



## The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch

Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia

### SA BRANCH NEWSLETTER, March 2022

On behalf of all of our members, I would again like to congratulate all recipients in the 2022 Australia Day Honours List. We look forward to meeting you at your investiture or at one of our events. Particular congratulations go to Maggie Beer, promoted from Member to Officer, and John Schumann, elevated from the OAM to Member of the Order.

We also congratulate Dr James Muecke AM on his recent appointment as Lieutenant-Governor of SA.

Thank you to everyone that came along to our recent Annual General Meeting. You will find some of the outcomes in this newsletter.

Branch Committee members will be attending investitures for the Australia Day Honours List recipients. We will then be able to welcome them if they wish to attend, at a New Recipients' Reception.

This newsletter includes a one-page fact sheet noting key points about the Order of Australia. It might be of use if you are invited to speak at any time about your award.

Coming up, please note our ongoing Fellowship luncheon meetings at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club in Adelaide with interesting guest speakers – these are held every two months.

Various COVID regulations still apply – this relates to our Order of Australia Association requirements as well as the site requirements of the Naval, Military and Air Force Club and other venues.

Please also note the date for our Queen's Birthday Lunch in June at the Arkaba Hotel. If you would like to attend any of our events, it is important that you RSVP for planning purposes and also to help us comply with all COVID requirements.

Tony Metcalf OAM  
SA Branch Chair

### SAVE THE DATE



#### QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY LUNCH Saturday 11 June 2022

All members and their partners and guests are invited to attend the SA Branch Queen's Birthday Lunch. The guest speaker will be Professor Robert Saint AM, who has been Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at Flinders University since 2015.

Venue: Arkaba Hotel, 150 Glen Osmond Road, Fullarton; 12 for 12.30pm

Full-size medals should be worn.

*Please note the National Board policy requirements regarding evidence of COVID-19 vaccination status provided in this newsletter.*

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Wednesday 23 March:** Visit to the Robern Menz Factory on Glynburn Road at 10 am (no cost).

**Thursday 28 April:** Fellowship luncheon meeting at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club with guest speaker Mr Greg Gordon OAM JP on the topic "My Journey into Gordon Ancestry".

Note: Participants attending SA Branch events should be prepared to provide evidence of full vaccination status (at least two vaccinations). We recommend you bring your SA Health certificate or have your electronic certificate available.

**Sunday 1 May:** Yorke Peninsula Regional Group luncheon meeting, Yorke Valley Hotel, Maitland.

### ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION, South Australia Branch

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

### STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS 2021

Photographs of the 2021 Student Citizenship Awards reception at Government House may be found here:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-2yr66HAzMfVh\\_JGqUlcDTGFrUliHVr?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-2yr66HAzMfVh_JGqUlcDTGFrUliHVr?usp=sharing)

#### PATRICK SMALLACOMBE

##### Sacred Heart College

Our February 'Special Edition' newsletter included an item on Patrick Smallacombe, who received his 'Highly Commended' certificate from Peter Routley AM at Sacred Heart College on Friday 26 November last year.

Peter is a member of the Order of Australia Association SA Branch Student Citizenship Awards Assessment and Selection Panel.

This article about Patrick Smallacombe and his Student Citizenship Award ceremony was published in the *Whyalla News*.

The citation on Patrick's certificate reads:

Patrick has shown great leadership, always placing the wellbeing of others ahead of himself.

His significant achievements as Deputy Boarding Captain are demonstrated through academic and fundraising pursuits and sense of family spirit. Paddy initiated the community response during National Reconciliation Week, creating a moving display of First Nations' people. He is a great mentor to younger at-risk students, creating the Hearts Hangout space.

Paddy is passionate about serving his community and country, with ambition to join the ADF.

4 WHYALLA NEWS Thursday December 16, 2021 [whyallanewsonline.com.au](http://whyallanewsonline.com.au)

# Special honour for Patrick

BY LOUIS MAYFIELD

A LOCAL high achiever has been recognised with the Student Citizenship Award from the SA Order of Australia Association.

Patrick Smallacombe currently resides in Whyalla, having attended Sacred Heart College in Somerton Park, from 2019 to 2021, Years 11-12. He completed his prior schooling at Samaritan College.

Patrick is doing casual work at Westland Hotel and Playford Avenue Newsagency, and plans to take up a station hand position in the Northern Territory in March next year.

Every year, the Association, which comprises awardees of the Order of Australia, requests and receives nominations of Year 11 and 12 students from many schools in the State.

A staff-member who made the nomination describes the attainments, activities and aptitudes of each student.

