



Dated AUGUST 2022

2023 National Conference

Geelong Victoria

Working Together–Building the Future



Save the Date
18 – 21 May 2023

Further Details:

<https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/national-conference-2023/>



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.

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION.

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National Secretary – Graham Hyde OAM Email: natsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

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



Next month Linda and I will welcome Order of Australia recipients to Government House, Canberra, for Investiture ceremonies. Similar ceremonies will be held at Government Houses around Australia.

Readers of *'The Order'* will, I am sure, recall their own ceremony with fond memories.

For me, Investiture ceremonies are one of the highlights of my role, for two reasons. Firstly, they are a celebration of the individual recipients and a chance to acknowledge their achievements and service. Meeting recipients, and hearing their stories about their work and passion, is inspiring. And, secondly, because the sum of recipients' stories speaks to who we are today and who we can be in the future.

At an individual level, recognition through the Order is reflective and celebrates work and service already performed. As a whole, any honours list points to the sort of country and community we will be tomorrow, next year and in a generation.

That is why the work of the Association in promoting good citizenship, supporting young Australians and encouraging nominations for the Order of Australia is so important. Recipients don't suddenly say, 'I've got the medal; it's time to take a break'. They keep going, continue to achieve great things in their chosen field and continue to make our community a better place. Each recipient is also the proverbial tip of the iceberg, representing a team or community and, in many cases, mentoring or nurturing future leaders.

These perspectives of the Order also explain why I'm so passionate about our new outreach and engagement work. We want to make sure that anyone, regardless of their background, field of

endeavour or any other characteristic, can see themselves or someone like them in the Order. Recognition will always be based on merit and achievement but there must not be any barriers to access.

We want people to be more aware, better informed and to feel more able or willing to submit nominations from their own community.

My Office is developing a range of exciting new products to help us better tell this story. I know that we are working closely with The Order of Australia Association and I thank the Association's leadership and members for their support and partnership in this important endeavour.

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

CHAIRMANS REPORT AUG 22

The pressures on our community at present are considerable. In addition to the ever-present threat of COVID and other infections, we have the concerns of rising inflation, wage stagnation, flood and significant increases in the cost of everything we need for everyday life. While our problems pale in comparison to those of the people of the Ukraine, and of many in less fortunate countries, they are major factors that impact our everyday life. Leadership throughout our communities has been remarkable and the need will continue. All of us can play a part, both directly and by recognising those who have made an exceptional contribution in nominating them for an award in the Order of Australia.

Our Association has maintained membership numbers and activity through this turbulent period. It was particularly pleasing to see so many new members attend our 2022 National Conference in Canberra, and to receive such positive feedback from many intending to travel to Geelong for the 2023 Conference.

Regrettably less than half of the new recipients of awards in the Order join the Association. Branch Committees have been encouraged to experiment with new approaches and to learn from each other in improving our performance. We need to provide a genuine welcome to new recipients as well as ongoing events and activities that are enjoyable and even unusual. More of the same is clearly not changing the result; innovation is critical to success.

The Association website, www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au, covers important issues, the activities of our Branches and assistance with the award nomination process. Keeping the website up to date is an ongoing challenge but is critical both to engaging members and showing new recipients the value of joining our Association.

Regrettably our WA Branch Nominated Director, Professor Robin Watts AM, has had to resign from the National Board on health grounds. Robin has been an enthusiastic and effective contributor to Board deliberations since her appointment in May 2018. Her management of the preparation and acceptance of our new Constitution and accompanying Bylaws was outstanding and has provided the Association with governance documents that equip us well for the future.

Planning is now well advanced on the Association National Conference, to be held in Geelong from 18th to 21st May 2023. It promises a rewarding programme in a vibrant city that has much to offer. After the success and very favourable feedback on the 2022 Conference in Canberra we anticipate high member attendance.

I look forward to meeting many members in Geelong in May next year.

Barry Nunn AO
National Chairman

EDITORIAL – PHIL MORRALL AM, CSC

Members will be aware of the emphasis on increasing the number of nominations within the Order of Australia. His Excellency the Governor-General has emphasised this issue in both his recent articles within this magazine and his address at the recent National Conference.

Increasing the number of nominations and the diversity of those nominated has been a long-standing priority for our Association. Various strategies have been implemented by Branches and while difficult to prove success at the individual project level, the consolidated efforts seem to have assisted in increasing both numbers and diversity over recent years.

Perhaps this is an area where a more personal approach might be warranted. If each of us individually, or in concert with another recipient of Honours, decided to nominate a worthy member of our acquaintance, even more improvement might be possible.

Could I invite you to establish a personal goal of submitting at least one nomination in the next few months? Are there worthy people in your social circle, Gardening Club, Veterans Organisation, Community Service Organisation, School P&C etc.

Guidance on the process is available both on our website and that at Government House, at these links:

<https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/about-the-award/>

<https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards/nominate-someone-award>

INITIAL ADVICE - NATIONAL CONFERENCE MAY 2023 - GEELONG

The Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch invites you to join us May 18-21, 2023 in Geelong as we start Working Together-Building the Future

The conference venue is Geelong Events Centre, next to the conference hotel *Rydges Geelong* corner of Myers & Gheringhap Streets, Geelong.

The conference will include Welcome to Country, Oration, Keynote address and panel session topics including environmental sustainability, social and economic values of our multi-cultural communities Australia wide and Indigenous leadership in our nation.

There will also be a social aspect including the Welcome to Geelong Reception at the Geelong Library & Heritage Centre, Saturday night dinner at Mt Duneed Estate Winery and Sunday Brunch with a point of difference at the Geelong Centre.

Further details are on the OAA national website:

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Contact:

OAA VIC Branch Chair Helene Bender AM on 0407 261 951

Professor Geoffrey Lancaster AO PhD FAHA FACE



Professor Lancaster exudes vibrancy and enthusiasm for piano music and early pianos. No one who has attended one of his and his student recitals will leave without also being enthused by his passion. Geoffrey was one of 65 distinguished Australian artists to be awarded an Australian Artists Creative Fellowship in recognition of his outstanding artistic contribution to the nation. His other honours include the ARIA Best Classical Album, Honorary Fellowship of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, Fellowship of the Australian College of Educators, and the Order of Arts and Letters. In 2006, he was named Australian of the Year for the Australian Capital Territory and a Member of the Order of Australia. Recognising a lifetime of cultural investment as a musician and mentor, he was

promoted to Officer of the Order of Australia in 2022 for his distinguished service to the arts, particularly music, through education, performance, research and philanthropy.

Born in Sydney, Geoffrey grew up in the New South Wales country town of Dubbo, commencing piano lessons with nuns at the local convent. His talents were recognised early and he won a scholarship to the NSW State Conservatorium to study piano and harpsichord. Supported by a Commonwealth Scholarship, Geoffrey went on to complete a BA in music at the Canberra School of Music.

Geoffrey then completed fortepiano specialist studies at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague, a Master of Music at the University of Tasmania, and a PhD at Sydney University under Dr Philomena Brennan OAM. Geoffrey was the first Australian to win a major international piano competition. He was awarded First Prize in the 23rd Festival of Flanders International Fortepiano Competition in Bruges in 1986, launching him onto the world stage.

Living for a decade in Tasmania, Geoffrey lectured at the Tasmanian Conservatorium and worked closely with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra as guest director and conductor. Upon returning to Sydney to lecture in classical performance practice, he donated his own Viennese-style fortepiano to the Sydney Conservatorium as a resource for research and teaching, helping to establish early keyboard performance as a focus at the Conservatorium. After serving as Associate Professor at the Royal College of Music in London in 1996, he moved to Perth to join the music faculty at the University of Western Australia. He received the UWA Excellence in Teaching Award in 1999, before being named the 2000 HC Coombs Creative Arts Fellow at The Australian National University.

