



ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION VICTORIA BRANCH

“fostering love of and pride in Australian citizenship”

Welcome from Branch Chair



Welcome to our summer edition of the VIC Branch e-Newsletter.

Our last event for the year was the sellout annual lunch at The Angliss Restaurant MC'd by David Mann AM, with guest speaker Rosie Batty AO. Rosie spoke about her early life, the murder in 2014 of her 11 year-old son in a violent incident, her crusade against family violence since then and her future work in the community. Through courage and determination Rosie has put family violence on the national agenda. You could have heard a pin drop during her inspirational talk.

Members and guests also heard from one of the two Foundation 2018 scholarship recipients, Jeremy Doupe a future leader. More details regarding the annual lunch are on page 6.

2020 events start Sunday January 26 Australia Day, with a March down Swanston Street under the Order of Australia Association VIC Branch banner. We encourage members to participate in this comfortable walk at a slow pace.

Hannah Gandy the other Foundation scholarship recipient in 2018, will be part of the 2020 Inspiring Australian Oration on Wednesday February 26 at the Lower Melbourne Town Hall, with the Oration to be delivered by Kevin Sheedy AO. There is more to Kevin than football. He is a man for all seasons and for all reasons. Please refer to page 19 for your invitation and booking details.

Another diary note: VIC Branch Annual General Meeting on Tuesday March 17, 2020. Refer to separately attached information for the Notice of Meeting and Nomination Form.

As we look back and evaluate the year, I thank the VIC Branch committee and acknowledge the excellent outcomes from our sub-committees: Communications Chaired by Irene Harrington OAM; Events Chaired by Peter Jones AM and Merchandise Chaired by Dr June Kane AM.

Thank you also to Branch Nominated Director William Lye OAM QC; Membership Secretary Tony Smith OAM; Secretary and Regional Groups Co-ordinator Fred Harrington OAM and Treasure Alan Brook OAM.

All our Regional Groups are important to the ongoing success of the VIC Branch; collectively we thank the Regional Group Chairs, Office Bearers and members for making time to attend meetings and VIC Branch events during the year and hosting their own quality events.

In welcoming our new members this year, we also thank our annual and three year members for renewing their membership and acknowledge our Life Members.

We thank the National Board, Chaired by Barry Nunn AO RFD ED, for their guidance and support during the year.

Reminder the National Conference is May 7-10, 2020 in Darwin. Please register via the Order of Australia Association website – hope to see you there. See page 4 for more information.

As we farewell 2019, The Order of Australia Association VIC Branch thanks the businesses and individuals plus the donors of venues, catering and photography for their generosity during the year. Your in-kind support is greatly appreciated.

We welcome the opportunity to work with you again in 2020.

Best wishes to our members for the upcoming festive season and trust 2020 brings good health and happiness to you and those who are important in your life.

Dr Helene Bender OAM, Chairman, Victoria Branch



Editor's message



Do you often think when meeting children that we've known for some time, but haven't seen for a while, that they are growing far too quickly and that it can't be right? Last time you saw them, they were babies or little tots! Not sure about you, but sometimes it makes me feel quite old – and makes me ask where have the years gone?

Well I feel a bit that way about how time has flown in 2019!!!! Christmas is upon us once again. Can you believe it's time to put up the Christmas decorations once more – seems like it was only yesterday we took them down!!!!

2019 is now almost over – and what a year of wonderful events. And there's more coming in 2020.

In this edition you will find information on forthcoming events from some of the Regional Groups around Victoria, as well as the Vic Branch events.

Pam Robinson OAM has been hard at work and has provided an interesting interview with *Choir of Hard Knocks* founder, Jonathan Welch AM.

As usual, this e-Newsletter is only made possible with contributions and assistance from members, so please feel free to send me any articles/stories you would like to see published for your fellow members to read. Please note the deadline for the next edition of the e-Newsletter, is the 28th February 2020, but you can send them at any time. The address is editorvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

So many "thank you's" to finish off the year, but totally necessary.

Thank you to my fellow Vic Branch Committee members, to all our contributors and of course, thank you to all our readers.

May I extend Christmas greetings to you all and my very best wishes for a successful and enjoyable 2020. May it be a year of special times and good memories, especially when attending OAA events.

Until next time, happy reading!

Irene Harrington OAM, JP, e-Newsletter Editor

 *Merry Christmas to all our readers* 

If you are having problems reading the articles because the words are too small, highlight what you want to read, put your finger on the "control" button and roll the little wheel on your mouse and the print will change size on your screen.

Getting to know...



Pam Robinson OAM, a member of the Communications Sub-committee kindly prepared and interviewed **Dr. Jonathon Welch AM** for this edition of the e-Newsletter. We thank them both for their time and contribution.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself, your family, where you lived and your fondest childhood memories. Was music a feature in your home life and in your community?

I was born and raised in Ripponlea in 1958, the third son of four children. My father was an engineer and my mother a wonderful musician and stay at home mum. My father loved music and my mother was very passionate about music, as were her two older sisters. There was always lots of singing around the piano, and my mother was the organist at the local Presbyterian church for 25 years.

Q: At what age were you introduced to music, learnt an instrument and/or to sing. Where was your first musical performance and what role did you have?

