



Welcome from VIC Branch Chair

Welcome to the first edition of the Order of Australia Association VIC Branch e-Newsletter for 2021 and welcome to the wonders of autumn. The perfect season to be out and about exploring the heart of Melbourne or regional and rural Victoria.

Last month we experienced a snap five day COVID lockdown; this deferred the remainder of the 2020 Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Investitures, it is pleasing to know all recipients are now invested.

In our March edition this time last year we made mention of cancelled and rescheduled events. There is still some uncertainty and with social distancing requirements the Victoria Branch committee and some Regional Groups are accessing options for 2021.

Last November the VIC Branch hosted an inaugural virtual annual lunch for members and guests; following the success of the event we held a virtual launch to 2021 on Wednesday March 24, to hear about the re-emergence of our Arts Industries at the Arts Centre Melbourne and the National Gallery of Victoria. Please refer to pages 11 and 12 for a report on the event.

Virtual events with speakers and interesting topics are being well received for members previously unable to attend events because of distance of travel, mobility or health issues. We do appreciate some members value the social interaction with other members, we are working hard to finalise a program of events that works well for all members.

Thank you to the 2021 Australia Day Honours and Awards recipients who have joined the Association to-date and also thank you to our annual, three year and Life members for your ongoing support.

Upcoming virtual and face-to-face events are noted in in this edition of our e-Newsletter. Please remember members and guests are invited to attend VIC Branch events and Regional Group events including those outside your nominated Regional Group based on the address on your membership application. There are times when members have a connection with the community in which they live, and another connection with the community in which they have their business or place of employment. You are allowed at no extra cost to be a member of two Regional Groups in Victoria. If interested in this option please email VIC Membership Secretary Fred Harrington OAM email address is oaavicmbrsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Stacey Williams has returned to the Department of Premier and Cabinet after 12 months parental leave, Page 13 outlines 'Lend your voice to gender equity in Australian Honours'.

The VIC Branch virtual Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday March 16, 2021. Please refer to page 14 for the elected Office Bearers.



Next VIC Branch virtual event on **Wednesday May 12** has an agricultural focus. TryBooking link is <https://www.trybooking.com/BPYVK> now open for bookings.

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

Victoria Branch 2021 Events

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

Wednesday May 12 – 5.30pm to 6.30pm Virtual Event. Agricultural opportunities and challenges with Alana Johnson AM and Jo Newton OAM two achievers in the agricultural industry.

TryBooking link is <https://www.trybooking.com/BPYVK> now open for bookings.

Thursday July 15 - Save the date - we are planning the Annual Visit to the NGV to see the French Impressionists exhibition. Further information to follow

Thursday September 23 - 5.30pm to 6.30pm Virtual Twilight Event with two speakers

Tuesday November 16 - 12noon to 2.30pm Annual lunch at William Angliss College Restaurant with guest speaker and OAA Foundation scholarship recipient

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.

Regional Group 2021 Events

Barwon Regional Group

Well another different format for our annual meeting that was held in February - email last year and Zoom this year because of the snap lockdown. However, it went off well. The committee is the same but with a change of Secretary and Committee member. We record our thanks to Anne Brackley OAM for her service as Secretary for two years. Anne will continue as a member of the committee which is good. Committee:

Chair: Wayne Myers OAM; Deputy Chair: Lloyd Jenkins OAM; Secretary: Claire Barnes OAM; Treasurer: Peter Doak OAM.



Screen shot of Barwon Regional Group Annual General Meeting February 14, 2021

Barwon Regional Group continued

Our guest speaker at the annual meeting was Elaine Carbines AM who spoke about the work of the G21 organisation - an advocacy agency for the five local councils. Elaine was the CEO for about ten years until December 2020 and gave a most interesting talk.

Our annual movie afternoon in May is being deferred until later in the year to a hopefully safer period.

The Primary School Citizenship Award is planned to be held with invitations to participate sent to all schools and the presentation morning to be Thursday August 19.

