



Welcome from VIC Branch Chair

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Order of Australia Association VIC Branch e-Newsletter for 2020.

It was pleasing to hear about the 'Hope for the Future' campaign held on Saturday August 29 to acknowledge frontline workers in medical services, shops, couriers and other service providers working hard to assist the community during isolation. People were encouraged to light a torch or candle to recognise and say thanks to the brave workers who are providing hope for the future.

We all thank the frontline workers in our community and appreciate the diverse approach some businesses have taken.

Our thoughts are with the families and close friends who have lost loved ones, and those suffering from economic and social hardship during these challenging times.

All VIC Branch members should have received their copy of *The Order* national magazine as an e-version or hard copy late last month and seen the 'Magazine Reader Survey' included. A copy is also attached to this edition of the e-Newsletter noting the due reply date is September 23, 2020. Please make time to have your say.

A draft copy of the Order of Australia Association By-laws and Constitution will be emailed to members late next month with feedback due by October 19, 2020 to the Constitution Working Party.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet has appointed Kate Hagan to the Adviser, Honours Equity role while Stacey Williams is on parental leave. If you require assistance with the Order of Australia Honours nomination process for women who have gone above and beyond please contact Kate via email awards@dpc.vic.gov.au

A special welcome to our 2020 Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Order of Australia Honours and Awards recipients who have joined the Association. The VIC Branch and Regional Groups look forward to meeting you in person rather than via email or virtual catch ups.

Please stay well, stay strong and enjoy the beauty of spring and new hope.

Dr Helene Bender OAM - VIC Branch Chair **M:** 0407 261 951 **E:** chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Merchandise Shop is open

Please refer to page 10 for the current list of merchandise including a new tie or go online to shop at

<https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart>



VIC Branch Annual Lunch 2020

Tuesday November 17

Guest speaker: Dr Robert (Robbie) Gillies OAM

He's only 30 but already, Robbie Gillies has founded four charities, studied four university degrees, volunteered overseas and in remote Australian communities – and now works as a doctor in The Alfred emergency department.

So it's a fitting tribute that Robbie was named Young Victorian of the Year in 2017.

Our 2020 annual lunch will be a virtual event due to social distancing regulations.

Registration details will be emailed to members next month.



VIC Branch Membership Secretary – Vacant Position 2021

Tony Smith OAM has confirmed his ten year tenure as VIC Branch Membership Secretary will finish on December 31, 2020; in doing so he has kindly offered to mentor his replacement.

Extract of Tony's email: "I find that at certain times I am overwhelmed with deadlines for various activities that I'm involved in. The time has come where I need to acknowledge that I need to let one go – hence the advance notice at what seemed to be an opportune time"

Tony works full time with East Gippsland Water and has a hands-on commitment with other organisations plus his family.

Below is a position description, if you are interested and require further information please send an email to chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

To apply for the position please email your current CV (max 3 pages) and covering letter outlining your skills and knowledge of the position to VIC Branch Chairman Helene Bender chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au by 5.00pm on Wednesday September 30, 2020.

VIC Branch Membership Secretary - Position Description

Purpose of Position

To undertake the administrative requirements of membership management on behalf of the VIC Branch, including liaison with the National Membership Officer, National Membership Director, and provision of support to Regional Groups.

Key Stakeholders / Engagement

- a) National Membership Officer, National Membership Director
- b) VIC Branch Committee (particularly Chair, Secretary, Regional Group Coordinator)
- c) Regional Group representatives
- d) Members

Functions

Database Management

With access to restricted functionality, use the national membership database to:

- e) Update (edit) membership data
- f) Allocate regional groups to new members
- g) Perform downloads to create quarterly Excel membership updates for regional groups.
- h) Perform limited membership queries
- i) Send bulk emails to members with email addresses

Victoria Branch Meetings -

This position is currently co-opted, will be a committee position from 2021 AGM

Provision of Membership Data to and Liaison with Regional Groups

- a) Maintain a list of regional group representatives authorised to receive membership data
- b) Provide quarterly membership updates to authorised regional group representatives
- c) Provide new awardee lists to authorised regional group representatives
- d) Provide ad hoc membership updates to authorised regional group representatives
- e) Deal with ad hoc queries from regional group representatives

