



The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch

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

SA BRANCH NEWSLETTER, May 2020

This is a further catchup newsletter to keep you all informed about our activities.

Our members have found alternative ways to mark Anzac Day, and we have explored new ways of meeting while complying with social distancing requirements so our committee meetings and fellowship gatherings can continue.

Yours sincerely

Tony Metcalf OAM
SA Branch Chair

For general enquiries, unless otherwise noted, the committee can be contacted via the following generic email address:

orderofaustraliasa@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday 8 June: Queen's Birthday Honours List released.

Tuesday 9 June: SA Branch committee meeting.

Thursday 25 June: Honours recipients fellowship meeting. Guest speaker Dennis Meredith OAM – 'International experiences through Hockey'.

Fellowship gatherings for the remainder of 2020 will be virtual meetings, using the 'Zoom' online application (see details in this newsletter), starting at 1 pm and concluding at 1.45 pm. To participate, please contact:

Flavia de Pasquale OAM: 0438 873 025
flaviadepasquale@yahoo.com.au

Thursday 27 August: Honours recipients fellowship meeting using Zoom, details to follow.

Sunday 27 September: Riverland Regional Group meeting with guest speaker (details/venue tbc).

SAVE THE DATE

SA Branch Christmas Morning Tea

We are certainly looking ahead to resuming some social interaction. All Association members and their friends are cordially invited to the SA Branch annual Christmas Morning Tea. We hope to have a guest speaker or artist (details will be confirmed later). There is no cost.

Date: Wednesday 2 December 2020, 10 am

Venue: St Francis Anglican Church Hall,
835 South Road (corner of Dinwoodie Street),
Clarence Gardens

Full-size medals should be worn

SAVE THE DATE



New Recipients Welcome Reception

We are planning to conduct a combined Welcome Reception – for all new honours recipients from the 2020 Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Honours Lists. This is of course subject to a number of factors, and further details will be given in future newsletters. The proposed details are as follows:

Date: Monday 26 October 2020, 5.30 to 7.30 pm

Venue: Norwood, Payneham & St Peters Library complex, 2 Turner Street, Felixstow (corner of OG Road and Turner Street)

Cost: \$26 per head; no cost for new recipients

Full-size medals should be worn

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION, South Australia Branch
PO Box 1065, CLEARVIEW SA 5085 || orderofaustraliasa@gmail.com

<https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/sa/about-us/>

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Iconic elements of remembrance: the 'Rising Sun' hat badge of the Australian Imperial Force, a Flanders Poppy and an Australian gum leaf on a background of khaki uniform material. Image courtesy of 'Thanks Digger': <https://www.facebook.com/Thanks.Digger/>

ANZAC DAY DURING SOCIAL DISTANCING Saturday 25 April 2020

It is important to reflect on the achievements, service and sacrifice of our forebears. Unfortunately with the unique social distancing requirements that have been imposed upon us this year, Anzac Day activities throughout the state were cancelled.

This was the first time the Adelaide Anzac March has been cancelled since 1971, when it was called off at very short notice due to a terrible storm.

A week prior to Anzac Day, the RSL (SA) Anzac Day Committee advised that the Adelaide Dawn Service would go ahead but only with key invited guests. Representatives of ex-service organisations were not able to attend. Even Service chiefs did not attend: the flag orderly (RAN), commander of the catafalque party (Army) and padre (RAAF) placed tributes on behalf of the three Services.

Our members will be pleased to know however, that His Excellency the Governor, as Patron of the OAA SA Branch, placed his tribute on our behalf as well as on his own behalf.

Many people marked Anzac Day at home through some form of reverent reflection. Many used a social media platform to pay their respects, either to a particular family member or a notable Australian from their local district.

People shared photos of an ancestor or their war medals. Others shared images of war memorials, left a poppy tribute, or gave some other message of reflection.

We will remember them
Lest we Forget

A PERSONAL REFLECTION

Alana, aged 14, reflected on why commemorating Anzac Day is important, drawing the connection from 1915 to events six decades later:

"To me, Anzac Day is Australia's most important national occasion. It marks the anniversary of the first campaign that led to major casualties for Australian and New Zealand forces during World War One and commemorates all the conflicts that followed".