Central Highlands Wimmera Regional Group

AGM was by Zoom on Sunday 21st February, with the decision that due to the ongoing COVID situation, the current Office Bearers continue for another 12 months.

We were happy to welcome Dr Barbara Madden-Wellington OAM on the Committee.

After discussions with the Secondary College Principals, it has been decided to put the School Citizenship Program on hold for another 12 months.

The Committee is planning a face to face meeting in Ararat in the near future to start planning for the next 12 months, hoping to once again hold our Annual and Spring Luncheons in 2021.

Eastern Suburbs Regional Group

On February 19, 2021, the Group held its AGM via ZOOM. It was an important meeting which saw the retirement of its key Office Bearers and the election of a new Committee.

Barbara Thompson OAM together with Colin Browne OAM and Dot Browne OAM didn't seek nomination of their positions as President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Their commitment, hard work and dedication was vital to the group and the new Committee would like to acknowledge their contribution and, on behalf of the membership, thank them for all efforts.

The Office Bearers are -

Chair Geoffrey Grinton OAM; Secretary Marianne Mahony OAM; Treasurer Graeme Dodd OAM

Gippsland Regional Group

Chairman, Lorraine Bartling OAM was invited along with Assistant Secretary, Helen Holley to the RAAF Reception to mark 100 years of service to Australia at East Sale RAAF Base on March 11.

The Annual General Meeting and High Tea held at Rotary Centenary House on Sunday March 14. The Executive Committee and Committee remain unchanged, save for one resignation due to work commitments and one new member.

Planned events for the year are:-

The First Luncheon of the year will be held at Sale Greyhound Club, on Sunday April 18, the focus being Centenary of the RAAF. There will a speaker from RAAF Base, East Sale giving a presentation on the history and the operation of the Base. Cost \$40 per head. Anyone wishing to attend may contact Helen Holley, Assistant Secretary via email holleyhill@bigpond.com.

The second Luncheon will be on Sunday August 15 at Del Mondo Restaurant, Traralgon.

Gippsland Regional Group continued



Our big event for the year is the annual Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnet Dinner and Address which will be held at a new venue Century Inn, Traralgon on **Wednesday October 20**. The guest Speaker is Urologist Associate Professor Nathan Lawrentschuk, Director of the E J Whitten Foundation Prostate Cancer Research Centre at Epworth.

The Gippsland Group is considering holding a midwinter luncheon in the South Gippsland area. Watch this space.

Loddon-Campaspe Regional Group

We are now pleased to relaunch our Group for 2021 with the AGM being held on **Friday March 26** commencing at 11.00am at Latrobe Art Institute 121 View Street, Bendigo (opposite Bendigo Art Gallery) with guest speaker, Ms. Emma Busowsky- Cox Curator at the Bendigo Art Gallery who will speak about the recently opened Mary Quant Fashion Revolutionary retrospective exhibition from the Victoria and Albert Museum, London exclusively in Australia at the Bendigo Art Gallery. Contact Secretary Deborah Fleming OAM on 0409542619

We welcome several new members who joined the Association after being sent a welcome letter in 2020. Nine new inductees from Australia Day 2021 Honours and Awards were sent a welcome letter with their invitation to our March 26 event.

Loddon- Campaspe, like several other Regional Groups, has the problem of distance as it spreads from Gisborne to Kerang so we are finding it difficult to attract many to our activities. Many members have indicated age and health limit their involvement.

Melbourne Central Regional Group

We have brought into 2021 our planned activities from 2020. Some are yet to be confirmed in detail, COVID 19 being a factor. Our AGM will be by Zoom on Friday March 19 at 5.00pm

Our two lunches will be and are booked at The Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club.

Tuesday May 11 with our speaker: Prof. Jayashri Kulkarni AM a specialist and well recognized researcher in Women's Mental Health

Tuesday September 21 with our speaker: Hon Peter Costello AC, Chairman of The Future Fund, Chairman of Nine Entertainment Ltd

Our networking evenings, hopefully will be with our host's noted below

Wednesday April 14 at the RMIT University

June/ July at the British Consul General

October/ November with the Melbourne Sympathy Orchestra

Mornington Peninsula Regional Group

From the pen of new Chair Geoff Walsh AO

As this is my first report as the Chair of the Mornington Peninsula Regional Group, I wish to begin by acknowledging the outstanding contribution of my two predecessors.

