



## Welcome from VIC Branch Chair

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

Congratulation to the AFL 2021 Premiers – the Melbourne Football Club

Since our winter edition Victoria has experienced ongoing extensions to lockdown, then our road out of lockdown was announced by the Premier on Sunday September 19. The four-step plan hinges on vaccination rates of those in the community who are eligible. Sadly last week we did not achieve the percentage set to allow some restrictions to be lifted; perhaps that was partly due to protests locking down the CBD and other metropolitan areas plus an earthquake. Trust this week is kinder to Victorian and we achieve the required percentage.

The lockdown last month forced the cancellation of our two receptions at the State Library Victoria for our 2020 and 2021 Australia Day and Queen's Birthday recipients.

The September and October Investitures at Government House have been rescheduled, 2021 Queen's Birthday recipients will be advised of the new arrangements by the Investiture Coordinator in the office of the Governor – Victoria.

The VIC Branch appreciates the support of our members and their guests attending our virtual events this year; February was the re-emergence of the Arts sector in conjunction with Arts Centre Melbourne and the National Gallery of Victoria. In May our focus was Australia's Agricultural Opportunities and Challenges and last Thursday (23<sup>rd</sup>) was R U OK and Mental Health. Please refer to page 2 for our coverage of this important topic.

Staying hopeful, our annual lunch at William Angliss Restaurant will be face-to-face on Wednesday November 24; the restaurant is aiming to reopen early November if Victoria hit the vaccination target then. If restrictions prevent catching up in person, the lunch will be virtual.

Please be assured we will follow VIC Government regulations and any additional venue requirements to ensure the safety of members, guests, volunteers and venue staff. Remember QR sign-in is a requirement in Victoria; assistance is available if required. Vaccine or exemption verification will also be a requirement in Victoria later this year to access many venues.

In this edition of our e-Newsletter we are featuring some of our recent recipients who have joined the Association. Please enjoy and note the diversity of achievers we have in Victoria.

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>.

Please stay well and keep a watchful eye on those close to you.



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

## R U OK and Mental Health virtual event

Thank you to the members and their guests who booked to attend our R U OK and Mental Health virtual event on Thursday September 23. Our virtual borders are always open; it was a pleasure to have some interstate members with us.

### Speaker **Kim Koop AM**

Kim has been working as an independent consultant since December 2016.



Her work as a consultant, facilitator and coach builds on over 8.5 years as CEO of VICSERV (now known as Mental Health Victoria) the Victorian peak body for mental health services, and 5 years as Deputy Chair of Victorian Council of Social Services.

She was also a founding member of Community Mental Health Australia working to establish this organisation nationally. Kim has many years of leadership and management experience in health and community services including 25 years' on numerous NFP Boards.

She's currently a member of the Orygen Youth Health Quality and Safety Committee and a founding board member of Compassion Education Alliance.

### Speaker **The Hon Robert Knowles AO**

Rob is a company Director and farmer near Ballarat. He has had a long involvement in health policy and management.

He was Minister for Health, Housing and Aged Care in the Kennett Government until 1999.

Since then, he has been involved in mental health advocacy serving as Chair of the Mental Health Council of Australia, one of the inaugural Commissioners of the National Mental Health Commission and currently a Director of BeyondBlue.



He is also a Director of a number of companies involved in healthcare including chairing the Board of the Royal Children's Hospital and a community member of the Council of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

Mental health affects people of all ages and often has an impact on general and oral health. When asking R U OK think about the way you ask the question and listen with an open mind for the reply. It is important to stay connected especially during COVID, remember many of us are social creatures. RUOK? [www.ruok.org.au](http://www.ruok.org.au)

We thank the MC of the virtual event David Mann AM and Michelle Challis for her support with the Zoom, slides and links.



## R U OK and Mental Health continued



### Service contact information:

Online services at BeyondBlue [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)

PH: 1800 512 348 [www.coravirus.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.coravirus.beyondblue.org.au)

Business support for healthy workplaces [www.headsup.org.au](http://www.headsup.org.au)

Lifeline PH: 13 11 14

To learn about Mental Health reforms in Victoria <https://www.mhrv.vic.gov.au>



## The importance of staying connected



**Together, we're helping millions stay connected.**

Because when we connect, we feel better.



Staying connected is good for our mental health. That's why, Beyond Blue in partnership with Australia Post is encouraging all people in Australia to send a message, make a call or send a postcard today.

Australia Post is delivering over 4 million prepaid postcards to help people in Australia connect with each other. The postcard has two parts; one part is with tips for mental health and wellbeing, which can be kept on your fridge. The other part is a postcard that you can send to someone – for free within Australia.

Look out for the postcard in your letterbox or visit your local participating Post Office to learn more.

Join millions of others by connecting with someone today. Because when we connect, we feel better.

## Victoria Branch 2021 Events

**Please note** it is a condition of entry that all members, guests and volunteers attending this lunch will be required to use the QR registration at the entrance. There will be assistance provided if required for those without a smartphone. Vaccination verification will also be required.

**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 distinguished Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship donated by the OAA VIC Branch will talk about his employment and community work.



Jade Hameister OAM and her father  
Paul Hameister OAM



Jordan Eitler

Invitation will be emailed to members late October please save the date.



