



Welcome from VIC Branch Chair

Hope you are staying well, enjoying autumn and the opportunity to reconnect with those special to you be it family, friends and OAA members now we are open for business.

This edition of the Victoria Branch e-Newsletter includes coverage of our Wednesday February 23 Inspiring Australians Oration at the Melbourne Town Hall, our Annual General Meeting and lunch that followed on Wednesday March 30 at William Angliss Institute and Restaurant plus upcoming VIC Branch and Regional Groups events, news and merchandise.

It is pleasing to see members and their guests supporting our events at Branch and Regional Group level – thank you.

Order of Australia 2022 Australia Day Investitures will be held at Government House Victoria on Wednesday April 27, Thursday April 28 and Tuesday May 3. To all our recipients enjoy your day. Please check out the Association website <https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/> and our Victoria Branch pages <https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/vic/about-us/> where you can find out more about your Branch and Regional Groups, including previous e-Newsletters and copies of *The Order* our national magazine.

The national pages provide links to the Merchandise Shop, Governance and Policies, Order of Australia Nomination process and other useful information about your Association and The Order of Australia Association Foundation and previous scholarship recipients.

It is not too late to book to attend the OAA **National Conference in Canberra** May 19-22, 2022 <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/national-conference-2022/>

Thank you for your time and ongoing support of the Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch.

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

Do you use Xero Accounting Software?

The Victoria Branch of the Association is looking for a member who currently uses the Xero Accounting Software and is interested in joining the OAA VIC Branch committee.

The Position Description is available on the Association website VIC pages under Administration – Annual General Meeting.

Please contact VIC Branch Chair via

M: 0407 261 951 951 or **E:** chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au



VIC Branch Oration delivered by Arron Wood AM

The fifth VIC Branch Inspiring Australians Oration was delivered by Arron Wood AM in the Supper Room at the Melbourne Town Hall to members, guests and students on Wednesday February 23, 2022 after a two year break due to COVID lockdowns. There still is a reluctance by many of our members to venture in to Melbourne and travel on public transport. Hopefully with more restrictions being lifted confidence will grow as will our economy and attendees at other events.

Former VIC Branch Chairman David Mann AM was the MC acknowledging the Traditional Owners of country, and warmly welcomed VIPs, members and guests including students from Strathcona Girl's Grammar and Shelford Girl's Grammar. David also thanked the string quartet from Shelford Girl's Grammar for the background music before the formalities commenced.

After the National Anthem Helene Bender AM VIC Branch Chair introduced Arron Wood AM who was in June 2020 awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for significant contribution to the environment, to local government and to the community. Arron is a News Ltd Telstra Micro Business Award winner in recognition for nearly 25 years of leadership; he is the former Deputy Lord Mayor for the City of Melbourne and was Chair of the Finance and Governance Portfolio.

Arron spoke about the lessons learnt and challenges identified saying he'd been a Councillor, then Deputy Lord Mayor for 8 years at a time we were 7 years running the world's most liveable city and Acting Lord Mayor for 6 months of that time. I contested the last Mayoral election. So why did I run? Because I care about whatever I do – just like all Order of Australia recipients.

I'm not a bystander. And I love this city. I saw people in pain – people losing businesses and livelihoods built up by their own hands, but I also had a positive vision for reviving Melbourne. Ultimately, I was unsuccessful, but I remain hugely proud of what we achieved over 8 years. Australian-first initiatives like the Melbourne Renewable Energy Project culminated in 100% renewable energy for City of Melbourne and the building of an 80MW windfarm in regional Victoria, creating 140 jobs in the process. The Melbourne Renewable Energy Project has since inspired hundreds of other renewable energy group purchasing models.



Richard Wood and Dianne Wood.

However, the true definition of sustainability is much more than just the environment – simply it's living on this planet as if we were to live forever – and we do through the next generation.

That's why I started the environmental peer teaching and learning program Kids Teaching Kids which has now been running for over 20 years. In that time 145,000 young leaders across Australia and countries around the world have taken part.

Yes it's about protecting what we love about Australia, our beautiful natural environment, clean and fresh produce, healthier cities and more.

Photo: Arron Wood AM (middle), with parents

VIC Branch Oration delivered by Arron Wood AM

It's also about ensuring our next generation is ready for the changing global economy and the jobs of now and the future.

Having inspirational and aspirational goals is important, but sustainability isn't a new concept. I love this quote that shows we can often miss genuine vision and leadership.

"We should be using Nature's inexhaustible sources of energy – the sun, wind and tide. I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don't have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle that." Thomas Edison, 1931

When it all comes down to it though I think what the Order of Australia recognises a quieter leadership. Leadership isn't always being up the front of the room. It comes through the way we talk and the actions we take. I tell students to 'Understand the power of you'. Be a good person – be kind, polite, listen, get involved, and tell your story, work hard on being present. Look after yourself and your wellbeing. That's called *leadership through inspiration*.

I try to live those values each day. Some days I get it right and some are still a learning process.

Arron like many Order of Australia recipients is continuing to give back; his contribution to the environment and the not for profit sector especially our youth has grown.

The feedback from members, guests and students has been positive. Everyone appreciated Arron's approach to the present and equally important the future and those take home messages we too often forget.

Former VIC Branch Chairman Paul Wheelton AM thanked Arron for his inspiring address and reminded us we all have an obligation to protect the environment. We thank Paul for introducing the Inspiring Australians Oration in 2017 for members, guests and students from invited schools.

David Mann AM when introducing Stacey Williams noted her employment title may have changed with time, however, her commitment and focus on gender equity in the Order of Australia Honours System has not, like many, the Victorian Government knew women were under-represented and took the necessary steps to make a difference.