My first formal music education began at age 8 when I learnt the piano, but I was always singing and making up little shows at home and at school. My first and most favourite vinyl record growing up was the soundtrack to "Winnie the Pooh". I knew all the words by memory and created my first show at school (Ripponlea Primary), singing along to the record, using bed lamps to create the lighting and brown crepe paper on my legs to look like I was a bear. We charged all the kids 5 cents each and I donated the money to the school library to help buy more books, because I loved to read. And so "Winnie - the Musical" was born, and so was my career as a musical entrepreneur it seems.

Q: What do you enjoy most with music; is it being a soloist, performing on stage with others, being a choral conductor, or teaching others to reach their musical potential?

At first, I think what I really enjoyed, was the thrill of singing on stage and creating characters that were so far removed from my own reality. I loved exploring the potential of my own voice (and still do) and working with other singers and really getting into the character of the role I was playing.

But as time went on and I started to conduct and teach, I found that has given me just as much satisfaction. I love seeing other people achieve their goals and perhaps realise talent and potential in themselves that they never knew existed before. I believe that a 'light' shines brightly in each of us, and sometimes we just have to know how to turn it on. Now, I love composing as well and have been fortunate to have performed some of my own work at Carnegie Hall in New York, London, Edinburgh and Manchester last year.

Q: What year did you receive your AM, what was the Award citation and what has it meant to you to be so honoured? How has it helped your career ambitions?

I was so honoured to receive my Order of Australia in June 2009 "for service to the arts as an operatic performer and vocal coach and to the community as the founder and musical director of the Choir of Hard Knocks". I will never forget the day I received the phone call to ask if I would accept the honour. To be recognised and nominated by members of the public and Her Majesty in this way, was and still is beyond comprehension to me and I always feel such a sense of pride whenever I see it written after my name or announced. It has truly inspired me to want to do the best for my country and go on to do even more in the community over future decades.

Q: What are you currently reading/researching/working on for your next musical role and with your Arts Charity 'Play it Forward'?

I always have many musical projects on the go at any one time (I think I was a juggler in a previous life) – and 2020 will be no exception. I am in the process of co-composing my next major choral work, to be premiered at the Melbourne International Singers Festival in June 2020. I am expanding the range of programs that we deliver through 'Play It Forward', <https://www.playitforward.org.au/events> my exciting new inclusive arts programs for all Australians and I will be singing in the 10th Anniversary of Deborah Cheetham AO's magnificent indigenous Opera - 'Pecan Summer' in October, along with participating in many other exciting projects and conducting more wonderful choirs.

Q: What advice would you have for someone wanting to follow in your footsteps?

I have never been afraid to follow my intuition and try different things throughout my 40-year career in the music industry. If you truly want to survive in this business, you have to be determined, dedicated, disciplined and open to diversifying your skill sets to remain relevant and flexible so as to make a living. Importantly always give back and remember you're given the gift of musical ability not just for yourself, but for others to enjoy.

Q: What are you most passionate about for yourself, your family, your community and in relation to life in general?

I feel truly blessed for the life I have had and continue to have in so many ways. My husband (we only were able to marry last year) and I will celebrate 20 years together in 2020 and are bringing up two very bright and active young boys, who continue to keep me young and us on our toes. There are so many more, new musical challenges and adventures ahead that I want to experience and in turn create for the community at large through 'Play It Forward'. I want to leave a real legacy through my work. Most of all, I'm so proud to be an Australian – to live, work and experience all the joys of living in this magnificent country. I am proud to call Australia my home and I have chosen to make my contribution here.

2020 National Conference

The 2020 National Conference will be held in Darwin under the theme "Future Proof – How Past Experiences Inform Future Challenges".

An exciting and interesting program has been developed in accordance with the theme. Learn a lot about Australia's northern capital and its international significance.

Highlights of the Program:

Thursday 7 May

- Visits to the internationally recognised Menzies School of Health Research and the National Critical Care Trauma and Response Centre – Limited numbers
- Opening of the Conference by Darwin's Lord Mayor the Hon. Kon Vatskalis
- Opening Keynote Speaker Hon Barry Coulter AO: "Past Challenges faced and overcome"
- Free buses to the famous Mindil Markets for a majestic sunset, 25 nations of food and entertainment, with return service provided

Friday 8 May

- Re-enactment of Surveyor Goyder's arrival in Darwin
- Oration by Territory Administrator, Her Honour Vicky O'Halloran AO – "How Past Experiences Inform Future Challenges"
- Panel of Indigenous leaders: Territory Indigenous Challenges and Achievements
- Panel Discussion: Challenges and opportunities resulting from northern Australia's location to Asia
- Presentation of artistic entertainment
- Government House reception – limited numbers

Saturday 9 May

- AGM and members' Forum
- Conference dinner – multi-cultural community theme

Sunday 10 May

- Wreath-Laying Ceremony at Darwin Wharf
- Farewell brunch

How to Register

This is primarily an online registration process with three options:

- Click on the attached flyer on "Program" or Register online"" and refer to the attached instructions
- Go to www.ivvy.com.au/event/M5YDSO/ and follow the prompts and attached instructions or
- If you have difficulty with online registration contact the NT Secretary/Treasurer Michael Martin OAM on 0401 112 794 or martinnt@bigpond.net.au – he will assist you with your registration.