Patrick has shown great leadership, always placing the well-being of others ahead of himself.

**SA Order of Australia Association.**

Each certificate is signed by the Governor, The Honourable Frances Adamson, AC, and the Association President, Tony Metcalf OAM.

At a function at Government House the top ten students receive an inscribed plaque and certificate and the student-citizen of the year is named.

The citation on Patrick's certificate reads as follows:

"Patrick has shown great leadership, always placing the well-being of others ahead of himself. His significant achievements as Deputy Boarding Captain are demonstrated through academic and fundraising pursuits and a sense of family spirit. Paddy initiated the community's response during National Reconciliation Week, creating a moving display of First Nations' people. He is a great mentor to younger at-risk students, creating the 'Hearts Hangout' space. Paddy is passionate about serving his community and country, with ambition to join the ADF."

The SA Order of Australia welcomes nominations from all eligible schools which are contacted by email.

**AWARD:** From left, Aileen Hewitson, Grace Smallacombe, Peter Routley AM, Patrick Smallacombe, Alex Dighton, Adrian Smallacombe and Mandy Smallacombe.

### CITIZENSHIPSHIP RESOURCE VOLUNTEERS

The SA Branch has developed the initiative of offering members to support Junior Secondary Teachers as a 'Citizenship Resource Volunteer'. The role of a Citizenship Resource Volunteer (CRV) is to support and assist teachers in delivering a prepared classroom lesson from the Citizenship Knowledge and Understanding Strand, Civics and Citizenship.

Junior secondary students can be assisted in exploring ways that individuals contribute to civic life. They are then supported in discussing the Australian Honours System, including the types of awards and how they are announced and presented, and how the Australian Honours System recognises, celebrates and says thank you to those who make a difference and serve others.

The SA Branch has agreed to put the CRV initiative on hold for the time being until the COVID situation settles.



## The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch



**STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS**  
THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION SA BRANCH

**INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS 2022**

**Nominations are now invited for the 2022 Student Citizenship Awards.**

Each school or college is entitled to nominate one or two students from Years 11 and/or 12 who satisfy the criteria listed in the following pages for these prestigious awards.

The awards are intended to recognise those senior students who actively engage with and contribute to school and/or local communities. The Awards exemplify the Association's objective:

to celebrate and promote outstanding Australian citizenship

All nominations are considered by an adjudication panel and those students judged worthy of recognition will receive a **Highly Commended** or **With Distinction** certificate signed by Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia and Patron of the S.A. Branch of the Association.

The ten students judged most worthy will each be invited to receive a special plaque at a reception to be hosted by Her Excellency at Government House.

### 2022 STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

The SA Branch has announced its Student Citizenship Awards program for 2022.

The Student Citizenship Awards program is the flagship endeavour of the SA Branch of the Order of Australia Association.

A professional brochure has been published to promote the Awards program to schools and colleges.

This brochure includes images from last year's presentation ceremony and reception at Government House Adelaide on Monday 29 November 2021 hosted by Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia and our Branch Patron, and Mr Rod Buntin.

The brochure also contains the Association's purpose statement:

### To celebrate and promote outstanding Australian citizenship

The Convenor of the awards program, Mr Noel Hender OAM BEM, said: *"We have again kept just four selection criteria to simplify the nomination process"*.

The 2022 brochure is available online:

<https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/sa/school-awards/>

### 2022 NATIONAL CONFERENCE and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Canberra, 19 – 22 May 2022

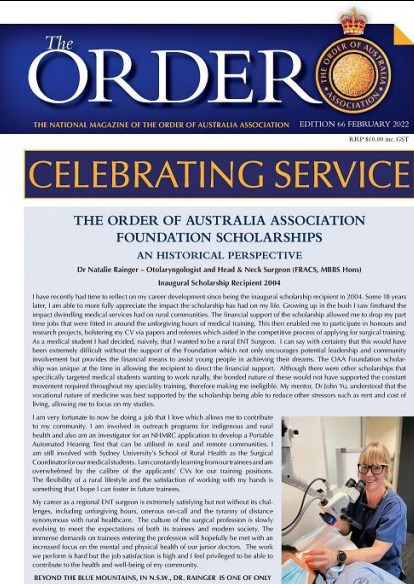
The Order of Australia Association National Conference and AGM will be centred on Hotel Realm in Canberra's inner south (National Circuit in Barton), with associated activities held at other iconic Canberra venues.

The current issue of *The Order* (February 2022) contains agenda, registration and program details on pages 10 to 13. Registrations are now open – early registrations will help the organising committee and the Board in their deliberations.

