



**The Order of Australia Association  
Tasmanian Branch**

**'Recognising outstanding service and exceptional achievement of citizens in our communities.'**

**Northern Region February 2022 Newsletter**

**Dear Members and Affiliates,**

**A message from the Chair of the Northern Region (Tas) – Sue Shea OAM**



Welcome to the first Northern Region newsletter for 2022. Two years ago, we would not have envisaged that we would still be dealing with a number of Covid variants, continued restrictions and the wearing of face masks indoors. Covid has certainly changed our way of life! We were fortunate last year to successfully conduct several social functions, however, our AGM this year was held via Zoom in recognition of our duty of care to attendees due to health concerns. Thank you to members who joined us for the AGM.

***The year 2021***

For the information of members, we are attaching to this newsletter my Annual Report and the Financial Report to 31 December 2021. The report details the activities undertaken by the Committee in arranging social functions and promoting public awareness about the Order of Australia. As you will read, we had quite a busy year with the highlight being the hosting of the Vice Regal Function for Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania and Professor Don Chalmers AO.

My thanks are extended to the Committee for their work and support throughout 2021. I am delighted to advise that all members of the Committee will continue this year and we welcome Rod Fraser OAM who has taken up the position of Region Treasurer.

***The year 2022***

Your Committee has agreed to proceed with plans for social functions in March, July and November subject to any changed circumstances.

We are excited to announce that on **Thursday 10 March** Dr Jeff Hawkins, Managing Director of Pivot Maritime International has agreed to host an inspection for our members at their premises and head office which is located in Legana. Pivot Maritime International is an Australian manufacturing company formed in 1996. They have recently developed unique simulation technology for the Australian Defence Force and New Zealand and US navy. They build maritime simulators, provide modelling and simulation technology and offer maritime training and consultancy services. This will be a unique opportunity to visit a successful, innovative local company which is renowned and recognised internationally and yet is right here on our doorstep! More information regarding the visit is detailed in the newsletter.



## **Australia Day Honours**

We congratulate the Northern Region recipients who received recognition in the recently announced Australia Day awards:

**Mrs Norma Lynn Mason AM**, Carrick for significant service to local government and to the community

**Mr Terence Bracken OAM**, Ravenswood for service to the motor sport industry

**Mr Malcolm Cash OAM**, Newnham for service to veterans, and to the community of Launceston

**Mrs Mavis Chugg OAM**, Relbia for service to the community through a range of organisations

**Mr John Cornish OAM**, Prospect for service to youth through Scouts

**Mrs Tasma Lapham OAM**, Newstead for service to Australian rules football

**Mrs Betty Laverty OAM**, Riverside for service to music through pipe bands

**Mr Andrew MacGregor OAM**, St Helens for service to the community of Break O'Day

**Mrs Pamela Watkins OAM**, Norwood for service to the community through a range of organisations  
Investiture ceremonies will take place later in the year at Government House, Hobart.

## ***Covid Vaccination Policy***

The Committee wishes to inform all members that the Order of Australia Association National Board has determined the following Covid Vaccination Policy:

*The National Board resolved on 10 December 2021 that only fully vaccinated Association members, visitors and volunteers, or those with a valid medical exemption, should attend Association meetings, events and activities.*

*Advice of proof of status will be sufficient to meet this requirement, but attendees should be reminded to carry the necessary documents to meet any venue inspection requirements.*

*The Board decision was made in recognition of our duty of care to attendees to ensure that they are not exposed to preventable risk.*

*If a venue or State regulations require further safeguards, these also must be observed including the wearing of masks indoors.*

## ***Future nominations***

One of the objectives of the Committee is to assist with enquiries on the process to facilitate future nominations. More information is available on the Order of Australia Association website <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/forms>.

Contact information for the Region Committee is available in this newsletter. Please let us know if we can assist you with the nomination process.

We look forward to meeting members at the various functions to be held throughout the year and keeping you informed of our activities through the OAA Region newsletter.

Regards.

Sue Shea OAM  
Northern Region Chair



### Congratulations to our Northern Region recipients

L-R John Cornish OAM Andrew Macgregor OAM Lynn Mason AM Betty Laverty OAM



Terence Bracken OAM Pamela Watkins OAM Tasma Lapham OAM Malcolm Cash OAM

### Getting to know members our members

**Dr George Merridew AM, Deputy Chairman**



Dr Colin George Merridew was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM), General Division, for significant service to surgical and obstetric anaesthesia, in the 2019 Queen's Birthday List.

George enjoyed a Tasmanian, Australian and international medical career that extended across five decades. After serving with the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) as a Medical Officer he trained in anaesthesia, as a civilian in Adelaide and overseas. He joined the Launceston General Hospital as a specialist anaesthetist, staying over 30 years. His regular clinical roles included surgical and obstetric anaesthesia, intensive care medicine and pain medicine. He has had a busy role in military and civilian medical retrieval, including RAAF service during the aftermath of the Bali bombing in 2002. George has provided anaesthesia and/or intensive care at Australian Defence Force (ADF) deployments to Irian Jaya, Rwanda, Bougainville, East Timor, and Iraq.



He has shared his knowledge through the delivery of 20 courses on anaesthesia in Developing World and conflict environments over 15 years, from 1999.

In 2021, George stepped down after 7 years as a Practitioner Member of the Tasmanian Board of the Medical Board of Australia and completed a 3-year term as a Medical Member of the Tasmanian Guardianship Board. He continues as a senior lecturer at the University of Tasmania Medical School, as Honorary Secretary of the Launceston Branch of the RAAF Association and in a committee role with Royal Flying Doctor Service Tasmania, of which he is a Life Member.

