, Youth Parliament, Plain English, Apex Effective Speaking and interschool Debating. Over a ten-year involvement in Tournament of Minds, her students had the opportunity to develop their creative and problem-solving skills with eleven teams reaching the National Finals, two gaining National Honours and two winning the National Final.

Jenny Fraser has worked hard to encourage and help students to find their voice and develop their confidence to speak locally at Anzac Day Services, engage in community debates and participate nationally and internationally at United Nations Forums. Over the past thirty years, Jenny has been inspired listening to the students' views, and active in helping them develop their research, preparation and presentation skills.

There is a lot of work behind the scenes in coordinating and convening public speaking competitions at the local, regional, state and national level. While Jenny feels her Order of Australia Medal is recognition for the many people who have assisted by providing speaking opportunities to enable young people to develop their confidence and leadership skills; it is also fitting recognition of the great work she has done with so many of our younger citizens.

National Conference Symposium - Hobart, Saturday 13 April 2019

The National Conference Symposium features five Tasmanians who will speak about their respective fields of endeavour. They are people who continue to make a significant difference to increasing our knowledge in all manner of areas.

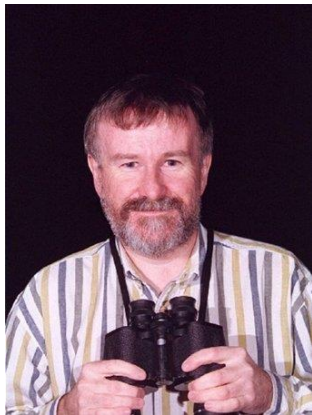
The speakers are **Professor Alison Venn** who is the Director of the Menzies Medical Research Centre. Professor Venn began her career as a biomedical scientist specialising in immunology and biochemistry but with an interest in public health and the social factors affecting health.

Mr Bill Lawson AM is a retired engineer who throughout his career was involved in the community sector seeking to overcome youth unemployment and Indigenous disadvantage and in advancing Hobart as an international hub for Antarctic and Southern Ocean science and associated logistical support.

Dr Tony Press is an Adjunct Professor at the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre (ACE CRC) and the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) in Hobart. Dr Press chaired the Antarctic Treaty's Committee for Environmental Protection from 2002 to 2006. He was Australia's representative to the Committee for Environmental Protection and Alternative Representative to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings from 1999 to 2008 and Australia's Commissioner for the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources from 1998 to 2008.

Ms Jan Davis is tagged as Tasmania's top political lobbyist and one of the most influential people in the state. Jan has held leadership roles in a number of industry groups in the agriculture sector earning a reputation as an innovative thinker and a driver of change. She is

a regular contributor in the local press of opinion pieces that are thought provoking and topical.



Mr Martin George is Manager of the Launceston Planetarium at the Queen Victoria Museum in Tasmania. He has an honours degree in physics, specialising in astronomy. He is passionate about public communication of astronomy, making frequent appearances on radio (mainly) and television since 1973 to discuss astronomy and space research.

Mr George plans to speak about Grote Reber (1911-2002) who was the world's first radio astronomer. To expand a little about Grote Reber, in 1937 he constructed the very first dedicated radio telescope near Chicago in the USA. This telescope was used to produce the first radio map of the sky. His interest in the subject, and many other aspects of science, continued throughout his life. He eventually settled in Tasmania, where he mapped the southern sky at a very low radio frequency. Reber's dedication to radio astronomy, especially when it was new to mainstream scientists, serves as an inspiration to all. A unique character, Reber always stuck to his own ideas about the Big Bang, which are at odds with accepted science. Mr George will discuss many of the aspects - some quite amusing - of Reber's colourful life.

A museum run by the University of Tasmania School of Physical Sciences located at Cambridge near the Hobart Airport showcases the life and work of Tasmanian radio astronomer, Grote Reber. You may have seen the memorial for Grote Reber at the Parkes NSW telescope site.

We are certain the varied topics presented at the Symposium will inform and entertain.

Alastair Douglas OAM

Northern Notes

Member and partners of the Norther Region attended a function at “Strathmore” – one of Northern Tasmania’s historic homes which has an old walled garden, a clear lake “Lochmaben” and colonial accommodation. Located south of Evandale, “Strathmore” is a convict-built residence which was completed in 1826. Apart from extensive gardens there is croquet and tennis facilities and a large orchard. Members attending were given an excellent tour by the hostess Mrs Sue Gillon.



The annual Mayoral Reception on October 18th in the Launceston Town Hall was well supported, and we once again thank Mayor Albert Van Zetten and the Council for holding this event in recognition of new and old awardees of the Order of Australia.