For 12 years, Geoffrey was Professor and Head of Keyboard at the ANU, during which time he also developed and curated an exceptional resource of historical keyboard instruments culminating in the inception of the ANU Keyboard Institute. He led research into the piano in Australia's social history with Australian Research Council Discovery Projects funding and served on the ANU Academic Board. After retiring Emeritus from the ANU in 2013, he returned to Perth where he was appointed Vice-Chancellor's Research Professor at Edith Cowan University's Western Australian Academy for Performing Arts.

Throughout his career, Geoffrey has been a driving force in fostering generations of musicians as a councillor of the Australian Youth Orchestra, and peer assessor for the Australia Council. His commitment to tertiary music education and to live performance has seen him sustain a dual career as a scholar-musician and organologist. He has published three books and 60 albums. He has held academic appointments as a teacher of 17th and 18th century performance practice and fortepiano at some of the world's leading conservatoires, including at the Basel Schola Cantorum. He was also Curator of Musical Instruments at Sydney's Powerhouse Museum, supporting the conservation and display of musical treasures from Australia's design archive.

Geoffrey played a significant role in the preservation of Australia's keyboard heritage. He has united over 190 historical keyboards spanning the 18th to the 21st centuries to form Australia's largest and most important public collection of early keyboard instruments. He leads projects of international significance to preserve and train the skills of historical keyboard performance, and of keyboard instrument restoration, conservation and maintenance.

Among the world's most influential fortepianists, Geoffrey is working at the forefront of the historical performance practice movement as an educator, earlier keyboard performer, and orchestral director. He has directed and performed to critical acclaim on modern and early keyboard instruments for 50 years with leading orchestras and ensembles across the world and was the harpsichordist with the first Western baroque orchestra to tour China since the baroque.

Our Students at WAAPA and we in Western Australia are very fortunate to have such an erudite teacher and performer who relates well to all and is eminently approachable.

WA BRANCH

WA Chairman's Report: Bettine Heathcote AM

The Order Magazine August edition – WA Chairman's Report



Western Australia has a new Governor, and I was honoured to represent the Branch at the Swearing In ceremony in Government House on 15th July. I pay tribute to our retiring Governor Hon Kim Beazley AC who has supported the Association throughout his time in this role. We welcome Governor Chris Dawson APM and look forward to working with him to encourage more nominations from this State.

On behalf of those WA members who attended the National Conference in Canberra, we congratulate the ACT Branch on a very successful and engaging Conference. The bar has now been set very high for future Conferences.

There was a record attendance of WA members at our Annual Church Evensong at St George's Cathedral where the Rev. Dr John Shepherd AM preached a wonderful sermon, details of which are contained in these pages.

54 Western Australians were recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours and we look forward to recognising many of these in a Reception to be hosted by Perth City Council at Council House on 10th August.

At the suggestion of a member who lives in Mandurah, we investigated the possibility of establishing a regional group to encompass the Peel Region. We found there are 35 members of the Association who live in this region, and it was suggested many would appreciate some locally focused events. An approach was made to the Mayor of Mandurah and, at the end of August, the Mayor and Councillors will be hosting a Reception to launch a new regional group – the Peel Region.

Bettine Heathcote AM
Chair WA Branch

Australian Honours Evensong 19.6.22 - St George's Cathedral

On a cold evening in June 91 members and their partners attended Choral Evensong at St George's Cathedral. We were greeted by the Dean the Very Reverend Chris Chataway. Dr Joseph Nolan conducted the Choristers and played the organ voluntary at the end of the Service.

Hon Kerry Sanderson AC and Bill Hassell AM JP read the lessons and Margaret Lobo AM read the prayers.

The Very Reverend Dr John Shepherd AM, Dean Emeritus, gave the address where he emphasised the word duty. "This evening we acknowledge the contribution made to the life of the nation by members of the Order of Australia.

If we could identify a word that sums up what the Order of Australia is all about – what is that special quality which we recognise this evening - it's hard to go past the word 'duty'. Duty to one's community and to one's country.

Properly interpreted, duty means 'that which is due'. The Latin root is *debere*. It refers to what is owed. Duty isn't what's owed to us. Duty is what we owe to others as a result of being members of a community.

Notions of the 'rights' of the individual have become so deeply ingrained in our thinking, that we've almost forgotten that it was the individual's *duties* which anciently took priority.

The prophets of the Old Testament never spoke of any so-called 'rights' of individuals. They spoke instead of the 'duties' that the individual must discharge to the community. And we have a lot to learn from this.

If we need anything, what this Country needs is a 'bill of duties', and it is this concept which is already at the heart of the Order of Australia.

If you like, by fulfilling their obligations as members of the community to which they belong, the Members of the Order of Australia have given us an example of what it's like to become aligned with that which we call divine.

And so we offer our thanks to God, who sets us in a community where, through our respect and care for others, we can know him, and be his love in the world."

Afterwards we were entertained in the Burt Hall with a delicious supper.



The Very Reverend Dr John Shepherd AM, Dean Emeritus

34th National Conference of the Order of Australia Association: “Celebrating Service.”

Eleven Western Australians attended the Conference from 19 – 22 May. It was a very enjoyable meeting with renewal of friendships from previous Conferences and meeting interstate members from all around Australia with their amazing contributions to our country and the world.



A number of the Western Australian Delegates at the Dinner.

Upcoming Events 2022

Wednesday 21 September 6.30pm OAA 12th Annual Dinner Royal Perth Golf Club
South West Event October to be confirmed
Great Southern Church Service and Lunch Albany Sunday 27 November TBC
Wednesday 8 December OAA 12.30pm Christmas Lunch Fremantle Sailing Club

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
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Secretary

Robert Altamore OAM

Treasurer

Phil Morrall AM CSC

Committee Members

Lynne Duckham OAM
Narelle Hargreaves AM
Dr Joseph Johnson CSC, OAM, AAM
Dr Bill Maiden PSM OAM
Andrew Phelan AM
Coralie Wood OAM

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Since late May, our efforts here in the ACT have principally focussed on post-Conference administration. We issued a short survey to gather feedback and we're very grateful to the 73 delegates who responded. We drew on that feedback, as well as input from our Branch and Conference Planning Committees, Government House staff, sponsors, suppliers and venues, in conducting a comprehensive review of how the Conference went. We found that, despite all the disruption caused by COVID, the conference was generally very successful: more than 90% of respondents to the survey rated their overall experience 'pretty darn good' or better (4 or 5/5) and we generated a modest financial surplus. We have submitted our report to the Board and provided copies to all Branch Chairmen to assist in planning for future conferences. We would once again like to thank everybody who assisted and supported us: we could not have done it without you.

Branch members gathered in mid-June to celebrate the Queen's Birthday in Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee year. Our guest speaker, Dr Brian Babington AM, formerly CEO of Families Australia, delivered a thought-provoking address about the importance of putting children first. The text and slides for the address are on the website.

In early June Meredythe and I had the honour of representing the Association at a Platinum Jubilee Ball held at Government House, Yarralumla. It was a sparkling occasion, and Their Excellencies were wonderful hosts for representatives of professional and volunteer organisations from around Australia. In late July I attended the Tasmanian Branch's Platinum Jubilee Dinner in Hobart. The dinner was another fitting celebration of Her Majesty's service and I congratulate Alastair Douglas OAM and his Branch Committee on a wonderful event.

Our Branch Committee is now turning to events for the remainder of the year, and details for our annual Student Citizenship Award presentations, a morning tea and our Spring reception for new recipients have recently been published in the latest Branch newsletter. We do hope that members will turn out in large numbers as the weather starts to improve.

Michael Crane DSC & Bar AM
Branch Chairman

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY LUNCH with Dr BRIAN BABINGTON AM

On Tuesday 14 June, members and guests marked Her Majesty the Queen's birthday in her Platinum Jubilee year and celebrated the achievements of recipients of honours and awards in the Queen's Birthday list at the Southern Cross Club, Woden. Our guest speaker was Dr Brian Babington AM, who spoke on the importance of putting children first. Dr Babington has worked to improve child, family, and community welfare in Australia and overseas in a career spanning more than four decades. Between 2005 and 2021, Brian was the Chief Executive Officer of Families Australia – a national, peak, not-for-profit organisation – and played a leading role in relation to the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children, Australia's first-ever plan to improve child safety and wellbeing.