Member Communications

- a) Send VIC Branch quarterly e-Newsletter and other ad hoc communications to members with email addresses via the national membership database
- b) Follow up members in arrears on advice from the National Membership Officer
- c) Deal with ad hoc member queries, particularly after bulk email communications

Reporting

- a) Provide a quarterly membership report to the Victoria Branch Committee
- b) Provide ad hoc reporting as requested

Required Skills

- a) Database management with attention to detail
 - b) Competent with Word and Excel, including managing the processes of data
 - c) Strong written and verbal communication skills
 - d) Ability to multi-task and meet deadlines
-

Shrine of Remembrance



Ceremonies this month

As a living memorial, the Shrine of Remembrance remains committed to honouring the service and sacrifice of Victorians during their temporary closure.

Commemorative broadcasts include a prerecorded wreath laying by the Shrine Guard in the Shrine's Sanctuary.

Services during September include:

The Battle for Australia

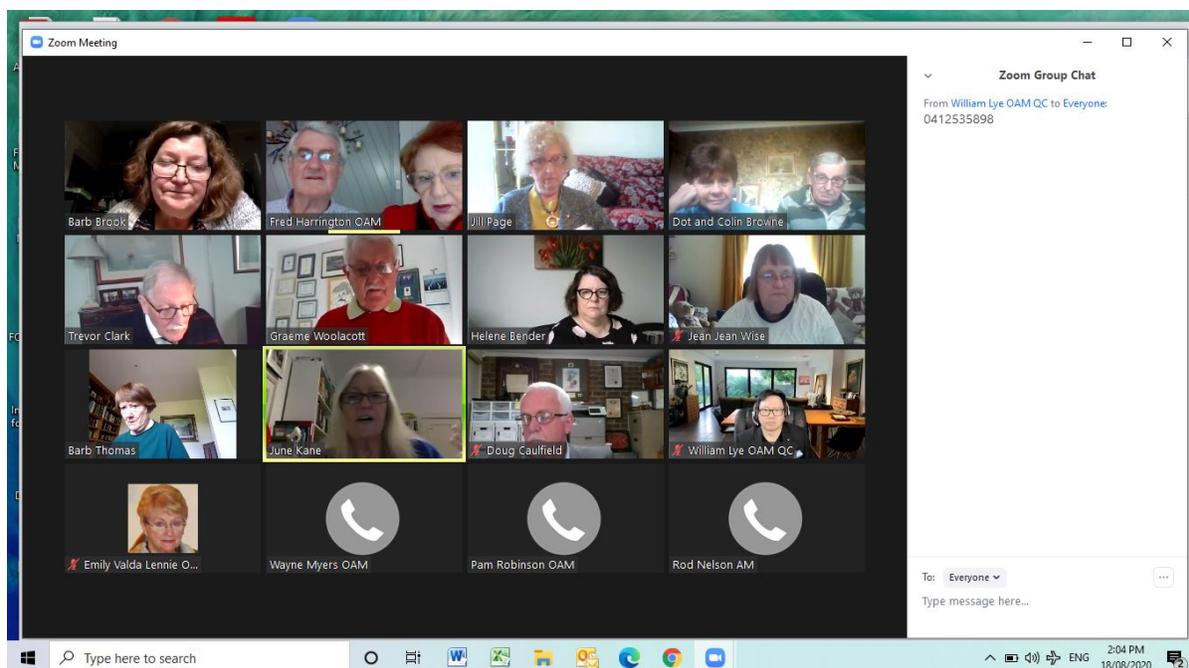
Merchant Navy Day

Battle of Bita Paka

Submarines Association of Australia, and more

News from our Regional Group

The VIC Branch committee met via Zoom last month for one of our regular joint meetings with Regional Group representatives. We thank our Regional Groups for their ongoing connection with members during isolation.



South Central Suburbs

Following the introduction of stage 4 restrictions in the Melbourne metropolitan area, the Management Committee had a scheduled Committee Meeting which, almost naturally enough these days, was held via Zoom.