"My grandparents and great-grandparents took part in the Vietnam War between 1955 and 1975, to then coming over here to start a new life in Australia".

"Anzac Day for me and my family is a time to honour and pay respects to all who served and died in all wars across the Nation".



Even on deployment using the resources at hand . . . we remember them. This image is from an Anzac Dawn Service conducted at Port Hera on the north coast of East Timor, using a makeshift wooden 'cenotaph' and F88 rifle (image by Major Paul Rosenzweig, 25 April 2002).

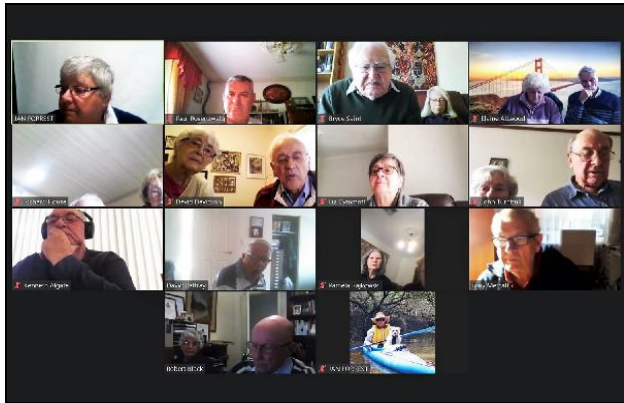
REFLECTION ON SACRIFICE 'A Letter Of Death'

Byron, aged 16, said: *"It is unfortunate that most events are cancelled, but this is my tribute".*

He sent through a poem he wrote four years ago when he was in year 8 – these are the final lines from his reflection on war, 'A Letter Of Death':

*I knew that my time had come,
So as I die pen is my weapon, chosen over gun,
My heart begins to fail,
As I write this bloody tale,
Let this letter be my legacy,
One that'll travel over the sea*

The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch



Participants from throughout South Australia recently joined the first trial 'Virtual Fellowship' meeting using the online application 'Zoom'.

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 'Virtual Meetings' in 2020

While the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing continue, we are ensuring that the 2020 Fellowship program for SA Branch members also continues.

We are adhering to the dates, times and guest speakers previously advertised, but using a different format – the 'Zoom' online app.

The Naval, Military and Air Force Club in Hutt Street, the traditional venue for the Fellowship lunch meetings, is closed until further notice. So we are using this online tool as our new 'venue' to keep members and guests involved, communicating and sharing fellowship and experiences.

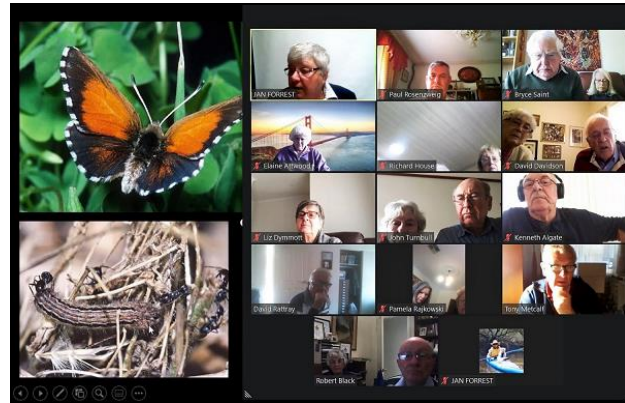
The dates of our virtual meetings are published in this newsletter. Conferencing starts at one o'clock, but you should plan to be ready in front of your screen by 12.45 pm, and then to stay with your screen until 1.45 pm.

Guidelines for using Zoom are included with this newsletter.

Online tools for meetings may be part of our future, and have the advantage of being inclusive, allowing speakers to share topics they are passionate about with our members who live in rural and remote communities.

Members can stay connected to Fellowship sessions by making sure their name and email address is passed onto Flavia De Pasquale.

Pamela Rajkowski OAM
Flavia De Pasquale OAM
Fellowship committee members



Jan Forrest OAM is an Honorary Associate at the South Australian Museum, author of two books, and an inaugural member of Butterfly Conservation SA Inc.

