



**The Order of Australia Association
Tasmania Branch**

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

Northern Region October 2021 Newsletter

Dear Members and Affiliates,

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



The Northern Region members were most appreciative of the hosting of a function this week by His Worship the Mayor of Launceston, Councillor Albert van Zetten at the Town Hall to recognise the Order of Australia Association. This Civic Reception has been an annual event for some years and we are most grateful for the support of the Mayor and the City of Launceston to recognise the special contribution and achievements made by those members in our community who have been recognised with Order of Australia awards.

On Friday 19th November the Region will be hosting Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, The Governor of Tasmania, and Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers, AO at a cocktail function to be held at the Launceston Club. Due to Covid restrictions our numbers are limited to Northern members only. Places will be allocated in the order of the responses and payments received.

On Tuesday 21 September the OAA Tasmania Branch invited the Branch committee and a group of members to a virtual meeting with the Governor-General, His Excellency, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley. This was an informal conversation to acknowledge the work undertaken by Branch members due to the inability of Their Excellencies to tour the State with the current Covid restrictions in place. We were delighted to hear from His Excellency of his personal efforts to promote the Order of Australia and to recognise the work of multicultural communities, of women, and of people who are currently under-represented in the eminent award system in Australia. His Excellency also advised that he was very much aware of the confusion which occurs with the Order of Australia awards coinciding with the Australian of the Year announcements on Australia Day.

In The Examiner newspaper on 21 August there was a very complimentary article to celebrate 50 years of service and contribution by Dr Frank Madill AM to the Northern Bombers Football Club. Club President Thane Brady was quoted as saying *"If Frank played football, he would be the ultimate utility. You could play him in every position. He can sing, dance, MC, save our lives, enter politics, become hugely popular and successful, a farmer, father, husband, author, and volunteer serving multiple community organisations."* Congratulations and well done Frank!

The next newsletter will be in February following our Annual General Meeting which will be held on 10 February 2022 at Glenara Lakes. Information will be forwarded to members in advance of that meeting.

May I extend the best wishes of the Committee to all members for a safe and happy festive season. We hope that you will be able to celebrate Christmas with family and friends.

Sue Shea OAM
Northern Region Chair



Dr Rosemary Callingham AM Director (Tas) OAA Board.

Rosemary is enjoying her role as the Tasmanian Director on the OAA Board.

To enable you to find out more about Rosemary she was invited to share more about her activities.



I am a retired academic having worked at two universities in mathematics education – educating pre-service teachers about teaching mathematics. This career has taken me to some surprising places. I worked with UNICEF in North Korea, helping the Korean educators develop a new primary mathematics curriculum using evidence-based processes. I was privileged to visit the country seven times over the three-year life of that project. More recently I spent a month in Kazakhstan as a visiting scholar at a developing university, working with teacher educators – all of whom were very young by Australian standards! I have also had extended stays in Hong Kong. I have come to realise that the challenges for educators may seem diverse in different places, but that everywhere I have been, teachers at all levels want the best outcomes for their students.

The varied encounters that I have been privileged to experience have made me realise the importance of social equity. As a result, I worked with Anglicare Tasmania as a board member for nine years, the last three as chair. The variety of needs and the extent of poverty in Tasmania is confronting at times. Those working directly in the field, regardless of which organisation they work for, go way beyond expectations to support people needing help. I have found that Tasmanians genuinely care about each other and want to support the most vulnerable members of our community, both formally through funded programs, and informally through their own neighbourhood networks.

Since being awarded my AM for services to mathematics education, teacher development and the community, I have taken on the role of the Tasmanian director on the Order of Australia national board. The amazing people I am meeting, and the wide range of interests and achievements is genuinely awe-inspiring. I am convinced that the system of Australian honours is unique, and I encourage everyone to consider nominating an unsung hero.

Investiture Luncheon for our recent Northern Tasmanian recipients



Back: **James Wilcox OAM**, **Rod Fraser OAM**,
Dr George Merridew AM Front: Kathy Wilcox
Sarah Merridew and Jenny Fraser OAM



Back: Hamish (grandson), Justine (daughter)
Lily Cate (granddaughter) and Max (grandson)
Front: Kate and **Captain James McDermott OAM**



Denise and **Dr John Paull OAM** and friends



Helen Emery (sister), Bronte Emery-Sherrard (Di's grand-niece), **Di Nailon OAM** and Dr Sherridan Emery (Di's niece).

