



Welcome from VIC Branch Chair

Welcome to winter and the second edition of the Order of Australia Association VIC Branch e-Newsletter for 2021.

Since our last edition Victoria has experienced one week lockdown and Melbourne metropolitan area a two week lockdown.

Added to the ongoing social and economic challenges these lockdowns bring, many parts of Victoria endured devastating floods and lashing winds last week. No regions were spared the damage from the unprecedented weather conditions.

We thank the SES and volunteers, many who are OAA members for their response to thousands of requests for assistance and for their ongoing support. Our thoughts are with those who have been impacted by these harsh conditions, the worst in 50 years.

On a positive note the Governor of Victoria, the Honourable Linda Dessau AC conducted five Investitures in April at Government House for Australia Day 2021 Honours and Awards Recipients. It was pleasing to see recipients with their families, friends and colleagues being recognised for their excellence, achievements and contribution to their community, their State and Australia.

I thank VIC Branch Deputy Chairman Trevor Clark OAM, VIC Membership Secretary Fred Harrington OAM and Branch Nominated Director William Lye OAM QC for their attendance at some of the Investitures.

Our Wednesday May 12 virtual event with a focus on agricultural opportunities and challenges was well received. We thank the two speakers Alana Johnson AM and Dr Joanna (Jo) Newton OAM. Please refer to pages 12 and 13 for the event coverage.

The VIC Branch is delighted to be hosting two receptions in August for our 2020 and 2021 Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Order of Australia Honours and Awards Recipients. Invitations to the two receptions have been emailed or mailed to recipients. This event will be held at the State Library Victoria.

In this newsletter there are details of upcoming Branch and Regional Group events, please be assured we are following VIC Government regulations and any additional venue requirements to ensure the safety of members, guests, volunteers and venue staff. If required we will provide QR Code assistance at VIC Branch events.

Please refer to the national website for further information regarding the Order of Australia Association Branch and Regional Group news, Merchandise Shop and Order of Australia Award Nominations at <http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au>.

In closing congratulations to the 2021 Queen's Birthday Order of Australia Honours and Awards recipients. Thank you for the contribution you have made to your community and to Australia. Celebrate with pride.



Please stay warm and take care.

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

Victoria Branch 2021 Events

Thursday July 15

In an international exclusive, the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) presents a major exhibition of more than 100 masterworks of French Impressionism in partnership with the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Part of the Melbourne Winter Masterpieces exhibition series, French Impressionism features works by Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Edgar Degas, Camille Pissarro, Mary Cassatt and more – including 79 works that have never-before-been exhibited in Australia.

The 2021 event includes on-line lecture, exhibition session time and then lunch.

Please note some sessions are booked out.



Bookings are to be made through TryBooking at: <https://www.trybooking.com/BRPZT> by July 1, 2021 at the latest

Thursday September 23

5.30pm to 6.30pm - Virtual Event with a focus on R U OK and Mental Health with speaker The Hon Robert Knowles AO and Kim Koop AM



Invitation will be emailed to members late August 2021.

Wednesday November 24

12noon to 2.30pm – Lunch at William Angliss Restaurant with speakers Jade Hameister OAM and Paul Hameister OAM, father and daughter talking about their polar explorations including the Polar Hat Trick.

Jordan Eitler 2016 recipient of the Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship donated by the OAA VIC Branch will talk about his employment and community work.

Invitation will be emailed to members late October.

Spring edition of the VIC Branch e-Newsletter will be emailed to members on September 27, 2021

A thank you message from the Governor-General



A message from the Governor-General thanking Australia's six million volunteers

"Volunteering takes many forms and volunteers come from all sorts of backgrounds.

"Together, you help strengthen our community in just about every way imaginable.

"We are grateful. We appreciate you...

"To all those who volunteer, thank you.

Chances are you don't volunteer for recognition or thanks – but you deserve both and National Volunteer Week is our opportunity to offer it to you."