As detailed in *The Order*, the primary means for registration is the online event management platform 'Sticky Tickets'. The Board's strong preference is that all delegates register and pay using this means.

If you have difficulty during the online registration process, or are not able to use Sticky Tickets, please contact Phil Morrall AM CSC on 0411 298 926, or email:

[natconference@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:natconference@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)



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**CELEBRATING SERVICE**

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION  
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS  
AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE


Dr Natalie Ralinger - Otolaryngologist and Head & Neck Surgeon (FRACS, MBBS Hons)  
Inaugural Scholarship Recipient 2004

I have recently had time to reflect on my career development since being the inaugural scholarship recipient in 2004. Some 18 years later, I am able to more fully appreciate the impact the scholarship has had on my life. Growing up in the bush I saw firsthand the impact of medical services on rural communities. The financial support of the scholarship allowed me to drop my part time job that was fitted in around the onerous hours of medical training. This then enabled me to participate in honours and research projects, bolstering my CV via papers and references which aided in the competitive process of applying for surgical training. As a medical student I had decided, naively, that I wanted to be a rural ENT Surgeon. I can say with certainty that this would have been extremely difficult without the support of the Foundation which not only encourages potential leadership and community involvement but provides the financial means to assist young people in achieving their dreams. The OAA Foundation scholarship was unique at the time in allowing the recipient to direct the financial support. Although there were other scholarships that specifically targeted medical students wanting to work rurally, the bonded nature of these would not have supported the constant movement required throughout my specialty training, therefore making me ineligible. My mentor, Dr John Lee, understood that the vocational nature of medicine was best supported by the scholarship being able to reduce other stresses such as rent and cost of living, allowing me to focus on my studies.

I am very fortunate to now be doing a job that I love which allows me to contribute to my community. I am involved in outreach programs for indigenous and rural health and also as an investigator for an NH&MRC application to develop a Portable Automated Hearing Test that can be utilised in rural and remote communities. I am still involved with Stirling University's School of Rural Health as the Surgical Coordinator for rural medical students. I am constantly learning from my trainees and am overwhelmed by the calibre of the applicants' CVs for our training positions. The flexibility of a rural lifestyle and the satisfaction of working with my hands is something that I hope I can foster in future trainees.

My career as a regional ENT surgeon is extremely satisfying but not without its challenges, including onerous hours, onerous on-call and the tyranny of distance synchronous with rural healthcare. The culture of the surgical profession is slowly evolving to meet the expectations of both its business and modern society. The immense demands on trainees entering the profession will hopefully be met with an increased focus on the mental and physical health of our junior doctors. The work we perform is hard but the job satisfaction is high and I feel privileged to be able to contribute to the health and well-being of my community.

BEYOND THE BLUE MOUNTAINS, IN A RURAL SETTING, DR RALINGER IS ONE OF ONLY THREE EAR, NOSE AND THROAT SPECIALISTS.



## The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch



### FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON MEETING Thursday 24 February 2022

The guest speaker for our first honours recipients fellowship luncheon for 2022 was Dr Aileen Connors AM MD, who spoke on the topic "The Life and Times of Robert Burns (1759-1796)".

Members and guests who attended were (standing, left to right): Lennox Pawson OAM, Helen Smith, Keith Yates AM, Gill Rogers OAM, Edward McAlister AO, Joan Thomas, Professor Anthony ('Tony') Thomas AC, Dr Tania Black, Dr Robert Black AM RFD, Phillipa Stuart, Joyce Ross AM, Professor John McKellar AM ED, Monica Schneider OAM, Catherine 'Kate' Davis, Peter Routley AM.

Seated: Ken Smith AM, Dr Aileen Connors AM MD (guest speaker), Elizabeth Kosmala OAM. Photograph by Pamela Rajkowski OAM, who was also our COVID Marshall for the day.

### FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2022

Members of the Order of Australia and other honours recipients, partners and friends are invited to share in the fostering of fellowship, in an informal setting.

The next honours recipients fellowship luncheon will be held on Thursday 28 April at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club at 111 Hutt Street in Adelaide. Mr Greg Gordon OAM JP will speak on the topic: "My Journey into Gordon Ancestry".

Lunch guests should arrive at 12 noon so that COVID and vaccination requirements may be complied with – this relates to national Order of Australia Association requirements as well as the site requirements of the Naval, Military and Air Force Club.

Lunch commences at 12.30 pm, the guest speaker begins at 1.15, and the event will conclude by 2 pm.

A dress code applies at the NMAF Club: smart day wear for ladies, and long trousers and jacket for men. Participants should be prepared to provide evidence of COVID vaccination status.

