



Welcome from VIC Branch Chair

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

As we welcome warmer days, it is also pleasing to see Melbourne and Regional Victoria reopen and life slowly return to a new look normal in line with COVID-19 restrictions. Planning for 2021 VIC Branch and our Regional Group events are under way, we will keep you updated via e-Newsletters and the VIC pages on the website.

The Governor of Victoria Her Excellency the Governor of Victoria Linda Dessau AC and the team at Government House have been working hard over recent weeks holding the Investitures for Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Order of Australia Honours recipients. Based on the feedback received the recipients valued their Investiture in smaller groups. All felt special and valued the time spent with other recipients.

Last month the VIC Branch hosted our inaugural virtual annual lunch for members and guests. Please refer to page 2 and 3 for a report on the event.

Thank you to the members who completed *The Order* national magazine 'Reader Survey' a couple of months ago. The Executive summary of the outcomes were noted in the November 2020 edition of the national magazine and some changes will be introduced in the four editions next year.

A reminder the Extraordinary General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday December 17, 2020 at 2.00pm

Thank you to our members who renewed their annual or three year membership during the year and to our 2020 recipients who have joined as annual, three year or lifetime members.

As we farewell 2020 we take time to remember members and friends impacted by drought, floods, fires and the pandemic during the past 12 months, please stay strong and remember if you need any assistance please ask, we are here to help you.

The VIC Branch Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for Tuesday March 16, 2021; the agenda and nomination form will be distributed to members early next year. At the time of writing this article our aim is to have a hybrid AGM allowing face-to-face and virtual options.

On behalf of the VIC Branch committee we take this opportunity to thank you for your support during 2020.

For those who celebrate Christmas, I wish you, your family and those close to you a merry one.

For everyone else, I wish you a safe and happy festive season and a prosperous New Year to all!



We look forward to a successful year and seeing you at events face-to-face or virtual in 2021.

Remembrance Day



Commemorated from home

Every year, at 11 am on 11 November—the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month—we pause to remember those men and women who have died or suffered in all wars and times of conflict.

This year marked the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

As the world welcomed peace, thousands returned home to much fanfare, and their loved ones.

Thousands more never made the journey home. In a time this year when many of us are unable to see our family and friends in person, we were invited to honour the memory of homecoming, reunion and sacrifice on Remembrance Day.

Shrine of Remembrance reopened on November 23, 2020

VIC Branch Inaugural Virtual Annual Lunch 2020

The virtual annual lunch on Tuesday November 17, 2020 allowed many members, who for varying reasons have not attended an event in recent years the opportunity to catch up with other members and have a chat at the end of the formalities.

David Mann AM as always was excellent MCing the lunch ensuring it flowed well.



He welcomed Her Excellency the Governor of Victoria Linda Dessau AC and thanked her and her husband for the positive and supportive approach they have taken during the Victorian lockdown.

The Governor thanked the members in attendance for the contribution they have and are making to the community in many ways. She was also pleased with the lifting of some restrictions that the Order of Australia Honours Investitures returned to Government House early November.

Juanita Kelly-Mundine was presented with her Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship at the 2018 National Conference in Adelaide to assist her complete a Master of Cultural Materials Conservation at the University of Melbourne, she graduated with first class Honours.



David Mann asked Juanita about her studies and employment opportunities over the past couple of years. As a component of her Masters, Juanita travelled to the Western Kimberley Region to Warmun Art Centre.

She was able to learn from cultural leaders in the community about the local Art Centre, cultural and art-making practices and conservation projects which had been previously undertaken. Juanita also travelled to the Philippines to contribute to a symposium with representatives from the National Museum of the Philippines in the rural town of Guiuan in Eastern Samar. The project was concerned with the restoration of the heritage listed Immaculate Conception Parish Church's.

She was selected as a participant for the National Gallery of Australia's Indigenous Arts Leadership Program. In this program she demonstrated her growing potential for cultural leadership in the arts and furthered her research of art and cultural institutions' governance structures.

This year due to work opportunities falling through during COVID-19, Juanita worked in her mother's family business; this involved working in procurement and social diversity inclusion within the supply chain, particularly within the Indigenous community.

She enrolled in a secondary Masters at The University of Technology Sydney in Intellectual Property Law with the aim of being able to contribute to policy and legislation around First National Cultural Intellectual Property, particularly within the Arts and Conservation.

Juanita has been selected for an Aurora International Scholarship as a participant in their 2020 Study Tour and Symposium. The program creates a strong network of Indigenous peers with a record of outstanding academic success and the program supports its participants to pursue international study pathways at large academic institution.

