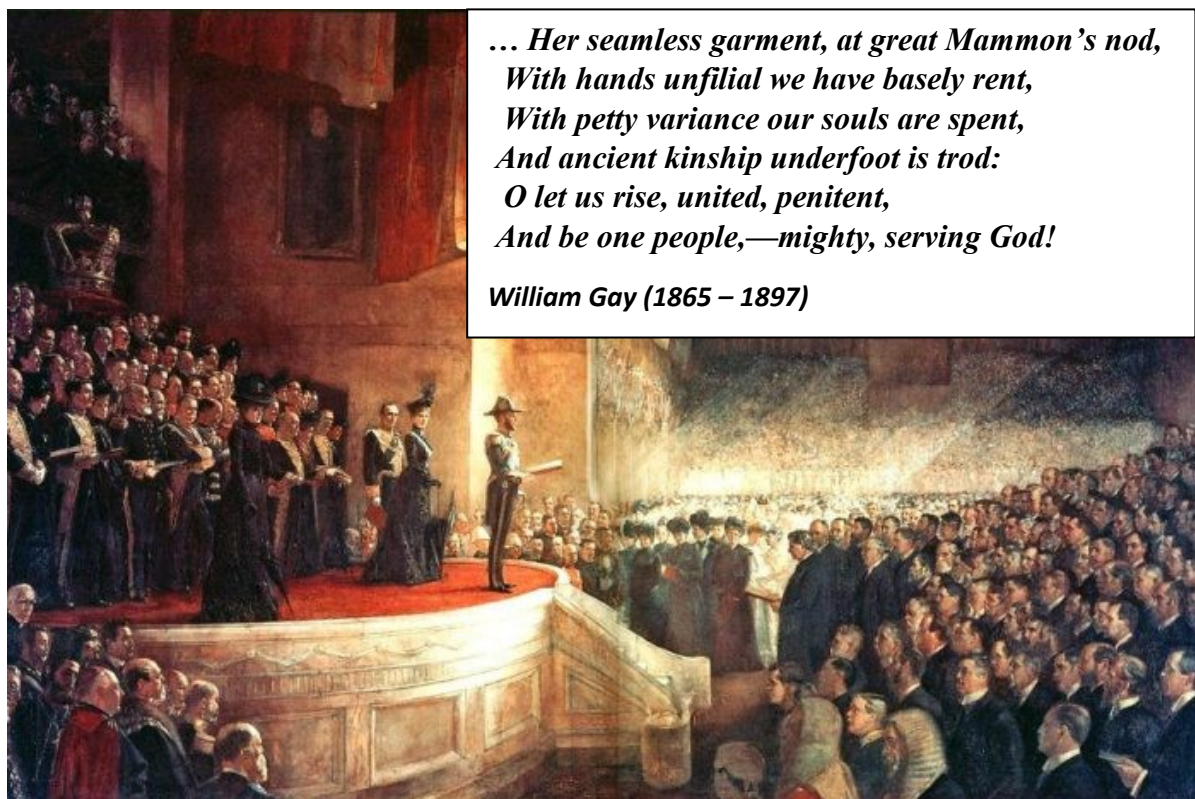




Dated November 2020

Vision Impaired Accessible Document

AND BE ONE PEOPLE



*... Her seamless garment, at great Mammon's nod,
With hands unfilial we have basely rent,
With petty variance our souls are spent,
And ancient kinship underfoot is trod:
O let us rise, united, penitent,
And be one people,—mighty, serving God!*

William Gay (1865 – 1897)

AND BE ONE PEOPLE

Alfred Deakin's speech to the Australian Natives Association at Bendigo 1898

Macintyre, S. *'And be one people': Alfred Deakin's Federal Story* 1995

“

One word more. This after all is only the beginning of our labours. The 150 delegates who leave this Conference, returning to their homes in all parts of this colony to report its proceedings, will, I trust, go back each of them filled with zeal and bearing the fiery-cross of Federation. Every branch should be stimulated into action, until, without resorting to any but legitimate means, without any attempt at intimidation, without taking advantage of sectionalism, but in the purest and broadest spirit of Australian unity, all your members unite to awaken this colony to its duty..

.....

Remember the stirring appeal of the young poet of genius, so recently lost to us in Bendigo, and whose grave is not yet green in your midst. His dying lips warned us of our present need and future duty, and pointed us to the true Australian goal - *One People....*”

NOTICES & EXCLUSIONS:

This version of our National magazine is not intended for general distribution to the wider public but is prepared as a service to those of our members who require the use of vision-impaired screen-reader technology. Thus, certain pages of the hard-copy version involving complex graphics or page layout have been omitted.

A summary of these pages and other notes of a general nature will be listed here.

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION.

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National Secretary – Graham Hyde OAM Email: natsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear All,

The year of the pandemic keeps giving.

Australia continues to fare better than elsewhere in the world and, taking smart advantage of our island geography, we've managed to keep the virus under control. However, it has come with a big cost at a personal and collective level. Our Victorian friends have had it very tough indeed and I think we are all so relieved that they can finally begin to enjoy some, albeit limited, freedom again.

While Donald Horne's 'lucky country' label seems apposite again, in so many respects we've made our own luck. I was told growing up that luck represents preparation meeting opportunity. I.e. through hard work and commitment, you create yourself the preconditions for your 'good luck'. And the pandemic is no different. Indeed, our success in fighting the virus represents some sustained investments in national capability and public service as well as the strength of our Federation. It hasn't been perfect and, while the politics are again becoming increasingly fractious, Australia has been able to keep it together.

As the prospects for a vaccine brighten, how fortunate is Australia to have the research capability to be able to contribute to the development of a vaccine; and how fortunate are we to have the capability in CSL to manufacture it.

Again, we've made our own luck. Our research capability is a hard won strength and a tribute to those dedicated to science and purpose, in the face of constant funding pressures. Equally CSL is a shining light of Australia's manufacturing industry. An old company made new again and kept sharp by being at the frontier of technology and medical science.

The big question for 2021, and beyond, is what the new normal will look like. One of the more important aspects of this time has been how it has accelerated some big secular trends that were already on foot. Covid 19 has seen a number of natural experiments take place. Working from home, powered by technology and the strength of workplace culture has kept the world working; telemedicine has surged; on line learning, while often fraught, has worked pretty well; on line shopping models were put in place over night, again supported by technology. In all cases, these experiments have worked and proven their efficacy and appeal. The transformations they suggest are likely to take hold. Businesses that didn't have an effective digital business model have struggled. They will continue to do so.

Also, divisions in society have come into stronger focus. In the US the burden imposed on low income earners is huge compared to middle and high income earners. Bain has calculated that as of September 10 this year, employment rates among workers in bottom wage quartile in the US decreased by 19.9% compared to January 2020, but only 5.8% for middle income earners and 0.5% for high income earners. While figures for Australia are undoubtedly better, with Government Jobseeker and JobKeeper supporting many, the issue is how much these programs have masked a problem that will re-emerge when the support is scaled down. Unemployment rises quickly in recessions and recovers slowly. And there's a very real prospect, that because trends discussed above, many jobs will be permanently lost. We are going to need the opportunity and the confidence to square our shoulders and create new jobs

and take on new types of work.

The theme for the World Economic Forum this coming January is 'The Great Reset'. It's about emerging from this crisis a better world. To achieve this outcome will require a rethink of all aspects of our societies and economies. It's about ensuring the searing inequality exposed by the different burdens imposed by the virus is addressed; it's about investors being engaged not just by short term returns but by good Governance and sustainability; it's about renewing our commitment to tolerance and pushing back against racism and extremism; it's about ensuring fair work practices and conditions; it's about supporting universal access to education and health care. Addressing these issues will be made all the harder by the huge budget deficits run up by Governments around the world during the pandemic, including in Australia.

A sharp test of whether this debate is just talk or can deliver real outcomes, will be the distribution of the vaccines around the world and whether poor countries get access to the vaccines they need. It's great Australia has signed on to international efforts in this regard.

As we go to press two big contests are at hand: the Melbourne Cup and the US Presidential election. The optimists among us still think we can beat the bookies. The US election will be a major shaper of the Great Reset. The world faces a serious inflection point and whoever wins this election will have huge reach and influence. We all want some certainty and security back. Hopefully, I've backed the winner in both contests!

Heather Ridout AO

National President

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is pleasing to learn of the way in which Branches have recovered from what was effectively a complete shutdown in the early months of this year. Branch newsletters as well as innovative approaches to the use of internet-based conferencing have allowed our Association to remain active and engaged while still in full or partial lockdown. A consequence of this has been the continued high rate of renewal of existing memberships and our welcome to our Association of 2020 Honours recipients.

Work continues on our new Constitution, with consultation with Branch members being, of necessity, carried out on-line. An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) is to be conducted to consider its adoption on Friday 11th December. This EGM will be conducted on-line, with members who "attend" having the opportunity to ask questions and lodge their vote. For those not attending proxy arrangement will be made.

Our existing Constitution is over 30 years old and pre-dates the formation of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC), the regulatory authority responsible for our sector. The ACNC has requirements in a constitution that are missing in ours, thus we have a complete rewrite rather than modification of clauses and paragraphs. Some key features of the new document include a sharper focus on the purpose of our Association,

member election of Branch nominated directors, and extension of the appointment of directors from one year to three.

Your National Board recommends that you vote to adopt the new constitution.

Many Branches are at last able to bring members together, with some States renewing Investitures. It is hoped that the relaxation of restrictions will be further extended as we approach the Festive Season and hopefully a New Year that carries much promise both for our communities and our country.

I wish all members and families a happy Christmas and a joyous New Year.

Barry Nunn AO
National Chairman

EDITORIAL

AND BE ONE PEOPLE

In our last edition of The Order I posed the question ‘ Do you stand ready, within the available guidance, to step into Cuthbertson’s Australian Sunrise with its , ‘... cloudy crimson at the dawning of the day’?

In this edition I draw to your attention the words of Alfred Deakin in the pre-federation debates of the late 1890’s, the words of William Gay a passionate poet and federalist of the era, an extract from an article by Bernard Salt AM in the Weekend Australian and a reflection from Their Excellencies the Governor-General and Mrs Hurley.

All profess and promote the virtue of Australians’ collective resilience and action in pursuit of a clear National goal – being one people.

Each Association member has self-evidently been honoured for our contribution to one facet or section of our Nation. The post-COVID reconstruction provides an opportunity for each of us, through the application of a mature example, to provide leadership to that facet or section of Australian society, and our family, friends, and acquaintances.

Of course, Deakin’s first attempts failed but 18 months of determined and passionate advocacy and effort saw their goal achieved. To quote ‘another’ Prime Minister - Life was not meant to be easy!!

Do you stand ready, to commit to Deakin’s, Gay’s, and Salt’s reconstruction ethos? Will you endorse the sentiments of Their Excellencies? Will you askew parochial regional jingoism?

Will you commit to Australia as *one united, penitent, and mighty people*?

As this edition goes to print, in early November, most State and Territories are either at minimal COVID-19 restrictions or are about to enter more liberal restrictions. Hopefully, the social and economic rebuilding can begin in the lead up to the Festive Season. But we all know it is going to be a long hard slog!

I wish you all the best and I hope to see you in the ‘public square’; as circumstances allow.