You can read the text of Brian's address at <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/act/events/>. Brian was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in June 2021 *for significant service to children through safety and well-being initiatives*.



Rhonda Babington, Dr Brian Babington AM, Jennifer Horsfield



Meredythe Crane, Vikki Templeman, Margaret Beamish



Jean Stewart OAM, Jill Madew OAM, Julie Long OAM



Greg Cornwell AM

MEET OUR MEMBERS

DR ROSALIE BALKIN AO



Dr Rosalie Balkin AO is an Australian maritime lawyer, international legal scholar and public servant.

She was educated at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, completing BA, LLB and PhD degrees and moved to Australia in 1977, where she taught for some years at Melbourne and then New South Wales University Law Schools before joining the Federal Ombudsman's Office as his Legal Adviser.

From 1987 to 1998 Rosalie was employed by the Australian Attorney-General's Department, culminating as assistant secretary, Office of International Law. In 1993 she was ACT Human Rights Commissioner. She then moved to London in mid-1998 to take up the position of Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division at the International Maritime Organization (IMO), rising to Assistant Secretary-General in 2011, before retiring at the end of 2013.

She is now the Secretary-General of the Comité Maritime International (CMI), a non-governmental international organisation headquartered in Antwerp and dedicated to the uniform application of international maritime law. She is the first woman to hold that office in the CMI's 125 year history.

Rosalie has published extensively in Public International Law and International Maritime Law and is the author (with Prof JLR Davis) of the "Law of Torts". She was part of the five-member Compulsory Conciliation Commission established under the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention which facilitated the Governments of Timor Leste and Australia reaching agreement on their long-disputed maritime boundaries in the Timor Sea.

In the 2018 Australia Day Honours Dr Balkin was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia *for distinguished service to maritime law through roles with a range of organisations, to the improvement of global shipping transport safety and standards, and to education as an academic and author.*

DR DAVID O'ROURKE OAM

Obstetrician and co-founder of Mother Ignacia Hospital, West Timor



After an overseas trip in 2009, Dr David O'Rourke decided to join the Flinders Overseas Health Group in raising funds for a charitable project that would change the lives of thousands of people in West Timor, Indonesia – a place with high mortality rates for mothers and infants.

On 11 June 2016, with the support of his wife Sue-Ann, David opened the Mother Ignacia Hospital in Soe, West Timor. To date, David, his family and generous patients have contributed over \$1.5 million in patient fees earned at his private practice in Deakin, Canberra.

Since opening its doors, the hospital has treated more than 46,000 patients in the poverty-stricken town where the per capita expenditure on health is just \$94 compared to \$7,772 in Australia. The facility focuses on child and maternal health, but also accepts general admissions.

A father of four from Garran, Dr O'Rourke began his medical career as a general practitioner in rural New South Wales before specialising as an obstetrician and gynaecologist. He has delivered thousands of babies in hospitals in the local region across both the public and private sectors throughout his career. David is highly regarded by Canberra locals for his generosity, professionalism and good humour.

"You can't change the world, but you can make the world better for some people along the way. We are so privileged where we live and I'm determined to give some of my privilege back to others" stated Dr O'Rourke, "This is the tool I do it by. It's an easy fundraising model. You're just swapping skill you do every day for your charitable project, so anyone could do it."

Dr O'Rourke was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in June 2021 *for service to medicine, and to the international community of West Timor*. Recently, he was also recognised as nominee of the 2022 Australian of the Year (ACT).

VICTORIA BRANCH

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We will soon be welcoming spring and the beautiful bright colours after a long winter slumber.

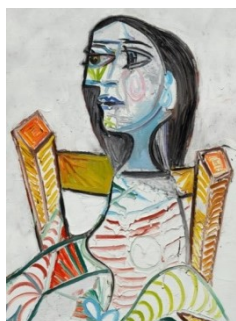
Queen's Birthday Victoria Branch acknowledged 206 Order of Australia Honours and Awards recipients with 105 of these awards given to women. This is the second time Victoria has achieved gender parity in the 47-year history of the awards.

Thank you to our members who have taken the time to nominate exceptional achievers from diverse backgrounds, ages and cultures. We also acknowledge the work of Stacey Williams at Recognition Matters within the Department of Premier and Cabinet for her commitment to quality nominations.

To our 2022 Queen's Birthday recipients, please enjoy your upcoming Investiture.

We welcome recipients who have joined the Association in 2022.

Last month Pam Vardy OAM spoke at our virtual event regarding the 'Benefits of community gardens on public housing estates' in Victoria. Please refer to the brief article in this section of the national magazine.



The Victoria Branch hosted the 2022 Melbourne Winter Masterpieces – The Picasso Century at the National Gallery of Victoria on Sunday August 7. A lecturer set the scene prior to members and guests visiting the exhibition showcasing the extraordinary career of Pablo Picasso in dialogue with the many artists, poets and intellectuals with whom he intercepted and interacted throughout the 20th century. Exclusively developed for the NGV by the Centre Pompidou and the Musée national Picasso-Paris, the exhibition features over 80 works by Picasso alongside over 100 works by more than 50 of his contemporaries, drawn from premier French national collections, as well as the NGV Collection. Members and guests also had the opportunity to discover a rich selection of works by artists rarely exhibited in Australia, including Natalia Goncharova, Julio González, Wifredo Lam, Suzanne Valadon and Maria Helena Vieira da Silva.

After the lecture and exhibition there was the option of a two course lunch at The Barre Café next door in the Arts Centre Melbourne. It is pleasing to have the arts return to Victoria. Thank you to OAA members and guests who supported this event.

A 'Thank You Reception' for Order of Australia recipients who have joined the Association in 2022 will be held on Thursday September 1, 2022. A Save the Date has been emailed to these members and a booking link will be provided by mid-August.

The final event for VIC Branch members and their guests is an End of Year Dinner on **Thursday November 24** at William Angliss Restaurant with speaker Allan Myers AC QC an

Australian barrister, academic, businessman, landowner and philanthropist, and the current Chancellor of the University of Melbourne.

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

The invitation for this dinner event will be included in the late edition of the VIC Branch e-Newsletter.

For further information regarding VIC Branch and Regional Group events and the OAA Merchandise Shop please refer to the Association national website www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au

The OAA VIC Branch is pleased to be hosting The Order of Australia Association 2023 National Conference in Geelong Thursday May 18 to Sunday May 21.

Please stay well and we look forward to catching up soon.

SUPPORTING “LIVING FREE”

The Frankston Mornington Peninsula Regional Group (FMPRG) and the Peninsula Kingswood Community Foundation (PKCF) have joined forces to help raise \$35,000 for the “Living Free” project in the region.

The “Living Free” project helps young women and girls to continue their education and avoid encounters with the legal system.

Footy legend Kevin Sheedy AO was the keynote speaker at the fund-raising lunch at Peninsula Kingswood Country Golf Club on Friday July 1, 2022. An AFL Hall of Fame Legend, Sheedy spoke about his football career and what drives him to advocate for better opportunities and outcomes for people.

In a great bit of timing Kevin Sheedy AO was named Victorian of The Year the day before the event! As well as his contribution to the AFL, Essendon great Kevin Sheedy has been recognised for countless hours of charity work and campaigning for social justice.

He told the audience of more than 130 that: “It doesn’t matter where you’ve come from ... courage is finding out who you can be ... or who you want to be.”

Lisa Abbott, Executive Manager at TaskForce, said the project had been operating across the Frankston Mornington Peninsula area for five years.

“These funds will help reach more vulnerable girls and young women, support them to understand their unique strengths and abilities, create opportunities that will see them thrive and support them to realise their potential and find out who they can be,” Ms Abbott said.