A worthy OAA Foundation scholarship recipient with a passion for creative arts and the community

David Mann AM when introducing guest speaker Dr Robbie Gillies OAM said his journey for a 30 year old is amazing.

Dr Robbie has founded four charities, studied four university degrees, volunteered overseas and in remote Australian communities – and now works as a doctor in The Alfred emergency department.

A friend suggested to Robbie he read Peter Singer's book – The Life You Can Save; it certainly made him aware of his potential.

Robbie spoke with passion about the birth of HoMie. Possibly his most renowned enterprise - a not-for-profit clothing store set up to provide new clothes, training and employment to young people experiencing homelessness.

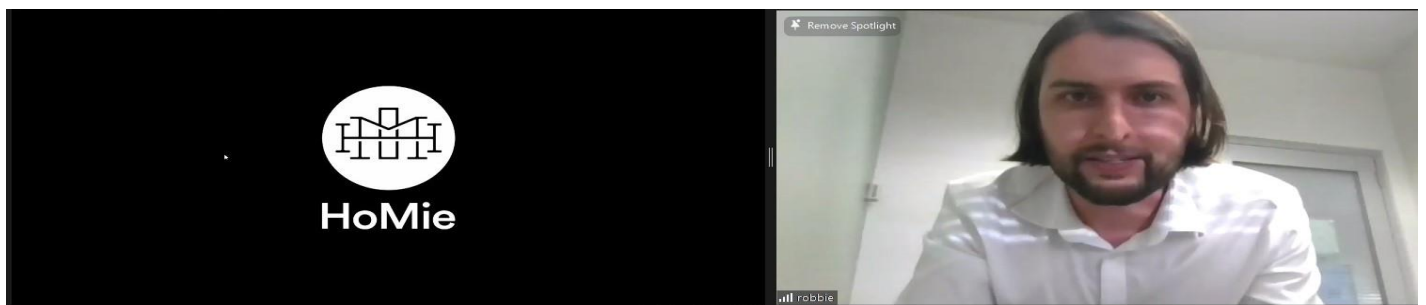
He and two friends started the clothing enterprise off the back of their hugely successful Homeless of Melbourne Facebook page in 2015.

They wanted to find out more about homelessness in Melbourne so they walked around the city and chatted to people living rough. This changed their attitudes about homelessness and they found the community was keen to support them make a difference.

HoMie has now become a thriving business on Brunswick Street assisting people experiencing homelessness study, graduate, have employment and integrate back into the community and have a better future. Thanks to HoMie, Dr Robbie has learnt new skills in the not-for-profit sector and met some inspiring people along the way.

Along with studying a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery, his Masters of Public Health, a Bachelor of Medical Science and a Diploma of Philosophy, Dr Robbie is now studying Mental Health with a focus on the wellbeing of children and families.

In closing Dr Robbie said charity work doesn't have to be hard provided you are volunteering for a cause you feel positive about. Volunteering is a great place to start when wanting to make a difference.

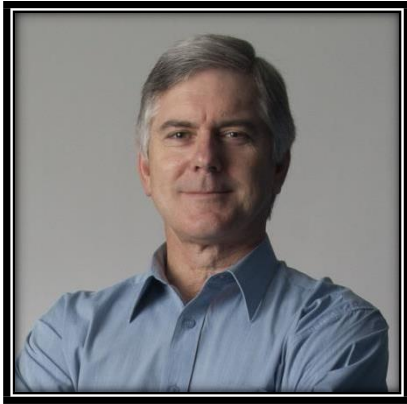


So it's a fitting tribute that Dr Robbie Gillies was named 2016 Young Victorian of the Year. We thank Dr Robbie Gillies OAM for putting into practice what he learnt from Peter Singer's book. Instead of a merchandise gift, the OAA VIC Branch made an equivalent donation to HoMie as a thank you gift.



Thank you Tony Smith OAM our VIC Branch Membership Secretary

Our VIC Branch Membership Secretary Tony Smith OAM achieved a significant milestone on 4th March just gone, when he ticked over 30 years as a member of our Association, having received his award on Australia Day 1989.



Tony joined the Royal Australian Air Force as a clerk in June 1979 and advanced through the ranks, being promoted to sergeant in 1987. He received a service commendation in that year and then was awarded an OAM in the military division for services to the Royal Australian Air Force less than two years later.

He received a commission as an officer in July 1989 and transferred from the permanent Air Force to the General

Reserve in January 2000.