National Book Council Tasmania

Now in its 37th year, the National Book Council Tasmania is the only remaining active group of its kind still holding regular meetings. Its Patron is the Governor of Tasmania, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC (also Patron of the Tasmanian branch of the Order of Australia Association, and a member). The current president is the Tasmania director of OAA, Doctor Frank Madill AM who is also a successful writer – his latest book, *Sanders DFC – Out of the Darkness* is a biography of his friend, one of his former patients who served with Bomber Command in World War II.

Monthly meetings take the form of talks by authors relating to their books and writing. They provide an invaluable support for local amateur writers, as well as an opportunity for established authors to talk about their writing and to give an insight into their methods. Members have the chance to meet with and talk to writers about their work as well as sharing their own reading and writing experiences.

National Book Councils were originally set up Australia wide in the 1980s with the objective of encouraging writers and the appreciation of literature. The Northern Tasmanian Branch is the only remaining National Book Council in Australia.

Dr Nicholas Chantler AM

Queensland Branch

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2018 has been another very successful year for the Queensland Branch with activities of interest to members held throughout our decentralised State. A highlight was the re-establishment of the Townsville Regional Group after several years of inactivity. My sincere thanks to all the Regional Group Conveners for 2018. They have organised functions for our widely distributed membership. The Queensland Branch Committee is planning to focus on further supporting members and Regional Group Conveners in 2019. I hope that Regional Group Conveners are able to attend the Queensland Branch Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Annual Dinner on 25 February.

The most recent function organised by the Queensland Branch was a very informative visit to the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute. Planning is already underway for similar interesting visits in 2019 with a likely return visit to the Queensland Emergency Services Headquarters as one activity. The next major Branch activity will be the Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner being held at the Victoria Park Golf Club facilities on Monday 25 February. The AGM includes election of the members of the Queensland Branch Committee. I wish the Branch Committee elected at the AGM and the elected National Board Director every success in their endeavours in 2019.

My thanks are extended to all the members of the Queensland Branch Committee for their hard work and support in 2018. Particular thanks to Professor Paul McNally OAM who is not standing for re-election to the Committee in 2019. Paul has been the Queensland Branch Newsletter Editor for several years and we really appreciate the professional effort he has contributed to this important task. I also extend sincere thanks to Air Vice-Marshal Bill Collins AO who is retiring gracefully as Convener of the Gold Coast Regional Group, a position he has held since 2005. Bill and his wife Robyn have made a splendid contribution to the Association throughout this time, organising some interesting and stimulating events for Gold Coast members. The Branch Committee and I will look forward to working with the new Convener Clive Mitchell-Taylor OAM in 2019.

On a sadder note, it is with deep sympathy that I report the passing during October 2018 of Keith Swan OAM, a former Convener of the Sunshine Coast Regional Group. Our condolences go to Keith's family.

In May 2018 the Queensland Branch was represented by a large group of delegates at the OAA National Conference in Adelaide. We enjoyed the conference and the associated activities which included a social function for Queensland delegates and friends. May I remind you to register for the next National Conference being held in Tasmania in April 2019. Registration information is included in *The Order*. I hope to see you there at what promises to be another stimulating and interesting conference.

I hope you had an enjoyable 2018 festive season and wish you a successful and safe 2019.

John Harden AM.

[A most informative visit to QIMR Berghofer](#)

On Wednesday 21 November 2018 the Queensland Branch arranged a visit to the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, which is located next to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital at Herston, Brisbane. Thirty-eight attended including 25 members.



QIMR Berghofer hosted an excellent morning tea for the group which was followed by Professor David Whiteman, Deputy Director of the Institute presenting the facility overview and update. Associate Professor John Harden AM, the Queensland Branch Chairman took great pleasure during the formal proceedings in presenting the Institute with a commemorative plaque to mark the visit.

After the formal proceedings the group was divided in groups for tours of selected laboratories where key QIMR Berghofer scientific staff provided insight into the important research work being carried out at the Institute.

During the visit the group were honoured to meet with two of QIMR Berghofer's distinguished scientists who have received an award in the Order - Professor Adele Green AC, Senior Scientist, Cancer and Population Studies Group and Professor Rajiv Khanna AO, Senior Scientist Tumour Immunology.

QIMR Berghofer is one of Australia's most successful medical research institutes. The Institute was established more than 70 years ago by the Queensland Government and has a rich history of scientific discoveries and translational medical research. QIMR Berghofer is focused on improving health by developing new diagnostics, better treatments and prevention strategies, specifically in the areas of cancer, infectious diseases, mental health and complex disorders.

Working in close collaboration with clinicians and other research institutes, QIMR Berghofer is home to more than 900 scientists, students and support staff.

Dr Mick Davis AM ASM to address Central Queensland Regional Group

The next event planned for members of the Central Queensland Regional Group promises to be especially interesting as the guest speaker is Dr Mick Davis AM ASM. Mick, whose career in ambulance and emergency services spans several decades, is now Volunteer Manager, Heritage & History, Queensland Ambulance Service. The topic of Mick's address is "The 126 years History of the Queensland Ambulance – an Overview".