To RSVP please contact:

Hostess and Covid Marshall: Pamela Rajkowski OAM  
0400 810 196 || [pamraj@bigpond.com](mailto:pamraj@bigpond.com)

Flavia de Pasquale OAM  
0438 873 025 || [deflavia750@gmail.com](mailto:deflavia750@gmail.com)

In addition, there will be the opportunity to join the event remotely, connecting via Zoom. Please contact:

Pamela Rajkowski OAM  
0400 810 196 || [pamraj@bigpond.com](mailto:pamraj@bigpond.com)



## The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch



### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 26 February 2022

The SA Branch held its 36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting at the Arkaba Hotel with a pleasing number of members and guests in attendance and also joining remotely via Zoom. Our Guest Speaker was the South Australian Student Citizen of the Year for 2021 Georgia Kehagias, who completed her studies at Immanuel College last year.

We were pleased that Georgia and her parents Mr Odi Kehagias and Ms Helen Tsiolis could stay for lunch as our guests. Our members certainly appreciated the opportunity to interact with one of our future community leaders.



## The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch



### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Saturday 26 February 2022

In his report to the AGM, Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM outlined some of the outcomes of last year's Strategic Planning Day where Branch members gathered together to review our four strategic aims.

He said, *"We clarified a number of key issues and decided to pursue several ways forward. These revolved around fundraising, sponsorship and community activity"*.

The Chairman also paid tribute to our immediate Past Patron, the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, who was our Branch Patron for seven years.

Further details from the Chairman's report will be included in the April newsletter.

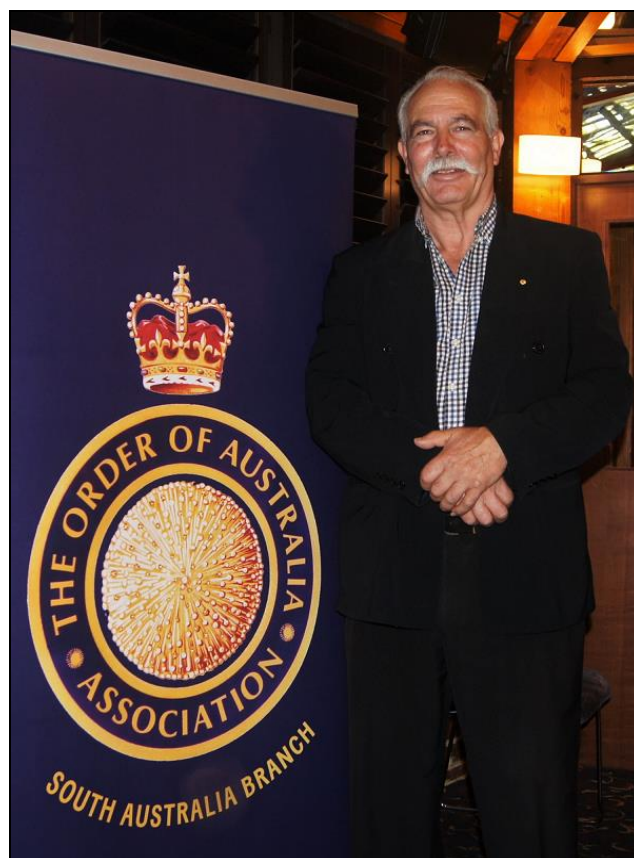


*Guest Speaker Georgia Kehagias with Branch Committee member Kathryn House AM.*



### SA BRANCH COMMITTEE

We welcome the following new members to the SA Branch Committee who were appointed at the AGM: Mr Don Clark OAM (above), Mr Charles Figallo OAM and Mr Ted Iuliano OAM, plus Mr Joe Ienco OAM continuing from his co-opted role last year (below).





## The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch

### Mrs June Genders OAM

The Chairman acknowledged the significant contributions to the SA Branch of Mrs June Genders OAM.

June (pictured on the right of this photo) has served as an SA Branch committee member, and most recently has been our co-opted Merchandise Officer. June has enthusiastically looked after this portfolio for a number of years as well as assisting our Events Sub-Committee.



### Professor John McKellar AM ED

Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM also acknowledged the contributions of Professor John McKellar AM ED.

John has stood down after 12 years in a variety of roles.

These have included SA Branch Committee member, SA Branch Treasurer, National Treasurer and Branch Nominated Director for SA.

John has also served as Chair of the Events Sub-committee, and we also thank him for this service.