Stacey was invited to give a brief overview of Recognition Matters and tips on nailing quality Order of Australia nominations.

Feedback from Stacey following the Oration:

"I had the pleasure to follow on from Arron Wood AM with a speech at this year's Order of Australia Association VIC Branch Oration. It was fabulous to be part of an in-person event, with a room full of association members and representatives from Strathcona and Shelford Girls' Grammar Schools.



VIC Branch Oration delivered by Arron Wood AM

During my presentation, I spoke about the tools available to assist you with your nominations. I highly recommend you visit the Recognition Matters website and use the tools we've created, such as the Word template for collecting your nomination information, as well as a useful sample referee letter.

Also, a friendly reminder to include your post nominals on everything! LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, your auto-signature on your email, your business cards – everything!

Because we can't be what we can't see! If you have any questions, please contact Stacey Williams at awards@dpc.vic.gov.au

After the formalities members, guests and students had the opportunity to mingle, buy merchandise and enjoy morning tea.

The VIC Branch appreciates the support we received from the staff at the Melbourne Town Hall regarding the set-up, catering and audio; plus a grant toward the event cost.

Shelford Girl's
Grammar string
quartet



Students from Strathcona
Girl's Grammar with Arron
Wood AM, Paul Wheelton
AM and Angela Wheelton
OAM

Annual General Meeting and lunch March 30

The Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch Annual General Meeting was held at William Angliss Institute and the lunch followed in the restaurant on Wednesday March 30, 2022.

The AGM report is on page 22 of this e-Newsletter.

Fred Harrington OAM VIC Branch Membership Secretary and Interim Branch Secretary MC'd the lunch, starting with Acknowledgement to Country, National Anthem, Toast to the Queen and then Toast to The Order of Australia Association.

Fred introduced the speaker Elleni Bereded-Samuel AM an experienced senior executive, board member and community leader whose work with migrants and refugees including Africans has been recognised with many awards including an AM for services to the community in 2019. She has also been recognised in the Westpac AFR award as one of 100 Women of Influence in Australia.



Elleni has deep expertise in strengthening education, training and employment opportunities and access to services for culturally and linguistically diverse communities, particularly migrant and refugee communities. She has extensive skills at creating strategies and programs to help people access and participate in society.

Currently, Elleni is the Executive Manager Diversity and Capability Development with Australian Unity. She provides though leadership and subject matter expertise on diversity and inclusion related issues in to our diverse community of senior Australians.

She has served on many committees and boards, including the SBS Board, she was the first of two Directors ever appointed based on merit to the SBS board. She was the first-generation migrant/refugee who served on the board.

Currently Elleni is Board member of Royal Children Hospital, Wellways Board Member and a member of the advisory board of the

Western Metropolitan Partnerships, a significant Victorian State Government initiative set up to listen to the voices of the West to inform policy and service.

She is a proud Westie who says she will never leave. "I love the diversity. It's a big family. The West is an untold story."

Elleni said to the members and guests the COVID-19 crisis has affected many Australians adversely. It has created new difficulties for some while exacerbating existing social problems. Australians across the country have experienced new ways of living with COVID restrictions and lockdowns affecting geographic movement and social connectivity.

For many older Australians, the experience of isolation under COVID has been acute and distressing. For older members of New and Emerging CALD communities, this is compounded by reduced contact with other community members and few alternative options for support and social interaction. New laws and conventions under COVID have been distressing for many seniors, but

Annual General Meeting and lunch March 30

especially for senior Australians from CALD backgrounds when they have entailed engaging with officials or sharing their contact details. The COVID crisis has revealed just how isolated and vulnerable some Australians are.

Australians from CALD backgrounds face unique issues to accessing support including language barriers, cultural differences, trauma related to war and ethnic persecution, and dwelling in under-serviced regions of Australia. These factors hinder community members' understanding of Australian systems, so they often do not know which government services they can access for assistance or find it difficult to apply. As a result, community members – especially the elderly – rely heavily on support from family and community leaders.

I would like to invite OAA members to join me to advocate for older Australians who deserve fair treatment in this beautiful country AUSTRALIA.

Helene Bender AM VIC Branch Chair thanked Elleni for talking about the challenges and opportunities she has experienced and noted her contribution to Australia and we are the richer for the diversity in our communities.

The staff and students from the William Angliss restaurant were asked to join members and guests and be thanked for the two course lunch they prepared and their level of service. OAA will be back



at the training restaurant in November for a dinner on the 24th. It is pleasing to support the students who get to work alongside recognised award-winning Australian chefs in the Great Chefs program. Final year apprentice chefs and hospitality

students' work together to bring everyone a fine dining experience

Ralph Butcher OAM attended the lunch with other South Central Suburbs Regional Group members. Queen's Birthday 2018 Ralph aged 99 received his Order of Australia Award for service to the community through a range of organisations. Before his Investiture and joining the Association Ralph turned 100 and paid for three year members. Ralph's membership has come up for renewal and yes, he has joined for another three years.



Couple of tables of members and guests at the lunch

Upcomg Victoria Branch Events 2022

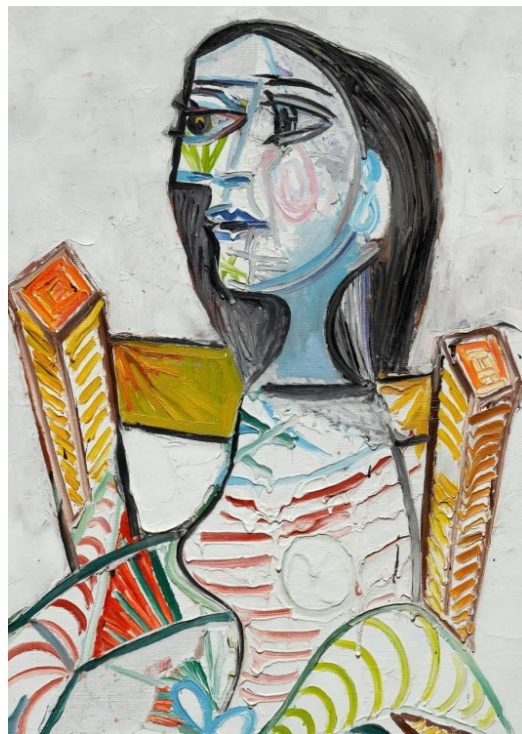
All venues selected by the VIC Branch for our events are accessible by members and guests of all abilities.