Tony says, "I am always conscious when the conversation comes up about people being awarded an Order for doing their job, because I was one of those people. While I am deeply proud and grateful for the honour, I hope my 'out of hours' work, both during and after my Air Force career, have fallen into the other category of "community service".

Born and raised in South Australia, Tony's first 4½ years of Air Force service were spent within walking distance from his in-laws' home in Adelaide's northern suburbs. He was posted to RAAF East Sale in 1984 and his young family moved into Air Force housing in the Gippsland town of Sale. After commissioning in 1989, a posting to RAAF Point Cook Victoria followed and then in 1991 he took up the post as the Senior Air Force Recruiting Officer, Tasmania, based in Hobart. This began an ongoing love affair with the island state. He was posted back to East Sale in 1994 and served in various posts until January 2000 and then settled in the area.

Tony and his wife Gill became heavily involved in the local RSPCA Branch on their return to Sale in 1994 and Tony served as Vice President and then President of the Gippsland Branch for 5 years. He has also been active in operation of the only RSCPA animal shelter East of Melbourne. Many Christmas days were spent feeding animals and cleaning out pens while the paid staff had the day off. Christmas lunch came after all of the animals in the shelter were tended!

In 2000, Tony joined the Victorian WorkCover Authority as a WorkSafe Inspector and moved to his current employment in 2012, where he is the Business Risk Manager for one of the Victorian water corporations. At the time of writing, Tony is on a 3-month secondment to the Dept of Environment, Land, Water & Planning to manage the state-wide water sector climate change program.

In December 2010, Tony answered a call from the Association for a Membership Secretary and is now in his tenth year in that role. Tony says that the role has certainly expanded over that time, but also notes the improvements with our electronic database, which has made communication with members via email so much easier. Fortunately, the percentage of members with email addresses is about 95%. In the 'old days' a simple email-out to all members had to be done via his Outlook account and emailing 1800-plus addresses took about 6 hours due to the transmission restrictions and the outgoing capacity of the Association's server. Now it takes just a few minutes.

In his spare time, Tony is also Chair of the Advisory Panel for Sea Shepherd Australia (a marine conservation organisation) and a member of the global Climate Reality Leadership Corps where he regularly presents on climate change, viewed through a risk lens. He also fulfils his annual obligations as an Active Reserve Officer with the RAAF.

One of Tony's biggest regrets include not taking out Life membership of our Association as he's already paid for it twice over and hopes to be around a lot longer. "I'm not the longest serving member on our database, but I hope to be one day", he says!

December 31, 2020 we farewell Tony Smith OAM and say thank you on behalf of the VIC Branch, the Regional Groups and members for the work as our Membership Secretary. Trust you freed up time will allows you to make a difference in other areas of the community.

Fred Harrington OAM nominated for the position of Membership Secretary and takes on the role January 1, 2021. Fred will stand down as Branch Secretary at the VIC Annual General Meeting in March.

VIC Branch 2021 Events

We are pleased to have a draft program of events for 2021.

The health and safety of our members, guests and volunteers is our top priority. We will implement measures in line with the latest Victorian CHO and Department regulations and venue requirements to ensure member safety.

Wednesday February 24 - 5.30pm to 6.30pm. Virtual Cocktail Reception

Wednesday April 28 - 10.00am. Inspiring Australians Oration will be a face-to-face event

Thursday September 16 - 5.30pm to 6.30pm. Virtual Twilight Event

Tuesday November 16 – 12noon to 2.30pm. Annual lunch at William Angliss College Restaurant

Ideally we would like to return to NGV for a masterpiece event that includes a lecture, exhibition and lunch in July/August.

We plan to hold two separate events on the same day for Australia Day 2020 & 2021 and Queens Birthday 2020 & 2021 Order of Australia Honours recipients in August.

Five Red Flags of Phishing Emails: Think before You Click

A single click can be the difference between your computer's security and suffering massive data or financial losses. From the moment you take the bait in a phishing email, your system and valuable information are placed at risk. Here are a few ways to quickly spot the red flags to keep you safe

- Poor spelling and grammar
 - An offer too good to be true
 - Random sender who knows too much
 - URL or email address is not quite right
 - It asks for personal or financial information
-

Regional Group updates

Barwon Regional Group

Held a Speaker by Zoom event on Friday November 27 presented by Colin Mockett of Drop of a Hat Production; topic was 'The Celtic Quirks Of Our History - why Geelong owes its existence to an Irish policeman and its wealth to the wife of a Scottish soldier...'

