



Dated November 2019

Vision Impaired Accessible Document



HANWORTH HOUSE - A PHOENIX RISING FROM THE ASHES

The Queensland Branch organised an excellent morning tea and tour of historic Hanworth House located in East Brisbane on Thursday 18 July 2019. We had 51 in attendance.

One of the oldest and most iconic properties in inner Brisbane, we were taken on a special journey hosted by Marisa Vecchio AM, the House's current owner, which followed Hanworth's rich 155 year history from its origins and owners throughout the years, to its restoration and current provision of a beautiful variety of accommodation options as well as a venue to some of Brisbane's finest events. Hanworth House has been home to the original portmaster of Brisbane, and a hospice, but always a residence with heart, benefitting those who lived there and the community for 155 years.

Marisa Vecchio AM, after being in the corporate world as a CEO and as the 2004 Qld Telstra Businesswoman of the Year, took a break to develop accommodation and in 2012 took on her biggest challenge, the restoration of Hanworth House in honour of her beautiful mother Romana Preston who passed away in the same year from ovarian cancer. Just weeks from opening in March 2013 an arson attack destroyed 80% of this magnificent house. Through

sheer determination, tenacity, drive and enthusiasm Marisa, with help from so many loyal supporters and volunteers, fully restored the place back to its former glory.

To rise like a phoenix from the ashes means to emerge from a catastrophe stronger, smarter and more powerful. That definitely epitomises the wonderful success story that is Hanworth House.

Our morning tea was memorable for its garden party style with guests seated at tables under huge marquee overlooking the Brisbane city skyline. Our thanks are extended to Marisa and her able staff for a most memorable occasion. .

NOTICES & EXCLUSIONS

This is our fourth 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 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is with great pleasure that we welcome our Governor General, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) as Patron of the Order of Australia Association. We look forward to working closely with Government House in increasing community awareness of the Australian Honours system and in promoting the nomination of worthy Australians.

The valuable work done by your National directors and Branch chairmen during and after our 'Futures Day' of earlier this year has resulted in improvements to the way we do business, particularly in better communications and in providing a sound policy framework for our activities. Branch committees are increasingly using our members' high level of email capability for timely advice to all of activities and opportunities in their Branches.

Work on the updating of the Association Constitution is proceeding well, with a team led by the WA-nominated Director, Robin Watts AM, taking input from Branch committees and now well into drafting the new document. We will soon be able to begin the process of putting recommendation for change before members for consideration.

A key event of 2020 will be the OAA National Conference in Darwin from 7th to 10th May. The annual National Conference is an event not to be missed. As well as challenging presentations there is always the opportunity to catch up with old friends, make new ones and be there for the OAA Foundation scholarship presentations.

Branches will be holding their AGMs in the first quarter of 2020 and will be seeking nominations for both Branch Committees and for directors on the National Board. If you are prepared to contribute to the continued progress of our Association your nomination for a position will be welcomed.

We are now approaching the Festive Season and I take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very happy Christmas and an enjoyable and successful 2020.

Barry Nunn AO

National Chairman

ASSOCIATION POLICY DOCUMENTS:

Copies of our policies are located at - <https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/national/policies/>

G1 – Policies & Procedures Policy

G3 – Board Renewal Policy

G4.1 – Interim Reimbursement of Travel Expenses Policy

G8 – Privacy Policy

G9 – Discrimination & Harassment Policy

G10 – Conflict of Interest policy

A1 – Records Management Policy

M3.1 – Communication with New Recipients

PROCEDURE FOR REPLACING INSIGNIA

When a complete medal set, main medal or clasp set has been lost or stolen, the recipient can contact the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat to request a replacement.

The Secretariat can be contacted by mail addressed to:

Medals and Purchasing Officer
Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat
Government House
YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

or by email: serviceawards@gg.gov.au

When requesting a replacement medal set, main medal or clasp set, the following information needs to be provided to the Secretariat.

A Statutory Declaration which contains the following:

- full name of the recipient;
- phone contact details;
- address for all correspondence;
- full title of the award;
- full details of the circumstances surrounding the loss of the award together with a Police report and/or number if available

Advice as to whether an organisation or the individual will be responsible for the cost of the replacement insignia.

Other items such as lapel pins, miniatures or ribbon bars may be purchased at any time. As the prices are subject to change at short notice, please phone the Medals and Purchasing Officer on (02) 6283 3659 to obtain current prices.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2020 - NOTIFICATION OF SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

The Constitution of The Order of Australia Association Ltd requires that any business at the Annual General Meeting other than Financial Accounts & Reports be addressed through ‘Special Resolutions’.

Such Special Resolutions are, in accordance with the By-Laws, to be approved by the Board or lodged with the National Secretary no later than 35 days before the Annual General Meeting.

To facilitate the administration of the Official Notice of the Annual General Meeting and the intended Board meeting schedule, any member intending to lodge such Special Resolutions is requested to advise the National Secretary of the subject of the Special Resolution, no later than 14 January 2020.

P L Morrall AM, CSC

National Secretary

Email: nationalsecretary@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Postal Address:

National Secretary

The Order of Australia Association

Old Parliament House

18 King George Terrace

PARKES ACT 2600

CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE
GENERAL ANGUS CAMPBELL, AO, DSC

Australian Defence Force Oration 2019
Order of Australia Association (ACT Branch)
25 June 2019

“Building a Security Community in the Indo-Pacific”

AN EDITED EXTRACT

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

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Tonight, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the breadth of security challenges facing our region, and discuss how Australia, with a focus on the Southwest Pacific, is responding.

....

A century ago, the world was at the tail-end of an influenza pandemic that was on the same terrible scale as the loss of life in the First World War.

Tens-of-millions died between April 1918 and May 1919: the strong, the healthy, the young. The ‘Spanish flu’ was relentless. It would leap from ship to shore, and from shore to ship. Island communities, especially those of the South Pacific, experienced some of the most severe outbreaks. Local authorities were unable to cope. Health workers soon started falling ill, and drugs were in short supply.

Back in Sydney, in November 1918, HMAS *Encounter* was ordered to embark as soon as possible to Samoa. It was to be the Royal Australian Navy’s first post-war overseas humanitarian and disaster relief operation. *Encounter* moved at remarkable speed. Within ten days, it had docked at Suva in Fiji with 150 tonnes of cargo. Hours later, it was on its way to Apia in Samoa.

It was during that trip to Samoa that the commanding officer, Captain Hugh Thring, asked for volunteers to go ashore if the need proved greater than anticipated. The work promised to be dangerous and unpleasant. It meant being left behind and missing the first peacetime Christmas. But almost everyone aboard put their hand up.

....

Today, the Indo-Pacific is a stage upon which many of the uncertainties — and challenges — that define our age are playing out. Power is shifting. Intent is less clear-cut. Strategic risks and costs are rising. The march of technological disruption, automation and artificial intelligence is set to change our experience of warfare.

Terrorism continues to cast a long shadow. Climate change is a significant and alarming challenge to many Indo-Pacific nations, especially small Pacific island states. Cyber activities are blurring the lines between military and civil activity. The assumptions we’ve had, over decades, don’t necessarily hold today.

....

Australia is stepping up our contribution to regional stability: that’s one of our highest defence and security priorities. We recognise we must do more to preserve and strengthen the institutions that promote regional peace and security. We must double-down on our relationships with our friends and neighbours and deepen our engagement and partnerships.

.....

But what should be stressed is the *manner* of the engagement. *That matters*. That matters just as much as the outcome. Australia sees itself as a *partner* in these efforts. Not an owner ...not a director ...not a superior. We have and we will continue to listen to the wants and the needs of our neighbours; to their aspirations

....

We recognise them as valued international partners in their own right, able to effectively contribute to our common regional future. Let me give you a few examples.

I'll start with the transformation of Blackrock in Fiji. Together with New Zealand, Australia is helping to redevelop Blackrock into a regional hub for peacekeeping and police training, and pre-deployment preparation. Owned and operated by Fiji, Blackrock will offer whole-of-life cycle support - that's part of what makes it so notable.

....

Another example is Australia's Pacific Maritime Security Program. This program — a cornerstone of our maritime security engagement — will see twenty-one Guardian-class Patrol boats gifted to 12 Pacific Island countries and Timor-Leste.

....

This engagement mindset also shapes Australia's humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts in Southeast Asia; including last year in Sulawesi, Indonesia.

....

The world witnessed the scale of the human tragedy, and a complex response effort. And the world saw the spirit of cooperation in action. That spirit is important. And it encompasses more than cooperation.

It's understanding. It's respect. It's a willingness to listen. And a commitment to deliver. This is what guides us, and it's how we must approach what the Pacific community considers *the* greatest security challenge they face: climate change. Today, climate change-related sea level rise directly threatens lower-lying countries. Along with the other member states of the Pacific Islands Forum, we signed the Boe Declaration: Australia is committed to responding to this challenge.

.....

Overall, our Indo-Pacific Step-Up – some of which I've outlined – and the Defence Cooperation Program which has been, and continues to be, the vehicle of our Indo-Pacific engagement for decades, are geared towards doing more across a broad range of security challenges and engagements: multi-lateral exercises, strategic dialogues, strengthening norms, training and exchange programs, etc.

Being present. Working *with* our neighbours. Building *their* and *our* security resilience. Australia is playing its part. And we are, I emphasise, stepping up — *not starting up* – right across the Indo-Pacific region.

After reaching Samoa, HMAS *Encounter*'s mission was supposed to end. But Captain Thring had received a message during the ship's brief stop in Fiji. The conditions in Tonga, he was told, were at least as bad as in Samoa. The facilities were worse.