Sunday August 7 National Gallery of Victoria – **Melbourne Winter Masterpieces 2022: The Picasso Century.**

The event will include onsite lecture, exhibition and a lunch option

The beginning of the exhibition explores Picasso's formative years, which encapsulate significant artistic developments, most notably Cubism, the development of which Picasso led with Georges Braque. Considered by many the 'experiment' that most radically transformed 20th century art, Cubism saw Western art move away from representing likeness and, among many innovations, introduced multiple and simultaneous perspectives into a composition, resulting in the style's recognisable fragmented imagery.

The Picasso Century also examines Picasso's place within the multicultural crucible that was inter-war Paris, and his interaction with other artists and writers including André Breton, Georges Bataille, Jean Cocteau and Alberto Giacometti. The exhibition will be particularly rich with works from Picasso's Surrealist period, presented alongside works by artists including Kay Sage, Max Ernst, Salvador Dalí, Giorgio de Chirico and André Masson.



Please 'Save the Date' further details will be available early May 2022

Thursday November 24

Dinner at William Angliss Restaurant with speaker Allan Myers AC QC an Australian barrister, academic, businessman, landowner and philanthropist, and the current Chancellor of the University of Melbourne

Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship recipient Jeremy Doupe will provide members and guests with an update on his studies, work and community service.

Please 'Save the Date' further details will be available in September 2022.

Two **virtual events** will be finalised by the end of April for late June/early July and late September/early October 2022.

Further details will be included in the next e-Newsletter.

The question often asked – which medal to wear when



Day Functions

The full-size insignia (Main Piece) is generally worn at day functions where decorations have been prescribed by the event, for example Anzac Day, Remembrance Day ceremonies or special services such as a State Funeral, Memorial or Thanksgiving Service. This would include the swearing in ceremony for the new Governor of South Australia.

Evening Functions

At events such as evening receptions and dinners where decorations have been prescribed, the miniature insignia is generally worn. The main exception to this is Neck Decorations (AC and AO), which are worn in full-size.

Every day Wear

A lapel pin may be worn on civilian clothes at any time. Only one badge should be worn at a given time and not when other insignia pieces are worn.

OAA logo name badges

A template on the Name Badges Australia webpage to allow members to order name badges.



To order name badges, please follow the instructions found on the document that you can download from [here](#).

Regional Groups Events and News

Central Highlands Wimmera

Vale Dr William (Bill) Joseph Pryor AO

Beloved husband of Ann of 65 years sadly passed away on March 25, 2022 aged 95 years.

Bill, as he was known to his friends, received his AO in the 2000 Queen's Birthday Honours List for service to veterinary science, particularly in the areas of education and professional development in Australia and overseas.



Other awards and honours have included:

- Dr Pryor has travelled extensively in South East Asia and the Pacific region where he worked for many years to assist veterinary services and education. For this he was awarded the D.Sc. (h.c) from Massey University in 1988.
- The British Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons honoured Dr. Pryor in 1992 making him a Honourary Associate, the fourth Australian in the 200 years of its history. This was in recognition of his development in an international veterinary accreditation system and his extensive assistance to veterinary communities in several developing countries.
- Honourary Degree of Doctor of Science from University of Ballarat Australia.
- 2001 at the VAM Conference by the Veterinary Association of Malaysia as the Veterinarian of the Century for his contribution to the field of veterinary profession not only in Australia but to his commitment and work throughout the Commonwealth especially in the Far East and Malaysia in particular, in addition to many others during his illustrious career which continues in the CVA.

Bill was heavily involved with the Central Highlands Wimmera Regional Group (formerly Central Highlands Regional Group) from shortly after receiving his award, taking on the role of Chair from 2006 and retiring from the position in 2011, though then taking on the role of Secretary for another two years. He remained active on the Committee until 2019 when attending meetings became too difficult to manage.

Bill was loved by all who knew him and he will be sadly missed.

Eastern Suburbs Regional Group

Thursday April 28 at 5.30pm via webinar

Emergency Services and the Role of Chaplain Rev Jim Pilmer PSM
OAM OSTJ guest speaker at Eastern Suburbs Regional Group second webinar for 2022.

This webinar is the next in our developing webinar series, and is open to all who are interested.

Please pass this invitation on to others who you believe may like to join us. There is no cost for this event.

Jim Pilmer was the Senior Police Chaplain from 1995 to 2008. During this time he provided spiritual guidance and support to police, their families and the wider community

Click on the image below to register, or visit the web page at <https://www.trybooking.com/BYKLV>.



Eastern Suburbs Regional Group

The Reverend Jim Pilmer has been an Anglican priest in the Diocese of Melbourne for 52 years. He is married to Rosemary.