Amongst decisions made during our discussions were those to cancel the proposed End of Year Dinner, which we had flagged in an earlier edition and to make telephone calls to all of our membership.

In general, we have quarterly Newsletters and of course formal type meetings of our members and to this point in time we have cancelled our face to face AGM, our Mid-Year Luncheon and now our End of Year Dinner. These are the “formal” meetings and any smaller light excursions set up, have had to be discarded. So the only connection in an organised way has been the Newsletters and at times circulars pertaining to COVID-19. The Newsletters are being published more regularly than quarterly.

Our normal Civic Reception to new awardees, which is hosted in rotation between the Cities of Bayside, Kingston and Glen Eira, has also been postponed, but not forgotten.

So the opportunity to interact has been desert like and more than barren, hence the decision for the call around to contact.

At the time of writing this we have had a double positive response, firstly by the members who have been contacted and secondly by the Committee members themselves in making the calls and speaking to people that they might not necessarily interact with. Strangely, quite a few members do not give telephone numbers, so they were emailed as a means of contact and the message conveyed in this electronic manner.

To other of the Regional Group members reading this, I, Graeme Woolcott OAM Chairman on behalf of my Committee wish you well, may you keep safe and we shall see better days ahead of us, hopefully that being all of us.

North East & Goulburn Valley

October 11th Luncheon 2020-update

Unfortunately, due to the current uncertainty of the pandemic situation in Victoria, our committee has agreed to cancel our October luncheon. We are disappointed that we cannot gather together but are looking forward to when it is safe for us all to meet.

Our October guest speaker was to be Alana Johnson AM. Alana received her AM on Australia Day 2020 and is one of our new members. She is well known to many of our members through her contribution to agriculture and her significant service to women. We are hoping that Alana can be one of our speakers for 2021.

Next Luncheon: Mitchelton Winery-Sunday 28th March 2021. This will also be our AGM. Guest speaker will be businessman, Gerry Ryan OAM. Gerry is the owner and founder of Jayco Australia as well as owner of the Mitchelton winery and other businesses. The winery is a great venue and we hope to see as many of our members as possible (subject to pandemic situation).

Nominating for an Order of Australia Award query

One of our members has queried on whether a nomination proceeds if the person **nominating** has subsequently died. (The nomination had already been submitted.) The nomination would still proceed as there are referees who can be contacted.

New members this year:

The NEGV regional group has had 10 new members this year and we welcome Jane Freemantle OAM, Colleen Furlanetto OAM, Bridget McNamara OAM, Alana Johnson AM, Stanley Dunstan OAM, Arthur Knee OAM, Lurline Knee OAM, Neville Howell OAM, Marjorie Porter OAM and Jim Hislop OAM

North Central Suburbs

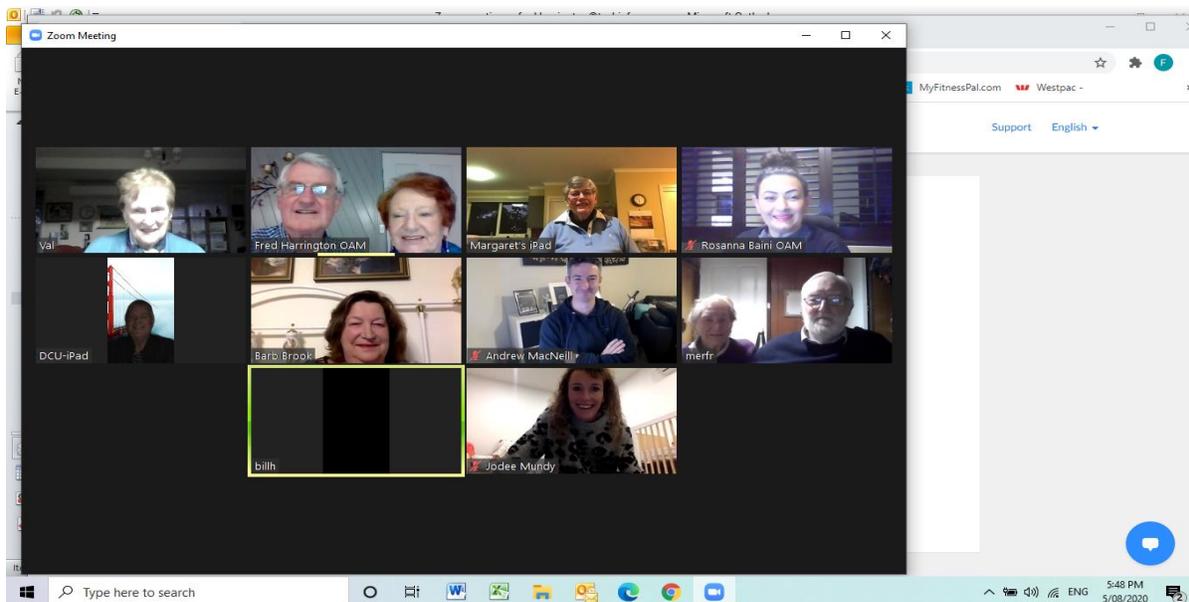
The committee has made the decision to cancel face to face events for the remainder of this year. However as a means of maintaining a level of contact with members the committee undertook a series of seven Zoom sessions, over a three week period, during August.