The event will be held at the Rockhampton Leagues Club on 11 March 2019 – 10.00am following fellowship at 9.30am.

Raymond Young OAM, Convener.

Girraween National Park explored

On 16 November 2018 forty-eight members and guests of the Darling Downs Regional Group enjoyed morning tea at the Town and Country Club in Toowoomba. They were treated to a fine presentation by Dr Jeff Prebble OAM on the beauty of Girraween National Park which is located in the Granite Belt of South-East Queensland. Using photographs Jeff and his wife, Robyn, have taken on many visits to the park, Jeff explored the remarkable fauna, flora and landscape of Girraween – a place of flowers.

Jeff's presentation was very well received by those present.

Paul McNally OAM, Convener.

Forthcoming lunch for Townsville Regional Group members

The re-formed Townsville Group Committee has planning under way for its second function, with a luncheon to be held in Townsville on Saturday 9 March 2019.

Following the success of their first event held in October 2018, the Townsville Group Committee met recently to put in place early plans for the next event, to be held at Seagulls Resort in the city.

With early notice of the date for Association members in the Townsville region, which extends from Ingham in the north, south to Home Hill and west to Mount Isa, the committee is hopeful that there will be an increased attendance of members at the forthcoming function, which will include a light lunch.

The committee is also planning to invite its own members to act as guest speakers at their forthcoming functions, providing ten-minute speeches on the background to their community work that resulted in their recognition with Order of Australia Honours.

Recipients of awards in the Townsville Region should contact Group Convener, David Jackson OAM at ddjacko@bigpond.com to obtain the necessary forms to become members of the Association.

David Jackson OAM, Convener.

News from the Gold Coast



The Gold Coast Regional Group held an afternoon tea at the Southport Golf Club on 27 October 2018. As in the previous year the weather forecast meant the function had to be held indoors rather than on the Terrace. However, drinks on arrival were taken on the Terrace before the 43 members, relatives and guests moved indoors. Without a formal seating plan those attending were free to move around the room and converse with others. In

fact, the images taken by the photographer show a continuous changeover of people at their various tables. Those attending expressed pleasure with the location, food and drinks.

I have been Convener for the Gold Coast Region since 2005, typically holding a lunch in the first half of the year and a Garden Party style afternoon tea in the second half of the year. In doing this I have been strongly supported by my predecessor Major General Kevin Cooke AO (Rtd) and his wife Anne and my wife Robyn. However, age causes me to realise that it is now time to hand over the role to another member. To that end Clive Mitchell-Taylor OAM and his wife Margaret Wine assisted with the administration of our October function beforehand and on the day. Clive intends to take over as Convener in 2019 and Robyn and I will assist him to allow the Gold Coast Region to continue to run successful functions for local Association members including some in northern New South Wales.

Bill Collins AO, Convener.

News from the Far North

Members of the Far North Queensland Regional Group enjoyed a very successful lunch at the Cairns RSL on 9 November 2019. Lt General John Grey AC (Rtd), a local member of our Association, was guest speaker. In his address Lt General Grey spoke about aspects of World War I and captured the attention of all who were in attendance. Members commented that it was a great event – probably one of our best.

Carole Miller OAM, Convener.

Wide Bay-Burnett Regional Group

The next event for members of the Wide Bay-Burnett Group is scheduled for 16 March 2019 at Gayndah QCWA. Members will receive an invitation in due course. In the meantime, please include the date in your diary.

Donna Duncan OAM, Convener.

In memoriam

Patrick Brennan OAM
Michael (Mirko) Furjanic OAM
James Patrick Geiger OAM
Mervyn Alfred Genrich OAM
Theda Claire Lowe OAM
Mary Ellen Rose MacGinley OAM
Mary Heaford Murray OAM
Judith Catherine Rodriguez AM
Kay Sullivan OAM
Gary John Sutherland OAM
Keith Malcolm Swan OAM
Rowena Evelyn Trieve OAM
Vilma Ward OAM
Jean Williams OAM

Queensland Branch Office-holders and Committee Members

Patron: His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland

Branch Committee

Associate Professor John Harden AM, Chairman
Tel: 07 3408 2005 (H); 0418 988 659 (M)

Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ, Deputy Chairman
0408 887 923 (M)

Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary
Tel: 07 3351 4991 (H); 0413 833 720 (M)

Ronda Nix OAM, Treasurer
Tel: 0409 615 514

Patrick Galligan OAM, Membership Officer
Tel: 3288 2276 (H); 0408 703 276 (M)

Paul McNally OAM, Newsletter Editor
Tel: 4632 2286 (H); 0407 584 886 (M)