Phil Morrall AM, CSC

Editor

Bernard Salt AM

The Australian 22 August 2020



“ At some stage, it seems, every city experiences adversity. This is most certainly the case in Australia. Bushfires, droughts, floods and even cyclones have at times terrorised whole communities. Like a cork tossed in stormy seas we are occasionally pulled under – yet invariably we bob up,

winded, bruised, tearful even, but all the more determined to rebuild our place in this glorious and terrifying land.

Darwin recovered from Cyclone Tracy in 1974. Sydney was terrorised in May 1942 when Japanese submarines penetrated the harbour. Adelaide lost its state bank in the last recession. Brisbane flooded badly in 1974 and 2011.

This time it is Melbourne's turn for adversity – and while we feel the love, the concern and the support of our fellow Australians, the pain and the burden must be borne by us alone.

In these times it is easy to descend into blame and division. What is needed is the support of the greater Australian community as well as an intrinsic stoicism, a determination to see it through and a culture of helping each other. But something else is required: a post-pandemic future not wracked with recrimination but shaped by good humour, by entrepreneurship, by a sense of fairness and by nation-building.

The Governor-General and Mrs Hurley

<https://www.gg.gov.au/look-back-over-last-12-months>

The Governor-General and Mrs Hurley reflect on the people they have met, the countless examples of kindness and compassion they have witnessed and the huge strength they have seen across Australian in their first 12 months in office.

"If any Australian had a day to walk in our shoes, they would have an optimism for our country ... we have difficult days and we have difficult times, and there are big issues, but underneath at the core of is, is a really good people."

MAGAZINE READER SURVEY - OUTCOME!!

The Order of Australia Magazine Reader Survey Analysis Executive Summary

The Survey was undertaken in August and September of 2020 to collect and process members views regarding the magazine, in order to facilitate decisions and discussion around the future of the publication.

A total of 450 surveys were completed over 47 days, with individual responses representing approximately 5.5% of the total OAA membership during that time.

The Survey findings present a benchmark against which future measurement can be gauged.

The typical OAA Member during the survey period was:

Aged 71+

From either Victoria or New South Wales.

Retired

Receive the magazine in print format, and prefer to read the magazine in Print format over E-COPY

Style and Tone of the magazine gained positive feedback from members. Ease of Reading, Layout and Design, and Photography all being rated above average, with some members expressing the want for more photos within the magazine.

Members surveyed indicated their satisfaction with the current frequency of publication and are happy to maintain the quarterly distribution. Indicating no need for an increase or decrease of circulation.

Those members who responded to the survey commented on their satisfaction with the current magazine. The National section had overall support followed by the news from the members' own state. The magazine also strengthens members personal connection with the Order of Australia Association, and for some being the only connection they have.

The quality of the magazine is viewed as above average.

Those surveyed also responded positively to the idea of advertising and sponsorships within the magazine. However, there was a strong preference for advertising to focus on Volunteer/Charity, Education, and Australian Government, and Travel/Tourism that coincide with the views of the OAA.

Members expressed overall satisfaction with the magazine, with some additional changes recommended to enhance the magazine and assist in its future production.

THE ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

Members might recall the creation of an Association National Scholarship Program to allow Branches and individual members to donate into a consolidated account, which when it reaches the Scholarship funding level (currently \$40,000), will allow the award of an Association Scholarship.

Donations may be made to:

Name of Account: The Order of Australia Association Foundation Ltd Gift Account
BSB No: 013006
Account No: 314735771

Please advise details of EFT transfers to: sec@oaafoundation.com.au

Donations through the Foundation attract DGR tax deductibility.

Phil Morrall AM, CSC

National Editor

NEW SOUTH WALES Branch

BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE:

As this most challenging year draws to a close, I would like to thank our more than 2400 members for their tenacity in dealing with these trying times and for their continued support for their communities. I am also delighted to welcome our >114 new members. We look forward to meeting you at a Branch event in the coming months.

While it has not been possible to meet face to face for most of 2020, many of our Members have shared their experiences with us through our "Thanks for Asking" initiative. It is heart-warming to hear from a diverse range of NSW awardees who have managed to stay positive and reach out to others who may be feeling isolated or lonely. We are sharing more of these stories in this issue of The Order. They are also on our website at <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/nsw/news>

Our Committee has been meeting virtually via ZOOM and we keep in touch with Members via email each month.

Our Australia Day Awardees enjoyed their investitures at Government House with our Patron, Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC in September. Queen's Birthday Awardees will be invested hopefully before Christmas. Our AGM is scheduled for 23 February, 2021. Details will be advised as soon as we know if this will be a face to face meeting or virtual.

Assuming NSW continues to maintain low levels of COVID-19 infections between now and January 26 2021, and restrictions are eased further, we will go ahead with our Annual

Australia Day luncheon on Sydney Harbour. There may be limits on attendee numbers. Stay tuned in the coming weeks for an update re this and other functions as the Government updates advice.

My very best wishes and those of our Committee to our Members and their families for a safe and happy Christmas and a healthy 2021.

Peter Falk OAM
NSW Branch Chairman
<https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/nsw/news>
The Order of Australia Association NSW

BRANCH COMMITTEE DETAILS:

Patron

Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC

Chairman

Mr Peter Falk OAM

Mob. 0411141103

Deputy Chairman & National Director

Mr James Mein AM

0408660591

Honorary Secretary

Ms Martha Jabour OAM

Mob. 0419279337

Honorary Treasurer

Ms Gail Dunne OAM

Mob. 0419279337

Committee Members

Mrs Louise Davis AM

(Communications Liaison)

Com9nsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Mr Chris Dunne OAM

(Web Co-ordinator)

Mob. 0419279337

A/Prof John Gullotta AM

(Metropolitan Co-ordinator, Events)

And Public Relations)

Mob. 0418233069

Dr Frank Kelleher AM

(The Order of Australia Association

NSW Branch, Youth Community Service

Award Co-ordinator)

Mob. 0427644397

Mrs Carolyn Lyons OAM

(Youth Alumni Co-Ordinator)

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Mr Michael Maher OAM

(Branch Membership Officer)

Mob. 0457795254

Mr Ron Sharpe OAM

(Regional Co-ordinator)

Mob. 0409487095

REGIONAL GROUP CONVENORS DETAILS:

Blue Mountains/Hawkesbury/Nepean:	Mr John Wakefield OAM
Central Coast	Ron Sharpe OAM
Central West	Mrs Audrey Hardman OAM
Clarence/Richmond	Grahame Gooding OAM
Coffs Coast	Mrs Anne Stewart
Dubbo	Miss Ruby Riach OAM
Hastings	Mr Laurie Smith OAM
Hunter	Mrs June Cameron AM
Illawarra	Mr John O'Dwyer OAM
Manning	Wing Commander Greg Hartig AM (Ret)
New England/North West	Mr Roger Butler OAM
Riverina	Mr Ron Sharpe OAM

Shoalhaven

Mr Rod Gibb OAM

Far South Coast

Dr Jenny Munroe AM

Southern Highlands

Mrs Virginia Adlidge OAM

Southern Tablelands

Mr Ron Sharpe OAM

TITLE: AUSTRALIAN SENIORS COMPUTER CLUBS ASSOCIATION, MS NAN BOSLER, AM, PRESIDENT

“THANKS FOR ASKING,”

The challenges that have been thrust upon us as the result of COVID-19 have brought changes that we didn't imagine. 'Normal' as we thought of it is unlikely ever to return. The impact on our lives and the lives of those we love has been unprecedented. I do acknowledge the work being done by our government and by front line workers and by the community in Australia. Of course, there are negatives, but we really should be looking for the positive things around us, not just the doom and gloom.

I would like to share with you how the Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association (ASCCA) has been working with our nationwide network of Seniors Computer Clubs and their members to continue to empower older Australians through technology. ASCCA is run by seniors, for seniors; we are volunteers. ASCCA is the National Peak Body for Seniors and Technology. We work with communities, business and government and seek, through our clubs, to encourage and inspire older Australians to explore the benefits and satisfaction of using the internet; it's too good to miss! There are 155 ASCCA branches nationally.

It has been vital that clubs have kept in touch with their members while clubroom doors have been closed. I would estimate that about a third of our members are in their late 70s, 80s and 90s age groups and many are living alone. Part of the reason for belonging to a Seniors Computer Club is the social inclusion that has become a very important factor in their lives.

What a difference the challenges of COVID-19 have made to the way our clubs are managed. It has actually been exciting as we see just what a difference some of our new thinking will have on our future. Online training is already a major part of our programs. For remote Western Australia and the Northern Territory video conferencing has been the most efficient and enjoyable way to master the tyranny of distance to bring technology to those in areas that just can't manage without online communication. The tyranny to-day is not caused by distance alone but by this pandemic. Those who can't use even simple technology are disadvantaged. Many Older Australians are living alone in social isolation but because of technology they can order and have food delivered to their front door; the chemist will bring their prescriptions.

Almost weekly ASCCA is preparing and distributing a variety of newsletters to our clubs which can be forwarded on to their members. Go to our website <https://www.ascca.org.au> to find links to the latest of these newsletters on the home page. The ASCCA Newsletter has been going out monthly for more than 20 years and the 2020 newcomer is called ASCCA NEWS to use, peruse, amuse and enthuse!

In some states of Australia restrictions have lifted and some clubs are considering ways to still meet regulations but share some face to face time. One club thought of having picnics. Picnic chairs put in a circle with careful and correct social distancing, fresh air, happy conversation and a great opportunity to chat with friends.

Every experience is a learning opportunity and together we are learning to cope with the challenges of COVID-19 and some of that learning will smoothly flow to our future activities. ASCCA is known as a catalyst to enthuse, encourage, empower and assist seniors to explore the satisfaction and advantages of using technology. COVID-19 will not alter that!

Take care, stay safe and keep connected.

Nan Bosler AM, President, Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association (ASCCA)

<https://www.ascca.org.au/index.php/seniors-computer-courses/computer-clubs-list/>



Nan feels strongly that learning is a lifelong experience. She was over 50 when she first went to University. She has community awards including Anzac of the Year, Advance Australia Award and an (OAM) in 1991 upgraded to AM in 2019.

In May 2017 Nan Bosler was one of six inspirational winners; both individuals and organisations; to be recognised at the 2017 Australian not-for-profit Technology Awards. These Awards highlight the achievements of the not-for-profit sector in Australia. Nan's Award, the "Not-For-Profit Technology Lifetime Service Award" was given to "Recognise and celebrate the outstanding commitment and service by an individual working in a technology related role in the not-for-profit sector over a significant period of me." As the volunteer President and founder of ASCCA in 1998, Nan was building upon 50 years as a NFP volunteer and innovator of new ideas to support her community.

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY MARY DOUGHTY, AM

Mary has devoted her life to helping others. She was a medical social worker at Sydney Hospital for six years and then spent 43 years with the Medical Benevolent Association of NSW from 1964 to 2007, looking after doctors and their families in times of illness and social problems. She has a lifetime of voluntary work, among other areas as a board member for the Epilepsy Association and as a student, ex-student, parent, uniform shop co-ordinator and volunteer archivist for Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College.

Mary was appointed a Member in the Order of Australia in June 1997. She joined the NSW Branch Committee in 1998; was appointed Deputy Chair in 1999, Chairman 2000-2003, Immediate Past Chair 2003-2005 and Regional Co-ordinator 2005-2007. She then acted as archivist for the Branch until early 2020. We wish Mary a Very Happy 90th Birthday and thank her for her many years of service to The Order of Australia NSW.

