



Dated MAY 2022

STEPPING INTO THE NEW DAY



In August 2020 I invited members to contemplate the post-Covid ‘Crimson Dawn’. Who would have thought that it would take some 20 months before we could realistically step into the New Day?

Coincident with the recent National Conference our Association Directors and Branch Chairman devoted time and effort to a Futures Day discussion. The broad intent was to develop pathways to translate our Objective – *To celebrate and promote outstanding Australian citizenship* – and our Strategic Plan, into programs and activities at National, Branch and Regional Group levels.

Broad details of the outcomes of those deliberations are referenced in the National Chairman’s and National Secretary’s articles.

Of course, all this effort will be too naught unless we, individually and collectively, commit to ‘Stepping into the New Day’. Your commitment would be much appreciated.

Phil Morrall AM, CSC

Editor

NOTICES & EXCLUSIONS:

This version of our National magazine is not intended for general distribution to the wider public but is prepared as a service to those of our members who require the use of vision-impaired screen-reader technology. Thus, certain pages of the hard-copy version involving complex graphics or page layout have been omitted.

A summary of these pages and other notes of a general nature will be listed here.

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MESSAGE FROM PATRON- His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)

I would like to again thank those Members of The Order of Australia Association who participated in the 2022 National Conference in Canberra last month. It was a delight for Linda and me to present the Scholarship Awards at the conference dinner and to meet many Association members in-person.

Throughout my association with the Order I have said that it must be, and be perceived to be, the highest form of recognition of the efforts and achievements of Australians and reflect, in administration and outcome, the diversity of Australia.

The Queen's Birthday Honours list to be published this month recognises the achievements of many outstanding Australians.

More work is required however if we are to ensure equal awareness and understanding of, and access to, the system amongst all parts of our community.

That is why the focus of our work is on the following four fronts.

First, to increase awareness and understanding of the Order. I'm pleased that my Office is now resourced for this function. The 30-minute television special to coincide with the release of The Queen's Birthday Honours list is an example of what these resources will enable.

Second, to target parts of our community that have been historically underrepresented in terms of nominations and therefore awards. This includes continued focus on gender parity and increasing the diversity in relation to multicultural and Indigenous Australians.

Third, to improve understanding and address misconceptions by increasing transparency. Not in deliberations nor in the information provided by referees but in relation to the process and how it works.

And, fourth, to improve our own back-end system and approach to data – we need to be able to measure progress and guide effort.

Each of these reforms goes to strengthening the system.

I am confident that at next year's conference I will be reporting positively against each of the four priorities.

My Office continues to work closely with The Order of Australia Association to help achieve our shared objectives.

Thank you, again, for your work in advocating for good citizenship and for the Order.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

These comments come on the back of a hugely successful National Conference in Canberra culminating in the National Conference dinner held at the National Arboretum at which the Governor General and Mrs Hurly were present. May I again congratulate all involved on such a successful conference and dinner.

The Dinner was made even more special by the awarding of Scholarship Certificates to four young Australians. They were universally inspiring and I suspect are well on their way to being members of the Order later in their lives.

The Conference was clearly energised by the fact that after two difficult years people were back together again. The happy and engaged atmosphere was palpable at the Dinner as I'm sure it was at all the other events.

This is my last message as National President. The three years has gone fast but have been challenging because of the pandemic and related restrictions. However, I have certainly seen close up all the work and effort that goes into the Association's activities and the hard work of the National Board. The relationship between the Order and the Governor General's office is strong and active. We share many ambitions for the Order, not least of which is increasing its reach to many more sections of the Australian community and generally strengthening the awareness of the Awards.

Can I thank members of the National Board for all their support and forbearance during my tenure. It's been very much appreciated. I've enjoyed a very positive working relationship with National Chairman Barry Nunn and have valued his counsel and support.

May I conclude by thanking you all for giving me the opportunity to take on this role. I've enjoyed it and I've appreciated it. As I said at the dinner, the Association by purpose is populated by great citizens, and up close it certainly is.

May I wish the Association and its Members all the best for the future.

Heather

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We can be proud as Australians of the way in which we have come together as a nation to support the people of the Ukraine against a formidable aggressor. This support has been across political divides and from all in the rich cultural diversity of Australia. While distance, our resources and international political issues have limited Australia's support, we have contributed. I encourage all members to reach out to those arriving on our shores from this terrible conflict.

Heather Ridout AO, concluded her three years as our National President at the Association 2022 National Conference in May. I have enjoyed working with Heather through this difficult Covid-dominated period and have appreciated her wise counsel.

The successful conclusion of our 2022 National Conference in Canberra marks a significant change in the activities and future direction of our Association. It was pleasing that a good number of members and guests were first time attendees. That so many members and guests attended confirms that we are adapting to live with the pandemic. The restrictions on our activities over the last two years have resulted in much disruption to personal and family lives, business activity and as well to the operation of our Association. Within our Association we have not wasted the recent difficult times. Member activity has been maintained through many innovative approaches and, despite the disappointment of plan changes, communication has been considerably enhanced. During the pandemic, nominations for awards in the Order of Australia reduced from their peak in 2019 but have steadily improved. Our members' activity in raising community awareness of the Order has played a part in this and in the increasing diversity of those receiving awards.

During the National Conference we enjoyed addresses by His Excellency, General the Honorable David Hurley AC DSC and The Honorable Shane Stone AC PGDK QC, Chairman of the Order of Australia Council and Coordinator-General of the National Recovery and Resilience Agency. Both speakers emphasized the importance of the theme of the 2022 Conference, "Celebrating Service".

As part of the Conference our directors and branch chairmen were able to meet face-to-face, in some cases for the first time. A valuable discussion was held on the implementation of strategies for the ongoing development of our Association. More details will be provided as plans are made firm.

My thanks to all who have so actively participated in the work of our Association and particularly to those who ensured a successful 2022 Conference by their contribution to staging it, or by attending. I look forward to this essential contribution to the life of our Association continuing with members once more meeting at our 2023 National Conference in Geelong.

Barry Nunn AO
National Chairman

EDITORIAL – PHIL MORRALL AM, CSC

We have all seen images and stories of Ukrainian women and children seeking refuge in countries considered safe havens. Many children have lost both parents.

Several of our Association members, of my acquaintance, have been personally involved in rendering assistance to the people of Ukraine. Of course, there may be others. Here are brief details:

Russell Bielenberg AM reports:

"I had retired for the night when I received a message from a Chilean colleague, Tirso, in Spain asking for help for some Ukrainian children in Moldova who had been evacuated by his Chilean friend's group. To ensure their safety, he needed a Moldovan contact from the Military Christian Fellowship (MCF).

I immediately sent a message to a colleague in the USA who replied promptly with the details of the Moldovan MCF coordinator. By morning our time, the connection had been made.

Helen Bielenberg OAM provided the MCF of Australia with information about a chaplain coordinator in Ukraine. This resulted in prayer support and the setting up of a means to donate towards his work assisting troops and their families. She also sent details of the Polish MCF coordinator to another colleague helping Ukrainian women and children. “

William Lye OAM, QC reports:

“On 24 February 2022, Russia declared an unprovoked war against Ukraine. Following referrals of the situation in Ukraine from 41 State Parties, including Australia, to the International Criminal Court, Prosecutor Karim Khan QC commenced investigation into past and present allegations of war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide committed on any part of the territory of Ukraine by any person.

The Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations, (AFUO), co-chaired by **Stefan Romaniw OAM**, is providing support to Ukrainians displaced by the war, including providing medical supplies and financial assistance.

I have been appointed by the AFUO to lead a team of volunteers to provide guidance and legal representation, if necessary, in regard to the collection of information relevant to the matters of the ICC’s investigations as they relate to Australians of Ukrainian background affected by war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Russia on Ukrainian territory.”

Practical examples of ‘*Outstanding Australian Citizenship*’.

P L Morrall AM, CSC

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND THE MEMBERS FORUM HELD ON SATURDAY 21 MAY 2022

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This is the first face-to face Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held since the 2019 meeting in Hobart. One hundred and sixty-five members attended the meeting and there were seventy-seven valid registered Proxies lodged by COB 13 May 2022. Forty-five apologies were received (including the National President and the National Treasurer). It was noted that about 45% of the attendees were attending their first Association AGM.

Barry Nunn, the National Chairman advised that in the absence of the National President he would be chairing the meeting. In presenting his 2021 National Chairman’s Report he noted that the year 2021 was again one of challenge for our Association, as it was for the entire Australian community. From this challenge came some great initiatives that will benefit our association for many years to come.