Under the long and productive chairmanship of Brian Stahl OAM JP much was achieved by the Regional Group. Fortunately, Brian will continue to serve on the Committee as the Convenor of the Nominations and Membership sub-committee.

When Brian stepped aside last year, Jim Dickson AM MBE took on the chairmanship with great energy and commitment. Undaunted by the COVID crisis, Jim used the opportunity to canvass Members about how the Regional Group might best go forward. Jim will continue on the Committee as Immediate Past Chair.

Resignation of Allan Pizzey AM effective from December 3, 2020, as a Member of the Committee and as the Convenor of the Activities Sub-committee due to his serious health issues. For over 20 years Allan has made an exceptional and outstanding contribution to the MPRG, the Schools Awards Program and its many student and school recipients in the Region, and to the broader OAA. Motion: That the Committee formally records a heartfelt vote of thanks to Allan Pizzey AM for his meritorious contribution to the work of the Mornington Regional Group of the Order of Australia Association over many years.

At the February 18 AGM, three new Committee Members were elected: Alex Anderson OAM JP, Heather Barton AM and Ann Connan OAM. All are highly credentialed professionally and keen contributors to their local communities. The 2021-24 MPRG Executive: Chair Geoff Walsh AO, Immediate Past Chair Commodore Jim Dickson AM MBE, Rod Nelson AM, Secretary, Brigadier Doug Perry OAM RFD ED, Treasurer

Looking forward to the remainder of 2021, I consider that the Regional Group has three important roles:

First, to bring local Members and their partners together socially. In order to properly reflect the local government areas of our Regional Group, we will look to change our name to the Frankston Mornington Peninsula Regional Group. We consider that this proposal may encourage more Order of Australia recipients located in the City of Frankston to join the OAA. We will also make an effort to build a stronger relationship with the Frankston Council, like that we enjoy with the Mornington Shire. We will also hold our Committee meetings in different locations throughout both municipalities and invite Members in the neighbourhood to join us for tea and coffee.

Secondly, to play a significant role in driving more successful nominations for recognition in the Order of Australia Honours. We have already discussed how we can work with our communities to help identify and nominate worthy candidates. And, in particular, to ensure the majority of our nominations are women, Australians born overseas and indigenous Australians. We will be energetic advocates for the Order of Australia and facilitators of nominations.

Thirdly, our Regional Group has a proud history of making significant contributions to the local communities through the Schools Awards Program. Whilst we intend maintaining the program during 2021 and beyond, the program is currently undergoing review and there will be some changes to its format.

In short, stay connected, drive diversity in nominations and continue to do good in the community. I look forward to a range of opportunities for the Regional Group during 2021. At our next Committee meeting, we will determine a schedule of activities for the remainder of 2021.

North Central Suburbs Regional Group

The Australia Day awards included 4 recipients from within the NCSRG. One AO, two OAM's and one OAM (Military) Congratulatory Letters were sent to awardees. Accompanying the congratulatory letter was the NCSRG newsletter "Northern News Feb 2021" containing details of NCSRG and Vic Branch scheduled events for 2021.

To date two AD recipient has joined the group and we look forward to them having the opportunity to attend a function in the near future.

The committee has developed an annual program which includes a mix of face-to-face events and ZOOM sessions.

The face-to-face sessions include a series of seasonal lunches held on the first Wednesday of Autumn, Winter and Spring, a Sunday lunch in the Yarra Valley and hopefully and night time dinner. The proposed ZOOM sessions are to be held monthly from April through to November.

The next events for the group will be a series of end of day ZOOM sessions with guest speakers as a follow on to the series of similar events held in the later part of 2020.