MARGIE BECK AM, RETURNS TO EAST TIMOR FOLLOWING HER VISIT TO SYDNEY

Timor-Leste, also known as East Timor, is in a phase of infrastructure renewal, after its existing capacities were destroyed in 1999 with the Indonesian withdrawal. The Australian Catholic University (ACU) is involved in a number of capacity-building collaborations in Timor's second largest city, Baucau, in several educational fields.

You will recall that Margie Beck AM's "Thanks for Asking" story was featured in NSW Chairman Peter Falk OAM's monthly update July 31, 2020. We are pleased to hear from Margie who is now back in East Timor. She has returned to her role ensuring Quality Assurance, and some teaching, at the Teachers College she helped establish 18 years ago, Instituto Catolico para Formacao de Professores (ICFP)

**Rebuilding teacher training "Mana Margie" is a familiar face around town in Baucau, East Timor. More formally, Ms Margie Beck is known as an education lecturer from the ACU Strathfield Campus in Sydney. "Mana" means "big sister" in Tetum, the local language of the East Timorese. It is a term of endearment given to Ms Beck during her years of dedication to helping establish sustainable teacher training systems while on secondment in East Timor from ACU. More than half of the population of this new nation, considered the poorest nation in Asia, have had no schooling. Most secondary teachers and many primary school teachers returned to Indonesia at independence, and teacher training had to begin from scratch. At her first visit in 2002, Ms Beck found schools without doors and windows, children perched three to a desk, and whole schools huddled around one blackboard. The country was struggling to find its own curriculum using both the national language, Portuguese, and Tetum. Instituto Católico para Formação de Professores (ICFP) was being established, and Ms Beck and her colleagues were invited to work with founding partners the Marist Brothers to write and implement a teacher education program and other educational systems relevant to the new nation's needs. "I love what I am doing," Ms Beck said. "To watch young people learn is incredibly rewarding because their opportunities have come from nothing. To go into schools and watch these young students teach and to know I have been part of the process of helping them deliver is a wonderful experience."*

** Australian Catholic University*

Between teaching and finding donors for scholarships Margie's life in Baucau is very busy and very happy. The majority of teaching staff now in the College, were her students, so she feels they are like family. She has 14 godchildren; she provides a safe haven for volunteers as it can be a challenge living in this emerging country. We wish Margie continued success in her very worthwhile endeavours.

Louise Davis AM

Communications & Community Liaison NSW Branch



Future English teachers at ICFP in Baucau E. Timor, during COVID-19

IN MEMORIAM, EDWARD SELWYN OAM

Lawyer and The Order of Australia Association NSW Branch Committee Member, Edi Selwyn OAM passed away in September. He was awarded his Medal of the Order of Australia for services to the law and state through the Legal Aid Commission NSW and was a former Deputy Registrar of the Federal Court of Australia, a former Acting Chairman of the Serious Offenders Review Council and acted as the NSW Racing Appeals Tribunal, during any absences of the tribunal from 2016 to 2018.

Edi was a passionate advocate for The Order of Australia and an enthusiastic member of the NSW Committee. He will be truly missed and fondly remembered by all of us.

TASMANIA Branch

BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE:

It seemed that the delay for this year's Australia Day and Queen's Birthday awardees to be invested with their insignia due to COVID-19 did nothing to diminish the excitement and importance of the ceremony at Government House when ceremonies were held over a six-day period in September. While the investitures did not have the usual 150 people in the Government House ballroom, the restricted number of about 30 attending the more intimate ceremonies in the Government House Drawing Room was special in their own right.

Having Order of Australia investiture ceremonies in the mornings and afternoons gave the Branch the opportunity to host lunches on five consecutive days for the recipients, families and friends, together with Branch members at the convenient and welcoming venue at The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania. My initial concern that we would not attract many to the lunches was thankfully proved wrong and over the five days some 217 attended. This was especially rewarding as there were only three to five awardees at each investiture ceremony. A special thanks to Branch members who volunteered at the lunches ensuring their smooth, friendly and efficient operation.

Despite the COVID-19 caused cancellation of Association activities this year, we are delighted to welcome 17 new members who were amongst the awardees this year. With the progressive easing of restrictions, it will make it less complicated to organise various events. The success of the investiture lunches proved that.

I wish to congratulate Mr Brian Winspear AM who recently turned 100. Brian who maintains an active life, is believed to be our Branch's most senior member. He received his award "for service to the tourism and hospitality industry" in the 1993 Australia Day Honours List.

Alastair Douglas OAM
Tasmanian Branch Chairman

BRANCH COMMITTEE DETAILS:

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

Chairman – Mr Alastair Douglas OAM

National Board Director – The Hon. Dr Frank Madill AM

Deputy Chairman & Northern Regional Chairman – Dr Nicholas Chantler AM

Hon Secretary & Southern Regional Chairman – Mrs Maureen Rudge OAM
(P: 0417 324 005)

Hon Treasurer – Mr Ron Blake OAM

Branch Committee:

Dr Peter Holm OAM (NW Chairman)

Mr Neville Bingham OAM

Mrs Maureen Oates OAM

Mr Gary Carr OAM

Mr David Brill AM

Regional Co-Ordinators

South – Mrs Maureen Oates OAM

North – Mrs Therese Samorzewski OAM (P: 03 6266 4114)

North – West – Dr Peter Holm OAM

PRE & POST 2020 INVESTITURE LUNCHES

With the Covid restrictions in place the usual 2 Investiture Ceremonies at Government House in Hobart for the Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Recipients were postponed. The alternative arrangement was nine ceremonies each for approximately 4 people held over 5 days in September 2020.

The Branch's Post Investiture Dinners turned into five luncheons – accommodating Awardees who were going to Government House in the afternoon or who had been in the morning.

There were a few concerns for the Branch as to how many Recipients and guests would attend the combined Luncheons, the timing for going to and from Government House and also organising the availability of Branch Members to assist with the functions which were held at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania.

To our delight there were 217 attendees at the five luncheons where our Branch Chairman Alistair Douglas OAM introduced 24 Recipients with their citations and our photographer Maureen Oates OAM again captured the celebratory atmosphere of Awardees and their guests. Unfortunately, the afternoon Recipients had not been invested at Government House so were without medals at the time of the Luncheon photography.

Maureen Rudge OAM

Branch Secretary

NORTHERN NOTES

Although Tasmania remains free of Covid19 and has its borders closed as this report is being written, the Northern Region Committee has continued to meet via zoom. Branch activities remain restricted until it is deemed safe to meet in person and hopefully this will occur before Christmas. In the meantime we congratulate the new awardees who were honoured on Australia Day and the Queen's Birthday Honours and thank our Branch Chairman Alastair Douglas OAM for the great job he has done organising lunches for those that were able to attend the presentation ceremonies. Thanks to members from the north who made the effort to travel to Hobart to attend. We wish all members throughout Australia good health and keep safe.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Neighbourhood Watch is believed to be the largest community lead crime prevention movement in the world. It is partnered with every police jurisdiction in Australia and its national body (Neighbourhood Watch Australia – NHTA) includes neighbourhood support in New Zealand. Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania Inc. (NHTA) is a registered not for profit organisation that co-ordinates localised support for Tasmania Police to prevent crime, improve public safety and enhance community relations.

NHTA has operated in Tasmania since 1986. It rapidly grew, and by the mid 1990's there were approximately 160 Neighbourhood Watch regional groups in the state.

The last 20 years has seen a rapid growth in electronic surveillance - both commercial and private. This has not diminished the value of Neighbourhood Watch, and there are groups all over Tasmania dedicating their time and talent to maintaining this important community partnership with Tasmania Police. One of our awardees, Mrs Linda Madill OAM a founder member of the Newnham Neighbourhood Watch and is a Life Member of Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania (see article in this issue). Research shows Neighbourhood Watch reduces crime by approximately 20% in areas where it operates. We all should encourage our friends and neighbours to become active in this organisation in their community whenever possible and become an integral part in the fight against crime in our communities.

KIM BRUNDLE-LAWRENCE OAM MAIES

When people say they have spent their lives in the service of others they really mean they have spent the most part of their lives. Very few would have spent as much of their life in the service of their fellow man as Kim Brundle-Lawrence. She began by joining the Red Cross as a 9-year-old and has continuously worked for the Red Cross, the Tasmania Fire Service, and a huge number of community organisations right up to the present day.

Beginning when she was in primary school making toiletry bags for hospital patients, 55 years later Kim is still actively involved. In 2015 she was awarded the Meander Valley Council Australia Day Citizen of the Year, the Red Cross-National Distinguished Service Medal, and the Red Cross 50 years' Service Medal. In 2018 she was made a Life Member of the Australian Red Cross. Between joining up in 1965 and the present-day Kim has undertaken an extraordinary range of activities and service for Red Cross both here in Tasmania and interstate.

Kim joined the Tasmania Fire Service in 1990 and has worked continuously as a volunteer since, receiving the Australian National Medal, Tasmania Volunteer Fire Brigade Association 30-year Service Bar and a Tasmania Fire Service 30-year service award. In 2012 she was awarded the AIES State Emergency Service volunteer of the year.

She has undertaken major organisational responsibilities in serious Tasmania bushfires, flood and other emergencies as well as similar major roles in episodes in Victoria, Queensland and South Australia.

Kim has had extensive involvement with Brass Bands in the North of Tasmania, joining in 1973. She is at present a musician, and Drum Major of the City of Launceston RSL Band and in 2017 received a 15 years' service award. She has been a committee member and player in the Railway Silver Band, the Launceston City Band, the Launceston Bel Canto Brass, and the West Tamar Band and currently sits on the Tasmanian Bands League Drill Advisory Board.

She is a Lifelink Samaritan, where she is President and a Life Member and works extensively with suicide prevention.

She is a member of the Motorcycle Riders Association (North) and sits on the committee of the Awareness Ride to promote safety of motorcycle riders.

She was Chairperson of the Northern Midlands Council Longford Harvest Festival organising committee; the secretary of the Carrick Community Committee; the founder and zone leader of the Carrick Neighbourhood Watch; committee member, Tour Director, Newsletter Editor and State Secretary of the Veteran Car Club of Tasmania. She has been a Sunday school teacher and Superintendent of St Georges Church of England in Invermay, a volunteer for the Launceston General Hospital, a special minister and pastoral carer at Calvary Private Hospital in Launceston. She even found time to be a member of the Van Diemen Pistol Club and serve on the committee as secretary.

So, it is no exaggeration to say Kim Brundle-Lawrence has spent almost her whole life serving her fellow man. In her words "I enjoy the opportunity of utilising the skills that I have obtained and applying those skills within the community, I am extremely passionate about undertaking roles where I can make a significant difference to the lives of others".

Kim has certainly achieved those goals and richly deserves her community's recognition with the award of the Order of Australia Medal.

NT BRANCH



BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE:

Here in the Northern Territory we continue to live in a COVID19 free environment and feel for our fellow members who do not, especially for those in Victoria. The pandemic has challenged us all during 2020, and the address at our recent social function in Darwin by Professor Len Notaras AM, was timely.

In recent days, the Federal Government has announced that 5000 Australians living overseas will be repatriated home via Darwin where they will quarantine at the Howard Springs facility. They will be managed by the AUSMAT team, who also cared for Australians from Wuhan and passengers off the Diamond Princess flown to Darwin.

The NT Chapter of the OAA is proud of Territorians who were honoured in the Queen's Birthday awards and note with pleasure the increase in Indigenous Australian recipients, including Mrs. Nyurpaya Burton OAM, Mr. Vincent Namatjira OAM, Mrs Tjunkaya Tapaya OAM, and Mr. Peter Mungkuri OAM. These artists have all been honored for their service to Indigenous visual art and to the community. They are or were from Alice Springs, but they are also described as South Australian artists because the APY lands straddle the border area. Clearly both SA and NT wish to claim them!