The Annual Financial Report was presented by the National Secretary in the absence of the Treasurer.

Highlights of the 2021 year included in the Annual Report included:

- Membership Fees were held at level of previous years and a new 10-year membership option was added.
- Income increased by 16% despite the impact of COVID-19 on the ability to hold functions in some Branches.

- We had a surplus of \$71,993 excluding investment value increase.
- The average income per member was \$52.29 and the average expense per member was \$43.53. The details of this income and expenditure were illustrated by “pie charts”
- The National Investments increased by \$274,411 to \$1,835,236 as at 31 December 2021.
- Administrative Grants to Branches totalled \$50,465.
- Members Equity (assets-less-liabilities) increased by \$363,686 to \$1,197,139.
- The Lifetime Member Reserve increased by 3.2% to \$1,050,064.
- *The Order Magazine* costs were reduced by \$5,460 with more members choosing electronic distribution, together with editorial efficiencies.
- We welcomed 520 new members but regrettably lost 509. At year end the Association strength was 8222 members.
- Despite lockdowns and considerable ongoing restrictions on members’ events, innovative ways were developed to maintain contacts and continue with the activities of the Association.
- The Conversion rate of Award recipients to Association membership increased.
- Branch Committees met via Zoom with the Governor General and Mrs Hurley with all having the opportunity to discuss issues about nomination processes, cultural and diversity issues, communication improvements, and greater promotion of the Order of Australia.
- The National Board, thorough its Board committees and working groups, updated the Strategic Plan and continued to review Association governance arrangements.
- All Board meetings were held electronically with significant savings.
- The Board had set aside \$45,000 from the 2021 surplus for a Foundation Scholarship to be awarded at a time decided by the Board.

There were some changes to the Board composition during the year. Mr Andrew Bruyn AM replaced Associate Professor Nora Lewis AM as the Branch Nominated Director for the Northern Territory and was subsequently himself replaced by Mr Alan James OAM. Dr Rosemary Callingham AM replaced Mr Alastair Douglas OAM as the Branch Nominated Director for the Tasmania. Elsewhere in the magazine you will see the 2021-2022 Board members listed.

The members considered the Board’s recommendation that the Hon Hieu Van Le AC former Governor of South Australia be admitted as an Honorary Member of the Order of Australia Association in recognition of his ongoing support of the South Australian Branch.

All business requiring member approval was passed unanimously

MEMBERS FORUM

Matters raised by members were

- the development and use of social media platforms ;
- the re-introduction of a Multi-Faith Church Service as part of the Conference Program
- an improved way of affixing medals to clothing,
- allowing separate attendance at the Conference Dinner without the requirement to register
- the future of the Order of Australia and our Association when the Queen is succeeded
- establishment of special interest groups,
- establishment of Younger Peoples Groups,
- expansion of Secondary and TAFE scholarships,
- providing a list of Conference Attendees,
- the Youth Award Programs in various States,
- providing email addresses of recipients to Branches
- encouraging Olympians to join the Association,
- increasing younger persons being nominated for awards and thus increasing younger persons to join the Association,

- making the Financial Pie Charts available to members.

All matters were discussed in depth and, where appropriate, noted for further study by national and branch office-bearers.

Graham Hyde OAM National Secretary

VALE DARVELL M HUTCHINSON AM

It is with the greatest regret that we farewell the ‘architect’ of The Order of Australia Association Foundation Darvell M Hutchinson. He was engaged to develop the structure for such a worthy concept, as proposed by the five founders of The Foundation. The Deed of Trust was settled in 1999. He retired on 30/6/2019, the longest serving (20 years) founding Director and oldest (89).

Darvell was passionate about philanthropy. His hallmarks were business acumen, insistence on accuracy, clarity of expression, determination to improve performance and engagement with individuals with whom he came in contact. An excellent Treasurer!

As a chartered accountant he had all the knowledge of rules and figures. As a curious individual he forever sought answers to questions as to how he could improve his understanding of allocating funding. He was a leading light, anticipating trends to succeed in the accumulation of wealth. He was passionate to provide an established core fund, to ensure perpetuity of our impressive Foundation Scholarship.

As his deep involvement in philanthropy expanded, he strove for greater professionalism in the industry world-wide and deeper impact within the community at large. He backed his convictions with care, diligence, determination, a quiet smile and sound common sense. His tireless engagement has enabled us to thrive. We will, indeed, miss him!

VALE H. BRIAN O’KEEFFE AO

H. Brian O’Keeffe will be remembered as a jovial tale-teller, a quiet, polite colleague with a very firm manner when it came to his domains, and a friendly, knowledgeable person when dealing with Awardees. He was always keen to engage in thoughtful, informative discussions across a breadth of topics.

His appointment as a Director of the Foundation, in 2005, led to him assuming the position of Foundation Secretary until retirement in 2018. In that time, 33 Foundation Scholarships were awarded to Australian University students across all States and Territories. One Scholarships was generously donated by Brian, in Electrical Engineering at The University of Queensland (Ms Kaveri Pathak) and he was a Mentor on two occasions (Ms Vaishali Ghosh and Ms Kaveri Pathak).

Brian graduated as an Electrical Engineer from The University of Queensland and accepted a job at DCA – the Department of Civil Aviation. He moved to The University of Adelaide to commence work researching broadcast radio transmission. This led to the wide world of aviation innovation and vast improvements in aircraft safety. He presented a new world concept of a new instrument-landing system to assist automatic landings of aircraft in ‘blind

landing' situations. Think of Brian next time you fly! We will remember Brian with great affection and respect – and many a smile!

WA BRANCH

WA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: BETTINE HEATHCOTE AM

Members of the WA Branch have attended several functions this year, the first of which was the Annual General Meeting at which we were pleased to have re-elected Bill Hassell AM to the committee and to welcome a new member Brad Norman AM. Our guest speaker Marcus Stafford AM gave an inspiring talk which challenged us all.

Our second major event was a Reception for the recipients of an award in the Australia Day Honours and we thank the City of Stirling for their hospitality in hosting a very successful evening with a delicious supper.

Residents of St Louis Estate joined Branch members for a very challenging talk by Dr David Cook on cybercrime which not only outlined the various threats we all face but gave some very useful solutions.

Easter has come and gone and it was an opportunity to appreciate the freedom we in Australia have to spend time with family and friends. It highlighted the plight of those in Ukraine who are suffering untold misery and deprivation. The WA Branch will be represented at the Anzac Day March at which I am sure we will not only remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in two world wars but those who are currently suffering the cruelty of another war.

Bettine Heathcote AM

OAAWA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 27.2.22

The 2022 AGM was held at RAAFA Bullcreek on a warm morning. There were 33 voting members in attendance, many with partners.

Bettine Heathcote welcomed all present; she thanked all members of the Committee, a special thanks was given to retiring members treasurer: Peter Snow OAM, who had worked hard over the past 3 years, 2 in the difficult COVID Pandemic times and Margaret Nunn OAM who had retired as regional coordinator and had done considerable work to encourage regional nominations.

Robin Watts AM was also thanked for her onerous task chairing the Review of the Constitution.

There was an election of Office Bearers: Bettine Heathcote AM was elected at Chairman, Michael Lee, Treasurer and two Committee members Bill Hassell AM and Brad Norman AM.

Barry Nunn AO, National President, spoke about concern for the people of Ukraine and her majesty, our Queen. He congratulated the new members on the Committee and encouraged progress with the scholarship. He recommended attending the National Conference in Canberra in May where further strategies and ideas are to be discussed. There is concern that the average age of members is 77.4 years. WA has less awards and less nominations for an award per population than the other States.

Bill Hassell spoke about the Scholarship and the progress.

At the end of the meeting we were entertained with a thought provoking presentation, , “Bringing Balance to the Force”, by Marcus Stafford AM, the Former Chief Executive

Multiple Sclerosis WA. He spoke of living as a child in the East End of London during the Blitz in WWII. He noted the explosion in the world's population – when his father was born it was 2 billion, when Marcus was born 3 billion and now 7 billion!

He pointed out the amazing technology now available. There is concern about the destruction of freedom of speech and that the world is too selfish. There are 7 million people in slavery in the world and those with a disability are a forgotten group.

We need to educate our grandchildren and discuss with our families about how to use technology and the Chat Platforms sensibly.