Please consider sharing the message or Facebook post with volunteers from your organisation.

Nominating someone for recognition through Order of Australia is one way to celebrate the most committed of volunteers. Many outstanding Australians are already recognised each year for their work in the community but there are many who are not - women, in particular, have been historically underrepresented in nominations (and therefore, awards).

The Governor-General and Mrs Hurley are seeking to address this and ensure that the Order reflects Australian society - they need your help.

To find out how to nominate someone go to <https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awardsorder-australia/nominate-someone-order-australia>.

Note added by VIC Branch: Reminder VIC Branch committee will assist members with the nomination process if required. **E:** chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Regional Group 2021 Events

Barwon Regional Group

Thursday August 19

Primary School Citizenship Award presentation and morning tea

Eastern Suburbs Regional Group

The Committee of the ESRG has been active in starting to plan events for the second half of 2021, and looking at the types of activities that are likely to attract attention and interest.

As a first initiative a new Newsletter is being developed, and the first edition was circulated to members during the first half of June. The response has been encouraging, with the “open rate” for the email significantly higher than the average for non-profit organisations.

Included in the newsletter was a link to allow members to download a “member’s book” that includes the names and citations of all current members from the Region. Our hope is that, as well as providing recognition for the contributions of all of the members to our community, this will provide some additional incentive to those who may be looking at the types of activity that have been recognised.

The first of what is hoped to be a series of online events has been arranged for **Thursday July 22**. At 5:30pm the ESRG will host “Kindness in Action”, a Webinar at which the speaker will be Professor Catherine Crock AM, the Founder of the well-known Hush Foundation. Professor Crock, medical pioneer, producer of music and theatrics, humanitarian, mother and advocate for change will speak about the importance of kindness, based on her journey in transforming healthcare culture through the arts

The event will be open to all members, regardless of Region. Registration is necessary, at <https://www.trybooking.com/BRZLY> in order to receive a link to the webinar.

Depending on the success of the event, further webinars will be arranged in coming months.

We look forward to greeting and congratulating those recognised in the Queen’s Birthday Honours and Awards announced on Monday June 14. Plans are being made for a recognition event later in the year, and approaches have been made to Mayors of cities in the Region for assistance in hosting this at one or more venues.

Frankston Mornington Peninsula Region Group

The Regional Group held its AGM at the scenic Mornington Golf Club on February 18.

The meeting recognised the long service of former Chair Brian Stahl OAM JP and the contribution from Commodore Jim Dickson OBE AM as Chair through the difficult year of 2020.

Three new members of the Committee – Alex Anderson OAM, Heather Barton AM and Ann Connan OAM – were also welcomed at the meeting.

Alex is a prominent member of the Mount Eliza community, Heather has a long record of community service and has been the manager of the Sorrento Community Centre and Ann is from Frankston South and has been recognised for her work with children and young people.

The new Chair, Geoff Walsh AO, proposed three goals for the group in the period ahead – to provide for social interaction, to drive nominations for the Order of Australia and make community contributions.

Frankston Mornington Peninsula Region Group continued

The continuing challenges of Covid have made the first goal difficult but the group will be focusing on the other two goals in coming months.

In particular, the group is keen to encourage more nominations from women, overseas-born and indigenous Australians.

The Group is also considering how best to make a community contribution beyond its successful Schools Awards program of recent years.

One other important change the Group has made is to add Frankston to its name. The proposed change was endorsed by the Victorian Branch Committee and the National Board.

The Group has always covered the Frankston LGA and the committee believed it was important to formally recognise this. The two LGAs cover a population of more than 250,000 and include a wide range of industries and social and cultural institutions.

Gippsland Regional Group

Sunday August 15

Luncheon at Del Mondo Restaurant, Traralgon

Wednesday October 20

The annual Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnet Dinner and Address which will be held at a new venue Century Inn, Traralgon

The guest Speaker is Urologist Associate Professor Nathan Lawrentschuk, Director of the E J Whitten Foundation Prostate Cancer Research Centre at Epworth Healthcare- an exciting initiative to progress cancer research. In addition to his public positions at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute and the Austin Hospital and has private practice at North Melbourne.