Jim held parish appointments in North Fitzroy/Clifton Hill and Surrey Hills/Mont Albert, Melbourne from 1972 to 1986 and was Assistant Director and then Director of the Anglican Marriage Guidance Council (now *Lifeworks*) from 1986 to 1995. He is an accredited relationship counsellor and was the first federally appointed Chair of what was then the Family Services Council of Australia. He held the position of Chair of the Australian Association of Marriage Educators (AAME) for 5 years and was foundation Chair of the Anglican Diocesan Sexual Harassment Committee for 8 years during which time he helped develop diocesan protocols for professional behaviour and which laid a foundation for today's Professional Standards Board.

Jim was appointed full-time Senior Chaplain to Victoria Police in 1995, a position he held for 12½ years. In this role he was responsible for the spiritual support and pastoral care of some 14,000 police members and their families. For part of that time he also directed the delivery of chaplaincy services to Ambulance Victoria and the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

Jim established the current Victoria Police chaplaincy network and eventually formed a network of 60 part-time chaplains of various denominations across Victoria. He set the foundation for the inter-faith network which exists today. His role included lecturing at the Academy on the topic of death notification and accompanying recruits on training visits to the Coronial Services Unit.

In 2003 he was awarded a Churchill Fellowship involving seven weeks of overseas study into aspects of religious diversity relevant to operational policing, particularly at times of death, trauma or disaster.

Other roles Jim has held include that of Chaplain to the Melbourne Commonwealth Games in March 2006 and assisting the Coronial Services Unit with staff support in the aftermath of the Black Saturday bushfires in February 2009.

Jim was recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in June 2021 for service to the Anglican Church of Australia. The full citation also recognises his service to the Victoria Police and St John Ambulance, and lists his other awards including the Public Service Medal for outstanding public service to police chaplaincy and innovative development of a state-wide chaplaincy support network in 2006.

In July 2018 Jim was invited to take up a voluntary position of State Chaplain to St John Ambulance and the Order of St John. He continues to serve as a voluntary chaplain to the Boroondara Police Service Area.

Jim wrote the words to the *Police Valour Hymn* which was certified as the official Victoria Police Hymn of Remembrance in 2008. He enjoys writing and has been a regular contributor to the Sunday Age *FAITH* column for over 12 years.

Gippsland Regional Group

Sunday May 1 lunch

OAA Members and guests are cordially invited to attend a Luncheon on Sunday May 1, 2022

Time: 12noon for 12.30pm at Deep Creek Reserve Golf Club 62 Cameron Way, Pakenham

(From the Pakenham Bypass (M1) turn north on Pakenham KooWeeRup Rd (C422) over Railway line, (Racecourse Rd) Cameron Way 3rd street on right.)

Guest Speaker: Dr George Blenkhorn OAM Topic: - "A Vet's Life"

Cost: \$55.00 per person GST included. Drinks available at bar prices.

Any dietary requirements, please advise at time of booking.



Gippsland Regional Group

✂.....

If you wish to attend complete the reply form and mail to OAA, Post Office Box 906, Traralgon 3844 or respond by email to Helen Holley, holleyhill@bigpond.com. Mobile 0409 982 205

Name and Post Nominals.....

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

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

.....

..... Members /guests at \$55.00 pp. [GST Included] = \$.....

Payment Option:

- Direct deposit to OAA Gippsland or EFT to Bendigo Bank
BSB 633-000 Account No: 1456 17023
Reference: Surname & initial
- Cheque to OAA Gippsland Group - PO Box 906, Traralgon Vic 3844

Full Size Decorations may be worn.

RSVP: Friday 22nd April 2022

To celebrate and promote Australian citizenship

Gippsland Regional Group had eight new Awardees announced in the **Australia Day** list, two have joined the Association. Welcome.

The **AGM** was held on **Sunday March 20**, the Committee was elected unopposed.

Beth Delzoppo OAM resigned having dedicated twelve years to the Committee, six of which were as Chairman. Beth was thanked for her work and time put into the Committee. She travelled to Melbourne and all over Gippsland to attend meetings and luncheons, always with a smile. Beth's regret is she will miss the friendship and the lifelong friends made over the years.

The executive committee is Chairman, Lorraine Bartling OAM. Deputy Chairman, Doug Caulfield OAM, Secretary, Anne Macarthur AM, and Treasurer, David Packham OAM

Committee is Alex Arbuthnot AM, Bill Bodman OAM, Neil Terrill OAM and David Tulloch OAM.

North Central Suburbs Regional Group

Annual General Meeting and Lunch

The group was pleased to be able to hold these two events as face to face events at the Montmorency – Eltham RSL Club. We thank the club for allowing the use of the venue and the warm welcome and address given to the group by President of the RSL, Glen Ferrarotto.

As it was St Patricks Day a touch of green was provided through table decorations and serviettes on each table together with green wrapped chocolate for each attendee. The committee extended its thanks to Irene Harrington OAM for her efforts in providing these.

North Central Suburbs Regional Group

The AGM was held with a quorum formed by a mix of attendees and Proxies which enabled all required matters to be addressed. Most committee positions were filled, noting that the existing committee is only one year into its three year tenure. However the challenge of finding a Treasurer remains. As part the AGM the group acknowledged members who, during 2021, had achieved 10, 20, 30 and 40 years of membership. These were:

- 40 years membership GRP Cpt Don Mazlin AM
- 30 years membership Bruno Grollo AO
- 10 years membership Lesley Barnes OAM
Catherine Gilbo OAM
Fred Harrington OAM

The lunch following the AGM allowed the group to formally welcome the following Honours recipients to the group:

- Australia Day 2022 - Dr Tony Michaelson OAM and his wife Christine.
- Queen's Birthday 2021 – Pam Vardy OAM and her husband Dr Cordell Vardy
- Queen's Birthday 2020 – Marion Stott OAM

The formal welcome included a Q&A conducted by Bill Horman AM APM which allowed the recipients to tell the story behind their honour to members in attendance. Following their Q&A recipients were given an OAA merchandise gift.