We have introduced a Regional Group newsletter with two issues produced during lockdown. This newsletter is intended to add to the Brach e- newsletter and the National *The Order* magazine with local information and profiles of members. Comments of appreciation from some members have been received.

The Regional Group committee has produced and distributed a Members' Directory that lists the member's name, post nominals, date of award, date of joining the Association and the award citation. It is hoped that this directory will give members recognition of other members and an encouragement to nominate other people.

Mornington Peninsula Regional Group

On the 15th May 2020, the Chair wrote to all OAA MPRG members seeking their views on the future path and direction of MPRG and its role in the local community. A significant range of responses and ideas have been received and a small working party of Committee members is considering the suggestions.

Zoom meetings have been held and, when able, face to face meetings will be held with the respondents to flesh out their ideas.

North Central Suburbs Regional Group: In the absence of face to face events the group successfully undertook a series of Zoom sessions with members. Informal morning sessions '*Coffee with the committee*' and evening sessions, *Discussion to finish the day with guest speaker* were held in September, October and November with all sessions being well attended and appreciated by all attendees.

The September guest speaker was 2020 Honours recipient and NCSRG Member Jan Sardi AO who spoke about his journey in writing, screen writing and directing movies such as *Shine* and *Mao's Last Dancer* and his experience in Hollywood after being nominated for an Academy Award.

The guest speaker for the October meeting was NCSRG member Donalea Patman OAM founder and CEO of the not for profit organisation *For the love of wildlife*. Donalea spoke of her journey in animal welfare which began with a trip to Africa, where she first became aware of the needless killing of lions and seeing a need for their protection. Upon her return to Australia Donalea commenced a successful campaign to have the Australian Government address and ultimately ban the import of lion trophies and body parts.

The November guest speaker was Mike Brady AM who spoke about his life's journey in 'jingle' and song writing including *Up there Cazaly* and *One day in September* and singing to an empty MCG as part of the 2020 AFL Grand Final entertainment.

The group also extended invitations, to the evening sessions, to Victoria Branch committee members and Mallee Regional Group members and thank those that were able to attend for their support.

To complement the Zoom sessions, newsletters have also been sent to all members, including the seven members without email addresses, in August, September, October and November to provide members with updates on the Group's proposed activities, particularly the various Zoom sessions.

North East & Goulburn Valley Regional Group

Unfortunately our 2020 recipients have not yet had their investitures but we look forward to celebrating with them at our first luncheon next year.

The NEGV OAA currently has 158 members. Our committee has met twice this year, once in person and the other virtually; we have kept in touch regularly by phone call and email. Several of our members have been profiled in our communications this year and we hope this will continue. It is an opportunity to see the diversity of our great group of members.

We wish our members a very safe and Happy Christmas for 2020.

2021 Events: Please put the following dates in your diaries for next year (subject to pandemic situation).

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

Sunday 30th May. Shepparton – Park Lake Hotel. Guest Speaker, Alana Johnson AM

South Central Suburban Regional Group:

A monthly newsletter has been distributed to all members of the Region. This includes profiles (with photos) of members

With the lifting of the majority of restrictions that were put into place for our safety and well-being we can now look forward to planning future events. It is fair to say that many businesses are still reviewing and tightening up their COVID Safety Plans and working on their business model to take into account the limited numbers that can attend functions or hospitality venues. Fair to say costs will go up as fixed costs will not come down to counteract the lesser numbers that can attend. Rentals, insurances and the rest of overheads will remain static, so the cost of a plate of food will probably increase.

Our Regional Group has set aside the **11th of March 2021** as the date of our AGM and is waiting for costings and confirmation from a venue. Costs will be reflected by the comments above, COVID normal will still place restrictions upon us, so it is what it is. What would be the alternate if we did not show caution and care? Our February Committee Meeting should see us making plans for our Mid-Year Luncheon once further restrictions are released and made known, hopefully!

On behalf of our Regional Group may we wish all of our Association membership and their extended families the most meaningful Christmas and Festive Season for all of our Faiths. May the year 2021 bring all that one could reasonably expect and may health and goodwill fill all of your days.

Western Suburbs Regional Groups

Our committee is 'meeting' regularly electronically and planning contingencies as we go along, while communicating regularly with members through newsletters, and we've good feedback on that.



Pam Robinson OAM, member of VIC Branch committee went one-on-one with husband and wife Order of Australia Association members **Bill Phillpot OAM** and **Glenys Phillpot OAM** from Warrnambool in our South West Victoria Regional Group

Tell us a bit about yourself, your family, where you grew up and some of your fondest childhood memories – even where you met.

