



Welcome from VIC Branch Chair

Please enjoy reading The Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch December 2022 edition of our e-Newsletter. Our thoughts are with members impacted over recent months with the floods in metropolitan, regional and rural Victoria.

Our final event for 2022 was the End of Year Dinner on Thursday November 24 at William Angliss Restaurant with speaker Allan Myers AC KC an Australian barrister, academic, businessman, landowner, philanthropist and current Chancellor of the University of Melbourne.

Order of Australia Association Foundation 2018 Scholarship recipient Jeremy Doupe gave members and guests an update on his studies, work and community service. See pages 2 to 4 for the event wrap-up.

Please refer to the national website for further information regarding the Order of Australia Association Branch and Regional Group news, Merchandise Shop and Order of Australia Award Nominations at <http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au>

On a personal note, I thank the members of the OAA VIC Branch committee for their work during the year to ensure we stayed connected with our members and plan for the future. 2023 will be a busy year delivering our Branch events, assisting our Regional Groups and the National Conference in Geelong.

Best wishes to our members for the festive season and trust 2023 brings you and those special to you prosperity, health and optimism. Please stay safe and enjoy summer.



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



Victoria Branch events for 2023 including the Annual General Meeting, please refer to page 5

2023 National Conference in Geelong May 18-21, refer to page 6

Regional Group 2023 events refer to pages 12 and 13.

End of Year Dinner

It was pleasing to see members and their guests back at William Angliss Restaurant on Thursday November 24 for our End of Year Dinner. After the National Anthem Fred Harrington OAM, VIC Branch Membership Secretary proposed the Toast to King Charles III and The Order of Association.

Our well respected speaker **Allan Myers AC KC** spoke about an institution which is prominent in our community and two persons connected with that institution who have served our country in remarkable ways. Allan is the University of Melbourne Chancellor and referred to two former Chancellors, Sir Redmond Barry and Sir Robert Menzies.

The University of Melbourne is an important institution for Melbourne, Victoria and Australia through the decades and a major contributor to our economy. The research conducted by the university and associated institutes employ thousands of qualified men and women responsible for numerous discoveries including the influenza virus by Macfarlane Burnet and medical treatments and devices such as the Cochlear Ear Implant.

Allan's reference to institutions also included world recognised public and private institutions in Melbourne ranging from the Courts, the State Library and its offspring, the National Gallery of Victoria, Parliament and the Museum of Victoria, all support education, research and the diverse cultural of Victoria.



William Lye OAM KC Committee Member and National Branch Director thanked Allan Myers AC KC for his generous contribution to the community; his leadership in philanthropy; and his championing of diversity more broadly.

William recounted it was around 1989 when he first met Allan Myers AC KC. William had taken chambers on the eastern quadrant of the 11th floor of Owen Dixon Chambers West where Allan had his chambers in the western quadrant of that floor. William said that Allan was already one of Her Majesty's Counsel when he

started as a 'baby barrister'. Now himself one of His Majesty's Counsel, William conveyed his fond memories of Allan as a mentor to many younger Barristers.

Many leaders in Victoria, Australia and overseas are Alumnus of the University of Melbourne.

Order of Australia Association Foundation 2018 Scholarship recipient **Jeremy Doupe** joined MC David Mann AM for a Q&A session updating members and guests on his studies, work and community service.

Jeremy finished his undergraduate studies at the University of Melbourne in Bachelor of Commerce mid-2018. In the following six months, he took some time off to travel, before returning to Melbourne

End of Year Dinner

Business School in the first semester of 2019 for his studies in the Master of International Business

He was initially drawn to the prospect of the dual-degree program, where he would spend one-year studying in Melbourne, then spend one year overseas. In terms of the study itself, he enjoyed the opportunity to meet and engage with people from a variety of international backgrounds

While overseas last year Jeremy volunteered with Earthrace Conservation a not-for-profit organisation focussing on various conservation missions worldwide that save animals and habitat. He lived aboard the ship 'MODOC' in the Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica assisting with the ongoing restoration of MODOC and assisted local rangers in completing anti-poaching patrols.

Since November 2010 Jeremy has been a volunteer at Life Saving Victoria in various roles.

