



THE
ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
ASSOCIATION
VICTORIA BRANCH

OAA VIC Branch Chair's Report for January 1 to December 31, 2021

The lockdowns and social distancing in 2020 continued for most of 2021 causing ongoing uncertainty and the cancellation of most events.

The VIC Branch and some of our Regional Groups continued hosting virtual events and communicated via e-Newsletters during the year to ensure ongoing connection with members.

154 Order of Australia Honours & Awards recipients from Victoria were announced on Australia Day and 309 on the Queen's Birthday holiday in 2021. We thank the Governor of Victoria and her staff for the work they have undertaken during challenging times to recognise Order of Australia Honours & Awards recipients.

Thank you to new recipients who have joined the Association over the past two years and our annual and three year members who have renewed their membership during this period.

OAA VIC Branch hosted Events during 2021:

February 24 was the virtual launch post COVID re-emergence of our Arts industries with invited representatives from Arts Centre Melbourne and the National Gallery of Victoria.

March 16 virtual Annual General Meeting

May 12 virtual Australia's Agricultural Opportunities and Challenges with speakers Alana Johnson AM and Dr Joanna Newton OAM

July 15 Winter Masterpieces at the National Gallery of Victoria, was our only face-to-face event for the year, Victoria went back in lockdown the evening of the 15th. The lecture was via You-Tube and available a week before the exhibition date. On the 15th members and their guests attended the exhibition at the NGV and lunch next door at The Barre part of the Arts Centre.

September 23 our virtual event focused on 'R U OK' and Mental Health with speakers The Hon Robert Knowles AO and Kim Koop AM.

November 24 was our final event for the year, a virtual annual lunch with speakers Jade Hameister OAM and Paul Hameister OAM talking about their challenging Polar expeditions. OAA Foundation Scholarship recipient in 2018 Hannah Gandy gave members and their guests an update on her studies and community work and her plans for 2022.

Thank you to Reg Smith OAM and Michelle Challis for their invaluable IT assistance with our virtual events this year.

We also thank David Mann AM and Trevor Clark OAM (Deputy Chair) who kindly MC'd virtual events during the year.

In the later part of the year we started drafting plans for the 2023 National Conference to be held in May in Victoria. At the time of writing this report proposals are being collated for three destinations, one Melbourne CBD and two regional locations. The hand-over to Victoria occurs at the May 19 to 22, 2022 National Conference being held in Canberra.

The OAA VIC Branch in conjunction with members and some VIC Regional Groups is sponsoring an Order of Australia Association Foundation scholarship to be presented to a second year student at the 2023 National Conference in Victoria.

Thank you to our donors as at December 31:

Member Donors:

Anonymous (1)
Bender AM – Helene
Daly AM – Peter
Haycroft OAM – Margaret
Hayes AM – Karen
Kane AM - June
Knight OAM– Ian
Lange-Mohr OAM – Jill
Lye OAM - William
Paton AO - Elaine
Pointer OAM– Michael
O’Hara OAM – Patricia
Thomas OAM – Barbara
Wheelton AM - Paul

Regional Group Donors:

Barwon Regional Group
Mallee Regional Group
Melbourne Central Regional Group
North Central Suburbs Regional Group
North East & Goulburn Valley Regional Group
South Central Suburbs Regional Group
South Western Regional Group
Western Suburbs Regional Group

On behalf of the VIC Branch I thank all the committee members for their input during another challenging year.

I acknowledge the work of:-

Events Coordinator Peter Jones AM and his staff for their work during the first five months of the year. Committee member Barb Thomas OAM assisted as required with events for the remaining seven months after Peter stood down to concentrate on his events business.

Merchandise Chair Professor June Kane AM and her committee who introduced new products to the online Merchandise Shop during the year and our Branch Treasurer Alan Brook OAM assisted with stock inventory and control while Regional Groups Coordinator Barb Brook OAM organised the despatch of orders Australia wide. Thank you also to our members who purchased merchandise.

Our Membership Secretary Fred Harrington OAM also continued as VIC Branch Secretary during 2021.

William Lye OAM QC the Victoria Branch Nominated Director on the National Board.

A huge thank you to Alan Brook OAM, our Treasurer who continued in the position while working full time and undertaking other not-for-profit commitments; this cannot continue in 2022 as Alan’s workload has further increased. When Alan nominated for the position he was working part-time. We urgently need a VIC Branch Treasurer; Alan is prepared to assist with the hand-over.

We took time at the 2021 Annual General Meeting to pause and reflect on the members and partners of members who passed away since our 2020 Annual General Meeting.

In closing thank you from me personally and from the Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch committee for your support during 2021, please stay safe.

We look forward to your ongoing support in 2022.

Dr Helene Bender AM
Chair OAA VIC Branch
Current as at January 29, 2022