So Thring made a decision: he would extend the mission. Two days after visiting Samoa — where She dropped off personnel and supplies — *Encounter* reached Nuku'alofa in Tonga. Thring sent his last surgeon ashore, accompanied by five orderlies. They took with them the remaining drugs. It was a small contribution — but one that made a big difference to the Tongan community. Captain Thring made the right decision.

....

We have the understanding. We have the mindset. And we know what must be done. Above all, it's the manner of our engagement, the trust we create, the patterns of cooperation we display. These are as important as, and essential to, the common outcome we seek to achieve: a stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

Thank you.

(Full text at) <https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/national/news-events/>

Western Australia Branch

WA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear fellow members, in addition to our successful and ongoing role in providing patrons to the recruit squads at the WA Police Academy, the Branch has two other main projects. One, in conjunction with EdConnect, is the subject of a separate article in this edition of The Order. The other, is our work to increase the number and level of awards received by worthy West Australians in the honours' lists.

I encourage you all to read the EdConnect article and consider participating in this very worthwhile project. As Franklin Roosevelt said – *'We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.'*

As members of the Branch you have all been nominated for and, received an award for your contributions to your community, the State, or humanity. Having received an award yourself, I encourage you to consider nominating another worthy West Australian for recognition in the Order of Australia.

Many of our community, sporting and professional organisations are under-represented in the honours' lists. Women remain significantly under-represented, as do many worthy West Australians from diverse ethnic, cultural and, language backgrounds. You can help redress these shortfalls by making a nomination.

Should you need assistance in making a nomination, the members of your Branch committee are available to provide guidance. Some handy hints are:

- Do not have too many referees. Four or five quality referees is adequate.
 - Independent referees will be contacted.
 - The AO and AC preferably need some referees from interstate.
- Do not assume the Council knows of the nominee.
 - Sufficient information is necessary to allow thorough consideration of a nomination.
- Upgrades to previous honours (e.g., OAM to AM, AO to AC) may benefit from revisiting the information in the submission for the initial award.
 - This will help show the depth of service by the nominee.
- On-line submissions are good because they help streamline the process.
 - But if this is not possible, a hard copy submission will of course be considered.

The process for making a nomination is not an onerous one. All of it is explained at the following link:

<https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards/nominate-someone-award>

Please consider nominating a worthy fellow West Australian for an honour in the Order.

Best wishes

Mark Bonser AO, CSC

Report from the Regions



South West Region

The Convener, The Honourable Barry House AM, organised the first event for this year at Busselton Jetty Underwater Observatory followed by a luncheon at the Equinox Restaurant on the foreshore, with 20 members from the SW Region and 10 members from Perth in attendance. There was much chatter and conviviality enjoyed by all.

After the luncheon a talk was given by Lisa Shreeve, CEO of Busselton Jetty explaining the progress planned for this wonderful part of our world.

Congratulations Barry, a most enjoyable day as you will see from the photos attached.



Great Southern Region:

Jan Savage OAM has organised the annual event in this region and once again we plan to have a large group attend from Perth to mingle with their friends.

The weekend will start with an outing on Saturday 23rd November for all to see the delights around Albany.

Saturday night will again feature the dinner at Rustlers Restaurant that has become a feature of our time in Albany.

Sunday 24th November 2019 there will be the Church Service, this year at the Wesley Uniting Church at 9.30am followed by luncheon at Motel Le Grande at 12.30pm, with the usual quiz and much hilarity.

Thank you, Jan, a tremendous effort well done and always enjoyed.

Margaret Nunn OAM, Liaison Officer for OAAWA Regions

WESTERN AUSTRALIA - COMING EVENTS

24th November

Great Southern Event

Church Service and Lunch

28th November 12.00 for 12.30

Annual Christmas Lunch

Fremantle Sailing Club

Invitations issued

February/March 2020

Annual General Meeting

Date and Venue TBA

2019 Annual Gala Dinner

Royal Perth Golf Club was again the venue for a very successful Annual Dinner for members and friends of the WA Branch of the Association.

Our Vice Patron, Hon Kerry Sanderson AC, was present and proposed a toast to the Order. The after dinner speech entitled “Carpe Bonum – profiles of service in the greater good” was delivered by Professor Michael Quinlan AO who outlined the contribution made to the State and humanity by some outstanding West Australians.

In thanking Professor Quinlan Bill Hassel AM included the following: There are Western Australian Treasures at every table in this room. Professor Quinlan has told us about some other Western Australian treasures. Dr Eric Saint, Dr Dick Lefroy Mr John Fawcett and Mrs Mary Raine. They were, like the people in this room, people who made massive contributions.

They were also people who went on giving of their skills and contributions after being recognised. There are many others in this State who are not recognised but should be.

Professor Quinlan is himself a Treasure of this State.

We thank him for his speech tonight.

Guided Wildflower Walk

Kings Park was a blaze of colour as a group of members enjoyed a very informative walk around the Botanic Garden section of the Park. Being school holidays, it was a family affair with 3 members of the younger generation joining the group.

Despite many of us having visited the Park numerous times, to have a knowledgeable guide point out various special species and explain the history of their being planted in Kings Park was very informative and added considerably to the enjoyment of the visit.



Good Samaritan Award

The WA Branch of the Association was pleased to take up the opportunity to make the Good Samaritan award to a member of each Recruit Squad at the Police Academy who had been chosen by their peers as having displayed unselfish kindness and generosity to their squad members and being prepared to “walk the extra mile” in support of their colleagues



Pictured L to R Mrs Bettine Heathcote AM, Patron of Gold Squad, 02/2019 Constable Don Justin the winner from Gold Squad, Principal of the Police Academy, Superintendent Dario Bolzonella, Constable Joseph Dennis winner from Blue Squad 03/2019 and Patron of Blue Squad, Lt Cdr Jeff Wake OAM RFD

EdConnect Australia - an opportunity to volunteer

Robin Watts AM, EdConnect volunteer for 9 years writes the following story:

Four years ago I meet my student mentee for the first time at the local high school through the EdConnect volunteering program. A school liaison officer for EdConnect paired us up thinking we would be a good match and in a short time, we were. My mentee came with a number of positive attributes; she wanted to learn and she could identify what she needed to work on. Her family was very supportive of education (not all students I had worked with over the years started with these attributes). The main challenge for me in this partnership with my mentee was not to find myself doing all the work. She was very skilled at getting that to happen on her own!

Our mentoring session began in her Year 11 studies with the goals to improve her reading and comprehension, complete the numeracy program and pass the on-line test for her driver's license.. She passed her driving test (and my knowledge of the current road rules improved markedly!) Towards the end of the year, she was confident enough to apply for and obtain a part-time job in one of the local supermarkets.

In Year 12 she continued to progress both in her TAFE certificate course and her schoolwork to the extent that she won an award as top student in the TAFE stream for that high school.

This story illustrates just one example of how EdConnect volunteers are helping students thrive. EdConnect volunteer roles vary and are unique to each volunteers' experience. From Pre Primary to Grade 12, there are many opportunities to help a young person or child succeed in school and life. Each child has a unique need; some children need support with literacy and numeracy, whereas others may need a positive role model in their lives.

Volunteering with EdConnect is mutually beneficial for students and volunteers. It's more than just an opportunity to make a difference, it is an opportunity to make new friends, have fun and learn new skills – to improve your overall wellbeing. As a volunteer you will enjoy new networks and friends, first-hand insights into young people and education, tailored training, ongoing support and social events throughout your volunteering journey.

With a carefully screened and trained volunteer providing tailored support to individual students or learning support in the classrooms, teachers are able to focus on what they do best – teaching. Volunteer with Edconnect Australia to play a key role in boosting student confidence and self-esteem, helping improve literacy and numeracy skills, supporting class activities and helping the school community thrive.

As a follow on from our very successful School Careers program, the WA Committee has liaised with EdConnect to bring an opportunity for our members to be involved in this very worthwhile program. For further information about how you can make a difference, visit EdConnect Australia's website at www.EdConnectAustralia.org.au or please contact Bettine Heathcote AM on 9409 9626.



Happy Children

WA BRANCH - Office holders and Committee Members

Patron

Hon Kim Beazley AC Governor of Western Australia

Vice Patron

Hon Kerry Sanderson AC

Chairman

RADM Mark Bonser AO CSC

Secretary

Miss Margaret Lobo AM

Treasurer

Mr Peter Snow OAM

National Board Representative

Professor Robin Watts AM

Committee Members

Capt. Michael Bleus OAM - Police Patron Scheme

Mr Geoffrey Cattach AM
Mr Bill Hassell AM
Mrs Bettine Heathcote AM - Events Coordinator and “The Order”
The Hon Barbara Scott OAM
Mrs Helen Smith OAM - Merchandise

Regional Liaison
Mrs Margaret Nunn OAM

Regional Conveners

South West Region
Hon Barry House AM

Great Southern Region
Ms Jan Savage OAM

Contact Information
wabranch@theorderofaustralia.asn.au
Phone 0476 526 317

Mail: PO Box 4053
WOODLANDS 6018

ACT NEWS for THE ORDER – OCTOBER 2019

ACT BRANCH OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

Gen Peter Gration AC OBE

Chair

Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM
Chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au
0467 719 020 (M)

Secretary

Robert Altamore OAM

Treasurer

Terry O'Brien OAM RFD

Committee Members

Narelle Hargreaves AM
Bill Maiden PSM OAM
Alan Morrison AM
Coralie Wood OAM
Sam Wong AM

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



In this edition of *The Order* you will find reports on our 2019 Multi Faith Observance (18 August) and our Spring reception for new recipients (24 September). The reception was once again supported by the ACT Government, which was much appreciated. The Branch Committee is now planning the 2019 ANU Lecture on Friday 6 December and of course our 2020 Australia Day Breakfast on Sunday 26 January. Please place these dates in your diary and we will advise details as soon as possible.