Upcoming Events

ZOOM Session – Thursday 21st April 2022 between 5:30pm and 6:30 pm.

The first of this year's series of monthly ZOOM session will feature Peter Snow OAM who will be speaking on the establishment and development of this Whale World in Albany Western Australia. Peter was a director of Jaycees Community Foundation, responsible for the creation of Albany's Historic Whaling Station between 1979 and 2015.

Seasonal Lunch – Wednesday 1st June 2022 commencing at 11:45 am

This seasonal (winter) Lunch will see the group back again at the Sycamore Tree Café in Heidelberg.

Yarra Valley Lunch – Sunday 28th August (TBC)

This will be at a venue in the Yarra Valley at a venue to be confirmed.

Seasonal Lunch – Wednesday 7th September commencing at 11:45 am

This seasonal (spring) Lunch will be at the Sycamore Tree Café in Heidelberg. Invitations will be extended to Queen's Birthday recipients

Congratulations Val and Robert

A congratulatory card has been sent, on behalf of the group, to Val Lennie OAM and her husband Dr Robert Lennie to acknowledge and congratulate them on the celebration of their 70th wedding anniversary



North Central Suburbs Regional Group

Photos from the North Central Suburbs Annual General Meeting and lunch on Thursday March 17



Dr Tony Michaelson OAM telling of his GP based program of supporting those with drug and alcohol dependence and Bill Horman AM APM

L-R: Pam Vardy OAM, Bill Horman AM APM and Fred Harrington OAM presenting Pam with her gift



Marion Stott OAM telling of her involvement with the community of Mooroolbark

North East & Goulburn Valley Regional Group

Australia Day Honours and Awards

The NEGV region had 10 new OA recipients on Australia Day. We are very pleased to welcome new members Dorothy and Peter Heard from Numurkah, both who received an OAM for their service to the Numurkah community.

Peter and Dorothy are well known in the Numurkah community for their involvement with the Numurkah Town Band, both have life memberships and are serving in office with Dorothy as Secretary and the drummer, and Peter the President for 18 years and a trombone player for 60 years.

They are both involved with Numurkah singing groups, the Numurkah Uniting Church; Numurkah combined Probus and are volunteers with Meals on Wheels.

Dorothy is a former Numurkah Citizen of the Year and recipient of the Rotary community service award. She is also a supporter at Pioneers Lodge Hostel and entertained at Karinya Nursing Home weekly for 13 years. Dorothy has served as the Secretary, Numurkah Town Hall Committee of Management, since 1998.

As well as his other roles, Peter is the Numurkah town band assistant music librarian. He is also a Volunteer with the Numurkah Town Hall Committee of Management and has various roles including maintenance and watering for Numurkah Uniting Church. Peter is a supporter of Pioneers Lodge Hostel and entertainer at Karinya Nursing Home, and enjoyed being a local school bus driver for 11 years.



It is wonderful to see the work that Dorothy and Peter have done to support their local community over so many years. Our regional communities depend on people like the Heard's and we congratulate them both for the recognition they so well deserve.

March luncheon was held at the Quality Parklake Hotel Shepparton on Sunday 27th March. 77 members and guests attended with guest speaker Adam Furphy who is the Managing Director of Shepparton-based manufacturing business J. Furphy & Sons. Adam is the great, great-grandson of the company's founder John Furphy who started the business in 1864.

Adam spoke about the early days of how the business evolved from blacksmithing to becoming a foundry. The Furphy water tank has been the backbone of the company and is part of our lexicon.

The water cart was used to supply water for troops in the 1st world war where men would gather at the end of the cart and gossip. Rumours were started this way and how the term to tell a "Furphy" became a synonym for suspect information or rumour.

His great, great grandfather had a sense of marketing and each water tank had his name cast into the ends and he later added the motto "Good Better Best, Never Let it Rest, Until your Good is Better, And your Better Best"

North East & Goulburn Valley Regional Group

The company owns and operates Hot Dip Galvanizing plants in Geelong, Shepparton, and Albury serving much of regional Victoria and southern NSW. The company also manufactures and services stainless steel tanks and vessels for a wide variety of industries across Australia and New Zealand.

Adam is the Chair of the Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project – a project that engages the Greater Shepparton Community to improve happiness and health of our children and is also a Trustee of the Shepparton Mechanic's Institute and a member of the Shepparton Art Museum Foundation board.



Adam was a wonderful speaker and enjoyed by all those present. The day was topped off with a visit to the beautiful new Shepparton Art Museum overlooking Victoria Park Lake, a must visit for everyone.

Photo: John Brown AO thanking Adam Furphy

Annual General Meeting

Mr Bruce Lloyd AM has retired as Deputy Chair. We thank Bruce for his great contribution to our committee and will miss the wisdom and guidance he has provided over the years.

Irene Cracknell OAM has also retired from committee. Irene is a stalwart of our group and known by most of our members. She has been the backbone of our luncheon RSVP's and we thank her very much for all her wonderful work.

Don Kilgour OAM has moved from committee to position of Deputy Chair, Peter Ryan AM has been re-elected to committee for another 3 years and we welcome Mary-Lou Davis OAM and Ron Webb OAM who have been elected as new committee members'

Our committee now stands as follows:

Barbara Thomas OAM Chair
Don Kilgour OAM Deputy Chair
Margaret Attley OAM Secretary
Graham Kerr OAM Treasurer
Sue Campbell OAM Committee Member
Mary-Lou Davis OAM Committee Member
Peter Ryan AM Committee Member
Ron Webb OAM Committee Member

Future Events for 2022:

Sunday June 19 at Mansfield Golf Club-Guest Speaker-Charlie Lovick

Sunday October 9 at Quality Hotel, Wangaratta Gateway-Guest Speaker-Alana Johnson AM

North East & Goulburn Valley Regional Group

Seventy-two years of service to Tatura

Lurline Knee OAM now 94 and Arthur Knee OAM now 97 received their awards on Queen's Birthday 2020 for service to the community of Tatura. This is their story.