This is a brief version of George's accomplishments. A more detailed one will appear in a future edition of The Order.

We are glad that George joined the Tasmania Branch Northern Region Committee in 2021 and will serve as the Deputy Chairman in 2022.

### **Diana Butler OAM was invited to share her work with Care For Africa**

Diana Butler received her Medal of the Order of Australia in June 2016 for service to the international community of Tanzania through humanitarian aid programs.



‘There’s nothing more humbling in this whole world than being confronted with the realities that face communities living in poverty struggling to source water. When Care for Africa began back in 2006 it was in reaction to the shocking firsthand accounts of a young doctor from the Tarime District in Tanzania: “The hospital has no electricity, no running water” she told us. We were floored. She went on to tell us about how as a young girl she would hold a candle for her father to operate at night.

We have healthcare struggles and crises in Australia but nothing like this. I was compelled to do something so my emergency nurse colleagues and I sent over a shipping container of medical supplies. As an emergency nurse, you’re taught to triage- after sending the container I thought, there is more to be done. I went over, I saw the communities affected by rising poverty conditions affecting this Sub-Saharan African region, and I listened to the people. Water was our priority. We rallied support in Tasmania and have now installed 12 deep bore wells servicing 32,000 people across 6 outlying communities.

From here we moved into health, education, enterprise and supporting women and children. We’re underway building 20 more wells to service a further 50,000 people but we’re aiming for 50 more wells. This would mean life-changing clean water to almost 200,000 people.



Sixteen years on and we've served 5 million school breakfasts, performed more than 40,000 inoculations, and positively affected the education outcomes of over 12,000 students. All of this work and so much more has helped to change the lives of families and communities in a region with no other source of foreign aid. Our partnership with the Rotary Club of South Launceston and our connection with the Rotary Clubs in Tasmania and Tanzania, as well as our drives with private donors make our work possible.

Each year something extraordinary happens that buoys us on: in 2021 one of our first sponsor children, Alphonse, not only graduated from high school but enrolled in Law at university. He's gone from one of the most vulnerable children I have ever met to reaching tertiary level education and raising his whole family and community up with him. Instances like this always bring me back to our core mantra: Together we can make a difference.'

To find out more visit [careforafrica.org.au](http://careforafrica.org.au)

Diana Butler OAM

### ORDER OF AUSTRALIA NORTHERN REGION VICE REGAL FUNCTION

The Order of Australia Tasmania Branch Northern Region Committee hosted a Vice Regal Cocktail Function for the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, The Governor of Tasmania, and Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers AO at the Launceston Club on November 19<sup>th</sup> 2021. Forty people were in attendance, including seven committee members.



(L-R) Dr George Merridew AM, Dr Frank Madill AM, Susan Shea OAM, Dr Nicholas Chantler AM, the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, The Governor of Tasmania, John Osborne OAM, Therese von Samorzewski OAM, Gary Carr OAM and Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers AO

#### The Northern Region Committee members

**Chair** Sue Shea OAM [sueshea@bigpond.net.au](mailto:sueshea@bigpond.net.au) Ph: 0418 737 186

**Deputy Chair** Dr George Merridew AM

**Treasurer** Rod Fraser OAM

**Secretary** Thérèse von Samorzewski OAM [rvonsamo@gmail.com](mailto:rvonsamo@gmail.com) Ph: 6330 3047

**Committee members:** John Osborne OAM (Archives), Jenny Fraser OAM (Newsletter), Gary Carr OAM, Dr George Merridew AM (Deputy Chair), Dr Frank Madill AM and Dr Nicholas Chantler AM PhD.



## OUR NEXT FUNCTION

### You are invited...

**WHEN?** Thursday March 10th 10.30am -12.30pm

**WHO?** 15 members

**WHAT?** An inspection of the **Pivot Maritime International Head Office** by the Managing Director Dr Jeff Hawkins.

**WHERE?** 60 Nobelius Drive, Legana.

**RSVP:** **By March 1<sup>st</sup>**

Thérèse von Samorzewski OAM [rvonsamo@gmail.com](mailto:rvonsamo@gmail.com) Ph: 6330 3047

Members need to show proof of vaccination and masks must be worn.



*Pivot Maritime International build maritime simulation and provide modelling and simulation technology and offer maritime training and consultancy services. This is the only Australian manufacturer of maritime simulators.*

*Come along and see sample simulators in action and marvel at the technology that is being created in Launceston and used globally. You will have the opportunity to experience some of the simulators by driving a real ship with the help of a guide.*

Should there be sufficient interest a second session from 1.30-3.30 pm has been reserved so please respond before March 1st so that final arrangements can be made.

### Should you wish to include a meal in your visit to the area the venues are:

#### [Alpenrose Bistro](#)

7 Waldhorn Dr · In Aspect Tamar Valley Resort, Grindelwald  
(03) 6220 0444

#### [Timbre Kitchen](#)

Restaurant

755 W Tamar Hwy · In Velo Wines - (03) 6330 3677

#### [Legana Tavern](#)

2 Freshwater Point Rd, Legana TAS 7277- (03) 6330 2772

**Owing to present Covid 19 regulations the Association will not be making any booking for the lunch time meal but the names of those attending in your group will be circulated if you wish to make your own arrangements.**

We would welcome your contributions to the Northern Region Newsletter.

If you have articles, photographs or articles of interest, please contact:

Jenny Fraser OAM [jenny.fraser444@hotmail.com](mailto:jenny.fraser444@hotmail.com) The next edition will be in June.