The speakers confirmed for these sessions, commencing at 5:30 pm are:

Thursday April 22 – Stephanie Woollard OAM the founder of the organisation "Seven Women" and telling her story of meeting seven disabled women in Nepal and leading them to a thriving business to selling handmade produce.

Thursday May 20 – Neil Soullier OAM the CEO of the Blue Ribbon Foundation.

Thursday June 17 – Jeanette Suhr OAM the founder of Road Trauma Support Services Victoria a not for profit organisation providing counselling and support to those impacted by road trauma and programs relating to road trauma awareness.

Autumn Lunch

Held on Wednesday March 3 at the Sycamore Tree Café in Heidelberg; a not-for-profit organisation that trains people in hospitality skills and practice. Commencing in 1986, the Sycamore Tree has evolved and grown over 32 years of community and volunteer involvement and has a fine tradition of supporting those who need the opportunity to learn and develop their life and work skills.

Twelve members and partners were able to attend this first time face-to-face meeting in over 12 months

Photo L-R Stephanie Woollard OAM, Irene Harrington OAM, Christine Durham OAM, Nan Oates OAM and Denis Cunningham AM



North Central Suburbs Regional Group continued

Annual General Meeting

This is to be held virtually via ZOOM on **Wednesday March 24**, 2021 commencing at 5:30pm. The required Notice of Meeting and Nomination Form have been sent to all members. Bookings and nominations for committee are currently being received.

Vale Ron Ellis OAM

The group was saddened to hear of the passing of Ronald Charles Ellis OAM. Ron was a foundation member of the group having transferred from Eastern Suburbs when NCSRGR was formed. Ron was a regular attendee at North Central Suburbs Regional Group events along with attending Vic Branch Annual Luncheons and also several Eastern Suburbs Regional Group events. Ron was an Australia Day 1999 Order of Australia Honours recipient for service to the Australian Red Cross Society, particularly through the development of fundraising services.

The group used an OAA card to send condolences, on behalf of the Group, to his wife Jan.

North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley Regional Group

The North East Goulburn Valley had six Order of Australia recipients on Australia Day this year. There was one AM (female) and five OAM's (male).

We welcome new member, AD recipient, Mr Ron Webb OAM who was awarded his OAM for service to the community of Wangaratta. Ron is a former Mayor and Councillor as well as being involved in leadership roles in many volunteer organisations. We are delighted to have him as one of our members.

We also welcome Mr Vernon Fettke OAM who has retired to Numurkah from Melbourne. It is great to have Vernon join us in the beautiful North East Goulburn Valley region. He is an Australia Day 2019 recipient for service to the community of Wyndham.

Order of Australia Nominations

Members are encouraged to nominate worthy people in their community. If you need any help in the preparation of a nomination please contact Barbara Thomas OAM on 0419889804 or 0357215737 (leave message)

Sunday March 28 Annual Meeting and Lunch - Montague Room, Mitchelton Wines Nagambie
Guest Speaker Gerry Ryan OAM Bookings are closed.

Sunday May 30 - Shepparton – Park Lake Hotel -Guest Speaker-Ms Alana Johnson AM

October 2021-Wangaratta-Date, venue and guest speaker to be confirmed

Retiring Committee members 2021:

On behalf of our committee and members I would like to thank outgoing Secretary Mr Doug Evans OAM and minute secretary Mrs Dianne Evans OAM. Doug and Di have been very keen committee members and have willingly helped out when needed. Both are very busy people and their input has been very much appreciated.

Thank you to Mr John Richards OAM for his service on our committee. John has always been vitally interested in our regional group and I thank him for his wisdom and valuable input. We wish Doug, Di and John all the best for the future.

South Central Suburban Regional Group

On Thursday March 11 our Regional Group held their first face to face meeting since November 2019. It was the date of our 2020 AGM and 43 members and guests attended at the Cheltenham Golf Club. It was a joyous occasion with many, many friends having the opportunity of catching up and in part reminiscing. People miss the opportunity to interact with each other face to face.

Among those in attendance was our oldest member, Mr Ralph Butcher OAM at 102 years of age and heading towards 103 in a few months' time, a remarkable man. Also in attendance was Barbara Brook OAM the VIC Branch Regional Groups Coordinator.