Since arriving in Tatura in 1950 they have been involved for seventy-two years in many community activities. Arthur with his Shire work and local activities such as the Water Trust meetings, Housing Society, Tatura Agriculture Society, Rotary Club, Tennis and Bowls and Lurline with her Church interests. They worked for the establishment of the Kindergarten, the Tatura State School Mothers Club and delivering Meals on Wheels for thirty-five years.

During this time Arthur was awarded the Citizen of the Year for Rodney Shire, and some years later Lurline received the same honour of Citizen of the Year for her role of Tatura and District Historical Society Volunteer Research Officer for the WW2 POW and internment Camps at Tatura Museum, a role to which she was appointed to in 1988.

This role was to investigate the little known history of the seven Internment and Prisoner of War Camps established in the Tatura, Murchison and Rushworth area during World War 2. Lurline's contacts led to hundreds of former prisoners and their guards, many from Germany, Italy and Japan, as well as those already settled in Australia.

Following this contact these former prisoners have generously donated to the Tatura Museum a wonderful collection of their wartime camps records, memorabilia and craft work. This has necessitated four extensions to the Tatura Museum building to accommodate the ever-extending amount of material. This Collection has now been placed on the Victorian Heritage List. Arthur's involvement has been as a support to Lurline by using his computer skills in applying for grants, recording, digitizing and cataloguing.

Lurline and Arthur have retired from their formal duties at the Museum, and are endeavouring to take it easy. They find that the contacts they have made still wish to keep in contact with them, often seeking information or forwarding more material. Now, as can be expected, more often it is the descendants of the former prisoners who make contact. The thirty years carrying out this voluntary work has proved greatly rewarding for them, and has helped keep them young.



South Central Suburban Regional Group

Annual General Meeting at the Cheltenham Moorabbin RSL facilities in Cheltenham on Thursday February 17; following the Order of Business as presented the following members for the Management Committee were endorsed as elected for the next 12 months when there shall be a spill of all positions once again.

Chairman	Graeme Woolacott OAM
Vice Chairman	Jill Page OAM
Secretary	Graeme Woolacott OAM
Minutes Secretary	Dr. Cheryl Threadgold OAM

South Central Suburban Regional Group

Treasurer	Alan Samuel OAM JP
Membership Secretary	Alan Rae OAM
Newsletter Distributor	Richard Rozen OAM
Venue Facilitator	Roger Wilson OAM
Committee	Lesley McGurgan OAM
Committee	Dr. Joanna Newton OAM



During the proceedings of the AGM two long serving members of the Management Committee retired:-

Rayleen Haig OAM {15 Years} was the inaugural Chairman when the Regional Group was formed.

Ross Newton OAM {12 Years} who was the immediate Past Chairman and Secretary.

Presentations were made to both for their service to the Regional Group and the Association.

Photo: L-R Ross Newton OAM Rayleen Haig OAM Chairman Graeme Woolacott OAM

Following the AGM, the members in attendance were addressed by Professor Noel Alpins AM a world renowned ophthalmologist who has a procedure named after him for his ground breaking work on refractive surgery in the treatment of cataracts.

A very comprehensive and clearly understood PowerPoint presentation accompanied his talk. Question time resulted in many, many questions which were clearly answered.

Wednesday July 13 lunch

MID-YEAR LUNCHEON WEST BRIGHTON CLUB - 22 PARK STREET BRIGHTON

Our guest speaker for this function shall be Professor George Werther AO MD FRACP who was recently featured in the January edition of our Group Newsletter. His work in paediatrics is more than world class and he has received many Honours for his work. What is less known [maybe] is his work in the theatre. This was also briefly covered in the Newsletter.

Further to that article, George advises that he was born in Melbourne in 1948, his parents having been Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany, arriving in Australia in 1946 via Shanghai and Hong Kong. At a year of age his family moved to Launceston, Tasmania, where he grew up and attended Launceston Grammar School. He was an only child. When he was 11 years old his parents and he moved back to Melbourne, where he eventually attended Melbourne High School. He developed his love for both Science and the Arts there, being very active in the Drama program.



George is married to Mary, whom he met at a youth camp at age 17. They were together during Year 12, and then parted ways for four years, meeting again at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, and marrying two years later. They have two children, Ben and Rebecca. Ben is a computer scientist who graduated from Monash University and moved to the U.S. where he was a graduate student at Stanford University. He married a girl from Seattle where he worked for two years at Microsoft. Rebecca studied Medicine and is a specialist paediatric allergist/immunologist in private practice in Melbourne.

George has five grandchildren aged between seven and twelve.

South Central Suburban Regional Group

✂.....

Reply form: THE WEST BRIGHTON CLUB – MID-YEAR LUNCHEON

I wish to attend the luncheon at The West Brighton Club, 22 Park Street Brighton on Wednesday 13th July 2022, commencing at 12.00 Noon. There shall have be a two course meal, a welcoming drink and tea or coffee included in the paid registration amount, and our Guest Speaker as above.

Please find enclosed cheque forpersons at \$70.00 pp. [GST Included] \$.....

Cheques should be made payable to The Order of Australia Association and mailed to the Treasurer by 3rd July 2022.

Alternately, pay by Direct Debit to Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000. Account number 132 398 835. No receipts will be issued. If paying by Direct Debit, please indicate "Luncheon and name".