## 2022 National Conference

Canberra Thursday May 19 to Sunday May 22

Program includes

Reception at Government House

Annual General Meeting

Members' Forum

Gala Dinner and OAA Foundation Scholarship presentations



National Museum of Australia

Venue for Commemorative Service and Farewell Lunch

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### Pamela (Pam) Robinson elevated from OAM to AM

Pam Robinson AM a former President and Councillor of the Shire of Violet Town (now the Shire of Strathbogie) and a Life Member of the Australian Local Government Women's Association (Victoria) was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to conservation and the environment, and to the community in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours.



Pam had in 1990 been awarded a member of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to local government and to conservation. Her community service included membership of the Boho Fire Brigade, active involvement in Landcare and recognition with life membership of the Benalla Regional Art Gallery, life membership of the Koorie Heritage Trust of Victoria and life membership of the Australian Local Government Women's Association.

Over the years Pam has made an incredible contribution to Landcare including as a member of National Landcare Advisory Committee and Australian Landcare International/Global Landcare and other related committees in the Northern Territory and Victoria.

Her commitment to the Environment includes past Parks Victoria Board, Ministerial Reference Council for Climate Change Adaptation and Land Conservation Council. Pam is a Founding member of Order of Australia Association North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley Regional Group in 1993; Deputy Chair of Melbourne Central Regional Group 2017 – 2019 and VIC Branch Committee Member 2019 – 2021.

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A "Pioneer Women in the Environment and Conservation"

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## National Gallery of Victoria Exhibition and Barre Cafe

On a sunny winters day 160 members and guests booked out the OAA VIC Branch international exclusive Melbourne Winter Masterpieces exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) on Thursday July 15 and lunch at The Barre Café Arts Centre Melbourne.

The international exclusive, a major exhibition of more than 100 masterworks of French



Impressionism in partnership with the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA).

Members and guests had the opportunity to listen to a comprehensive online lecture about the exhibition delivered Dr. Miranda Wallace, Senior Curator, International Exhibition Projects at NGV. Miranda an outstanding lecturer set the scene for the walkthrough of the exhibition.

This was the first time in sixteen months the VIC Branch as hosted an event, the timing was perfect, late afternoon the government announced lockdown from 11.59pm.

There was time to visit the NGV shop before a quick walk next door for lunch in The Barre Café.



## Order of Australia Lapel Pins

As a member of The Order of Australia Association (OAA), you may order six (6) replacement Lapel Pins per year direct from Government House in Canberra. Please note this is the Lapel Pin received at your investiture not the OAA lapel pin sold in the Merchandise Shop. Call (02) 6283 3615 Medals and Purchasing Officer. Payment by Visa and MasterCard is accepted.



## What is NEW in the Merchandise Shop



Face mask \$25 per pack of 2



Vista Travel Charger \$33 each

OAA Merchandise Shop on-line website [www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart)

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## Regional Group 2021 Events

**Please note** it is a requirement when attending OAA Regional Group Events that all members, guests and volunteers adhere to COVID regulations including QR registration. There will be assistance provided if required for those without a smartphone.

### Eastern Suburbs

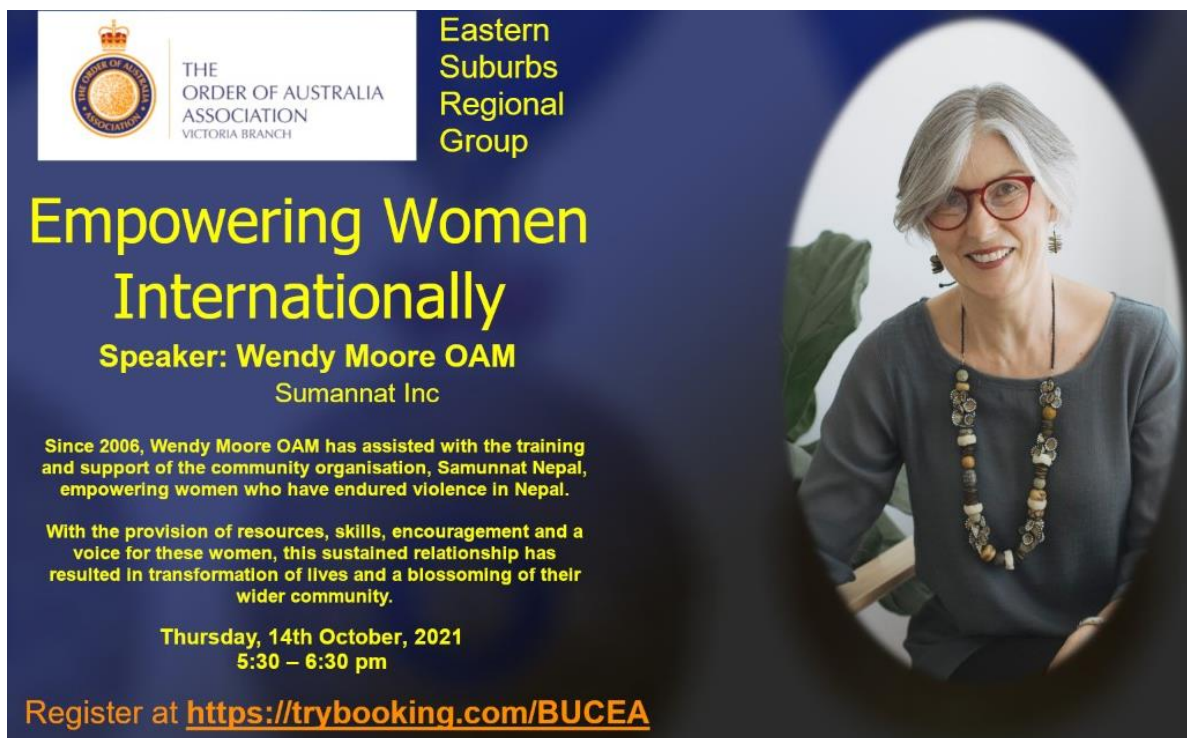
We were delighted to have nearly sixty registrations for our first Webinar, held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, when Professor Catherine Crock AM, founder of The Hush Foundation, spoke to an interested audience about “Kindness in Action”. A medical pioneer, producer of music and theatre, a humanitarian and an advocate for change, Professor Crock reflected on her journey in transforming healthcare through the arts. The well-known Hush Collection provides music which has been shown to have a significant and lasting impact on those undergoing medical treatment, and particularly on children as they face what can often be a traumatic experience. The impact is not limited to patients, however, and we heard how a variety of artistic activities has had an effect on the culture among medical staff as well. Kindness, expressed through every engagement in a workplace and with patients and clients, underpins the work of Hush as it continues to expand and to improve the experience of patients, families and healthcare professionals.