The first of the sessions focused on 2020 Honours recipients with remainder of the sessions focussed on members within particular municipalities.

Committee members were pleased to be able to meet with the following 2020 Honours recipients:

Australia Day: Rosanna Bains OAM, Frank Watson OAM, Meryl Watson OAM, Jodee Mundy OAM, Margaret Blair AM, Marjorie Moodie AM and Joel Becker OAM. **Queen's Birthday:** Jan Sardi AO and Andrew MacNeill OAM.

The screen shot of the session with 2020 North Central Suburbs awardees is shown below.



Left to right: Val Lennie OAM committee member, Fred and Irene Harrington both OAMs, committee members, Margaret Blair OAM, Rosanna Bains OAM, Denis Cunningham AM committee member, Barb Brook OAM committee member, Andrew MacNeill OAM, Frank and Meryl Watson both OAMs, Bill Horman AM APM Committee member (with technical difficulties) and Jodee Mundy OAM

An additional positive outcome was the finding of 'links' between members. In one session there were three members who all attended Fairfield North Primary School while in others there were links through scouting, trade union, music/bands and the AFL.

The committee expresses its sincere thanks to members, The Hon David Jones AM and Rosanna Bains OAM for their support by providing their Zoom accounts to host the sessions.

The committee has now scheduled a further series of sessions during the months of September, October and November. The first series is being held on the second Tuesday with the title of '*morning tea with the committee*'. The second series is being held on the fourth Tuesday with evening sessions with the title '*finish the day with a guest speaker*'.

The group has acknowledged the acceptance, by members, of communication via Zoom and has taken out a subscription to facilitate these sessions and committee meetings for at least the next six months.

Gippsland

The Gippsland Group has been keeping in touch with the Membership via email messages.

The Luncheon planned for Sunday 23rd August at Dal Mondo Restaurant, Traralgon has been cancelled.

The Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnet Dinner and address scheduled for October has been cancelled. The guest speaker has agreed to speak at the 2021 dinner.

All being well the next event will be the Annual General Meeting scheduled for February/March 2021.

Also being planned is a Luncheon in Sale with a RAAF focus to celebrate RAAF 100yrs in April 2021.

OAA Gippsland member Judith Robbins OAM has raised \$26,645 for two “cuddlebeds” for the Palliative Care Unit, Bairnsdale Hospital. Peter Robbins OAM, Judith’s husband passed away in March 2020 in the Unit. Judith decided she would do something about the bed situation and set up a “go fund me” page. A number of members donated to that fund and happily the result has been overwhelming for Judith. So a big thanks to those members who assisted Judith in realising her dream.

Central Highlands and Wimmera

Chair John Burt OAM and the Committee would like to acknowledge the 65th Wedding Anniversary of Basil Bowman and his wife Joan. Now residing at Mercy Place in Ballarat, unfortunately due to the COVID lockdown they won't be able to have their family visit them for the occasion, however, Chair John will see if he is able to visit on the day, and we will be sending them congratulatory best wishes.

Barwon

Our Christmas luncheon is scheduled for Friday 27 November, 2020 if the situation greatly improves.