Glenys

I had an idyllic farm and town childhood. I moved into Warrnambool for my secondary schooling years and had a carefree time playing sport and exploring the rugged South-West coastline with no return to home time limits as there are now!

Bill

I was born in Warrnambool and had a comfortable childhood with lots of sporting activities and wonderful holidays on my grand-parents farm. Glenys and I met at high school, we married in 1964.

What career path did you choose and where did you qualify and what was your first job? How did this lead on to your subsequent positions both in paid employment and what took you to participate in the volunteer sector?

Glenys

We married at twenty-one, I was a stay at home mum of five children for 20 years, and then began working in superannuation and investment at an accountancy firm.

Bill

My first job was as a trainee accountant and I qualified with CPA Australia in 1964, at a time when they conducted their own examinations. I joined a private practice in 1965, soon after became a partner and remained there until retirement in 2007, the last 30 years as Managing Partner. I remain employed as a consultant part-time to this day.

Community work is in my genes, my father was a great contributor and living in a regional centre I believe self- help is the way for the region to progress. Regional cities don't enjoy the critical mass of larger cities.

What organisations over the years have you been a member with and what drew you to these particular ranges of activities in your community?

Glenys

My initial involvement was in numerous sporting organisations but expanded particularly after I was elected to Warrnambool City Council in 1996. I served on the council for 13 years with 4 consecutive years as Mayor. I have been a member of Deakin University Council, a member of the Vice-Chancellors Community Consultative Group, Flagstaff Hill Advisory Board, Warrnambool Economic Development Committee, Western Region Waste Management Board and Western

Region Drug and Alcohol Committee. I am a Director of Peters Project, a community driven project to build a cancer centre in this region that opened in 2016. Currently I am Chair of the Steering Committee advocating for a Drug and Alcohol Residential Rehabilitation centre in Warrnambool.

Bill

I participated in various sporting bodies over the years.

I was a member of Warrnambool Base Hospital Board for 8 years and Life Governor, Warrnambool Racing Club Board for 30 years and a Life Member,
Chairman of three capital raising appeals:

Redevelopment of St John of God Hospital, 1991

South West Health Care, 1996

South West Health Care, 2010

Also, I was a Board member and Treasurer of the Warrnambool YMCA Youth Club for ten years and Warrnambool's Mayoress for 4 terms.

In my professional capacity, I have been involved in establishment of five charitable foundations for the benefit of the Warrnambool region and have been a trustee of these for nearly 30 years.

I was attracted to activities where I could use the skills I possessed, and Glenys and I have always supported each other in our community work.

What year did you receive your OAM, what was the Award citation and what has it meant to you to be do honoured? Are there other Awards that you have received that you would like to share with us?

Glenys

I was honoured to receive my award in 2014 for services to the Warrnambool community. To be really pragmatic it is useful to put OAM after your name when applying for a grant for a project!

Bill

I received an OAM in 2013 for services to the people of Warrnambool. In 2000 I received John Howard's Centenary Medal and was awarded a joint Warrnambool Citizenship Award with Glenys in 2012. Whilst it is flattering to be nominated and receive the OAM I am very 'low key' about these things.

What advice would you give someone wanting to follow in your footprints in the community?

Glenys

Just do it!

Warrnambool is lucky to have a very strong volunteer community; the rewards from being involved are very satisfying.

Bill

I would advise others to be involved in areas they enjoy where they can be of direct benefit.

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

Generosity of spirit is important. We think that COVID19 has taught us the value of family, friends and connections. These are the things we missed most during lockdown – apart from a good coffee. We are both very passionate about Warrnambool and the region which has been very good to us and our family, we still both get enjoyment from our continuing community activities - long may we be spared to do so!

For the Love of Wildlife written by member Donalea Patman OAM

The thunderous roar of a lion raises the hair on your neck and to see lions in the wild is unforgettable. My first sighting certainly had me draw in breath, awestruck by their magnificence, their presence, their power.

A few hours later this was shattered as I was told lions are facing extinction. Less than 15,000 lions roam all of Africa, only 10% of which are pride males, exploited by an industry that is as cruel and barbaric as one can imagine; one that is threatening their very survival.