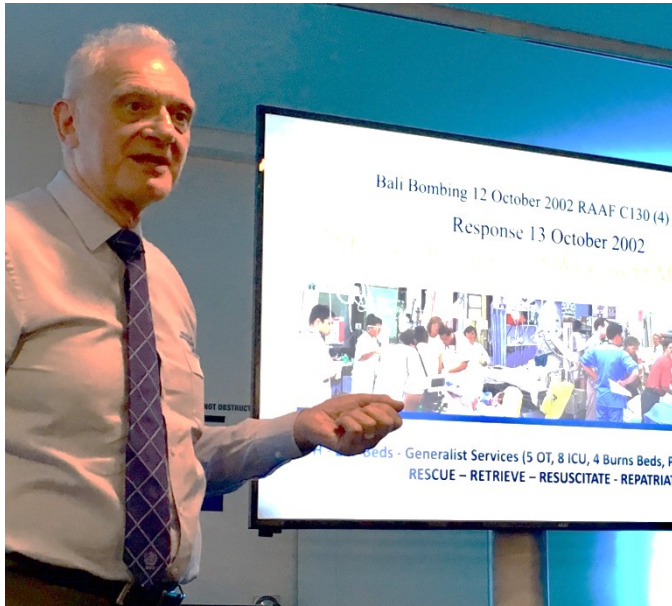
We in the Territory have an extensively multicultural community, and to reflect this we have reached out to many cultural organisations to encourage them to nominate people in their communities for Order of Australia awards. We look forward in coming years to these wonderful Australians being recognised for the outstanding work they do in our diverse society.

BRANCH COMMITTEE DETAILS:

Patron	– Her Honour the Honourable Mrs. Vicki O'Halloran AO
Chairperson	– Ms Sharon Mulholland AM
Deputy Chair	– Mr. Alan James AM
Secretary/Treasurer	– Mr. Michael Martin OAM
Director to the Board	– Mrs. Nora Lewis AM
Newsletter Editor	– Mrs. Nora Lewis AM
Committee member	– Mr. David de Silva AM

PROFESSOR LEN NOTARAS AM

The NT branch enjoyed a social gathering on Thursday October 15, when the excellent attendance represented nearly 50% of members in the Darwin Region. Our guest speaker was long-time member of the NTOAA Professor Len Notaras AM – celebrated as strategic founder of the Darwin-based National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre, and its Executive Director since 2009.



Dr. Notaras was to have been a keynote speaker at the 2020 National conference in Darwin, and members at the local function experienced what our potential delegates missed – a most informative and uplifting address.

In 2010 Dr. Notaras negotiated and coordinated through the NCCTRC the deployment of AUSMAT (Australian Medical Assistance Team) to Pakistan following devastating floods, then led the AUSMAT response to Typhoon Haiyan which tore through part of the Philippines in November 2013, deploying for the first time Australia's surgical field hospital and treating more

than 2700 patients. These were only two of the AUSMAT endeavours we heard about

In the later part of his presentation Dr. Notaras discussed responses to Covid19 – nationwide and in the NT, concluding with comment on arrangements to house returning Australians from all over the world – 500 at a time – at the Howard Springs quarantine station just out of Darwin.

We so appreciate Dr. Notaras's contribution to our Association.

QUEENSLAND Branch

BRANCH CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Dr Gary Bacon AM. BSc (Hons) PhD. FIFA.

Branch Chairman

Hearty Spring Greetings are forwarded to all members.

Since our last contact via The Order two commemorative days have passed almost forgotten in the lingering constraints on celebrations forced upon us by the global, national and state pandemic restrictions. National Wattle Day on 1 September and National Flag Day on 3 September came and went under the radar, so as to speak.

Wattles have long had special meanings for Australians and in 1988 the Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) was officially gazetted as Australia's national floral emblem. Wattle blossoms are to be found on the Australian Coat of Arms, and the badge of the Order of Australia is in the shape of a single wattle blossom. Though widely celebrated since 1910, it was not until 1992, that the first day of Spring each year was officially declared 'National Wattle Day' throughout Australia. There are over 960 species of wattle in Australia, by far the largest concentration in the world, and they have found homes in just about every nook and cranny over our wide diverse land. Wattles, besides their innate beauty of form and colour, demonstrate two qualities, Resilience and Adaptation, which as individuals, especially in times of stress and separation, we should aspire.

As an aside, on this same September day in 1972 Australia made a change in the measurement of temperature from Fahrenheit to Celsius. For those who still need a prompt the conversion formula is: $(32^{\circ}\text{F} - 32) \times 5/9 = 0^{\circ}\text{C}$



Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*)

Australian National Flag Day, proclaimed in 1996, celebrates the first time the flag was flown on 3 September 1901. On that day Prime Minister Edmund Barton announced the winners of a competition to design a flag for Australia. A large flag, 5.5 metres by 11 metres, was flown over the dome of the Exhibition Building in Melbourne. At that time the flag was known as the Commonwealth Blue Ensign. Later, the flag became known as the Australian National Flag. Four generations of our countrymen and women have served under this banner.

I trust that we can more inclusively and enthusiastically celebrate both days next year. This hope also applies to a return to a normal social environment wherein our Branch can return to hosting luncheons for the Australia Day and Queen's Birthday awardees of Australian honours. Whilst each of the 114 and 122 Queensland based awardees respectively in 2020 have been acknowledged and applauded for their multi-dimensional community services, we desire a bookend luncheon event. Due to participant number restrictions on available venues these luncheons are most likely to be conducted in the first part of 2021.

It is a pleasure to advise that the first public OAA event in Queensland since March 2020 was held 14 September in Rockhampton. Under the leadership of the Central Queensland Regional Convenor, Dr Wal Taylor OAM, some 35 members and guests, including three new Awardees, were treated to fine hospitality at the Government accredited Frenchville Sports Centre. Sunshine Coast, Brisbane and Far North Queensland Convenors are planning open events with restricted numbers in the immediate months ahead.

The Queensland Branch Committee has now held six individually-cascaded Zoom based meetings to keep dialogue current on National and State issues. As a direct consequence of the usefulness of our Zoom experiences we are now scheduling an inaugural combined Branch Committee and all Regional Convenor's meeting for later this year. This approach may evolve into a regular schedule of more personal communiques. In such a diversified State where 1700 km separates the two furthest OAA member cohorts, embracing technology is eminently sensible.

Continue to keep well and safe.

BRANCH COMMITTEE DETAILS:

OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland

Chairman

Dr Gary Bacon AM
Tel:0400 733 822

Immediate Past Chairman

Associate Professor John Harden AM

Deputy Chairman

Dr Mick Davis AM ASM

Secretary

Ross Patching OAM

Tel:0412 914 394

Treasurer

Ronda Nix OAM

National Board Director

Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ.

Committee Members

Dr Carol Cox AM
Regional Groups Liaison Officer

Graham Hyde OAM
Newsletter Editor

Paula Penfold AM
Merchandise Officer

Darryl Secombe OAM
Membership Officer

Marjorie Voss OAM
Regional Convenor Sunshine Coast

Kathy Wooldridge OAM

Co-opted Member

Geoffrey Cowles OAM, Events and Awards
Coordinator (Metro)

All correspondence to:

Ross Patching OAM, Secretary

PO Box 96 Petrie QLD. 4502

Email- secqldoaa@iinet.net.au

REGIONAL GROUP CONVENORS DETAILS:

Central Queensland: Dr Wallace Taylor OAM

Darling Downs: Paul McNally OAM

Far North Queensland: Carole Miller OAM

Gold Coast: Clive Mitchell-Taylor OAM

Mackay-Whitsunday: Carmel Daveson OAM

Sunshine Coast: Marjorie Voss OAM

Townsville: David Jackson OAM

Wide-Bay Burnett: Donna Duncan OAM

THE FIRST FUNCTION AT ROCKHAMPTON SINCE COVID-19 AFFECTED OUR LIVES

Central Queensland Regional Group held a function to welcome new recipients of awards in The Order of Australia on 14th September at the Frenchville Sports Club, Rockhampton. This was the first Regional Group function able to be held since the Covid-19 restrictions, and was attended by OAAQ Chairman Gary Bacon AM, OAAQ Treasurer Ronda Nix OAM and OAAQ Regional Group Coordinator Carol Cox AM.



L-R: Wal Taylor OAM, CQ Group Convenor; Ronda Nix, Gary Bacon; Carol Cox & Guest Speaker John Abbott AM.

Few people at the lunch would have known about the amazing man who is the link between the name of the Frenchville Sports Club and the heritage-listed Rockhampton Botanic Gardens.

Frenchville was named after Frenchman's Creek, a minor stream running from Mount Archer to the Fitzroy River. The creek's name came about from a French botanist, **Anthelme Thozet**, who established a pioneering experimental garden of tropical plants in the 1860s. Thozet was instrumental in developing the Rockhampton Botanic Gardens which were founded in 1861 and the tree plantings along the Fitzroy River CBD area. He supplied plant and seed specimens to other botanists and Botanical Gardens, including for his esteemed friend, Baron Sir Ferdinand von Mueller, the Victorian government botanist and director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. Thozet named his experimental gardens “Muellerville” after his friend. A monument to Thozet has been erected in Parklands there.

Anthelme Thozet played an integral part in the progression of plant science and the development of the early agricultural industry in Queensland through experimental cultivation of a wide variety of fruits, timber trees, and field crops at his “Muellerville” property in order to test their suitability to the local climate for commercial use. He applied his botanical skills to trial-grow plantation pine, cotton, wheat, sugar cane, tea, coffee, and exotic fruits such as mango, date and olives. He also conducted extensive research into a number of local native plant species.

A building at the Primary Industries Research Centre (Plant Sciences Group) at Central Queensland University at Rockhampton is named in his honour. A creek and a road in Rockhampton also bear his name, and the tree species, *Eucalyptus thozetiana* was named in his honour. In 1875, he was made a fellow of the Royal Colonial Institute. Anthelme Thozet also donated Aboriginal weapons, mostly boomerangs, to the Museum national d’histoire naturelle in Paris in the mid-nineteenth century. It is assumed that this, in part, followed on from his interest in different types of wood and their uses.

A VALUED ALUMNI



Dr Mick Davis AM ASM

Dr Mick Davis AM ASM, pictured above, is a current Queensland Branch Committee Member and a former Queensland Branch Chairman. He has enjoyed a long and distinguished career with the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) and in “retirement” is actively involved in preserving the rich history of the QAS and he is the current Curator of its Wynnum Historical Museum. Drawing on his vast experience in the Service, he produced a very thoughtful short paper “A Valued Alumni” which was published in January 2017. He is delighted to be sharing

this short paper with OAA members and we are reprinting it here for your interest and for the important principles it espouses.

Amidst the widespread and diversified cultures across the globe, there is a particular feature evident in some, but not all of these cultures. Within Australia there is evidence of this feature in our indigenous cultures and some of the cultures of ethnic origin. However, the sad evidence is that this particular cultural feature is yet to become universal across the nation.

The first inhabitants of Australia practiced a very well-developed process for educating their younger and less experience people and providing firsthand insights in the company of, and with the wisdom and guidance of, their elders. They would learn to become gatherers and hunters by the sharing of wisdom and knowledge through storytelling, participation in hunting and fieldwork and through the well-established and valued practices of showing, telling and doing. The elders were more than just an asset to the tribe; they were the very foundations of continuity, stability and certainty for the tribe.