Melbourne Central Regional Group

The Melbourne Central Regional Group has commenced its program of events, COVID 19 having stalled everything from last year and early this year. Our first two events were for those present very informative.

Tuesday May 11 lunch at The Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club with speaker Professor Jayashri Kulkarni AM a specialist and well recognised researcher in Women's Mental Health

A fierce advocate of women's health who is also a migrant, mother and former marathon runner, Professor Jayashri Kulkarni AM was recognised in the 2019 Queen's Birthday honours for significant service to medicine in the field of psychiatry.

Professor Kulkarni is a world-leading mental health researcher and director of the Monash Alfred Psychiatry research centre (MAPrc). Professor Kulkarni's world-first research on the relationship between women's hormones and mental illness has led to new and improved treatments for conditions such as schizophrenia and depression.

Melbourne Central Regional Group continued

Working as a young Registrar at the former Royal Park Psychiatric Hospital, Professor Kulkarni was drawn to the plight of mothers who had developed mental illness after giving birth.

"I got to meet women who had been institutionalised for a long time and they told me about the fact that they had children," she says. "The psychosis had happened post-partum and it hadn't improved."

This led to a distinguished career investigating the relationship between hormones at varying life stages and women's mental illness. World-first estrogen treatments for psychosis and other mental health conditions have been developed from this research, which began in the late 1980s.



Professor Kulkarni's late parents, Rangnath and Shashikala, arrived from Bijapur, south-west of Mumbai, in 1961 with three-year-old Jayashri and her baby brother Anand.

The White Australia Policy was still in force when they became only the second Indian family to migrate to Melbourne. Rangnath set up the CSIRO's ozone research program and Shashikala taught at a local high school.

"At this stage there were probably some people with Italian background and Greek background but not very many Asian migrants at all," Professor Kulkarni recalls.

"I was called Jane for a few months by this teacher, who said, 'I can't say your name it's too complicated'. My mum came to pick me up and she spoke with the teacher, but in a very gentle way, taught her how to pronounce my name, and I was then called Jayashri."

Professor Kulkarni studied medicine at Monash University in the 1970s, when less than one in three students was female, which helped instill the strong sense of empathy and social justice that inspired her work.

Wednesday May 12 networking evening at RMIT with speaker Professor Calum Drummond AO appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the Queen's Birthday 2019 Honours List for his outstanding service to science and innovation.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation and Vice-President received the appointment in recognition of distinguished service to chemistry and materials science research, commercialisation initiatives, and his exceptional contribution as a scientific leader and mentor.

Professor Drummond's research achievements include advancing the fundamental understanding of materials at the nanoscale that have enabled high-performing products to be developed and commercialised.

Upcoming events:

Monday July 26

A networking night at the Residence of the British Consul-General

Tuesday September 21

A lunch at The Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club with speaker Hon. Peter Costello AC

North Central Suburbs Regional Group

The Group was disappointed at having to postpone its second face-to-face *winter seasonal lunch* to be held at the Sycamore Tree Café. It was to be the last event, for some time at that café as it is closing for renovations for an extended period of time

Despite this setback the group has continued with its series of end of day ZOOM sessions, commencing at 5:30pm, with guest speakers, as a follow on to the series of similar events held in the later part of 2020. The speakers to date have been:

April – Stephanie Woollard OAM, founder of the organisation “Seven Women” telling her story of meeting seven disabled women in Nepal and leading them to a thriving business selling handmade produce. The Group was pleased to welcome Western Australia Branch Chair Bettina Heathcote AM and WA Branch Treasurer Peter Snow OAM to this session, to assist them in their planning and conducting similar ZOOM sessions with their Branch members.