This is the time of year when we need to think about refreshing our Branch Committee. A couple of long serving members are standing down for a well-deserved break, so there are opportunities for new folks to step forward and contribute. If you would like to serve on the Committee in 2020, please drop me an email or give me a call.

Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM
Branch Chairman

MORNING TEA WITH GLENYS PATULNY OAM



Members enjoyed a morning tea on Wednesday 24 July 2019 to hear new member Glenys Patulny OAM speak on her engagement over many years with environmental issues in the ACT District of Tuggeranong and the adjacent Murrumbidgee River Corridor. Glenys established Tuggeranong Lake Carers, is a board member of Landcare ACT and has been President of the Tuggeranong Community Council since 2015. Glenys was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2019 Australia Day Honours for service to the community of Tuggeranong.

RECEPTION FOR AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS RECIPIENTS – 24 SEPTEMBER 2019.

The ACT Branch members welcomed nineteen new recipients at a reception held at the Commonwealth Club, Yarralumla. The reception followed their investiture at Government House on 12-13 September 2019. This event was generously sponsored by the ACT Government.



*Andrew Phelan AM, Michael Crane DSC and Bar, AM
Neville Exon AM, Vivien Palmer OAM, Louise Mayo AM*



*Tracy Smart AO, Michael Crane, Colette Mackay OAM,
Jane Smyth OAM*

MULTI-FAITH OBSERVANCE

The annual Branch Multi-Faith Observance was held at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture on Sunday 18 August 2019 and moderated by the Executive Director of the Centre, Rt Reverend Professor Stephen Pickard. The event featured speakers from a number of faiths.

Our theme for this year was *Together in Friendship* and members and guests appreciated the inspirational messages from the speakers.



Natalie Mobini (Bahai Faith), Tenpa Bejanke Duim (Buddhist), Muhammed Aksu (Muslim), Bishop Stephen Pickard (Christian), Prakash Mehta (Hindu), Rabbi Shmueli Feldman (Jewish)

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

FROM THE 2019 QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

AVM Tracy Smart AO – For distinguished service in responsible positions to the Australian Defence Force in the fields of medical and health services.

Ms Mary Kirk AM – For significant service to midwifery and nursing, and to professional standards.

Ms Louise Mayo AM – For significant service to vocational education and training, and to the community.

Ms Caroline Flynn OAM – For service to the community through a range of organisations.

Mrs Vivien Palmer OAM – For service to education, and to the community.

VALE

We regret the recent passing of the following ACT Branch members and pay our respects for their contribution to the Association and the Australian community.

Rev Peter Dillon AM – Australia Day 1993 – In recognition of service as Principal Chaplain.

Mr Neale Lavis OAM - Queen's Birthday 1999 – For service to equestrian sports as a competitor, coach and administrator, and to the community.

Mr Marcus Quinlivan OAM – Queen's Birthday 2004 – For service to the welfare of veterans through the Returned Services League of Australia.

Victoria Branch

VICTORIA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



The Victoria Branch thanks Aleks Vass OAM and his team at the Alex Theatre for their generosity in hosting an afternoon reception for VIC Branch 2019 Australia Day and Queen's Birthday recipients. A detailed report was included in our spring e-Newsletter emailed to branch members late September.

Government House was truly picturesque with the flowerbeds full of spring flowers, manicured lawns and sunshine to welcome our Queen's Birthday recipients. With the increase in recipient numbers our Governor, the Hon Linda Dessau AV hosted three Investitures. Due to a major not-for-profit fundraising luncheon planned last year I wasn't able to attend one of the Investitures. I thank committee member and chair of our Communications sub-committee Irene Harrington OAM for representing the VIC Branch at one Investiture.

Rosie Batty was an AO recipient at the first of our 2019 Queen's Birthday Investitures for distinguished service to the community as a campaigner and advocate for the prevention of family violence. Rosie is the guest speaker at our annual luncheon at William Angliss Restaurant on Thursday November 21, 2019.

Peggy O'Neal was an AO recipient at the third Investiture for distinguished service to Australian Rules football, to superannuation and finance law and to the advancement of women in leadership roles. Peggy is Chair of the Richmond Football Club (AFL Premiers 2017 and 2019).

I had the pleasure of first meeting Peggy in 2005 when she was elected a Director of the Richmond Football Club and I was a Director of the Geelong Football Club.

Thank you to the Branches and members Australia-wide who purchased merchandise from our spring marketing campaign. We now have a new silk scarf for ladies. If you missed the marketing email, please check the OAA website for merchandise options including boxed pens and blank OAA greeting cards.

Our next event is the annual luncheon on Thursday 21st November at the William Angliss Restaurant. As mentioned, Rosie Batty AO is guest speaker plus members and guests will hear from Jeremy Doupe, 2019 OAA Foundation Scholarship Recipient who will talk about the scholarship benefits beyond the dollars.

We thank our Regional Groups for hosting events during the year; some have showcased quality primary and secondary school programs with high achievers. Others have provided entertainment for members and excellent guest speakers.

As 2019 comes to a close with events, please note the Order of Australia Association VIC Branch will be part of the 2020 Australia Day March down Swanston Street Melbourne on Australia Day Sunday January 26.

On behalf of the VIC Branch committee, thank you to our members for your support during 2019.

Helene Bender OAM
Branch Chairman

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## AWARD OF HONORARY DEGREE

The Honorary Degree of Deakin Honorary Doctorate, was conferred upon Helene Bender OAM on October 1, 2019. This was in recognition of her distinguished service to the governance of Deakin University as a member of the University Council and as Deputy Chancellor and for her significant contribution to the Geelong community and especially charitable causes.

In 2006 Helene was awarded a medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community of Geelong, particularly through business and commerce, regional development, local government and tourism organisations. Since then Helene has continued to serve her community.

From 2008 to 2018 Helene was a member of Deakin University Council, including as a Deputy Chancellor for six years. During this time, she also served on (amongst others), the Chancellor's Advisory Committee, the Finance and Business Affairs Committee, the Honorary Degrees Committee, the Remuneration Committee and the Legislation Committee as Deputy Chair and Chair.

During this time Helene was also a Director of Dental Health Services Victoria; Geelong Cemeteries Trust; Tourism Victoria; Geelong Grammar School Council and Chair of Barwon Health Foundation. She is currently Chair of Geelong Cemeteries Trust Audit and Risk committee overseeing twenty cemeteries over a spread of 170 kilometers. Chair of Geelong Region Cancerians – the aim is to raise awareness and funds supporting the Australian Cancer Research Foundation. As chair, Helene has overseen significant fundraising for cancer research. She is Secretary of the St John of God Geelong Hospital Auxiliary – assisting the team raise funds for medical equipment that allows patients to be treated in the region rather than travelling to Melbourne.

Ambassador Anam Cara House-Geelong – end of life palliative care. Trustee for the Allison (Alli) Murphy Memorial Scholarship – this scholarship is provided to give women from the Geelong region the opportunity to follow in the career footsteps of Alli and study at Deakin University majoring in politics, media, marketing or journalism.

Helene was Secretary of the Order of Australia Association Barwon Regional Group from November 2012 to February 2019 and is currently Chair of the Victoria Branch and National Board Membership Director.

Deakin University Vice Chancellor Professor Iain Martin, presented Helene to Chancellor John Stanhope AM for the award of Deakin Honorary Doctorate. Helene was then invited to deliver the Occasional Address to Graduands of the Faculty of Health and guests.

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## AN ACROSTIC TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

*By Eddy Abraham OAM*

Order of Australia

Reward for outstanding Australian citizens in every suburbia

Decoration awarded with the approval of Her Majesty Regina

Emanating from His Excellency the Governor-General in Canberra

Recognised by its official insignia

Organised by Government House Secretariat

Four categories according to relevant criteria.

Anticipant recipients respect the embargo until publication in the media

United under this proud umbrella with its official flora

Sure we value the specially made memorabilia

Twice a year the distinguished regalia

Representing the royal blue ribbon with sprigs of golden mimosa

Awarded to deserving citizens of this blessed continental terra  
Long live this truly honourable idea  
Introduced by Letters Patent and reviewed positively over a long era  
Accepted as a proud emblem of gloria.

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## SCHOOL MATES CATCH-UP

Three schoolmates of The Geelong College from 1959 caught up at a civic reception hosted by the Mayor of the City of Greater Geelong, Cr. Bruce Harwood on Thursday 8 August, 2019. The function was to recognise the 2019 recipients of the Order of Australia Award in the Geelong Region.

The schoolmates regularly rode to school together on their bikes, sat together in class and later trained later together at Trezises Gymnasium in Geelong for their sports. Peter and Tony for swimming and Ross for badminton.

They have remained friends for sixty years. Each represented Australia in their sports winning medals. Peter (Olympic Games), Tony (Commonwealth Games) and Ross (World Masters Games). The photograph shows Peter Doak (Chairman Order of Australia Association Barwon) and Ross Synot (Barwon Deputy Chairman and Treasurer) congratulating new inductee Tony Strachan on his award. This unique situation has brought great delight to the three friends.