In a similar manner in other cultures, especially those based on tribes, clans and/or the extended family, the elders and past leaders are highly regarded sources of wisdom, valued mentors, and are well respected for their contribution to the long-term continuity of the race.

Part of this respect and value is the understanding that history, knowledge and wisdom can and should inform the future. These historical insights, facilitated by their seniors, helped the developing family or tribal members to avoid repetitive errors and provided an understanding of the significant elements of the continuity and evolution of the group. Importantly the respect for and reference to their elders has been an essential feature of these cultures – in a sense ***helping to put wiser heads on younger shoulders.***

Australia is a nation of diverse cultures. It is in this context that it is difficult to understand why so many organizations in Australia are happy to see the last of their retiring workers and members -without displaying any insight as to the asset-value of the wisdom, experience and knowledge within the people they are so keen to lose. So what then are the benefits of keeping our elders close to “family” yet still allowing them the flexibility to live their new life free to choose their level of involvement in the organization, while continuing to feel valued by that body.

Many elders will happily become occasional mentors if invited – few are invited. Many have a keen interest in the history of an organization to which they have devoted numerous years of their life. Others are simply just happy to occasionally catch up with their long-term friends from the organizations to which they belonged. Others describe feeling that their knowledge and experience from a life-long contribution to one organization is under-valued and not respected. This emotion frequently leads them to go-elsewhere where they do feel respected and where their life-long organization loses the potential on offer –often without ever knowing what was lost!

There are also liabilities and the loss of priceless advantages for organizations in cutting ties with long-term members and employees. The commonly lost advantages are the ones that mostly go without any insight or consideration as to the potential value and that is the collective, intellect, wisdom, knowledge and experience of the lost elders – the intangible assets. Then there are the more tangible losses such as particular and readily transferrable skills or insights. The liabilities may include (but not always) the unresolved discontent or injury in

people who, now free of commitment or obligation, are happy to share their source of discontent with anyone who will listen – the more respected the individual, the higher the potential to damage the reputation of the organization. An on-going sense of belonging and value can temper this discontent.

What then can be done to take advantage of the benefits enjoyed by those cultures that engender and cultivate deep respect and strong ties with their elders? Some organizations appoint selected elders to “advisory committees”, others explore and positively exploit their historical knowledge, some become occasional mentors – mostly in a structured way - and a few (but not many) may be made “life members” in “recognition of service” and even fewer of these people are likely to ever hear from the organization again – what then is the value in that bestowal unless the individual can feel an on-going part of the “family”.

There is ample evidence of the willingness of our senior citizens to continue to contribute to society as they age. There is also ample evidence of the value of this contribution for those organizations that understand how to access the contribution that equates to a valuable resource made up of wisdom, knowledge and experience.

LIFE GOES ON AT THE GOLD COAST

Shortly after the shut-down was announced I contacted as many of the Gold Coast members and new inductees as I could to advise them that the next function would be scheduled after the COVID-19 precautions are lifted and to advise them that should they have difficulty with shopping or similar services, my wife and I would liaise with a member in their location to meet the requirement as best we could.

My wife Margaret Wine and I are both JP(Qual) and fill the Thursday evening shift at Australia Fair shopping mall. After the Attorney General closed down the JP signing Centres we decided that the need would not diminish and we would continue to provide JP services within our gated community and locally. Using a suitably large table and a timetable which separated visitors we were able to establish an arrangement which preserved social distancing and could be disinfected both before and after the transaction - one person at a time.

I'm over 70 and have an artificial heart valve so as things got more serious Margaret banned me from the table, but we have been pleasantly surprised by the steady trickle of work over the entire period and pleased that we have been able to continue to provide a necessary service to the community.

Clive Mitchell-Taylor OAM JP(Qual)

Gold Coast Convenor

HONOURING OUR OLDER QUEENSLANDERS

One of the really great initiatives of the Queensland Branch over the past eight years has been to honour outstanding senior Queensland volunteers through its senior volunteer awards.

If there is an outstanding volunteer over 60 years of age who has impressed you by their selfless acts of encouragement and support in your community we would love you to nominate that person for one of these awards,

It's not too late to nominate. The closing date for nominations for the eighth annual Senior Volunteer Awards is extended to **Friday 11 December 2020**. The nomination form is included as a flyer with this edition of *The Order* or can be downloaded from our website at <https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/queensland/senior-volunteer-award/>

SUNSHINE COAST REPORT

As I write this Report I am in the process of organising our second Regional function for 2020. The first one was back in March on Bribie Island before Covid19. This one will be held at the Mercure Hotel at Kawana Waters with all health directives adhered to.

During the past months I have corresponded with members and have received some interesting feedback with regard to their lives during this unusual restrictive lifestyle and I thought I would share some of these.

As Investitures have taken on a different format I have chosen Brian's description which also relates to other member "I was joined by my wife Carene and our son and daughter. It was a beautiful day and so well organized, that each family group was escorted through the whole procedure by a helper, and each family group had their own very personal investiture with the Governor and his wife, with plenty of time for us to have a good chat with their excellencies. We also had our own setting for the drinks and delicious food afterwards, all cooked on the premises by the Governor's chefs. It was a very special day for us all."

Fay wrote "I am the Artistic Director of the Sunshine Coast Oriana Choir and we haven't met to sing in rehearsal since March. It's all very frustrating! I have been taking rehearsals on Zoom but they are not for everyone as the singers have to be muted. So, they can't hear themselves but they can hear me playing the piano and directing operations. They can see each other socially so it's been good for them."

Other members have spent the time supporting friends by 'phone and providing gifts and food for those needing support discovering new talents such as painting, gardening and using Zoom. Some members have had to suffer the death and/or illness of loved ones but have still had time to help others and to write poems about our present situation.

We also had one of our members featured in the last copy of "The Order" (Air Commodore Bill Monaghan AM AFC) as the longest standing Association member of the original 1975 Honours List who had to wait 2 years to be invested.

The members in the Sunshine Coast Region are a resilient group of people who enjoy meeting together but when this is not possible we don't lose hope but just change our way of life to suit the circumstance.

Marjorie Voss OAM -OAA Sunshine Coast Convenor

VICTORIA Branch



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr Helene Bender OAM

Welcome to the last Chairman's Report for 2020.

At the time of writing this report in mid-November it is pleasing to report some restrictions have been lifted and more are expected next week giving us greater opportunities to return to a new normal. When Victoria does reopen, please take the time to venture out and support the local businesses and services, their future is in our hands.

Investitures for 2020 Australia Day recipients will commence on Thursday November 5. This is wonderful news and we thank our Governor of Victoria, Linda Dessau AC and her staff for their planning to ensure the events are safe and every recipient feels special.

On a positive note I thank our Branch and the Regional Groups for staying connected with our members during 2020; it is important we continue to look after each other.

The VIC Branch annual lunch on November 17 was a virtual webinar event, with our Patron Her Excellency, The Governor of Victoria, Linda Dessau AC welcoming members and guests ahead of guest speaker Dr Robbie Gillies OAM. Robbie is a medical doctor working at the Alfred Hospital and the founder of a number of different Australian charities that benefit people impacted by homelessness or hardship. He was the Young Australian of the Year for Victoria in 2016, and Young Victorian of the Year 2017.

MC David Mann AM introduced Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship recipient Juanita Kelly-Mundine who spoke about her scholarship, work and community activities since being presented with her scholarship at the OAA National Conference in Adelaide May 2018.

As we farewell 2020 the VIC Branch takes this opportunity to thank all our members who have renewed their annual or three year membership this year, and the 2020 Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Order of Australia Honours and Awards recipients who have joined the Association during lockdown and times of uncertainty. We also value the ongoing support of our Life Members.

Please stay safe and well, enjoy your upcoming festive celebrations and we will talk further in 2021.

WHERE IS THE OAA MERCHANDISE SHOP?

Every time you receive your copy of *The Order*, whether by email or post, you also receive a reminder on the back cover of the OAA-badged products that you can buy. Every week, orders arrive from members and branches who wish to recognise their affiliation with the OAA or maybe give a gift to a guest speaker – keyrings are particularly popular for that.

You can order by email, post, telephone or, most conveniently, through the OAA website. But do you know where the ‘merchandise shop’ actually is? In fact, it doesn’t exist, at least not in bricks and mortar. The merchandise service – and that’s what it is, after all, more than a shop – is handled by the Victorian Branch of the Association and a Merchandise subcommittee.

A National Agreement with the VIC Branch was created in 2014 at the time of the National Conference in Melbourne to handle OAA merchandise sales at that conference. Thereafter the VIC Branch was mandated to manage all matters pertaining to OAA-badged merchandise on behalf of the National Board.

The Merchandise subcommittee was reconstituted in 2019 on the retirement of a number of members and continues with the same mandate. This includes planning of merchandise design and production, purchase and storage, sales and dispatch. The subcommittee liaises with members Australia-wide to provide an appropriate merchandise service and sends out information via newsletters, emails and publications agreed communication channels.

The subcommittee began 2019 by sending out a survey to a sample of members to get their feedback on current stock, what they buy and why, and what they would like to see in the future. As a result, in 2019 and 2020 a number of older items have been discontinued and several new products have been introduced.

Many of the survey respondents said they were disappointed that male members of the OAA had a choice of items designed for them, notably a range of different ties. What are you going to do for female members? they asked.

In response, in 2020 two new ‘gender-neutral’ items were introduced, targeting also younger members who may not wear ‘corporate’ ties and cufflinks but who nevertheless want to buy OAA-branded items -- the ‘Loop’ inductive phone charger and a multi-country adaptor pack. Most recently, the subcommittee launched a new tie for those male members who wanted something different and sophisticated but less corporate.

But the ‘hit’ of the past 12 months has undoubtedly been the silk scarf introduced specifically to respond to requests from female members. The scarf has sold out in less than a year and has been re-ordered, with a variant colour also being available.

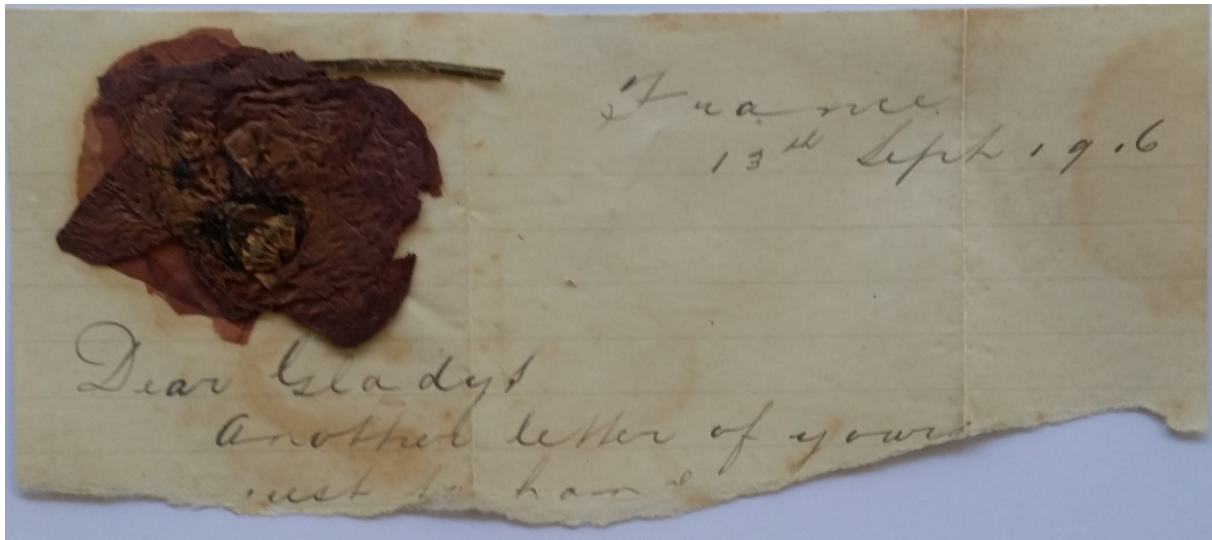
The scarf (pictured) was designed by Melbourne artist Helen Vita and features a collage of golden wattle with the OAA crest on each end.