Our group has recognised that the current uncertain climate is not one in which we could plan for face-to-face events with any certainty, so we plan instead to continue to arrange online webinars with inspiring speakers.

We are delighted that the speaker at our next event, **Empowering Women Internationally**, will be **Wendy Moore OAM**. Since 2006 Wendy has assisted with training and the support of the community organisation Samunnat Nepal, empowering women who have endured violence in Nepal. With the provision of resources, skills, encouragement and a voice for these women, the sustained relationship has resulted in transformation of lives and a blossoming to their community in Nepal. Wendy’s passion for Nepal began in 1975 when her intrepid parents took the family trekking.

## Eastern Suburbs continued

She felt immediately at home in Nepal and that feeling has not changed in over 30 trips. In 2007 Wendy and her husband Malcolm moved to Nepal where they lived for four years.



**THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION VICTORIA BRANCH**

**Eastern Suburbs Regional Group**

# Empowering Women Internationally

**Speaker: Wendy Moore OAM**  
Sumannat Inc

Since 2006, Wendy Moore OAM has assisted with the training and support of the community organisation, Samunnat Nepal, empowering women who have endured violence in Nepal.

With the provision of resources, skills, encouragement and a voice for these women, this sustained relationship has resulted in transformation of lives and a blossoming of their wider community.

**Thursday, 14th October, 2021**  
**5:30 – 6:30 pm**

Register at <https://trybooking.com/BUCEA>

Samunnat Nepal, based in eastern Nepal, provides women with legal representation, income generation training, counselling, accommodation and mentoring. Programs are tailor made for each woman and these programs are funded by the sale of jewellery made by some of the women.

[Samunnat Inc](#) is an Australian Charity which helps with logistically difficult activities including sales and distribution of jewellery, the purchasing of materials not available in Nepal, and additional fundraising. It also acts as a sounding board and resource for ideas and helping to build the organisation's capacity.

This online free event will be at **5:30 pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October**, and everyone is welcome, but registration is required. Please visit <https://trybooking.com/BUCEA> to register.

The guest speaker at our final webinar for 2021 will be Susan Alberti AC, one of Australia's pre-eminent philanthropists, and Chairperson of the Susan Alberti Medical Research Foundation. Well-known also for her support of the AFL and as a role model and mentor for young women, Susan is looking forward to sharing something of her story with OAA members. More details of the webinar, to be held at 5:30 pm on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December, will be available closer to the event, but keep the date free for an interesting and engaging session.

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## North Central Suburbs

Similar to other Regional Groups, the NCSRG committee has been disappointed to have to postpone so many of its scheduled functions.

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. These sessions have allowed the group to make contact with many of its



## North Central Suburbs continued

members, many who have not had the opportunity to attend daytime face to face events, members of other regional groups and also QB2021 recipients including Julie Dempsey OAM and Professor Ian Freckelton AO QC. The speakers to date have been:

**July** – Jeanette Suhr OAM, Road Trauma Support Services Victoria: From a humble beginning in 1994, RTSSV has grown to offer state-wide counselling, support and education services to any Victorian affected by a road incident. Jeanette spoke to us about her journey and her motivation in taking a leading role in the founding of the Road Trauma Support Services Victoria and its ongoing commitment to those who have been affected by a road incident, after she lost her own daughter in a car crash. Refer to article on page 9.

**August** – Duncan Stalker OAM: Former Victoria Branch Deputy Chair (Country) address included an overview of his many years in the teaching profession, his experiences as a Secondary School Principal and his role on National and International Principals Associations. In the second part of his address Duncan spoke of his experiences as the Chair of the 2014 Order of Australia National Conference organising committee.

**September** – Professor Ian Freckelton AO QC: Professor Freckelton is an experienced Queen's Counsel in full time practice throughout Australia and a Supreme Court Judge in Nauru. Professor Freckelton has written many books and has recently released a book titled; *Pandemics, Public Health Emergencies and Government Powers – Perspectives on Australian Law*. His topic was *How Life Will be Different after the Pandemic*.