### Mr Joe Ienco OAM

The Branch Committee welcomes Mr Joe Ienco OAM from Mount Compass as the new SA Branch Treasurer and the Branch Nominated Director for SA.

Joe was also formally accepted as a Branch committee member, a role he has filled as a co-opted member since September 2021.

After the AGM, Professor John McKellar AM ED congratulated Joe on his election to these roles, and Joe thanked John for his long and dedicated service.



## The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch



### LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

**Dr James Muecke AM**

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet recently announced that Dr James Muecke AM would be the next Lieutenant-Governor of South Australia. He was sworn-in on Thursday 27 January 2022.

Dr Muecke is an accomplished Adelaide-based eye surgeon. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2012 Queen's Birthday Honours List, *"For service to ophthalmic medicine, to the provision of eye health services and rehabilitation programs for Indigenous and South East Asian communities, and to professional organisations"*.

Dr Muecke was the Australian of the Year for 2020, in recognition of his 32 years of humanitarian work. He used this platform to raise awareness of poor diet laden with sugary drinks and ultra-processed foods, which is devastating the health of Australians.

The role of the Lieutenant-Governor is to support the Governor of South Australia and is appointed as the Governor's Deputy when the Governor is absent or on leave. See more here:

<https://www.governor.sa.gov.au/the-governor/the-lieutenant-governor>

## Regional Group News

Last year members met to discuss the possibility of creating a **Barossa, Gawler & District and mid-North Regional Group**. Regional Groups Coordinator Ken Coventry OAM JP has advised that a social gathering is proposed for the first half of this year to progress the concept of the possible creation of such a group. The elections and COVID-19 precautions however may impact on the timing of such a meeting. All members from those communities will be invited to contribute to the possible formation and structure of a new group serving those communities.

**South East Regional Group:** Unfortunately the proposed luncheon meeting at Naracoorte Caves Café had to be deferred due to COVID-19 precautions. The next meeting will be on a date to be advised.

**Riverland and Mallee Regional Group:** The next meeting will be a self-funded afternoon tea, on a date to be advised.

**Yorke Peninsula Regional Group:** the next gathering is planned for Sunday 1 May at the Yorke Valley Hotel in Maitland. Please RSVP to Elaine Bussenschutt OAM or Maree Anderson OAM.

**Fleurieu Regional Group:** the next meeting will be a self-funded luncheon meeting on Friday 6 May, venue to be advised. Please RSVP to John Hutchinson OAM.

Regional Contact details are provided at the end of this newsletter.



### IN MEMORIAM

The Chairman, Branch Committee members and members of the SA Branch offer our condolences on the passing of the following South Australia Branch members:

Vivian George Evers AO

Russell Thomas Davidson OAM

### NEW MEMBERS

The SA Branch welcomes the following new members of the Order of Australia Association (as at the time of the February Branch Committee meeting):

Cathy Chye Yah Chong AM

Gregory Brian Crawford AM

Ian David Nosworthy AM

Kathryn Anne Presser AM

Vicky Lee Welgraven AM

Valerie Faye Fewster OAM

Martin Ronald Johnson OAM

Rosemary Osman OAM



## The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch

### MR NOEL HENDER OAM CSTJ BEM

National Emergency Medal  
with clasp, "BUSHFIRES 19-20"

Congratulations to SA Branch Deputy Chairman Noel Hender who has received the National Emergency Medal with clasp "BUSHFIRES 19-20" for having rendered eligible service with St John Ambulance SA during the Black Summer Bushfires on Kangaroo Island.

The medal was presented by Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia in a ceremony held at Unley Town Hall on 20 December 2021.

In Her Excellency's address, she noted that 141 St John Ambulance SA staff and volunteers provided service during the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires at multiple sites throughout SA, with 45 members meeting the criteria to receive the Medal.



*Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia with National Emergency Medal recipient Noel Hender OAM CSTJ BEM.*



The **National Emergency Medal** was created by Her Majesty The Queen of Australia through Letters Patent dated 23 October 2011.

This medal provides recognition within the Australian Honours System for the committed and courageous efforts of frontline responders, volunteers and community supporters during nationally-significant emergencies within Australia.

It complements the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal, awarded for humanitarian service overseas in hazardous circumstances.

To be considered for the award of the National Emergency Medal with a specific Clasp, applicants must have rendered eligible service during the 'Response' phase – this refers to action, assistance and intervention during a declared emergency. The focus of direct response is on saving lives and protecting community assets (properties and infrastructure). Applicants must meet specific criteria relating to dates of service, type of service, location of service and length of service. Service during the 'Recovery' phase is not considered as eligible.