JAN FORREST OAM Thursday 30 April 2020

The first 'virtual meeting' of the Fellowship Group was held online on 30 April. The inaugural speaker was Jan Forrest OAM, who spoke via Zoom on her topic, "Attracting Butterflies to your garden".

Jan gained her OAM in the 1991 Queen's Birthday Honours for service to young people through the Girl Guide Association, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and Youth Hostels Association. Jan is the Newsletter Editor and Public Talks convener for Butterfly Conservation SA Inc. She is an Honorary Associate at the South Australian Museum, and is co-author of two books:

"Attracting butterflies to your garden, what to grow and conserve in the Adelaide region" (reprinted in 2016), and

"Caterpillars moths and their plants of southern Australia" (printed in September 2019)

From 2014 to 2018, Jan was a committee member of the South Australian Branch of the Order of Australia Association, serving as Membership Secretary for most of that time.

Using Zoom for the first time was a learning curve for both speakers and members. Nevertheless, this trial proved to be quite successful – Jan was joined by a total of 21 online participants.

Feedback received told us that it was a great success, very interesting and enjoyable. Members stayed to the end, and it was great to see members engaging. It truly was an opportunity to see members informally communicating and sharing knowledge and inquiry.

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HOW TO PARTICIPATE

These are short guidelines on how to be connected to our Fellowship sessions by Zoom (please refer to the attached guidelines for additional detail).

You will need an electronic device: a computer, laptop, smart phone or tablet.

Provide your email address to Flavia De Pasquale, who will provide the list of contacts to the guest speaker, who is the host of the Zoom meeting.

The host will email you a link to connect to the Zoom session. You can use that link to automatically access and download the Zoom app. The app is also available for manual download here:

<https://zoom.us/download>

Conferencing will start promptly at 1 pm, but you should plan to be in front of your screen by 12.45.

On the day and time the presentation is scheduled, click on the link. Make sure your sound is turned on.

You will see the faces of your host and others as they join up together on the screen.

The host (guest speaker) will talk first to introduce themselves. Be careful not to talk over each other.

Bryce Saint OAM will give the official welcome. Then Professor John McKellar AM ED will introduce the speaker. The speaker will talk for about 20 minutes.

Members can then talk, one at a time, in a Q&A session for ten minutes.

The session should finish at about 1.45 pm. Bryce Saint OAM will thank the speaker, conclude the session and announce that you can disconnect.

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM Virtual meetings for 2020

To participate, please contact Flavia to pass on your email address, and she will provide a complete list of contacts to the guest speaker who is the host of the Zoom meeting. For information please contact:

Flavia de Pasquale OAM: 0438 873 025
flaviadepasquale@yahoo.com.au

Glenys Jones OAM: 0409 848 746
glenysj@ozemail.com.au

Pamela Rajkowski OAM: 0400 810 196
pamraj@bigpond.com

RIVERLAND REGIONAL GROUP FORMATION

On 15 March, eighteen people gathered in the Renmark Club Function Room with the purpose of discussing the value of forming a Riverland Regional Group. Many of those present were members of the Order of Australia Association.

Among those who attended were the SA Branch Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM and his wife Cheryl, and Regional Groups Coordinator Ken Coventry OAM JP and his wife Di.

Tim Grieger OAM JP acted as Convenor, and was supported by the Regional Groups Coordinator.

Ken emphasised that it was up to those present to decide on whether they wanted to form a Riverland Group. He outlined the two options if a group was to be formed. There was a robust general discussion, with sharing of thoughts and ideas.

It was agreed by the gathering that a Riverland Regional Group would be formed on an informal basis, meeting twice a year.

The Riverland Group area includes the Mallee areas of Lameroo, Pinnaroo and Karoonda and down river to Swan Reach.

It was proposed to meet in March/April and September/October. These gatherings will include representatives from the SA Branch committee to provide information on both Branch and National activities.

The format will include a guest speaker, who may be a member of the group or an external person with a topic of interest to the group.

It is believed that occasional informal gatherings of award recipients and partners in such a way would provide a good opportunity for social connectivity.

It was agreed that Tim Grieger OAM JP would be the group Convenor – the group's primary contact and liaison person. His contact details are given in the Regional Groups section of this newsletter.