From left to right: Tony Strachan OAM, Peter Doak OAM, Ross Synot OAM

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## DRAGON BOATS

At a meeting over a kitchen table between Trevor Huggard, Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Don Dunstan, Chairman of Tourism Vic, KC Ong, Peter Chan, David Wong and Peter Louey, they agreed to have a dozen dragon boats built and stage an event on the Yarra in conjunction with Melbourne's Moomba Festival. A traditional dragon boat has 20 paddlers, a drummer and a helm. Between the birdman rally, an International water ski tournament and the dragon boat races, over 100,000 watched this Chinese sport of ancient origin for the first time in 1985. Dragon Boat Festivals around the world should always be preceded by a blessing by Buddhist monks for fair and fierce competition and an 'Eye Dotting Ceremony' to awaken the dragon, regarded in Chinese culture as the protector of the people of the water.

The VRA (Rowing) handled the administration of the first two years but did not have the right feel for this fledgling sport. The newly formed Victorian Dragon Boat Association then went to Surf Lifesaving who took the event to Albert Park Lake which was a disaster. No spectators and numerous capsizes, they even reversed the lane numbers part way through the event and at one stage, all six boats capsized after crossing the finish line. In desperation the VDBA approached the then Victorian Canoe Association. The planned event clashed with major canoe events and they were unable to help. Jonathan Mayne was at that meeting when the request was received and being current Chairman of the Red Cross Murray River Canoe Marathon suggested his organisation could handle the dragon boats with ease. The approach was made and a very successful connection between Red Cross and Dragon Boats ensued for many years.





By 1993 the Melbourne International Dragon Boat Festival attracted teams from China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Italy, Indonesia, USA, Malaysia, Canada, Singapore and Macau, together with a range of banks, insurance companies and teams from the top end of town

Red Cross ceased their involvement with dragon boats, but the administrative team from the Murray Marathon formed a group, called it "Sportshelp" and continued to administer the dragon boat races until 2009 when DBV decided they could manage it themselves.

It was then that Jonathan and Jenny Mayne OAM both became involved.

A team of ladies called "Abreast in a Boat" and encouraged by Dr Don McKenzie, a Canadian Breast Cancer Specialist, joined the sport. Jonathan and Jenny were amazed to see these feisty women, all survivors of breast cancer and all having a great time despite a life threatening condition stalking the hallways. Dr McKenzie reasoned that exercise and the team dynamic could be good for his patients. This ran counter to the current medical wisdom of the day but it was soon evident that these ladies' fitness had ramped up, lymphoedema was dramatically reduced and depression had been swept away. The ladies were now dropping medals on their doctor's desks. Today there are hundreds of women's teams around the world, all made up of breast cancer survivors.

The traditions of this spectacular sport reach back over 2,300 years. From humble beginnings, dragon boat racing is now acknowledged to be the largest and fastest growing sport in the world today.



Jenny Mayne is a member of the Mornington Peninsula Regional Group of the OAM Society, Past Chairman, Red Cross Murray Marathon, Quality Control Supervisor Sydney Olympics and has a long history in fund raising for various charities. Jonathan is member of Mount Martha Rotary and has a canoeing career spanning over 60 years yielding 80 Victorian, 38 Australian gold medals in singles, pairs and fours and multiple gold medals at World Masters level. Jenny and Jonathan have given over 30 years voluntary service at the cutting edge of dragon boating to grow it from two events only to Dragon Boat Festivals all over Victoria, more than doubling the number of paddlers and clubs.

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NEW RECIPIENTS COCKTAIL PARTY – EASTERN SUBURBS REGIONAL GROUP

70 guests including 30 awardees from Australia Day and Queen's Birthday lists, were welcomed by members and friends at a cocktail party at Manningham Civic Centre on Wednesday, 11th September.



The Mayor of the City of Manningham, Cr. Paula Piccinnini, very generously hosted and paid for the event. The Deputy Mayor, 3 Councillors, one who has an AM and the CEO, were also in attendance. Chair, Barbara Thompson welcomed guests and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land and invited the Mayor to address the guests. Cr. Piccinnini spoke of the contribution each had made to the community and congratulated them all.

The Mayor urged those present to nominate people who were making a difference in their areas. Barbara then congratulated the awardees and encouraged them to join the Association and enjoy the fellowship offered at ESRG events.

As the citations were read, each awardee was presented to the Mayor and a group photo taken at the conclusion. Individual photos were also taken by committee member Glenys Grant and these were posted to each recipient.

The large function room was decorated with potted palms and flowers and a pianist played throughout the evening. A very pleasant venue and atmosphere. Delicious and plentiful food and refreshments were served as everyone mingled and enjoyed each other's company.

A most successful evening thanks to the Mayor's generosity.

Eastern Suburbs Regional Group have also sponsored a second student, Brianna Santos from East Timor, to prepare for the entrance exam for the Victoria Police Force and we wish her well.

Barbara Thompson OAM Chair ESRG

Victoria Branch - Officeholders and Committee Members

2019 Patron The Governor of Victoria

Her Excellency The Hon. Linda Dessau AC

Chair

Helene Bender OAM

chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Deputy Chair [Metropolitan]

Dr Yvonne Ho AM

Deputy Chair [Country]

Barbara Abley AM

Honorary Secretary

Fred Harrington OAM

secvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Honorary Treasurer/Merchandise Officer

Alan Brook OAM

treasurervic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Editor

Irene Harrington OAM JP

editorvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Regional Groups Co-ordinator

Fred Harrington OAM

Events Coordinator

Peter Jones AM

General Committee members

Irene Harrington OAM JP

Peter Jones AM

Dr June Kane AM

William Lye OAM QC

Pam Robinson OAM

Barbara Thomas OAM

Co-opted Members**Membership Secretary**

Tony Smith OAM

Victorian Regional Group Convenors

Barwon: Peter Doak OAM

Central Highlands: John Burt OAM

Eastern: Barbara Thompson OAM

Gippsland: Dough Caulfield OAM RFD

Loddon Campaspe: John Higgs OAM

Mallee: Vernon Knight AM

Melbourne Central: Trevor Clark OAM

Mornington Peninsula: Brian Stahl OAM JP

North East & Goulburn Valley: Barbara Thomas OAM

North Central Suburbs: Fred Harrington OAM

South Central Suburbs: Ross Newton OAM

South West Victoria: Dr Peter Habersberger AM RFD

Western Suburbs: John Ravenhall AM

South Australia Branch

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Following on from our successful Branch Futures Day, the committee has produced a summary of what the Branch aims to achieve over the next 3 years. The Branch recognises that some of the achievements would naturally have to be as a result of assistance from the National Board. The committee would be pleased to receive comment from South Australian members as to how members might assist in achieving the following aims.

SA BRANCH STRATEGIC PLAN

The South Australia Branch is one of eight Branches of the Order of Australia Association located in each State and Territory, with a membership drawn from individuals who have been recognised as recipients through the Order of Australia. The South Australia Branch is a volunteer based, Not for Profit organisation, primarily funded from members' fees allocated to the Branch by the National Board of the Order of Australia Association.

The Objects and Purposes of the S. A. Branch of the Order of Australia Association are:

- 1 - To provide opportunities for members to continue to contribute to the Australian community.**
- 2 – To foster love of, and pride in, Australian citizenship by example and encouragement.**
- 3 – To promote the Australian Awards system through Awards to worthy recipients.**

Our Branch Vision is: - to increase membership and organise activities to achieve the above objectives.

The South Australia Branch has identified four Strategic Aims for the period 2019 - 2022:

Strategic Aim 1 : Governance and Leadership

To provide competent governance and leadership which ensure that the purpose of the organisation is achieved and that stakeholders' rights and expectations are met.

Strategic Aim 2 : Membership

To retain and increase the percentage of Order of Australia recipients who join the Order of Australia Association (South Australia Branch).

Strategic Aim 3 : Community Engagement

To promote awareness and relevance of the Order of Australia Association.

Strategic Aim 4 : Finance

To ensure financial affordability and viability.

Upcoming events for members are as follows:-

Wednesday 4th December 2019 – Branch Christmas social function.

Christmas morning tea, no charge, 10.00am St Francis Anglican Church Hall, 835 South Road (cnr. Dinwoodie Street), Clarence Gardens. RSVP 30th November to the Treasurer Ph. 8395 1030, or e-mail jmck1279@bigpond.net.au.

Saturday 25th January 2020 Australia Day Lunch – venue to be advised

Saturday 8th February 2020 National Board Meeting in Adelaide. Details to be advised.

Saturday 15th February 2020 Branch AGM – Fullarton Community Centre, 9.30 am to 1130 am, morning tea provided. Lunch at Arkaba Hotel at own cost.

Further information on next year's events will be advised in due course

Tony Metcalf OAM



Paul Rosenzweig OAM FMHSA JP

Paul Rosenzweig is a committee member of the SA Branch of the Order of Australia Association.

He is also active in the community as an Australia Day Ambassador for South Australia and as a Justice of the Peace.

Paul was born in Semaphore, and is a graduate of Marion High School, the University of Adelaide and the Northern Territory University. He holds a Master of Arts in Southeast Asian Studies by research, a Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Zoology, and a Graduate Diploma in Education.

Paul is a retired Army Major (Royal Australian Infantry Corps) with a total of 32 years' military service – as a volunteer in the Army Reserve for 20 years and then in the Australian Regular Army for 12 years.

He has in the past been a volunteer with the Army Cadets in Adelaide, Mackay and Darwin. He continues to promote youth development today as an Award Leader with the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, and as an officer in the Australian Air Force Cadets. He currently serves as Public Affairs Officer for Aviation Operations Wing, and is also the Executive Officer of No 906 Aviation Training Squadron, AAFC.