The subcommittee is always happy to receive members' feedback and suggestions via email: chairmerchandise@theorderofaustralia.asn.au.

Professor June Kane AM
Chair, Merchandise Subcommittee

THE POPPY OF THE UNKNOWN AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER



Wednesday, 13th September 1916 and the red poppy above is picked from the battlefields in France by an Unknown Australian Soldier and sent with a letter to his friend, Gladys Withers.

Emily Gladys (Gladys) was the eldest of the five surviving children, four girls and a boy, of the Artist, Walter Withers and his wife, Fanny, the family residing at "Southernwood", Eltham, Victoria.

Gladys carefully pressed the poppy in her Bible, along with a torn fragment of the letter and it was only very recently that by chance I discovered the poppy while researching the many newspaper cuttings that Gladys had kept within her Bible relating to family friends on Active Service in the First World War.

During the First World War the Withers family home, "Southernwood" in Eltham was a hive of activity with numerous friends visiting before heading to the Front.

Sadly, Walter Withers died on 13th October 1914 only weeks after the War commenced, leaving behind the Eltham landscape that he had painted into many of his works, including "The Drover" in 1912 that captures the local Eltham butcher, Mr William James Capewell on his horse with his dog pushing a flock of sheep along a dusty Eltham road.

In September 1915, Mr Capewell enlisted in the Remount Unit, and travelled to Egypt in November 1915 as one of the Light Horsemen along with the Remount Unit, Honorary Veterinary Officer, Andrew Barton (Banjo) Paterson, who later became Officer in Charge of the Remount Unit.

Another Light Horseman to embark with Mr Capewell was William Frederick Longstaff, best known for his painting, "Menin Gate at Midnight" who along with his cousin, John Longstaff also regularly visited the Withers home.

Others to visit were Louis McCubbin, Hugh Comson Trumble, Francis Edward Fairweather and John Martin Paterson, a fellow student at the National Gallery of Victoria Art School with Gladys's younger sister, Margery Pitt Withers. John and Margery became engaged before John headed to the Front, but sadly he was never to return, being Killed In Action in France on 11th August 1918.

Another regular visitor was Tyrrell George Evans who was injured in France and returned to marry Gladys's younger sister, Mary Joyce Pitt Withers. Their first daughter, Mary Roberta (Molly) Evans who was born on 8th February 1921 was later to become the much loved advocate for working women and active WEL member for over 43 years, Mary Owen OAM who died on 23rd March 2017.

It was Mary Owen who inherited the Bible from her aunt Gladys, who died some sixty years ago, then in more recent times Mary passed the Bible to her cousin and Godson of Gladys, John Withers who then passed the Bible into my care and as a help with my research into his grandfather, Walter Withers and his family.

Along with the poppy there are also two cardboard buttons in the Bible, one 3 cm in diameter that promotes the 8th Brigade Depot, 46 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, while the second button, 4 cm in diameter, promotes ANZAC Remembrance Day, Friday, 17th December 1915.

The poppy from the Unknown Australian Soldier rests within the pages of the Bible, faded and fragile, yet also a powerful symbol of Remembrance.

It is very much a National Treasure, and being such, one that I feel should be donated to the Nation along with the Bible as a gift to all Australians.

Andrew Mackenzie OAM

Art Historian – Mornington Peninsula Regional Group

KAREN HAYES AM DSJ, CEO GUIDE DOGS VICTORIA JOINS THE IGDF BOARD



It has been a challenging year for many of us as we have found ourselves navigating this unprecedented global crisis. There have, however, been silver linings. At Guide Dogs Victoria, the onset of COVID-19 gave us the impetus we needed to extend telepractice to ensure the continuity of care for our Clients – Victorians with low vision or blindness – as well as our online Client community hub; a comprehensive platform for information-sharing and creating meaningful connections.

The innovation and agility of the entire Guide Dogs Victoria community has not gone unnoticed, as in April of this year we were voted Australia's Most Trusted Charity for the 7th time; an accolade and responsibility we do not take lightly. The trust our Clients

place in us every day to help them overcome barriers, the trust our supporters place in us to use their generous contributions wisely, and the trust the community has in us to fulfil our mission is both humbling and enormously inspiring.

It appears that trust also extends beyond our borders, as I was recently appointed a member of the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF) Board, the most significant peak body for Guide Dogs associations globally. I was honoured to accept this appointment, and the opportunities it will provide to advocate for the Clients we serve.

Guide Dogs Victoria has relished a rich 60 year old history but we are by no means trapped in the past. A strong values-based organisation, much of the success we have enjoyed can be directly attributed to a spirit of courage and continuous improvement, and our commitment to collaboration. The strength of our relationship with IGDF has ensured that we continue to improve outcomes for the people we support with our high-quality Guide Dogs.

Our breeding lines have been developed with the support of IGDF Members and peers from around the globe - UK, US, Japan, France to name but a few. We've also been in a position to reciprocate with those countries and more including New Zealand, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore.

Before I joined Guide Dogs Victoria, I enjoyed a decades-long international career in the professional services sector. While others may envy the life I had, I firmly believe it all led me to exactly where I was meant to be – working with an amazing, dedicated team and building incredible global partnerships to improve outcomes for people living with low vision or blindness. I am honoured and proud to lead such an outstanding team of passionate people, and to represent this team, our Clients, and everything we stand for on a global scale.

A TIME FOR REFLECTION:

Having been born during the Second World War in Melbourne where it was experiencing blackouts at the time [as I was told] and having lived my life in Melbourne for all my years I have seen outstanding change, not only in Melbourne but the world as a whole.

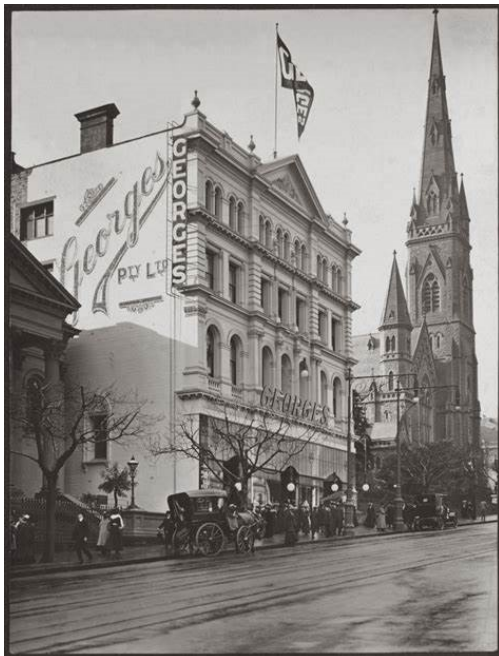
From that change which would cover motor vehicles, aeroplanes, trains and shipping, technology and living standards as well as the great change and inroads in medicine and the treatment of disease and infection means that in general, we have benefited greatly. The eradication of smallpox and the near eradication of polio myelitis have saved countless hundreds of thousands of people; and the hunt is one to curtail malaria which stills kills and infects millions of people annually. Some of these changes if not all of course have also created issues.

These issues may include pollution, although technology has and is still working on remedial treatment to reduce it further. Living standards, although technology has accelerated in many instances our manner of life style. Medicine and treatments have made great inroads, although overpopulation has now become an issue

But through the good and the bad, life goes on. Sometimes harder than one would wish for, but life continues and for me as the writer, I am constantly so happy that I am here in this great Nation of ours during this dreadful time of the global pandemic brought about by COVID-19.

As a Melbournite, living under tight restrictions with a Stage 4 lockdown I feel frustrated but at the same time I feel safe in the knowledge that it is, what it is and that people in other Countries are doing it tougher and have done it far tougher than we here “down under”. I am not living with gun fire nor rockets or bombs or direct physical civil disturbances as it is in some places currently around the globe, nor have I lived like millions of people lived during that time when I was born and when millions of people perished.

I was not alive during the Spanish Influenza pandemic but I am alive during this one and I give grateful thanks that our understanding of cause and effect with disease, has progressed to the extent that we are being “saved” from that type of fallout. So currently it is tough but it could be tougher. Families have lost loved ones in the most difficult of circumstances caused and bought about by this deadly infection.



Thoughts now turn towards the End of Year festivals and all the happiness that they bring. For those who have lost loved ones during the course of the year, it will be subdued as is the norm. If by then restrictions have eased somewhat, there shall be a further cause for celebration although we shall still be living under the spectre of this deadly disease.

It is what it is.

On behalf of the Committee of Management and the membership of our Regional Group I would wish all our Association members as well as the peoples of our Nation a bright, safe and Happy New Year.

Graeme L Woolacott OAM - Chairman - South Central Suburban Regional Group

OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron: The Governor of Victoria

Her Excellency The Hon. Linda Dessau AC

Chairman

Dr Helene Bender OAM

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Deputy Chairman

Dr Yvonne Ho AM

Secretary

Fred Harrington OAM

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Treasurer

Alan Brook OAM

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Branch Nominated Director

William Lye OAM QC

Editor VIC pages – The Order

Dr Helene Bender OAM

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Events Chairman

Peter Jones AM

Merchandise Chairman

Professor June Kane AM

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Committee members

Pam Robinson OAM

Barbara Thomas OAM

Membership Secretary (Co-opted)

Tony Smith OAM

SOUTH AUSTRALIA Branch

BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE:

The SA Branch has continued to function, adapting to the various COVID-19 requirements. We have continued to issue supplementary newsletters each month to keep our members updated. The Branch Committee and the Fellowship group have resumed face-to-face activities (subject to social gathering compliance). His Excellency the Governor has conducted a series of investitures for Australia Day recipients during September, and similar ceremonies for Queen's Birthday recipients are planned for November. The committee is now considering how we might effectively hold a Welcome Reception for these new recipients. We are confirming our social activities in December and January and making arrangements for our AGM in February.

I would like to remind our members that if they would prefer to receive our Branch newsletter via email they should advise our Member Secretary Mr Greg Gordon OAM JP, oaasambrsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Keep Safe

Tony Metcalf OAM
SA Branch Chair

chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

BRANCH COMMITTEE DETAILS:

Office-holders and committee members

Patron

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

Chairman

Tony Metcalf OAM

Deputy Chairman

Noel Hender OAM BEM

Secretary

Paul Thomas AM

Treasurer

John McKellar AM ED

Regional Groups Coordinator

Ken Coventry OAM JP

Member Secretary SA

Mr Greg Gordon OAM JP (co-opted)

Merchandise Officer

Mrs June Genders OAM (co-opted)

Editor

Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP

Other committee members

Martin FitzPatrick OAM

Brian Holecek OAM

Flavia de Pasquale OAM

John Phillips OAM

Pamela Rajkowski OAM

Gillian Rogers OAM

National Director

John McKellar AM ED

Website

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

REGIONAL GROUP CONVENORS:

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Rex Keily AM JP

RNKeily@activ8.net.au

South East Regional Group

Eric Roughana AM

roseric1@bigpond.com

Riverland Regional Group

Tim Grieger OAM JP

tgrieger@riverland.net.au

Barossa Regional Group

orderofaustraliasa@gmail.com

Gawler and District Regional Group

orderofaustraliasa@gmail.com

CITIZENSHIP RESOURCE VOLUNTEERS

The SA Branch is currently looking at a new initiative to engage with the younger members of our community. We are exploring the level of interest amongst our members in visiting secondary schools on invitation as resource volunteers.