It was heartbreaking to hear how wild lion prides are chased down, the cubs stolen to reinvigorate captive breeding stock. It all starts with cub petting and pay and play experiences with cubs taken off their mothers a few days after birth, tourist attractions that are highly lucrative pseudo-CONservation programs. Australian volunteers paying more than a \$1,000 a week, duped into believing they are hand raising “orphaned” cubs that will one day be returned to the wild. The reality is this is the first step in a highly lucrative “value chain”. When too old to be bottle fed and played with, juveniles are moved to “walking with lions” tourist experiences. From there they return to the death camps, waiting to be purchased online for a quick, cost effective and guaranteed kill. Habituated to humans, these lions are an easy kill, bred for the bullet and shot behind fences. This is the horrific industry of “canned hunting”.



Learning about canned hunting, on the same day I saw lions in the wild for the very first time, rocked me to my core and ignited a rage I never knew I had. I was literally shaking with anger when the friend I was travelling with said *“why don’t you go into the world and do something about it”*. I couldn’t possibly envisage the path that I was propelled to set upon.

In 2013, leading up to a Federal election, I started writing to the candidates whose marketing material was landing in my letterbox. My letters described the critical demise of lions, canned hunting and how Australia was complicit. Jason Wood MP responded to my concerns, and working tirelessly together on this issue, eighteen months later Australia banned the importation of lion trophies and body parts. A global first. Australia’s ban followed by France, the Netherlands with the US implementing strict import laws, the key client of this brutal trade.

Even before the ban was announced, I knew my 25 years in corporate business was over, founding the charity For the Love of Wildlife Ltd in early 2014. The Australian ban came before the global outrage at the death of Cecil, the lion lured outside the border of Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe, and killed by US dentist Walter Palmer.



But this story isn’t only about the commodification of lions; so much of the world’s wildlife is being exploited for trade. The legal trade in endangered species was valued at US\$320 billion annually as long ago as 2009 yet the system that facilitates this global trade hasn’t been modernised since the 1970s, is mostly paper-based and doesn’t integrate with customs.

And let’s not forget the pandemic, crippling the world, is zoonotic in origin, triggered by the trade in exotic species which rely on captive breeding facilities to supply the “raw material” used in the fashion, food, beauty and medicine industries.

LEST WE FORGET

"This can't be right", I hear you say, "For this is not the date of Remembrance Day."

Yet an article under the heading "Remembrance Day" appeared in *The Argus* newspaper of Saturday 18th December 1915, p. 18, and recorded:

"Yesterday was celebrated as Anzac Remembrance Day throughout Victoria, and once again the State gave with both hands to provide comforts for our brave soldiers. The proceeds on this occasion (which were over £6,000 from the metropolitan area and in the neighbourhood of £10,000 State wide) are to go to the soldiers' institutes in Australia, Egypt and Gallipoli, controlled by the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, the Salvation Army and the Y.M.C.A."



Approximately a quarter of a million of these buttons, 4 cm in diameter, were manufactured for sale for this occasion, which included three bands leading a procession from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, down Collins Street, along William Street and into Bourke Street; two tableaux on floats, one representing "War" with the God "Mars" and the other representing "Peace" with tiny fairy folk under a bower of gum leaves. Each float was "pulled by four white horses", with the horses and brewery drays kindly lent by the Manager of Carlton & United Breweries to Annie McCubbin to help with this event.

Annie McCubbin, wife of Artist, Frederick McCubbin was heavily involved in the organization of many aspects of the procession, including the setting up of the many stalls along the route that offered for sale a range of items including flowers and works of art, such as etchings, landscapes on oil painted gum leaves and cardboard fans painted in oil and watercolour. To each work, patriotic ribbons of red, white and blue were attached.

The first repatriated Australian soldiers from the Gallipoli Campaign had arrived in Melbourne on 18th July 1915 and many of these returning soldiers, suffering from physical injuries and mental trauma were sent to the Base Hospital in St. Kilda Road, Melbourne.

Annie's son Hugh was among those wounded at Gallipoli, and like many other women in Melbourne at this time, Annie volunteered her services to this Base Hospital and witnessed the suffering first hand.

At this time there were no formal welfare services available to the returning soldiers, so to help these soldiers, especially those leaving the Base Hospital, Annie and a number of her women companions organized rooms in the City of Melbourne where the returning soldiers could meet, enjoy a hot cup of tea, some scones and jam and most importantly a welcoming smile and a friendly chat.

Annie's efforts in this pursuit were greatly supported by her friends Fanny Withers and Nellie Melba, who had lost five of her relatives in the Gallipoli Campaign.