During his military service, he held roles such as reconnaissance troop commander and squadron commander in the North West Mobile Force in Darwin. He was selected to raise and command two specialist teams for deployment to East Timor in 2001 and 2002, and he returned to Timor Leste in 2010 for a year as an Advisor to the East Timorese Defence Force in Baucau, receiving the Timor-Leste Solidarity Medal.

He also had a three year appointment as Assistant Defence Attaché to the Philippines, for which the Philippine Government awarded him their Outstanding Achievement Medal for service in furthering the bilateral Defence relationship.

Paul collects and researches orders, medals and decorations. He is now in his fourth decade of contributing to the community as an author of military history and biography, with three books and numerous research papers produced on a voluntary basis. One of his early publications was a book produced for the Historical Society of the Northern Territory:

For Service. Awards of the Order of Australia for service to the Northern Territory 1975-1995. HSNT, Darwin, 1995. ISBN 0 949070 54 8. With a foreword by the Right Honourable Sir Zelman Cowen AK GCMG GCVO QC DCL.

Paul is a recipient of both the Centenary Medal (2001) and the Medal of the Order of Australia (2017) for his contributions to research and the preservation of military history, and in 2009 was made a Fellow of the Military Historical Society of Australia.

Paul was honoured in 2017 by the Philippine Ambassador to Australia for his extensive research, recording and advocacy of the military service and sacrifice of Filipino-Australians. He was then a nominee for the 2018 Philippine Presidential Awards, in the category *Kaanib ng Bayan* for significant contributions by foreign individuals.

Among his various community roles, he has been active with St John Ambulance since 2004, and currently supports the St John Ambulance Historical Society of South Australia.

Paul takes an active role in assisting veterans claim their medal entitlements. He also supports commemorative events locally and overseas as the Public Affairs Officer for the SA/NT Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Association of Australia Inc.

Since being medically discharged from the Army in 2011, he has actively promoted research and commemoration through his Facebook site 'Thanks Digger':

www.facebook.com/Thanks.Digger

'Thanks Digger' is increasingly becoming an effective portal for collaborative research with families, young Australians and organisations, both nationally and internationally, and for promoting research outcomes.

Tasmania Branch

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Another successful Post Investiture Dinner was held this time for the Queen's Birthday recipients. These dinners are always well supported and it is pleasing to see many members attending to join in the recognition and celebration for the new recipients. The evening's guest speaker was Ms Olivia McTaggart, the Tasmanian Chief Coroner, who provided an interesting account of how she conducts her duties and of some of the recent high profile cases.

Each of the three Regional Groups continues to provide members with activities including receptions, guest speakers or visits to interesting places. The Tasmanian section of the website keeps a current list for referral. The Branch and Regional committee members are keen to hear which interests members have for future activities and would welcome your suggestions.

Alastair Douglas OAM
Branch Chairman

Mrs Robin Cromarty OAM

Robin was born on a farming property near Dysart, a small town 40 miles north of Hobart. She was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 1994 for services to the community. She joined the Association that year and has been a member ever since.

During World War 2 as a child she entertained troops one night a week with her parents when they visited Brighton with home-made goodies for the soldiers. She became Telephone Office Keeper in the remote farming district of Hunting Ground for 14 years. She was paid on business transacted, and as there were only eight subscribers, the pay at first was nine pounds per year. This increased to £2.15 shillings per week as business increased. Her duties included uncrossing the old open telephone wires with a fishing rod to save the local linesman a 16 mile trip.

She gave great service to the local RAOB Lodge, doing their catering voluntarily for many years. The war years interfered with her education. Her mother was very much against boarding school, and so she was home-schooled, the lessons being posted from Hobart Correspondence School.

Robyn left the Dysart district and took a position at the Claremont post office where she worked for 28 years. She was a member of the CWA for 28 years and a member of Red Cross many years. She is a long-standing member of the northern branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society and was its treasurer for many years. At the age of 50, she made up for lost years by studying at night school and attaining her school certificate. In all, she worked for Australia Post for 42 years.

Robin Cromarty has been a wonderful servant to her community, her service rightly recognised by her Order of Australia award.

VIKTOR ZAPPNER OAM

Viktor was born in Czechoslovakia in 1936. He came to Australia as a refugee from communism in 1979 and settled with his family in Burnie, Tasmania. He trained as a teacher (Russian, Music & Civics) in Slovakia and then at the Charles University in Prague in Educational Psychology and eventually specialised in Clinical Psychology with a PhD in 1971. Before the escape from Czechoslovakia he was working as a

Psychotherapist at what is now the Addictology Clinic of the Charles University in Prague. In Tasmania he worked for 27 years as a Senior Psychologist for the Education Department, retiring in 2006.

Viktor came from a very musical family and started piano lessons when he was aged 10. He has spent his 70 years listening, playing, teaching and organising music of great variety. He formed his first band in 1949 and was in demand during his 26 months of military service as a pianist to entertain his fellows. Between 1958 and 1978 he was full time or free lancing in show business during this period he secured a scholarship which allowed him to concentrate on his music – particularly jazz.

His music particularly jazz eased his transition from Czechoslovakia to Australia. He arrived in Hobart in 1979 and immediately made contact with the cities musical fraternity.

He has been a leading light in the music community in Tasmania since his arrival and right up till today, he has provided pleasure and entertainment to a large numbers of people in a voluntary role. He was musical director of the Devonport Jazz Festival for 15 years, and since stepping down has continued to work for the Jazz Society North West Tasmania.

It is obvious he is a very valued member of the North West Coast Community in Tasmania.

Northern Notes

The Northern region has continued to be active, having a special Queens Birthday function in June and a further one on the 1st of August. The latter was held at the Charles Restaurant in Launceston in the form of a high tea and guest speaker was Mrs Ann Taylor OAM. Mrs Taylor was a pioneer in the development of awareness in activity in the area of Agricultural Safety and she gave an excellent and informative address to the members and partners present.

The major function for our region will be on Thursday the 17th of October – a Mayoral Reception to recognise this years new awardees. We thank the Mayor, Albert van Zetten and the council staff for regularly providing us with this important event.

Southern Regional News

On the 28 August 2019 members met for morning tea and had as the guest speaker Dr John Thorne AM who gave a very informative talk and photographic display of his trips to Iceland. From the many questions put to John it proved to be a thoroughly enjoyable experience for all present.

On 20 November 2019 there is a planned outing to “COMA” (Collection of Over 5,000 Medical Artefacts). Showing the progress of health and patient experiences from Convict time to today.

Queensland Branch

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

On Friday 20 September, the Branch hosted the very successful Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards (SSCA) Ceremony held in the Old Legislative Council (Red) Chamber of Parliament House. Nominations were received from Secondary Schools from throughout the State. His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, the Governor of Queensland, kindly accepted our invitation to be guest of honour and to present the Plaques and Certificates to the twelve outstanding winners. The Governor set the tone for the event with his thoughtful and interesting address; we thank him for his participation in recognising these students who are making significant contributions to our communities.

It was my pleasure and distinct honour at the SSCA ceremony to present to His Excellency a commemorative plaque in recognition and celebration of his five years as our Governor and Patron of the OAA Qld Branch. He and his wife Kaye are excellent examples of the highest order of community service. We thank them for their dedication to serving our communities throughout Queensland. Thanks also to Mr Tim Fairfax AC for his continuing sponsorship of the Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards.

The Branch was pleased to host a welcome luncheon to recognise the new awardees included in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours list. We thank the Governor for the opportunity provided for a member of the Queensland Branch Committee to attend each of the award investiture ceremonies held at Government House in Brisbane and in Townsville to meet with our newly invested recipients.

The Regional Group Conveners have continued to organise activities servicing the interests of members throughout the State. Di and I enjoyed attending very successful events at Buderim (Sunshine Coast Regional Group), and in Cairns (Far North Qld. Regional Group). Thanks to the Cairns Regional Council Mayor, Bob Manning OAM, and his staff for hosting the very successful function on 8 August to recognise the most recent awardees and also past awardees in the Cairns region.

The Branch Committee will meet with the OAA National Board before its meeting in Brisbane in late October. We look forward to this opportunity to meet with members of the Board in an informal setting and to discussing matters of interest to our members.

Can I remind you to start planning to attend the OAA National Conference being held in Darwin from 7 to 10 May 2020? I look forward to meeting you at the various functions being held during the rest of the year; please refer to the OAA Web site for the details.

John Harden AM. FAIAS

Branch Chairman

His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland (left) receiving his commemorative plaque from Associate Professor John Harden AM, Queensland Branch Chairman, at the Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards Presentation on 20 September 2019.



21st annual Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards

His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland, presented the Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards at the 21st annual Awards Presentation Ceremony in the Old Legislative Council (Red) Chamber of Queensland's Parliament House on Friday 20 September 2019.

Awards were presented to twelve outstanding secondary school students from across the State. The Awards showcase some outstanding Queensland secondary school students performing some amazing community service and fostering true Australian citizenship. The acceptance speeches from the students were inspirational.

One hundred and fifteen guests including students and their families, school representatives, State Members of Parliament and members of the Association were in attendance.



