



Dated MAY 2021

Vision Impaired Accessible Document

CELEBRATING SERVICE



NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The first details of the forthcoming National Conference in May 2022 are available on Page 12. Autumn in Canberra is not the 'freezing ice-bound' image so beloved of our more tropical and northern based confreres. Rather, the 'mellow fruitfulness' promoted by John Keats, more readily springs to mind!!

Our front-page image draws on Government House Canberra. Following this link offers a drone-based view that is both illustrative and predictive of Autumn in our Nation's capital:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=snQLGlxxPBO>

You could be a part of a similar picture in May 2022 if you take up the Chairman of ACT Branch's invitation to participate in our National Conference.

Editor

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 – Phil Morrall AM, CSC Email: natsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow Members,

After a prolonged period of business isolation, like a number of us I suspect, I have now started to return to the office and to face to face meetings. I do so with alacrity but also with a slight sense of unease. It's hard to shake off the nervy covid habits; the board room set up is different to cope with the covid rules; people behave differently too. Yet there is a sense of relief. Zoom meetings and teaming up on Microsoft are no substitutes for face to face interaction and to tease our business issues and enjoy the collegiality of business life.

Business has worked hard to support employees working virtually and has drawn down heavily on the cultural capital of their organisations in that endeavour. And there are a number of good things that have come of it. Digital technologies have well and truly proven their value and companies that don't have deep digital capability are now working hard to acquire it. And Working From Home now has its own acronym, WFH, and, more importantly, is established as a business norm with its own particular protocols and idiosyncrasies. Many have thrived on this change. Yet WFH hasn't been without cost, and the toll on some employees has been considerable. There has been a rise in mental illness; working hours have expanded; global business has to be transacted 24 hours a day in different time zones putting sustained pressure on affected workers. Productivity, which has held up well, is now coming under pressure. And, at the end of the day, we are social animals and, I must say, it has been good to dry clean the suit, put on shoes rather than sneakers; and find my passes in the desk draw.

Unfortunately, we are still early in the recovery and we remain in transit to a new normal which I suspect we hope will be somewhat like the old one! Our 2021 AGM held this week still had to be conducted by Zoom. I know the Association has worked hard to maintain the engagement with members and to support communities during this tough period. Let's hope it won't be too long before we can get back together again.

The recent passing of HRH the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was a sad and important event. As I noted in the message I posted on the national condolence register on behalf of OAA, Prince Philip was a great friend of Australia and committed his life to duty and public service. This didn't, however, prevent him from pursuing his interests and, in fact, he was able to make a huge impact on these interests through his role in public life. He was deeply interested in people, their attitudes and cultures. He was passionate about technology and innovation, a lover of the natural environment and relentlessly intellectually curious. I saw

this first hand early in my career when I was invited to be a Member of the Duke of Edinburgh Study Conference in Canada. The Conference brought together some 300 young emerging leaders from Commonwealth countries to explore the interaction between people and industry and the relationship between industry and the community around it. He addressed the Plenary session of the Conference stressing that our three weeks exploring Canada was not just about coming out with some good ideas about how to improve our world and having a good time, although I must say Montreal had a lot to teach me in all those respects, but to challenge our assumptions and prejudices and to appreciate diversity. The Duke founded this Conference in 1956 and it continues today. He was well ahead of his time.

Can I wish you well in the weeks ahead.

Heather Ridout AO
National President

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

By the time you read this edition of The Order we will have completed our 2021 Annual General Meeting. It is disappointing to be forced, once more, to resort to technology for our annual meeting and it is hoped that with vaccination now in progress we will soon be able to return to a more normal way of life.

Your National Board farewelled, with thanks, Nora Lewis AM (NT) and Frank Madill AO (TAS) as Branch Nominated Directors. Rosemary Callingham AM (TAS) and Andrew Bruyn AM (NT) were welcomed as incoming directors

Branch AGMs have now been held and Branch and Regional Group Committees established for the coming year. Thanks are extended to all who have served in the recent past, are continuing on committees or are newly appointed. Your commitment to serve the needs of your fellow members is appreciated.

Branches and Regional Groups have done much through the recent difficult period to maintain contact with members and offer activities within local rules. It is hoped that we will now be able to cautiously extend our activities and continue with both meeting our members' needs and promoting the Order of Australia within the community. It is gratifying that, through the efforts of all, we have not seen a reduction in membership numbers though the recent difficult period.

Our ACT Branch, through its Conference Committee, is now well advanced with plans for a most interesting and informative Annual Conference in Canberra in May 2022.

The Association National Project was agreed by your National Board in 2017 as focussing on the provision of member-funded scholarships in the name of the Association. This project has now been extended to encourage Branch members to donate to scholarships in the name of the Branch, where possible to be awarded to a scholar in a tertiary institute in the Branch during the appropriate National Conference.

I look forward to being able to meet with some members soon and to be able to renew many friendships at our National Conference in Canberra in May 2022.

Barry Nunn AO
National Chairman

EDITORIAL – PHIL MORRALL AM, CSC

Also featured in this edition are the outcomes of our 2021 Annual General Meeting. I do hope that you participated in the ‘virtual’ AGM arrangements. Contributing to the proper governance of our Association is important. The National Board and indeed Branch Committees need not only your participation but also the benefit of your views on the ‘what, why and where’ of Association activities.

Are we there yet? Have we emerged from the Covid-19 cloud into a crimson dawn, characterised by being one people? Well, I think we might well be on the way. Vaccination controversies notwithstanding, there appears to be a greater acceptance of the broad roadmap agreed at National Cabinet.

It is hard to argue that we as a Nation have been ill-served by our National Medical authorities; so many of whom have both national and international eminence in their field of specialist endeavour. Many have been recognised within our Order and some are Association members. Beware the ‘instant experts’ and the ‘monday morning quarterbacks’ !!

It might be worth noting that 2021 is the centenary of not only the Royal Australian Air Force (Disclaimer- an event close to my own heart) and Rotary in Australia but also the Federal Department of Health. Our National health administration was formalised in the context of the scourge of the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918 - 1921.

Doesn't history have a beautiful ability to ‘rhyme’?

VALE

Australian Cardinal Edward Cassidy AC



Cardinal Edward Cassidy, passed away in Newcastle on Saturday 10 April 2021 at 96, after more than 70 years of service that saw him become one of the nation's most senior Vatican officials of all time.

Born in 1924 in Sydney from humble beginnings, Cardinal Cassidy served in parish ministry in the Wagga Wagga diocese before relocating to Rome to further his studies.

He spent more than 30 years as a Vatican diplomat in Asia, Europe, Latin America and Africa, before going onto work for the Secretariat of State, where he served for almost two years in a role equivalent to the Pope's chief of staff.

He served as president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity in 1989 and was elevated to the rank of cardinal in 1991.

Cardinal Cassidy was appointed a Companion of The Order of Australia in 1990 in recognition of his service. He was a Life Member of our Association.

[The Hon George P Shultz AO \(Hon\)](#)



George Shultz, a pillar of the Republican foreign-policy establishment whose diplomacy helped seal the end of the Cold War, died in February 2021. He was 100 years old.

Mr Shultz held four different cabinet posts in the Nixon and Reagan administrations and served for six years as President Ronald Reagan's secretary of state, one of the longest such tenures since World War II. He remained an active voice on national security, economic and environmental issues after leaving government, sometimes taking positions challenging the Trump administration.

A man of strong convictions who nevertheless rarely lost control of his emotions, Mr Shultz played a pivotal role in encouraging Mr Reagan to pursue a dialogue with the Soviet Union's leaders despite strong opposition from the Pentagon and, at times, the president's own national-security adviser.

He was appointed as an Honorary Officer within The Order of Australia in September 2011 in recognition of his services to Australia. He was a Life Member of our Association.

[The Hon Andrew Peacock AC](#)



Andrew Peacock, ex-Liberal leader, debonair diplomat, and influential defence and foreign policy specialist, passed away in Austin Texas on 16 April 2021 at age 82.

Born in Melbourne on 13 February 1939, Mr Peacock was elected to Parliament at the age of 27. Dubbed the "colt from Kooyong", Mr Peacock succeeded Sir Robert Menzies in the blue-ribbon Liberal seat of Kooyong in 1966.

He held a number of cabinet portfolios during his time in politics, including as foreign minister between 1975 and 1980, then led the Liberals at elections in 1984 and 1990.

After leaving politics in 1994, Mr Peacock served as Australia's ambassador to the United States from 1997 to 1999. He spent much of the rest of his life in the US and died at his Texas home.

Mr Peacock was appointed a Companion within The Order of Australia in June 1997; for service to the Australian parliament, to politics and for the formulation and implementation of defence and foreign policy. He was a Life Member of our Association.

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION

2022 NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

18 – 22 MAY 2022

Celebrating Service

On behalf of the Board and the ACT Branch of our Association, it is my great pleasure to invite you to join us in May 2022 for our National Conference and Annual General Meeting. Our Branch is excited about hosting the first conference since 2019 and keen to welcome members and guests from all over Australia to Canberra, home of the Ngunnawal people.

The past 12 months or so have been difficult for many Australians, including some of our members. But through the dark clouds of bushfire, flood and COVID-19, thousands of outstanding Australian citizens have shone by their service to local communities and the nation. Emergency services and defence force personnel, police, doctors and nurses have given selflessly on the front line; scientists have worked tirelessly to develop new vaccines; leaders at every level have had to rise to extraordinary challenges - the list is almost endless.

At our 2022 conference, we will celebrate that service. Our speakers will range from national figures to some of the wonderful people who just make things work in their communities. Our subjects will include emergency support and disaster relief, health, education, science, national security, the law and grassroots community service.

Over three days from Thursday the 19th of May 2022 to Saturday the 21st, delegates will enjoy a reception at Government House, Yarralumla, a full day of conference sessions celebrating service, the National AGM and Members' Forum, and dinner at an iconic Canberra location, including presentation of a number of Order of Australia Association Foundation scholarships. The gathering will conclude on Sunday the 22nd of May with a commemorative service and the traditional farewell luncheon.

Recognising that COVID-19 uncertainties persist, conference registration will open in February 2022, a little later than usual. Our aim here is to allow members to register and make travel and accommodation bookings with as much confidence as possible. Registration will be managed primarily through the online booking platform *Sticky Tickets*, but a hard copy process via Australia Post will also be available.

More details about the conference will be published in *The Order* throughout 2021 and available on the Association's website. We do hope you will take the opportunity to come to Canberra to catch up with old friends, make new ones and celebrate the simple joy of being able to meet in person.

Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM

ACT Branch Chair

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 8 MAY 2021

For the second time in a year the Annual General Meeting was conducted as a virtual meeting via Zoom. Forty-six members attended and sixty-seven members submitted proxies.

Heather Ridout AO, National President opened the AGM and provided an overview of the Association in the national context.

Barry Nunn AO, National Chairman and Muriel Barasso OAM, National Treasurer gave a brief overview of the 2020 year which was one of considerable challenge for the Association against a background of national response to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Some of the highlights of the year were:

- Membership Fees were held at level of the previous year.
- Income decreased by 30% in part because of the impact of Covid-19 on the ability to hold functions.
- We had a surplus of \$94,366 net of investment value changes.
- National Investments increased by \$169,989 over the previous year.
- Branch Administrative Grants were increased to \$51,028 plus a Government stimulus of \$16,000.
- The Darwin Conference did not proceed because of Covid-19. It is planned to hold a Conference in Canberra in 2022.
- Members Equity (assets-less-liabilities) increased by \$150,180 to \$1,036,527.
- *The Order Magazine* costs were reduced by \$16,411 with members choosing electronic distribution and editorial efficiencies.
- We welcomed 620 new members but regrettably lost 611. At year end the Association strength was 8211 members.
- Despite lockdowns and considerable ongoing restrictions on members' events, innovative ways were developed to maintain contacts and continue with the activities of the Association.
- Branches and Regional Groups embraced the capacity to communicate electronically with members both by email and video conferencing and consequently contact and involvement were maintained.
- A new Constitution, By-laws and a series of Policies were developed with substantial input from Branches
- The National Board, through its Board Committees and Working Groups, updated the Strategic Plan and continued to review Association governance arrangements.
- A survey of reader views on the content of *The Order Magazine* was completed during the year, with valuable feedback provided on the future structure and content of the magazine,

OUR ASSOCIATION PURPOSE: TO CELEBRATE AND PROMOTE OUTSTANDING AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP.

2022 NATIONAL CONFERENCE THEME: TO CELEBRATE SERVICE.

Do you find a resonance between our purpose and our intended conference theme and this extract from the Prime Minister's speech? I do! – Phil Morrall AM, CSC Editor.

You are more, we are more, individually, than the things others try to identify us by .

This is an edited extract of Prime Minister Scott Morrison's address to the United Israel Appeal NSW Donor Dinner in Sydney 29 April 2021.

Tonight, I want to talk about a topic that I know is very dear to you. My father was a big believer in community. He was Mayor of Waverley, he was on the Waverley Council for some 16, 17 years and he taught me a lot about the importance of community. And he learnt it all from you because my father would tell me, if you want to understand community, understand the Jewish community, which he loved passionately and dearly. A community of individuals, a nation of individuals.

Now, as some of you may know, I have been deeply influenced in recent years by the writings of the late Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks. His books *Lessons in Leadership*, *Covenant and Conversation*, and *Morality*, his last work, have given me a more textured understanding of Judaism, my own Christian faith and what unites us all as human beings. In his works, Rabbi Sacks wrestles, a bit like Jacob, wrestles with the practical complexities of our modern pluralistic world and finds, through the tenets of his faith, as he did, a pathway to the common good.

At the heart of our Judeo-Christian heritage are two words. Human dignity. Appreciating human dignity also fosters our sense of shared humanity. This means that because we are conscious of our own failings and vulnerabilities, we can be more accepting and understanding of the failings and vulnerabilities of others. True faith and religion is about confronting your own frailties. It's about understanding your own and our humanity.

Human dignity is foundational to our freedom. It restrains government, it restrains our own actions and our own behaviour because we act for others and not ourselves, as you indeed do here this evening. That is the essence of morality.

Acting to morally enhance the freedom of others ultimately serves to enhance our own freedom. So it is no surprise then that Rabbi Sacks concluded in his final work, *Morality*, "If you lose your own morality, you are in danger of losing your freedom."

The implication here is very important. Liberty is not borne of the state but rests with the individual, for whom morality must be a personal responsibility. Freedom therefore rests on us taking personal responsibility for how we treat each other, based on our respect for, and appreciation of, human dignity. This is not about state power. This is not about market power. This is about morality and personal responsibility.

Now, morality is also then the foundation of true community. The place where we are valued; where we are unique; where we respect one another and contribute to and share one another's lives. Where we pledge faithfulness to do together what we cannot achieve alone. Sacks describes this as the covenant of community.

Now together and individually we are each responsible for building and sustaining community, and we each have something unique to bring. Because community begins with the individual, not the state, not the marketplace. It begins with an appreciation of the unique dignity of each human being. It recognises that each individual has something to offer and that failure to appreciate and realise this, as a community, means our community is poorer and it is weaker.

When we reduce ourselves to a collection of attributes, or divide ourselves, even worse, on this basis, we can lose sight of who we actually are as individual human beings - in all our complexity, in all our wholeness and in all our wonder.

So, my message is simple: you matter, you make the difference, you make community.

I've been so incredibly heartened to see people from across the country show the best of us as a nation this past year. Drought, bushfires, floods, cyclones, pandemic — Australians have found ways to support each other and stand with each other. Checking in on each other, keeping jobs there for your employees, volunteering, helping neighbours with their shopping.

Full Transcript:

<https://www.pm.gov.au/media/address-united-israel-appeal-dinner-randwick-nsw>

WA BRANCH

WA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Bettine Heathcote AM



Following the death of His Royal Highness Prince Phillip, Government House in Perth opened a Condolence Book. On behalf of the WA Branch a message has been included in this book.

As reported in these pages, our Branch has held two major events in the last few months. Our Queen's Birthday Reception was well attended and we were particularly pleased to recognise 2 people elevated to AC, 1 elevated to AO and an Honorary AO. We welcomed 1 military AM, 4 AM and 6 OAM awards. I represented the WA Branch at the Investitures hosted by our Patron Hon Kim Beasley AC, at Government House which, to comply with COVID requirements, were broken up into 4 smaller events held over 2 days.

Our Annual General Meeting was held at the new Club rooms at the Royal Airforce Association when three existing Committee members were re-elected and we welcome a new member in Mrs Margaret Nunn OAM. We were also pleased to re-elect Professor Robin Watts AM as the Branch Nominated Director on the National Board.

The WA Branch will shortly be launching the appeal for funds toward the Scholarship to be awarded at the National Conference which it is anticipated will be held in Perth in 2024.

OAAWA Office-holders and Committee Members

Patron: Hon Kim Beazley AC Governor of Western Australia

Vice Patron: Hon Kerry Sanderson AC

Chairman : Mrs Bettine Heathcote AM

Secretary: Miss Margaret Lobo AM

Treasurer: Mr Peter Snow OAM

WA National Director: Professor Robin Watts AM

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

Mr Geoffrey Cattach AM

Prof Lorraine Hammond AM: Membership Officer

Mr William Hassell AM JP: “Newsletter editor”

Dr Jackie Scurlock OAM: WA Editor of “The Order.”

Mrs Rebecca Tolstoy AM

Mrs Margaret Nunn OAM

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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[Award Recipients' Reception – Australia Day 2021 Honours List](#)

On 24 February 2021 The Order of Australia Association Western Australian Branch

held a Reception to welcome the new recipients. It was held in the new Royal Australian Air Force Association Club (RAAFA Club) that had only recently been opened. In view of the COVID – 19 restrictions the new recipients were each at a table with their guests and members of the Association were able to meet them and learn of their achievements. It meant that the exchange of information was mutual and enjoyed. The Reception was opened by Bettine Heathcote AM with acknowledgement of country and welcome.

The Chief Operating Officer, Tonia Zeeman gave a history of the RAAFA Club that started on Adelaide Terrace. In 1972 the club bought 28 acres of land at Bullcreek and a Country Club and Museum were built. Recently a new complex has been built to produce a thriving community hub. It incorporates in its design sculptures and art by Anne Neil representing the Hawker Hurricane Aircraft that was pivotal to the Battle of Britain. The old Spitfire Replica still has pride of place as you enter the grounds.

Bettine Heathcote AM introduced the 14 recipients who attended and we were impressed by their varied and wonderful contributions to Australia.

Fiona Harris AM responded on behalf of the recipients with an introduction to the Bullcreek area, Gabbilgee, that is very important in Noongar culture. She spoke of the meaning of Supine – Failing to act or protest when wrongs are seen. She spoke of the importance of our role to do the right thing irrespective of how difficult it would be. We are not to be supine! She also acknowledged the support of colleagues and families who help us to achieve our goals.

The Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC CVO proposed a toast to the recipients. After the formal proceedings a delicious supper was consumed.



Fiona Harris AM



From L-R Chrissie Parrott AO, Kenneth Fitch AO, Margaret Court AC, Cheryl Praeger AC



The Australia Day Order of Australia 2021 recipients with Bettine Heathcote AM and Maj General Barry Nunn AO

The AGM of OAAWA

The AGM was held on Saturday 20 March at the Bendat Parent and Community Centre and attended by 37. It was pleasing to see new members attending. Due to COVID-19 restrictions we were seated at tables which helped separation and led to enjoyable, comfortable conversations!

Bettine Heathcote AM, Chairman, welcomed the attendees. Her report was well received. She noted Western Australia had been fortunate to be able to hold a number of events in 2020, despite the pandemic. Some had to be cancelled such as the Evensong Service.

The visits to the region's activities had been enjoyed by a number of members locally and from Perth.

The committee was thanked for all that had been contributed by them, especially our new Treasurer, Peter Snow OAM. Membership is healthy, being 716 at present.

Due to COVID-19 the program of Patrons for the Police Academy was restricted early on, but by the middle of the year was in full swing. Michael Bleus OAM was thanked and members encouraged to join as there will be more police recruits in the coming year.

Bettine Heathcote AM outlined a full program for the coming year that she hopes a number of members will take advantage of. The Treasurer's report was well received.

There were four positions up for re-election and four nominations were received so they were elected for three years as per the new constitution. Margaret Lobo AM as secretary, Robin Watts AM as WA's National Director, Michael Bleus OAM and Geoffrey Cattach AM.

There was one vacancy and Margaret Nunn was elected as a general member.

The new Committee's details are in the adjacent box.

Dr Lorraine Hammond AM CF

At the Queen's Birthday Honours Lorraine received an AM and her Citation reads: For significant Service to Higher Education and the Community.

Lorraine is on the OAA WA Committee as the Membership Officer.

She is an Associate Professor in the School of Education at Edith Cowan University and divides her time working in the Kimberley of WA for a project improving literacy outcomes in remote mostly-Indigenous community schools, teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students at ECU and researching high impact strategies to prevent literacy based learning difficulties. She is also the President of Learning Difficulties Australia and serves on four WA Independent Primary and Secondary Independent School Boards. Lorraine is a practical academic who enjoys teaching children of all ages to read.