Dr Mick Davis AM ASM, Member
Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO, Member
Paula Penfold AM, Member
Darryl Secombe OAM, Member
Marjorie Voss OAM, Member
Royce Voss OAM, Member
Raymond Young OAM, Member

All correspondence to Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary, 16 Kanturk Street, Ferny Grove, Qld 4055 or email secqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Queensland Regional Group Conveners

Central Queensland: Raymond Young OAM – raymond@cyberoz.com.au
Darling Downs: Paul McNally OAM – pmcnally1@bigpond.com
Far North Queensland: Carole Miller OAM – carole.miller@bigpond.com
Gold Coast: Bill Collins AO – wmandrjc@qld.chariot.net.au
Mackay-Whitsunday: Carmel Daveson AM – carmel@ehw.net.au
Sunshine Coast: Marjorie Voss OAM - Marjorie.voss@bigpond.com
Townsville: David Jackson OAM – ddjacko@bigpond.com
Wide Bay-Burnett: Donna Duncan OAM – donna_dd@bigpond.net.au

New South Wales Branch

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

At the outset, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and a wonderful 2019.

The NSW Branch had a very productive and busy 2018. We finished the year on a high by delivering toys and gifts to sick children a week before Christmas to the Sydney Children's Hospital. At our Annual Luncheon in November, members and their guests were asked to bring along a small toy or gift suitable for a sick child. We were overwhelmed by the generosity and response of those attending and on their behalf Deputy Chairman Peter Falk OAM, Public Relations Officer A/Prof John Gullotta AM and myself were able on the 14th December to attend the Sydney Children's Hospital and present to Professor Michael Brydon OAM, CEO Sydney Children's Hospital Network and Professor Les White AM Patron Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation the wonderful gifts we had received. I am sure you will agree, that nothing beats the smile on a sick child's face receiving a gift at Christmas. Please see the article and photos later in this section.

During the latter part of the year, I attended several Regional Group Luncheons, namely The Central West Regional Group at the historic Abercrombie House in Orange; The New England Regional Group in Moree and The Illawarra Regional Group in Dapto. All were brilliantly done, and I thank the Convenors for their ongoing hard work and for their kind invitations.

On the 25th October, I attended our Annual Morning Tea at Parliament House where our guest speaker was Bryan Coleman from the Banksia Project who spoke on men's health. It was a very informative talk and elicited many questions from an appreciative audience.

On the 11th December, I attended Government House for the Governor's Annual Christmas Reception and singing of Christmas Carols. A magnificent evening overlooking Sydney Harbour.

I look forward to seeing you at our various events throughout 2019.

John Archer OAM
Branch Chairman

MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH HOT TOPIC AT MORNING TEA/SEMINAR.

In late 2018 the NSW Branch held its annual Morning Tea/Seminar in the theatrette at the NSW Parliament House which in recent times has been the customary practise now for a number of years. Quite a good number of members and their guests attended and enjoyed the social activity around a very appetising morning tea prior to progressing into the theatrette for the seminar session.

The guest speaker for the morning was Mr. Bryan Coleman Chairman and Instigator of "The Banksia Project" an organisation which deals exclusively with men's mental health issues. Mr Coleman addressed the gathering at length outlining his own health issues when he was younger and like many, he did not wish to acknowledge that he had health problems at the time. However, he eventually did seek professional assistance and overcame the health issues he had been experiencing and fought his way back to good health again.

Once he had overcome his health issues and had returned to good health it was his desire to assist others who had found themselves in a similar situation health wise as he had previously experienced. He instigated the formation of "The Banksia Project" which today assists people with mental health problems and works in harmony with professional people to provide

assistance where needed. The Banksia Project has been domiciled mainly in the metropolitan area but is now beginning to branch out into the regional areas with Dubbo being mentioned as one country region that the organisation is moving into to provide much needed assistance.

At the conclusion of Mr Coleman's address a lengthy question and answer forum took place and, with quite a few professional people in the audience there were many pertinent questions asked about the current mental health issues that plague many within the population. Mr. Coleman gave very frank answers to all questions asked and I am positive that everyone was very appreciative of his forthright replies.

The Branch was very appreciative of Mr Coleman giving up his valuable time to attend on the day and bring several of his entourage along with him and it was quite noticeable that at the conclusion of the function that they spent valuable time speaking at length with quite a few people who had been in attendance.

Ian McKnight OAM-Events Manager

NSW COMING EVENTS

Tuesday 26th February 2019. All welcome.

NSW Branch Morning Tea/Annual General Meeting.

Venue: York Function Centre, 2nd floor 99 York Street, Sydney.

Morning Tea 9.30am, Annual General Meeting 11am.