The morning concluded with the most sumptuous breakfast. We thanked Clive Robartson AM for arranging the venue and catering.

RECEPTION FOR AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS AWARD RECIPIENTS 2022



This special occasion was held on Wednesday 16 March at the Reception Hall, City of Stirling where we were welcomed by his Worship the Mayor of the City of Stirling, Mark Irwin and the Councillors who hosted the event.

Due to the COVID pandemic there were several apologies. Bettine Heathcote AM, the Chairman of OAAWA who encouraged the new recipients to join the Association and who also encouraged further nominations for the Order. There were 16 new recipients who were congratulated and then toasted by our Patron, Hon Kerry Sanderson AC.

Geoffrey Lancaster AO responded on behalf of the new recipients. He acknowledged that there was variety in the recipients that embody the best of society. Many are the quiet achievers at grass root level. The Order of Australia was also an award for tenacity and resilience.

He discussed Music and the Arts which supplies 600,000 jobs and supplies \$14.7 billion to our economy. The Arts have been decimated by COVID and needs support and encouragement.

Barry Nunn AO, National Chairman, discussed what OAAWA does and how it gives back to the community.

The evening concluded with a delicious supper produced by the City of Stirling.



Geoffrey Lancaster AO

TALK ON "CYBER CRIME AND HOW IT AFFECTS US ALL."



He speaks to older groups as those in the birth cohorts from the 1920s to the 1960s are the targets for the cyber criminal. They have not been educated with computers, iPads and phones from an early age. Easy access to this age group is via banking, shopping and appointments. The online criminals are mostly male in the age group 15 – 25 years! The problem is when information is shared with a third party and so can end up on the “dark web” where crooks buy and sell. There is information available easily via electoral rolls, Google and Facebook etc. David was able to point out to us some of the security measures to take such as, when on a website buying something, look for https. The lock as well is a good sign. On the phone however https when replying to a message may not be safe, as the blue message may share information with a third party. David suggested ringing to find out. Free WiFi is not safe, do not use it for banking or paying bills. Passwords are a problem and phrases are useful.

We are hopeful that those of us who were able to be present will be safer with the use of IT than we have been on the past. A recording of this talk has been made and it is planned to share this on line with members later in the year.

ACT BRANCH

OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley

Branch Nominated Director

Dr Alan Morrison AM JP

Chair

Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM
Chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au
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Secretary

Robert Altamore OAM

Treasurer

Phil Morrall AM CSC

Committee Members

Lynne Duckham OAM
Narelle Hargreaves AM
Trish Keller OAM
Bill Maiden PSM OAM
Andrew Phelan AM
Coralie Wood OAM

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As I write, we have just finished hosting a very successful National Conference and AGM here in Canberra. My thanks to all the ACT folks who helped pull it together, to our speakers, the venues, our wonderful sponsors and benefactors, and to all the delegates who took their courage in their hands and braved COVID uncertainties to attend. I'm particularly grateful to Phil Morrall AM CSC, without whom things would not have been nearly so well organised.

With the conference over, our attention turns back to ACT Branch events. We look forward to seeing as many members and guests as possible on 14 June for our Queen's Birthday Luncheon. We'll look to arrange a morning tea sometime soon and will advise plans when they're set. Dr Bill Maiden PSM OAM is in touch with ACT school bodies regarding our annual Student Citizenship Awards; nominations will close at the end of Term 2 and we're aiming for a central presentation ceremony this year on 25 August (to be confirmed, but please pencil your diary). We'll also run a reception for new recipients at some point once the dust from the conference is completely settled.

Please stay warm, cosy and well through the Canberra winter – we hope to see you soon.

Mike Crane DSC & Bar AM
Branch Chair

THE OAA-ADF ORATION

The Chief of Army (CA), Lieutenant General Rick Burr, AO, DSC, MVO presented an insightful 2022 OAA-ADF Oration at Russell Offices theatre on Thursday 21 April 2022.

General Burr canvassed a wide range of current issues, focussing on the importance of developing the people capable of delivering an army that is ready now and ready for the future. Following the Oration, he engaged in a Q&A session with the members and guests.

Lieutenant General Burr assumed command of the Australian Army on 2 July 2018 and was appointed an Officer in The Order of Australia on Australia Day 2018 *for distinguished service in the implementation of significant reform and the realisation of strategic capabilities within the Australian Defence Force.*

The Oration was established in 2011 with the aim of further recognising the contribution made by military members of the Order of Australia to the fabric of Australian society. The Oration brings together Defence Force and other recipients of the Order to create a closer understanding of each other's commitment to service as recognised through the Australian Honours system. The transcript of the Oration is available at <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/act/events/>



WO Grant McFarlane RSM of the Army, Michael Crane DSC & Bar AM, Lt Gen Rick Burr AO DSC MVO
MORNING TEA with DR PETER PEDERSEN AM



At our morning tea on Thursday 10 March at the Royal Canberra Golf Club, renowned military historian Dr Peter Pedersen AM provided forty members and guests with an insightful look at “**Sir John Monash, the man behind the General**”. Dr Pedersen’s related his extensive research into Sir John Monash and his talk addressed his personal traits, including his self-disciplined character and attention to detail that characterised the man who was not only a renowned leader of Australian troops in the First World War, but had a successful career as an engineer both before and after the war. Dr Pedersen opined that Sir John Monash could be considered the greatest Australian. A branch member, Peter was appointed a Member in the Order of Australia in January 2020 *for significant service to military history as an author and researcher.*

Dr Peter Pedersen AM



Michael Crane DSC & Bar AM, Dr Peter Pedersen AM, Ian Mansfield AM CSC, Darren Naumann AM

AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST



On 26 January, members and guests gathered at Royal Canberra Golf Club to celebrate Australia Day and acknowledge the achievements of recipients in the 2022 Australia Day Honours List. Our special guest speaker was journalist and former ABC Radio Canberra broadcaster, Genevieve Jacobs AM, who spoke on *The Media and Challenges to our Democracy*. In a compelling address, Genevieve, who is *Region Media* Group Editor, highlighted the impact of the transition to digital media, the pressures on journalists arising from hollowing out of newsrooms and the risks to our society from a less balanced fourth estate. Genevieve was appointed a Member in the Order of Australia on Australia Day 2021 *for significant service to the broadcast media, and to the community*.



Dr Joe Johnson CSC, OAM, Ian Sayers OAM



Simon Cullen AM, CSC, Cecilia Moar, Paul Hornsby OAM

WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY: BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & RECEPTION FOR NEW RECIPIENTS

Our AGM saw the election to the Branch Committee of Joseph Johnson CSC, OAM, AAM and the re-election of Phil Morrall AM, CSC (Treasurer), and Bill Maiden PSM, OAM and Andrew Phelan AM (members).

Following the AGM, members and guests welcomed eight new members who were recipients of honours and awards from the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours List. We extend our thanks to the ACT Government and the President and members of the Commonwealth Club for their ongoing support to reception for new recipients.



Mary Anne Neilsen,

Michael Crane DSC & Bar AM



Jean Bennett OAM



Nerida Cullen OAM



Peta Mantel AM



Roxanne Missingham OAM



Jim Waddell OAM



Brian Babington AM,
Michael Crane DSC & Bar AM

WELCOME TO NEW OAA MEMBER FROM THE 2022 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

Ms Caroline STACEY OAM – For service to the performing arts through administrative roles.

VALE

We regret to advise the recent passing of the following ACT Branch members and pay our respects for their contribution to the Association and the Australian community.

Professor Don AITKIN AO - Queen's Birthday 1998 – For service to higher education and to the community as a scholar, writer, teacher, mentor, and leader in the Australian universities sector.

Dr Linda REABY AM – Australia Day 2006 – For service to community Health, particularly through establishing breast cancer advocacy and support groups, raising awareness of diagnosis, treatment and prevention, and to nurse education.

Mr. Bruce SINCLAIR AM - Queen's Birthday 1980 – For service to the engineering profession.

Dr. Robert SMETHILLS OAM - Australia Day 1994 – For service to rugby union football and to sports medicine.

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION



The National Arboretum Canberra was a glittering spectacle for The Order of Australia Association Conference Dinner on 21 May 2022. Four Foundation Scholarship Awardees eagerly awaited the arrival of His Excellency, General, The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and Her Excellency, for the presentation of Foundation Scholarship Certificates for 2019 and 2021 (due to the interruptions caused by Covid-19).