Other members including David Ward and John Rix will assist with coordinating the group meetings.

The gathering concluded with afternoon tea and social interaction.

The Riverland Regional Group will hold its first meeting on Sunday 27 September 2020.

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THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

Did you know...?

Not only does the Military Division of the Order of Australia have a distinctive ribbon, but members of the Australian Defence Force have a unique method for wearing the ribbon.

When the Order of Australia was established in 1975, it was created with a Civil Division and a Military Division. The former was retitled 'General Division' under Letters Patent dated 24 May 1976.

The riband of the Order of Australia is defined as moire Royal blue silk, 38 mm in width, with a central band 12 mm wide of scattered golden mimosa blossoms of various sizes. Each of these golden discs represents a single flower of mimosa ('Golden Wattle'), which is the emblem of the Order.

The ribbon of the Military Division is identical to that of the General Division with the addition of gold edge stripes, 1.5 mm in width.

Due to the irregularity of the mimosa blossoms, Defence dress regulations mandate that a particular portion of the ribbon is to be used when mounting it on a ribbon bar for wear in uniform.

In the early years of the Order's existence, military service ribbons were constructed using any portion of ribbon, in either manner of vertical orientation.

Once dress regulations specified a particular pattern to be displayed, cutting that specific pattern from a length of ribbon left considerable wastage.

To avoid such wastage, special ribbon was produced with the required pattern repeating with gaps and marker thread, to ensure that exactly the correct pattern was used to prepare the service ribbon bar.



These lengths of ribbon of the Military Division of the Order of Australia are designed for making military service ribbon bars, to ensure that exactly the correct pattern is used, in the correct vertical orientation. Displaying the specified pattern ensures uniformity in the appearance of military ribbon bars.

The ribbon on the left is 38 mm in width, to denote an appointment to the Order – in the grade of AK/AD, AC, AO or AM.

The ribbon on the right is 32 mm in width, to denote the award of the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM).



The Order of Australia in the Military Division

This is a set of ribbons worn by a senior Royal Australian Navy officer in the mid-1980s, demonstrating the approved Defence format for wearing the 38 mm wide ribbon of the Order of Australia in the Military Division. He was a veteran of service off the Malay Peninsula during Confrontation and with the US 7th Fleet in the waters off South Vietnam. He was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the Military Division in 1970, and a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Military Division in 1975.

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How do I find out more about the SA Branch?

The Order of Australia Association SA Branch has an active website which contains information on our role and purposes, the Student Citizenship Awards, the calendar of events, our committee members and our Patron.

You will also find our newsletters and reply forms for forthcoming events. Please refer to this site regularly to keep updated:

<https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/sa/about-us/>

REGIONAL GROUPS

Fleurieu Regional Group

Meets on the first Friday in May and November, with a social activity followed by a luncheon. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 6 November.

Convenor:

Mr Rex Keily AM JP

Mobile: 0400 279 297

RNKeily@activ8.net.au

South East Regional Group

Meets annually in February.

Contact:

Mr Eric Roughana AM

Mobile: 0408 817 260

roseric1@bigpond.com

Barossa Regional Group

Gawler and District Regional Group

General enquiries:

orderofaustraliasa@gmail.com

Do you have email?

Some members will receive this newsletter through the post, either because you do not use email or because we do not know your email address.

We will continue to post the newsletter to you if that is what you wish. But if you have an email address that you would like us to use, could you please advise the SA Branch Member Secretary Mr Greg Gordon OAM JP:

oaasambrsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

REGIONAL GROUPS

Riverland Regional Group

Meets socially twice a year, in March/April and September/October.

The Riverland Group area includes the Mallee areas of Lameroo, Pinnaroo and Karoonda, and down river to Swan Reach.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday 27 September.

Convenor:

Mr Tim Grieger OAM JP

Mobile: 0409 099 122

tgrieger@riverland.net.au

Newsletter contributions

Please submit any articles of interest, photographs, news snippets or notices of future events to the Editor:

Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM (ret'd)

PO Box 5, SMITHFIELD SA 5114 **or**

orderofaustraliasa@gmail.com