May of this year Jeremy commenced as an Associate at Boston Consulting Group. His focus is about the impact his actions make on his studies, community engagement and employment.

Jeremy acknowledged the opportunities the Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship has given him over the years; he also thanked family members of the scholarship Craig Joel and Andrew Joel who attended the dinner. The generous donor of Jeremy's scholarship was The Family of Jack Mayer Joel OAM.

Having listened to Jeremy the words of Benjamin Franklin come to mind – An investment in knowledge awlays pays the best interest.



Photos

Jeremy Doupe and David Mann AM

Members and guests in the William Angliss Restaurant

End of Year Dinner

Members had the opportunity to purchase merchandise at the dinner including two new items: the new aqua and white stripe on a black background tie with the OAA crest and the OAA lapel badge with a magnetic fitting.

The Merchandise Shop is online www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart

During the evening recipients who joined the Association in 2022 unable to attend the Thank You Reception on September 1 at the Melbourne Town Hall were presented with a gift.

Citations were read acknowledging the contribution our members make in the community.

In closing the OAA VIC Branch Chair Helene Bender AM thanked the students and staff at William Angliss Restaurant; the students are first year in the first six months of their course; the feedback from members and guests was positive regarding their level of service and quality of the meal. William Angliss is a specialist training provider for food, tourism, hospitality, event and hotel management industries, delivering a range of courses within Australia and Internationally



Photo: David Mann AM reading the citation for Gael Perry OAM a member of the Barwon Regional Group and Helene Bender AM making the gift presentation

Photo: Cathy Roth OAM and Dr John Roth. Cathy is the Volunteer Coordinator for the 2023 National Conference



Photo: Merchandise stand at the dinner: David Gregory OAM newly appointed Merchandise Chair, Barb Brook OAM VIC Branch Regional Groups Coordinator and Alan Brook OAM co-opted member to VIC Branch committee

2023 OAA Victoria Branch Events

All venues selected by the Victoria Branch for our events are accessible by members and guests of all abilities. They are also easily accessible by public transport from metropolitan and regional areas.



Tuesday February 28:

Doors open 10.30am for 11.00am start, scheduled to finish at 12.30pm.

Venue - Melbourne Town Hall

The Inspiring Australians Oration will be delivered by Chris Leptos AO. Chris was an AM recipient and elevated to AO Australia Day 2022. This event will be a similar format to previous OAA VIC Branch Orations with students from three senior schools invited and the 2013 OAA Foundation recipient Tom Crowhurst will also provide members and guests with an update of his studies, employment, pro-bono experience and community work.

Please refer to page 7 for the Oration invitation, bookings are now open.

Tuesday March 28: 10.45am sign-in for the Annual General Meeting for financial members at William Angliss Institute.

Lunch at 12noon in the William Angliss Restaurant with speaker to be confirmed

July/August on a Sunday - National Gallery of Victoria Winter Masterpieces event; waiting for 2023 exhibition dates. The event will include onsite lecture, exhibition and a lunch option next door in the Arts Centre Melbourne.

Wednesday October 4: 1.00pm at Alex Theatre St Kilda within walking distance of rail and tram services

VIC Branch Reception to welcome January and June recipients who join the Association in 2023; the reception is to say thank you.

Thursday November 23: 6.15pm End of Year Dinner for members and guests at William Angliss Restaurant with speaker Natalie O'Brien AM. Refer to the article on page 16 regarding Natalie.

The VIC Branch will also host one virtual event in July; this allows us to communicate with members who for various reasons are unable to attend face-to-face events.

Frequently Asked Question

How do I order additional or replace Order of Australia Medals or Lapel Pins?

Additional or replacement Order of Australia Insignia and Lapel Pins can be purchased from:

Honours Secretariat

The Order of Australia Government House

Yarralumla ACT 2600

Telephone: (02) 6283 3533

Email: honours@gg.gov.au



Note the Association Lapel Badge sold in the Merchandise Shop is NOT the official lapel pin Order of Australia recipients receive with the medal pack at their Investiture.

For answers to other Frequently Asked Questions refer to **FAQ's** on the OAA national website.