Greg Brown OAM, a FMPTG member, PKCGC member, and former Essendon footballer, initially proposed the concept of the fund-raising event. Then Chair of the FMPRG Commodore Jim Dickson AM MBE – also a PKCGC member - pursued the idea with the PKGC in early 2021.

COVID disrupted the plans for an Australia Day lunch this year.

Outgoing Chair of the FMPRG, Geoff Walsh AO, said the success of the event reflected both organisations looking to make a genuine difference in their local communities.

The event was generously supported by two principal sponsors - Peninsula Southeby's International Realty and the York Park Group – and the many members of both organisations who attended.

PATTERSON of ISRAEL

A cold winter's day outside but warm and welcoming inside the West Brighton Club where the South Central Suburbs Regional Group held their mid-year lunch.

We were to entertain the Mayors of our three municipalities, but one of them went into isolation on the Monday prior to the function but we were graced with the Mayor of the City of Kingston, Councillor Steve Staikos and the Mayor of the City of Bayside Councillor Alex del Porto. During his welcome address the Chairman called out Mr. Ralph Butcher OAM who had recently celebrated his 104th Birthday and Mr. Roy Boyd OAM who was going into his 9th decade on the day.

The President of the West Brighton Club, Gerald Quigley spoke a little of some of the more famous members of the Club and gave some interesting anecdotes. It is a very quirky Club with what some would say are anachronistic tendencies, but to the writer it is one that serves a purpose without any apparent harm to others. Today we have a network of Men's Sheds to assist in the mental health, companionship and for the well-being of men, who cannot say that this Club was a precursor to this form of development?

Our guest speaker Dr Henry (Harry) Lew OAM is a retired Ophthalmic surgeon who developed procedures that are still used today. Harry is also an author and he spoke about one of his publications that he had researched and published, which is called Patterson of Israel. This follows the life of an illegitimate born of a liaison between landed gentry in Ireland and a serving girl. Harry told us of Patterson training and leading Russian Zealots at Gallipoli and how they were trained up by him to not be just muleteers (Zion Mule Corp) but to be a fighting unit if the circumstances were called for, he told us how these muleteers essentially loaded the mules with the wounded and transported them back for treatment after they had dropped off the ammunition and provisions to the front line troops. Patterson was a Lieutenant Colonel in the British Army and was awarded a DSO.

He told us the story of the Lions of Tsavo where Patterson had been engaged to build a bridge over the river (he was an Engineer) and that lions were killing the workers; the African workers ran away once the lions started attacking, but the Indian workers who formed the greater part of the work force had nowhere to run to and were being killed. It is suggested that over 100 workers died before Patterson eventually shot and killed the lions. This story has been made into many films under different names and has had books written about the experience, one by Patterson himself.

Harry spoke about Patterson's great love and respect for the Zionists and that he was called a Christian Zionist and after many years following his death in America in 1947, his greatest wish was that he and his wife's ashes be interred in Israel and this was finally granted in 2014 and they are now interred in the Avihayil moshav Central Israel.



Photo: Richard Rozen OAM (R) gave a vote of thanks to Harry (L) at the conclusion of his talk and answering questions and said that they had two things in common, firstly they were both children of holocaust survivors and they both went to Melbourne High School and thirdly (by the writer) they both have been awarded an OAM.
A gift was handed over and acclamation was given to Harry.

OVERVIEW OF 2022 NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN CANBERRA

Writer Joanne Sheehan-Paterson OAM

It is with great pleasure that I attended my first National Conference as a newly inducted member of The Order of Australia Association.

On the 19th of May I attended with my husband Geoff Paterson to Register for the Conference and we were warmly welcomed by the Conference Committee members which set the tone for us attending this auspicious event in Canberra ACT.

Day 2 of the Conference Program was held in the Hotel Realm Ballroom. Their Excellencies the Governor-General David Hurley AC and Mrs. Linda Hurley were representing Australia in Timor and were unable to attend to open our Conference. His Excellency live streamed an address and welcomed us to the Conference.

At the commencement of the National Conference we were welcomed by the National Chairman of The Order of Australia Association, MAJGEN Barry Nunn AO RFD ED (Rt-d). We were also warmly welcomed to The National Conference and to Canberra by The ACT Branch Chairman Mike Crane DSC & BAR AM.

During the day we were enlightened and informed by The Honourable Shane Stone AC QC, who provided the Association Oration. The Keynote address by Anthony Thomas AC FAA, two panel discussions one focusing on Public Service and the other focusing on Community Service, which were all very informative and particularly interesting.

My husband and I were honoured to share the room with many brilliant minds and caring, kind and compassionate people from all walks of life from across our nation.

Day 3 hosted the National Annual General Meeting and a Member's Forum. During the evening we attended the Association Dinner and Foundation Awards. The Conference Dinner was held at the National Arboretum. Much to our delight we were invited to join the Head Table for the Conference Dinner with Their Excellencies. We were truly honoured to be in a position to engage with Their Excellencies at this wonderful event.

At the dinner we were welcomed by the National President of The Order of Australia Association Heather Ridout AO and hosted by the Chairman of the Order of Australia Association Foundation, Hugh Morgan AC.

Day 4 of the Conference Program we attended a Commemorative Service at the National Museum Vision Theatre. A farewell luncheon was conducted at the National Museum Peninsula Room, to conclude a wonderful four days of 'Celebrating Service'.



We enjoyed a very enriching experience, joining fellow members of The Order of Australia Association in Canberra 2022 and look forward to attending the 2023 National Conference in Geelong, Victoria.

Photo L-R
National Chairman
Barry Nunn AO,
Association President
Heather Ridout AO,
ACT Branch Chairman
Mike Crane DSC & BAR AM,
Victoria Branch Member
Joanne Sheehan-Paterson OAM,
OAA Foundation Chairman
Hugh Morgan AC

COMMUNITY GARDENS ON PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES

Pam Vardy OAM spoke at a VIC Branch Virtual event last month about the 'Benefits of community gardens on public housing estates.

Community gardens in Victoria are set up in a similar way to allotment gardens in the UK.

All the gardens use sustainable organic practices, including the nonuse of harmful sprays and chemicals. These gardens are all located on land within separate housing estates and the individual plots are generally 2m x 3m in size, and sometimes trellises have been built up and across the top for climbing plants.

Perimeter wire fences enclose the gardens; each gardener has a key and pays a small annual fee for their plot, sometimes fruit trees are planted around the fence line, with produce shared amongst the gardeners.

Playgrounds have been built next to the gardens, to provide a safe environment for children, where they are in sight of adults working in the gardens. Covered shelters with tables and seating are provided within the gardens.

Cultivating Community, a not for profit organisation, is responsible for the establishment, maintenance and support of these gardens. They appoint individual garden support workers for each of the gardens, and these workers provide general maintenance, talk to the gardeners, and oversee any problems, supervise mulching and composting, and run meetings and workshops. The garden workers are exceptionally multi-skilled people, with backgrounds in ecology, permaculture, horticulture, education, arts and social work, and with a real commitment to the gardeners and to making the gardens work.

The gardeners themselves are from many countries, often coming from a background of war, trauma or displacement. Many have suffered separation from other family members – often to never be seen again; some have psychological and physical problems. With so many languages spoken, there is a wide use of sign language and gestures to communicate with each other. Interpreters are employed for events and meetings.

The benefits of public housing community gardens, also generally apply to all community gardens throughout Australia and in many ways, individual home gardens. They provide a greening of estates and inner suburbs. They lessen vandalism on the estates; provide an active local community plus exercise and fresh air. The list goes on but space in this article does not.

The gardens greatly assist emotional and mental wellbeing. It has been well documented gardening provides many benefits including social interaction and the joy of planting, and seeing produce growing, flowering and ripening, becomes something to live for, and to learn to laugh again.



Photo: General view of Alfred Street, North Melbourne
Community Garden with the children's playground in the background.