The Executive voted into office during the course of the AGM are as follows:

Chairman Graeme L Woolacott OAM; Vice Chairman Jill Page OAM; Secretary Ross Newton OAM; Treasurer Alan Samuel OAM JP

There was a poignant moment towards the end of the AGM when the three retiring members of the committee were presented with certificates of appreciation by Chairman Graeme Woolacott OAM and tributes were paid to their individual service to the Regional Group and the Association as a whole.

One of those members retiring was Geoff Oscar AM who has been on the Committee since the forming of the Regional Group in 2008 and during that time had been Chairman, Treasurer,



Newsletter Editor and the go to man for governance, he will be sorely missed. I would also take the opportunity of formally thanking Geoff's wife Enid for supporting him for all of those years and for welcoming the committee innumerable times into their home, for meetings as a gracious hostess and a devil with homemade sausage rolls.

It goes without saying the other two retiring members, Lorraine Morgan AM and Jennie Russell OAM, who have contributed to the wellbeing of this Regional Group will be sorely missed as well. All three have said that they are available to assist if needed and will continue to support the Regional Group activities. Bravo.

Photo: L Mr Geoff Oscar AM R Chairman Graeme Woolacott OAM

Ross Newton OAM introduced our speaker Roger Wilson OAM who spoke on the topic that is so dear to his heart – rowing!

Roger gave a brief resume of his business activities starting with Kraft Foods where he was the youngest Manager at 22, from there to Luxor of Sweden selling electronic goods then Simmons Beauty Rest Bedding, Van Treight Furniture and then his final working career as CEO of Forty Winks a franchise that he built up from 17 stores to 93 stores Australia wide. Roger was in that position for 21 years.

Roger was a keen rower at Brighton Grammar and competed in many Heads of River but his best success came in the 1966 Australian Junior Eight Championship at Ballarat. At the end of 1966 a commentator from Deniliquin came to call the rowing races at Yarrowonga on Lake Mulwala, with no idea about any of the Melbourne crews. "I got up alongside him to give him some tips, and he said you better call a few races", so I did," Roger recalls. "The next year in 1967 I started commentating all out of Melbourne.

South Central Suburban Regional Group continued

All because one day I took a chance on an opportunity; and what opportunity it was. Roger is well known for his rowing commentating and rowing journalism ---covering all major regattas in Victoria for over 50 years and is the ABC rowing commentator with "The Voice of Rowing" ---covering 43 Kings Cups and National Rowing Championships and 43 APS Head of The River Regattas in Victoria and has covered four Olympic Games rowing, four World Rowing Championships and the World Masters Rowing Championships as main commentator at Ballarat in 2012

In 2000 Roger was one of only 2000 Sports People awarded The Australian Sports Medal. For 8 years Roger has been The Patron of the Flying Doctor Rowathon over 82km in a day on The Murray and Darling Rivers at Wentworth in October Each Year.

Roger reminisced about various stars of rowing and kept the gathering enthralled with his love of the sport and what it has allowed him to do and friendships that he has been able to make. On the completion of his talk Roger was presented with a gift and given a vote of thanks by Lorraine Morgan AM a sportsperson in her own right.

As a reminder, now that COVID-19 restrictions are easing, we have arranged to have our Mid-Year Luncheon at Kingston Heath Golf Club on **Thursday July 8** with Professor Graeme Samuel AC as our guest speaker. We would ask the members and friends take note of the date with further information to follow.

We were gladdened to have twenty of our Regional Group's area citizens, recognised and given honours on Australia Day. They consisted of 1 AO, 4 AM, and 15 OAM, really great and especially pleasing to see that five have already joined the Association.

Western Suburbs Regional Groups

Our committee met during January to plan out the four meetings for the year. A newsletter was then sent out to all members with the invite for the February event. This was held at a local hotel and enjoyed by all concerned, although the low numbers responding to the invitation meant we could not have a guest speaker. Attendees expressed their appreciation for the way in which the committee maintained contact with everyone throughout the difficult 2020.