2023 National Conference

Venue: Geelong

Dates: May 18-21



Theme: Working Together-Building the Future

Bookings are now open:

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

The website pages include the conference program, accommodation, transport and transfer options to Geelong

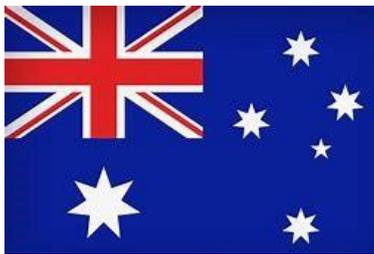


With various conference events including registration and the selling of merchandise our Volunteers Coordinator Cathy Roth OAM invites members willing to assist for a couple of hours to please contact her via E: cathy.roth@bigpond.com
To the members who have already offered their time to be a volunteer – thank you.

***The Order* national quarterly magazine e-copy option**

If you would prefer to receive the Association's national magazine as an e-copy rather than a hard copy via mail please email to the National Editor (Phil) nateditor@theorderofaustralia.asn.au asking to be changed to an e-copy distribution.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.



THE
ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
ASSOCIATION
VICTORIA BRANCH

Inspiring Australians Oration Invitation for OAA Members and Guests

Tuesday February 28, 2023

Doors open 10.30am for 11.00am start

Melbourne Town Hall: 90-130 Swanston Street



Oration will be delivered by **Chris Leptos AO**

Director of an 'ASX 100' company that operates in 30 countries; he is the chair of three national charities; and he holds a statutory appointment under the ACCC overseeing supplier complaints in the supermarket sector.

Earlier in his career he was a Managing Partner at Ernst & Young, prior to which he was head of Corporate Development for Western Mining. He doesn't have much spare time, but he greatly enjoys working on his farm in central Victoria.

2013 Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship recipient **Tom Crowhurst** will update members and guests on the benefits of his scholarship and talk about his community work and current employment.

Cost: \$10 per person includes GST + booking fee. Light refreshments will be served after the formalities. OAA Merchandise will be sold at this event.

Members: Order of Australia large medal may be worn at the Oration

Book by February 21 at <https://www.trybooking.com/CESXG>

Enquires or assistance with bookings contact
Fred Harrington OAM via E: sec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au or M: 0417 116 304



OAA VIC Branch Regional Group News in the wrap-up of 2022

Barwon Regional Group

Ross Synot OAM has been named the 2022 Senior Achiever, recognised for his community and sporting work within Geelong, Ross has contributed to the City of Greater Geelong's 30-year plan.



Councillor Belinda Moloney congratulated him on his award noting he has gone over and above to be a positive influence throughout the Greater Geelong community for many years.

“His impact has been far reaching both in health and recreation, while we are especially grateful for the role that he has played as an inaugural member of our Ageing Well Committee”

He also set up the Bravehearts branch in Geelong, to protect children from sexual abuse, and has been the face of a campaign to stop elder abuse.

Ross Synot [middle] receiving his award, photo supplied by City of Greater Geelong

Gippsland Regional Group

Annual Gala Event “A resounding success”

Over one hundred members and guests gathered at Traralgon’s Century Inn Function Centre to enjoy the annual Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnet Oration address, facilitated by the Association’s Gippsland Regional Group.

This year’s event would have been the tenth in the series of Gala Events organised by the Regional Group, however, due to Covid19 restrictions no event was held in 2020 and 2021. Since the concept was introduced, there have been more than a thousand attendees at the Dinner and, as a result of the generosity of The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute (as well as some Regional Group members); more than one hundred local students from the nearby university have been sponsored to attend.

The dinner and oration have developed a strong regular following from across the Gippsland Region and it has provided locals and the students with access to world class speakers who, following in Macfarlane Burnet’s footsteps, have been specialists in their chosen medical or research subject.

A tradition adopted from the initial event is for the Regional Group to present the speaker with a replica of the Nobel Prize that Sir Frank was awarded in 1960, and feedback from the speakers to date has been that they cherish the memento of their attendance at the prestigious night. The event is held each year on (or as close to) the 20th of October as this is the date that the Nobel Prize was awarded to Sir Frank who, incidentally, was also the inaugural Australian of the year in 1960.