Enquiries to Ian McKnight OAM Mobile 0407598588, email ianmckni@tpg.com.au

Southern Highlands Regional Group

Annual Welcome Reception for New Awardees

Friday 8th March 2019 at 5.30pm

Enquiries to Virginia Adlide OAM Convenor, email adlide@gmail.com

Annual Luncheon NSW Parliament House, Sydney

Wednesday 31st July 2019 12 noon for 12.30pm

All Welcome.

Enquiries to Ian McKnight OAM mobile 0407598588, email ianmckni@tpg.com.au

SHOALHAVEN GROUP ANNUAL HIGH TEA

The purpose of our annual celebration function was to welcome Shoalhaven citizens who have received honours in 2018. It was pleasing that we had two recipients present with us. We welcomed Sid Weller OAM and Don Godden OAM. Sid's award noted services to Rugby League and the Community, Don was recognized for services to the community through history preservation organisations.



We also welcomed WO Gary Fuss OAM representing the commanding officer of HMAS Albatross, Captain Fiona Sneath and Vice Admiral (Rtd) Tim Barrett AO CSC RAN, who was our guest speaker.

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION – NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST REGIONAL GROUP – BI- ANNUAL LUNCHEON – MOREE NSW



The bi-annual luncheon of the OAA - NENWRG was hosted for the first time in Moree on Saturday 20th October 2018 with 66 guests in attendance. The luncheon was held in The Town and Country Club and the Moree Community Choir entertained the guests as they arrived at the venue and following the toast to the Queen sung both the Australian and New Zealand National Anthem, the latter in Maori. Six members of the Moree Community Choir stayed on for the lunch.

Guest speaker, Mr Simon Balderstone AM, shared how with a group of climbing and trekking friends, he co-founded the Australian Himalayan Foundation (AHF) in 2002. The foundation's main focus is on education of the children in the poorest areas of Nepal and over the past 16 years the foundation has enabled over 35,000 children who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to attend school, with many then able to go on to further education and employment.

Thanks to intervention in consultation with the local population, there are now 300 schools in communities utilising 2,000 teachers trained through the AHF.

The AHF now provides uniforms, basic equipment, school bags and lunch money to children for less than \$200 per year per child and in 2017 over \$1.25 million was raised to support the foundation. Community halls are being constructed next to the schools which enables it to be the hub of the community and are now being built using materials that withstand earthquakes which are common in Nepal.

The Australian Himalayan Foundation is providing '*what's needed most to those who most need it*'. Simon fielded many questions following his presentation.

Mr John Archer OAM, Chairman NSW attended the luncheon and provided guests with an overview of what is happening at state and national level within the Order of Australia. Those who attended the luncheon agreed that a change of location was a very good idea and loved it being held in Moree, where many took advantage of the hot thermal pools.

DUBBO REGION CONDUCTS ANNUAL LUNCHEON.

In October 2018 some forty people gathered at the Dubbo RSL Memorial Dining Room to congratulate the recipients of Australian Awards who had not been able to attend the Dubbo Group Luncheon on earlier occasions. Six were introduced to the Group namely Desmond Manwaring OAM from Condobolin, Colin Ryan OAM from Gulargambone, Michael WHITE OAM from Wellington, John Sarkissian OAM from Parkes, John Treweeke OAM from Lightning Ridge and Eric Shanks AFSM from Dubbo.

A special welcome was extended to John Sarkissian OAM who had accepted an invitation to address the meeting. He received his award in 2017 to recognize his extensive contribution and commitment to the CSIRO astronomical project – the Dish – at Parkes in central NSW. John had made a life time commitment to his work and explained the details of the challenges he had faced over the years as the extensive research brought new knowledge and even more questions. The

contribution made by this unique facility in the central west, to the advances in this field, is very significant.

The Dubbo Group acknowledges the generosity of the Dubbo RSL Memorial Club for the support given each year. The music enjoyed at the beginning of the event was again supplied by the Director Vivienne Winther and students from the Dubbo Macquarie Conservatorium.

Garth Doyle OAM from Wollongong represented the NSW Branch Committee and the Group welcomed and thanked Garth for his support over the past several years.

Ruby Riach OAM Convenor

NT BRANCH

NORTHERN TERRITORY - SPECIAL PROJECT

Following the successful series of OAANT-sponsored adventure camps for disadvantaged young people from Sanderson Middle School in 2016-17, the executive committee of the NT branch has agreed to launch another project in the form of scholarships, to promote opportunity for young people across the Territory. Previously underwritten by Mr. Terry Baldwin OAM, the current project has a number of sponsors led by The Hon Luke Gosling OAM. The project will be publicized in early 2019, with details being released to schools in the manner outlined below....

Scholarships of \$500 for personal projects

- Do you have a personal project involved in sport, education or one that is life advancing?
- Are you under 18 and currently enrolled at school?