The Black Summer Bushfires emergency of 2019-20 was declared on 2 December 2020 for the purpose of the National Emergency Medal, and the Declaration included information on areas, dates and eligible service.

The National Emergency Medal is worn in precedence after such awards as the OAM, the Order of St John (all grades), decorations, and war, campaign, active service and service medals. It is worn ahead of coronation, jubilee, remembrance and commemorative medals (such as the Australian Sports Medal and Centenary Medal) and all long service medals (including the National Medal).

For information on wearing the medal (Order of Precedence) refer here:

<https://www.pmc.gov.au/resource-centre/government/wearing-awards>

## The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch

### NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDAL Award Ceremony, 20 December 2021

These are some excerpts from the address by Noel Hender (right) who spoke on behalf of the St John Ambulance volunteers about their Bushfire response experience.

St John SA has a functional agency role within the State Emergency Management Plan and through this, St John volunteers provide a 24/7 service to respond in times of major bushfire or significant emergency incident.

When the State Emergency Centre was activated 2 years ago to the day, on December 20, 2019, in response to the Cudlee Creek fire, St John appointed a liaison officer to the State Control Centre at SAAS who provided a communications link with the St John Operations and Communications Centre.



It was through this emergency management structure that our Incident Management Team ensured the ongoing planning, rostering, and management of our first aid teams, who were the volunteers deployed from Divisions across the State. Forward commanders were deployed to provide local leadership at the Zone Emergency Support Centre at Mt Barker, for our respective teams in the field. By collaborating with the Incident Management Team, the Forward Commander was able to integrate our services with other local resources and deploy them as required across the fire region.

For the Adelaide Hills fires, multiple Mobile First Aid teams were deployed to provide continuous first aid, minor medical and health care support at the active CFS staging posts.

Fortunately, the Adelaide Hills fires were contained and controlled when fires which had been burning for a few days on Kangaroo Island, escalated in early January after multiple lightning strikes across the Island.

As the weather dynamics changed and the emergency continued, St John was called upon to provide personnel to assist at the Emergency Relief Centres which had been established at Modbury and Gumeracha to accommodate the families displaced from their homes in the fire zone.

Concurrently, first aid teams were required in KI, firstly flying, and later travelling by ferry, to assist with the catastrophic fires that were steadily spreading across 50% of the Island.

On their arrival, our first attending members found things over there to be fairly chaotic, with many locals on the Island feeling overwhelmed by it all. Slowly the emergency services were able to establish themselves and began to contain the fires with the main staging post operating firstly at Parndana, and later from the safer site at the Kingscote airport.



*MC for the award ceremony at Unley Town Hall on 20 December 2021 was Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP, a member of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of South Australia.*



## The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch



With the arrival of the Defence Force, a field hospital was established at Parndana whilst St John continued to provide a 24-hour treatment centre at Kingscote airport until the fires were declared to be out after heavy rains flooded parts of the Kingscote staging point on 30 January.

Importantly, we should appreciate that throughout this total response phase, our responders in the field had been regularly and reliably resourced and supported by our hardworking logistics team and Event Health Services staff.

The clear focus for our members was to facilitate or to be in the field to care for and support individuals whose health and general well-being were impacted by the bushfires.

However in so doing many of our members found themselves confronted not only by a variety of trauma and medical issues, but also with stressful situations involving individuals experiencing significant mental health issues triggered by the misery, grief and devastation surrounding them.

Fortunately, the St John team leaders were invited to attend the daily Zone briefings with the Incident Management Team and other services, and thus were able to highlight any operational issues that were concerning us.

These meetings enabled us to connect directly with the local hospital and thus refer any service personnel or the public who presented to us, for further and ongoing support.

The presence of our members, although only temporary, was greatly appreciated by the locals.

Our members gained great personal satisfaction from being able to make a positive difference for those many local and emergency service personnel who benefitted from our service and told us how much they valued our presence.

Any minor discomforts we may have encountered during our placement paled into insignificance when we looked around and saw the resilience of the local people amongst the devastation and loss they had experienced.

The many positives and the satisfaction from helping those affected by this Black Summer made the experience very satisfying and a valuable learning experience for us all.

The recipients tonight are those St John members who willingly contributed their time and expertise over a sustained period in one or more of these operational roles I have mentioned.