**October** – Our next evening ZOOM session is to be held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October with guest speaker Professor Julie Bernhardt AM. Professor Bernhardt is co-leader of The Florey's Stroke Theme, and leads the AVERT Early Intervention Research Program. Her topic will be *Stroke: We've come a long way treating this brain injury, but still have a long way to go*. Members wanting to 'attend' can do so by emailing NCSRG Chair Fred Harrington OAM at [fred.harrington@gravity.net.au](mailto:fred.harrington@gravity.net.au)

The July zoom session was addressed by **Jeanette Suhr OAM**, a co-founder of the Road Trauma Support Services Victoria (RTSSV). Some of her information is enclosed here:

In the early hours of the 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1991, Jeanette and Greg Suhr were woken with a knock on their door at 12.30 am. Their son answered the door and told his parents that there were two policemen there. The Senior Policeman informed them that there had been an accident at 8.30pm the previous evening and the Police believed that their daughter Tanya was involved. Having found no identification on her they were not certain, but the girl involved and the other passenger had been killed and the driver had been seriously injured. Their car had been hit by a drunken, drugged driver who was twice the legal alcohol limit and was topped up with amphetamines. Not believing that it was their daughter, they asked for proof before they would believe such terrible news. It was 3am by the time the police could identify Tanya Suhr from her jewellery. With that, their lives had changed forever.



Having found no help or support personally, some two years later, Jeanette Suhr attended a meeting to support a friend who had six weeks previously, lost her daughter in a school bus crash.

## North Central Suburbs continued

It was on that night that Colleen Hall, a woman who had formed the Road Trauma Support Team in Launceston in 1989 following the loss of nine members of her immediate and extended family planted a seed which led to the formation of RTSSV.

With Colleen's set of guidelines and after recruiting interested people, a steering committee was formed. That committee consisted of a member of Jaycees, a Chief Social worker from Bethesda Rehabilitation Hospital and 3 others who had experienced the loss of loved ones, and Jeanette Suhr. With donations received on the night of the meeting, the Committee recruited a trainer and advertised for people who would be interested in becoming peer supporters who would be matched up with those who were needing counselling and support, following the loss of their loved ones. The first recruitment consisted of 22 volunteers who had been touched in some way by road trauma. Advertisements were placed in local papers informing people of the service and it quickly became apparent there was a need to appeal for more funding to set up an office and appoint a Counselling Coordinator, as an overwhelming amount of referrals came to light.

Funding came via the Department of Justice for a one-off program specifically aimed at those involved with crime related road trauma. RTSSV's first office was in a church hall and a part-time Office Manager and a Counsellor/ Coordinator were hired. Then, after receiving some professional strategic planning help, funding from the Transport Accident Commission was gained for a three year contract to continue the service. TAC continues to fund the counselling arm of RTSSV to this day.

Along with the TAC funding and some general fund-raising, RTSSV now employs a fulltime CEO, Office Manager, Education Manager and Counselling Manager, as well as part time Counsellors, a Fundraising Coordinator, a Marketing Manager and an Accountant. Volunteers are also an integral part of the Service. With approximately 2,000 referrals a year, clients can have free telephone or face-to-face counselling. The education seminars are conducted for over 1200 annually, with referrals from the Magistrates Court and Community Corrections Services.

From their humble beginnings, RTSSV has reached a wide range of people: those who had lost loved ones, those who may have witnessed an incident, people who were first on scene, passengers, cyclists and drivers who may have been responsible for the incident – anyone who has been affected by road trauma either recently or in the past.



The mission of RTSSV is to reduce the incidence and impact of road trauma and for those impacted, not to have to go through it alone. The Service has now been operating in Victoria for 28 years and during that time, thousands of people have accessed their services. Their main road safety partners are TAC, Victoria Police and Vic Roads.

***Whilst ongoing funding is a battle, the need is unfortunately, never ending.*** Road Trauma Support Services Victoria can be contacted on 1300 367 797 or via [www.rtssv.org.au](http://www.rtssv.org.au)

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## North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley

We were very pleased to see the NEGV have 12 Queen's birthday recipients and we welcome new members, Cath and Ken Burkitt OAM, Ken Broomhead OAM, Bill Church OAM, Clive Walker OAM, Vivienne Ritchie AM and Vivian Spilva OAM.

It's great to see two more husband and wife recipients with Vivian Spilva OAM joining husband Andrew OAM and the recent recipients Cath and Ken Burkitt OAM.



## North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley continued

To get to know some of our new members they were asked to write about what they received their award for, what it has meant to them and their advice to young people to get involved in their community. The following is from four of our new members.

### **Cath and Ken Burkitt OAM**

We both received the award for many years of service with various organisations such as: Kindergartens, Schools, Guides and Scouts and Rotary also the development of support organisations such as: Goulburn Valley Youth Choir, Goulburn Valley Branch of the Bone Marrow Registry, Mooroopna Minky hockey, and Mooroopna Men's Shed.

We have always operated as a team and in our early years our voluntary work was driven by the needs of our children, however, after 25 years in East Doncaster, Melbourne we relocated to Mooroopna with teenagers and had no difficulty in finding voluntary work as we connected with the community. We were involved on a voluntary basis with Wanganui secondary school, Guides, Scouts playing & coaching hockey, Shepparton Theatre Arts Group and Ken joined Rotary while Cath continued with her work with Guides and joined Red Cross. We combined to develop the Bone Marrow group with a public meeting following which we formed the branch with a small number of supporters culminating in 20 years of support from the group and the Goulburn Valley communities. As a result of many years of fundraising the group provided in excess of \$360K in funding for the Registry and lifesaving support for Leukemia sufferers.

We were both very pleased to receive the award which we accepted with the knowledge that it was gained with the wonderful support from our family and the support group we had around us. After many years of voluntary service, we felt that it was a surprise reward for the effort even though we were blessed with the opportunity to meet and work with many wonderful people which was in itself enough reward.

There is great opportunity for young people of today to join the multitude of voluntary groups that serve our communities, to meet different people and learn new skills and reap the rewards of friendship and the ability to help others in their need.