Name and Post Nominals.....

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

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

Phone Number of Guests – COVID Requirement.....

Special dietary requirements.....

Dress: Jacket and tie for gentlemen.

Full size decorations to be worn

Post cheques to Treasurer Alan Samuel OAM JP, 109/31 Alma Road St. Kilda 3182

Phone 0408 024 224

Email alan@samuelfamily.net

Merchandise Shop News

Please refer to page 23 for new items in the OAA Merchandise Shop and the last page of this e-Newsletter for our updated Merchandise Order Form.



Shopping options include:-

Online,

Scanning and emailing the form with credit card details,

Mailing order including cheque payment or

Telephone your order and pay via credit card.

Former Geelong Mayor appointed the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia for Victoria.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia, His Excellency Mr. Jurij Rifelj, visited Geelong on Monday March 21, 2022 to confirm the appointment of former Geelong Mayor, Dr Srechko Kontelj OAM, as Honorary Consul for the Republic of Slovenia for Victoria and to perform the formal opening of his Consul Office.

Slovenia has a population of two million people and has its own district language, culture and heritage. Slovenia has been a member of the EU and NATO since 2004. Slovenia held the presidency of the EU in the second half of 2021, assuming this role for the second time in 13 years.



'I am very proud to have been accorded this honour by the Republic of Slovenia, my parents' country of birth' said Dr Kontelj.

'I see tremendous opportunity for bilateral trade between Slovenia and Australia and despite our relatively small populations, both countries punch above their weight on the international stage'.

Srechko has a long history of community involvement, particularly in local government and in supporting ethnic communities, for which he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2001 and the Centenary Medal in 2003.

He was Mayor of Geelong in 2001-2002. In 2010 Srechko was awarded the Australian Defence Medal for service to the Australian Defence Force as a Specialist Reserve Legal Officer.

As the former President and Chair of the Geelong Ethnic Communities Council and Multicultural Aged Care Centre, Dr Kontelj will transition comfortably into the role of Honorary Consul.

Dr Kontelj resigned as Councillor of the City of Greater Geelong in 2015 after seventeen years'

service to take on the role of Group General Counsel of Specsavers Optometry Group based in Guernsey.

During his five years in Guernsey, Dr Kontelj was appointed Honorary Consul for the Republic of Slovenia to the States of Guernsey, in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island. In this role, he led several official trips to Slovenia to explore economic opportunities for the two countries which included the signing of an expression of interest to form an International University in Guernsey in partnership with Slovenia's Ljubljana University, Geelong's Deakin University, Brock University of Canada and Salford University of the UK.

Photo above: Dr Srechko Kontelj OAM a member of the Barwon Regional Group

From the pen of a 2022 Australia Day Order of Australia recipient

“From a Place of Disquiet and Dedication”

On Survival Day, I accept this award on the decolonial borders of disquiet and dedication.

With gratitude and humility, I commit to the First Peoples, LGBTIQ+, multicultural and multifaith leaders who nominated me, to use this award to do better, to make better our systems and society.

This award is for Jon Eliot, who in 1987 asked me if I was ready to catch the grenade his AIDS would throw me. Could I stand with him, speak out with him, and know by doing that, my life would be changed forever.

This award is for the communities who trust me and invite me to put my privilege to good use, and to never let “historical amnesia” make me forget or deny my Southern Italian peasant, poor, working class colonizer/colonized roots.

This award is for my ancestors, especially my parents Stefano and Dora, and my Nonnas, who were wise without going to school; who raised me with stories of courage and resistance; who called out as best they could the corruption and inequities in Government and Church; who cleaned the offices and toilets I work in.

This award is for my most loved ones, Rob who waited till Marriage Equality in 2017 to be called Husband; and Steph, the best thing I’ve ever done, who is both Mother and Daughter to me in her own life-lessons, love and laughter.

And this award is for my Family, chosen biological family and all friends from all facets of my life, for staying with me through the mistakes and messiness, exhilarations and adventures.

This award is for the Exec/utioners and Enforcers of Systemic Injustices who labelled me “difficult” and “disappointing”, “undisciplined” and “non-compliant”. They broke through glass ceilings and brick walls without stepping down, supporting up, and standing alongside those who got hit by the shattering glass and crushed by the falling bricks.



This award is for my “Friends in High Places”, and First Nations, LGBTIQ+, multicultural and multifaith Leaders and Mentors like my Nominators, who keep climbing in love and justice so they can build stronger ladders and more bridges for those who follow, and then support them to go further than themselves.

As long as my brain, energy and relevance hold out, I commit to being of use, when invited, to do my bit to create a legacy for those who will come after me, who will do more, understand more, than I ever could or will.

Dr Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli AM (she/her)

Naarm, Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung country

Photo above: Dr Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli AM a member of the Eastern Suburbs Regional Group

April is the month of reflections

Good Friday and Passover



Friday April 15, 2022 Good Friday and Passover align, a perfect time for many of our members to reflect and spend time celebrating with family and friends.

Shrine of Remembrance 2022 Anzac Day Dawn Service

Now, more than ever, we hold peace close to our hearts. Come together to pause and reflect on the service and sacrifice of generations of Victorians, and all those who suffer the consequences of war.

All are welcome to commemorate on the Shrine Reserve. No tickets or bookings are required and there are no restrictions on numbers attending. In keeping with Victorian Government requirements, attendees are encouraged to check in via QR code and wear a mask if unable to maintain social distancing.



Key timings Monday 25 April:

Dawn Service commences 5.30am

Anzac Day March commences from 8.30am

A Commemorative Service will be held at the conclusion of the March

Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch 2022 Annual General Meeting Report

Outcome of the OAA VIC Branch Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday March 30, 2022 at William Angliss Institute 550 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.