SA BRANCH

BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE:

Tony Metcalf OAM
SA Branch Chair

chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Several Branch Committee members and I represented the Association at a series of investiture ceremonies at Government House in April and May for this year's Australia Day Honours List recipients. We then acknowledged these recipients at our New Recipients' Reception on Monday 9 May, held at the Payneham Library through the generous support of the City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters. We also thank Vili's Family Bakery for subsidising the cost of the refreshments.

In June we held a very successful Queen's Birthday Lunch, and we thank Professor Robert Saint AM for his illuminating presentation "Brave Minds – Research at Flinders University".

Our Regional Groups are once again holding activities, and our Fellowship luncheon meetings at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club in Adelaide are continuing every two months, with interesting guest speakers.

We are currently planning for our major events in the second half of the year – our New Recipients' Reception for this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List recipients, and our Student Citizenship Awards Top 10 and Student Citizen of the Year Award Ceremony and Reception.

MR DON CLARK OAM

A recent addition to the SA Branch Committee is Mr Don Clark OAM. Don was awarded the OAM in the 2019 Australia Day Honours List, "*For service to the livestock industry*".

Don was born in Strathalbyn, SA in 1938. His father and elder brother Colin (born in 1925) both served in uniform during World War 2, and Don himself served in uniform after the war under the National Service Scheme. At the age of 18, Don served at Woodside Army Barracks in the Adelaide Hills as a member of No 8 Platoon, 'B' Company of the 16th National Service Training Battalion (1st Intake, 1957). This was followed by two years of part-time service at Warradale Barracks.

Don began working in 1954 with the SA Farmers Union as an office boy and merchandise officer, then with Southern Farmers as a regional Livestock Manager, rising to become Head Auctioneer and Store Stock Officer for half the state (for fifteen years) and then Livestock Manager (for a further five years).

He then took on a position as General Manager of Farrer's Rural – a Lebanese export company serving mainly Iran in live sheep and cattle. Don had responsibility for live export in SA for three years, and then Victoria for three years, and then took over as Chairman nationally. During this period, he signed an agreement with the Indonesian Government on behalf of Australia for joint exports and assistance with cattle procurement from Australia. He continued in the position of federal Chairman for 7 years, making Don the longest serving chairman since the Australian Livestock Exporters Association was formed.

Don then became Chairman of the Livestock Export Advisory Committee in Canberra. For his many years as a leader and representative for Australia's livestock export industry, Don was inducted into the Livestock Export Industry's Hall of Fame.

After a minor stroke in 1994, Don resigned to commence work with the Kuwait Livestock Transport and Trading Company, the largest live export company.

As Quality Control Officer, Don was overseeing and preparing some 18,000 sheep per day for export to the Middle East. Through various strategies, he successfully reduced mortality from 5% to 1% in 3 years.

Welcome Don to the SA Branch Committee.

REGIONAL GROUPS

The Yorke Peninsula Regional Group held a luncheon meeting at the Yorke Valley Hotel, Maitland on Sunday 1 May. SA Branch Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM and Cheryl Metcalf, and Regional Groups Coordinator Ken Coventry OAM JP and Di Coventry were in attendance, as also was Committee member Don Clark OAM.

The Group continued the practice of hearing from members about their life and what led to their award. Ken Coventry interviewed Connie Bramley OAM, aged 90, and Ray Agnew OAM, community leader and former Mayor of many years.

Connie Bramley of Yorketown was awarded the OAM in the 2004 Australia Day Honours, *"For service to the community of Edithburgh, particularly through the women's choir The Wonkanas"*.

Ray Agnew of Stansbury was awarded the OAM in the 2004 Queen's Birthday Honours, *"For service to local government and to the community of Yorke Peninsula"*.

The Riverland and Mallee Regional Group held an informative regional meeting followed by afternoon tea at the Warrawee Retirement Village at Waikerie on Sunday 1 May. The meeting was chaired by Tim Grieger OAM, and welcomed the SA Branch Deputy Chairman Noel Hender OAM BEM, deputising for Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM who was attending a simultaneous meeting in Maitland. Noel gave an overview of the Association's national and state level activities, and also provided an overview of the Student Citizenship Awards program and Student Citizen of the Year Award. Noel outlined the nomination and selection process, and discussed how members could participate in the program through their local secondary schools.

The meeting also heard from new recipient Valerie Fewster OAM, who spoke to questions prepared and asked by Tim. Val received her OAM for service to community health, and she outlined her years of distinguished service through her volunteer and professional roles in nursing, educating and volunteering with a range of community health organisations.

The Fleurieu Regional Group held a luncheon meeting on Friday 6 May at The Boulevard Café in Victor Harbor. The Guest Speaker was Lisa Knowles, a former United States Air Force helicopter pilot trainer. Chairman Tony and Cheryl Metcalf attended.

The South East Regional Group held its annual luncheon meeting at Naracoorte Caves Café on Friday 27 May. They were joined by Tony Metcalf OAM and Cheryl Metcalf, and Ken Coventry OAM JP and Di Coventry.

The Site Manager of Naracoorte Caves Park, Thomas Shortt, spoke to those present following the luncheon. He welcomed attendees to the Naracoorte Caves National Park – where one can gain, “*a rare insight into the South Australian landscape from 500,000 years ago. The Naracoorte Caves are recognised as one of the world’s most complete fossil sites*”.

Thomas said: “*In 1994, the significance of the Naracoorte Caves’ 500,000-year-old fossil record was recognised by UNESCO and co-listed with Riversleigh in North Queensland as the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites. Together the sites tell the story of Australia’s ancient animal heritage*”.

Regional Convenor Eric Roughana AM presented a donation of \$110 on behalf of the Group towards the conservation work at the Naracoorte Caves National Park.



The interviewees at the Yorke Peninsula Regional Group luncheon meeting on Sunday 1 May (seated): Ray Agnew OAM and Connie Bramley OAM. Standing, left to right: Claudia Agnew, Tony Metcalf OAM and Don Clark OAM.



The Riverland and Mallee Group on Sunday 1 May (standing, left to right): Standing left to right - Val Fewster OAM, Noel Hender OAM BEM, Ian Tolley OAM, Ellen Traeger OAM, Meredith Arnold OAM, Lynette Nitschke OAM, Colleen Andrew OAM, Tim Grieger OAM, David Ward ESM OAM. Seated: Brian Caddy OAM and Gwen Webber OAM.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEONS

The guest speaker for the April honours recipients fellowship luncheon was the SA Branch Member Secretary, Mr Greg Gordon OAM JP, who spoke on the topic “My Journey into Gordon Ancestry”.

Greg related that in his early life, identification of grandparents, aunts and uncles was clear on his mother’s side but vague on his father’s (Gordon) side. It was only at the funeral of his paternal grandfather that he really become aware of his identity – but he found there was a reluctance to divulge information.

Greg searched local Birth, Death & Marriage publications, then his focus had to shift to Old Parish Records in Scotland. Through careful research and DNA matching he identified many ancestors, dating back to George Gordon (1513-1562). A further avalanche of information led Greg back to a

Norman Chevalier, Adam de Gordon, who assisted Malcolm III regain the Scottish throne from MacBeth in 1057. To put all of this information onto a single page, Greg created a chart 2 metres tall and printed on canvas, to hang on the wall in his office.

The guest speaker for our June fellowship luncheon was Professor Tony Phillips AM, on the topic: “Some common eye conditions, current modes of treatment and memorable events from a medical career”. Professor Phillips discussed some of the common eye conditions that we are most likely to suffer from, and current modes of treatment. Concerned that his talk might get too serious, he also presented some of the interesting events and stories that have happened to him over his long career.

Tony came to Adelaide in 1982 to be part of a team at Sola Optical developing the world’s first disposable contact lens. He was Principal Optometrist in the Medical Contact Lens Unit at Flinders Medical Centre from 1982, and Optometrist in the Infant and Baby Contact Lens Unit at the Adelaide Women and Children’s Hospital from 1994. He has moved between academia, hospital work and private practice, and is author of more than 50 scientific papers.