The OAAWA Program 2021

Sunday 13 June 5pm : Evensong Service St George's Cathedral

Wednesday 21 July 10am "Let's Talk About": Dr David Cook "Cyber Crime"
St Louis Estate 10 Albert Street Claremont.

Wednesday 15 September 7pm : Annual Dinner Royal Perth Golf Club

ACT BRANCH

OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley

Branch Nominated Director

Dr Alan Morrison AM JP

Chair

Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM
Chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au
0467 719 020 (M)

Secretary

Robert Altamore OAM

Treasurer

Phil Morrall AM CSC

Committee Members

Lynne Duckham OAM
Narelle Hargreaves AM
Trish Keller OAM
Bill Maiden PSM OAM
Andrew Phelan AM
Coralie Wood OAM

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM
Branch Chairman

Canberrans are enjoying a beautiful Autumn, with generally fine weather and changing leaves giving rise to glorious colours. This gives us great confidence that members from across Australia will love our national capital when they arrive for the Association's 2022 National Conference and AGM in May next year. As you will see elsewhere in this edition of *The Order*, planning for the conference continues apace and we are very much looking forward to welcoming friends and colleagues from other branches.

In the meantime, 2021 is proving a busy year for the ACT Branch. In March, our members had the opportunity to see at first hand the Royal Australian Air Force's centenary flypast, which featured more than 100 vintage and current aircraft. Last month we enjoyed morning tea with the Executive Director of the National Arboretum and Stromlo Forest Park, Scott Saddler AM. In early May, Branch Committee members represented the Association at nine investiture ceremonies for the Australia Day 2021 list; and later in the month we will celebrate those new recipients and welcome new members with a breakfast at the Commonwealth Club.

Looking slightly further ahead, our 2021 Queen's Birthday luncheon will be held in mid-June, we plan a (rescheduled) morning tea with military historian Dr Peter Pedersen AM in July, and on Monday 9 August the Chief of the Air Force will deliver our 2021 Order of Australia Association - Australian Defence Force Oration. Details of all these events will be published as they become available, and we look forward to seeing you.

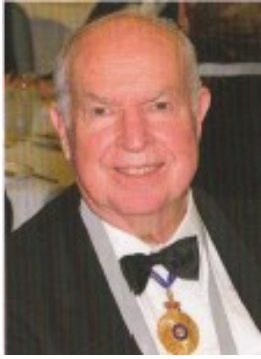
MORNING TEA with SCOTT SADDLER AM



On Tuesday 27 April, 34 members enjoyed a morning tea with Scott Saddler AM as guest speaker. Scott is a Branch member and the Executive Branch Manager for the National Arboretum and Stromlo Forest Park. Scott talked about the Arboretum from inception in 2005 to today and gave insights into the management and future plans for the development of the Arboretum into a complete tourist destination. Scott expressed his appreciation for the valuable support the Friends of the Arboretum provide in helping with the maintenance of the 44000 trees in 100 forests over 250 hectares and for the sponsors that have provided facilities and gardens in the precinct. As a proud Wiradjuri man, Scott said how he valued the encouragement provided by his elders in his youth and has in turn provided mentoring to indigenous youth. The Arboretum has a proactive role in the celebration and inclusion of indigenous Australian people and their culture. More information on the National Arboretum can be found at <https://www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au> .

Scott was appointed a Member in the Order of Australia in June 2020 *for significant service to public administration, and as a supporter and mentor of Indigenous youth*. Slides from Scott's talk can be *accessed through contact with* chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

MEET OUR MEMBERS – BRIAN O'KEEFFE AO



The involvement of Branch member Brian O'Keeffe AO in air traffic management over five decades has resulted in his becoming one of the most influential Australians in world aviation safety. Brian first applied his electronics engineering knowledge to radio installations, setting the groundwork for the design of the Instrument Landing System (ILS) which became the standard in Australia for many years. This allowed pilots to conduct an instrument approach to landing if they were unable to establish visual contact with the runway.

Brian was the co-developer of a high accuracy optical electrical tracking system which became part of the Microwave Landing System (MLS). In 1967 he presented a paper to the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) to replace ILS with MLS. He led the Department of Transport MLS program to produce and test an MLS system (later known as INTERSCAN). This more accurate landing system was adopted in 1978 by ICAO as the world standard technology for assisted landing.

Brian was elected chairman of the ICAO committee that worked to have an integrated system of communication, navigation, surveillance and air traffic management accepted at a world-wide ICAO meeting in 1991. He was subsequently elected First Vice-President of the ICAO General assembly in 1992.

He held a number of key strategic and operational roles in the Department of Transport including First Assistant Secretary Airways Operation Division and in 1988 was appointed General Manager Advanced Systems Development for the Civil Aviation Authority, a position he held until retirement in 1997.

In recognition of his international contribution, Brian received many awards including being inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington DC in 1997 and in 2004, receiving the Edward Warner Award, ICAO's highest honour.

In 1992 Brian was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia *for service to civil aviation, particularly international civil aviation*.

Acknowledgment to Engineers Australia

WELCOME TO NEW OAA MEMBERS FROM THE 2021 AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Air Vice-Marshal Leigh GORDON AO CSM - For distinguished service in responsible positions in acquisition and sustainment of aerospace systems for the Australian Defence Force.

Mr Stephen BYRON AM - For significant service to the aviation infrastructure sector, and to tourism.

Dr Paul CRAFT AM - For significant service to medicine, to oncology, and to professional organisations.

Colonel William KELLY (Ret'd) AM - For significant service to pharmacy through a range of roles.

Mr Allan WILLIAMS AM – For significant service to business tourism, and to the community.

Mrs Coralie AMOS OAM – For service to the community through a range of roles.

WO1 Michael BATES OAM – For meritorious service in the appointments of Regimental Sergeant Major 21st Construction Regiment, Regimental Sergeant Major 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment, Career Adviser Royal Australian Engineers and Regimental Sergeant Major Army Ceremonial.

Mr Chris DIENER OAM – For service to people with a disability, and to youth through Scouts.

Mr Abdul HASHIM OAM - For service to the multicultural community of the Australian Capital Territory

Mrs Wanda HORKY OAM - For service to the Polish community in Australia.

CPO Jeremy PITCHFORD OAM – For meritorious service in the field of maritime Communications and Information Systems support.

Mr George WAINWRIGHT OAM – For service to veterans.

FROM THE 2020 QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

WGCDR Steven PARSONS OAM – For meritorious performance of duties in Very Important Persons Operations at the Air Mobility Control Centre, and in the provision of airbase support and cultural reform as Commanding Officer of Number 13 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force.

Mrs Rosanna KOBIELA-HORN OAM – For service to table tennis.

VALE

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

Mr Collin FREELAND AO - Queen's Birthday 1988 – In recognition of public service.

Commander Colin BENSON OAM – Australia Day 1985 - In recognition of service to the SA Police Force.

Mr Frank BOYLE OAM - Queen's Birthday 1991 – In recognition of service to the community.

Mrs Barbara SILINIS OAM - Queen's Birthday 2009 – For service to the Lithuanian community of Canberra.

VICTORIA BRANCH

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

With autumn come the crunch of leaves underfoot and the spectacular show of red, orange, gold and purple foliage make anywhere in Victoria the perfect place to be at this time of the year.

Confidence is gradually returning and further restrictions have been lifted as we work toward face-to-face events.

At the time of writing this report on behalf of the VIC Branch it is pleasing to know our 2021 Australia Day recipients, their families and guests have enjoyed the five Investitures at our picturesque Government House. We welcome 2021 Australia Day members and look forward to meeting you at upcoming events.



Following the death of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh on Friday April 9, Her Excellency the Governor of Victoria advised the Victoria Branch of the availability of a condolence book for signing by members of the public at the front gate of Government House.

Our first virtual event for 2021 on March 24 focused on the re-emergence of our Arts Industries at the Arts Centre Melbourne and the National Gallery of Victoria after being closed for twelve months.

It was our intention to hold a hybrid Annual General Meeting on March 16, but when the snap five day COVID lockdown was announced mid-February the decision was made to change the format to virtual.

Wednesday May 12 a virtual event from 5.30pm to 6.30pm regarding Australia's Agricultural Opportunities and Challenges with Alana Johnson AM Founding member of Australian Women in Agriculture and Dr Joanna Newton OAM Leading agricultural advocate into dairy research.

Our annual National Gallery Victoria lecture, exhibition and lunch is scheduled for Thursday July 15, booking details of the Melbourne Winter Masterpieces will be available the end of this month.

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

Thursday September 23 - 5.30pm to 6.30pm Virtual Twilight Event focused on Mental health and RUOK Day with Hon Robert Knowles AO and Kim Koop AM.

Our annual luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday November 16 at William Angliss College Restaurant with guest speaker and OAA Foundation scholarship recipient

Some of our Regional Groups are hosting face-to-face events in accordance with COVID guidelines.

Members are invited to attend VIC Branch events and Regional Group events including those outside their nominated Regional Group based on the address on OAA membership application. There are times when members have a connection with the community in which they live or lived for many years, and another connection with the community in which they have their business or place of employment.

Members 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

Stay well and take the time to support Victoria.

Helene Bender OAM
Branch Chairman

VIC BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The VIC Branch Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday March 16, 2021.

We welcome two new committee members Trevor Clark OAM Deputy Chair and Dr Paul Hemming AO committee member.

Thank you to Dr Yvonne Ho AM Deputy Chair and Pam Robinson OAM committee member for their service over the past two years.

MELBOURNE WINTER MASTERPIECES

Join the VIC Branch on Thursday July 15 at the National Gallery Victoria (NGV) for the Melbourne Winter Masterpieces exhibition French Impressionism from the Museum of Fine Arts Boston.



Melbourne is the only international destination for this major exhibition. The exhibition will feature more than 100 masterworks of French Impressionism, including paintings by Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Edgar Degas, Camille Pissarro, Gustave Caillebotte and Mary Cassatt. Nearly 80 of the works on show are coming to Australia for the first time.

Save the date: Thursday July 15 at the NGV with a lecture, exhibition and lunch at Café VIC. Details will be emailed to VIC Branch members the end of this month.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THREE VICTORIAN WOMEN AWARDED OFFICE OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ON AUSTRALIA DAY 2021



Professor Susan Davis AO, for distinguished service to medicine, to women's health as a clinical endocrinologist and researcher, and to medical education.