We also held our AGM at that meeting and the following Office Bearers were elected:
President John Ravenhall AM; Vice-President Bob Fairclough OAM; Secretary Ian Curtis AM;
Treasurer June Kane AM

A Member's Handbook was produced and distributed. Unfortunately, three of our members have passed away and we gained one new member from the Australia Day Honours list which brings our membership to 113.

Our next Regional Group Event on 20th May.

Merchandise Shop is open

Thank you to the members who continue to support our on-line Merchandise, there will be some new items in store next month.

Please refer to online merchandise shop at <https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart>

Vale Michael Gudinski AM

Recently, we heard the very sad news of the passing of Michael Gudinski AM, at the age of 68.

Michael needs no introduction and was a leading figure in the Australian music industry over the last 40 years. He was responsible for the formation of Mushroom Records, which helped develop several generations of Australian music, including Skyhooks, Kylie Minogue and Split Enz, to name only a few.

Michael has been the recipient of many industry awards, including induction into the ARIA Hall of Fame, Melburnian of the Year and, in 2006 Member of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours for service to the entertainment industry through the promotion of Australian music recording artists, as an advocate for young people in the music industry, and to the community.

His list of achievements, both personal and business, just shows how much a respected and influential person he was.

But, it has been his commitment to assisting those in need that has defined him as an outstanding leader in our community. Events, including concerts for the bushfires and, more recently, an online production called the State of Music which was created to help Australian musicians during the COVID-19 lockdown. Michael was also behind Music from the Home Front concert for Anzac Day 2020.

He was literally a larger than life character and the father of the Australian music industry.

I had the pleasure of knowing and working with Michael over the last 14 years, with the AFL Grand Final entertainment. He was simply inspiring to work with and that transpired right throughout his team. He would always come over and say "This is going to be a great" and then move onto someone else who wanted to talk.

I like everyone else who knew him, will miss the experience of working with Michael.

Michael is survived by his wife Sue and two children, Kate and Matt.

Tribute from Peter Jones AM Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch Events Coordinator



Photo: L-R. Michael Gudinski AM, Lionel Richie and Peter Jones AM

2021 Virtual Year Launch - re-emergence of our Arts Industries



Screen shot of VIC Branch members at the 2021 Virtual Year Launch February 24.

Last month the VIC Branch invited the Arts Centre Melbourne and National Gallery of Victoria to talk at our virtual evening event about the re-emergence of the Arts Industries.

We thank Reg Smith OAM and the Rotary Club of Melbourne for the Zoom link and quality performance of the National Anthem, both verses and overlay of a collation of Victorian focused scenery. The evening finished with the Bangarra Dance Group who will be performing at the Arts Centre Melbourne August 27 to September 4, 2021.

It was pleasing to hear how Arts Centre Melbourne has diversified in the past 12 months due to COVID; yes, it has been a challenging time, and it has also provided new opportunities into the future. Melanie Smith Executive Director, Performing Arts, Arts Centre Melbourne gave an informative presentation regarding the revitalisation and re-emergence of our much loved Arts in Victoria.

For more than 30 years, Arts Centre Melbourne has been Melbourne's leading venue for world-class theatre, dance, music and more. In the Theatres Building, directly under the iconic Spire, are three separate theatres – the State Theatre, which boasts one of the world's largest stages and hosts performances by Opera Australia and The Australian Ballet, the Playhouse and the intimate Fairfax Studio.

Next door on the banks of the Yarra River, Hamer Hall is a premier venue for musical performances, including the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, and the Sidney Myer Music Bowl is popular for open-air concerts.

The new Australian Music Vault features a free exhibition celebrating Australian contemporary music.

Together with their own program of performances, events and activities, the Arts Centre offers a diversity of audiences a distinctly multidimensional approach to participation, education and entertainment.

Digital became the way of life in 2020 and will be moving forward; it is being embraced in communities across Victoria

2021 will see new opportunities for local performers plus many of our favourites returning to the Arts Centre Melbourne.