Fanny Withers at this time was busy raising funds and encouraging donations of parcels of clothing as Hon. Secretary for the "Help for the Belgian Soldiers" effort, and Melba was busy with organizing the production of *Melba's Gift Book of Australian Art and Literature*, giving fund raising concerts to help the Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society and organizing knitting parties at her home, "Coombe Cottage".

The success of these Tea rooms was duly noted as was the success of Remembrance Day, Friday, 17th December 1915, which was not only successful for the money it raised, but also for the awareness that it raised for the need to do more for the returning soldiers.

Six months later in June 1916 the RSL was established, and I hope that in its history the considerable efforts of these dedicated and motivated women are not forgotten.

Andrew Mackenzie OAM. Art Historian – Mornington Peninsula Regional Group

VALE: Dame Margaret G C Guilfoyle AC DBE

Dame Margaret was responsible for opening doors for women, a great legacy from a 94 year old. She was the first woman to hold a cabinet-level ministerial portfolio in Australia.

We have lost a political giant and one of our finest Australians with the passing of Dame Margaret Guilfoyle AC DBE.

Dame Margaret was a true pioneer in Australian politics, being the first woman in Cabinet with a Ministerial portfolio.

Under the Fraser Government she brought her hardworking and meticulous style to the portfolios of Education and Social Security going on to become Minister for Finance.

In these portfolios Dame Margaret built a strong record of achievement, most notably the considerable expansion of government support for childcare. Her performance as a Minister was praised on all sides.



Dame Margaret was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland. In 1926 she came to Australia with her family, settling in Melbourne. At just 10 years old her father tragically passed away leaving her mother to raise a young family.

This had a major impact on Dame Margaret who became aware at a very early age how important education was in giving women opportunity and financial independence.

By 1946 Dame Margaret qualified as an accountant, having attended night school at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, whilst working during the day.

Successfully navigating a career and raising a family, she stood for preselection for the Liberal Party among a field of 20 candidates, where she secured second position on the Liberal Party's Victorian Senate ticket for the 1970 Federal Election. Dame Margaret began her term on July 1, 1971 as the seventh woman elected as a Senator in Australia.

When Dame Margaret retired from the Senate in 1987 she told Parliament: "It was said that I was the first to hold a Cabinet post and administer a department – that might be true – but it had to be very important that I was not the last ... I will be even more interested in watching the women who follow in the future to see that their contribution is recognised and is not in any way segregated from the overall contribution that must be made by people handling extensive portfolio work."

Dame Margaret enjoyed a strong partnership with her husband Stan Guilfoyle, who himself had a long and distinguished role in the organisational wing of the Liberal Party, beginning when they both joined the Camberwell South branch of the party in the 1950s. Dame Margaret and Stan were proud Liberals and local constituents in Kooyong.

My condolences go to all of Dame Margaret's family – particularly Stan and their children Georgina, Anne and Geoffrey.

May she rest in peace. Author: The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP



Rhys Maggs AM was State Director of Vic State Emergency Services (VICSES) from 1987 to 2005, and played an important role in that organization's history. Rhys advocated to government for VICSES to stand as an outright emergency service, rather than just a business unit within the Department of Justice. This was achieved when VICSES was recognised as an emergency service under the Road Safety Act in 1992, enabling red and blue flashing lights to be used on vehicles. Rhys advocated for VICSES to become a Statutory Authority, which was achieved in 2005 at which point Rhys retired from the service

During his career Rhys led numerous large-scale emergencies, including the record breaking floods in North East Region in 1993 and the large storm events across South West Region in 1995.

Rhys was a leader in promoting the highest standards and practice in Road Crash Rescue (RCR), with a focus on reducing the impact to community members trapped in vehicles. Rhys' legacy saw every RCR unit issued with vital hydraulic rescue equipment, rather than having to purchase their own 'jaws of life'. Rhys was President of the World Rescue Organisation (WRO) and under his leadership saw VICSES host the first Australasian Road Crash Rescue Challenge in 2010. Rhys was also the inaugural Chair of the Australian Council of State Emergency Services (ACSES) when it was established in 2002.

Rhys received many accolades during his service to community, including being awarded the Centenary Medal in January 2001 for "service to the community as Director of VICSES". He was made a member of the Order of Australia in January 2004 for "service to emergency management and to the community, particularly through the VICSES".

Rhys was Deputy Chair of the OAA Western Suburbs Regional Group committee and an active and much loved member of our group. He will be greatly missed, and we all send our condolences to Lillian and Rhys' family.

May he rest in peace.