Caption: His Excellency with the 2019 award students – *Back row from L-R* – Grace Pfindt (Maroochydore State High School); Riley Vallance (Atherton State High School); Isabelle Walton (Annandale Christian College); His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland; Lucy Woodbury (Kirwan State High School); Tenika Altena (Moreton Bay College); Kristen Crasto (Somerset College); and Hunter Hoodcamp (Annandale Christian College). *Front row – from L-R* – Kirsten Lin (Cavendish Road State High School); McKay Jeremiah (Woodridge State High School); Kiani Barker (Southport State High School) and Lillian Coghlan (All Hallows' School). Absent – Romeo Lor (Gordonvale State High School)

Vale Bruce James Howden OAM

We were saddened to hear the news that Bruce Howden OAM, a former Queensland Branch Committee member and strong supporter of our Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards programme, passed away on 4 August 2019, aged 73. Bruce received the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2003 Australia Day honours for service to education, particularly as an administrator.

He was headmaster of the Preparatory School at the Anglican Church Grammar School in East Brisbane, affectionately known as Churchie Prep, from 1984-1995 serving that School with great distinction before taking on the challenging job as headmaster at Toowoomba Preparatory School in 1995. On arrival at the Toowoomba Preparatory School he was faced with a school struggling financially due to falling enrolments and facing closure. Due to Bruce's leadership and vision in implementing worthwhile improvements to the school environment over the next fourteen years, the school was transformed to its rightful status as a premier school in Toowoomba where parents would be proud to have their children educated.

Bruce is remembered in The Queensland Branch of the Association for his valued contribution on the Queensland Branch Committee from December 2010 until November 2014. During his time on the Committee Bruce was the driving force behind the adoption of a Queensland Branch Strategic Plan and for introducing improved governance standards at the Committee level. Also Bruce, alongside Professor Paul McNally OAM from Toowoomba, developed the policy and process for the Queensland Branch's annual Senior Volunteer Awards programme in 2013.

However, Bruce is best remembered for his outstanding contribution to the cause of the Queensland Branch Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards from 2011 through to 2019 as a dedicated, loyal member of the judging panel, a compere of a number of the Presentations at Parliament House and for his excellent suggestions for improvements to the awards programme.

For me personally, I will miss Bruce immensely. Every year when I would hand Bruce, as a member of the judging panel, his copies of the Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards nominations, we would always either enjoy morning tea together or go out to lunch and enjoy each other's friendship and company. Those moments are well and truly etched in my memory of Bruce. Fellow members of the Queensland Branch Committee also remember Bruce with great fondness.

The Association passes on its sincere sympathy to Natasha, his wife, and their children and family over their sad loss.

Geoff Cowles OAM, Queensland Branch Secretary

[Notice of the Annual General Meeting](#)

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Queensland Branch will be held on **Monday 24 February 2020** in **The Ballroom, Victoria Park**, Herston Road, Herston, Brisbane commencing at **5:30pm sharp**.

All positions on the Queensland Branch Committee will be declared vacant and nominations for the new Committee for all positions are now invited. The nomination form and a proxy application form are included with this edition of *The Order*. Please give this matter your serious attention as we are required by the Constitution to find new members for key positions including a new Secretary. Position profiles are available on request from the Secretary.

As is usual practice the black tie Annual Dinner will follow the AGM. More details will be provided closer to the date.

Enquiries with Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary.

[IN MEMORIAM](#)

Brennan Gairetta Joy AM

Mahoney Dr David Field AM

Shears Eunice Joan OAM

Yow Leonard Frank OAM

Howden Bruce James OAM

Baxter Thomas OAM

Gambrill Lynette OAM

Skyring Jeanne Fay OAM

Colley Aileen Mary OAM

Rick Marion OAM

[SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL GROUP AND HELICOPTERS](#)

Over seventy members and guests in the Sunshine Coast Region recently met at the Buderim Tavern to partake of a three-course lunch while enjoying the panoramic views of the Sunshine Coast. We were pleased to welcome Mr Ted O'Brien MP, Federal Member for Fairfax together with our guest speakers Mr Don Moffatt AM and Mr Brent Hall. Don and Brent regaled guests with an entertaining and informative address titled "How do Helicopters Fly". Both Don and Brent are experienced helicopter pilots, having served in combat operations –Don since 1968 and

Brent since 1999. Both have lead very interesting lives and have been and still are involved in many community organisations including the Sunshine Coast Rescue Helicopter Base. Their address encompassed not only the finer details of helicopters and how they fly but also some of the interesting flying experiences in which they have been involved.

Members warmly welcomed four new recipients from the Region receiving awards in The Order in the Queen's Birthday list – Kevin Kaeser OAM, Adell Parkyn AM, Eric Anderson AM, Henry Bath OAM. We were also happy to welcome members of the OAA Queensland Branch Committee who always support the Region functions.

Marjorie Voss OAM, Convener

NEWS FROM TOWNSVILLE

It has been an active period towards the end of the current year for members of the Townsville Group with another investiture of newly-honoured recipients of awards in September, along with a dinner for members in October.

An Investiture ceremony for ten new recipients of Australian Honours was held at The Ville in Townsville on 23 September 2019 with His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland and his wife, Mrs Kaye de Jersey in attendance.

Members of the Group warmly welcomed ten recipients from our region who recently received awards- well-known and respected former North Queensland Cowboys Rugby League player, Johnathan Thurston AM, Dr Catherine Day OAM, Greg Jones OAM, Robert Pack OAM, Kevin Pattel OAM, George White OAM, Peter Searston PSM, Sergeant Gayle Walkorn CSM and Corporal George Barsoum, a Commendation for Distinguished Service.

Following on from a luncheon held in March 2019, the Townsville Group hosted a dinner at the Seagulls Resort in Townsville on 19 October. Invitations were extended to all known awardees throughout the Townsville Region, which extends from Hinchinbrook to the Burdekin and west to Mount Isa. The attendees enjoyed a two-course meal and were entertained with speeches by two Group Members, Mr Mark Stoneman AM and Dr Barry Hicks AM, who expanded on the work they have carried out through their respective careers.

The Group Committee is planning to use their own members to act as guest speakers at future events to highlight the high standard of awardees currently in the region.

David Jackson OAM. Convener



Respected former North Queensland, Queensland and Australian Rugby League Champion, Johnathan Thurston (left) with the Convener of the Townsville Group David Jackson OAM.

NEWS FROM THE FAR NORTH

August was a busy month up in the Far North. It began with the visit of our Queensland Branch Chairman, Associate Professor John Harden AM and his wife Di. Then on 8 August, they, together with some 60 of us, were delighted to attend the Cairns Mayoral Morning Tea for our 2019 recipients of the Order. We are indebted to Mayor Bob Manning OAM and his staff staging this wonderful annual event. It recognises the importance of great achievers and publicises both the Order of Australia and membership of the Association.

A considerable amount of detective work had been required in order to invite Dulcie Flower, AM. Dulcie had received her AM at the Cairns Investiture in May, witnessed by our regional Convenor Carole Miller, OAM, who had been an official guest. However, we kept getting told Dulcie lived in NSW. Undeterred, Carole finally approached Government House Yarralumla and the wonderfully helpful staff there solved the problem by contacting Dulcie, now returned to Cairns. Happy to tell, Dulcie was thrilled to be acknowledged in her hometown, with all the other recipients.

The morning tea was followed by a lovely lunch, for members of the Association and partners only, to meet, hear from and chat with our special guests, John and Di Harden.

This year, for the first time we had two Investiture ceremonies in the Far North. The first in May to invest eight of the nine local awardees and the second on Saturday, 14 September when the Governor of Queensland, His Excellency the Honourable Paul De Jersey AC and Mrs Kaye de Jersey again visited Cairns for the investiture of six more Far North Queensland achievers nominated and honoured by their community.

Planning is underway for another lunch for members in November, when the theme will be '*A 3 Minute Bio*', in other words members must tell their life story, or the highlights, in just 3 minutes, or get the gong!

Carole Miller OAM Convenor

WIDE BAY-BURNETT NEWS

The Wide Bay Burnett Regional Group Luncheon was held at Vinters Secret Vineyard on Saturday 20 July 2019 and was well attended by regional Association members. Following an initial shock for both the venue and Donna, the OAA Regional Convenor, due to additional attendees who had not booked in, the lunch function settled into a relaxed and enjoyable afternoon in the very pleasant surroundings of the vineyard.

Members and guests chatted freely and happily, notwithstanding their underlying concerns about the prevailing dry conditions in the region. Guest speaker Councillor Bill Trevor, Representative for Division 2 of the Bundaberg Regional Council, gave a relaxed, credible and fascinating insight into the Council's plans and activities for the local area and the benefits these would bring to the locals. He reassured the members that the Council was active and responsive in relation to the dry conditions in the region.

Members sampled the local Vineyard's collection of wines and took a stroll around the immediate venue surrounds with special attention given to the garden art collection and to the very large pig. This huge, sleepy huge grunter was totally indifferent to his distinguished guests and continued to snore on, despite the special attention.

Donna Duncan. OAM Convenor

New South Wales Branch

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The past months have continued to be busy and productive for the NSW Branch, with many member engagements, including our Annual Luncheon at Parliament House Sydney on 31 July when our guest of honour and keynote speaker was NSW Governor, and Patron of the Association in NSW, Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC.

In September 400 NSW Queen's Birthday Awardees participated in Investitures at Government House, with Her Excellency and a Reception was held at Parliament House on September 5 for new recipients. Close to 200 members attended, and our Parliamentary Host was The Hon Gabrielle Upton, MP, Member for Vacluse. Big thanks to our metropolitan coordinator and events manager, A/Prof John Gulotta AM for managing these outstanding events which were very much enjoyed by our Members.

We are also looking forward to our next opportunities for member engagement; including our Christmas Dinner at Cellos Grand Dining Room, Castlereagh Boutique Hotel on Wednesday 27 November; our Australia Day Harbour Cruise, on Sunday 26 January 2020, and our AGM morning tea on Tuesday 25 February.