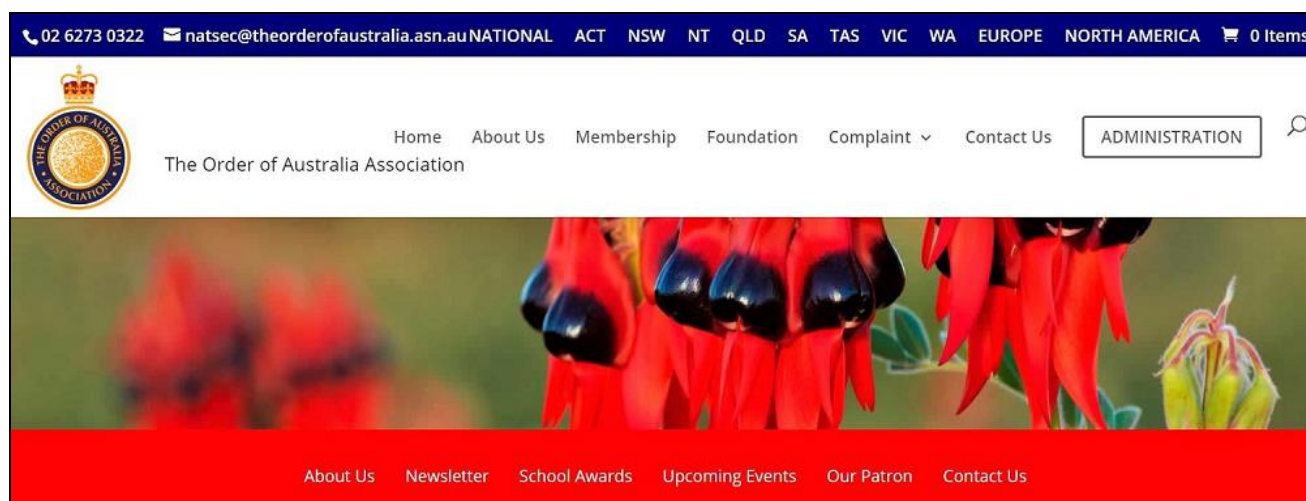
However, we should not forget and should acknowledge the significant number of St John volunteers who also willingly gave their time and expertise to assist the overall response but who we are not congratulating tonight as they did not meet fully the specified criteria for the Medal.

St John SA and the wider community can feel justly proud that all of the responding St John members, including the recipients here tonight, demonstrated through their response and by their selfless actions, the key values reflected in the St John motto:

*Pro Fide : Pro Utilitate Hominum*  
For the Faith : For the Service of Humanity



## The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch



For more information visit our website: <https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/sa/about-us/>

<p><b>Do you have email?</b></p> <p>If you have an email address that we can use to send you this newsletter, could you please advise the SA Branch Member Secretary:</p> <p>Mr Greg Gordon OAM JP <a href="mailto:oaasambrsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au">oaasambrsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au</a></p>	<p><b>The Order</b></p> <p>Contributions may be submitted by any financial member of the Association. Items may be sent to the Editor by post (as per details given in <i>The Order</i>), or by email:</p> <p><a href="mailto:nateditor@theorderofaustralia.asn.au">nateditor@theorderofaustralia.asn.au</a></p>	<p><b>Newsletter contributions</b></p> <p>Contributions for this newsletter may be submitted to the SA Branch Editor:</p> <p>Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP (ret'd) PO Box 5, SMITHFIELD SA 5114 <b>or</b> <a href="mailto:orderofaustraliasa@gmail.com">orderofaustraliasa@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>REGIONAL GROUPS</b></p> <p><b>Regional Groups</b> Coordinator: Ken Coventry OAM JP</p> <p><b>Fleurieu Regional Group</b> Meets on the first Friday in May and November. Next meeting Friday 6 May.</p> <p>Regional Contact: John Hutchinson OAM Mobile: 0427 525 670 <a href="mailto:johnhutc@bigpond.com">johnhutc@bigpond.com</a></p> <p><b>South East Regional Group</b> Meets in Mount Gambier biannually, and at Naracoorte and Millicent respectively in the alternate years.</p> <p>Regional Contact: Mr Eric Roughana AM Mobile: 0408 817 260 <a href="mailto:roseric1@bigpond.com">roseric1@bigpond.com</a></p> <p><b>Barossa, Gawler &amp; District and mid-North Regional Group</b> <a href="mailto:orderofaustraliasa@gmail.com">orderofaustraliasa@gmail.com</a></p>		<p><b>REGIONAL GROUPS</b></p> <p><b>Riverland and Mallee Regional Group</b> Meets twice a year, generally in March/April and September/October.</p> <p>Regional Contact: Mr Tim Grieger OAM JP Mobile: 0409 099 122 <a href="mailto:tgrieger@riverland.net.au">tgrieger@riverland.net.au</a></p> <p><b>Yorke Peninsula Regional Group</b> The group will conduct self-funded social activities and fellowship activities for its members and guests throughout the Yorke Peninsula and Copper Coast communities. The next luncheon meeting will be on Sunday 1 May.</p> <p>Regional Contacts: Elaine Bussenschutt OAM (Kadina) Mobile: 0417 806 839 <a href="mailto:elaine@yp-connect.net">elaine@yp-connect.net</a></p> <p>Maree Anderson OAM (Minlaton) Mobile: 0407 975 174 <a href="mailto:mareeanderson@internode.on.net">mareeanderson@internode.on.net</a></p>