The Order

Our national quarterly magazine *The Order*, is available in e-version which saves the Association costs of postage, printing and stationery. Please email Secretary Phil Morrall AM CSC at: nationalsecretary@theorderofaustralia.asn.au to request *The Order* in electronic format and help save us money

News from the Victoria Branch

The **2020 program** of events is listed here for your information and so you can add these dates to your diary.

Month	Date	Activity	Comment
January	26	Australia Day March	Commencing 11am
February	26	Inspiring Australians Oration	Commencing at 11am
March	17	AGM	Commencing at 11am
May	7-10	National Conference	Darwin
July	TBC	Visit to National Gallery	Commencing at 11am
Aug	TBC	New Awardees Reception	Commencing at 1pm
Nov	17	Vic Branch Luncheon	Commencing at Noon
Dec	20	Gallipoli event at Shrine	Commencing at Noon

Annual General Meeting

The 2020 Victoria Branch Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th March 2020 commencing at 11:00am at the RACV Club, 501 Bourke Street, Melbourne.

The formal **Notice of Meeting** including a **Nomination Form** is being distributed with this edition of the e-Newsletter. Members who do not have an email address will receive a copy via Australia Post.

Nominations are being called for all Victoria Branch committee positions for 2020/2021. Nominations must be lodged by **5.00 pm on Friday 21 February, 2020** with the Vic Branch Secretary. For further information contact Victoria Branch Secretary, Fred Harrington OAM at: sevic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Vic Branch Annual Luncheon

Over 130 members attended the annual Victoria Branch luncheon held at William Angliss Institute.

Our special guest on this occasion was Rosie Batty AO, who gave an inspirational address on her personal experience with domestic abuse.

It was truly memorable and gave us insight into the awareness she has been able to achieve for the issue within Australia.



We also acknowledged the 2018 Scholarship recipient Jeremy Doupe who gave an update on the development of his studies and career.

Thank you to everyone involved and we look forward to continuing this event next year.



Australia Day March – 26th January, 2020

The Order of Australia Association has again been given the opportunity to participate in one of the major highlights of Australia Day 2020: The Australia Day Parade is held in Melbourne's CBD.

This Parade features over 5,000 participants representing all aspects of our community, including Emergency Services of police, SES, ambulance and CFA and multicultural groups from all over the state. The Governor, Premier and Lord Mayor are all in attendance to greet all participants marching in the Parade. It starts at 11.00am and is a 1.2km walk down Swanston Street to the Gardens opposite the National Gallery.

This will be a great way to celebrate and recognise the Association and members as we would march as a group. Numbers are limited, so if you are interested in participating, in the march then you need to register via the TryBooking site: <https://www.trybooking.com/581247>

Please note, unlike all OAA events where all partners are welcome to attend functions, this event is only for OAA members.



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Some of last year's walkers enjoying the event.

Will it be you in 2020?



An interesting idea!

Recently the Vic Branch received a suggestion that the current concept of interviews with members, included in the e-Newsletter, be extended to video interviews/podcasts which could be linked to the Victoria Branch webpage.



Vic Branch committee is supportive of the concept, but feel the matter of quality of production must be a major part of undertaking such interviews.


The suggested way ahead was for Regional Groups interested in undertaking these type of interviews with members of their group, could make contact with their local TAFE, University or such so that the students undertaking Media Studies may be interested in being involved in the interviews. With many courses looking for such opportunities for their students AND having excellent state of the art equipment, this could be a win-win for everyone.

If you are interested in being involved in this project and having your videos uploaded to the Branch website, please contact editorvic@theorderofaustraliaassociation.asn.au

Victoria Branch Web page:

The Victoria Branch web page, within the Order of Australia web site (www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au) contains a wide range of information regarding the branch.

Order of Australia Association Merchandise

Looking for a wonderful Christmas gift?  Don't forget OAA merchandise. You will find suitable gift items in the range. It will make a great present and all items are posted to you promptly. The Association is pleased to offer a range of merchandise to members. Please note that only OAA members may wear clothing, cufflinks and badges. If you wish to make a direct bank transfer, please contact OAA Victoria Treasurer Alan Brook OAM at: merchandise@theorderofaustralia.asn.au, phone: 0402 891 778.

	Product description	Price	P & H	Quantity	Cost
	Ladies' pure silk scarf	NEW 42.00	3.00		
	Blank greetings cards + envelopes (pack of 5)	NEW 10.00	1.00		
	Blue/gold pen in gift box	NEW 7.00	2.00		
	Decal for car or other surfaces	SALE 2.50	1.00		
	Set of 4 drinks coasters	SALE 25.00	8.00		
	Pack of playing cards	SALE \$2.00	1.00		
	A5 Compendium	SALE 30.00	8.00		
	Notepad refills for compendium (pack of 4)	10.00	8.00		
	Notebook/calculator	10.00	3.00		
	Cufflinks in gift box	35.00	7.00		
	Lapel badge	15.00	2.00		
	Key ring in gift box	10.00	8.00		
	Metal medallion/paperweight	20.00	2.00		
	OAA traditional tie (navy)	25.00	2.00		
	OAA tie (red/black/silver)	25.00	2.00		
	OAA tie (blue/gold)	25.00	2.00		
	Sports/travel bag, navy	40.00	10.00		
	Document/laptop bag, navy	30.00	10.00		
	TOTAL				

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address for mailing: _____

_____ P/C _____ Phone: _____

Total cost of order: _____ Cheque enclosed Y / N **or** Please debit my Mastercard/Visa card: Number:

_____ Name on card: _____

Expiry date: _____ CVV: _____

Email to: merchandise@theorderofaustralia.asn.au **or** mail to:

OAA Merchandise, 38 Rotherwood Road, Ivanhoe East, VIC 3079



**The OAA ties and scarves
which are available through
the details above**



What's happening.....around the Groups?