Professor Susan Davis is a leading international researcher in the field of women's health and menopausal medicine. She is a National

Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Principal Research Fellow and, since 2005, has been the Professor of Women's Health in the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Monash University.

Susan was a founder of the Jean Hailes Foundation and was Director of Research of the Foundation from 1997 until 2005. She also held the Monash-Jean Hailes Chair of Women's Health from 2003 to 2005, and between 2003 and 2007 was the lead Investigator for the NHMRC Centre of Clinical Research Excellence for the Study of Women's Health. She is a past president of the Australasian Menopause Society and a board member of the International Menopause Society since 2011.

Professor Helen O'Connell AO was recognised for distinguished service to medical education and to medicine in the field of urology, as an academic and clinician, and to professional groups.



Professor O'Connell is an academic Urologist based in Melbourne. She is the Head of Urology at Western Health. Completing her Urological training in 1994, she became Australia's first female Urologist. She was Fellowship trained after that in Houston and became a leader in the field of clinical urology, urodynamics and lower urinary tract reconstruction, particularly in women.

Her Doctorate, (Melbourne University 2005) was in the study of female urogenital anatomy, studies for which she has international renown. She has been Principal investigator on a large number of clinical trials for drugs and devices for overactive bladder, stress incontinence in men and women and benign prostatic hyperplasia. Her current research interests are female urethral science, minimally invasive surgical approaches to problematic transvaginal mesh, stimulated transplanted smooth muscle neo-sphincters and shared care models of treatment for men with prostate cancer, and big data on incontinence in men and women.

Ms Brenda Shanahan AO was recognised for distinguished service to medical health research, to the business and finance sectors, to corporate governance, and to philanthropy.



A pioneer in the financial industry, Brenda was the first female member of the Australian Stock Exchange. She has been a Non-Executive Director of DMP Asset Management since 2000 and of SG Hiscock & Co since 2019 and during this time has shown great dedication to the direction of the businesses. Brenda is and has also been a director of many listed companies, including Clinuvel

Pharmaceuticals, Challenger Group and Bell Financial Group. Her contribution to philanthropy has been both generous and impactful. Brenda is currently the Chair of Aitkenhead Centre for Medical Discovery and was the founder of the SVI Foundation and the Chair of St Vincent's Health. She is also a director of Rock Art

Australia (formerly Kimberly Foundation Australia), a not for profit organisation dedicated to researching and protecting Kimberley rock art by bringing science and Aboriginal cultural knowledge together. Brenda established the Brenda Shanahan Charitable Foundation, through which she supports various not for profit organisations.

FRANK COSTA AO

Frank Aloysius Costa, a legend of Geelong's business, sport and social scene, died peacefully on Sunday 2 May 2021, aged 83.



Although he never played a game of AFL football it was as the transformative Geelong Cats President that Frank Costa came to national prominence, helping the club break a premiership drought of 44 years when they won the 2007 flag under Coach Mark Thompson and Captain Tom Harley.

Photo: Frank Costa AO and Gary

Ablett Jnr at 2007 Grand Final from Geelong Advertiser

Frank and his brother Adrian, the sons of Italian immigrants bought the Geelong Convent Garden fruit shop on Geelong's Moorabool Street from their parents in 1959 before expanding it into a national wholesale fruit and vegetable empire. From humble beginnings, Costa Group became Australia's largest horticultural company and a major supplier of berries, mushrooms, tomatoes, bananas, avocados and citrus fruits.

He was a generous philanthropist and fierce advocate for the Geelong community and the State of Victoria. He was Patron and Ambassador of numerous organisations Australia wide.

Our thoughts are with Frank's wife of 61 years Shirley, their eight daughters and extended family.

In June 1997 Frank was a Medal of the Order of Australia recipient for service to Youth and the Community of Geelong. He was appointed an Officer within The Order of Australia in January 2015, for distinguished service to the community of Geelong through ongoing roles and contributions to a range of sports, business, religious, medical, educational and social welfare organisations. He was a Life Member of our Association.

WELCOME BACK STACEY WILLIAMS

It is pleasing to welcome Stacey Williams back to the Department of Premier and Cabinet after twelve months parental leave.

After International Women's Day, with the theme of 'choose to challenge', Stacey has been reflecting on what more we can do. How can we continue to ensure that the great contribution Victorian woman make to our society and to our communities is recognised?

Stacey has updated the Recognition Matters 'how to nominate' webpage, which provides tips on putting together a nomination, including examples. This shows the minimum information required when nominating a woman - it's easier than you think!

IMPORTANT RECOGNITION FOR NATIONAL LANDCARE

The National Landcare Network (NLN) and **Landcare Australia (LA)** received important acknowledgement at Parliament House, Canberra, on 16 March, on behalf of Australia's State and Territory Landcare Groups and its members.

The Launch of **Parliamentary Friends of Landcare (PFoL)** by Co-Chairs NSW Senator Perin Davey and VIC Senator Raff Ciccone was held in the company of representatives from Landcare organisations, groups, volunteers, and many Parliamentarians from the Government, Opposition, and Independents.

Landcare's significant role in building productive landscapes and resilient communities in the rural and urban regions of Australia was celebrated.

The event was officially opened with a Welcome to Country by Uncle Wally Bell, a traditional custodian of the Ngunnawal lands of the Canberra region.

Senators Davey and Ciccone, followed by the Ministers and Opposition Ministers for Environment and Agriculture, spoke of their support for Landcare, and the Chairs of NLN and LA, highlighted how they looked forward to Parliamentary Friends of Landcare strengthening national bipartisan support for Landcare.

To learn more about Landcare and to see how you can join a group near you, go to –

1. National Landcare Network (linking State and Territory Groups information): <https://www.nln.org.au/> and
2. Landcare Australia (including August 2019 National Landcare Conference



information): <https://landcareaustralia.org.au/>

Article and photo supplied by former VIC Branch committee member Pam Robinson OAM who attended the Parliamentary Friends of Landcare launch in Canberra

L-R: Senator Ciccone, CEO Landcare Australia Dr Shane Norrish, Senator Davey, CEO National Landcare Network Jim Adams and Hon. Darren Chester MP

OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron: The Governor of Victoria
Her Excellency The Hon. Linda Dessau AC

Chairman

Dr Helene Bender OAM chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au
Mobile: 0407 261 951

Deputy Chairman

Trevor Clark OAM

Secretary Interim

Fred Harrington OAM

Treasurer

Alan Brook OAM treasurervic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Branch Nominated Director

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Editor VIC pages – The Order

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Merchandise Chairman

Professor June Kane AM chairmerchandise@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Regional Groups Coordinator

Barb Brook OAM vicrgcoord@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Committee members

Barbara Thomas OAM

Dr Peter Hemming AO

VIC BRANCH REGIONAL GROUP CHAIRS

Barwon

Wayne Myers OAM

Central Highlands Wimmera

John Burt OAM

Eastern Suburbs

Geoffrey Grinton OAM

Frankston Mornington Peninsula

Geoff Walsh AO

Gippsland

Lorraine Bartling OAM

Loddon-Campaspe

Steven Lee AM

Mallee

Vacant*

Melbourne Central

Trevor Clark OAM

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

SA BRANCH

BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE:

Tony Metcalf OAM
SA Branch Chair

chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

The SA Branch has continued to adapt, and the Branch Committee and the Fellowship group have resumed face-to-face activities (subject to social gathering compliance). We have continued to issue monthly newsletters to keep our members updated.

So far this year, in January we successfully hosted a Student Citizenship Awards presentation ceremony attended by the Governor of SA and our annual Australia Day lunch, our Annual General Meeting in February, and a social outing to historic Carrick Hill Mansion in March. We have also held informative Fellowship luncheons in February and April.

Our upcoming events are on schedule, and I remind intending participants that it is important that you register using the Reply Form attached to our newsletter (and also available on the website) so that we can comply with the ongoing COVID regulations.

We have just launched our Student Citizenship Awards program for 2021, with a new professional brochure promoting the Awards program to schools and colleges.

With the easing of density restrictions for social gatherings in SA, we are now looking forward to again hosting welcome receptions for Australian honours recipients.

Stay Safe

Tony Metcalf OAM

BRANCH COMMITTEE DETAILS

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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

John Phillips OAM

Treasurer

John McKellar AM ED

Member Secretary SA

Greg Gordon OAM JP

Student Citizenship Awards Convenor

Noel Hender OAM BEM

Regional Groups Coordinator

Ken Coventry OAM JP (co-opted)

Merchandise Officer

June Genders OAM (co-opted)

Editor/Webmaster

Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP

Other committee members

Kathryn House AM

Flavia de Pasquale OAM

Pamela Rajkowski OAM

National Director

John McKellar AM ED **Website**

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

REGIONAL CONTACTS:***South East Regional Group***

Eric Roughana AM

roseric1@bigpond.com

Riverland and Mallee Regional Group

Tim Grieger OAM JP

tgrieger@riverland.net.au

Barossa Regional Group***Fleurieu Regional Group******Gawler and District Regional Group***

orderofaustraliasa@gmail.com

2020 STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

On Saturday 23 January the SA Branch Patron, His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia, was our guest of honour at a Student Citizenship Award presentation ceremony. Each of our Top 10 Student Citizenship Award recipients received an inscribed plaque and a “With Distinction” certificate signed by the Governor.

Charlotte Mauviel from Temple Christian College (Mile End Campus) was officially announced as South Australia’s 2020 Student Citizen of the Year.

We were very pleased that Charlotte could join us – she has now left Adelaide to begin her initial military training at HMAS *Creswell*, the Royal Australian Naval College, before starting her degree course at the Australian Defence Force Academy. We wish Charlotte the best of luck with her career as a Naval officer.

The Student Citizenship Awards program is the flagship project of the SA Branch. The Branch is very grateful for the ongoing patronage and support of His Excellency the Governor.



Pictured with His Excellency the Governor (left to right): Samoda Silva (Adelaide High School); Sallee Shepherd (Unity College); Ethan White (Xavier College); Taylor Portelli (Eynesbury College); Kylan Beech (Nazareth College); Jake Meinel (Temple Christian College); Charlotte Mauviel (Temple Christian College); Gabrielle Connolly (Cardijn College); Skye Sexton (Loreto College); and Elijah Barrott-Walsh (Cardijn College), with the SA Branch Chair Mr Tony Metcalf OAM.



Caption 1.2

Charlotte Mauviel, South Australia's 2020 Student Citizen of the Year, with His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia.

AUSTRALIA DAY LUNCHEON

Immediately following the Student Citizenship Awards ceremony on Saturday 23 January, the SA Branch held its annual Australia Day Luncheon. We were pleased to welcome 49 attendees; special guests included our 2020 Student Citizen of the Year Charlotte Mauviel and her family, and some of our Top 10 recipients.