In 1992 he was fortunate enough to be awarded a Churchill Fellowship to study the use of contacts in babies and young children. In particular, he was looking at working with a team involved in the removal of cataracts from newborns – they cannot have the normal implants that adults are given, nor is it even possible to make spectacles at the power required. The clinic that was subsequently set up at The Women’s and Children’s is still the only hospital in the country dedicated to such work. Prior to this, most of these children simply went to Blind School.

EVENTS

Upcoming SA Branch activities include:

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

Saturday 17 September: Serafino Winery Tour, McLaren Vale.

Sunday 9 October: Riverland and Mallee Regional Group luncheon meeting.

Sunday 23 October: Yorke Peninsula Regional Group luncheon meeting in Maitland.

Thursday 27 October: Honours recipients fellowship luncheon with guest speaker Mr John Ford OAM.

Friday 4 November: Fleurieu Regional Group luncheon meeting.

Wednesday 16 November: Visit to the Army Museum of South Australia at Keswick Barracks.

Friday 9 December: SA Branch Christmas Morning Tea.

TASMANIA BRANCH

BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE:

In the last Queen's Birthday honours list 13 Tasmanians were recognised in the Order of Australia. It was pleasing to see that the two main newspapers provided good coverage of the awardees and there were articles in some of the regional newspapers. The investiture at Government House will be in early September. As usual, the Association will be conducting a celebratory lunch for awardees, their family and guests as well as for Association members.

As mentioned elsewhere in these Tasmanian notes, successful well attended lunches have been organised by the North-West and Northern Regional Groups in Burnie and Launceston respectively. My wife Jenny and I enjoyed both these lunches and the opportunity to mix with members in these Regions. The Branch Committee held a very successful black tie, three course Platinum Jubilee Dinner in Hobart in July with 94 members and guests attending from across the State. We were also pleased to welcome three attendees from interstate and Mr Frank McGregor the Honorary Consul to the UK. Her Excellency Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania attended with her husband Professor Emeritus Don Chalmers AO.

Eight Tasmanians ventured north in May to attend the National Conference in Canberra. It was an informative and enjoyable time and I congratulate MAJGEN Michael Crane DSC and Bar AM and his committee for their excellent programme and organisation. The autumn colours of Canberra and the various venues for aspects of the Conference all added to the experience. As always it is great meeting members who attend a conference for the first time as well as those whose company we have enjoyed at previous conferences.

Alastair Douglas OAM
Branch Chairman



Photo: Prof Em Don Chalmers AO, Jenny Douglas, Sir Guy Green AC KBE CVO, MAJGEN Mike Crane DSC and Bar AM, Her Excellency Barbara Baker AC, Alastair Douglas OAM, Prof Em Ian Hay and Frank McGregor attended The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Dinner.

Australia Day recipients at their Investiture at Government House

Fifteen Tasmanians were recognised in the Australia Day Honours and were presented with their awards at Government House in May.



(L-R) Andrew MacGregor OAM, Mrs Elizabeth Perkins OAM, Mr John Phillips OAM, Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Mrs Betty Laverty OAM and Mrs Vicki Purnell OAM

Celebration to mark the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II and Her Platinum Jubilee

The North West Regional Group of The Order of Australia Association – Tasmania Branch, held a luncheon at Hellyers Road Distillery, Burnie on Sunday 26th June to mark the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II and to also celebrate Her Platinum Jubilee. The luncheon was attended by 65 guests including Her Excellency the Hon Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania and her husband Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers AO. Her Excellency proposed the toast to Her Majesty to recognise both Her birthday and Platinum Jubilee

Christmas in July Luncheon

Fifty members attended the Northern Region OAA Christmas in July function. Guest speaker was Professor Dom Geraghty Pro Vice-Chancellor (Launceston) University of Tasmania who spoke about the Northern Transformation \$300 million project that will see new campuses built at West Park in Burnie, at Inveresk in Launceston in a partnership between the University and local, state and Australian Governments.

Barry Maxwell Easter OAM

Barry Easter has been an outstanding leader in his community. He was born in Launceston on the 21st of October, 1914 at St Ives Maternity Hospital, College St, Launceston. He was educated at West Launceston Primary School and went onto Launceston High School. His working life involved D.H. Hollis Motors, Patons and Baldwins and finally Forest Resources (formerly Northern Woodchips).

His role as community leader began when Barry became involved with the Exeter Primary School Parent's and Friends Association and with them helped secure a new high school at Exeter in 1985 – a wonderful achievement for the West Tamar community.

He joined the local Rotary Club in 1976 and successfully stood and was elected to the Beaconsfield Council in 1983. He held the position of Warden and later as it was re-named Mayor from 1990 until he retired from Council in 2014. During that period, he was a member of the Local Government Association General Management Committee, being Vice-President from 2006 – 2009 and President

from 2009 until 2014. He was member of the Premiers Local Government Council and a Director of the Australian Local Government Association.

At 9.23pm on ANZAC Day 2006 there was a large seismic event at the Beaconsfield Gold Mine which resulted in a substantial rock fall. Seventeen workers were underground at the time – fourteen escaped to safety but three were trapped. One perished and the two survivors were entombed over a kilometre from the surface. The story of the rescue attempts was broadcast and televised worldwide and during the fourteen days of the rescue Barry Easter was the face and voice of the community to Tasmania and to the world. He provided regular updates and great reassurance to all who followed the recovery efforts day by day. It was a shining example of great civic leadership.

Now retired Barry lives at Grindelwald with his wife Jan of 56 years and his four children and eight grandchildren live nearby. Thanks Barry for all you have contributed to your community and best wishes and good health for your retirement.

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE:

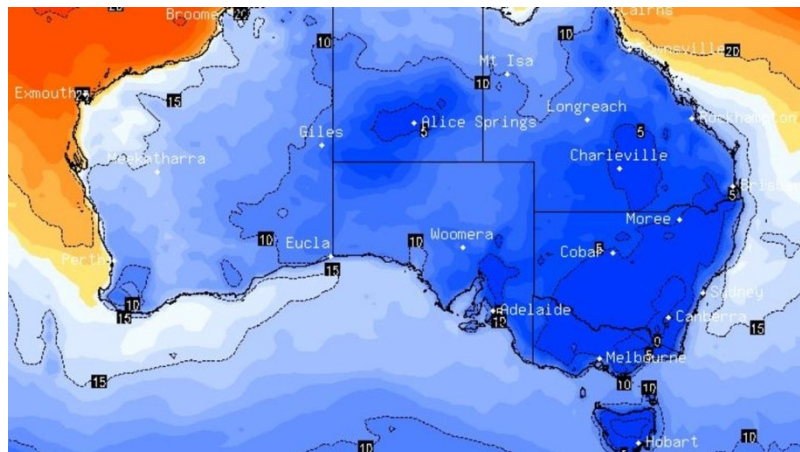
Hearty Greetings are forwarded to all members.

Here we go again. After a wave of COVID-19 peaked in January we now are immersed in Omicron variants BA.4 and BA.5 the new dominant strains in Australia. Unfortunately, they are more contagious than earlier variants. Consider the R0 transmissible score given to the variants. This score is the average number of people a single case infects in a population with no immunity. The original Wuhan strain of COVID-19 had an R0 of 3.3, Delta had an R0 of 5.1, and Omicron had an R0 of 9.5. Both BA.4 and BA.5 have an R0 of 18.6 which is similar to measles, considered to be the most infectious viral disease.

Again we all need to do our bit in keeping our community and ourselves well by wearing masks where mandated, preferably of the N95 or P2 type, social distancing and staying isolated and tested if unwell. All of our age cohort ought to be 4 x vaccinated while awaiting the availability of vaccines that specifically target the Omicron variants granted “provisional determination” by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in Australia.