Foundation Chair, Mr Hugh Morgan AC presented the Awardees to Their Excellencies, assisted by Foundation Co-ordinator of Awardees Associate-Professor Elaine Murphy AM PhD. The Awardees received a fine, bound Certificate and Letter from the Chair of the Foundation, to mark the occasion. They then briefly addressed the Conference delegates. The proud Awardees are as follows.



Alexis Bocking, University of Canberra. 2021 Awardee

Alexis is 20-years-old, studying Bachelor of the Built Environment (Architecture).

With Scouts, for ten years she has assisted at community fund-raising events, been on duty at ANZAC Day Parades and held significant leadership roles, including at Australian and New Zealand Jamborees (14-day camps). She was

awarded the Australian Scout Medallion, which is the highest achievable award for Scouts up to 15 years-of-age. For many years she has also volunteered with St Vincent De Paul Society. At High School she was Captain of the Soccer Team both in regular season and school competitions. As well she was Futsal (Indoor Soccer) Captain for a Sydney competition. At Erindale College she was School representative in year 12 at ANU Maths Day. When she commenced University, Alexis was elected to become the UC Architecture Society First Year Representative.

At home Alexis cares for her severely disabled Mother on a regular basis, taking her to medical appointments and assisting her to manage her health. It is a single-parent household, living in Public Housing. With little money, her mother always maintained that education could assist in breaking away from a low socio-economic way of life. Alexis turned this advice into reality by applying herself to excel in her studies. A work experience week convinced her that she had real potential for the Architecture profession and her passion was kindled. The next year, Alexis was included in the prestigious Honeywell Engineering Summer School involving 100 students from across ACT and NSW to examine the multiple areas of Engineering, which are important within the Built Environment sector. On a field placement Alexis explored collaboration with Indigenous Communities in design processes so that future work will be culturally sensitive.

This scholarship will be life-changing for her by allowing her “more time to study, greater time to observe and assist leaders in the field, opportunities to visit architectural sites (instead of googling them), and time to develop as a female role model”. In this way she will ‘give back’ to the profession.

Her generous Donor is the Galvin Bequest.



Georgia Desideri-Zigante, The University of Sydney. 2021 Awardee

Georgia is 22-years-old, studying Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Advanced Studies with a major in Economics. Her senior Secondary Education was at King George V School, Hong Kong culminating with an International Baccalaureate at United World College of Costa Rica (where she learnt to speak Spanish fluently, an addition to her fluent English and

Italian). There she developed a passion for the environment and an understanding of the necessity of economic systems co-existing with nature. Georgia commenced University in a joint programme between University of Sydney and Sciences Po Paris (in the French Riviera town of Menton). There she learnt to speak fluent French. She has combined her love for regenerative agriculture and horticulture with studies in Economics and Politics. She now wishes to undertake an intensive Arabic course as it is one of the United Nation’s key languages and her dream is to work for the United Nation’s Food and Agricultural Organization, whose main seed bank is in Syria.

Georgia has had excellent results in her studies. Her Secondary School results provided an entry Scholarship to the International Baccalaureate. There she achieved full marks for two of her seven subjects, high marks for the remainder and nomination for Outstanding Student. In France she continued with very good results even though two subjects were taught in French! In April 2020 she was employed as an intern with Strategic Advocacy For Human Rights Inc. in San Francisco, USA. She comes highly recommended. She has undertaken a wide range of short-term positions to provide financial support and whole-heartedly follows her passions by working for organizations which can

supply her with working knowledge in her fields of endeavour. She delights in meeting new people, is easy company and a good tutor across many age groups

Her generous Donor wishes to remain Anonymous.



Nicholas Simm, The University of Adelaide. 2019 Awardee

Twenty-three-year-old Nicholas has completed a Bachelor of Economics and Bachelor of International Studies, a Master of Commerce by coursework and a Diploma of Languages (German), at The University of Adelaide. He maintained excellent results throughout his studies. In relation to a career path he admits *"I have a passion to solve financial problems and to help others reach their financial goals by generating real income by assembling a wealth accumulation strategy"*. Alternatively, he is also fascinated by accounting *"as it involves working with a strict set of rules and numbers which is my natural talent"*.

At University Nicholas volunteered with Student Health and Wellbeing. He led a team of five other volunteers to help promote resources to assist new students in adapting to University life. Within the University Volleyball Club he attracted new players by linking with schools in the area, to assist in a smooth transition to playing when they enter University. He was Head Coach of the Beginners Volleyball. The University acknowledged his efforts with several certificates for special service awards.

In 2019 he completed an internship with the American Chamber of Commerce to investigate the state of trade and investment between the United States and South Australia. A second research internship – The Digital Youth Program – collected data from SA High Schools about cyber risk-taking.

In all, Nicholas Simm displays a supportive, caring attitude and an ability to meet and inspire others. He is aware of 'the big picture' and mindful of comprehensive ways in which to pursue his passions. He will effect change, thrive on multiple challenges and display thorough analytical and technical skills.

Donor: Mr Ross Adler AC



Shanao Kuo, Charles Darwin University. 2019 Awardee

Twenty-two year-old Shanae has completed a Bachelor of Secondary Education. She has spent all her life in the Northern Territory. She has a passion for effecting change, supporting causes, enhancing learning, and displays understanding and empathy beyond her years.

Her academic results are outstanding, in spite of her need to work part-time to support her studies. Her drive to embrace a teaching career is based on some excellent role models from her school years and *"I felt I could approach hard concepts from different angles and that allowed me to teach others the learning to suit their needs"*.

She chose to contribute to a wide variety of community projects based on her love of science, the environment, music, welfare problem solving and considerable concern for support of rural and remote people. She has researched husbandry requirements for the Northern Australian Chameleon Shrimp; established music programs for young musicians to busk, play, plan and perform for audiences; examined indigenous education models which culminated in an Indigenous Perspectives Mind Map; and participated in nation-wide problem solving expo's. Shanae has produced her own free community event in support of young musicians and animal welfare charities. She was invited to Sydney, NSW, to share her community leadership ideas at the DIGI Engage forum, an initiative of the Australian Government and the non-profit advocacy group of the digital industry worldwide.

Shanae is also a mentor with the Beacon Foundation's My Road program which allows young Australian's the opportunity to connect with industry role models at no cost. She has grown through her involvement in work placements in animal hospitals and a tourist crocodile attraction. She has strong references from Territory Families' Youth Justice personnel and Youth Outreach and Re-engagement Team members.

This motivated, responsible, efficient person is adept in both team and individual situations. Her credo is *"I am always wanting to change myself to improve and this is essential within the field of teaching"*. A most worthy recruit for NT education!

Donor: The Order of Australia Association

VICTORIA BRANCH

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Branch Chairman



It was pleasing to see familiar and new faces at the National Conference last month in Canberra hosted by the ACT Branch. We congratulate and thank the Conference Team for their hard work during the uncertainty of different COVID challenges to host the 2022 National Conference.

After two years of lockdown it is pleasing to report the VIC Branch has hosted two events to-date with more planned for 2022. While the number of members and guests were lower than pre the pandemic we are moving in the right direction, and hopefully with further restrictions and regulations lifted late April the number of attendees will continue to increase. We will always adhere to government and venue regulations to ensure our members and guests are safe.

Arron Wood AM delivered The Inspiring Australians Oration at Melbourne Town Hall on Wednesday February 23 and Stacey Williams spoke about Recognition Matters.

Following our Annual General Meeting we held a lunch at William Angliss Restaurant with speaker Eleni Bereded-Samuel AM.

At the AGM we welcomed three new committee members Margaret Attley OAM, Grant Coultman-Smith OAM and Dr Teresa De Fazio OAM and thanked Dr Paul Hemming AO and Alan Brook OAM who stood aside.

Please refer to the April 2022 e-Newsletter edition on the Order of Australia Association website for the report on the two events <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/vic/newsletters/>

Our first virtual event for 2022 will be Wednesday July 6 at 5.30pm with speaker Pam Vardy OAM a well-known horticulture Garden Show presenter. We introduced virtual events during COVID to ensure we stayed connected with our members including those who for mobility, health or distance of travel are not able to attend events. The invitation and booking details have been emailed to members.

On Sunday August 7 we are returning to the National Gallery of Victoria for the Winter Masterpieces *The Picasso Century*. This event will include an onsite lecture, the exhibition and lunch option. The invitation and booking details have been emailed to members.