Thank you message from Lesley Falloon OAM

My 100th birthday was 20th June, 2020. What was appearing to become a total disaster - with no family, no grandchildren and no great grandchildren - turned out unexpectedly to be one of the most memorable days of my life! I was surrounded all day with love and affection. It started with a zoom meeting at 9am for all the family in NSW complete with a birthday cake with 100 candles which had to be blown out twice.

The rest of the day was interspersed with 5 visitors at hourly intervals. At lunchtime an opera singer sang two of my favourite arias and a choir of friends sang outside my window. Five birthday cakes arrived and a myriad of cards, gifts and flowers. Another highlight was a surprise drive-past my home in the afternoon.



I wish I could personally thank everyone but, unfortunately I can't, so please accept my overwhelming, powerful thanks for a most memorable and wonderful 100th birthday.

Lesley's 100th birthday was an article in the current edition of *The Order* national magazine thanks to South Central Suburbs Regional Group Chairman Graeme Woolacott OAM.



Pam Robinson OAM, member of VIC Branch committee went one-on-one with **Haileluel Gebre-Selassie OAM**.
Please enjoy the read.

***1. Tell us a little about yourself, your family, your life in Africa and when did you leave Ethiopia to come to Australia?
What are your fondest childhood memories?***

I was brought up in Ethiopia with strong Christian family. My father was a chaplain within the army and later became a full-time priest until he died and my mum was a housewife. I am one of nine and the last child in our family. Following in my father's footsteps I became involved in Sunday schools and assisted him in farming. I was fortunate to grow up outside a big city where you can walk a couple of kilometres to be in the bush and may see wild animals. I still have lots of memories of going to the bush on the weekends and collecting wild fruit (agam). I completed my primary and secondary school in Negelle Borena which is located 595km south of the capital, Addis Ababa. That's a memory now.

At the time when I arrived in Australia most Australians had very little knowledge about their neighbour, Africa. Coming from one of the oldest independent Christian Kingdoms with thousands of years of civilisation I assumed people in Australia would know some knowledge about Africa. Unfortunately, the education system denied people the basic knowledge they deserved to know. Most of the conversation evolved around economic disadvantages and civil strife. However, I did find some people with exceptional knowledge about the country where I came from which gave me some comfort.

2. Where did you complete your education, what career did you choose to progress and what was your first job? How did this lead on to your subsequent positions in paid employment and participation in the volunteer sector?

It's interesting that I was employed by my local church as a deacon. I was in high school and so happy to earn some money which covered my personal expenses. Soon after I completed year twelve, I moved to the capital city to study mechanical engineering. I withdrew from the University because of my departure to Australia in 1992. I played a pivotal role for the establishment of the first Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Australia. Now we have over twenty churches across in Australia.

In Australia I studied at a number of universities and was awarded a number of degrees including Bachelor of Theology from Melbourne College of Divinity, Master of International Social Work (development) from La Trobe University and Master of Public Policy and Management from the University of Melbourne. I'm also a Winston Churchill Fellow – investigated settlement and integration issues in a number of countries.

Towards the completion of my first degree in theology I secured a Settlement Officer position at the Migrant Resource Centre and worked for three years. Then this position helped me to secure a postgraduate adviser position at Deakin University. After couple of years I moved to government positions and worked in several Departments.

3. What Organisations over the years have you been a member with and what roles did you take on to provide leadership to your community?

In my voluntary capacity I have been involved with several organisations including, not limited to, Executive Board member of Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria, Chair of the African Think Tank, Executive Board member of Footscray Community Arts Centre, Executive Board member of Local Learning and Employment *Network*, Chair of the African Australian Community Taskforce and Secretary of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Australia, Chair of the building committee of St Michael in Raven Hall, Victorian Government African Communities Action Plan Implementation Committee and Commonwealth Government Ministerial Consultative Committee on Africa. Most importantly I initiated, assisted and managed the implementation of African Leadership Development Program which trained and graduated over 250 African community leaders who represents over 44 countries.

4. What year did you receive your OAM, what was the Award citation and what has it meant to you to be so Honoured? Are there other Awards that you have received both within your working career and volunteer life that you would like to share with us?