Bangarra Dance Group *SandSong*, a journey into ancient story systems framed against the backdrop of ever-changing government policy and of the survival of people determined to hold strong to their Culture.

Arts Centre Melbourne August 27 – September 4, 2021

Due to an IT glitch at the National Gallery of Victoria, Director Dr Tony Ellwood AM was unable to participate.

It is pleasing to report the OAA VIC Branch has a **'Save the Date'** of **Thursday July 15, 2021** for an international exclusive at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV).

A major exhibition of more than 100 masterworks of French Impressionism in partnership with the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), an institution renowned world-wide for its rich holdings of Impressionist paintings.

Part of the Melbourne Winter Masterpieces exhibition series, French Impressionism features works by Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Edgar Degas, Camille Pissarro, Mary Cassatt and more – including 79 works that have never-before-been exhibited in Australia. These important loans from the MFA's iconic collection provide the rare opportunity to see a significant grouping of Impressionist masterworks in Australia.

OAA VIC Branch invitation will be emailed to members in late May, please note the day in your diary.

In closing we should never underestimate the social and financial importance of the Arts Industries to the economy of Melbourne, Metropolitan, Regional and Rural Victoria.

Lend your voice to gender equity in Australian Honours

This International Women's Day we were asked to **choose to challenge**. Have you ever thought about how you'll challenge gender inequality?

Historically only 30% of Australian Honours have gone to women.

The Victorian Government chose to challenge gender inequality in the Australian Honours system by implementing a dedicated resource to drive the recognition of outstanding women. The Department of Premier and Cabinet leads this initiative by identifying and nominating outstanding women for Australian Honours and encouraging members of the community to do the same.

Recognition Matters was launched on International Women's Day in 2019 and two years later, momentum continues to build.

In nominating Victorian women, you are choosing to challenge gender inequality in the honours system. While a nomination may seem like a small act in the face of an issue as systemic gender inequality, this is a collective effort. Together we can achieve gender equality among Victorian Australian Honours recipients.

Nominate a woman. It's easier than you think. Visit the [Recognition Matters website](#) today.

Lend your voice to gender equity in Australian Honours

As recipients of an Order of Australia you can champion gender equity in the Australian Honours System. Visit the Recognition Matters page vic.gov.au/recognitionmatters to access a variety of graphics and key messages to enable you to quickly share the [Recognition Matters](#) message with your networks. We encourage you to use #recognitionmatters when you join the conversation online.

Want to learn more?

If you have questions about Recognition Matters, or how you can champion gender equity in the Australian Honours in your state or territory, please contact Stacey Williams at awards@dpc.vic.gov.au



VIC Branch Election of Officer Bearers 2021 Annual General Meeting

Listed below are the 2021 – 2024 Office Bearers:-

▪ Chairman	Dr Helene Bender OAM
▪ Deputy Chairman	Trevor Clark OAM
▪ Branch Nominated Director	William Lye OAM QC
▪ Membership Secretary	Fred Harrington OAM
▪ Merchandise Chair	Professor June Kane AM
▪ Regional Groups Coordinator	Barbara Brook OAM
▪ Committee Member	Barbara Thomas OAM
▪ Committee Member	Paul Hemming AO

VACANCY SECRETARY

This position has become vacant due to Secretary Fred Harrington OAM retiring from the position at the end of the allowed years of tenure.

Fred has nominated for the position of Victoria Branch Membership Secretary, his skills are not lost to the committee.

A Position Description outlining the role and responsibilities of the Secretary is available from Fred Harrington OAM – Email secvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au or on the OAA website VIC Branch under Administration Annual General Meeting.

Thank you to outgoing committee members:-

The committee thanks Dr Yvonne Ho AM for her two year service as Deputy Chairman, Yvonne was offered and accepted full time employment earlier this month, and we wish her well with her work, music business and family. Yvonne was a member of the Merchandise subcommittee.