The role of a 'Citizenship Resource Volunteer' will be to support teachers in delivering a prepared classroom lesson from the Citizenship Knowledge and Understanding Strand, Civics and Citizenship, which looks at the Australian National Honours system and the ways in which individuals may contribute to civic life and serve others.

Prior to the classroom visit, volunteers will be provided with a short induction via Zoom.

The first such induction session was held on 23 September facilitated by Noel Hender OAM BEM, with ten participants joining the online session. Malcolm McInerney (Department for Education), a subject matter expert in Humanities education and current Manager of the Governor's Civics Awards for Schools, gave an overview of the Citizenship Knowledge and Understanding Strand, Civics and Citizenship from the Australian Curriculum for Schools. Paul Rosenzweig OAM provided an overview of the Australian Honours System and the Order of Australia. Noel provided details regarding the management of the process.

Some of these volunteers will take part in an initial pilot program in schools to test the program's feasibility. We hope this initiative will allow our members to involve themselves in working with the community in a meaningful way.

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Following on from the first 'virtual meeting' held via Zoom on 30 April, and with the easing of restrictions in SA, on 25 June the Fellowship Group was able to hold its scheduled luncheon meeting at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club – using Zoom as well. Twelve guests attended for lunch, complying with density, distancing and hygiene requirements. Meanwhile technology allowed an additional ten participants to join online – including the convenor Bryce Saint OAM who gave a very eloquent welcome.

Also joining the gathering was the guest speaker, Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP (ret'd), who gave his presentation online, projected via the 'big screen' at the NMAF Club. His topic was 'Orders of the World'. Paul delivered a comprehensive, well-illustrated and multi-level outline of various distinguished orders of chivalry and their significance, using examples from his own collection.

Paul is a retired Army officer with experience in East Timor/Timor Leste and the Philippines. Paul has collected orders, decorations and medals for about 45 years: his passion is to research both the awards and the recipients. He has published widely, including in the Journal of the Orders and Medals Research Society of London.

One of his major publications was the book *For Service. Awards of the Order of Australia for service to the Northern Territory 1975-1995*. This was compiled over several years in a voluntary capacity and published in 1995 by the Historical Society of the Northern Territory. The foreword was provided by the Right Honourable Sir Zelman Cowen AK GCMG GCVO QC.

This was the first face-to-face Fellowship lunch meeting also using Zoom. This was followed by a similar gathering on Thursday 27 August, with Pamela Rajkowski OAM talking on 'Homes, Housing, Holidays and Philanthropy – In the steps of Elder, Barr Smith and Waite'.

Members can register for a Fellowship lunch by contacting Flavia; those who wish to connect by Zoom should provide their name and email address to Pamela. We hope to see you all again soon.

Flavia de Pasquale OAM, flaviadepasquale@yahoo.com.au

Pamela Rajkowski OAM, pamraj@bigpond.com



The June Fellowship gathering attracted 12 lunch guests at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club plus 10 online participants from Victor Harbor to Glenelg, and north to Munno Para and as far as Loxton. The online participants included the Convenor Mr Bryce Saint OAM who welcomed all participants, and the guest speaker Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP who gave his presentation online, projected onto the 'big screen' at the NMAF Club.



The August Fellowship gathering attracted 13 lunch guests at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club plus 7 online participants. The Guest Speaker was Pamela Rajkowski OAM (far left) and the MC was Professor John McKellar AM ED (far right).

[LINDSAY BOWES AM \(1921-2020\)](#)

The SA Branch acknowledges the passing of Mr Lindsay Burton Bowes AM (1921-2020) in Adelaide on 13 August 2020, aged 98. Lindsay was born on 21 August 1921, and during World War 2 served in the Militia and AIF from 16 February 1943 to 12 March 1946, attaining the rank of Sergeant. He was the first head of the SA Department of Labour when it was created in July 1959. Lindsay was the first State Vice President and the fourth National President of the Industrial Relations Society of SA Inc, and a Life Member. He was also the Senior Past Grandmaster of Freemasons in SA and the NT. Lindsay was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the 1979 Queen's Birthday Honours List, "*In recognition of service to the Public Service*". Lindsay was a Life Member of the Order of Australia Association, and was the inaugural Chairman of the SA Branch. A private family funeral was held on 20 August due to COVID restrictions.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY Branch

ACT BRANCH CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Our COVID-19 hiatus is at an end at last! What a pleasure it has been to see friends old and new in person over the past few weeks. On 21 and 28 October we hosted new recipients from the Australia Day and Queen's Birthday lists and their partners for breakfast at the Commonwealth Club

In the last edition of *The Order*, we reported that our Student Awards had been cancelled for 2020 in order to give relief to ACT teachers, who bear the load of developing nominations. I'm delighted to announce that the Branch Committee decided to donate the \$1200 we had budgeted for the Awards to the Association's Foundation. We are very proud to be supporting the Association's primary charity and through it a young Australian tertiary student.

In mid-October, a small number of ACT Branch members accepted the Board's invitation to attend an online consultation session to discuss the new Constitution. The National Chairman explained the rationale for change, outlined the major new ideas and described the process, while Director Victoria explained legal and regulatory matters. The Committee has been very pleased by the way the Board has engaged the Branch throughout this journey, and we wish the Board, particularly the Chair of the Constitution Working Group, Robin Watts AM, every success as they bring it to a conclusion.

Towards the end of October a small planning committee held an initial meeting to consider an outline approach to the 2022 National Conference. There is a lot of work to be done to make any conference work, and this will be no exception. We will soon be calling for more hands, so please consider whether you would like to make a contribution to our planning effort by joining the committee.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish all members a peaceful Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year.

Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM

ACT Branch Chairman

OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

Gen Peter Gration AC OBE

Branch Nominated Director

Dr Alan Morrison AM

Chair

Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM
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Secretary

Robert Altamore OAM

Treasurer

Terry O'Brien OAM RFD

Committee Members

Lynne Duckham OAM
Narelle Hargreaves AM
Bill Maiden PSM OAM
Andrew Phelan AM
Coralie Wood OAM
Phil Morrall AM, CSC

ANNE WALSH OAM - A QUIET ACHIEVER IN THE 2020 QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS



The eldest of seven children from a sheep and cattle farm near Gunning, NSW, 18-year-old Anne Walsh, who has an intellectual disability, took a big step to join the newly established L'Arche Genesaret community in Canberra in 1982.

Anne recalls "I was scared to go in the car. The farm was a really good place to live and I wasn't sure what was going to happen."

Brendan Price, Anne Walsh OAM

A gentle and calm woman, she flourished in a supportive community that respects people's dignity, affirms their worth and encourages their growth.

The story of Anne's involvement with L'Arche reflects the growth of the organisation, which now has seven homes in Canberra caring for 23 core members, and Anne is their passionate Number One Ambassador.

Anne puts it so simply - "L'Arche has helped me to grow as a person, to do things that can be challenging. Sometimes we have things that make us feel nervous or anxious. You have to give it a go. I came to L'Arche as a shy young lady and now I am confident and outgoing."

Anne has done well, whether in her role as a L'Arche board member, representing Australia at L'Arche's 50-year celebrations in Paris six years ago, or speaking to hundreds of students at St Clare's College and Marist College, which support L'Arche.

She also had success as a middle-distance runner and Paralympian. At the age of 25, Anne was part of the Australian team for the first World Championships for the Intellectually Disabled in Sweden, coming home with a silver medal for the 1500m event. She competed at the Paralympics in Madrid a few years later and later said "I beat the woman who had beaten me in Sweden and I broke the world record twice in the 3000m and 5000m races."

Anne was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2020 Queen's Birthday Honours *for service to people with an intellectual disability*. Ask her which award she prizes most; her sporting medals or the Queen's Birthday honour, there is no hesitation. "The Queen's Birthday one, because it's about what I've achieved with my whole life."

L'Arche community leader Brendan Price said L'Arche was thrilled for Anne - "L'Arche seeks to make known the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities so it's fantastic to see Anne honoured this way. We would love to be better known and this award gives us the chance to share our story. So many of us are caught up in achieving and doing things but L'Arche calls us back to relationships of the heart. That is where we grow. It's not about how we perform but how we are as people that matters."

L'Arche Genesaret is a community of people with and without intellectual disability, sharing life in the community, belonging to an International Federation in the Christian tradition, founded by Jean Vanier. L'Arche is a French word meaning 'the Ark' and Genesaret is a place name from the Gospels. The Canberra L'Arche community was founded in 1978.

This is an abridged version of an article first printed in The Catholic Voice

MEET OUR MEMBERS – DAVID SAVAGE AM



David Savage AM has served in a range of diverse roles, both in Australia and throughout the world. He joined the Australian Federal Police at 18 years of age, serving for almost 20 years in Australia and on Peacekeeping operations in nations including Mozambique, Bougainville in PNG, and East Timor, before he joined the United Nations as a Human Rights and War Crimes investigator. He was the Chief Investigator in the United Nations Serious Crimes Unit in East Timor for four years and has investigated war crimes and human rights violations in Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. David also worked for the International Crisis Group, the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, and other human rights organisations throughout South, and

South East Asia,

As a member of the Australian Federal Police contingent serving with the UNAMET mission in the Maliana region of East Timor in 1999 during the violence following East Timor's decision to separate from Indonesia, David was awarded the Group Bravery Citation and his book "*Dancing with the Devil. Policing the East Timor Vote for Independence*" was released in 2002, forming the basis for the ABC mini-series *Answered by Fire*.

Whilst working with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade he was seconded to AusAID's Australian Civilian Corps, where he served as a Stabilisation Advisor with the Coalition's Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan from 2011-12. In late March 2011, David became Australia's first civilian casualty in Afghanistan when his patrol was attacked by a child suicide bomber and he was critically wounded.

In 2013 David became an Ambassador for *Soldier On*, a veteran's charity, supporting those suffering as a result of their service in the Australian Defence Force and he is also a founding member of the AFP Former Members Association to assist retired and non-serving members of the AFP.

David was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2014 *for significant service to international relations through roles in development aid, human rights abuse and war crime investigations, and peacekeeping* and was an ACT finalist in the 2015 Australian of the Year awards.

On 21 September, World Peace Day, David was honoured to receive the ACT Chief Minister's Peace Prize, and he was also announced as the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International 2020 Paul Harris Fellow *in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friends relations amongst peoples of the world.*

Now retired, David continues to write and has a chapter in the Australian National University's forthcoming book *Niche Wars* and is co-authoring a book on the involvement of the Australian Federal Police in East Timor. He is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy at the ANU.

VALE

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

Mrs Tonia SHAND AM – Queen's Birthday 1990 – For public service.

Dr Graeme WORBOYS AM – Australia Day 2020 – For significant service to conservation and the environment and to the community.