Barwon Regional Group



The Order of Australia Association Barwon Region received an invitation to participate in the Remembrance Day Commemoration Service.

The service took place in the Geelong Peace Memorial in Johnstone Park, Geelong on the 11th of November 2019.

Picture attached shows Peter Doak OAM presenting the Wreath from the Barwon Region, at the Ceremony.

The Christmas function was held at the Capri Receptions on the 22nd of November 2019. Our advertised guest speaker was the new Vice Chancellor of Deakin University, Professor Iain Martin, who apologised as he would be in India. The guest speaker was Professor Nicole Rinehart, a Clinical Psychologist, Director Deakin Child Study Centre and Chair of Clinical Psychology, Faculty of Health, Deakin University.

A very thought provoking address was made with plenty of questions.



The Professor spoke of the current research being undertaken into Autism, Asperger's disorder and ADHD and the findings so far.

Members supported the Bethany Christmas Appeal by bringing Christmas presents to support under privileged children in the Barwon Region.

Lloyd Jenkins OAM is pictured thanking Guest Speaker Professor Nicole Rinehart.

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled to be held at Capri Receptions on Sunday the 22nd of March 2020.

Eastern Suburbs Regional Group

Well it will soon be the start of another year for Order of Australia Association activities and our Eastern Suburbs Regional Group has much pleasure inviting you to participate in our first two functions for 2020. A couple of dates for your diary follow.

The first is a Morning Tea, short AGM, followed by a wonderful and dynamic Guest Speaker, Linda Black, whose presentation is entitled *"Staying Alive and Thriving"*. She will talk about positive ageing and the emotional needs and resources that we are born with. In order to really thrive as we get older, these needs must be met adequately and in balance. To do that, we have to use our resources appropriately.

This function is to be held at the Wheelers Hill Library Meeting Room, on the corner of Jells and Ferntree Gully Roads, Wheelers Hill, alongside the Monash Gallery of Art on Wednesday 19th February 2020. The extensive car park can be accessed from either of the roads. We are starting at 10.30am and we will finish between 12.30-1.00pm.

The second is a Morning Tea and Live Theatre Production of the songs of two music legends, Carole King and Neil Sedaka at the Whitehorse Centre, Maroondah Highway, Nunawading on Wednesday 17th June at 10.00am. Cost for this musical event is \$20 per person. Guests are welcomed to both functions.

We intend to have a Cocktail Party for 2020 new Australia Day and Queen's Birthday awardees later in the year with other functions planned as well.

Please consider coming to our first two functions, which we hope will be most enjoyable.

Gippsland Regional Group

The 7th Annual Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnet Dinner and Address.

The Gippsland Group celebrated the life of Sir Macfarlane Burnet who was born in Traralgon, by a dinner and address on Wednesday 16th October. The celebration was attended by 120 members and guests, including Burnet's granddaughter and two great granddaughters. Our guest speaker, Professor Margaret Hellard AM from the Burnet Institute spoke about the research looking at adolescences transitioning into young adulthood in the era of social media – risks, harms and health. Margaret spoke of the epidemic of risk in Australia impacting on young people. Young people are experiencing high levels of substance use disorders, risky sex with consequent sexually transmitted infections, or unplanned pregnancy, blood borne viruses, unintentional injuries and interpersonal violence.

She said to intervene we need to understand the key influences and interplay that result in risk and also understand the role of social media in this setting.



Margaret spoke of the epidemic of risk in Australia impacting on young people. Young people are experiencing high levels of substance use disorders, risky sex with consequent sexually transmitted infections, or unplanned pregnancy, blood borne viruses, unintentional injuries and interpersonal violence. She said to intervene we need to understand the key influences and interplay that result in risk and also understand the role of social media in this setting.

The Gippsland Group Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 17th November at Centenary House and followed by a delicious Afternoon High Tea. A new Committee was elected:

Office Bearers:

Chairman - Lorraine Bartling OAM
Deputy Chairman – Doug Caulfield OAM
Secretary – Anne Macarthur OAM
Treasurer David Packham OAM

Committee:

Beth Delzoppo OAM
Helen Hoppner OAM
Bill Bodman OAM
Neil Terril OAM
Alex Arbuthnot AM

The first Luncheon for 2020 will be held on Sunday 19th April at Dal Mondo Restaurant, Traralgon. The guest speaker is yet to be decided.

Loddon-Campaspe Regional Group

The Group's Annual General Meeting will be held at 10am Tuesday 18th February, 2020, at Latrobe University (in the Business Board Room), 3 Edwards Road, Bendigo. Guest speaker will be Professor Pauleen Bennett who is Australia's leading anthrozoologist and Head of the Department of Psychology and Counselling at La Trobe University.

She is an international expert in the study of relationships between humans and their companion animals, being particularly interested in what makes these successful, from the perspective of the dog and the broader community, as well as the dog owner. Her research group at the Latrobe Bendigo Campus, is currently investigating the use of dogs as assistants for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and she is also leading a community-based program where pet dogs are being trained to detect endangered Australian animals. Pauline will bring a 'fur baby' to pat.

Morning tea on arrival and lunch to follow the AGM and guest speaker.

Members are also invited to tour the campus with Robert Stephenson, Head of the Bendigo Campus of La Trobe University. Cost: \$15 towards lunch which has been kindly sponsored by the University. RSVP attendance to Deb Fleming OAM before Monday the via canddflemings@bigpond.com or message on 0409542619

Mallee Regional Group

The Mallee Branch was delighted to learn of the appointment of three new members during the year. Australia Day was witness to the appointment of Elizabeth Maffei OAM in Merbein and Maureen Wandel OAM in Underbool. Queen's Birthday witnessed the appointment of James Thompson OAM in Swan Hill. We are pleased to welcome Elizabeth and James into membership of our group.

One important activity in recent years has been our group's sponsorship of a place in the Northern Mallee Leadership Program. The class of 2019 will graduate in November.

This year our Branch sponsored Brenton Lewin, born and raised in Mildura and now serving in the Victorian Police Force. On accepting his place in the Leadership Program, Brenton expressed the hope that the course would give him the opportunity to *develop community relationships and enhance his leadership skills, to be able to give back to the community and drive change.*



Another cause for celebration has been the recent wedding of our member, Denis Ryan AM.

Denis was honoured in 2018 in recognition of his sustained campaign for justice for the victims of child sexual abuse. Denis was ultimately vindicated in the findings of the Royal Commission.

We wish Denis and Beverley all possible happiness in the years ahead.

Our annual get together will again be held in January, on a date following Australia Day so members can attend celebrations in their home communities.

Melbourne Central Regional Group

Our networking event held on 10 September at the Melbourne Savage Club, had Andrew Crisp PSM Commissioner for Emergency Services as guest speaker.

Andrew spoke about his experience in understanding the needs of the role, the and the equipment used in fighting bushfires.

On Tuesday 15 October our last luncheon for the year was held at the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club.

Guest speaker was John Harnden AM (right), Chief Executive Officer of Melbourne and Olympic Park Trust and Director of Cricket Australia Board. John presented an entertaining talk on Melbourne, the Event City and the important part sport plays in the wellbeing of those living in the community.



Three networking evenings and two Luncheons are being planned for 2020. Arrangements for a range of outstanding and excellent speakers are underway. Once speakers, dates are confirmed and venues booked, further notice of these events will be made available.

Mornington Peninsula Regional Group

Order of Australia Association, Mornington Peninsula Regional Group School Projects Annual Award achieved a milestone on the 15th November 2019 when it was presented for the 20th year running. The Award is presented to secondary schools in the Mornington Peninsula Shire and The City of Frankston for a school program that exemplifies pride in responsible Australian Citizenship, by improving the quality of life in our local communities and involving students from years seven through to year twelve.

Following a good response from our 21 eligible schools, the submissions from the following schools were judged to be successful:

Major Winner was Monterey Secondary College with their project titled “How to Run a Planet”. The project was part of the Monterey’s VCAL program, involving approximately 50 students, with the submission covering at length details of the ten component activities, ranging from the collection of plastic lids for Envision and then 3D printing of prosthetic hands; a number of environmental projects; as well as services needed by the homeless and needy of their local community. The components covered a wide variety of community needs and achieved corresponding amounts of community support.

Runner Up Award went to Mount Erin College for their program titled “Community Music Program”. The submission from Mount Erin covered benefits to vulnerable aged care residents at the Baxter Village, the Manor and The Lodge, celebrating the arts through inter-generational events on a monthly basis, encouraging the beneficial outcomes of student interaction with senior citizens in Aged Care etc. The submission indicated the interest being recorded from Aged Care Providers and Allied Health Organisations. The Mount Erin Program not only improves the quality of life of vulnerable individuals but indicates positive outcomes for the students who are participating.

The High Commendation Award went to Frankston High School for their program titled “Far North Queensland Lifesaving Program”. The schools project involved an inaugural Far North Queensland Lifesaving Camp to St Tereasa’s College in Abergowrie Queensland, by years 7-11 students from Frankston High School and a reciprocal visit from the Abergowrie students to the annual Frankston High School Lorne Lifesaving camp. This engagement with a remote indigenous community and the beneficial effect on this community in learning new skills and qualifications, as well as the Frankston students who participated in gaining an insight into indigenous culture, demonstrated a high level of responsible Australian citizenship in relating to remote indigenous “mobs”, that will stay with the students long after leaving school.

The presentation of Awards was made by The Federal Member for Dunkley Ms Peta Murphy MP, and Mornington Peninsula Shire Briars Ward Councillor Rosie Clark.

The 2019 Schools Project Annual Award was generously hosted by Beleura House and Garden Mornington , and following the presentations, the 40 Mornington Peninsula Regional Group Members and their Guests were enthralled by a piano recital presented by Ms Amanda Pang, a Student at Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) and were then served a sumptuous Afternoon Tea by Beleura House and Garden hospitality volunteers.

Brisbane-born Chinese pianist Amanda Pang is thrilled to be commencing her first year at the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) under the guidance of Timothy Young. From a music-loving family, Amanda was brought up listening to her parents’ diverse collection of rock, jazz, and classical vinyls and CDs. This cultivated her love for a wide variety of music genres.



A recent graduate of the University of Queensland (UQ), Amanda completed her Bachelor of Music with First Class Honours under the tutelage of Dr Max Olding.

Whilst at UQ, Amanda won a number of notable awards. At the age of eleven, she also began learning the violin with Simon Dobrenko. She has also performed in China, Russia and Germany alongside the Tagiev Youth

Chamber Orchestra. Aside from her passion for music, Amanda also has a keen interest in martial arts. During her undergraduate studies, she trained in Circular Tong Long Kung Fu.

North Central Suburbs Regional Group

The group has now completed, what it considers, a most successful program for the year. Events for the year included:

- A series of informal lunches held on the first Wednesday of autumn, winter and spring at the Sycamore Tree Coffee Shop in Heidelberg. The Sycamore Tree coffee shop is a not-for-profit organisation that trains people in hospitality skills and practice. Each lunch had around 16 members and guests attending and over the year, ten of our 2019 awardees have attended.
- A Sunday lunch at the Yering Meadows Golf Club Café. This was the group's first function in the Yarra Valley and has as part of its focus attracting members from the Yarra Ranges Shire. This function had thirty members and guests in attendance including several from the Yarra Valley.
- A reception for 2019 awardees. At this function the guest speaker was Peter Hitchener OAM. Eighteen new awardees attended along with the Mayors, or their representatives, from four of the five municipalities within the region and thirty five members and guests.

The committee has met every second month during the year to plan and organise the program for 2019 and has also commenced the planning of events for 2020 which to date include:

- March 4th – *Autumn lunch* at Sycamore Tree Café
- March 26th – Annual General Meeting and Guest speaker.
- May TBC – Tour of Parliament House
- June 3rd – *Winter Lunch* at Sycamore Tree Café
- August TBC – Sunday Lunch in the Yarra Valley
- September 2nd – *Spring Lunch* at Sycamore Tree Café
- October TBC – Reception of 2020 Awardees.

North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley

At our luncheon on Sunday 20th October at Corowa Golf Club, 78 members and guests were privileged to listen to Guest Speaker Prof Timothy G Reeves FTSE University of Melbourne's Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences first Professor in Residence at the Dookie agricultural campus in the Goulburn Valley.

Prof Reeves is a distinguished international leader in agricultural research, development and extension.



He was a pioneer of no-till and sustainable agriculture at the Rutherglen Research Institute in north-eastern Victoria and has held a high number of senior international roles including as Director General of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) in Mexico from 1995-2002, member of the United Nations' Millennium Project Task Force on Hunger and senior expert for the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Tim spoke about the importance of Food and Nutrition security and how we can feed people into the future. Malnutrition, global population growth and climate change are major challenges for the future. Sustainable

agriculture, producing more fruit and vegetables (changing diets) are the way forward to provide enough food in the future.

This excellent presentation was followed by many questions from those in attendance.

Also attending for the first time was new awardee and member Ms Margaret Colville Attley OAM, from Tolmie, Victoria. Margaret received her award for service to local government and to the community of Mansfield. She has been involved in a huge amount of activities in the Mansfield Shire and it is great to have her join us.

Shepparton OA Recipient Event – Monday 11th November 3-5pm

The Mayor and Councillors of the greater Shepparton City Council held an afternoon tea to recognise and honour the Order of Australia recipients in Shepparton. This is an annual event sponsored by the Shepparton Council.

Future Events 2020:

- Yarrawonga & Border Golf Club -Luncheon guest speaker (to be confirmed) and AGM 23rd February 2020
- Shepparton – Park Lake Hotel -Luncheon 31st May 2020. Guest Speaker, The Hon Neil Andrew AO, former Australian politician and former Chair of the Murray Darling Basin Authority

NEGV OAA Office Bearers current 2019:

Barbara Thomas OAM - Chair
Bruce Lloyd AM -Deputy Chair
Graham Kerr OAM - Treasurer
Doug Evans OAM – Secretary
Sue Campbell OAM – Committee
Irene Cracknell OAM – Committee
John Richards OAM-Committee
Peter Ryan AM– Committee
Dianne Evans OAM-Minutes Secretary

Did you know...?

The Order of Australia has its own ceremony for inclusion funeral for holders of Australian awards. It's similar to the RSL or Masonic funeral ceremony. It is normally (if possible), to be presented by a holder of an Australian award.

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ODE

Order of Australia Ode

In Honour of _____

Members of the congregation who have received awards within the Order of Australia may be invited to stand.

*As members of the Order of Australia, we are assembled here to pay a last tribute to our departed colleague,
_____ who was awarded _____ in the _____*

_____ Honours for exceptional achievements as a citizen of Australia and in recognition of (his/her) contribution to the advancement of the community in which (he/she) served. We cherish _____ memory. We are also here to extend our deepest sympathy to those who mourn and to offer them our friendship and support.

Holding the sprig of Golden Wattle (a member of the Mimosa family):

A single wattle flower is the emblem of the Order of Australia. When in flower, the Golden Wattle displays the Australian national colours, green and gold. As one species of a large genus of flora growing across Australia, the Golden Wattle is a symbol of unity. Wattle is ideally suited to withstand Australia's droughts, winds and bushfires. The resilience of wattle represents the spirit of the Australian people.

As we say our final farewell to _____, may any regrets we feel be turned into gratitude for the common bond that unites us. And may the sense of grief that we feel today, give way to the memory of the influence and inspiration of the legacy that

has left for those who will follow. Our colleague has gone to (his/her) last resting place.

Vale _____, and Member of the Order of Australia Association (if applicable)

Order of Australia Ode Guidelines

The 'Ode' has been scripted as a parting tribute on behalf of members and colleagues of The Order on the passing of a citizen who has:

- received an award within the Order of Australia and;
- may or may not be a member of the Order of Australia Association.

The Ode may only be conducted at a funeral or memorial service at the request of a member of the deceased's family. This request can be relayed through a trusted family friend, member of the clergy or civil celebrant who will be engaged in the service.

Wherever possible the reciting of the Ode should follow a standard order of service, usually after tributes and just prior to the committal prayers/comments. The Ode should be recited by a person who has received an award within the Order of Australia and should be read, not recited from memory.

Prior to reading The Ode, mourners who also have awards within the Order of Australia should be invited to stand after which a brief summary of the deceased's service to our Nation can be presented.

Reciting of The Ode is a final acknowledgement and celebration of significant achievement and service so there should be no allowance for any period of silence. If an acknowledgment by the entire congregation is required it would be more appropriate to conclude The Ode with a period of applause (30 seconds).

Also, at the request of the family, the Australian national flag can be used to cover the coffin at a funeral service, consistent with the appropriate protocol for such use:

- The upper left quarter or canton should be draped over the 'left shoulder' of the coffin to represent the heart
- The flag should be removed before the coffin is lowered into the ground or after the service at a crematorium

Note: *Australia's National Flag can be obtained from many outlets or by request from your Federal Member of Parliament.*



ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION

You are invited to join a fully escorted and highly acclaimed by the last two years' participants, 10 day tour of Gallipoli/Turkey in May/June 2020, followed immediately by a 9 day tour of the battlefields of the Western Front, exclusively for members and guests.

This fully escorted tour is reserved only for members and their guests.



- ✓ Highlights of the Turkey tour led by author and historian Dr John Basarin OAM will be visits to Gallipoli Battlefields [Anzac Cove, Lone Pine, Chunuk Bair, Shrapnel Gully, The Nek, Ari Burnu, Quinn's Post, Krithia and Helles], Troy, Pergamum, Ephesus and Istanbul.
- ✓ Western Front tour highlights, led by historian Garry Snowden OAM, will include cities of Paris, Leper, Amiens, Bruges and Arras and the battlefields of Polygon Wood, Passchendaele, Fromelles, Bullecourt, Pozieres and Villers-Bretonneux.
- ✓ You can choose to tour Turkey on its own, the Western Front on its own, or combine the two.
Approximate costs are:-
 - a. Turkey \$3399.00 twin/double per person. Single supplement \$495.00.
 - b. Western Front \$4499.00 twin/double per person. Single supplement \$990.00.
 - c. Combined \$8298.00 twin/double per person. Single supplement \$1485.00 (this includes the flight from Turkey to Paris).
- ✓ All accommodation, breakfasts, several meals, site entrance fees, coach travel, sightseeing, services of professional tour guides are included.
- ✓ Not included are international airfares from Australia, insurance, some meals and expenses of personal nature.

Please register your expression of interest at your earliest opportunity as this tour will book out quickly. Further details can be supplied on request by contacting Alan Valpiet at iTalk Travel and Cruise/Ballarat on Phone 03 53335913 during business hours, or email alan@ballarat.italk.travel
Web site for information: www.italk.trave./ballarat/special-interest-tours

Friends of Gallipoli is proud to be associated and be supportive of this project.



You are invited to join a 9 day fully escorted WW2 Battlefields Tour of Australians in Asia, exclusively for members and guests June 7 – 15, 2020. Prisoners of war will be the tour focus to be led by Garry Snowden OAM

- ✓ Highlights of the tour include:
 - a. A visit to the famous Thailand Burma Railway, Hellfire Pass and the River Kwai bridge
 - b. A visit to the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery where 1362 Australians are buried

- c. A boat ride on the River Kwai
- d. Guided coach tours of Bangkok and Singapore
- e. A visit to Kranji War Cemetery, last resting place of 1049 Australians
- f. An evening cultural performance
- g. The cost for the tour is \$1995. (Single supplement \$495)
- ✓ All accommodation, breakfasts, several meals, site entrance fees, coach travel, sightseeing, services of professional tour guides are included.
- ✓ Not included are international airfares from Australia, flight from Thailand to Singapore, insurance, some meals and expenses of personal nature.

Please register your expression of interest at your earliest opportunity as this tour will book out quickly. Further details can be supplied on request by contacting Alan Valpied at iTalk Travel and Cruise/Ballarat on Phone 03 53335913 during business hours, or email alan@ballarat.italk.travel Web site for information:

<https://www.italk.travel/ballarat/special-interest-tours--asia>

Friends of Gallipoli is proud to be associated and be supportive of this project.



Dates For 2020 Coming Events – Regional Groups

January

Date to be confirmed: **Mallee Regional Group**

Annual General Meeting

February

Tuesday 18th: **Loddon-Campaspe Regional Group**

Annual General Meeting will be held at 10am at Latrobe University (in the Business Board Room), 3 Edwards Road, Bendigo

Wednesday 19th: **Eastern Regional Group**

Annual General Meeting at Wheelers Hill Library Meeting Room, on the corner of Jells and Ferntree Gully Roads, Wheelers Hill (alongside the Monash Gallery of Art). The extensive car park can be accessed from either of the roads. We are starting at 10.30am and hope to finish by 1pm.

Sunday 23rd: **North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley Regional Group**

Luncheon guest speaker (to be confirmed) and Annual General Meeting at the Yarrawonga and Border Golf Club

March

Wednesday 4th: **North Central Suburbs Regional Group**

Autumn lunch at Sycamore Tree Café

Sunday 22nd: **Barwon Peninsula Regional Group**

Annual General Meeting is scheduled to be held at Capri Receptions

Thursday 26th: **North Central Suburbs Regional Group**

Annual General Meeting and guest speaker

May

Sunday 31st: **North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley Regional Group**

Luncheon at Park Lake Hotel, Shepparton – Guest speaker The Hon Neil Andrew AO, former Australian politician and former Chair of the Murray Darling Basin Authority

To be confirmed: **North Central Suburbs Regional Group**

Tour of Parliament House

June

Wednesday 3rd: North Central Suburbs Regional Group

Winter lunch at Sycamore Tree Café

Wednesday 17th: Eastern Regional Group

Morning Tea and Live Theatre Production of the songs of Carole King and Neil Sedaka at the Whitehorse Centre, Maroondah Highway, Nunawading at 10.00am. Cost for this musical event is \$20 per person.

August

To be confirmed: North Central Suburbs Regional Group

Sunday Lunch in the Yarra Valley

September

Wednesday 2nd: North Central Suburbs Regional Group

Spring Lunch at Sycamore Tree Café

October

To be confirmed: North Central Suburbs Regional Group

Reception of 2020 Awardees

Relevant dates

Dates for the next e-Newsletter and *The Order* contributions are shown below. Please submit your timely articles with a photo to editor: Irene Harrington OAM, Email: editorvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Victorian e-Newsletter

Invitation to Regional Groups to submit articles	Cut-off date for submission of articles for e-newsletter	Distribution date [on or before]
18 th February	28 th February	26 th March
1 st June	10 th June	30 th June
18 th August	26 th August	21 st September
14 th November	24 th November	6 th December

The Order

Invitation to Regional Groups to Submit Articles	Cut off date for submission of articles	Distribution date
20 th December (2019)	7 th January	18 th February
18 th March	1 st April	17 th May
17 th June	1 st July	19 th August
18 th September	1 st October	18 th November

The Coming of Christmas

It's time again for Christmas, of friendships now renewed
Presents, cards to loved ones, so much that you will do.

Shops bedecked with tinsel, trees hung with stars and lights
Santa riding in his sleigh, a little child's delight.

Make this time for memories, pass on a bright new dream
Forget the things that trouble us, life's more than what it seems.

Hold out your hand to someone, be rewarded with a smile
Share your dream for happiness as we walk life's endless miles.

Make the promise that is Christmas a daily dream to hold
Enfold the people whom you love in the oldest story told.



The Victoria Branch of
The Order of Australia Association
presents

The Inspiring Australians Oration

We extend to members and guests an invitation to an address by

Kevin Sheedy AO

*There is more to Kevin than football; he is a marketer, thinker, innovator,
the holder of awards for community service and an inspirational speaker,
capable of talking about subjects way beyond the boundaries of sport.*

on

Wednesday the 26th of February 2020

at

Swanston Hall
Melbourne Town Hall

Corner of Swanston Street and Collins Street, Melbourne.
Easily accessible by public transport

Doors will open at 10.30am, Oration 11.00am,
Light refreshments 12 noon.

This is a free (no cost) member invitation,
plus one guest allowed per member, but admission is by ticket.

Book your ticket at: www.trybooking.com/572708
before February 19, 2020

Swanston Hall has a maximum number of seats available and once that number is reached
the Trybooking site will be closed and no further bookings can be made.

Enquiries or assistance with bookings to

The Secretary – Mr Fred Harrington, OAM

Email: secvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

or phone: 0417 116 304

Victoria Branch Office Holders & 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

Secretary

Fred Harrington OAM
secvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Honorary Treasurer/Merchandise Officer

Alan Brook OAM
treasurervic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Editor

Irene Harrington OAM JP
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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
Pam Robinson OAM
Barbara Thomas OAM

Co-opted Member

Membership Secretary

Tony Smith OAM

Chairs of Regional Groups – 2019

Barwon:

Peter Doak OAM

Central Highlands:

John Burt OAM

Eastern Suburbs:

Barbara Thompson OAM

Gippsland:

Lorraine Bartling OAM

Loddon-Campaspe:

John Higgs OAM

Mallee:

Vernon Knight AM

Melbourne Central:

Trevor Clark OAM

Mornington Peninsula:

Brian Stahl OAM, JP

NE & Goulburn Valley:

Barbara Thomas OAM

North Central Suburbs:

Fred Harrington OAM

South Central Suburbs:

Ross Newton OAM

SW Victoria:

Dr Peter Habersberger AM RFD

Western Suburbs:

John Ravenhall AM

Branch website

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/VIC