Some office bearers were elected last year for three years, positions to be filled at the 2022 AGM were:

Secretary – vacant Fred Harrington is Interim

Events Committee Chair – vacant Helene Bender AM is Interim

Treasurer – vacant OAA national contracted bookkeeper has been actioning some of the financial reporting

Committee – Margaret Attley OAM (3 year appointment)

Two members accepted the invitation to join the committee after nominations closed and were elected at the AGM:

Dr Teresa De Fazio OAM (1 year appointment)

Grant Coultman-Smith OAM (1 year appointment)

Current OAA VIC Branch committee:

Chair – Helene Bender AM

Deputy Chair – Trevor Clark OAM

Secretary – Fred Harrington OAM (Interim)

Events Committee Chair – Helene Bender AM (Interim)

Membership Secretary – Fred Harrington OAM

Merchandise Committee Chair – June Kane AM

Minute Secretary – Barbara Thomas OAM

VIC Regional Group Coordinator – Barb Brook OAM

Editor *The Order* national magazine and e-Newsletter Helene Bender AM

Branch Nominated Director –William Lye OAM QC

Committee:

Margaret Attley OAM

Teresa De Fazio OAM

Grant Coultman-Smith OAM

The Order of Australia Association News from the Merchandise Shop

In time for ANZAC Day and Mother's Day

Soft and warm – unisex knitted scarf



Just in time for winter again this year, something to keep you warm – our popular knitted scarf for both women and men in a new colour. If you have enjoyed the navy version, why not get this new colour and mix and match? The soft, comfortable scarf has the OAA crest embroidered on one end and is long enough to wrap around the neck or to be looped and worn as shown. Both the navy and grey scarves cost \$29.00 each plus P&H.

Keeping your bag safe at your side

In response to a suggestion from a member, we are adding to the merchandise collection a handy item for our women members (there's no reason why men couldn't use it for a briefcase or shopping bag!). This OAA-crested bag holder folds up into a neat circle of shiny metal and, when unfolded, allows you to place the crested medallion on a tabletop, allowing the hook to hang down and hold a handle, keeping your bag off the floor and safe at your side. The bag holder is available in black and comes in a smart box, ideal for gift-giving.

It costs just \$10.00 plus P&H.



Greetings cards blank inside

Our OAA generic blank cards have been updated and now feature the Association's purpose statement. They are available in packs of five, with envelopes.

Cost \$10.00 per pack plus P&H.

Still to come

Stay tuned for unisex socks due to arrive this month. They will appear on the website as soon as we receive them and will be available for sale at the National Conference in Canberra Thursday May 19, Friday May 20 and Saturday May 21. We look forward to seeing you there!

Reminder regarding OAA lapel badge

OAA lapel badge sold in the Merchandise Shop is the Association lapel badge it is **not** the official pin included in the medal pack you received at your Order of Australia Investiture.

To purchase official Order of Australia lapel pins and replacement medals please contact the Honours Secretariat at Government House Canberra E: honours@gg.gov.au Ph: 02 6283 3533

And remember that we are always happy to receive your suggestions for new items to sell.

Don't forget you can see all currently available merchandise on the OAA website:

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart

Enquiries can be sent to: chairmerchandise@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

OAA VIC Branch Regional Group Chairs as at April 4, 2022

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



On behalf of the OAA VIC Branch committee thank you to all our Lifetime members. When your time allows we appreciate seeing you at our events and our Regional Groups also value your support.

We appreciate our annual and three year members who have renewed their membership during 2020 and 2021. It has been a challenging two years in many ways; we are pleased to have hosted two events this year. Hope your time allows you to attend an OAA VIC Branch event this year.

Please stay safe.



THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION

Merchandise Order Form

Item and Description*	PRICE	QTY	Total \$
1 A5 lined notepads OAA crest watermark 4 per pack	10.00		
2 Blank greeting cards + envelopes (5)	10.00		
3 Blue/gold pen in gift box	7.00		
4 Key ring in gift box	10.00		
5 Cufflinks in gift box	35.00		
6 Metal medallion/paperweight	15.00 SALE		
7 OAA lapel badge <small>not OA official pin</small>	10.00 SALE		
8 Loop Inductive Charger	18.00		
9 Vista Travel Charger Kit	33.00		
10 Laptop bag	33.00		
11 Barista Travel Cup	15.00		
12 Face Mask (2 per pack)	25.00		
13 Scarf unisex knitted (blue)	29.00		
14 Scarf unisex knitted (grey)	29.00 NEW		
15 Ladies' pure silk scarf (silver/grey)	45.00		
16 Ladies pure silk scarf (blue original)	45.00		
17 Ladies pure silk scarf (beige/pink)	45.00		
18 OAA branded Bag Holder	10.00 NEW		
19 OAA traditional tie (navy)	25.00		
20 OAA tie (spotted)	30.00		
SUB-TOTAL			
Postage & Handling			11.00
TOTAL PAYABLE			\$ _____

Questions: Please phone 0413 008 571
Email order form with payment details to
merchandise@theorderofaustralia.asn.au
OR
Mail to OAA Merchandise PO Box 18389,
Collins Street East, Melbourne VIC 8003
OR
Order online and pay with PayPal or credit card:
www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart



*Only OAA members may wear apparel, cufflinks & badges. Updated April 2022

P&H: Multiple items will be put in one postage pack where possible.

Name _____ Phone _____
Email address _____
Mailing address _____
Suburb _____ State/Territory _____ Postcode _____
Total Cost of order: \$ _____ Cheque payable to Order of Australia Association enclosed ☐ Y ☐ N or
Please debit my ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa Card: Number _____ Expiry Date _____ CSV _____