May – Neil Soullier OAM, CEO of the Blue Ribbon Foundation. The Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation perpetuates the memory of the 170 Victoria Police who have died in the line of duty through the support of worthwhile community projects within Victoria. To date 57 projects have been completed, providing critical infrastructure and equipment to public hospitals across Victoria, named in honour of members of Victoria Police who died in the line of duty. Neil spoke about the foundation of the Blue Ribbon Foundation and its ongoing commitment to honour Police Officers killed in the line of duty.

June Zoom deferred to July 8.

To enable these ZOOM sessions to continue and accepting that COVID may provide intermittent challenges to events for the Group, we have recently agreed to extend our ZOOM subscription for a further 12 months. This can allow us to hold some of our committee meetings, as well as continue ZOOM sessions with guest speakers.

North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley Regional Group

Sunday March 28

88 Members and Guests attended the first luncheon for the year at Mitchelton Winery with guest speaker Gerry Ryan OAM. (Photo on the right)

Gerry, married with 3 children, is owner of Jayco Caravans, Mitchelton Winery (our venue) the Mitchelton Scott professional cycling team and was President of Cycling Australia 2013.

In 2013 he was also awarded the Australian Olympic Committee's Order of Merit. In 2014 he was inducted into the Victorian Governments Manufacturing Hall of Fame.

He also owns Global Creatures and is part owner of the NRL team Melbourne Storm along with some very impressive racehorses.

He has been primary sponsor of the Jayco Australian Opals and women's Basketball team Dandenong Jayco Ranges and is totally involved in promoting Nagambie– Gerry spoke about the way he became involved in these businesses and his passion for the local area.

Gerry received his Medal of the Order of Australia Queen's Birthday 2020 for service to the community, particularly as a supporter of sporting and charitable organisations, and the youth.



North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley Regional Group continued

It was great to have in attendance our VIC Branch Chair, Dr Helene Bender OAM, Branch Treasurer, Alan Brook OAM and VIC Regional Group Coordinator Barb Brook OAM.

The luncheon was preceded by our AGM and was also an opportunity to welcome new recipients from 2020 and 2021.

Remaining Events for 2021:

Sunday July 25 - Shepparton – Park Lake Hotel -Guest Speaker Ms Alana Johnson AM
(Note-this luncheon is rescheduled from Sunday May 25 due to lockdown #4)

Sunday October 3 - The Barn, Brown Brothers Winery Milawa
Guest Speaker Dr Nicholas Jans OAM

Welcome to new Committee members 2021

At our AGM on March 28th Ms Marg Attley OAM was elected as our new Secretary and Mr Don Kilgour OAM elected to committee. We welcome Marg and Don and look forward to their input.

Committee Executive 2021-2022

Chairperson: Barbara Thomas OAM

Deputy Chair: Bruce Lloyd AM

Secretary: Margaret Attley OAM

Treasurer: Graham Kerr OAM

Committee members:

Susan Campbell OAM, Irene Cracknell OAM, Don Kilgour OAM, Peter Ryan AM

South Central Suburban Regional Group

It was reported in the March 2021 edition that we held our Annual General Meeting face to face and that in itself is a strange feeling having to have to type up the type of meeting held – face to face. Since then we have held a face to face meeting of the Management Committee and we welcomed our two newest members onto the Committee being Dr Joanna Newton OAM and Mr Alan Samuel OAM JP. It was a productive meeting, included in this newsletter is your invitation to our regional group Mid-Year Luncheon with Mr Graeme Samuel AC as guest speaker. A speaker of great knowledge and renown and he is addressing what some may say, is a controversial topic. We hope to see you there.

With the Order of Australia Queen's Birthday Honors list coming out at the time for the submission for our article we have held over our reporting on the numbers of recipients across the three Municipalities of Glen Eira, Kingston and Bayside. We shall congratulate them once advised and we hope to meet with them in August, at a Civic Reception being held by the City of Kingston who graciously will invite the awardees from 2020 as well. There was no civic reception last year because of the Global Pandemic.