### **Ken Broomhead OAM with his Cessna 180**

It was a very pleasant surprise to be included in this year's Queen's birthday honours for service to the aviation industry. In particular for being involved in an industry throughout my life which has not only been my livelihood, but also a lifelong interest.

I developed a passion for flying while growing up on my parents' coffee plantation in the New Guinea highlands. New Guinea (now spelt Niugini) was a flying country, particularly in the highlands, due to the discovery of gold and the heavy emphasis on the growing of coffee, coconuts on the coast, the arrival of the Christian missions and of course the huge mining industry which, due to the lack of roads, relied on air transport.

I saw first-hand what it meant to the national population and how excited they were to be involved with aeroplanes. Early on in my career I earned a flight instructor's rating and immediately realised what satisfaction I received by encouraging aspiring pilots to take flying training and to mentor them through the usual difficulties and challenges of advancing in the industry.



## North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley continued

One of the great delights for me has been mentoring and encouraging the “kids hanging over the airport fence”, particularly those who for various reasons face difficulties of learning to fly privately rather than through the armed services. Many times in my career I had challenges achieving my goal, and to encourage people to achieve their best in flying and to follow their careers with a personal interest, has been, to me, most rewarding.

My association with the Australian Air Force Cadets, particularly in powered flying, gliding and until recently parachuting has provided a wonderful opportunity to provide others with an interest in all parts of the aviation industry, not only as a pilot. Many of those young people who could not afford flying training, or saw no way forward in the industry, went on to the highest levels in the Royal Australian Air Force and in airlines throughout the world. Some sought careers in the Royal Flying Doctor Service and in many other facets of aviation, such as engineering and the technical areas.

To meet with them now as they themselves mentor and encourage others is wonderful.

After retiring from my airline career and moving to Wangaratta, I became honorary Chief Flying Instructor at the aero club. Many of the young people I have met have said that they like the aviation industry but don't really know of the many different careers and pleasures available, or indeed how and where to start. Engineering and support industries in particular are many and varied. I have always been pleasantly surprised how people in those industries are happy to take the individuals “under their wing” and help them on their way.

To young people wondering how they can become involved, I suggest to them that they encourage their friends and acquaintances in the wonders and opportunities in their lives and how to achieve success. To see people succeeding through your help is the best reward in life.

I am honoured to be a recipient of the OAM. I look forward to recommending others who have done similar things throughout their lives.

For those young people finding their way in aviation, I shall stand on the tarmac of retirement and cheer on their every success.

### **Vivian Spilva OAM**

I have volunteered on many committees most of my adult life, starting with playgroup when I had my two children in 1979 and 1981. This was quickly followed by roles on committees at kindergarten, primary school, guides and scouts, local political party, as well as sporting groups that my children were involved in holding positions such as President, Secretary and Treasurer -sometimes all at the same time!



*Vivian on right with her late mother Irma and husband Andrew Spilva OAM*

My Nomination was for my contribution to the communities of Yarrawonga and Mulwala over the past 25 years.

I have served on the committee for Yarrawonga-Mulwala Arts Council Inc (now trading as Across the Arts) since 1996. During this time, I have served under numerous Presidents, one of which



## North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley continued

was the late Margaret (Terry) Lyons. We formed a terrific working relationship on this committee bringing annual literary luncheons to our community for a number of years. In addition, there were recitals, plays, variety shows, art shows, photographic exhibitions, art quilt shows. Also, gala events such as "Opera under the Stars" the "Comedy Festival" and our renowned "Victorian Concert Orchestra".

In 2016, after a chance meeting on a cruise with Jonathon Welch AM, I was able to form a new committee and bring the "Festival of 1000 Voices" to Yarrawonga/Mulwala in 2018. This has been enormously successful and attracted choirs from both Victoria and New South Wales to participate, along with the Choir of Hard Knocks and Deborah Cheetham AO and the Dhungala Children's Choir. The following year the event was headed by Mark O'Leary OAM with the "Young Voices of Melbourne". No event was possible in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID restrictions.

I was also elected onto the Committee of Management of Yarrawonga Neighbour House/Yarrawonga Education & Training 9 years ago and still serve on this committee as Secretary.

Five years ago, I was approached by the CEO of Yarrawonga Health to consider forming a committee to assist Yarrawonga Health with better community engagement and more importantly fundraising. I was able to gather like-minded community leaders and the "Helping Hands" committee was established in July 2016. I have been privileged to Chair this committee which has now raised in excess of \$200,000 for Yarrawonga Health.

Outside of my country community I am Council Member for the Institute of Legal Executives (Vic) Ltd and the Institute of Legal Executives (Australia) and have served, and continue to serve, on these for a period of 9 years.

I have a very strong belief that that volunteering helps you to connect with your community and I hope that it also encourages others to do the same.

## VALE

On a sad note, we lost Life Member **Lance Woodhouse OAM** in June. Lance was a Shepparton



icon and visionary. He was involved in many community activities and respected for his integrity. In particular he and Keppel Turnour OAM as Rotary Club of Shepparton members were instrumental in Shepparton Village's \$34M, 120 bed aged care development

Lance received his OAM in 1993 for service to the community, particularly through the Shepparton International Village.

In earlier times the two were also the backbone of The Order of Australia Association in Shepparton. Lance was instrumental in ensuring recognition for awardees at the Australia Day ceremony each year. He will be greatly missed and our

condolences go to his family and friends. Photo: Keppel Turnour OAM and Lance Woodhouse OAM

## North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley continued

Another loss has been **John Carlyon OAM** who was previously a member of the NCSRG. John received his award in 2014 for work with the Naval Association of Australia and with veterans.