Suzanne Sofarnos OAM

A memorial wall at Williamstown Beach was heavy with flowers and other tributes amid community outpouring at the sudden death of global lacrosse legend Sue 'Melli' Sofarnos. The Australian Women's Team player and coach died unexpectedly on 19 September.



Sue first picked up a lacrosse stick in 1970 at the age of 10 and became one of the most decorated Australian lacrosse players and coaches in history. She was general manager of the 2021 team set to compete in the World Lacrosse Women's World Championship next summer in the US.

The family has started the Sue Sofarnos Foundation in support of the Australian Women's Team, and raised more than \$100,000 in three days, which will be used to send the team to the US.

Sue received the Order of Australia Medal in the Australia Day Honours this year, and joined the Western Suburbs Regional Group in March. We send our condolences to Sue's husband John and their children.

May she rest in peace.

Vale Gordon McKern OAM

The Bendigo community and beyond were saddened to learn of the death of Gordon McKern OAM on November 29, 2020.

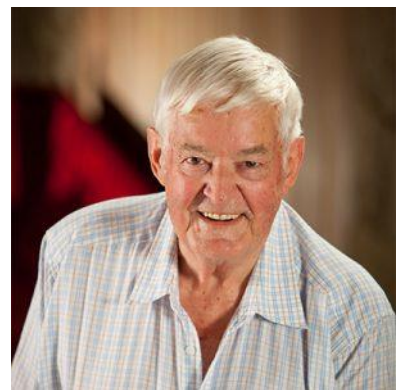
Gordon was a giant of the community who left it a far better place.

Gordon lived in Melbourne for the first half of his life, during which time he married his beloved wife Anita, raised six wonderful children, and were also so proud of their eighteen grandchildren and nineteen great grandchildren.

In 1976 Gordon relocated family and business to Eaglehawk and became involved in the local community. Gordon's active participation in many organisations and service clubs brought about the personal realisation that community service is very satisfying and rewarding.

Gordon was one of the Commissioners for the establishment of the City of Greater Bendigo in 1994 and 20 years later was honoured to be named the Bendigo Citizen of the Year.

Gordon was the inaugural Chairman of the Coliban Region Water Authority when it was established in 1994 and has served on the Board of the Bendigo Art Gallery since 2002 and as Chairman from 2010 to 2016. Chairman of the Aspire Cultural & Charitable Foundation, and Chairman of the Ulumbarra Foundation.



He was a Queens Birthday 2009 Honours recipient for service to the community of regional Victoria through a range of water industry, education and cultural organisations.

Gordon had time for everyone and will be so missed by us all.

Centre for Quality and Patient Safety Research - Professor Trisha Dunning AM Profile and recent award

Professor Trisha Dunning AM of the Barwon Health and Deakin University Centre for Quality and Patient Safety Research has been awarded the Federation of European Nurses in Diabetes 25th Anniversary Recognition Award for her significant contributions to diabetes care, research and education.

Our sincere congratulations to Trisha a Barwon Regional Group member for this well-deserved recognition

Background

I undertook my initial nurse training in The Inverell District Hospital then moved to Sydney to complete Midwifery, Karitane and paediatric certificates in various health settings. I then had my own children and a break from nursing to be at home with them until the youngest was 10 when I completed a return to practice course.

On returning to work at St Vincent's Hospital I worked in various roles such as cardiovascular and outpatients before taking up a role as a Diabetes Nurse educator.

This role led to my higher degree studies and the position of Professor Director of Diabetes and Endocrinology Research St Vincent's Hospital and University of Melbourne. I took up my current position in 2007.

Research Focus

My research focuses on improving the care of older people with diabetes and diabetes palliative and end of life care.

With colleagues older people with diabetes and families we developed two important guidelines: one for managing older people with diabetes and one for deciding palliative and end of life care with older people with diabetes as well as information to help older people with diabetes, family members and clinicians discuss advance care planning and document advance care plans.

Awards & Achievements

Awards include:

Member of the Order of Australia

Distinguished Life Fellow of Australian College of Nursing

Life Member Australian Diabetes Educators Association

Sigma Theta Tau Researcher Hall of Fame

Diabetes Victoria Achievement Award

Research scholarship; The Trisha Dunning Research Scholarship

Federation of European Nurses in Diabetes (FEND) 25th Anniversary Recognition Award 2020



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Assistance with Order of Australia Honours nomination process

If you require assistance with the Order of Australia Honours nomination process for women who have gone above and beyond please contact Kate via email awards@dpc.vic.gov.au