Western Suburbs Regional Group

At last a face-to-face get-together

What a pleasure it was to be able to invite Western suburbs members to attend our May event, with no restrictions on numbers (but of course being COVID-safe and following health and hygiene advice).

Western Suburbs Regional Group continued

Thursday May 20, a large group of members and guests came together for lunch at the Seaview Lounge, Altona Sports Club, to catch up and to hear an entertaining presentation from Zac Lewis, who was appointed earlier this year as CEO of Western Chances, an organisation in our region that has, over the last 12 years, provided 6,000 scholarships to students who would not otherwise be able to undertake tertiary education.

Zac has more than 12 years' experience in working for not-for-profit and government sectors. His most recent role was as Food Programmes and Partnerships Manager at Foodbank, Victoria, where he led and engaged high-performing teams across community development and programme design, and managed a significant annual budget. Zac explained to us how the scholarship programme provided by Western Chances works and how it will continue to play a major role in providing opportunities for young people facing barriers to fulfilling their potential. We 'met' virtually some of the scholarship recipients and saw what a difference Western Chances has made to their lives now and in the future.



Upcoming event:

Thursday August 19 – Lunch and guest speaker. Venue and details to be confirmed

Please contact the Secretary at oaamelbnw@gmail.com for information as it comes to hand.

Congratulations Victoria

2021 Queen's Birthday Order of Australia (general) number of recipients

	QB21 total	Female	Male	Non-binary	Female %	Male %
All states & territories	942	412	528	2	44%	56%
ACT	34	15	19		44%	56%
NSW	286	122	164		43%	57%
NT	18	3	15		17%	83%
QLD	118	43	75		36%	64%
SA	78	27	51		35%	65%
TAS	22	7	15		32%	68%
VIC	305	161	143	1	53%	47%
WA	72	30	41	1	42%	57%
OTHER O/seas	9	4	5		44%	56%

Thank you to all our members who are submitting Order of Australia nominations, Victoria has the highest number of 2021 Queen's Birthday recipients with 53% female. Well done and please continue to nominate those who have gone above and beyond. Don't forget the youth and multicultural achievers in your community, they are out there.

OAA members and guests are invited to attend a SPECIAL LUNCHEON

Thursday 8th July 2021, 12 Noon for 12.30 PM

Hosted by the South Central Suburban Regional Group

AT THE WORLD CLASS

KINGSTON HEATH GOLF CLUB - KINGSTON ROAD CHELTENHAM

GUEST SPEAKER PROFESSOR GRAEME SAMUEL AC



Distinguished Australian businessman, with leadership roles in a huge range of business, academic, government, research, sporting and community activities

“Are our company directors up to the task?”

Following recent outcomes with the Banking Royal Commission and some Directors reportedly behaving badly, there should be or could be some interesting insights.

COST \$65.00 per person GST Inc. PAYABLE IN ADVANCE

[Includes a fine two course meal alternating, a drink upon arrival and coffee or tea
Accompanied Guests are more than welcome and we would suggest you to book early.

Dress: Jacket and tie. Full size decorations to be worn

**Acceptances and cheques to be mailed to the Hon Treasurer, Alan Samuel OAM JP
PO Box 277, Glenhuntly VIC 3163 Phone: 0408024224 by 1st July 2021**

Direct Debit to Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000 Account number 132398835

Please email Treasurer to advise booking by direct debit – alan@samuelfamily.net

X.....

I would like to attend the Special Luncheon on Thursday 8th July at Kingston Heath Golf Club

Please find enclosed cheque for Persons @ \$65.00 each \$

Cheques should be made payable to the Order of Australia Association and mailed to the Treasurer by 1st July 2021.

Name & Post Nominals

Phone.....Email.....

Name/s of your Guest/s

.....

Special dietary requirements.....

Merchandise

Winter is here – beat the cold and look good!