Our Guest Speaker was Professor Anthony Thomas AC FAA. Professor Thomas is an Australian Research Council Australian Laureate Fellow, Elder Professor of Physics at the University of Adelaide and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science. His awards include the Walter Boas Medal of the Australian Institute of Physics (1987), the inaugural Silver Jubilee Commemoration Medal of Flinders University (1991), the Academy of Science Thomas Ranken Lyle Medal (1997), the Harrie Massey Medal of the UK Institute of Physics (2000) and the Centenary Medal. Professor Thomas was the South Australian Scientist of the Year in 2014, and in 2020 was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia for his eminent service to scientific education and research, particularly in the field of nuclear and particle physics, and through academic leadership roles.



Caption 2.1

Professor Anthony Thomas AC FAA was guest speaker for the SA Branch Australia Day Luncheon.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The SA Branch held its 35th Annual General Meeting on Saturday 13 February under strict COVIDSafe conditions. Many members and guests stayed on for lunch (at their own expense).

Under the governance provisions of the new national Constitution approved on 17 December 2020, a nomination was effectively not required for the position of National Director, and we congratulate Professor John McKellar AM ED who has two further years to serve in this appointment. His agreement to continue to serve as permitted has been noted in the SA Branch Committee Minutes.

The new Constitution also introduced three year terms for committee members, so the incumbent members (as of the date of the AGM) who had nominated may serve for a further two years. We welcome Ms Kathryn House AM to the Branch Committee, filling a casual vacancy created by the retirement of Ken Coventry OAM. The Chairman and Branch Committee members thank Ken for his valuable contributions over many years. Ken has agreed to continue as a co-opted member, to coordinate the Regional Groups.

Mr Paul Thomas AM had previously continued as our Secretary, as a co-opted member. The Chairman and Branch Committee members also extend their thanks to Paul, and also to outgoing committee members Martin FitzPatrick OAM, Brian Holecek OAM and Gillian Rogers OAM for their valuable contributions.

The guest speaker at the AGM was Dr Rob Wight OAM, a senior lecturer in primary care at Flinders University. Rob spent several years with his wife Elise and daughter Karen working amongst the Dani community in North Baliem in the mountains of West Papua. Rob ran the Pit River Hospital, teaching and training indigenous medical workers from ten outlying communities. Rob was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2019 Australia Day Honours List, *“For service to medicine through a range of roles”*. Rob also has a passion for music which often sees him invited to perform, and he has done this for the SA Branch previously.

Branch Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM said: *“Rob’s talk was an interesting insight into the issues*

and challenges of Australian foreign aid delivery many years in the past. The two detailed examples he gave were an excellent description of how resourceful people had to be and the conditions under which they had to work. His experiences with their religious beliefs were a testament to the work being done by missionaries at the time. It was a very interesting presentation”.

Dr Rob Wight OAM was guest speaker for the SA Branch AGM.



‘HIGHLY COMMENDED’ PRESENTATIONS

Just before another lock-down was imposed in December last year, several SA Branch members were fortunate to be able to present Student Citizenship Award certificates at an end-of-year graduation or valedictory assembly. Kathryn House AM, for example, represented the Order of Australia Association on 19 November, presenting a ‘Highly Commended’ certificate to Sarah Fleming of Seymour College. Then early this year after schools resumed, more presentations could be made. John Phillips OAM, a member of the SCA Assessment and Selection Panel, attended an awards assembly at St Ignatius’ Senior College Athelstone on 12 February. John presented a ‘Highly Commended’ certificate to Silas Hansch-Mayer. John said, *“In short it was inspirational, and the addresses by respective students (Silas and Felix) made me wish I had advice as per the presentations this morning some 55 years ago”.*

Noel Hender OAM BEM, Convenor of the Student Citizenship Awards program, similarly attended an awards assembly at Kildare College in Holden Hill on 9 February to present a ‘Highly Commended’ certificate to Rosabel Muchenje. Her citation includes the comment: *“[Rosabel] is to be commended for her strong stand in working with students who are in need and by ensuring that all students are treated fairly and equally”.*



Noel Hender OAM BEM with 'Highly Commended' award recipient Rosabel Muchenje from Kildare College, with Principal Tina Neate.

TWO SCORE YEARS AND TEN, AND MORE...

At the end of last year, several members of the Order of Australia were among a group of volunteers recognised in a special award ceremony held by St John Ambulance SA. Firstly, Dr Franklin Bridgewater OAM KStJ was recognised for his many years of voluntary service, receiving the Sixth Service Bar to the Service Medal of the Order of St John, representing 40 years of service.

Awards were then made of the new Ultra Long Service extension to the St John Service Medal. This medal was introduced on 1 January 2020 to recognise 50 years of qualifying service. It has the same design as the standard Service Medal of the Order but with a gold-plate finish. The suspension ribbon is also the same, but the central black stripe is dissected by a 3mm gold stripe. Subsequent service may be recognised by a gold bar every five years.

The medals were presented by the CEO of St John Ambulance SA, Mr Mark Groote. The MC for the ceremony was SA Branch committee member Paul Rosenzweig OAM, who is also a member of the St John Ambulance SA Historical Society. Congratulations to the following who were among the recipients:

Mr Ray Greig OAM KStJ SJ JP: Ultra-Long Service Medal (50 years' service)

Mrs Lyn Dansie AM DStJ: Medal & First Service Bar (55 years)

Dr Brian Fotheringham AM KStJ: Medal & First Service Bar (55 years)

Noel Hender OAM CStJ BEM: Medal & First Service Bar (55 years)

Mrs Raelene Denham OAM DStJ: Medal & two Service Bars (60 years)



Caption 5.1

Members of the Order of Australia who have been recently recognised with St John Ambulance service awards (left to right): Mr Noel Hender OAM CStJ BEM, Dr Franklin Bridgewater OAM KStJ, Mrs Raelene Denham OAM DStJ, Mrs Lyn Dansie AM DStJ, Dr Brian Fotheringham AM KStJ and Mr Ray Greig OAM KStJ SJ JP. Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP (centre) was MC for the award ceremony.

EVENTS

On Thursday 25 February, the fellowship luncheon at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club heard from Mrs Gillian Rogers OAM. Gillian was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 1994 Australia Day Honours List, *“For service to youth with intellectual disabilities, particularly through the Get Together Club”*. While she was a teacher, Gillian also taught at the Minda Home as a volunteer, and then at the Kensington Centre with senior students aged from 15 to 20 years of age. Gillian said: *“I started the Get Together Club through my awareness of students who lived at home with amazing families, but who had little interaction with their peers outside of school”*. The club evolved into social activities, with monthly craft, cooking and disco activities. Two netball teams were established, a turf cricket team, and an indoor soccer team.

The South East Regional Group met at the Mount Gambier Community RSL on 26 February for its annual meeting and luncheon. The guest speaker was Tony Hutchison AM, a long-time resident of Kingston SE who has been recognised for his 20 year involvement with the South East Radio Group of ARISS (Amateur Radio in the South East of South Australia and Far West Victoria) and with NASA.

Tony has dedicated years of commitment to amateur radio and amateur radio space communication, and has promoted amateur radio to many young people during his many school ARISS contacts to the International Space Station. Tony, known to NASA personnel by the callsign 'VK5ZAI', gave the address: "A Brief History of my life, from Sheep to Space".

On Friday 26 March, the SA Branch held its first general social activity for members – an excursion to Carrick Hill Mansion with a guided tour. Carrick Hill was considerably restored during its closure in 2020. The building now includes in its magnificent interior a new top floor art gallery, and a panoramic view of Adelaide from the café.

Members of the Riverland and Mallee Regional Group met with partners and guests on 28 March for afternoon tea at the Loxton RSL. Regional Groups Coordinator Ken Coventry OAM conducted a short interview with three members, Brian Caddy OAM, Ellen Traeger OAM and David Ward ESM OAM, to allow members of the group to learn what each person has done in their life and what led to their award.

Upcoming activities include:

Wednesday 12 May: Dolphin Explorer Cruise and lunch

Monday 24 May: Welcome Reception for new honours recipients

Saturday 5 June: Queen's Birthday Luncheon

Thursday 24 June: Honours recipients Fellowship Luncheon



Caption 6.1

Mrs Gillian Rogers OAM was guest speaker for the February Fellowship luncheon meeting.

VALE: Vilmos Milisits OAM (1948-2021)

SA Branch member and legendary Adelaide baker Vilmos ‘Vili’ Milisits OAM died on 26 March following a lung transplant, aged 72. Vili came to Adelaide as a refugee from Hungary in 1956. and ultimately He and his wife Rosemary came to run a business that has become a South Australian icon. Vili and Rosemary were both awarded the OAM in the 2005 Queen's Birthday Honours List, *“For service to the food industry, and to the community through support for a range of charitable organisations”*.

Vili joined the SA Branch in August 2005 as a Life Member. Has and has been involved in the operations of the Branch since then, and has provided providing assistance through generous donations of produce for various branch functions and, until recent changes to health regulations, tours of the bakery for members, followed by a morning tea at the ‘Cafe de Vilis’.

SA Branch Chairman, Tony Metcalf OAM, gave offered this message of condolence: *“Vili has supported the SA Branch with enthusiasm and contributions since 2005 when he and Rosemary were awarded their individual Medals of the Order of Australia. Vili will be remembered with deep affection”*.

On behalf of all members and friends of the South Australia Branch, the Chairman and Branch Committee members wish to extend our deepest condolences to Rosemary, Simon and Alison for their very sad and tragic loss.

IN MEMORIAM

Roy Woodall AO

Margaret Carnegie-Smith AM

Thomas Sheridan AM

Pamela Spry AM

Ian Wilson AM

Henry Young AM

Lois Brock OAM

Vilmos ‘Vili’ Milisits OAM

Rowley Charles Miller OAM

Evlynne Otto OAM

June Schaeffer OAM

TASMANIA BRANCH

BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE:

The Branch AGM was held in the Tasmanian midlands' town of Campbell Town in an area known for fine wool production. No election of officers was necessary as nominations equalled vacancies. We welcome back Mrs Sue Shea OAM, the Northern Region Chair to the Branch Committee and Dr Rosemary Callingham AM as the Branch Nominated Director taking over the role ably filled by Dr Frank Madill AM. We thank retiring member Gary Carr OAM for his service to Branch Committee. The Branch and its Regional Groups are all in a sound financial situation with all groups looking forward to a year with fewer restrictions than last.