Apply now and tell us about your project and its benefits to you and your community. Applications in writing close **31 March 2019** and should be addressed to:

The Executive
Order of Australia (NT)
PO Box 2171 Parap NT 0804

Conditions of Award:

- No applicant may be awarded more than twice.
- Successful applicants must provide the Association with a photograph of themselves (which will be published in the Association National newsletter), and a written outline of their progress, upon one month of being awarded. (An email address will be supplied for e-versions – preferred.)
- Applicants should supply their preferred bank details upon application, together with their email and telephone contact details. Successful application will result in electronic transfer and email advice.
- The Award may not be provided in any six-month term if the Executive determines no suitable applicant was presented.
- The Executive will not supply reasons behind its deliberations for the Award.
- Acceptance of these conditions is deemed made when the Award is applied for.



National Secretary Pages

The Order of Australia Council – The Honourable Shane Stone AC



Through the Australian Honours system, we have an opportunity to celebrate excellence, contribution and qualities that make for a more cohesive, caring and fairer community. Through honours the nation gets to say, ‘thank you’.

That said, Honours are optional – you don’t have to accept one if offered. We live in a democracy. However, in my experience – as Chairman of the Order of Australia Council and previously as someone who has nominated or acted as a referee for well over 100 nominations – nothing compares to the Honours system when it comes to acknowledging achievement, celebrating service and saying ‘thank you’.

I welcome the invitation and opportunity to give you an insight into the process, the role of the Council and provide some guidance in nominating a fellow Australian for an Honour.

About the Order of Australia Council

I became Chairman of the Order of Australia Council with a breadth of experience spanning over 35 years. In understanding a nomination there is no substitute for living the process. By that I mean as nominator, referee and assessor. Between 1990 and 2016, I submitted 74 nominations and acted as referee in 35 others. As President of the Order of Australia Association for over 5 years I travelled Australia (at my own expense) promoting the Order and in the process proof reading hundreds of nominations. When I was first appointed to the Order of Australia Council as a community representative my learning was elevated to a new level.

As a Council we strive for efficiency and accuracy and, by reforming the nomination process, we have in some ways become a victim of our own success. Greater promotion, online nominations, and more complex and efficient software means we attract and process nominations more efficiently than in times past. The Council meets twice a year; in the past we considered 700 to 800 nominations. Nowadays we have gone well past 1000.

The Council comprises 19 members – the Commonwealth, State and Territories are all represented. The makeup of the Council is diverse and includes an even gender balance amongst community representatives. We rarely vote and only as a last resort; overall awards are determined in a consensus and, most importantly, on the merits.

The Council comes together to collaboratively assess on the merits the relative contribution of our fellow citizens and whether we recommend an award. No one tells us how to vote. No Prime Minister, Premier, Governor or department head can direct. In my experience there is no interference – merit is our guide and we are ferocious in our independence in advising the Governor-General as to awards and the level. Politics, favours, status, political donations and position do not come into it.

My approach to assessing a nomination

In the hallowed halls of the honours system I am considered a soft touch. It is a reputation I wear with pride!

My starting point is ‘what’s right with the nomination’, not ‘what’s wrong with the Nomination’. If I am heading towards No Award, I will weigh very carefully whether we have it right. Sometimes this means deferring a decision so further work can be done on a nomination. After all someone has gone to a lot of trouble to nominate, the case workers have spent time and effort researching and preparing the nomination and it is therefore the Council’s responsibility to be absolutely sure.

I was delighted to see in the 2018 Australia Day Awards the success rate had lifted to 72.5%. When I first joined the Council, it was around 50%. One long term Council member kept reminding me ‘we don’t give them away in minty wrappers you know’.

By way of comparison, in the United Kingdom’s most recent Honours List (on 1 January 2019), 1,148 people received an award out of a population of 66.6 million. On Australia Day 2019 the number of awards are 1,127, considerably up from 2018 (as were a record number of nominations) out of a population of 25.1 million. More work is needed to increase awards to Australian women but that will only come with an incremental increase of nominations of women.

Tips for nominating someone

Now to some quick observations, guidelines and rules to help you make a Nomination:

1. I believe that everyone who has received an honour has an obligation to nominate;
2. Don’t leave it too late: an award can only follow a nomination and posthumous Awards only occur when the nominated person has sadly passed on *after* a nomination has been received and the process has not yet completed;
3. Provide the Honours Secretariat with as much information as possible about the person nominated; if you don’t know something, for example a date of naturalisation, say so and the case officer will do the rest;
4. Do not – under any circumstances – discuss the nomination with the person nominated;
5. Stress the confidentiality to all who are assisting you with the nomination – family, friends and colleagues;
6. Self-nominations or those made by immediate family are not precluded but to be frank a third party nomination has greater veracity;
7. There are no State or Territory quotas – it’s a myth. The Companion (AC). Officer (AO) and Member (AM) have numerical quotas. The Medal is quota free and typically represents the largest number. These are our community heroes, the glue that holds us together.
8. When preparing the Nomination keep referring back to the published bench marks so that you are eliciting the critically important information in support;
9. If anything changes refer to the case officer who first acknowledged your Nomination or ring the Honours Secretariat direct.