Despite these health issue overhangs the business of the Queensland Branch continues to proceed at apace. We have enjoyed the reintroduction of ‘traditional’ Investitures at Government House along with a variety of well attended and planned metro and regional events. The Platinum Queen’s Birthday dinner co-hosted with the Victoria league at Parliament House in the presence of the Governor was particularly noteworthy. The pulse of activity will continue. Pleasing to report that a number of members have been involved in promoting the Order and Association in speaking engagements with professional and community groups.

Here is an image that the Qld Tourist Bureau does not distribute.....



Yes, it is true that occasionally, eg. current winter 2022, Queensland temperatures dip to rival NSW, Victoria and Tasmania. Yes we ‘tropicals’ do have gloves and beanies stashed away for these once in a decade or three when they are needed.

A rare event for a Branch was recorded this Past Queen’s birthday. The Patron of our Queensland Branch was awarded a Companion of the Order of Australia, and her full title becomes, Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland. We congratulate her on her award for services as the Queensland Chief Medical Officer.

Continue to keep well and safe.

Gary

What makes a Regional Community

The sun shone, the first time in many weeks as members, recent awardees and guests gathered for morning tea at The Downs Club in Toowoomba on Friday 27th May 2022.

Folk travelled from near and far to meet and listen to our guest speaker Julia Spicer OAM. Julia, who received the Medal of the Order of Australia on Australia Day 2022 is the founder of Engage and Create Consulting based in Goondiwindi, an organisation that strives to build viable and vibrant regional businesses and communities.

Julia regaled us with stories of growing up at Bymount, a small rural community north of Roma in South- West Queensland. Where her childhood experiences shaped her belief in the value of contributing to the greater good.

Julia is a strong advocate for regional communities and believes they have much to offer, emphasising that she chose to live and work West of the Divide. The focus of her professional and volunteer work is bringing people together to work in close collaboration to identify the opportunities they have, how they want to grow those opportunities in their communities and how they will achieve their goals.

Julia believes that the future is whatever we want it to be and whatever we are prepared to do. The passion she has for her work and community is unquestionable. Those present departed for home feeling inspired and uplifted, along with a deeper understanding of the special ingredients that make a regional community a “community”.

Megan McNicholl OAM

Regional Convener Darling Downs Region

A good roll up of 2022 Australia Day Award recipients attend our Welcome Celebratory Lunch

On Thursday 12 May 2022, the Queensland Branch hosted a Welcome Celebratory Lunch in the Kitty Hawk Room at Kedron Wavell Services Club, Chermside, for the 2022 Australia Day award recipients.

One hundred and twenty- eight guests attended the event including 25 new award recipients. The numbers were marred slightly by 13 guests having to pull out at the last minute due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was pleasing however, that 29 members of the Association were in attendance to welcome our newest award recipients.

A highlight was the “a cappella” rendition of the National Anthem, performed by Evelyn Bury OAM from Bundaberg to commence proceedings. Evelyn received her award in the 2022 Australia Day honours for service to country music and happily agreed to take on this role.

Geoffrey Cowles

Events and Awards Coordinator (Metro)

SUNSHINE COAST REGION LUNCHEON

On the 23 June this year 67 members and guests from the OAAQ Sunshine Coast Region joined together for our usual fun and fellowship luncheon. This was held in the Alex Surf Club Lookout Restaurant, Alexander Headland. The day was warm and sunny and the view from the restaurant of the sparkling ocean was magnificent.

We were thrilled to welcome to their first Region lunch three new awardees from the 2022 Queen's Birthday honours and one from the Australia Day honours. They were Prof. Peter Ellis OAM (AD Honours) Mr Gregory Beale OAM; Ms Therese Lee OAM and Mrs Helen Park OAM (QB Honours). Their Citations were read and they were given a hearty welcome by all present. We were also pleased to welcome members from the Darling Downs Region and the Wide Bay Burnett Region. As usual we were also pleased to welcome some of the members of the Qld. Branch Committee.

After lunch we were enthralled by the presentation from our Guest Speaker Brent Hall who had an interesting story to tell of his life as a Helicopter Pilot. In his presentation supported by slides, Brent covered areas of his life as an Army Helicopter Pilot and also as a Rescue Helicopter pilot. During his 10 years as a Black Hawk Army Helicopter Pilot he was involved in many missions. He was stationed in Townsville at the time of the disastrous Black Hawk helicopter crash in 1996; he was involved with combat missions in East Timor in 1999 (when he was awarded the Active Service Medal and Unit Meritorious Citation); he has seen duty in New Guinea; served with the SAS in Counter Terrorism operations which culminated at the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000. He was a senior instructor at the Army Helicopter Training Centre at Oakey 2002-2003 before deciding to become a Rescue Helicopter pilot in Queensland flying over 3000 missions to date. He is presently working with RACQ LifeFlight and has held the positions of Head of Training and Chief Pilot.

Brent is a delightful gentleman who is married with teenage children. Besides his flying he is involved in many areas including running a business; volunteering in his community and is on the board of an East Timor Non-Government Organisation (NGO) to assist school children. In his presentation Brent was able to involve the interest of all with stories of bravery, drama and selfless giving to help others.

Brent was thanked for his presentation by Kathy Wooldridge OAM and was presented with a gift and certificate of appreciation from the Region. At the end of an enjoyable function it was rewarding to hear from our new awardees and visitors that they were looking forward to the next event which will be held in September.

Marjorie Voss OAM

Sunshine Coast Region Convener

Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in grand style

"I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong."

On her twenty-first birthday on 21 April 1947, Princess Elizabeth was with her parents and younger sister on a tour of South Africa. In a speech broadcast on the radio from Cape Town, the Princess dedicated her life to the service of the Commonwealth, incorporating these famous words. Just five years later she would become Queen Elizabeth II.

Her Majesty has remained true to that service declaration she made all those years ago and throughout her seventy year reign she has served her people with dedication, devotion and loyalty.

Throughout the World in 2022 there have been many celebrations to commemorate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee; none better than our own Gala Black Tie Dinner in collaboration with the Victoria League Brisbane for Commonwealth Friendship, held in the Premiers' and Speakers' Halls at Parliament House, Brisbane on Friday 3 June, and celebrated by a 'full house' of 166 guests.

We were graced by the presence of Her Excellency, the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland, who was accompanied by Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD. Her Excellency addressed the gathering paying tribute to Her Majesty's considerable contribution to the Commonwealth and the World over the past seventy years. The formal part of the programme also included key speeches delivered by our Queensland Branch Chairman, Dr Gary Bacon AM and Dr Dimitri Kopanakis, the Chairman of Victoria League Brisbane, as well as a thoughtful Toast to Her Majesty proposed by our own Kathy Wooldridge OAM.

During the evening guests were entertained with music delivered by the Royal Australian Navy Jazz Ensemble. Some of the guests, towards the end of proceedings, even "let their hair down" a little, by dancing between the tables to this wonderful music.

This was indeed a wonderful and memorable occasion enjoyed by all in attendance

Geoff Cowles OAM

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE: NSW

The NSW Branch Committee welcomes our new members whose inspirational service for a better and more inclusive Australian society was recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. We very much look forward to meeting you at our Sydney and regional get togethers. Furthermore, we want to hear about your impacting contributions, even though you might be like many other members who are so often humbly shy to share. Your stories are powerful as are your examples.

It is that humility which is so often reflected in our cultural hesitancy to recognise others who make a difference to the strengthening of Australian and international communities, professions, research and the like. As Awardees, it is our responsibility to continue to serve and to be aware of others who also make a difference whom we should nominate for an Order of Australia recognition.

In my many years of volunteering and going beyond what I was employed to do, I enjoyed meeting, encouraging, sharing, learning, giving and investing in the present and future of Australians and others from overseas. I have become increasingly aware of the difficulties of attracting volunteers, whether it be short-term activities or long-term. Our population is constantly changing and we need to change with it.