The Investiture of 21 Australia Day recipients will be one of the last major events our Governor will conduct in May prior to her retirement from office in early June. By the time this edition is printed, the Branch will have had the special dinner to thank Her Excellency, the Hon. Professor Kate Warner AC to recognise, congratulate and give thanks for her extraordinary service for the people of our State in her role as the 28th Governor of Tasmania to which she was appointed in November 2014 and as Patron of the Tasmanian Branch.

Alastair Douglas OAM
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 – Dr Rosemary Callingham AM

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

Northern Regional Chairman – Susan Shea OAM

North – West Regional Chairman – Dr Peter Holm OAM

Hon Treasurer – Mr Ron Blake OAM

Branch Committee:

Mr Neville Bingham OAM

Mrs Maureen Oates OAM

Dr Nicholas Chantler AM

Mr David Brill AM

Dr Frank Madill AM

Regional Co-Ordinators

South – Mrs Maureen Oates OAM

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

The Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women

The Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women was established in 2005 by the Tasmanian Government to honour Tasmanian women who have made an outstanding contribution to the State.

The Honour Roll stimulates community involvement in the process of research and discovery about women's historical and contemporary contributions to Tasmania ensuring these achievements are given full recognition and are not forgotten in the passage of time.

On the 21 March, this year 21 women were inducted including two members of the Order of Australia Association.

Sue Cox AM was awarded for service to Health, Volunteering, Arts and Media and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. As a Lactation Specialist Sue has been at the forefront of development and assurance that the accurate and consistent breastfeeding advice is given to Mothers by Consultants who have accreditation from examinations she has helped develop.

In 1985 Sue was a member of the Inaugural Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners in Washington DC. Sue served on this Board for two years. In 2012 she developed and presented the Nationally Accredited Training Course "Peer Support Breastfeeding in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities".

Margaret Eldridge AM has been a great believer in community and was a founder of the Host Family Scheme for Overseas Students which she convened for 16 years. She set up a Refugee Settlement Group at the Hobart Baptist Church after becoming aware of the settlement issues faced by Vietnamese refugee students, she taught in 1980.

She has been a strong advocate for refugees, immigrants and asylum seekers sharing her home to several of the later in the last six years. She has established cultural awareness teaching at the Royal Hobart Hospital and within Government Departments and other agencies.

In 2008 Margaret completed her Masters Degree which was published as "New Mountain, New River, New Home" The story of the Hmong people.

She also raises for Motor Neuron Disease Research and the Dog's Home.

Northern Notes:

Congratulations to the Northern Region award recipients from Australia Day – Max Burr OAM (Scottsdale), Gregory Hall AM (Deloraine) and posthumously the award of OAM to Maggie Bartkevicius-James. Investiture ceremonies will take place in May at Government House, Hobart.

Northern Region members were saddened at the recent passing of Clive Lee AM ASM. Clive was chairman of the region from 2013 to 2019 and made an enormous contribution to the Association in Tasmania, both Regional and Branch committees. We extend our sympathies to his wife Liz and family. Also condolences to the family of the late James Anderson OAM along with our great appreciation for all his work for the region and its finances.

At the annual general meeting on 4 February 2021 Sue Shea OAM was elected Chair and Treasurer, Gary Carr OAM Deputy Chair, and Secretary Therese von Samorzewski OAM. Committee members elected were Dr Nicholas Chantler AM PhD, Jenny Fraser OAM, Dr Frank Madill AM, Dr George Merridew AM, and John Osborne OAM.

Covid restrictions have prevented branch activities up until now. It is hoped that the first social function for the year will be held in May and we look forward to catching up with members face-to-face rather than via Zoom. In the meantime, the committee has surveyed itself on a range of issues to enable it to plan the most appropriate functions and activities for members in the coming months. A preference for lunchtime activities, and closer liaison with local councils and service organisations were two of the outcomes.

[Dr John Milton Wettenhall OAM RFD FRACP](#)

John Wettenhall was born on the 16th of April 1945 in Melbourne. He was educated at Caulfield Grammar and obtained his medical degree at the University of Melbourne in 1969. He also studied at the University of Singapore and the Charles Sturt University, and obtained his MRACP in 1974 then his FRACP in 1978. One of his other proud achievements is achieving an Associate Diploma in Applied Science in Wine Growing, which he did in 1999.

John spent three years with the Royal Australian Medical Corps as a General Duties MO in 1971 at Puckapunyal, then at ANZUK Mil Hosp Singapore from 1972-1974, then Specialist in Medicine UK Mil Hosp Singapore in 1975. After returning to Australia, he was Consultant Physician to the 3rd Military District, and Consultant Physician at the RAN Hospital Cerberus, and briefly at RAAF Base Butterworth in Malaysia. From progressive command positions he rose to Honorary Colonel of the RAAMC for Tasmania 2004-2008. He worked as a Specialist Gastroenterological at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Frankston Hospital, and the Mt Eliza Geriatric Centre; and was the Area Medical Co-Ordinator for the Victoria State Disaster Plan from 1982-1989. He was Clinical Senior Lecturer in Medicine at the University of Tasmania from 1996-2011. He has been a Director of the Clifford Craig Foundation from 2018 to the present; and Chairman and Director of the Peter Hewitt Care for Africa Foundation since 2017. He received the AMA Leadership Award in April 1975. In addition to his Medal of The Order of Australia he has the Reserve Force Decoration.

John is an Honorary Life Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Physicians and a Life Member of the Gastroenterological Society of Australia. He is an active member of the Rotary Club of Launceston,

particularly involved in the campaign against Malaria and in the Water Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group. He is a member of the Launceston Philatelic Society, the Melbourne University Rifles Association, the RACV Club and the RACT. As a volunteer he has been a visiting Gastroenterologist to Nauru, helped a rehabilitation centre in Java, is currently a Trustee of the Christopher Strong Education Trust, and a committee member of Longford Blooms Inc. John has had a past interest and activity in viticulture and at present his hobbies include the collection and study of disinfected mail from the 15th – 21st centuries and growing Australian native plants.

John Wettenhall's medical career has taken him across the world with a great range of military, civilian and volunteer activities. He is a most worthy recipient of an Order of Australia Award from a grateful nation.

Photo Dr John Wettenhall OAM RFD FRACP



QUEENSLAND BRANCH

BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE:

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

Hearty Greetings are forwarded to all members.

I write this whilst Greater Brisbane is in a three-day lockdown and masks are again made obligatory throughout all Queensland. It is a reminder that this pandemic can arise phoenix like at seemingly random moments and that we all need to keep basic health, hygiene and social distancing protocols front of mind.

The fortieth year of the Queensland Branch has recently been reported at our March AGM. Despite a COVID induced hiatus of six months the Association has bounced back with a welcome pulse of activity which has attracted over 600 patrons. The 2020 report has a plenitude of detail and can be referenced at the OAA web site in the Queensland section. It was my privilege to serve the past year in the company of a committed and inclusive team that comprises the elected Branch Committee and the eight appointed Regional Conveners.

During March we also passed two specially marked calendar days, viz. World Poetry Day and National Eucalypt Day on 21 and 23 March respectively. The following poem from a premier Australian quiller, Les Murray, fits both to a tee:

They've had so many jobs:
boiling African porridge. Being printed on.
Paving Paris, flying in her revolutions.
Supporting a stork's nest in Spain.

Their suits are neater abroad,
of denser drape, unnibbled:
they've left their parasites at home.

They flower out of bullets
and, without any taproot,
draw water from way deep.
When they blow over
they reveal the black sun of that trick.

Standing round among shed limbs
and loose slabbings of bark
is homeland stuff
but fire is ingrained.
They explode the mansions of Malibu
because to be eucalypts
they have to shower sometime in Hell.

Their humans, meeting them abroad,
often grab and sniff their hands.
Loveable singly or unmarshalled
they are merciless in a gang.

This magazine will be distributed after ANZAC Day. Not only did the original veterans endure four years of war they returned to a year of the 'Spanish' flu. This deadly pneumonic influenza killed some 15000 Australians. Put that into perspective. Deaths in 1919 were equivalent to the number who died on active service every year throughout World War I. For a small nation of five million people the impact was shocking. The burden carried by that generation of Service personnel has never been heavier. **Lest we Forget.**

BRANCH COMMITTEE DETAILS:

Patron

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

Chairman

Dr Gary Bacon AM.

[Tel:0400](tel:0400733822) 733 822

Deputy Chairman

Dr Mick Davis AM ASM

Secretary

Dr Carol Cox AM

Tel-0427 691 566

Treasurer

Ronda Nix OAM

National Board Director

Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ.

Committee Members

Ross Patching OAM

Assistant Secretary

Graham Hyde OAM

Newsletter Editor

Paula Penfold AM

Merchandise Officer

Darryl Secombe OAM

Membership Officer

Marjorie Voss OAM

Regional Convener Liaison Officer

Geoffrey Cowels OAM, Events and Awards Coordinator (Metro)

Kathy Wooldridge OAM

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 AM

Sunshine Coast: Marjorie Voss OAM

Townsville: David Jackson OAM

Wide-Bay Burnett: Donna Duncan OAM

Central Queensland – Morning Tea 16 March 2021

Thirty-five members and guests of the Central Queensland Regional Group attended the annual morning tea function at the Frenchville Sports Club, Rockhampton on 16 March 2021.

The guest speakers were Filly Morgan PSM, Deputy Director General, Queensland Premiers Department and the Queensland representative on the Council of the Order of Australia and Ms Fleur Anderson, Stat-wide Director of the Office of Rural and Regional Queensland.

Ms Anderson outlined the role of the recently established Office of Rural and Regional Queensland in responding to the need for a fully coordinated approach across Government, Business, Education and Civil Society at the local level. She highlighted the importance of listening to and developing leadership particularly across the generations in rural and regional areas. She pointed to the vital needs of considering both immediate and longer-term strategies in securing sustainable rural and regional areas across Queensland.

Ms Filly Morgan PSM, outlined the processes of nominating, evaluating, selecting and recommending people for Australian Honours. She said that all 19 members of the Council reviewed approximately 1000 nominations for each of the public announcements of the Honours in January and May each year. She reassured all that the evaluation processes undertaken by the secretariat for each nomination were thorough and detailed involving both the nominated referees and independent checks. Ms Morgan strongly urged attendees to actively nominate local people for consideration by the Australian Honours Council.