Diary note regarding our End of Year Dinner in the William Angliss Restaurant on Thursday November 24 with speaker Allan Myers AC QC.

OAA Foundation scholarship recipient Jeremy Doupe will give members and guests an update on his studies, work and service to the community.

The last week of April and first week of May the picturesque Government House Victoria was full of pride and excitement with investitures for the presentation of Australian Honours and Awards by Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC Governor of Victoria.

Families, friends and colleagues proudly acknowledged the achievements of the recipients who have given freely of their time and knowledge to make a difference in so many areas across Victoria. It was pleasing to see a high number of recipients from regional and rural areas and diverse cultures being recognised.

The OAA VIC Branch was represented by Branch Chair Helene Bender AM, Deputy Chair Trevor Clark OAM and Branch Nominated Director William Lye OAM QC.

Thank you to our members who take the time to nominate achievers who have gone above and beyond.

The VIC Branch values the ongoing support we receive from our members – please stay safe.

ANZAC DAY 2022 IN VICTORIA

Many of our members had the opportunity to commemorate ANZAC Day at a service this year to remember and recognise all those who lost their lives in wars, conflicts, peacekeeping operations and humanitarian efforts around the world.

50,000 people returned to the Shrine of Remembrance for the Dawn Service and many stayed for the Anzac Parade down St Kilda Road on a glorious autumn morning.

Thank you to the ABC for their coverage of the Anzac Parade and using postnominals of worthy recipients.

Many upheld the new tradition of "Light up the Dawn" lighting a candle and observing a minute's silence on driveways or balconies.

Recent world events remind us that peace is not always granted, and sometimes it has to be protected.

SADIE EDITH RATHBONE OAM (NE BLAIR) TURNS 100



Born in Tanjil South about 10km from Moe, her mother set off, horse and buggy for the Moe hospital, only reaching the next farmhouse, where she was born on the kitchen table of Mrs Brown's farm on April 12, 1922

She was orphaned at age eleven and raised by Grandparents, although she has strong memories and photos of her early childhood on the farm.

Much of her early years were spent with the Scout movement where she became 'Akela', district Cub mistress. During this time, she met Dennis; they married and raised five children. She now has twelve grandchildren and six great grandchildren all of whom totally adore her.

Being trained as a dress maker, however during 2nd WW she worked at the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories

She and Dennis had a long association with St Albans Anglican Church Youth Groups and Sunday school. She also worked as a kindergarten teacher.

November 1969 she was appointed to the role of Honorary Probation Officer.

Twenty-two years of voluntary work as Victoria's longest serving and continuous probation officer has taught her much about human nature. She to this day maintains the view that she was helping young people who have come against a problem in life, who have not got the security of a loving family to support them in a difficult situation.

These were children who were on probation for crimes ranging from shop lifting to assault, all this time the work has to remain confidential. Even today at 100 she won't discuss individual cases, only saying there were many successes that still stay in touch.

As a professional dress maker, she has made the wedding dresses for her children and grandchildren, which today make a wonderful photo album.

In 1983 she was made a life member of the probation Officers Association in Victoria.



She has received certificates of appreciation from the Vic. Govt. in 2001 and the Commonwealth Govt in 1999. She was nominated for the Australian of the Year in 2004.

Her greatest award came in 2007 with the award of OAM for service to youth in juvenile detention, and to the community through church and social welfare organisations.

For her 100th birthday she received a letter from the Queen.

She is rightly proud of her family and her numerous achievements. She still lives in her own home in Pascoe Vale South.

Photo: Sadie senior pictured with her newest granddaughter Sadie Rathbone named in her honour.

DR. TERESA DE FAZIO OAM RECEIVED THE AUSTRALIAN CALABRESE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION AWARD

Dr. Teresa De Fazio OAM has received the Australian Calabrese Cultural Association Award 2021. The Award recognises her contribution to community, multiculturalism, social cohesion and education. The Association recognises outstanding contributions by people of Calabrese heritage to the community.

Dr. De Fazio is an active member of the community with various roles including Commissioner, Victorian Multicultural Commission, Board member of Zoos Victoria, Multicultural Arts Victoria, Edmund Rice Community and Refugee Services and has had a productive career as an academic and educational leader. She now runs her own inclusion and diversity consultancy and brings an equity lens to various activities. She is also the Editor-in-Chief of Segmento magazine.

Teresa joined the Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch committee at the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

Dr. De Fazio's father is of Calabrese origin whilst her mother is Abruzzese (at the time considered to be a rather mixed marriage). "I am truly moved and honoured to receive this particular Award given

that it has been bestowed by such illustrious members of the community and it recognises the bi-cultural heritage that I identify with." Dr. De Fazio dedicated the Award to her parents, family and all those who have been part of the journey which has led to this Award and the recent Order of Australia bestowed in the Queen's Birthday Honours, 2021.



Commenting on the Award, Dr. De Fazio explained, "Generally, the migrant story is usually one of resilience, new beginnings and hope for many who come to Australia seeking a better future for themselves and their children. Their aim is to contribute to the community, and, to understand the land that they come to call home. This means acknowledging the age-old traditions, ways of being and knowing of the First People, as well as recrafting their own sense of identity. My parents have always instilled respect for others as a strong family value. I feel honoured to have had the opportunity to contribute to the Australian community."

Photo Dr. Teresa De Fazio OAM (middle) with Hon Nicola Care` (Member of Italian Chamber of Deputies) and Vincent Morfuni (President of ACCA)

SLOVENIAN HONOUR FOR FORMER GEELONG MAYOR DR SRECHKO KONTELJ OAM

The former Mayor of the City of Greater Geelong and Order of Australia recipient, Dr Srechko Kontelj OAM, was recently appointed the Honorary Consul for the Republic of Slovenia to Victoria. On 21 March 2022, the Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia, His Excellency Mr. Jurij Rifelj, visited Geelong to confirm Dr Kontelj's appointment and to perform the formal opening of his Consul Office.

Dr Kontelj's parents were both born in Slovenia and immigrated to Australia in the late 1950's to work on the Snowy Mountains hydro-electricity Scheme. Srechko was born in Geelong in the 1960's and went on to have a long career in the law. He is currently Group General Counsel for international optometry Group Bailey Nelson and is also an Affiliate Professor in the Deakin University School of Medicine where he lectures in the area of ethics and law for health professions.

Srechko also 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 and a Councillor of the City of Greater Geelong from 1998 until 2015 when he resigned to take up the role of Group Legal Director of Specsavers Optometry group based in Guernsey, in the Channel Islands. 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 is confident that he will transition comfortably into the role of Honorary Consul.

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.

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 who is a dual Australian and Slovenian citizen.

‘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’.

Photo: L-R: Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia, His Excellency Mr. Jurij Rifelj and Dr Srechko Kontelj OAM

MERCHANDISE SHOP

Thank you to all the members who purchased merchandise at the National Conference in Canberra last month, we appreciate your support.

Please refer to the back page of this edition of the national magazine for the current OAA Merchandise Order Form and note the Medallion and Lapel badge are on sale.

We have updated the blank generic cards (pack of 5) to include the current purpose statement of the Association. New items include bag holder, unisex knitted scarf and unisex sock.

Visit the Order of Australia Association Merchandise Shop online <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart/>

The Chair of Merchandise (June Kane AM) welcomes feedback from members regarding new merchandise items for the committee to consider, please email your list to E: chairmerchandise@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Her Excellency The Hon. Linda Dessau AC

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Deputy Chairman
Trevor Clark OAM

Secretary (Interim)
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Treasurer
Vacant

Branch Nominated Director
William Lye OAM QC

Editor VIC pages – The Order
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Membership Secretary
Fred Harrington OAM

Merchandise Chairman

Professor June Kane AM chairmerchandise@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Minute Secretary

Barbara Thomas OAM

Regional Groups Coordinator

Barb Brook OAM vicrgcoord@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Committee members

Margaret Attley OAM

Grant Coultman-Smith OAM

Dr Teresa De Fazio OAM

Barbara Thomas OAM

SA BRANCH

BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE:

We have been fortunate to be able to host a few successful events during the first months of 2022.

We released a ‘special edition’ newsletter in February to highlight our Student Citizenship Awards program, including images and information from the Government House award ceremony and some of the presentation ceremonies that our members have attended. The impressive citations show that we have some very fine young Australians emerging as our next generation of leaders.

The Branch committee unfortunately had to cancel our ‘Celebration of Australia Day’ lunch on 22 January. It was a difficult decision, but we feel the safety of our members comes first.