Ms Diane Nailon OAM was recognised as part of the Queen's Birthday honours for her service to early childhood education.

(Photo: Chairman Sue Shea OAM with Diane Nailon OAM at the Investiture luncheon)



A life in Early Childhood Education

Like many Order of Australia recipients, Di began her life's work several decades ago. Di's commitment to young children's learning and well-being surfaced during the years she co-created innovative teaching programs with parents and children in a small country school in QLD.

Di entered the early childhood sector when the first QLD State pre-schools were established.

Di says: "My first forty years of professional life in QLD prepared me for my move to Tasmania in 2009". During those years Di worked in and with QLD schools, pre-schools and kindergartens, centre-based early education and care, family day care, outside school hours care and TAFE. She spent almost 30 years lecturing at the QLD University of Technology (QUT) where she was involved in international early learning and leadership projects and won awards for teaching. Di's passion for the importance of getting it right in children's early years grew as she established, volunteered in, and led a wide range of professional and community-based organisations. She developed and facilitated educational, leadership and parenting programs; wrote educational materials, articles for journals, and edited a professional magazine.

As an early childhood researcher at QUT, Di published findings in peer reviewed journals and gave keynote presentations at national conferences. Di's advocacy came to the fore as an expert witness in industrial campaigns for better conditions for early years educators. She was awarded a QLD Institute of Educational Administration Fellowship for her contribution to educational leadership in that State. Finally, Di's consultancies to the QLD and South Australian governments paved the way for her current roles contributing to Tasmania's Departments of Education and Communities early years initiatives.



Since 2009 Di's continuous part-time teaching at UTas has led to her involvement in a team-teaching award and participation in a range of early childhood research projects (some linked to her almost completed PhD). Di serves on the committees of professional and community-based organisations working to enhance the lives of Tasmania's young children. She is also involved in a Teacher Registration Board pilot program to recognise teachers' educational leadership skills. Grass roots 'missions' continue to evolve. These include State-wide projects around intergenerational arts explorations. Di aims to involve EVERYONE in building children's creative skills and more. Thankfully, recent initiatives around the need for a 'Tasmanian Village to raise our children' will generate possibilities for action. If you are keen to join in just let Di know.

Di has made a tremendous contribution to early childhood education for over 40 years and her OAM award recognises her service, innovation, and commitment to create a better future for all children.

Mayoral Civic Reception

On October 13th His Worship the Mayor of Launceston, Councillor Albert van Zetten hosted a Civic Reception for Order of Australia awardees. We are very grateful to the Mayor for honouring the recipients and we thank the City of Launceston RSL Band members who played.



Recent northern recipients of the Order of Australia Awards from 2020 -2021 with the Mayor, Albert van Zetten and Northern Region Chair, Sue Shea OAM.



The Hon. Dr Frank Madill AM, Hon Peter Rae AO and Mayor, Albert Van Zetten.



Brian Mathews OAM and Kim Brundle-Lawrence OAM



Kenneth von Bibra AM, Berta von Bibra OAM and Geoff Lyons OAM



John Dent OAM, Robin Cromarty OAM and Colleen McGann OAM.

Westbury Luncheon

26 members and guests enjoyed a luncheon at the RSL Westbury on August 11th. Peter Tonkin OAM, received a Medal of the Order of Australia in January 2019 for his service to swimming. He shared his experiences with an interesting visual presentation which coincided with the Tokyo Olympics.



Geraldine Carr (Affiliate), Denise Paull, Dr John Paull OAM and Peter Tonkin OAM



Lexie Young OAM, Sue Shea OAM and Sandra Atkins OAM



Kate McDermott and Captain James McDermott OAM



Judith Kilby OAM and Jan Atkins OAM



Dr June Hazzlewood OAM



John Osborne OAM and Beryl Osborne OAM.



Jenny Fraser OAM and Christine Chilcott OAM



Peter Tonkin OAM and Greg Hall AM



Therese von Samorzewski OAM, Norm Warburton OAM and Doreen Warburton.



Graeme Barwick OAM and Norma Barwick.



Joan Jacks (Affiliate)

Name badges:

If you would like to order a name badge which shows the OAA logo and Tasmania Branch these can be ordered for \$15. Partner badges can also be arranged with name only for \$15. If you are interested, please complete the attached form by October 25th.



Nomination for Awards: Anyone can nominate a community member for an Order of Australia Award. Nominations can be submitted at any time during the year. There is an online form to be completed. For more information go to www.gg.gov.au

The Northern Region Committee members

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