Graeme Brady OAM (Frenchville Sports Club chair), Filly Morgan PSM (Order of Australia Council), Dr. Wallace Taylor OAM (regional Convenor), Fleur Anderson (Director Office of Rural & Regional Queensland), Grant Cassidy OAM (chair Regional Development Australia, Central and West Queensland)

[A much-anticipated Award Recipients' Welcome Celebratory Lunch](#)

It has been usual practice for the Queensland Branch to hold Welcome Celebratory Lunches for new award recipients twice a year, in May for the Australia Day awardees and September or October for Queen's Birthday awardees. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic and the associated Government restrictions, this was not possible in 2020. So instead, the Queensland Branch organised a highly successful delayed, combined event for both 2020 Australia Day and Queen's Birthday award recipients on Wednesday 10 February 2021 in the Blue Pacific Ballroom at Kedron Wavell Services Club in Brisbane.

A pleasing turn-out of 171 guests attended the event including a record number of 47 award recipients (26 for Australia Day and 21 from Queen's Birthday). These outstanding Queenslanders represented many fields of endeavour and were celebrated and welcomed in style.



[A Queenslander on horseback in Collins Street Melbourne.](#)

On 4 March 65 members and guests of the OAA Sunshine Coast Region joined together at the Historic Gunabul Homestead, Gympie to enjoy fellowship and be entertained by Guest Speaker Brian Taylor OAM.

Brian spoke of his various roles such as a shearer and owner of a dairy farm to taking on the position of Agricultural Master at St. Barnabas College in Ravenshoe. He is the author of five books containing stories collected during his years spent in northern and outback Queensland. His passion for Trial Riding led him to organizing the Tableland Trial Riders Club and the mapping and riding of the National Trial from Cooktown to Melbourne.

Brian coordinated the program and, in his words, “I rode tall in the saddle of a Victorian mounted Police horse right up Collins Street to deliver gold sealed stamped envelopes in the saddle bags to the Melbourne Post Office in time on the Minute”. This was to commemorate the Trail and the hundreds of riders who took part. Brian was also involved in various aspects of the “Hall of Fame” in Longreach.

At the luncheon we specially welcomed two more of our 2020 awardees Elva Henderson OAM and Christian Lhotka OAM who had their citations read by Branch Chairman Dr. Gary Bacon AM. We were also happy to welcome the Mayor of Gympie Cr Glen Hartwig and Mayoress Talitha Passey.

To allow as many members as possible to attend functions in our wide-ranging Region, a different venue is chosen for each one. The next function is planned for the Mooloolaba area in June when we will enjoy sea breezes in place of the country air of Gunabul Homestead. As our Merchandise coordinator Paula Penfold AM travels to the various Region functions it gives members the opportunity to view and purchase the items on sale.

[The 2021 Annual Dinner and Annual General Meeting](#)

One hundred and seventeen guests attended a most memorable and enjoyable Annual Dinner on Monday 22 March 2021 in the Blue Pacific Ballroom at Kedron Wavell Services Club in Brisbane. It was a perfect opportunity for Queensland Branch members to enjoy good fellowship together in a relaxed and happy atmosphere.

A well-attended Annual General Meeting of the Queensland Branch preceded the Dinner in the VC Suite. The election of the 2021 Branch Committee was conducted, and the Chairman’s Annual Report (available on the Association’s website) and the Annual Financial Report were presented and adopted.

This year’s outstanding and accomplished guest speaker was *Georgina Somerset AM*, a South Burnett beef and rural leader with experience in agribusiness, marketing and regional development, recognised in the 2020 Australia Day Honours. Her many and varied roles include being General President of Agforce Queensland, representing 5500 members of the cattle, grain, sheep and wool and cane industries as well as a director of the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and founder of the Queensland Rural, Regional and Remote Women’s Network.

Her inspiring talk on the topic “*From the Bush to the Board Room*” demonstrated her passionate love of country and was sprinkled with beautiful extracts of Australian poetry and supported by interesting PowerPoint slides of pleasing rural scenery. The audience was thoroughly captivated throughout Georgina’s address.

At the Dinner three outstanding Queensland senior volunteers (*Kathy Cavanagh* from Bribie Island; *Christine Houston* from Springfield, Brisbane, and *Janet White* from Townsville) received their Queensland Branch Senior Volunteer Awards from *Michael Rayner AM* representing Blight Rayner Architecture, the award sponsor).



Enjoying good fellowship at the Annual Dinner are from L-R - Andrew Petrie; Gwynneth Petrie AM; Keith Nix; Ronda Nix OAM (Treasurer); Michael Rayner AM (Senior Volunteer Awards Sponsor); Brian Hollins OAM CSC; Dr Carol Cox AM (Regional Groups Coordinator) and Dr John Cox.

IN MEMORIAM

MACKENZIE Colin Mackay	OAM
PROELLOKS Margaret	OAM
MOORE Dr Sandra Mercer	AM
BRYCE Michael John Strachan	AM KStJ
KINROSS Malcolm James	OAM
DRABSCH General Davis	AO OBE
McPhail Dr Ian Roderick	AM
FLEMING Dr Lesley Christine	OAM
BENJAMIN Graham Louis	OAM
FIELDING Dr George Durward	AM
GREENUP Barrie	OAM
RANSON Anthony Edward (Ted)	OAM

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE: NSW

I am reminded that “change is the new normal” and the Covid pandemic has had both negatives and change positives. We need to be more agile thinking and responsive as we do not have absolute control of life.

The NSW Branch sees the needs for;

- Rebuilding relational bridges amidst the communities in which we live and serve and within our membership.
- New opportunities to enliven the benefits of our Association as we seek to fulfil our object of celebrating and promoting outstanding citizenship.
- Widening our age range of membership through nominating more younger women and men for the Order of Australia and similarly in our branch and regional projects.
- Giving more of ourselves to community to strengthen community harmony, social inclusion and unity in diversity.

Whilst “covidity” has challenged each and everyone of us, we have found new ways to meet (virtually), to care and be concerned for family and neighbours, to better understand and respect community leadership, and to value each other so much more.

The relaxing of social restrictions and isolation has given encouragement to our Branch Committee and more importantly our sixteen regional committees to start organising reunion luncheons, the first for well over twelve months.

With new members on the Branch Committee, Adrienne Cahalan OAM and Romano Di Donato OAM, new approaches are being implemented including taking up new Branch Affiliates allowed by the new Constitution and By-Laws, introducing Sydney Metropolitan luncheons and planning the funding of regional promotion of the Association in order to lift the profile of the Association and nominations for the Orders of Australia.

The Annual General Meeting and ensuing luncheon were magnificently addressed by Zara Blackmore, a Branch Youth Community Service awardee, on mental health, and Channel 9’s Simon Bouda on his extensive and challenging news reporting journeys within and outside Australia. These two attracted our largest AGM attendance for many years. The Branch Committee has also co-opted Maria Hitchcock OAM to spearhead out Affiliates programme and we are still looking for a Membership Officer to complete our Branch team.

Recent fundraising includes \$1,940 at our Australia Day Cruise, donated to the Homicide Victims’ Support Group, to go towards helping build “Graces Place”. Refer our article in the February Edition of The Order.

BRANCH COMMITTEE DETAILS:

Patron

Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC

Chairman & National Director

Mr James Mein, AM

Mob. 0408660591

Deputy Chairman, Metro Events & Public Relations Coordinator

A/P John Gullotta, AM

Mob. 0418233069

Honorary Secretary

Ms Martha Jabour OAM

Mob. 0419279337

Honorary Treasurer

Ms Gail Dunne OAM

Mob. 0419279337

Committee Members

Regional Coordinator & Web Coordinator

Mr Chris Dunne, OAM

Mob. 0419279337

Communications & Publicity Liaison

Mrs Louise Davis, AM

Com9nsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

The Order of Australia Association

NSW Branch, Youth Community Service

Award Co-ordinator

Mr Frank Kelleher, OAM

Mob. 0427644397

Assisting Events Coordinators

Ms Adrienne Cahalan, OAM

Mob. 0421936850

Mr Romano Di Donato, OAM

(02) 92626699

Coopted for Affiliates Program

Mrs Maria Hitchcock, OAM

Mob. 0421961007

Membership Officer: Seeking to co-opt a Member for this important role

REGIONAL GROUP CONVENORS DETAILS:

<https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/nsw/regional-groups>

NSW AGM

The NSW Branch AGM was held at Doltone House, Hyde Park, on February 23, followed by a most enjoyable Luncheon in the very charming Manhattan Room. It was thoroughly enjoyed by 68 Members and their guests.

Zara Blackmore was a true inspiration as a past Awardee of the Order of Australia Association NSW Youth Community Service Award. She gave an excellent speech at the AGM, as she recounted her personal journey and thus raising awareness of mental health. She is a true leader of the future and a testament to the success and value of our Youth awards.

Our luncheon guest speaker was Simon Bouda, Channel 9 - Current Affair crime editor and author. He was an excellent and very moving speaker, giving a fascinating account of his professional life as a reporter for Channel 9 battling war zones and crime scenes and as an author.

MEET OUR MEMBERS

Shirley Randell AO

Professor Shirley Randell AO, PhD, Hon.DLitt, FAICD, FACE, FIML, FIPAA is a highly experienced board director and committee member of government and non-government-organisations in Australia and Rwanda. She is internationally renowned for her work advancing the status and rights of women, with many years of distinguished service to international relations through public sector and institutional reform.

Professor Randell was educated at Perth Modern School and the Universities of Papua New Guinea, Canberra, New England and London. She has provided specialist technical assistance to governments in the Asia Pacific Region and in Africa over the last 20 years. From 2006-2013 she worked in Rwanda as a gender and education specialist and was the founder director of the Centre for Gender Studies at the University of Rwanda's School of Arts and Humanities.

She is the author of numerous journal articles and books. In 1988 as Director of the Disadvantaged Schools and Country Areas with the Commonwealth Schools Commission, Professor Randell was awarded an AM for 'public service especially in education', followed by an AO in 2010 for 'distinguished service to international relations, particularly through the promotion of human rights of women and through public sector reform in developing countries'.

In 2018 she was awarded the Institute of Managers and Leaders ANZ Inaugural Sir John Storey Lifetime Achievement in Leadership Award. Professor Randell was one of Australia's 100 Inaugural Women of Influence in 2012 and one of The International Alliance for Women's 100 World of Difference Awardees in 2013.

Professor Randell was awarded Life Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors at the Australian Governance Summit in March 2021.

Professor Randell is now living in Australia, is a public speaker and has several ambassador, patron and board and committee roles. She had special interests in women's sport, physical fitness, theatre, music and her four children, 13 grandchildren, and four greatgrandchildren living in Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Townsville.

Nicolette (Niki) Norris AM

Niki is the Chair of the National Child Protection Alliance Australia and in 2017 was invested as a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the community and particularly to the rights of children to care and protection and to voice their views and opinions. She is currently focusing on social policy, youth resilience and leadership (NSW) and the ongoing and damaging effects of trauma caused to children and the protective parent when they become involved in Family Court proceedings.