Details of all events can be found on our website: <https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/nsw/about-us/>

We are pleased to welcome our new appointee Ms Martha Jabour OAM who will take over from our current Honorary Secretary, Mrs Carolyn Lyons OAM in November. Carolyn has done an outstanding job in this role for the past 3 years, and we thank her most sincerely for her tireless devotion to our Branch.

Our 25 NSW Youth Community Service Awards winners for 2019 were announced at Government House Sydney on September 20, with Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC speaking with each of the young students from high schools across the State. Once again, we were inspired by the dedication of these young people to help their communities in so many meaningful ways. Thanks to Dr Frank Kelleher AM for his tireless management of this important program which encourages community service in High Schools across NSW.

Special thanks to our Deputy Chairman, Jim Mein AM for taking on the role of Chairman during my recent overseas travel, and to all Committee Members for their ongoing hard work to keep our Branch vibrant and relevant for our more than 2000 Members.

Peter Falk OAM
Branch Chairman

CHANGE OF VENUE FOR NSW BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

All Financial members of the Association are advised that there is to be a change of venue for the upcoming NSW Branch Annual General Meeting which has been set down for Tuesday 25th February 2020 commencing at 10am.

**The new venue will be the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel situated at
169 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.**

Any financial members of the NSW Branch who are desirous of standing for a position on the Branch Committee are advised that nomination forms will be available from NSW Branch Chairman. Mr Peter Falk OAM, mobile 0411 141 103

A financial member who may be unable to attend the AGM on the day and requires a proxy form is advised such forms will also be available from Mr Falk, mobile 0411 141 103.

Ian McKnight OAM

Newsletter Editor.

NEW NSW GOVERNOR ATTENDS BRANCH 2019 ANNUAL LUNCHEON.

The recently appointed NSW Governor Her Excellency the Honorable Margaret Beazley AO QC, Patron of the NSW Branch of the Association was the special guest of honour and speaker at our Annual Luncheon held at Parliament House on the 31st July 2019. A total of 150 members and guests gathered in the foyer of “Strangers” Dining Room and enjoyed the light refreshments as they awaited the appearance of the Vice Regal Party which, upon arrival was escorted to the Sir Henry Parkes Room where the Branch Executive members and the Parliamentary Host for the day were introduced to Her Excellency and her party.

Following introductions and a short interlude the official group made its way to “Strangers” Dining Room where, upon arrival the Vice Regal Party was afforded a standing ovation which was followed shortly afterwards by a rousing rendition of the National Anthem. As everyone took their seats the Master of Ceremonies Associate Professor John Gullotta AM opened proceedings and issued a warm welcome to the Vice Regal Party and everyone in attendance. He then invited the Reverend Bill Crews AM, Uniting Church Minister and Founder of the Exodus Foundation to say Grace following which everyone enjoyed a sumptuous meal.

President of the Legislative Council and Parliamentary Host for the day the Honorable John Ajaka MLC gave a warm welcome to the NSW Parliament House and he encouraged people to have a good look around while they were within the confines of the House. He thanked Branch Chairman Mr Peter Falk OAM and his Committee for a job well done. The official welcome to Her Excellency Margaret Beazley AO QC, her party as well members and guests was given by Chairman Mr Peter Falk OAM who at the conclusion of his welcome invited Her Excellency to present the keynote address to the audience.

Her Excellency, a Supreme Court Judge spoke at length on many aspects of the Law such as the conception of the law, when no one is above the law not even the Sovereign, the conception of the law is subject to alteration and the rule of law is described by many different legal identities. Her Excellency also spoke on some of her experiences within the legal fraternity and everyone in attendance were most interested and listened intently. A vote of thanks was offered by Deputy Chairman Mr Jim Mein AM who sincerely thanked Her Excellency for her interesting, challenging and thought provoking address. He also stated that we need to be more supportive to those far less fortunate than ourselves.

The Loyal Toast was offered by MC Associate Professor John Gullotta AM and the toast to The Order of Australia was given by Mrs Mary Doughty AM. Her Excellency was very generous with her time as she was seen talking with many different people during her time at the luncheon with many photos being taken. Eventually it became time for the Vice Regal Party to depart which was duly escorted from Parliament House.

Ian McKnight OAM – Newsletter Editor

NSW QUEENS' BIRTHDAY AWARDEES WELCOMED AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE

As the result of being named among the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours List there were 60 new recipients, accompanied by their families and friends who swelled the total number of attendees to approximately 200 that descended upon Parliament House on the 5th September to enjoy the NSW Branch Welcome Luncheon. The luncheon was held to recognise the awardees for their untiring work that they have achieved during numerous years of dedicated service for their local communities. The awardees and their guests travelled from all points of the compass to enjoy the occasion and socialise while partaking of refreshments in the foyer of "Strangers" Dining Room prior to proceeding to the dining area for the official welcome and luncheon.

The Master of Ceremonies Associate Professor John Gullotta AM opened proceedings by issuing a warm welcome to all new recipients and their guests at the conclusion of which he invited His Eminence Archbishop Mor Malatius Malki to say Grace. The Parliamentary Host for the day was The Honorable Gabrielle Upton MP who advised the gathering that she was particularly proud of the recipients who hailed from her own electorate. She welcomed all recipients including those from country areas and stated that she was pleased with the public recognition of their efforts over the years. Ms Upton also thanked and honoured the families of all recipients who had provided them invaluable assistance, then gave a short resume of the history of Parliament House and advised everyone to check out the precincts.

Branch Secretary Mrs Carolyn Lyons OAM issued a warm welcome to all attendees, especially to country folk "as things were not good at all in the bush", then proposed the Loyal Toast. Branch Deputy Chairman Mr Jim Mein AM delivered the official welcome and stated that he was impressed that so many worked tirelessly for their local communities despite the many challenges that effect many families these days. He encouraged that more people especially women could be nominated for awards in the future. He then proposed the toasts to the Order of Australia and the new recipients requesting that they please stand and were greeted with thunderous applause. Mr Richard Broinowski AO responded on behalf of all attending recipients and all too soon came the closure to a memorable function

Ian McKnight OAM – Newsletter Editor

The Order of Australia Association (NSW Branch)

2019 Youth Community Service Award Presentation Ceremony



Award recipients at Government House with Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC (centre), Award judge Mrs Lynette Smith OAM (left), Chairman Mr Peter Falk OAM and Honorary Secretary Mrs Carolyn Lyons OAM (behind Governor) and Award Convenor Dr Frank Kelleher OAM (next to Her Excellency)

Twenty-five young NSW High School students were presented with the Youth Community Service Award by Her Excellency, The Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC, Governor of NSW, at a ceremony held at NSW Government House on 20th September. Award winners were selected for their exemplary service to their communities, from a field of 61 nominations, by a panel of 3 judges, each an Order of Australia Award holder.

Awards were individually presented by Her Excellency on behalf of the NSW Branch, in front of an audience comprising their family, friends and School Principals. Presentation of the Award to each recipient was preceded by a citation of the service which formed the basis of their selection by the judging panel.

Service took many forms, including –

- a successful campaign for the introduction of tactile banknotes in Australian currency for the visually impaired;
- fund-raising for a multitude of causes, including purchase of materials and assembly of birthing kits for women in undeveloped countries; provision of educational and construction materials for schools in remote regions of Australia and in 5 different undeveloped countries (including periods of immersion in those communities); annual appeals by mainstream and less-well known charities; donations and purchase of food, furniture and household goods for refugees resettling in Australian communities; financial support of Refuges for women, refugees and homeless, disadvantaged members of Australian communities; Appeals for drought aid and mental health support for families affected by drought; resources and personal support programs for aged care residents; facilities and resources for students in Special Needs schools to enable both mobile and immobile students to participate in physical activities; the Liver Transplant Unit at Children's Hospital, Westmead.
- mentoring youth at risk of drug and alcohol abuse, criminal behaviour, homelessness and mental health problems with support to set and achieve personal goals; young, refugee, disadvantaged and Special Needs students in schools to engage them more productively in their own education and find direction to a positive future.
- engaging with local, state and federal governments in the identification of problems faced by youth in their societies and the design, development and implementation of youth engagement and development programs

Communities were wide ranging - remote, disadvantaged regions in Australia, aged care facilities, refugees, youth at risk, the homeless in society, women and children struggling with health and basic food availability

in underdeveloped countries, people under threat of violence in both urban and rural communities, poor and disadvantaged students in school communities, disabled and special needs people at all levels of society.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the group joined Her Excellency for drinks and canapes in the grounds, allowing them all to expand on their individual achievements with her in a warm, informal setting and many opportunities for photos.

Dr Frank Kelleher OAM

Convenor.

NSW BRANCH COMING EVENTS:

NSW Branch 2019 Christmas Fundraising Dinner

Wednesday 27th November 2019 commencing at 6.30pm.

Cellos Grand Dining Room, Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, 169 Castlereagh Street, Sydney

Cost for Members and Guests \$120.00 pp (incl GST)

Dress: Lounge Suit/Cocktail Dress. Decorations (Miniature Medals)

Please reserve your ticket(s) via this link: www.stickytickets.com.au/knb68

DO NOT BOOK VIA THE STICKY TICKETS WEBSITE OR VIA GOOGLE, BUT ENTER THE LINK IN YOUR WEB BROWSER EXACTLY AS WRITTEN ABOVE.

Enquiries to Events Manager, Dr John Gullotta AM Mobile 0418233069

NSW Branch Australia Day Sydney Harbour Luncheon Cruise

Sunday 26th January 2020 at 10am.