**Sunday October 3** - Quality Hotel Wangaratta Gateway- Guest Speaker Dr Nicholas Jans OAM  
Cancelled due to social distancing restrictions

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022** in Shepparton

This will also be our AGM. Details to follow in next e-news

Barbara Thomas OAM Chair

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## Central Highlands Wimmera



The Committee of the Central Highlands Wimmera Group held a lunch meeting at the RSL in Ararat on the 15th August to finalise details for the two luncheons planned for October, one in Ballarat and one in Horsham. Sadly, once again the two lunches have been postponed due to the current COVID situation. Jean Wise OAM – Secretary

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## South Central Suburban

Queen's Birthday saw twenty-three of our citizens recognised with Honours and we congratulate and applaud them for their individual achievements. Currently we have had eighteen recipients join the Association this calendar year.

Like the majority, if not all Victorians, we have felt the disappointment of having functions cancelled and in our case a Civic Reception to honour our last year and this year's recipients being added to the casualties.

Congratulation to Agriculture Victoria research scientist Dr Joanna (Jo) Newton OAM a leading agricultural advocate into dairy research for being one of two scientists selected for the prestigious Australian Rural Leadership Foundation program.

The ARLP is Australia's longest and most in-depth experiential leadership program designed to build leadership capability throughout rural, regional, and remote Australia.

Jo is grateful for the opportunity and said, "Many of my role models across agriculture in rural and regional Australia are ARLP alumni, and I am honoured to be following in their footsteps."



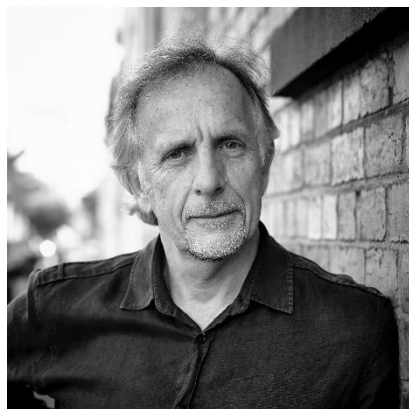
Together with Alana Johnson AM Founding member of Australian Women in Agriculture, Jo was a speaker at the VIC Branch May 12 virtual event discussing Australia's Agricultural Opportunities and Challenges.

Jo is a member of the Order of Australia Association South Central Suburban Regional Group.



## South Central Suburban continued

We continue to move on and we are very pleased to announce that we have for our annual End of Year Dinner, being held at Victoria Golf Club on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> of November**, Mr. Jan Sardi AO as our very special Guest Speaker. He undoubtedly will enthral us with tales of wisdom and wit and share his experiences as a writer with all of us. You are more than welcome to join us on this special occasion, bring a friend.



Mr Jan V Sardi AO is one of Australia's eminent screenwriters. In 1997 he received an Academy Award nomination for his screenplay for Shine, as well as BAFTA, Writers Guild of America and Golden Globes nominations. Jan has numerous other credits including Love's Brother, an award winning Australian/UK co-production, which he also directed.

He also adapted the hit films The Notebook and Mao's Last Dancer for the screen, as well as the highly acclaimed mini-series The Secret River (co-written with Mac Gudgeon) based on the novel by Kate Grenville.

Jan's most recent project is The Journey is The Destination, a film inspired by the life and journals of Dan Eldon. Jan is a member of both the US Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and the British Academy of Film and Television (BAFTA). He has previously served on the Board of Film Victoria and is the former President of the Australian Writers' Guild.

### BOOKING DETAILS

✂.....

I wish to attend the **End of Year Dinner** at Victoria Golf Club Park Road Cheltenham, on Wednesday 17th November 2021, commencing at 6.30 PM.

Please find enclosed cheque for .....persons at \$70 each (GST incl) \$.....

Cheques should be made payable to The Order of Australia Association and mailed to the Treasurer by 10th November 2021.

Alternately, pay by Direct Debit to Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000. Account number 132398835.

No receipts will be issued.

If paying by Direct Debit indicate "END of YEAR DINNER" and notify the Treasurer of the below mentioned details please.

Name and Post Nominals.....

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

Name/s of your Guest/s.....

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Special dietary requirements.....

Jacket and tie for gentlemen and miniature decorations are to be worn.

Please post to the Hon Treasurer Alan Samuel OAM, PO Box 277 Glen Huntly. VIC 3163

Phone 0408 024 224 Email the Treasurer of your EFT with guest names and dietary requirements at [alan@samuelfamily.net](mailto:alan@samuelfamily.net)

If the function is cancelled because of Government restrictions, the amount paid by individuals shall be repaid in full.

## Western Suburbs

Thursday November 18 – lunch, details will be emailed to members next month. Note the Regional Group has a new Secretary Trish Vejby OAM [oaamelbwest@gmail.com](mailto:oaamelbwest@gmail.com)

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## Merchandise Shop News The story of the OAA silk scarves

Have you ever wondered where the design of the OAA silk scarves came from? It began as a request from female members for more merchandise items for women. Although many of the merchandise items are obviously unisex, women noted that the men had a selection of male-specific items (ties, cufflinks), but there was nothing for women. Merchandise Subcommittee Chair Professor June Kane AM had the idea that something luxurious and unique could be crafted using the golden wattle as a motif, and discussed it with a friend, Melbourne Artist Helen Vita.