Niki has been an advocate for children and young people and their families for over a decade. She was a founding member of the NCPA, held the role of Vice Chair since inauguration and took on the role of Chair in 2017.

Under the umbrella of the NCPA a new group was formed called, 'Young People Against Child Abuse' and Niki is now mentoring young survivors and other keen young people and taking them to speak with State and Federal leaders to explain the damaging aftermath and ongoing trauma which has been forced upon them by systemic failures.

Maria Venuti AM - 80th Birthday Celebrations The Star Centre Sydney

Maria Venuti AM has been a household name in the Australian entertainment industry for over 60 years. I have had the pleasure to have known and worked with Maria for over 30 years especially in the Variety Club of Australia and in Ovarian Cancer fundraising at the Royal Hospital for Women.

In her 60 year career she has helped raise over 20 million dollars for various charities.

She suffered a stroke in 2016, after a confrontation with a stalker at home, which makes it hard for her to walk or speak and she can now only sing only a few words but she still continues to fund raise and give back to the community. She actually sang a song on the day which brought tears to the eyes of those present!

Maria's daughter Bianca Venuti (left in the photo) said her mother's stroke has had a big impact on her mother's life, but singing is a driving force in her recovery journey.

At her 80th birthday celebrations at the Star Event Centre Sydney in March 2021, funds were donated to the Stroke Foundation. The great majority of the 300 attendees were Order of Australia recipients including Alan Jones, Bronwyn Bishop, Paula Duncan, Carlotta, Peter Cousins and the list goes on! On behalf of the OAA NSW Branch I said a few words and presented her with a plaque of appreciation for her resilience, inspiration to others and 60 years of giving and fund raising.

NSW Floods

During the unprecedented rainfall in NSW in March, 20 of the 40 river catchments which flow east to the coast, were in flood. The entire NSW coast was impacted by more than 200 millimeters, and in some places, more than 400 millimeters. Flood warnings were issued on 33 rivers over 600 kilometres along the coast, including main catchments, the Hawkesbury-Nepean, Clarence-Hunter. Tens of thousands of people were ordered to evacuate.

Roger Butler, OAM, regional convenor for the geographical area of the New England and North West Region of the Order of Australia Association reported that only the town of Moree was flooded.

He said "If on Sunday the 21st March any one had asked me whether I thought Moree was likely to be flooded I would have laughed. The 8 to 10 inches of rain that fell in 36 hours on the Monday and Tuesday (22nd and 23rd) produced a flood which certainly proved me wrong. Just as that started to subside the rain that had fallen upstream and filled the river systems arrived creating a major flood. The second wave peaked around 7:00 am on Thursday the 25th at which time the town was totally isolated and had been "cut" in three. By Friday morning although there was still plenty of water around (the famed Moree Golf Course being still inundated) the roads were no longer cut and travel was freely restored.

The support from SES, Fire & Rescue and Moree Council staff was phenomenal – highly organised, substantial in number and very efficient. As a consequence, damage and inconvenience was minimised and a clean-up of public areas and public buildings quickly completed. This flood produced more mud and debris than any that I have previously seen and that presumably is a consequence of the three-year drought which preceded it and the fact that many farmers had prepared their country for the 2021 winter crop and there was thus a lot of nice cultivated top soil to be washed away by the flood waters.

Moree was very fortunate compared to our coastal cousins. Furthermore, the floods will have replenished the water table and provided magnificent subsoil moisture for the next crop. As farmers are known to say "there is money in mud".

Dubbo Regional Group, Ruby Riach OAM, Regional Convenor

This area did not experience flooding in the same way as the coastal regions. We were pleased to have some good rain and fill the tanks and dams. Yes, it was very wet and several sports and other events had to be cancelled.

The Macquarie River certainly brought plenty of water past the city and the tributary rivers likewise brought plenty. The flooded creeks and roads created difficulties for many people living on properties in the district. Often transport would be limited to a high vehicle.

I am sure that many of the volunteers from services in the district have been working to assist the less fortunate people in other places.

Hastings/Macleay Flood Experience, Laurie Smith OAM Regional Convenor

What an 18 months this has been! Our Mid North Coast has seen the worst and best of life in this time, but we certainly don't consider ourselves any worse off than many of our fellow Australians. The four days in March were the worst we have experienced in our 15 years in Port Macquarie, not because of our personal situation, as our house was fine, but the surrounds as you will have all seen through the media have been overwhelmed with water in many areas. However, here comes the 'good' part. Locals and visitors have gone to extreme lengths to help one another, from finding boats which have been washed away, to hosing out houses and garages or just bringing food and drink to workers.

As the saying goes – 'Volunteering is the price we pay for living in this beautiful country' and it is heartwarming to see the good that comes out of adversity. New friendships have developed through not-so-distant neighbours who did not previously know one another working together for the good of all.

In general terms life is getting back to normal, but normal will not exist for a long time for those worst off, especially having had homes totally inundated plus loss of livestock. Most people believe they live in the best place on earth, and we certainly do here in the Hastings/Macleay, but when nature wants our attention we certainly have to take notice! Thus our community will continue to work side by side with those in need"

Louise Davis AM - Communications & Publicity Liaison NSW Branch

NT BRANCH

Introducing the new Chairperson of the OAA NT and NT Director to the Board.



Andrew Bruyn AM, was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours list in 2011, cited for *“For service ... through executive roles with a range of cultural, tourism, education and charitable organisations, and to the broadcast media industry.”*

He came here prior to self-government as a young single reporter on the now-defunct Darwin Star newspaper. Uranium mining, land rights, the excitement of the end of “colonial rule” for the Territory made it a great place to be.

After working in newspapers in Darwin, Tasmania, and Brisbane and a producer at Channel Nine Brisbane, he and his family returned to Darwin to head up the news service - and a few years later, to take over as the long-term CEO of the broadcast company that became Darwin’s Channel Nine. In the meantime, he took up community roles across a plethora of areas including Employment and Vocational training, Rugby League, Cricket and St John Ambulance.

“I look forward to working with the Order of Australia NT Branch to bring more Territorians the recognition they deserve for the contributions they make daily to this wonderful part of Australia”.

Second Order Nomination Information Session



On Tuesday April 13 The Hon Luke Gosling OAM, along with members of the OAA NT committee, ran an informal workshop into the process of nominating someone for an Order. This was the second in a series of meetings planned to extend knowledge about Order nominations among members of our diverse community. At the invitation of the Multicultural Council of the NT, the meeting was held in the MCNT Premises in Malak, and was hosted by Dr. Edwin Joseph, President of the MCNT and Deputy Chair of the Ethnic Communities’ Councils of Australia. At the end of the session our Chairman Professor Jai Singh AM was presented with a plaque from the Multicultural group.



The Hon Luke Gosling OAM addressing Multicultural Council guests on April 13, and Professor Jai Singh AM with the plaque given to the OAA NT Branch in appreciation.

ANZAC DAY

The dawn service at the Darwin War memorial Cenotaph was bigger than ever, especially as the whole country commemorated the hundredth anniversary of the Royal Australian Air Force. The Order of Australia NT, represented by Secretary Professor Jai Singh AM, laid a book at the cenotaph during the wreath-laying: ***The Anzacs 100 Years On***, written by the Honourable Ted Eagan AO. Ted, who resides in Alice Springs, is a former Administrator of the Northern Territory, multi-published author and much-loved songwriter. We were honoured that Mr. Earl James AM and Mrs. James OAM donated the book for the wreath-laying.

Chairperson – Mr. Andy Bruyn AM

Deputy Chair – Mr. Alan James OAM

Secretary – Professor Jai Singh AM

Treasurer – Mr. David De Silva AM

Membership Secretary – Mrs. Nora Lewis AM

Committee members – Mrs. Jane Aagaard AM, Ms. Robyn Burrridge OAM,
Ms. Linda Fazldeen AM, Mr. Wayne Kraft OAM.

FOUNDATION

The Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship

Name: Hannah Gandy our 2018 Awardee at La Trobe University.

Course: Bachelor of Laws/Arts (Politics)

Donor: Freemasons Victoria supported by Freemasons Victoria Foundation Ltd.

Mentor: The Honourable Julia Gillard AC

2020 – Impact Report



An interview with Hannah...

What area of your course excites you the most?

I have loved a lot of different subjects throughout my law degree. The subject I did the best in was equity and trusts, the subject I found the hardest was remedies, the most rewarding so far has been company law and my favourites to study have been education law, health law, death law and sports law which I am currently completing. It's hard to pinpoint an exact area of law, as each is so unique. My favourite part of my politics study is where I get to look at the legal and political systems of other countries and think about how they compare with Australia.

How has the pandemic affected your year, and has the scholarship aided this crisis at all?

The pandemic has been challenging but it has given me more time for myself and pushed me to grow my sports coaching company. I studied throughout the entire year and continued to train my skating every day throughout the pandemic at my local netball courts. I usually coach and train inside, but due to the pandemic I took everything outdoors. The outdoor classes became pretty popular with rollerblading booming again. I didn't mind studying online, but I found it difficult to separate work and study time from relaxation time. I did find the very long lockdowns in Victoria challenging, as no one really knew what would happen. I'm happy the restrictions are easing now. I also moved to a new house this year. I did have a reduced income as a result of the lockdowns and the scholarship allowed me to be financially stable enough to move and make sure I had all of the essentials. The scholarship meant that I was able to buy a new desktop computer, because I was having trouble studying so much at home on my laptop.

What has been something positive to come out of University in a global pandemic?

I am grateful that this year I had a lot of time to focus on completing all my law subjects, and on top of them to complete an international certification for my coaching. Now, all that is left to complete is some arts subjects. Some of the final law subjects were challenging and required a lot of time for me to feel like I was ready for exams. I also found at home exams to be a lot better, as I felt they still assessed student knowledge very well but they didn't have the exam room feeling. I also enjoyed being able to type my exams. I was lucky this year to have great law tutors which I had already had throughout my degree, and I felt like I had some form of social connection with people when attending ZOOM classes in a tough lockdown. I don't think I would have video called anyone if it wasn't for my studies!

What message would you like to pass on to your donor?

I would just like to say thank you so much for the incredible support that I have received from The Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship. This year has been difficult due to the pandemic and lockdowns in Victoria, but despite that I was still able to continue my study, achieve great results and not have added worry about not being able to support myself financially. I feel proud of my results this year and the scholarship has continued to give me confidence in my academic, professional and personal life. I can't wait to see what happens next for me.