Embarking aboard "Captain Cook III" at 10.15am at Circular Quay, Sydney.

Cost per Adult \$140 (inc. GST) and \$70 per Child aged 5-14 years (inc. GST), includes pre luncheon drinks and a seated Captain's Seafood Buffet luncheon with a selection of soft and alcoholic beverages included.

Dress: Smart Casual with Lapel Pin/Brooch

Please Reserve your ticket(s) via this link: www.stickytickets.com.au/zmuie

DO NOT BOOK VIA THE STICKY TICKETS WEBSITE OR VIA GOOGLE BUT ENTER THE LINK IN YOUR WEB BROWSER EXACTLY AS WRITTEN ABOVE.

For further enquiries please phone Events Manager Dr John Gullotta AM, Mobile 0418 233 069.

NSW Branch Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 25th February 2020 at 11am

Venue: Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, 169 Castlereagh Hotel, Sydney.

Guest Speaker: To be confirmed. A light morning tea will be available.

Dress: Lounge Suit/Day Dress with decorations (Full Size Medals)

RSVP ESSENTIAL: NO LATER THAN 14th FEBRUARY 2020

Please reserve your ticket(s) via this link: www.stickytickets.com.au/oxl8x

DO NOT BOOK VIA THE STICKY TICKETS WEBSITE OR VIA GOOGLE BUT ENTER THE LINK IN YOUR WEB BROWSER EXACTLY AS WRITTEN ABOVE.

For further enquiries phone Dr John Gullotta AM, Events Manager on Mobile 0418 233 069.

HUNTER REGIONAL GROUP - Luncheon

Saturday 22nd February 2020 Venue: Cardiff RSL Memorial Club

CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL GROUP.

Always look on the bright side of life, they were the words of one of the songs being sung by The Central Coast Leagues Club Barbershop Chorus. (Made up of some 14 Members) This was one of a few renditions of music



performed for our members and guests prior to the commencement of our 2019 Central Coast Regional Group Annual Luncheon which took place at the Central Coast Leagues Club, Gosford on Tuesday 6th August 2019. NSW Deputy Chairman Mr Jim Mein AM and his wife Gill, along with 45 members and guests attended the luncheon to be greeted by Central Coast Town Crier Mr Stephen Clarke who read out a proclamation declaring that our

meeting had commenced. He asked all to stand and join the Barbershop Chorus in singing two verses of the Australian National Anthem which was sung with much gusto. He presented the Barbershop Chorus with a certificate of thanks from the Central Coast Group for their performance which was much appreciated.

Grace was then given by Rev Dr Paul Logan OAM. At the luncheon there were three new awardees, and as Regional Convenor asked each of them to give a short resume as to how they received their awards. They were: Patsy Edwards OAM, Denise Lawrence OAM and Ken Austin OAM. It is always interesting to hear from new awardees about their involvement in our communities.

NSW Deputy Chairman Jim Mein AM then addressed the attendees and gave a brief talk on the NSW Branch and upcoming events at the conclusion of which he and his wife were thanked by Regional Convenor Ron for their attendance. At the conclusion of lunch Town Crier Stephen entertained the gathering with a number joining in with the festivities. He also doubled as the guest speaker for the day and spoke on one of his recent ventures of being flown in a small plane out to many outback towns in NSW and Qld to visit schools to talk to students and teachers on "The History of Town Crying in Australia". He was most entertaining and was given a vote of thanks by Pat Slattery OAM.

Eventually the function came to an end with Regional Convenor Ron sincerely thanking everyone who attended on the day.

Ron Sharpe OAM Regional Convenor.

Central West Celebrating the Order of Australia Awards

Members of the Central West Regional Group of the Order of Australia and their guests, met recently at historic Duntroon, Orange NSW, for their annual lunch. New recipients of the Awards for the Order of Australia 2019 were also welcomed.

Mrs Audrey Hardman OAM, Regional Group Convenor for Central West, welcomed the members and their guests. Each new recipient was introduced with a brief summary of their Award and their contribution through service to Australia. An acknowledgement and special tribute was made to several members of long standing who were recipients of their Awards during the 80's and 90's and present at the gathering.

Ms Kate Baxter, Regional General Manager of Western and New England TAFE gave an excellent address outlining the innovative and relative strategies currently being undertaken across rural, regional and remote New South Wales.

FAR SOUTH COAST REGIONAL GROUP

On Saturday, 27th July, our regional group of the OAA held an afternoon tea to welcome awardees of Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Honours in 2019. The function was held at the home of Dr Jenny Munro AM in Narooma on a beautiful sunny winter's day and was well attended by forty recipients, families and friends. Jenny was assisted with the catering by committee members Kris Macauley AM, Huon Hassell OAM and Brendan Winter Bravery Award.

The group welcomed Ron Sharpe OAM and his wife Carol from Woy Woy who represented the NSW Branch of the OAA. Ron spoke about the Association and his involvement over many years. Each of the recipients also spoke briefly and, resoundingly, the theme was the expression of humility and responsibility to our communities.

One of five recipients of scholarships for the Young Endeavour Foundation which was provided for by the FSCRG attended as well. Bridget Lunn, our Young Endeavour scholar, who was accompanied by her mother Sandra, also spoke about her experience on her voyage from Eden to Sydney. Bridget is the recipient of a Tuckwell Scholarship to the ANU and plans to study Advanced Science in 2020.

Hunter Regional Group, Morning Tea.

The Hunter Regional Group held a Morning Tea at Cardiff RSL Memorial Club on Wednesday 17 July 2019 with 113 attending to enjoy the occasion and each other's company. There were seventeen Queen's Birthday 2019 recipients of Order of Australia awards in the Hunter.

Five of the recipients attended the Morning Tea and were congratulated on their achievements – Mr. Peter Corcoran AM of Buttaba, Mr. Robert Kennedy AM of Fordwich, Mr. Nicholas Saltos AM of The Hill, Mr. Trevor Richards OAM of Morpeth, and Mrs Beryl Tobin OAM of Belmont North.

Mrs June Cameron AM, the Hunter Regional Convenor, welcomed all present and acknowledged the Cardiff RSL Club and Cardiff RSL Sub-Branch for their co-operation and assistance in the conduct of luncheons and morning teas over many years.

The guest speaker at the Morning Tea was Nick Talley AC, an Australian gastroenterologist, researcher, and clinical educator. His interesting and well-received presentation covered his career in Australia and the United States of America which led to him becoming a biomedical scientist and global authority on functional gut disorders.

The next Order of Australia Association Hunter Regional Group activity will be a luncheon at the Cardiff RSL Memorial Club on Saturday 22 February 2020.

Major Charles Stevens OAM RFD ED (Retd)

SPECIAL NT PROJECT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ... SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

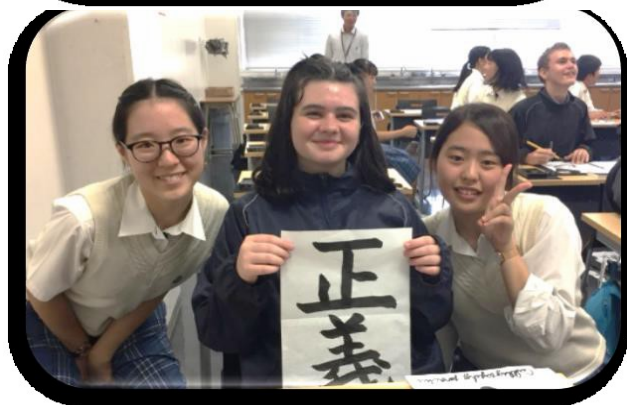


Two winners were selected from the applicants for this scholarship – 15 year-old athlete Harry Priest from the SEDA Sports Development Program at Casuarina, and Justice Walker, a Year 9 student from McKillop College planning a study tour of Japan with a college group in July. These two students argued well for assistance with the pursuit of their particular school projects.

The students received their letter of congratulations and cheque at their own school from NT OAA Executive members

Harry Priest with Nora Lewis AM

Dr. Tom Lewis OAM, Sharon Mulholland AM with Justice Walker.



Justice diarized her trip to Japan, and a little is included here:

July 21st: Today we went to the Peace Park, and I learned so much about the Hiroshima bombing. It was very upsetting, but we put paper cranes on one of the memorials, and I'm really happy I learned all the things I did. Then we caught a ferry to the Island Miyajimacho ... so nice. We had amazing food and saw heaps of deer. We went to a temple and it was one of the most amazing experiences I've ever been through....

Justice is very appreciative of the scholarship from the OAA NT which enhanced her trip to Japan, and she is intending to address a meeting of our chapter in the near future, to share more of her experiences. We wish these students the best, and aim to present more scholarships next year.

ALICE SPRINGS NEWS

On August 27 the NT Branch of the Order of Australia Association held a function in the Council Chambers of Alice Springs for about 25 Alice Springs members and other Alice Springs awardees of the Order. Secretary Michael Martin OAM spoke at this event, updating attendees about latest developments in planning for next year's annual conference in Darwin. It was kindly hosted by Alice Mayor Damien Ryan, who also displayed his culinary skills with a magnificent meal.

At the end of the evening **Mr. Ted Egan AO** – past Administrator and entertainer extraordinaire – gave a magnificent rendition of his recent composition 'The Paragon Café'... about Kon Varipatis' Greek restaurant in Wagga which operated when a meal of roast lamb cost 1/6d.



NTOAA members enjoying their night out in Alice Springs.

The Association would like to thank Mayor Damien Ryan for his generosity and commitment as well as Paywise Salary Packaging for its sponsorship of the evening.