We went ahead with our 2021 Annual General Meeting, and we released another ‘special edition’ newsletter in April to share some images and provide the impressive address delivered by our 2021 South Australian Student Citizen of the Year Georgia Kehagias, who completed her studies at Immanuel College last year. Our Branch members certainly appreciated the opportunity to interact with one of our future community leaders.

Our Regional Groups are preparing to resume activities despite some hold-ups because of ongoing COVID restrictions.

We are on track for our Queen’s Birthday Lunch on Saturday 11 June 2022; our guest speaker will be Professor Robert Saint AM, who has been Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at Flinders University since 2015.

Tony Metcalf OAM

BRANCH COMMITTEE DETAILS:

Patron

The Honourable Frances Adamson AC

Chairman

Tony Metcalf OAM

Deputy Chairman

Noel Hender OAM BEM

Secretary

John Phillips OAM

Treasurer

Joe Ienco OAM

Member Secretary SA

Greg Gordon OAM JP

Student Citizenship Awards Convenor

Noel Hender OAM BEM

Regional Groups Coordinator

Ken Coventry OAM JP (co-opted)

Merchandise Officer

Kathryn House AM

Editor/Webmaster

Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP

Other committee members

Don Clark OAM

Charles Figallo OAM

Ted Iuliano OAM

Flavia de Pasquale OAM

Pamela Rajkowski OAM

Branch Nominated Director

Joe Ienco OAM

Website

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

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Maree Anderson OAM (Minlaton)

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***Barossa, Gawler & District and
mid-North Regional Group***

orderofaustraliasa@gmail.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The SA Branch held its 36th Annual General Meeting at the Arkaba Hotel with a pleasing number of members and guests in attendance. 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.

Georgia's Student Citizenship Award citation includes the statement: "*Georgia is an exceptional role model who has had a positive and valued impact on her school and community, especially with her focus on the environment*". We were pleased that Georgia and her parents Mr Odi Kehagias and Ms Helen Tsiolis could stay on for lunch as our guests. A condensed version of Georgia's address is included in our April newsletter. In her address, Georgia made the following statement:

I am deeply passionate about empowering people to connect with themselves and the environment and an understanding of our role in this relationship. This is because I feel we are losing our connection from nature more and more every day. The media portrays nature as something that is separate to us. When I say I am passionate about the environment, I am really saying I am passionate about preserving life in all its forms; community, culture, the natural and built environment and establishing methods and practices which allow us to live in harmony with all of these aspects.

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

The Chairman also acknowledged the significant contributions to the SA Branch of Mrs June Genders OAM. June has served as a 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.

Under the national Constitution approved on 17 December 2020, all incumbent committee members at the AGM were considered to have completed two years of their statutory term, so therefore now remain in their roles for one further year. We welcome the following members of the Association who were elected to fill vacancies on the SA Branch Committee:

Mr Don Clark: awarded the OAM *“For service to the livestock industry”* (Australia Day Honours List 2019).

Mr Charles Figallo: awarded the OAM *“For service to business, and to the community of South Australia”* (Australia Day Honours List 2017).

Mr Ted Iuliano OAM: awarded the OAM *“For service to football in South Australia, and to the Italian community”* (Queen’s Birthday Honours List 2011).

2022 STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS



The SA Branch has announced its Student Citizenship Awards program for 2022, the flagship endeavour of the SA Branch. To promote the Awards program to schools and colleges, a professional brochure has been published. The brochure includes images from last year’s presentation ceremony and reception at Government House Adelaide on Monday 29 November 2021 hosted by our Branch Patron Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, and Mr Rod Bunten.

The 2022 brochure is available online:
<https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/sa/school-awards/>

Georgia Kehagias, the 2021 South Australian Student Citizen of the Year.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEONS



Members and guests at the February honours recipients fellowship luncheon:

Standing (left to right): Lennox Pawson OAM, Pamela Rajkowski OAM (COVID Marshall), Keith Yates AM, Helen Smith, 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 Connon AM MD (guest speaker), Elizabeth Kosmala
OAM Photograph by Gillian Rogers OAM

HONOURS AND AWARDS

In a ceremony held at Unley Town Hall on 20 December last year Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, presented members of St John Ambulance SA with National Emergency Medals with the clasp "BUSHFIRES 19-20". Of the many St John Ambulance SA staff and volunteers who provided service during the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires at multiple sites throughout SA, 45 met the criteria to receive the National Emergency Medal. One of them was Alan Bennett – who announced in the 2022 Australia Day Honours List as a recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM): "*For service to the community through St John Ambulance*".



Her Excellency the Governor with National Emergency Medal recipient Alan Bennett CStJ at Unley Town Hall, 20 December 2021.

EVENTS

Upcoming SA Branch activities include:

Saturday 11 June: Queen's Birthday Luncheon, with guest speaker Professor Robert Saint AM, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at Flinders University.

Thursday 30 June: Honours recipients fellowship luncheon with guest speaker Professor Tony Phillips AM.

Thursday 25 August: Honours recipients fellowship luncheon with guest speaker Mr Trevor Powell OAM.

TASMANIA BRANCH

BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE:

Over many years the Tasmania Branch has conducted dinners recognising the contributions of new recipients in the Australia Day and Queen's Birthday announcements. These dinners have been held in the evening of the afternoon investiture at Government House. Over the past two years since Covid, Government House has, depending on numbers, been having investitures mornings and afternoons over several days. This has allowed the Branch to have lunches for new recipients, their relatives and friends together with Branch members each day of the investitures.

I would like to welcome two new members to our Branch committee who have joined since the AGM. Mrs Beatrice Lawrence OAM who will take on the role of Southern Regional Group Co-ordinator and Mr Barry Easter OAM who will take on the Membership Officer tasks. With the rest of the Branch Committee unchanged following the AGM, Beatrice and Barry will be valuable additions to our team.

Each Region continues their planning for various events for the year. Face-to-face gatherings are proposed so we hope that the escalating Covid numbers since last December do not negatively impact our activities.

Alastair Douglas OAM
Branch Chairman

BRANCH COMMITTEE DETAILS:

Patron

Her Excellency, The Honourable
Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania

Branch Chairman

Mr Alastair Douglas OAM
(P: 0418 127 897)

Hon Secretary

Mrs Maureen Rudge OAM

Hon Treasurer

Mr Ron Blake OAM

National Board Director

Dr Rosemary Callingham AM

Branch Committee

Mr Neville Bingham AFSM OAM
Mr David Brill AM ACS
Dr Nicholas Chantler AM
Mr Barry Easter OAM
Dr Peter Holm OAM
Mrs Beatrice Lawrence OAM
Dr Frank Madill AM
Mrs Maureen Oates OAM

Mrs Susan Shea OAM

**Regional Secretaries
South**

Mrs Maureen Oates OAM

North

Mrs Thérèse Samorzewski OAM

North West

Mr Ron Blake OAM

Branch Functions Officer

Mrs Sue Cox AM

Magazine Co-ordinator

Mrs Jenny Fraser OAM

[Title: Launceston Citizenship Ceremony](#)

Representatives from the Northern Region Committee of the Association are regularly invited to attend Public Citizenship Ceremonies conducted by the City of Launceston where conferees from diverse cultures take their pledge of commitment to become Australian citizens. The recent ceremony welcomed new citizens from many countries including Poland, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kenya, Iran and Italy all of whom are now calling Tasmania home. The Order of Australia information brochure is included in their welcome presentation pack.



Pictured in traditional Afghan dress are Mahsa, Nazanin, Leila and Nastaran photographed with Sue Shea OAM, Chair of the Northern Region and former Tasmania Director The Hon Dr Frank Madill AM.

[Care for Africa - Diana Butler story 2022](#)



Diana Butler OAM was invited to share her story about her work with Care for Africa.

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 first 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.

In 2021 we gained accreditation with the Australian Council For International Development: of the 56,000 registered charities in Australia just 0.2% have been accepted into the ranks of this global-facing group.

Drives with private donors make our work possible and 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

Dr George Merridew AM



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.

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

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE:

Hearty Greetings are forwarded to all members.

Scaled up Investitures of Australian awards by the Governor, Her Excellency The Honourable Dr Jeanette Young PSM, are recommencing in Brisbane and Townsville in May 2022 and the Order of Australia Association, Queensland Branch will be in attendance. Australia Day Queensland based OA awardees, of whom 48% are women, have all been invited by letter to a celebratory lunch hosted by the Queensland Branch. These welcome and acknowledgement lunches have invariably provided a healthy influx of new members.