I received the award in 2019 which recognise my contribution to the broader Victorian communities, in particular, helping Africans in Australia.

In the past I have received several other awards and just to mention a couple of them included the Meritorious Community Services from Victorian Multicultural Commission (2004), Winston Churchill Fellowship in 2008, Melbourne Award from the City of Melbourne, Outstanding community leadership from Celebrate Australia and from several other community based organisations.

5. What advice would you have for someone younger starting out in life and wanting to follow in your footsteps or on how to find other leadership opportunities?

Passion is the driving force which brings someone to a leadership position. Volunteerism is an exhaustive thing if you don't have a passion as it costs you lots of time and personal resources. However, it's rewarding too when you see the growth and development of your work in assisting communities. My advice to young people is, firstly identify your passion then follow it and you will achieve your best.

6. What are you most passionate about for yourself, your family, your community employment and in relation to life in general?

I am passionate about access to higher education and training opportunities for young people as it's the key for success. Addressing the settlement and integrational issues of newly arrived communities through job creation and small business promotion motivates me all the time.

Other than that life with family seems wonderful. Despite COVID19 which affected all Australians regardless of their socio-economic backgrounds, there is nothing making me happier than talking to my girls about their education.

Australians are so helpful during this difficult time. I thought the recovery from COVID19 may take long period of time and so some of the communities undoubtedly require high levels of support and Australians are capable of doing that and I am passionate to be part of that process.



OAA Merchandise

SPOT OUR NEW TIE!

Our new woven tie has a navy background and red and gold spots, with the Order of Australia Association crest woven in the bottom corner of the tie.

It is priced at just \$30 + \$2.50 P&H. If you want to order multiple ties (or include other items), please phone Barb to ask for a combined postage cost on 0413 008 571.

MAY WE ASK A FAVOUR? PLEASE GET RID OF OLD COPIES OF OUR MERCHANDISE PAGE THAT SHOW OUT-OF-DATE ITEMS AND PRICES. Here is the up-to-date list, and the next edition of *The Order* will include a new page. **THANK YOU!**



	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION *	PRICE	P & H	QUANTITY
1	Ladies' pure silk scarf	42.00	3.00	
2	Blue/gold pen in gift box	7.00	2.50	
3	Decal for car or other surfaces	SALE 2.50	1.50	
4	Pack of playing cards	SALE 2.00	1.50	
5	A5 Compendium	SALE 30.00	9.50	
6	Notepad refills for compendium (4)	10.00	9.50	
7	Cufflinks in gift box	35.00	9.50	
8	Lapel badge (Association badge)	15.00	2.50	
9	Key ring in gift box	10.00	9.50	
10	Blank greetingscards+envelopes(5)	10.00	1.50	
11	Metal medallion/paperweight	20.00	2.50	
12	OAA tie (spotted)	NEW 30.00	2.50	
13	OAA traditional tie (navy)	25.00	2.50	
14	OAA tie (red/black/silver)	25.00	2.50	
15	OAA tie (blue/gold)	25.00	2.50	
16	Laptop/document case	30.00	12.50	
17	OAA inductive charger	18.00	9.50	
18	OAA Travel charger kit	28.00	9.50	
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			TOTAL P & H	
			TOTAL ORDER	

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David Hurlston, Senior Curator, Australian Painting, Sculpture and Decorative Arts to 1980, reflects on **Henry Burn's *Swanston Street from the bridge***:

This is one of the paintings in the Australian Collection that I find I keep coming back to. It was painted in 1861 just twenty-six years after Melbourne's foundation and shows it as a developing city and, with its vignettes of social activity, provides a visual commentary on life at the time.

If you look closely, you can see an almost hidden trunk of a remnant river red gum in the right middle ground. While the painting gives us a glimpse of a burgeoning city, it is also a poignant reminder that only a few decades earlier, the area had been a forested river flat - the traditional (and continuing) lands of the people of the Kulin Nation

VALE - Anton van Doornik OAM

Anton was inducted as a member of the Rotary Club of Geelong on 23 May 1999 and it was exactly 21 years later to the day, on 23 May 2020, that he passed away. Anton was President of the club in 2008/09 and spent many years as a member of the International Committee, chairing it in 2004/05. He received Paul Harris Fellow recognition in 2004 and in 2011; he received "The Avenues of Service Citation" which is the highest a club can make to a member. In January 2015, Anton received an Order of Australia Medal for service to the community of Geelong.