Winter has come in with a vengeance to Victoria, and it's time to get out those winter woollies. Fortunately, we have an offering that is selling like hotcakes! As we emerge again from lockdown, you can enjoy some outdoor time even in the cold.



Our new woollen unisex scarf in navy blue, with the Order of Australia crest embroidered on one end, has proved a great success and stocks are going down fast. The scarf is acrylic so holds its shape; it is 206 x 11 cm, long enough to wrap a couple of times around your neck or fold and loop as in the picture.

Postage is \$11 and multiple items will be fitted into the package where possible.

Remember that you can order via the website (www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart), paying by PayPal or credit card.

You can also email your order to merchandise@theorderofaustralia.asn.au with credit card details.

You will also find an order form on the back page of the May 2021 edition of *The Order* national magazine.

Please do not use an old

copy, since order contact details have changed.

Meanwhile, if you're not a woollen scarf person, how about some pure silk?

Our women's silk scarf was designed by Melbourne artist Helen Vita and comes in shades of blue or coffee/blush. It features the golden wattle and the OAA crest.

The original blue scarf costs \$42 until stocks run out; the new

coffee/blush scarf costs \$45. Both measure 136 x 30 cm.



And so that the men do not feel left out, reminder that the OAA Merchandise service has customized ties of several designs, all featuring the OAA crest. The newest is a custom-made woven tie with spots replacing traditional stripes. It costs \$30.

OAA clothing may only be worn by Order of Australia recipients.

All available items are featured on the OAA website: www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart/.

Virtual Agricultural opportunities and challenges

Our Wednesday May 12 virtual event MC'd by David Mann AM focused on agriculture with two speakers Alana Johnson AM and Dr Joanna (Jo) Newtown OAM.



Alana Johnson AM is a rural development specialist and principal of Lurg Cattle Co. She is Acting Chair of the Victorian Catchment Management Council, Chair of the Victorian Women's Trust, past President of Voices for Indi and founding member of Australian Women in Agriculture.

Alana has served on a range of Ministerial advisory committees and statutory and not-for-profit Boards. She was named in the inaugural 100 Women of Influence in Australia by the Australian Financial Review and the inaugural 100 Women in Australian Agribusiness by Rural Press and was the Rural Women's Award Victorian winner and Australian runner up in 2010. Alana was inducted onto the Victorian Honour Roll of Women in 2018.



Alana is a graduate of the Australian Rural Leadership Program and the Australian Institute of Company Directors and holds a BA and BSW.

In recognition of her service to women through leadership and advisory roles, Alana was a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) recipient Australia Day in 2020.

Dr Joanna (Jo) Newton OAM works as a research scientist in genetics for the dairy industry with Agriculture Victoria. In 2017 she won the Dairy Research Foundation's Emerging Scientists Award and in 2018 won the Leadership category in the Victorian Young Achiever Awards, received the University of New England's Young Distinguished Alumni Award and was included in the Australian Financial Review's "100 Women of Influence" List

Her active involvement in the agricultural sector has included serving as inaugural Chair of the Youth Voices Leadership team and previous roles with the NSW Young Farmers Council. She dedicates a considerable portion of her spare time to speaking at schools and events, mentoring students and junior scientists and volunteering at agricultural shows.



Jo's contributions to agriculture have been recognised through numerous awards including at the age of 31 for service to agriculture through her advocacy and support of young people, volunteering and contribution to dairy research she was a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) recipient Queen's

Birthday 2020.

Virtual Agricultural opportunities and challenges continued

Discussion included the contribution of agriculture to our economy which is often underestimated. Half our land is used directly or indirectly for agriculture, the challenges of and opportunities of our weather Australia wide have a huge impact on outcomes and employment.

There are many players who come to the table when decisions need to be made, there has been rapidly changing approaches to all the challenges, and on a positive note the impact of women in agriculture is now being recognised.