What to consider in a Nomination

Our merit based system has benchmarks to help the Council reach a recommendation. The benchmarks, which are published online are frequently referred to by Council members.

In addition to the benchmarks and the above insights, in considering whether or how to nominate someone I suggest keeping a few things in mind. Firstly, a recipient doesn't have to be a saint – most successful nominees have made a solid contribution that is over and above others and made a defining difference. Secondly, when looking at recipients of awards some people might form a view that an award is all part of the lap of honour prior to or following retirement from a profession. Some professions and organisations are very organised in putting their colleagues forward. That is not a criticism but rather an acknowledgement that some better understand the Nomination process and the importance of the Australian honours system than others. It is important to realise that while certain professions are well-represented in Awards, the system is agnostic: merit trumps everything.

We want to encourage nominations from all fields of endeavour. To assist I thought it would be worthwhile providing some additional guidance informed by my experience as a nominator, referee, assessor and now Chairman of the Council. In addition to the published benchmarks we consider:

1. Has the nominee's contribution pushed frontiers of knowledge; alternatively does their service exceed what one might expect of someone at that level;
2. Has the nominee impacted the national agenda and policy;
3. Has the nominee mentored others whether in the workplace, supervising and/or collaborating on research efforts;
4. The extent of peer reviewed published papers; editorship of professional journals; the level of participation on the Conference circuit;
5. Has the public benefited directly from the nominees endeavours;
6. Is there an international component; has Australia's standing been enhanced;
7. Has the contribution, whether through professional bodies and Government roles, been voluntary and largely unpaid;
8. If in the commercial sector (industry and economy) to what extent have they demonstrated commitment to customers, the public, employees and community;
9. Is the level of volunteering and philanthropy commensurate with that person's circumstances;
10. If academic positions are held (teaching and/or research) are they salaried, adjunct, honorary;
11. Has the nominee been acknowledged by their profession or industry evidencing innovation, leadership and collegiality;
12. Is the nominee in that category of citizen who has made a local contribution and can be assessed as the very glue that helps hold our community together;
13. Nominate someone for recognition – not a particular level of award.

I want to stress the importance of confidentiality. We don't share nominations or part thereof including references outside the Council and Secretariat. All media inquiries are referred to the Director of the Honours Branch. Interest groups (despite best intentions) have no special standing and any lobbying does not influence the process.

In regards to referees, I want to make the following point. When a referee suggests that there are more worthy people (whether in an organisation or the broader community) it is a complete misunderstanding of the question. For starters a person cannot be considered unless they have been nominated hence to deny one in favour of another who has not been nominated is grossly unfair. If the referees think someone is worthy of recognition, then they should nominate these others and at the same time tell us whether the nominated person has merit even though others might be more meritorious in their view.

Further a response like “I don’t want to say” are not helpful. If the referee doesn’t want to support, then say so in plain language. Confidentiality is sacrosanct. If you want to discuss your concern with the Honours Secretariat ring the nominated case officer or send an email and the Director will ring you back.

In conclusion, the Council alone are the arbiters of who is recommended within the confines of the rules that have been set for us. We are all deeply committed to the Honours system. We are also deeply committed to continuously improving the system. We are insensitive to concerns, criticisms and commentary directed at our work. We are all working hard to meet the challenges around diversity - more women, more Australians of ethnic backgrounds, more indigenous Australians and more young Australians. While the process will always be guided by merit we want to encourage more nominations to engender even greater diversity.

I hope this article is helpful. Subject to availability I remain available to attend and address Association meetings.

The Honourable Shane L Stone AC PGDK QC

Chairman

Council of the Order of Australia

CONTEMPORARY TEXTILE ART- INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS AND SOCIAL COMMENTARY

Following on from our rather graphic Front Page image of the quilt.

Jennifer Bowker AO, was a recipient of an honour in the Queen’s Birthday awards 2018:

For distinguished service to Australia-Middle East cultural relations through the preservation of traditional creative and visual arts, and as a textile artist and educator.

She accepted the ACT Branch’s invitation to join our Association and was among those new members acknowledged in September 2018.

Jennifer is a textile artist specialising in patchwork and quilting and has exhibited nationally and internationally as a solo artist and in a group. She is an acknowledged judge at national and international shows.

She has been involved in a range of education projects in the Middle East, particularly in Egypt and Iran, assisting artisans to learn new techniques and has co-ordinated over 40

exhibitions of tentmaker work across the United States, Australia, United Kingdom and Western Europe to promote awareness of traditional Middle Eastern creative art, since 2007.