## The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch



### THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

- The Order of Australia is the most important and meaningful awards system in Australia.
- Each year, the Governor-General approves and announces awards to people for their outstanding service and achievement.
- People from all sorts of backgrounds, of all ages and who have done just about everything you can think of have been recognised through the Order of Australia.
- The system relies on nominations. People don't put their hand up to be recognised and they're not selected. They are nominated by peers and considered and recommended to the Governor-General by an independent Council.
- Anyone can nominate someone for an award, and anyone – if they've worked hard and made a significant contribution to their community – can be recognised.
- Awards are announced on Australia Day and in June (the Queen's Birthday long weekend).

#### Who receives the awards?

- While some recipients are well known, others are not. In fact, most awards go to members of the community who volunteer or work to help others.
- Recipients are recognised for their impact – whether at the local level, nationally or internationally. The types of service vary greatly and could include volunteer work in a community, acts of charity and compassion and/or professional achievement.
- The Governor-General wants to increase awareness and understanding of the Order of Australia – particularly amongst groups that have historically been under-represented.
- Australians born overseas represent, on average, only 18% of awardees. To increase this percentage, and ensure outstanding Australians are celebrated through the Order of Australia regardless of their background, we need to increase awareness of the Order and encourage more nominations.

#### How the system works

- Nominations can be made at any time. A nomination needs to include:
  - Examples of the individual's service or achievements
  - Names and contact details of referees who can validate the individual's service.
- Upon receipt, additional research is undertaken on each nomination. This includes verifying facts and claims and checking with independent referees.
- Nominations are then assessed by the independent Council for the Order of Australia – which includes members from each state and territory and community representatives.
- This assessment includes what level of award an individual should receive. There are four levels: Companion of the Order (AC), Officer of the Order (AO), Member of the Order (AM) and the Medal of the Order (OAM).
- The Governor-General acts on the Council's recommendations and approves awards.

#### Find out more

- More information is available at [www.gg.gov.au](http://www.gg.gov.au).



**REPLY FORM – SA BRANCH VISIT TO THE ROBERN MENZ FACTORY on Wednesday 23 March 2022** – parking is available in Davis Road, Glynde; meet at 10 am at the entrance, 71 Glynburn Road. No cost. Participants may wish to stay on for lunch at the Glynde Hotel at own expense.



*With four generations in family business, Robern has over a century's experience in dried fruit processing. Today, under the Robern brand, high quality fruit-based products are produced and marketed, including Apricot Coconut Balls and Apricot Indulgence.*



*Menz confectionery has stood the test of time since 1850. The Menz range used to centre around two famous SA products: Menz Crown Mints (first produced in 1892) and Menz FruChocs (first produced in 1948) – two iconic products which are loved and enjoyed as much today as when they were first released onto the market.*

For more information see here: <https://robernmenz.com.au/>

**Please forward this reply form to:**

SA Branch Chair, PO Box 1065, CLEARVIEW SA 5085, or by email: [orderofaustraliasa@gmail.com](mailto:orderofaustraliasa@gmail.com)

to be received not later than **Monday 14 March 2022**

Name: [please print] ..... [post-nominals] .....

Preferred name: ..... Phone Contact: .....

Email or Address: .....

COVID-19 vaccination status, circle or highlight one only:– Fully Vaccinated / 1<sup>st</sup> Dose only / Not Vaccinated

I will be accompanied by (please include post-nominals if applicable):

..... [post-nominals] .....

Guest's COVID-19 vaccination status:– Fully Vaccinated / 1<sup>st</sup> Dose only / Not Vaccinated

..... [post-nominals] .....

Guest's COVID-19 vaccination status:– Fully Vaccinated / 1<sup>st</sup> Dose only / Not Vaccinated

*Please note: On arrival at the event you may be required to provide documentary evidence of your vaccination status or medical exemption – it is recommended that you carry the necessary document or electronic certificate to meet any inspection requirements.*

*We hope you can join us for this interesting visit!*

**ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION, South Australia Branch**

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