Pam Robinson OAM is also thanked for her two year service on the committee assisting as Regional Groups minute secretary for the three meetings a year and the Q&A articles in some editions of the quarterly e-Newsletter. One of Pam's long-time interests is Landcare, to learn more about the launch of the Parliamentary Friends of Landcare earlier this month please turn to page 15. Pam has generously offered to assist VIC Branch when her time allows.

New Deputy Chairman Profile

Trevor Clark OAM FAICD FAMI CPM FCG FGIA

My profession is as a senior executive and board member search consultant, having now past 41 years in this work. I have been a Director of an Australian firm, a partner with an International firm and now self-employed in this profession. I have conducted assignments in all states of Australia, New Zealand and Dubai and across most business sectors.

My pro-bono involvements commenced with an appointment as a Board Member and Treasurer of St George's Hospital Kew, this ended with the Government of the day moving to network Boards. In 1998 I became involved with The Mental Health Research Institute at first with their Development Council. This led to an invitation to join the Board and subsequently appointed Deputy Chairman This Institute merged with the Floret Institute to become



Deputy Chairman Profile Trevor Clark OAM continued

the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health. My role was the development of the Florey Foundation of which I chaired for 3 years.

In the early 1990's I was involved with the Hyatt Resort Coolum as Chairman of the Presidents Club Ltd the company heading the independent owner of property. At that time the resort was owner by the Japanese company Kumagi Gumi.

Currently, I am on the Advisory Board of the IMPACT Institute (Deakin University) now one of Australia's leading mental health research organisations headed by Prof. Michael Berk.

In 2008 I was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for "service to the community, particularly through contributions to mental health research and reform"

In 2017 I was approached to become Chairman of the Melbourne Central Regional Group, and I have enjoyed the functions we have had and those that I have worked with in this task. I joined the Association in 2008, having been in a conversation with the then National Treasurer Neil Hewitt OAM, formal Chairman of St George's Hospital.

Important Acknowledgement for Landcare written by Pam Robinson OAM who attended the launch

Parliamentary Friends of Landcare was formally launched at Parliament House in Canberra on Tuesday March 16, 2021.



The establishment of this Friends group signals to the community the wide parliamentary support and recognition for Landcare. The invaluable role landcarers play in caring for our country, building productive landscapes and resilient communities in the rural and urban regions and the support given by Australia to global land care programs is extensive.

Founding PFL Co-Chairs, NSW Senator Perin Davey and Vic Senator Raff Ciccone, were joined by many fellow Parliamentarians, Government, Opposition and Independents.

The Minister for the Environment Hon. Sussan Ley MP; Ms Terri Butler MP Shadow Minister Environment and both the Minister and Shadow Minister for Agriculture addressed the National and State Landcare Organisations and Landcare representatives, following a Welcome to Country to the Ngunnawal lands of the Canberra region.

To know more about Landcare in Victoria and see where your nearest Group is, go to <https://www.landcarevic.org.au/groups/state/lvi/>

Photo: (L-R): Doug Humann AM, Chair Landcare Australia; Senator Davey, Senator Ciccone and Patrick O'Connor, Chair, National Landcare Network.

The Order of Australia Association



Save the Date and time:

National AGM will be Virtual on **Saturday May 8, 2021** commencing at 10.30am

Information will be distributed to members next month.

Regional Group Chairs as at March 22, 2021

Barwon	Wayne Myers OAM
Central Highlands Wimmera	John Burt OAM
Eastern Suburbs	Geoffrey Grinton OAM
Gippsland	Lorraine Bartling OAM
Loddon-Campaspe	John Higgs OAM
Mallee	Vacant*
Melbourne Central	Trevor Clark OAM
Mornington Peninsula	Geoff Walsh AO
NE & Goulburn Valley	Barbara Thomas OAM
North Central Suburbs	Fred Harrington OAM
South Central Suburbs	Graeme Woolacott OAM
SW Victoria	Peter Habersberger AM RFD
Western Suburbs	John Ravenhall AM

*Mallee is currently managed by VIC Branch committee

Next edition of the VIC Branch e-Newsletter will be emailed to members on June 18, 2021