At times I struggle as to how I can help when far too often I see natural disasters, relational conflicts, war, homelessness and poverty, and many other shapes of destruction, exclusion, discrimination, victimisation and racism. Whilst one cannot respond to each and every episode or example, I believe Awardees' stories exemplify how we can serve in areas which can benefit from our experience, training, passions, diversity and overall our commitment to a world who needs:

- Peace more than technology, wealth, retirement packages, non-essential materialism and status;
- Belonging and inclusion, even in community, because everyone should be valued, especially all generations, cultures, gender and the have-nots as well;
- Gap closing such as Reconciliation, applauding and understanding diversity, educational and employment opportunities and achieving equality;
- Help when the unexpected has turned our own world upside down and we find it difficult to re-surface; and
- Stateswomen and men who can confidently lead us into far better futures with greater hope.

Welcome and enjoy what the Branch has ahead.

OAA NSW VISIT THE ARCHIBALD @ THE ART GALLERY OF NSW



On Saturday 11th June, sixty members and guests were treated to an inaugural private tour of the 2022 Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prize exhibitions at the Art Gallery of NSW.

Our experienced tour guides made the experience most enjoyable and highly interactive. With the aid of individual headsets, one became emersed with the story and meaning of each of the paintings. The expert commentary was integral in making the paintings come alive with the depth and charism of each work. It was like hearing the artist explaining their work personally to each of us.

Following the one hour tour, our members and guests were treated to a scrumptious morning tea in the Gallery Café where there was robust discussion on which paintings were the favourites of the day!

Due to its great success and positive feedback with tickets sold out in just 2 days, we look forward to holding the event again next year!

A/Prof John Gullotta AM

Deputy Chairman, Events Manager and Public Relations

Rebecca Hooke OAM



When Rebecca was at high school, friends with mental health struggles tended to confide in her and she felt ill-equipped to support them. She was afraid of saying or doing the 'wrong

thing'. This led her to study psychology in university and to volunteer as a Lifeline telephone crisis supporter.

She has been with Lifeline for the past 13 years (a volunteer role she holds to this day). She also works overnight as a shift supervisor, supporting the team and arranging interventions with emergency services when needed. In 2014 Rebecca had the challenge & joy of going to PNG to trek the Kokoda trail as a fundraiser for Lifeline. After being mugged one night on her way home after volunteering, the physical healing was tough, but the mental healing took a lot longer. So, to be able to tackle a walk like Kokoda and to do it in support of a cause she loved was very powerful.

Her father also grew up in PNG, so it was great to connect with the stories and photos she had grown up with). She has also volunteered, through Lifeline, with Community Aid for many years, helping elderly locals maintain their independence and continue to live in their homes by helping with companionship, shopping, and giving lifts to those who don't drive.

One of her favorite things with Lifeline over all the years, has been participating in a documentary called 'Suicide and Me' - it's shown some years on ABC for mental health week and the team that made it won quite a few awards (including 'Best Documentary'). A few young survivors of suicide attempts tell their very personal stories. It also follows Rebecca and other volunteers in showing what it's like to take calls overnight and help people who are suicidal.

Outside of Lifeline she also donates a lot of blood/plasma with Red Cross and has been matched twice on the bone marrow registry (unfortunately those donations didn't proceed because the patients died while hospital arrangements were being made). She is in the process of becoming an altruistic kidney donor.

While pregnant with her daughter she had to pause blood donations and then discovered the option of donating breastmilk.

For the past 7 years she has been employed as a counsellor for the national Rape & Domestic Violence hotline 1800Respect and for the national Depression & Anxiety hotline BeyondBlue, and has also worked as a clinical lead, training and supporting counsellors on both support lines.

Rebecca also spent several years volunteering to help the homeless community with Rough Threads. She has consulted with the NSW police in developing and refining training, so officers have a rudimentary understanding of mental health struggles since they are often first responders when someone is having a crisis.

Her main reason for joining the Association was to meet people who do useful things to help their communities and learn more about causes she might be able to support in the future. Receiving her award has made her determined to do more in the community, and hopefully one day she feels she will have earned her OAM recognition.

Rebecca lives with her husband, and they have a 2yo daughter, Paige (and a dog, some turtles and a dragon for pets,). Family keeps her busy, so helping the community feels almost like a break!

SMALL KINDNESSES

Each and every one of our members has made a major contribution to the Australian community in some way. Some major, helping thousands, nationally, or internationally. Others have contributed locally, helping people in their town or region. All have been recognized through the Order of Australia for their exceptional achievements.

We are interested to learn more about our Members' ongoing acts of kindness in their everyday lives. Please send your thoughts to our Communications Liaison, louisedavis622@mail.com

We will publish your responses on our website and in our newsletters, and later in the year we will ask our committee to choose the one which we could all put to good use in our daily lives. The winner will receive free entry to our Christmas lunch in December.

Some examples could include:

For someone who has restricted mobility, and can't get out regularly, Home Library can be a valuable resource. Have you thought of signing up someone you know to a local library "home service" if there is one in your area?

Or for someone who has difficulty reading (eg TV guides), send or give them in large print perhaps, a list of the upcoming TV shows or Streaming programs you think they may enjoy, for the coming week.

Each day there are small kindnesses we can show, from saying thank you to people who provide services to us in the supermarket or doctors office. Offering someone less mobile than you, your place in the coffee queue; being patient and pleasant when we are kept holding on for what seems like days when we are calling government departments, or other busy switchboards. Generally sending positive vibes even if we think we have a reason to be grumpy. Practicing gratitude. Gratitude is one of the strongest positive emotions we can contribute to the betterment of society.

Some ideas from us: Now we look forward to hearing yours. Louise Davis AM

Thanks to Lifeism for their excellent website which is full of great ideas about how to contribute to society <https://lifeism.co/simple-ways-to-contribute-to-society>

NT BRANCH

National Conference 2022



The NT was represented at the National Conference in Canberra by four delegates, led by our Chairman Alan James OAM.

Both Ms. Linda Fazldeen AM and Dr. Kerry Eupene AM expressed pleasure at the opportunity to meet other recipients of the Order of Australia, who represented a diverse group from all over the country.

They have shared some thoughts on the conference...

The opening address by Shane Stone, outgoing Chair of The Order of Australia Council, provided an insightful overview of the significance of the Order of Australia. He stressed that key elements of service in the community were leadership by example and integrity, that service to community should be aligned with selflessness and resilience, and that mentoring brings huge benefits.

This probably set the tone for the other presentations by a diverse range of speakers who covered many topics from their own life experiences. It was interesting to hear the Quantum Physicist talk about the buzz he got out of knowing that for a while he was the only person in the world who knew a particular fact, the Diplomat's wife who taught Middle East men the art of quilt making, and the Chief of Joint Operations giving his assessment of the Ukraine war – all unique achievers.

Annual Dinner July 11, 2022

Sixty-five members and friends attended a most enjoyable dinner in the Signature Lounge of the Hilton Hotel in Mitchell Street, Darwin. We were delighted that our patron, Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO, and her husband Mr. Craig O'Halloran joined us for the occasion. She gave an uplifting speech encouraging members to nominate people in the community worthy of an Order of Australia, and emphasised how much pleasure it gave her to actually make these awards on investiture days. We were reminded of the diversity of our population and the variety of contributive and volunteer work that people from every walk of life render to enhance our quality of life.

We were also privileged to hear from **Mr. Barry Coulter AO**, who shared some anecdotes from his life, as referenced in his book trilogy "A Dreadful Mistake", as well as some thoughts

about the Territory's future, and from **Mr. Luke Gosling OAM, MP**, who shared insights from his position as Member for Solomon and the Australian Parliament.

Our third speaker was **Ms. Shanao Kuo**, Order of Australia Foundation Scholarship recipient in 2019, who was featured in the last Order magazine, along with other Foundation Scholarship winners.

Guests at the Dinner also enjoyed some beautiful piano playing and singing from young high school student **Kevin Valerio**, whose rendition of Elton John's "Rocket Man" was particularly popular – and topical against the recent NASA rocket launchings from Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory!