



# The Order of Australia Association Tasmanian Branch

Patron: Her Excellency, the Honourable Professor Kate Warner AC, Governor of Tasmania

## Newsletter, December 2019

### Message from the Chairman



On behalf of the Branch Committee I would like to wish all members a safe, happy and enjoyable Christmas and that the New Year brings all that you would wish.

As the year's end is quickly approaching it is time to remind members that the three Tasmanian Regions will be holding their AGMs with the Branch AGM following. Please refer to the dates on page 4 and the advance notice for the Branch AGM to be held in Campbell Town enclosed with this newsletter.

Since the last newsletter, the Branch has conducted another successful Post Investiture Dinner for the Queen's Birthday recipients invested at Government House in September. Guest speaker for the evening was the Tasmanian Chief Coroner Magistrate Olivia McTaggart who provided an interesting insight into the history of the profession of a coroner and to the duties of a coroner today.

Each of the three Regional Groups have organised events throughout the year with the most recent being the visit to COMA by the South to the Museum of Old Medical Artifacts. The Northern members has a informative visit to Entally House that was established in 1819 by Thomas Haydock Reibey the son of Mary Reibey whose image appears on the Australian \$20 note.

Alastair Douglas OAM  
Branch Chairman

~~~~~

### National Patron

We are delighted to note that His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC has accepted to become the National Patron of our Association.

### NW Regional Notes

Our highly valued Secretary and Events Organiser, Betty Hite OAM, withdrew from activities in mid-year as she was not well, but has since indicated she will assist the NW Group as and when she is able. Well done Betty, we are extremely grateful for your efforts over many years for both the NW Group and the Tasmanian Branch.



In June we held a Queen's Birthday Luncheon which was well attended and everyone said how much they enjoyed the event. We also celebrated the Awards of several notable Recipients at that time and held a Reception for all 2019 Award Recipients at the Burnie Club in October, which was a great success.

The NW Group Annual General Meeting will be held on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 11.00 am, most probably in Ulverstone. (Details to be confirmed). All positions on the Executive will be declared open. We are aware that at least two places, and possibly more, will not be subject to renomination and will be vacant, and we wish to encourage as great a diversity of representatives to stand for election as possible. None of the positions is very demanding as the Executive work well together to assist each other to achieve our aims and objectives.

Next year it is planned to hold an event in the Autumn and Spring, as well as our Reception for 2020 Awardees in October and a function to mark the Queen's Birthday in June.

For further information please contact, Peter Holm OAM, on 0419 376 021.

With all best wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas and every success in the New Year

Peter Holm OAM  
Chairman NW Regional Group



## Visit to COMA, Collection of Old Medical Artefacts



Southern Region members visited the medical museum created by Dr Philip Thomson, (pictured above at left) a recently retired medical general practitioner. Philip has been collecting all types of medical equipment since the 1970s and now has over 3000 items in his collection dating back to the 1850s that he was pleased to show our members.

Looking at so many of the items in the collection one has to be very thankful living in this century rather than in the 1800s when patients were subjected to major operations without the benefit of anaesthesia and infection control.

Many of the early Van Dieman's Land doctors were convicts claiming to have expertise in surgery. Imagine today an asthmatic being given



*Dr Robin Smith OAM and Mrs Elizabeth Smith OAM at COMA*

distressing symptoms of asthma." For snake bite the patient could be administered arsenic. One wonders which was the more lethal, snake or cure?



*Alastair Douglas OAM with Dr Philip Thomson and his wife Carmel.*

some smokes to improve breathing but there were 'Joys' Antiasthmatic Cigares for the prompt relief of tightness of breathing, shortness of breath, feeling of suffocation and other



*Dr Philip Thomson showing old surgical instruments.*





## Post Investiture Dinner, September 2019



1. Front Virginia Spate AC and Christopher Spate.  
Rear. Andy Spate AM, Kirsty Dixon, 2. Maureen Rudge OAM with guest speaker Chief Coroner Olivia McTaggart.  
3. Jane Marstrand and Ross Doddridge OAM. 4. Front third from left. Dale Elphinstone AO with family members. 5. Front Angus Ramsay, Thea Ramsay and John Ramsay AM.  
Rear Margaret Anutha, Karen Rees, Merran Ramsay, Alastair Ramsay, Simon Stanton. 6. Front. Alison Merridew, Sarah Merridew, Nancy Merridew. Rear. Tom Haskell, Dr George Merridew AM. 7. Table decorations. 8. Kevin Charleston, Lisa Charleston, Wendy Charleston. Rear. Joy Belkner, Joe Belkner, Helen Gibson, James Gibson OAM, Matt Gibson.

## WW1 Battlefield Tour

You are invited to join a fully escorted 10 day tour of Gallipoli/Turkey in May 2020, followed immediately by a 9 day tour of the battlefields of Western Front, exclusively for members and their guests. More tour information can be found at <https://italk.travel/ballarat/special-interest-tours>

~~~~~

## Did you know...?

The Order of Australia Association has 8,208 members nationally and 297 members in Tasmania.



## Have we your email address?

In an endeavour to reduce costs there are still some members who have not advised their email addresses. You could be missing out on notifications from the Association.

If you have received this newsletter by post but would be willing to have future editions sent electronically please advise the Branch Secretary. By submitting your email address does not mean that *The Order* magazine will be emailed unless you had previously nominated to receive an e-copy.

Tasmanians with email addresses total 259 which means that there are 38 members who either do not have email or who are yet to advise us.

## Diary Dates

The **Tasmanian Branch Annual General Meeting** will be at the new Campbell Town Recreation Ground sports complex on Sunday, 16 February 2020 commencing at 11.00 am. Following the AGM a members' forum will be conducted followed by lunch. Cost \$20.

### North West Region AGM

Thursday 6th February, (venue to be confirmed) commencing at 11.00 am with lunch to follow.

### Northern Region AGM

Thursday 6th February, at Glenara Lakes Hall, Youngtown commencing at 2.30 pm.

### Southern Region AGM

Wednesday 22 January 2020 commencing at 11.00 am. Venue to be confirmed and advised.

## New Branch Members

We welcome the following new members who have recently joined the Tasmanian Branch of the Association. The Tasmanian Branch membership currently stands at 297, (170 South, 84 North and 43 North West).

Mr Ross Peter Doddridge OAM

Ms Una Margaret Hobday OAM

Ms Judy Tierney OAM



## The Order of Australia Association, Tasmania Branch Committee

### Chairman

Mr Alastair Douglas OAM, 0418 127 897

ChairTas@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

### Vice Chairman

Mrs Thérèse von Samorzewski OAM (03) 6330 3047

### Hon. Secretary

Mrs Maureen Rudge OAM JP, (03) 6225 3954

### Hon. Treasurer

Mr Ron Blake OAM, (03) 6431 5709

### Committee Members

Mr Neville Bingham AFSM OAM,

Dr Nicholas Chantler AM, 0419 449 536

Dr Peter Holm OAM, 0419 376 021

Mrs Maureen Oates OAM, 0409 970 793

Mrs Sue Shea OAM, 0418 737 186

### Branch Nominated Director

The Hon. Dr Frank Madill AM, 0419 632 699

DirTas@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

~~~~~

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Order of Australia Association, Tasmania Branch.

Any third party advertising included in the newsletter should not be taken to express or imply endorsement by the Association of the goods and services being promoted, nor its responsibility or liability in this regard.

## National Conference, Darwin

*"Future Proof - How Past Experiences Inform Future Challenges"*

For programme details please check the November 2019 edition of *The Order* or the Association website at [www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/national-conference-2020/](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/national-conference-2020/)

Register to attend at:

[www.ivvy.com.au/event/M5YDSO/](http://www.ivvy.com.au/event/M5YDSO/) or contact the Agentur office at [admin@agentur.com.au](mailto:admin@agentur.com.au) or 08 8981 2010