Members heard about the history of agriculture, the structure today, issues, and innovation including greenhouse emissions, appropriate use of the land, better farm management, research, data collection use and future opportunities from the data.

We thank Reg Smith OAM and the Rotary Club of Melbourne for the Zoom link, National Anthem both verses and a collation of picturesque rural scenery.

Elevated member Anne Mackenzie AM

We congratulate Anne Macarthur a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2021 Australia Day Honours for service to the Red Cross and East Gippsland community. This is an elevation from her Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2007.

Anne acknowledged she accepted the honour on behalf of all those who helped her over the years because no one does things on their own.

She first became involved with Red Cross at the age of 10 when boarding at St. Catherine's School in Melbourne. Anne moved to East Gippsland in 1961 with her husband and has been a member of the Lindenow branch since its formation 50 years ago.

She recalls the 1965 bushfires in the area and baking fruitcakes and delivering them to families affected. A similar situation ensued following the Black Summer bushfires in 2019, but this time Anne was delivering Red Cross teddies made by branch members.

"It wasn't just kids hugging the teddies (also known as trauma teddies) but adults too," she said "They gave comfort to people of all ages."



For as long as she can remember, Anne has been one who door knocks in the Lindenow area during the Red Cross annual fundraising drive in March.

Anne became the first female chair of Red Cross, after 100 years of male dominance, and chaired the Victorian Red Cross Board for six years.

When she's not chairing Red Cross meetings, baking cakes and rattling tins or swimming laps at the BARC in Bairnsdale Anne is the Order of Australia Association VIC Branch Gippsland Regional Group Secretary.

Vale Frank Costa AO February 1938 to May 2021

Frank Costa AO will be remembered as a family man, a philanthropist, a community advocate, a “natural leader” and one of Australia’s most successful businessmen and one of the most influential figures in the history of the Geelong Football Club

An iconic figure in the Geelong region, he has long been a community leader. He joined the Geelong Football Club board in 1996 and was elected as President two years later - appointing Brian Cook as CEO and Mark Thompson as Coach. He remained as president until the end of 2010 when he retired from the board and then became the club’s Patron.



2,000 people attended the State Memorial Service at Kardinia Park to celebrate Frank’s life and his contributions to our state, the Geelong region and his beloved Geelong Football Club. The service MC’d by Ian Cover opened with a Welcome to Country by Wadawurrung traditional owner Corrina Eccles, accompanied by a Didgeridoo tribute performed by Norm Stanley.

Frank’s memory was honoured by the Acting Premier, the Honourable James Merlino MP, followed by tributes from family, friends and former colleagues including Robert Costa, Lindsay Fox AC, Brian Cook and Father Kevin Dillon AM. Tim McCallum sung the Australian National Anthem.

The service also commemorated Frank’s official induction as the Geelong Football Club’s 26th Legend. Frank became the first non-player to receive this honour and the medal was presented to his wife Shirley. Frank was made aware of his induction in April.

The Memorial Service concluded with a guard of honour formed by the Geelong Football Club, accompanied by a minute of silence which started and ended with the game siren followed by the Geelong Football Club song.

There was a private service at St Mary’s Church Geelong for family and friends prior to the State Memorial Service.

“Frank was a legend as a person, and a legend of the club. He forged so many strong and lasting relationships through his warmth and authenticity. He will be missed by all that have been fortunate enough to know and love him,” Geelong Football Club CEO Brian Cook said.

Awards received recognising the contribution made by Frank Costa:-

Centenary Medal (2001) for service to the Barwon community

Australian Sports Medal (2001) for services to Australian Football

Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM 1997) for service to youth and the community of Geelong

Officer of the Order of Australia (AO 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

The widely admired Frank Costa AO is survived by his eight daughters and wife Shirley.

Regional Group Chairs as at June 15, 2021

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

National Conference 2022

The Order of Australia Association

National Conference

Canberra

May 18 to 22, 2022

Please Save the Date