The Branch partook of an invitation from Government House to participate in an Open Day at Government House in February to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 year milestone. Hundreds of patrons visited and heard the good oil on our sustained efforts to promote good citizenship. The next acknowledgement of the Queen's special year is a joint hosting in June with the Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship, Brisbane of a black tie dinner at Parliament House with the Governor as principal guest.

Our 2021 AGM and follow-on dinner was held in March and both were well attended. Some 115 patrons were entertained by a most exuberant guest speaker, Mark Knowles OAM, Olympic gold medallist and retired men's hockey captain. Again three special Senior Volunteers were rewarded with donated plaques. 'Twas a fitting bookend to a memorable year that recorded a 100% increase in attendees to our state wide functions.

Already Regional lunches have been held in Rockhampton and Kingaroy with others in Toowoomba, Townsville and Cairns imminent. The energy and commitment of our event organisers are truly commendable. Mixing constantly with energised colleagues is akin to plugging into an infinite power source and it brings to front of my mind a relatable image, viz.

Continue to keep well and safe.

BRANCH COMMITTEE DETAILS:

Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeanette Young PSM Governor of Queensland

Chairman

Dr Gary Bacon AM.

[Tel:0400 733 822](tel:0400733822)

Deputy Chairman

Dr Mick Davis AM ASM

Membership Officer

Secretary

Dr Carol Cox AM

Tel-0427 691 566

Treasurer

Ronda Nix OAM

National Board Director

Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ.

Committee Members

Ross Patching OAM
Assistant Secretary

Graham Hyde OAM
Newsletter Editor

Paula Penfold AM
Governance/Policy Review Officer

Darryl Secombe OAM
Regional Convener Liaison Officer

Kathy Wooldridge OAM
Merchandise Officer

Marjorie Voss OAM
Regional Convener Sunshine Coast

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Darling Downs: Megan McNicholl OAM

Far North Queensland: Carole Miller OAM

Gold Coast: Dr Clive Mitchell-Taylor OAM

Mackay-Whitsunday: Carmel Daveson AM

Sunshine Coast: Marjorie Voss OAM

Townsville: David Jackson OAM

Wide-Bay Burnett: Donna Duncan OAM

MARK KNOWLES OAM “STEALS THE SHOW” AT THIS YEAR’S ANNUAL DINNER

One hundred and fourteen guests attended a most memorable and enjoyable Annual Dinner on Monday 21 March 2022 in the Blue Pacific Ballroom at Kedron Wavell Services Club in Brisbane. It was a memorable evening where everyone enjoyed good fellowship together in a relaxed and happy atmosphere.

A well attended Annual General Meeting of the Queensland Branch preceded the Dinner in the VC Suite.

At this year’s Annual Dinner we were thrilled to hear *Mark Knowles OAM*, Olympic Gold Medallist, four-time Olympian and quadruple Commonwealth Games gold medallist and captain of the Australian Kookaburras hockey team deliver a stirring after dinner address on his chosen topic of “*My Journey - then, now and onto 2032*”. Mark “stole the show” with his bright and breezy style speaking without a lectern and sprinkling his talk with some wonderful nostalgic PowerPoints highlighting his stellar career. His talk was one of never losing sight of a dream, triumphing over adversity and cherishing the “golden” moments. He spoke with pride at receiving the rare honour of being flag bearer for the Australian team at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in 2018. He concluded his talk by highlighting the opportunities aplenty for today’s promising young sporting boys and girls to aim high to become part of the 2032 Brisbane Olympic dream. The audience was captivated by Mark’s talk – he had them in the palm of his hand throughout and you could almost hear a pin drop.

Also at the Dinner three outstanding Queensland senior volunteers (*Gail Bonser* from Coolangatta, Gold Coast; *Donna Hedges* from Gaythorne, Brisbane, and *Kevin Stroud* from Currimundi, Sunshine Coast) received their Queensland Branch Senior Volunteer Awards from *Michael Rayner AM* representing Blight Rayner Architecture, the award sponsor).

The evening was rounded off with two special presentations. The first, a moving presentation of an Association Appreciation plaque to the Late *Emeritus Professor Dr Mary Mahoney AO* for her dedicated long service to the Queensland Branch Committee, received by her husband Patrick. This was followed by a long service certificate of appreciation to *Professor Paul McNally OAM* who has retired as the Darling Downs Regional Group Convener after an amazing 32 years of continuous loyal and dedicated service.

Geoff Cowles OAM



The Annual Dinner - a memorable evening where everyone enjoyed good fellowship together in a relaxed and happy atmosphere.



Two hockey stalwarts together – Ronda Nix OAM, OAAQ Treasurer (right) presents a gift and certificate of appreciation to guest speaker Mark Knowles OAM

LUNCH AT HISTORIC GUNABUL HOMESTEAD, GYMPIE

On a delightfully sunny day in March, fifty two members and guests of the OAAQ Sunshine Coast Region gathered at historic Gunabul Homestead, Gympie to share fellowship while enjoying lunch and a presentation by our Guest Speaker. As this was the first Region function for 2022 there was a great deal of chatter as those gathered renewed friendships and welcomed new members.

The members attending a Region event for the first time were warmly welcomed by the Region Convenor Marjorie Voss OAM as were members of the OAAQ Branch Committee and a visitor from an adjoining Region.

Mr Ian McConachie AM who was our Guest Speaker addressed the topic “The Macadamia - Australia’s Gift to the World”. Ian enlightened guests with regard to the history of the Macadamia ; the Aboriginal heritage; Macadamias our rainforests and their discovery; the new ‘Walk with Wild Macadamias’ at Amamoor in the Gympie region and more.

As a grower, developer of independent orchards, processor and researcher Ian’s knowledge of his subject was vast. He was awarded an AM for his services to the Macadamia industry; and is a Honorary Life Fellow of the University of the Sunshine Coast. Among awards received over the past 50 years are the Golden Tree Nut award from the International Tree Nut Council and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Macadamia Body. Ian has recorded the history of the Macadamia and founded the Macadamia Conservation Trust.

With Covid restrictions relaxing there should be no limit on the number of attendees for the remaining functions for 2022. As the Region covers a vast area functions are held at various locations to provide an opportunity for all members to attend.

Marjorie Voss OAM

Sunshine Coast Region Convener

ROCKHAMPTON HOSTS PROFESSOR GRAEME SAMUEL AC



Pictured (l-r), Grant Cassidy OAM, Professor Dr Alan Stanford AM, Professor Graeme Samuel AC, Rebecca Cassidy, Judith Tatow OAM, Rondha Taylor and Dr Wallace Taylor OAM

Professor Graeme Samuel AC was the guest speaker at the Central Region of the Order of Australia Queensland Branch lunch held at the Frenchville Club, Rockhampton, on 30 March. The event was attended by 57 members and guests.

Graeme gave a fascinating talk covering ESG (Environment, Sustainability & Governance) compliance approaches by leading modern companies in Australia and globally. This effort has been increasingly driven by shareholders requiring companies to demonstrate leadership in dealing with the substantial challenges facing society. Professor Samuel AC was also able to provide some intriguing insights into our economy, our regulators, our major companies and the role of social and traditional media in shaping value and opinion. He encapsulated the increasing community and shareholder disquiet about corporate leadership not adapting to the changing environment which is driven by technology, customers, employees and societal expectations. He outlined the concept of ‘stakeholder capitalism’ which creates value for and is valued by the full range of stakeholders and is now the emerging methodology of modern investment approaches by many leading companies. This approach which is championed by Dr Larry Fink the founder and CEO of BlackRock the largest asset manager in the world with US\$10 trillion under management, embeds ethics and broad societal support into the essence of the company aimed at creating wealth for a more equitable and resilient world.

Prof Samuel AC was thanked by David French, Managing Director of The Investment Collective who supported Professor Samuel’s travel from Melbourne.

IN MEMORIAM

FAIRWEATHER Michael AM RFD

ROBERTS Col. Francis Adrian OAM

HOOTEN Dr Simon John OAM

HAMBLETON Ron Francis OAM

COLE David Whettcroft AM

WELCH Melva Ann OAM

PRIDANNIKOFF George OAM

TRONC Dr Keith Ernest OAM

KIRWAN Maxwell Kevin OAM

MARTIN Ian Francis OAM

PIRIE Daphne Mary AO

GIBBONS Prof. Marco OAM

MAGUIRE Prof. Errol John AM

SAVAGE Roy OAM.MM.