Helen was born in Perth, into a yachting family, and moved to Darwin in the mid-1960s. After a spell in Adelaide for work, she moved to Malaysia for a couple of years, finally settling in Melbourne in the late 1990s. She tells how, in early high school, she had shown her art teacher a painting and he said, "No, you'll never be an artist". She did not pick up a brush again for decades until a friend gave her a watercolour set for her birthday. After experimenting alone, she began taking lessons with Greg Allen, a famous Twenty Melbourne 'impressionist' artist. Her high school teacher's words still rang in her ears, until she went to France for a three-week painting excursion with Greg and 15 other students. Visits to the Louvre and Musée d'Orsay, with Greg giving commentary and explanations, made the art come alive and gave birth to Helen the artist.



The idea for a painting for the scarf design grew as Helen sought to represent the curving of branches and took inspiration from the idea from ancient vases covered in twining vine leaves, with bushells of wattle coming out, to balance the spaces around the curves. It took her some time to work out how to paint the individual flowers. She painted extra sheets of varying yellow, cut them into 'flowers' to work out the light to dark contrasts between the flowers and the background, and discovered the effect was very good. The design became a fusion of painting and collage.



Helen's painting was transformed into the design of the original blue silk scarf that is exclusive to OAA members. When the first order quickly sold out, a second version in coffee/cream was added, to widen the wearing potential. Then, in July 2021, a silver/grey version was created that could be worn as evening wear as well as during the day. All three scarves are 100% silk, measure 136 x 30 cm, and cost \$45.



**NEW**

Merchandise including these three scarves are available from the Merchandise Shop on the OAA website [www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart) or using the Merchandise Order Form on the back page of *The Order* national magazine August 2021 edition

## OAA VIC Members Recipient Profiles

"In every honours list there are examples of selflessness, commitment and dedication. There is diversity and there are examples of exceptional achievement in almost every field imaginable."  
Governor-General David Hurley AC DSC (Retd).

Recipients such as Ngatuaine Hosking OAM, Kathryn Mackenzie OAM, Phong Nguyen OAM and Joanne Sheehan-Paterson OAM are recognised for the good work they do to make a difference. If you know someone who should be recognised for what they do, please consider nominating them.

**Ngatuaine (Nga) Hosking OAM** For service to the multicultural community - Victoria  
Ngatuaine (Nga) Hosking's hard work, community spirit and generosity have been recognised with a Medal of the Order of Australia Queen's Birthday 2021

After moving to Australia from the Cook Islands in 1986, Nga has devoted her time to helping the multicultural community in Victoria. She has sat on a range of committees for the Kingston City Council and the Monash City Council, and was the first Monash Councillor from a Cook Islands background.

Since attending a Multicultural Women's Leadership Course in 2005, she took the journey of helping immigrant and refugee women and youth through advocacy, lobbying and training. In her current voluntary roles as Board member of The Silent Witness Network (TSWN) and President of the Cook Islands Women's Federation and as a paid Youth Support Worker in Youth Justice and various Residential Care Units, Nga brings with her a wealth of community development skills gained from working at the Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Coalition (VIRWC) and Women's Association South East Melbourne Australia (WASEMA).



Nga was overwhelmed with the news of her award but also found it very humbling.

"Really surprised because I wasn't expecting it. I am just working at the grass root level with the hope of connecting, empowering and supporting the community," she said.

"It's the work of the community that has made it possible – I'm only a receiver of what they have already contributed in regards to the actual award itself. I'm not saying I did it by myself, it was done because of the work of everyone else around me through my journey."

"I think one of the highlights of my career is lobbying for a Cook Islands Consulate Office in Australia. We are still in the lobbying process but hope to have an outcome soon."

Nga believes there are a large number of women out there doing outstanding work at the grassroots level who are not being recognised.

"I would support anyone in making a nomination – help them recognise those that deserve to be awarded for their great work."



## Kathryn Mackenzie OAM For service to tourism in regional Victoria

Kathryn Mackenzie OAM has spent her working life developing Regional Victoria's tourism industry and creating new opportunities in local communities.

Kathryn has now been recognised for her service with a Medal of the Order of Australia on Australia Day 2021. The Honour, given to those who go above and beyond to serve their community and the nation, reflects the dedication that Kathryn has for the tourism industry and her work on behalf of local communities.

Despite her penchant hard work, Kathryn says "it's not something you ever work towards. You have a dream – to help communities realise their potential – but you never think that people will recognise the hard work you put into following that dream."

She has held a number of roles throughout regional Victoria, culminating with her current position as CEO of Echuca-Moama Tourism – a job she loves.

"Getting to see the change that you can make is really what I love about it. It's a community-building role, so you get to make a difference."

Prior to living and working in Echuca-Moama, Kathryn spent two decades working in Bendigo, where her work helped realise the potential of the region. She tapped into the latent potential of local producers, developing the food industry through her role as the Executive Manager for Tourism at the City Council.

Combining the untapped resources in the surrounding area and demand for locally-grown produce, Kathryn helped to develop a new industry of food tourism. "The main goal was to showcase our local farmers and producers, as well as the local community. Re-routing the supply-chain so that goods can stay in the region meant we could keep that fantastic produce in the hands of our local businesses."

As former Chair of Cultural Tourism Victoria, she still has a great passion for the arts and continues to work with regional communities to showcase



Victoria's natural and man-made wonders.

To Kathryn, any undertaking is greeted with passion and determination. "A job is more than a job – it's about changing people's lives. That's why I encourage anyone to nominate someone for an Order of Australia Award – we need to recognise those people who haven't been recognised in the past for the work they do."