Anton's great passion was Papua New Guinea and he started leading teams to the Oro Bay area in 2001 and over several years succeeded in putting on a water supply and water treatment system to St Margaret's Hospital in Oro Bay. For example, following Cyclone Guba in 2007, Anton was instrumental in developing and implementing a plan to relocate and rebuild Sariri Village near Popondetta, after it was demolished by the cyclone. This was a multiyear project well over 10 years. Anton took annual teams to PNG to assist in the construction of a new school, cyclone-proof houses, water and sanitation systems and solar power to the village.



Anton also helped coordinate the purchase of a portable sawmill with the help of several clubs in the District to enable the village to establish a timber cutting and milling business to support the project. Anton also sourced a playground from the City of Greater Geelong and relocated it to the school and facilitated setting up a village committee to manage the business.

In 2005, following the devastating Tsunami in South-East Asia, a committee of local business leaders in Geelong (InterAct) was set up, chaired by Anton, which coordinated and funded a new medical centre in Vilankulam in Sri Lanka, in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Trincomalee. Water and sanitation facilities were provided to the village and medical equipment from DIK. Anton undertook the preliminary project appraisal and then followed up with a final inspection.

Anton also participated in many local Rotary projects in Geelong. The major project he coordinated was the building of the White Cottages at the McKellar Centre. Stage 1 of the project was initiated in 2008 and involved the development of two self-contained one and two-bedroom residential units with disability access for visiting families at the McKellar Centre facility (palliative care). In 2013, Stage 2 of the project was initiated to design and build two motel style units from three unused rooms located behind Units 1 and 2, specifically designed for Doctors' overnight stays at the McKellar Centre. This was completed and handed over to Barwon Health on 1 July 2014.

Anton was a member of 'Donations in Kind' (DIK) Geelong for over 20 years and was District DIK Chair in 2008/09 and 2013/14. He was instrumental in the shipping of containers of donated goods to many Pacific Island countries as well as Africa, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, the Philippines, and many other countries. Since its beginning, DIK Geelong has sent more than 340 containers to many varied destinations with all goods being shipped as requested by the recipients.

The above are just a few examples of the great work Anton undertook in his time in Rotary. Anton was passionate about his work as a Rotarian, always committed to helping others, and particularly our neighbours in developing countries, with his tireless work through DIK. A truly extraordinary man, who will be sadly missed

We acknowledge Rotary District 9780 Communication Organisation for this article content.

VIC Branch Regional Group Chairs

As at September 1, 2020

Barwon Regional Group
Wayne Myers OAM

waynemyers@outlook.com

Central Highlands Wimmera Regional Group
John Burt OAM

burtjohn10@gmail.com

Eastern Suburbs Regional Group
Barbara Thompson OAM

jon.barb@bigpond.net.au

Gippsland Regional Group
Lorraine Bartling OAM

kbartling@bigpond.com

Loddon-Campaspe Regional Group
John Higgs OAM

johnbettyhiggs@gmail.com

Mallee Regional Group
Vacant

Melbourne Central Regional Group
Trevor Clark OAM

tclark@bigpond.net.au

Mornington Peninsula Regional Group
Commodore Jim Dickinson AM MBE

jimanth@bigpond.com

NE & Goulburn Valley Regional Group
Barbara Thomas OAM

pb.thomas@bigpond.com

North Central Suburbs Regional Group
Fred Harrington OAM

fred.harrington@gravity.net.au

South Central Suburbs Regional Group
Graeme Woolacott OAM

woolyg@bigpond.com

SW Victoria Regional Group
Dr Peter Habersberger AM RFD

pghabers@bigpond.com

Western Suburbs Regional Group
John Ravenhall AM

jravenhall@bigpond.com

Due to ongoing health issues Vernon Knight AM has stood down as Mallee Regional Group Chairman. Mallee has 24 financial members, to-date no local member has offered to be Chairman.