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE: NSW

We all need inspiration, both in good times and bad.

No one can be everything to everyone.

We all need feedback, support, encouragement, recognition, mentors, neighbours and friends. They keep us going. They tell stories, ask questions, prompt us, inspire us, at times they might even accelerate our making a difference for someone else.

In essence, membership of our Association opens up friendships with some very impressive Australians who have served the Australian community, locally, regionally, nationally, and even internationally. I have met so many and so often I have been inspired with their stories.

Alas though, we need to nominate many more who have unselfishly afforded time, effort and energy in making a positive difference in their community and beyond. So many are quietly humble, reticent to reveal all they have done, reluctant to be acknowledged. Their impact must be recognised. So our Branch Committee is setting up a team who are conversant with the nomination process to help you with this important task.

Whenever you attend our functions, just ask someone why did you get your Order of Australia Award and you are off and running to be inspired. This I did at our recent Shoalhaven regional function of a 101 years young member with an AC (upgraded from an AM), OBE and MiD who did a skydive for his 100th birthday. Peter Lloyd is an inspiring person and we had a memorable chat but I am not sure about parachuting at my age! It reminded me of once being told that you do not need a parachute to go skydiving unless you want to do it again!

His closing message has stuck with me: getting an Award is NOT the end of your community service. It should be the beginning of far more service. See more about Peter's extraordinary life in Meet our Members in this edition.

For future events please visit the Association's website and diarise the dates you can attend.

<https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/nsw/news>

Jim Mein AM

Branch Chairman

NSW BRANCH AGM AND LUNCHEON

The Order of Australia NSW Branch AGM and Luncheon was held on the 22nd March with over 70 members and guests present in the Grand Cello room at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel.

At the AGM, the attendees heard most inspirational talks from two past recipients of the OAA NSW Youth Community Service Award and Alumni members, **James Gray and Michael Summers**. James and Michael are amazing young men who have already achieved a great deal in their young lives to date. They both are true testament to the outstanding calibre, high moral fibre and selflessness of our OAA NSW Youth Community Service Award winners! They are intelligent, articulate, not afraid of hard work, are dedicated and go over and above to help others in need!

At the luncheon which followed the AGM, we were honoured to welcome our guest speaker, the renowned **Retired Detective Superintendent Deb Wallace APM**, Former Commander Task Force Raptor, NSW Police Force.

Deb addressed the audience with a great sense of style as she recounted her stories of the historic achievements that spanned her 30 year career from being a young probationary constable in 1986 to leading Task Force Raptor until her retirement in 2019.

For more on Deb's career visit:

<https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/nsw/news>

A/Prof John Gullotta AM

Deputy Chairman and Events Manager

SHOALHAVEN'S AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS RECIPIENTS CELEBRATED AT AFTERNOON TEA



HONOURS: Shoalhaven Branch of the Order of Australia Association chairman Rod Gibb OAM (left) with three of the Shoalhaven's new honour recipients Terry Hetherington OAM, Bruce Murphy OAM and Ray Pearson OAM

After a two year hiatus due to COVID the Shoalhaven Branch of the Order of Australia Association met on March 23 to acknowledge those locals who had received honours. More than 30 people attended the special afternoon tea hosted by the Nowra Country Women's Association. NSW OAA Chairman, Jim Mein AM attended, and gave an update of what is happening at a State and national level for the Awards.

NSW BRANCH INAUGURAL WEBINAR BY CHRIS RUSSELL AM FAIA

"Can We Have our Cake and Eat it Too? – Food Security & Global Warming – Conflict or Adaptation!"

This was the title of NSW Branch Inaugural Webinar by Chris Russell AM FAIA, held on April 21.

The purpose of our Webinar series is to work towards closing the gap between our NSW City and Country Members.

Guest Speaker - Chris Russell AM FAIA Chris currently hosts the key agricultural podcast series "AgriMinders" for Southern Cross Austereo. He is widely experienced in cattle feeding systems, stockfeed supplements, wool industry, dairy farming, ruminant production, fodder conservation, entrepreneurship, facilitation, and public speaking, and embraces innovation and change. Chris was also a judge for seven years on the very popular ABC television series "The New Inventors." In 2018 he was appointed Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to agricultural science and technology through advisory, development and research roles and as a mentor and innovator. He is in high demand as a Public Speaker and Facilitator – particularly in the area of Innovation and Embracing Change and is a skilled communicator.

Key messages from Chris's excellent discussion included that both the world and Australia need to act now as the problems for the future are manifold, such as needs for attitudinal change towards water-sharing, salt tolerant crops to overcome yield losses in increasing heat affected area and greater acceptance of genetically modified production, and stopping water wastage. Australia is the second driest continent in the world after Antarctica!

We thank Covid for one thing – the increasing use of Webinars, and we thank Chris for his generosity in sharing such important ideas with us. More on the Webinar can be found on <https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/nsw/news>

Jim Mein AM Chairman, NSW Branch

MEET OUR MEMBERS PETER LLOYD AC OBE MID, BASIN VIEW NSW

George A. Lloyd AC OBE MiD (aka "Peter" Lloyd) President (Amended 26 August 2020) G. A. Lloyd AC OBE MiD, nationally and internationally called Peter Lloyd, became President of Safeski's when, due to blindness, could no longer continue to chair Board Meetings and now titled President Emeritus.

As President Emeritus, Peter Lloyd continues to be an important negotiator, as in the past, for Safeski's.

During his long career in business and aviation as Chairman or CEO of a number of Public and Private Companies, of note in this context, the helicopter business, of which he was cofounder on his

retirement, operating 89 helicopters, employing some 120 pilots; the Motor Industry, in which he was involved, at some time, also ran a fleet of 600 vehicles.

He remains proud of the fact that he was a fighting soldier in the Australian Imperial Force in both the Middle East, New Guinea and Papua New Guinea and was decorated for bravery.

Peter has clocked up 11,000 Pilot hours, is a qualified gas balloonist, parachutist and has some experience gliding. His last sky dive, on his 100th birthday in 2020 over Parliament House, Canberra, was a present from the Australian Parachute Federation.

His enthusiasm for Safeski's, as a great Australian contribution to world air safety, remains unabated, despite being in his 98th year and blind.

DECORATIONS Include

- AC – Companion in the Order of Australia – Services to Aviation Safety and International Affairs Queen's Birthday 2016
- OBE – Officer of the Order of the British Empire – Service to Aviation and the Motor Industry
- MiD – Mention in Despatches WWII – Decoration for bravery as a Soldier
- Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal

And 6 more decorations from various countries around the world.

Mr Lloyd, in pursuance of his activities as a leading person on aircraft and air sports and other Australian sports, had meetings with several world leaders on a one on one basis, including President Ronald Reagan, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the King of Spain and other great leaders. He was World President of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale whose nation members is 42 million people.

We congratulate Peter for his remarkable contribution to Australia and the World. We are very proud that he is a very much participating member of the NSW Branch of the Order of Australia Association.

NT BRANCH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members and partners of the Order of Australia Association NT met on Monday March 21 for our Annual General Meeting, led by new Chairman Mr. Alan James OAM. There were over 50 people at the event, which was opened by the immediate past Chairman Andy Bruyn AM who outlined the significance of our place of gathering – the Nitmiluk Room in Parliament House – on Larrakia Land, in the precinct of the first administrators of the town, and site of the 1942 bombing.

The Branch committee affirmed during the official part of the AGM is:

Chairman - Mr. Alan James OAM

Secretary/Treasurer - Prof. Jai Singh AM

Membership - Ms. Linda Fazldeen AM

Committee - Mr. David DeSilva AM

- Hon. Jane Aagaard AM

- Mrs. Robyne Burridge OAM

- Mr. Wayne Kraft AM representing the Alice Springs group.

A vote of thanks was given to Mrs. Nora Lewis AM for her service to the Branch as a committee member and to the national board. Nora has agreed to continue in a non-executive role as communications officer.

Guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Alastair King OAM, CEO of ALPA - the Arnhemland Progress Aboriginal Corporation. Alastair presented an uplifting illustrated report on the work of ALPA and described the way officers and volunteers in the Corporation are working collaboratively with many agencies to improve the quality of life in Arnhemland, especially in relation to the supply and distribution of essential goods during challenging times.



Mr Dick Guit OAM with Mr. Alastair King AM