Jennifer recently exhibited - 'After the Last Sky'. She has received awards for the work which she readily acknowledges is a 'highly political subject'. Photo credit is Andrew Sikorski.

Mosa'ab Elshamy took this photograph as the Egyptian army and security forces opened fire on thousands of demonstrators. I bought the rights to make the quilt as a tribute to victims of the Rabaa Square Massacre in Cairo, 14 August 2013, when between 638 and 1150 were killed and over 4000 injured. It also acknowledges photojournalists who risk their lives to show us the truth.

More information is available at the following link:

<http://www.jennybowker.com/postcards/2018/6/18/after-the-last-sky.html>

Diplomacy Art and Community Engagement - The Ifa Lethu Foundation

The Ifa Lethu Foundation is the largest art heritage foundation in South Africa and a leader in South Africa's creative arts sector. The establishment of the Foundation in 2005 followed the initial return of an art collection owned by former diplomat Di Johnstone AM and a larger collection belonging to former diplomat and colleague Bruce Haigh. Both served at the then Australian Embassy in South Africa in the 1970's.

Over the past 13 years donors from 16 countries, including other Australian diplomats, have donated or loaned their work, and the collection is now some 650 pieces. The works were produced by artists mostly living in townships around major cities in South Africa under apartheid. While other forms of black political and cultural expression were banned, the artists produced powerful artistic commentaries on apartheid and township life. Their work was considered highly politically subversive. The artists were regularly harassed and arrested. Some fled to exile. The quality of their art and sheer talent openly challenged white supremacist views that underpinned apartheid. As this art was politically unacceptable it was largely uncollected by public institutions and major galleries. Exhibitions held on diplomatic premises saw works bought by diplomats and others living temporarily in South Africa.

There is considerable pride in South Africa about the significant body held by the Foundation, now joined by some works created by South African exiles, its large-scale repatriation to South Africa and the preservation in South Africa of precious artistic heritage. The Foundation has published extensive information about the works and the artists, including a book for South African schools and on its website (www.ifa lethu.org.za). It has held many exhibitions in South Africa, including during the 2010 World Cup in South Africa attracting thousands of international visitors (opened by then Sports Minister Kate Ellis MP); the Drill Hall Gallery in Canberra in 2011 (opened by former PM the Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser AC CH GCL); during the London Olympics in 2012, in France in 2013, in Pretoria in 2014 celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Freedom elections, in Johannesburg in 2017 to coincide with the Australian-government supported 'Memories of the Struggle: Australians Against Apartheid' exhibition and in an exhibition of Resistance Art in 2018 celebrating Nelson's Mandela's 100th birthday.

Building on the art and its power to inspire, the main focus of the Foundation has become supporting the creative arts sector in South Africa. The Foundation's motto is 'Empowering

the nation's soul'. It has mentored many young artists providing them with business and marketing training and support, provided training and support for the local craft sector, training in fossil cast-moulding (an exciting initiative which has seen scientific grade casts exported widely and small businesses formed), and had fashion collections. Its priority has been employment creation and support for the creative arts sector in the most disadvantaged areas of South Africa, including in rural areas and for women craft artists and harnessing the wealth of local creative talent to take advantage of commercial opportunities in the tourist sector and to create new entrepreneurs.

The Foundation has a high-profile Board of prominent South Africans, a Global Advisory Council of international luminaries and a Council of Elders. The Foundation has been strongly supported by the Australian High Commissioners and staff in South Africa. Its Australian links are a reminder that Australia and Australians were on the right side of history in South Africa, still very important in South Africa today. The Foundation continues to warmly welcome donations from the period. There are also attractive sponsorship opportunities for Australian companies. The contact is Board member Dr Narissa Ramdhani nramdhani@ifalethu.org.za and +27 828034870.



Di Johnstone AM. Australia Day 2015 -For significant service to international relations through support for creative arts in South Africa, and to the community of Canberra.

Di was an Australian diplomat to apartheid South Africa in the early 1970s and collected and promoted struggle-era art by artists then working in the South African townships; the return of her art collection to South Africa and subsequent establishment of the *Ifa Lethu*

Foundation is a source of immense pride.

Letter to Editor and message for Andrew Mackenzie OAM Mornington VIC

What a wonderful thing to do - write to HRH Prince of Wales who after some years agreed to send about 30 watercolours to our National Gallery in Canberra for exhibition this year.

This month I enjoyed the wonderful experience attending the Gallery and gaze at this unique royal collection. So special to read about this on page 5 The Order edition 52 August 2018.

Thanks, Andrew, for persistence, sharing the good news in The Order magazine.

sincerely

Judie J Stephens OAM (Sydney)