WA Branch

BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE



With the lifting of severe restrictions in WA, and to enable social distancing to be maintained, Government House held Investitures over 3 days for both Australia Day and Queen's Birthday recipients in August.

Western Australian members are indeed fortunate that these lesser restrictions have made it possible to hold two major events in the last quarter.

Our Queen's Birthday Reception, held in August, was a wonderful evening and we were able to comply with current restrictions with 150 people, which included 31 of the 51 new awardees, attending with their guests.

Royal Perth Golf Club was the venue for our Annual Dinner which was held in September and 126 members and guests enjoyed a beautiful meal. Our guest speaker – Professor John Newnham AM gave an inspirational speech highlighting the research and work being done to alleviate pre-term birth problems.

We extend our thoughts to fellow members in other states who are experiencing much more severe restrictions and hope they will soon be through this very difficult time.

OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron: Hon Kim Beazley AC Governor of Western Australia

Vice Patron: Hon Kerry Sanderson AC CVO

Chairman : Mrs Bettine Heathcote AM

Secretary: Miss Margaret Lobo AM

Treasurer: Mr Peter Snow OAM

WA National Director: Ms Robin Watts AM

Committee: Capt. Michael Bleus OAM CSC Convenor Police Patron Scheme

Mr Geoffrey Cattach AM

Prof Lorraine Hammond AM

Mr William Hassell AM JP " Newsletter editor"

Dr Jackie Scurlock OAM WA Editor of "The Order."

Mrs Rebecca Tolstoy AM

Regional Liaison: Mrs Margaret Nunn OAM

REGIONAL CONVENORS

South West Region: Hon Barry House AM

Great Southern Region : Ms Jan Savage OAM

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RECEPTION FOR RECIPIENTS OF QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS 2020

This was held on 11 August in the Bendat Parent and Community Centre at the Telethon Speech and Hearing Centre.

The staff of Telethon Speech and hearing Centre were very accommodating with regard to the COVID-19 restrictions still in place in WA. We were able to hold the event with 150 people attending including 31 of the 50 new awardees.

Once again this was a very distinguished group from all walks of life. Among them were four OAs: Colin Beckett, Denise Goldsworthy, Bryant Stokes and Ron Manners.

Bettine Heathcote welcomed each one and was able to give a short account of the attendees' citations.

Marie Kormendy AM responded and then all present enjoyed the refreshments afterwards.

Among the awardees was Dr John Byrne AM, whose profound deafness was accommodated by the Telethon Speech and Hearing Centre with the help of their technician, Geoffrey Omwoyo. He was accompanied by his wife, Trixie.

DR JOHN BYRNE AM

Dr Byrne became severely deaf between the ages of 8 and 12 years. He had therefore developed speech before becoming deaf. He does not use Auslan or lip reading but has always relied on information to be put in writing.

He writes "As an aside, that did not hold me back. I had a doctorate in my early 20s followed by several overseas post docs. As an undergraduate I sat at the back for the first lecture and scanned for students who were taking notes. Next lecture I would sit next to one and ask if I could share the notes, and they usually agreed. Often there was more than one good notetaker and my second criterion was to choose the prettiest girl. I met my wife at university and next year is our 50th anniversary. Another thing about lectures is that the lecturer rarely says anything original. They get it from text books. From first year high school onwards, I always asked what text books were being used and read them.

When I was young it was pen and paper. As I got older, I was able to ensure that one of the employees who reported to me was a good and willing typist to assist me at meetings.”

Dr Byrne is Commissioner for the Equal Opportunity Commission.

He initiated the process of captioning for free to air TV, pay TV and cinema industries.

There is now automatic captioning using software that John writes is getting better all the time. He and his wife use it on their mobile phones, as do his grandchildren. They talk into their mobile phones and he is able to read the transcript! Geoffrey Omwoyo from Telethon Speech and Hearing used it on the night of the Reception and it went well.

At present Dr Byrne is still not able to use it at Business Meetings. There he is supported by a real-time steno-captioner who uses computer assisted captioning.



Mr Geoffrey Omwoyo and Dr John Byrne AM

THE POLICE RECRUIT SQUAD PATRON SCHEME

The scheme was started by the Police Commissioner Barry Mathews in 2000.

This was modeled on a similar scheme used with success in Auckland New Zealand.

The first WA Patron to launch the scheme in October 2000 was Kevin Campbell AM.

The purpose of the Squad Patron Scheme is to provide recruits-in-training with access to an esteemed member of our community who can reinforce the community expectations of police officers, whilst providing personal advice and guidance as appropriate.

On graduating a recruit (selected by his/her peers) is presented with the Good Samaritan Award by the Squad Patron which is sponsored by the Order of Australia Association WA Branch. The officer selected has displayed unselfish kindness and generosity to other squad members and being prepared to ‘walk the extra mile’ in support of their colleagues.

Members interested in becoming Patrons can contact the Patron Coordinator, Capt Michael Bleus on 0450 603 643

Squad Patrons meet for coffee and a chat to share their experiences at the Academy.



L-R : Lynne Cohen AM, Michael Bleus OAM, Karena Ballard AM, Wendy Ireland OAM and Lloyd Blake OAM

JACK LE CRAS AM – 75 YEARS AGO

75 years since the signing of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender the West Australian newspaper published an article on Jack Le Cras AM. On the 2nd September 1945 he was one of three motorboat crew who ferried Australian Vice-Admiral John Collins to the USS Missouri to attend the ceremony of the formal surrender. Mr Le Cras was just 18 years old and said "they just managed to see Gen. MacArthur sign before leaving to prepare the motorboat for the return journey "

Jack was awarded an Order of Australia for service to the Community of Perth, particularly through a range of service organisations, and to the Naval Association of Australia.

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION WESTERN AUSTRALIA DINNER

On the 16th of September 126 members of OAAWA met at the Royal Perth Golf Club for dinner. The members and guests attending were greeted by WA Chair Bettine Heathcote AM. Special attendees were The Hon Kerry Sanderson AC CVO and Patron of OAA WA, Dr Ken Michael AC, Chris Dawson APM, Police Commissioner, Supt Dario Bolzonella APM, Principal of the Police Academy, and Dr John Newnham AM, Senior Australian of the Year.

The Hon Kerry Sanderson toasted the Order with a stimulating introduction.

The Guest speaker was Dr John Newnham AM, who was entertaining and informative. An attending member has written " a truly inspirational speaker who lifted all of our hearts with an ebullient flood of joy with the results of his applied research. "

A delicious meal was enjoyed by all.

We all appreciated being able to meet during a serious period in the history of the world.



L-R Hon Kerry Sanderson AC CVO Patron, Dr John Newnham AM, Bettine Heathcote AM.

[THE OAAWA PROGRAM 2020](#)

Thursday 26 November **Christmas Luncheon** at Fremantle Sailing Club

Great Southern Region

Sunday 6th December Annual Church Service at St John's Church Albany at 11.30am followed by Luncheon

[REPORT FROM OAA WA REGIONS](#)

SOUTH WEST REGION:

Barry House organized a visit to the Dolphin Discovery Centre, Bunbury on FRIDAY 30th October followed by Lunch.

GREAT SOUTHERN REGION:

Jan Savage has organized the annual Church Service, this year St John's Church, Albany on Sunday 6th December at 11.30 am followed by Luncheon and Meeting at Le Grande Motel at 1pm.

Margaret Nunn has also organized Dinner on Saturday 5th December at Rustlers Restaurant, Albany at 5.30 pm.

Barry Nunn is preparing his usual Christmas Quiz but please do not let this deter you from attending as the prize of a Chocolate Frog is not to be missed.

MARGARET NUNN OAM, Regional Co-ordinator

FOUNDATION -THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

The aim of the Foundation is to provide a Scholarship to students in the second year of a full-time, four-year University course of study, who show leadership within the community and in their studies. Applicants need to demonstrate good results to date and outline the financial assistance required to enhance the completion of their studies. All courses of tertiary study are eligible. Successful applicants are allotted a volunteer **mentor** who has been honoured with an Award in The Order of Australia. To date, 43 Scholarships have been awarded since 1999 – 21 to women and 22 to men.

Looking back over the last 20 years, this column will highlight what has happened to various Awardees, their career highlights, their comments on the impact of our Scholarship and their latest achievements.



Alexandra Grigg was awarded her Scholarship in 2011 whilst at The University of Adelaide studying the double degrees of Bachelor of Economics (Honours) and Bachelor of Finance. She lived in the rural area of Uraidla, South Australia and attended Heathfield High School. Her career dream, then, was “to change people’s perception of economic policy. I hope to one day merge the use of behavioural finance and human psychology in Fiscal policy as a career at both a national and international level”. Funding for

Alexandra’s Scholarship was generously donated by The Riddiford Trust. Her mentor is Mr Ross Adler AC.

Her honours thesis explored the impact of the Reserve Bank of Australia’s monetary policy communication on market participants’ expectations in foreign exchange markets.

When asked to summarise her recent career update Alexandra replied:

“My goal is to help build Australia into a thriving place known for its innovation, excitement, and vast opportunities. This is a big goal with multiple, intertwined components that permeate different communities. Community and financial support are equally as important; they work synergistically and achieving this goal relies on taking actions that considers both in partnership.

Over my five years in the investment industry, I have gained experience in investment origination, evaluation and portfolio management, sales and business development, investor relations and deal structuring. I have also held key leadership roles in two initial public offerings. These varying experiences have helped me to develop an holistic understanding of all aspects involved in investing and money management. As Investment Manager of the South Australian Venture Capital Fund (SAVCF), I’m able to provide financial support to SA startups, and also positively impact the community. The companies invested in by the SAVCF have launched technology into space on SpaceX rockets, hired NASA astronauts, worked with national security agencies to counter terrorism and organised crime, helped children suffering with

developmental difficulties and developed novel cancer detection methods. These programs foster founder support networks, encourage collaboration and raise awareness of how important startup investing is for economic sustainability and growth.

Beyond my SAVCF responsibilities, I'm helping establish a Female Founders Fund and developing a number of initiatives that (I hope) will create further global opportunities and local impact. These initiatives foster collaboration across industries, fund research commercialisation, create additional capital sources, provide portfolio diversification benefits and access to alternative asset classes. Long-term, this should drive innovation and accelerate growth”.

Highlights of Alexandra's career so far include:

2016: • Adelaide Festival of Ideas Inc, Board Member and Program Development Group Member • Leadership team, Duxton Water Ltd IPO

2017:• Leadership team, Duxton Broadacre Farms Ltd IPO

2018:• Selected speaker, inaugural Thriving Women Conference • Headhunted by BlueSky to help run the \$50M SAVCF

2019:• Promoted to Investment Manager, SAVCF • Co-founded Human Venture Capital • SouthStart, Investor Showcase Panellist • Co-founded, SA Startup Ecosystem Leadership Group

This year Alexandra was awarded the **Women in Finance Awards 2020– Young Leader of the Year.**

(She was one of ten finalists in her category. There were over 600 submissions for 28 categories, Australia -wide. And she is still under thirty years of age!)

When Foundation Chair, Mr Hugh Morgan AC congratulated Alexandra on her success she replied:

“I am so truly grateful, as without your support and belief in me over the past (almost) 10 years, I don't believe I would be where I am. Being awarded with an Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship is one of the most significant events in my life, and I believe, the catalyst for my excelled growth.

I cannot express how thankful I am, and I hope I can continue to make the Foundation proud”

An **Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship**, with the financial support of the donor and the professional expertise of the mentor, really **can** change lives – to benefit the next generation of leaders!