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## Phong Nguyen OAM For service to the Vietnamese community

Phong Nguyen OAM is a long-time volunteer, human rights advocate, refugee and cricket fanatic. He has lead an active and passionate life dedicated to a fair, just, humane and multicultural society.



His contribution to the Vietnamese community has been recognised with a Medal of the Order of Australia on Queen's Birthday 2021.

Phong found the news of his award surprising, unexpected and embarrassing. He felt that during his time in the community, he has come across many well deserving Australians, whose contributions were far more significant and inspirational compared to his.

He believes that giving someone the opportunity to be recognised at this level is

the thank you that many of these humble, unassuming and silent heroes truly deserve.

"Genuine and "fair dinkum" heroes are the ones who never think of themselves or do things to be recognised or praised. It's, therefore, up to us who know them to nominate."

Phong arrived in Australia as a young refugee in 1979. Following his arrival, Phong joined the Jesuits and became the first Vietnamese Jesuit in Australia. He left the order in 1986 but his passionate, vocal and enduring advocacy for the socially disadvantaged saw him continue serving the community.

"As a refugee escaping from the Vietnamese Communist atrocities and a survivor of the dangerous journey to freedom lands, I felt obliged to give back to Australia and to speak out against any human rights abuse, injustices and dedicate my life to serve others instead of myself and my family."

One of Phong's greatest achievements to date was watching how the Vietnamese community responded to the 2009 Black Saturday Bushfires in Victoria. Through his role as President of the Vietnamese Community in Australia he put out a call for donations and what they received in return was outstanding. In a short timeframe, the small community had donated more than \$1.2 million to bushfire victims. Phong felt very proud to be a member of the Vietnamese-Australian community during this time.

Phong is the founding and inaugural Chairperson of the Vietnamese Museum Australia, former Chairperson of the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria, past Federal-President of the Vietnamese Community in Australia and former President of the Vietnamese Community in Victoria.

Throughout his life, Pong has received a range of awards to acknowledge his outstanding work, these include, the Inaugural Australia's Ethnic Youth of the Year (1986), City of Greater Dandenong Media and People Choice's Citizen of the Year (2000) and the Centenary Medal of Australia (2001). He was appointed Victoria and Tasmania's Australia Day Ambassador (2007 & 2008), inducted into the Victorian Refugee Recognition Record and appointed the People of Australia Ambassador by the Prime Minister (2012).

## Joanne Sheehan-Paterson OAM For service to the community through social welfare organisations. Queen's Birthday 2021

Joanne is Chief Executive Officer Mallee Sexual Assault Unit / Mallee Domestic Violence Services. She was born in South Australia, and attended Flinders University studying a Psychology Major. She completed a Bachelor of Arts / Social Sciences Degree from Deakin University, with an Extended Major in Psychology and a Major in International Relations. Joanne also holds a Diploma of Business, Diploma of Management, Graduate Certificate in Workplace Assessment and Training.

Joanne was also employed as a Lecturer with LaTrobe University in the Sociology Program.



In 1979 she joined the SA Police Force, ten years later she entered the Mallee region in North West Victoria and was appointed a Community Development Worker, employed by the Merbein Community Health Centre to research the need for a Sexual Assault Service in the Mallee Region and obtain data regarding the incidence and prevalence of sexual assault.

This research found a high incidence of sexual assault which resulted in funding through the National Women's Health Program and the Health Department Victoria in 1991 for the establishment of the Mallee Sexual Assault Unit (MSAU) which provided a 24 hour crisis care service for victims. In 1991 Joanne was appointed Coordinator for the Service.

Over the years the Service expanded to incorporate the Mildura based centre, with Outreach Service provision along the Mallee Track, Swan Hill, Robinvale, Kerang, Shire of Gannawarra, Shire of Buloke and border towns of New South Wales. Mallee Sexual Assault Unit services the whole of North West Victoria, as well as the bordering New South Wales towns, a Tri-State Service.

In 1993, MSAU Inc. successfully tendered for the Domestic Violence Services in the Mallee region. Mallee Domestic Violence Services (MDVS) provides crisis response, counselling, support services, emergency refuge accommodation across the Mallee, the border communities of New South Wales and South Australian border towns.

In February 2007 MSAU in conjunction with Victoria Police opened one of two pilot sites in Victoria for the Specialist Multi-Disciplinary Centre (MDC) for Sexual Assault providing a 24 hour Sexual Assault Centre allowing victims of sexual assault to receive a consistent and comprehensive response to their needs by Police and Specialist Sexual Assault counsellors. In 2011 Specialist Practitioners from Child Protection joined the MDC; their specific role is to investigate allegations of physical and / or sexual abuse of children.

MSAU was the first sexual assault service in Victoria to incorporate family / domestic violence services into the organisation, a pioneering move at the time in women's empowerment and forward thinking. This model is now one of the recommendations from the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence 2016. The organisation has also been instrumental in contributing to the recommendations from the 2017 Royal Commission into Institutional Sexual Abuse.

Joanne has represented the organisation on local, State and National Networks as well as continuing Board membership on peak bodies such as Sexual Assault Services Victoria and is the Chairperson of the National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence.

For Joanne, it has been an honour and a privilege to be able to provide essential services for thousands of victims / survivors of sexual violence, family and domestic violence over the past three decades.



## Regional Group Chairs as at September 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

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## Congratulations 2021 AFL Premiers Melbourne Football Club