Since the initial Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnet address in 2013, there have been an impressive array of eminent speakers who have come to Traralgon (the birthplace of Sir Frank) at the invitation of the Order of Australia Association Gippsland Regional Group and delivered addresses on a wide range of medical research topics ranging from the development of the ‘bionic eye’ to harnessing the immune system to fight cancer.

Gippsland Regional Group

Planning is well underway for next year's event and those interested are advised to **save the date** Wednesday October 18 to avoid disappointment. More details will be provided after arrangements are confirmed.



Photo: OAA Gippsland Regional Group Chair, Lorraine Bartling OAM assisted by GRG Assistant Secretary Helen Holley presents the 2022 Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnet Address guest speaker Professor Nathan Lawrentschuk, MMBS, PhD, FRACS with the traditional replica of Sir Frank's (joint) Nobel Prize for medicine in appreciation for his very informative presentation.



Students from Federation University, Gippsland Campus pose for a photo at the conclusion of the 2023 Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnet address by eminent Urologist and Robotic Surgeon, Professor Nathan Lawrentschuk at Century Inn Function Centre, Traralgon.

Loddon Campaspe Regional Group

Members of the Loddon Campaspe Regional Group met at the Golden Dragon Chinese Museum in Bendigo on Friday October 14 for a tour of the award-winning Chinese Cultural Centre of Australia by CEO Mr Hugo Leschen.

Fortunately, the visit coincided with the completion of the restoration of 120-year-old Imperial Dragon Loong, the oldest surviving intact processional dragon in Australia. A spectacular centrepiece amongst the treasures on display including his successors Sun Loong & Dai Gum Loong, each in turn have been the centrepiece for Bendigo's annual Easter Fair procession since 1892.

Following an informal tour of the venue some participants braved the blustery weather conditions for a wander through the tranquil Chinese gardens adjacent to the museum before a photo shoot and then lunch at the nearby Bridge Hotel.

A most enjoyable day out especially when other less mobile members joined us for lunch



Photo of attendees outside Golden Dragon Museum L-R: Daniel Giles OAM, Terry Larkin OAM, Dr Penny Davies AM, Dennis O'Hoy AM, Deborah Fleming OAM, Ruth Hosking OAM, Dawn Coulbourne OAM, Hugo Leschen, Mrs Win O'Hoy

North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley Regional Group

NEGV floods

We acknowledge that many of our members have been affected by the recent Victorian floods and we do hope that everyone is safe and well.

October Luncheon

58 members and guests enjoyed the final NE&GVRG lunch event for 2022 in Wangaratta on Sunday October 9. Guest speaker was Alana Johnson AM.

As a 5th generation farmer among many of her roles, Alana spoke of colonial times when land was cleared for farming as this was the notion of improvement. If you weren't seen to be improving the land – that is - fencing, clearing – you could lose it. This of course means there can be disconnect between the agenda of landowners versus the agenda of the community or of environmental values. The fact that farmers are responsible for so much of our land mass is a challenge for the future. Smaller family farms are being replaced with large property landholders, meaning there are fewer people to make decisions over our land. Consideration of how we are to use our water is also a major challenge.



Many of us are now concerned over how our food is grown and how we manage “Paddock to Plate”.

Listening to Alana it was heartening to learn of how much we can do to ensure the future of farming in the country. Alana's work in all her roles has been invaluable in paving the way for future generations.

South Central Suburbs

Our final official function for 2022 on Wednesday November 16 was our End of Year Dinner held at the Commonwealth Golf Club, which was a new venue for us and our functions.

Numbers were down as there is still hesitancy with COVID-19 being very prevalent, or one could say, rampant in the community at large. But those 50 plus who attended enjoyed each other's companionship in extremely nice welcoming surroundings.

For the first time we had a Loyal Toast to King Charles III delivered by Dr. Cheryl Threadgold OAM which was very warmly accepted.

Guest Speaker was Ms. Kathy Kaplan OAM who heads up an organization called Impact an organisation that provides hope to women and children escaping extreme abuse at home.

They supply gifts and services with dignity, which allows the recipients to envision the possibility of a happier and safer future.

South Central Suburbs Regional Group

As well they offer Court Child Care, bursaries, interest free loans and more, such as clothing, household products etc.



All of this is carried out with no paid staff or government support but by a cadre of caring volunteers and caring benefactors.

Kathy gave some statistical figures regarding violence and those figures do not make one feel terribly comfortable. We live in a world where there is good and bad and in this case we see good being carried out to assist those who have suffered badly.

Congratulations to Kathy and her band of volunteers. If any reader wishes to take this further they can contact Kathy via: kathy@impactforwomen.org.au. She would be pleased to answer your query and certainly would be pleased to accept any assistance offered.

A very pleasing evening overall with most enjoyable food and pleasant service carried out by the staff of the Commonwealth Golf Club.

On behalf of our Regional Group we wish all a very memorable and meaningful Christmas and all that is good for the New Year.

2023 REGIONAL GROUP EVENTS

Barwon Regional Group

Annual General Meeting – **Sunday February 12** - Point Lonsdale

Central Highlands Wimmera

Annual General Meeting – **Sunday February 19** – Ararat RSL 12.30pm for lunch at own cost then AGM at 2.00pm.

Eastern Suburbs Regional Group

Annual General Meeting – **Thursday March 16** - 5.30pm virtual event with speaker Jaqui Bond General Manager Client & Vision Services at Guide Dogs Victoria
ESRG AGM will commence after webinar

Frankston Mornington Peninsula Regional Group

Annual General Meeting – **Wednesday March 22**

Gippsland Regional Group

Annual General Meeting **Sunday March 19** at Rotary Centenary House Traralgon, High Tea will be served after the AGM

Wednesday October 18 - Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnet Oration and dinner in Traralgon

Loddon Campaspe Regional Group

Annual General Meeting - **Friday March 17** - Bendigo



2023 REGIONAL GROUP EVENTS

Melbourne Central Regional Group

Annual General Meeting - **Tuesday March 21** – lunch at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club with Speaker Professor Michael Berk Director Institute for Mental and Physical Health and Clinical Translation (IMPACT)

North Central Suburbs Regional Group

Annual General Meeting – **Wednesday March 1** – late morning at Sycamore Tree Café in Heidelberg followed by lunch

North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley Regional Group

Annual General Meeting and 30th birthday anniversary lunch – **Sunday March 26** at Lakeside Community Centre Benalla. Opportunity for a great celebration lead by John Brown AO and Pam Robinson AM as guest speakers, along with a photo display of the last 30 years' luncheons.

John Brown has kindly donated a bottle of 1993 Brown's Ruby Cabernet which will be drawn at the lunch with all attendees being put into the draw. A date not to be missed!

Sunday June 25 at Yarrawonga Mulwala Golf Club

Guest speaker Mr Tony Rinaud AM. Tony is a world-renowned agronomist.

South Central Suburbs Regional Group

Annual General Meeting – **Thursday March 23** at 11.00am then lunch at Marine Hotel in Brighton

Western Suburbs Regional Group

Annual General Meeting **Thursday February 16**

Have your say and nominate someone inspiring today

Do you know someone who enriches the lives of others and makes our country a better place? Someone inspiring. By nominating them for an Order of Australia, you have a say in who is celebrated, and the types of service and achievements that matter to you.

Anyone can nominate someone for an Order of Australia at any time – there is no deadline. And, you don't need to know every detail about the person you want to nominate.

To complete a nomination, you need the name and contact details of the person you are nominating, an outline of their contribution, and the names and contact details of up to four referees.

For step-by-step guidance, you can watch this new 'how to nominate' webinar

<https://www.facebook.com/AussieHonours/videos/948700193186098>

The nomination form is available at www.gg.gov.au – it can be completed online or downloaded for completion in hard copy.

Who will you nominate?





THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION

You are invited to join the 10 day tour of Gallipoli, followed immediately by a 9 day tour of the battlefields of Western Front [May/June 2023]



- ✓ **This fully escorted tour is reserved for OAA members and their guests. All Covid related rules and regulations at the time will be strictly adhered to ensure safety.**
- ✓ Highlights of the Turkey tour lead by author and historian Dr John Basarin OAM will be visits to Gallipoli Battlefields [Anzac Cove, Lone Pine, Chunuk Bair, Shrapnel Gully, The Nek, Ari Burnu, Quinn's Post, Krithia and Helles], Troy, Pergamum, Ephesus and Istanbul.
- ✓ Western Front tour highlights, led by researcher Garry Snowden OAM, will include cities of Paris, Ieper, Amiens and Arras and the battlefields of Menin Gate, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele, Fromelles, Bullecourt, Pozieres, Compiègne and Villers-Bretonneux.
- ✓ You can choose to tour Turkey on its own, the Western Front on its own, or combine the two. A small part of the funds go towards OAA and FOGI. **Approximate** costs are:-
 - a. Turkey \$3999.00 twin/double per person. Single supplement \$899.00.
 - b. Western Front \$4950.00 twin/double per person. Single supplement \$990.00.
 - c. Combined \$9799.00 twin/double per person. Single supplement \$1899.00 (this includes the flight from Turkey to Paris).
- ✓ All 3-4 star accommodation, breakfasts, several meals, site entrance fees, luxury coach travel, sightseeing, and services of professional tour guides are included.
- ✓ Not included are international airfares from Australia, insurance, some meals and expenses of personal nature.
- ✓

Please register your expression of interest at your earliest opportunity as this tour will book out quickly. Further details can be supplied on request by contacting Alan Valpied at iTalk Travel and Cruise – Ballarat on Phone 03 53335913, M: 0418 503 188 during business hours, or email alan@ballarat.italk.travel

OAA Victoria Branch welcomes David Gregory OAM Merchandise Chair

It is with pleasure we introduce the OAA Merchandise Chair David Gregory OAM to our members.

Below is David's career profile:

Senior Business Leader and recognised small business expert with great skills and success in driving small business growth within a challenging and dynamic market.

Recognised by at the United Nations in New York as an SME Global Leader by the International Council of Small Business (ICSB)

Specialist service provider with extensive skills partnering with small business managers to support organisational growth, drive profit and opportunities as well as manage and resolve conflicts and issues unique to small business owners.

High level management and business development background utilising strong interpersonal and communication skills to effectively partner and develop brand awareness with government bodies, industry regulators and individuals across all levels of business management.

Demonstrated negotiator and mediator with the ability to immediately plan and then resolve issues utilising strong problem analysis skills whilst supporting core principles of mediation and conflict resolution.

Extensive experience developing and implementing policies and procedures to support organisational and industry growth within the small business market.

Recognised expert in disaster support for business having worked with over 1500 impacted businesses during the 2009 bushfires, the Victorian Floods and the 2014 Morwell mine fires.

Successful change manager that has a track record in Stakeholder engagement, invigorating an organisation and developing cultural change.

Background in: Government relations, Small Business Support, Mentoring, Business Advice, State Government, Education, Training, Website development, Management, Bushfire Flood and Disaster Support,

Specialties: People management, governance, government relations, business support

David is an Order of Australia recipient for service to the Small Business Sector 2022. Former CEO and Managing Director of the Small Business Mentoring Service (SBMS) Inc, Former CEO of The Small Business Institute (TSBI) Pty Ltd, Director and Vice President of the Small Enterprise Association of Australia and New Zealand (SEAANZ).

Former Member of the Victorian Small Business Ministerial Advisory Council

Barb Brook OAM will continue to receive OAA merchandise stock and despatch OAA merchandise orders in 2023 – thank you Barb.

OAA Merchandise Shop: www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart



Congratulations to OAA Member Natalie O'Brien AM

Chairman of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Trust, The Hon John Brumby AO announced in October the appointment of Natalie O'Brien AM as the next Chief Executive of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC).

Natalie will join the business early 2023 and brings a wealth of leadership experience in the tourism and events industry. She is a former CEO of Food and Wine Victoria, producers of Australia's internationally acclaimed *Melbourne Food & Wine Festival*.

Most recently she has managed her own strategy consultancy, while operating as a CEO for Wine Victoria, and previously interim CEO for Ballarat Regional Tourism, where she led the co-design of Visitor Economy Recovery Plans.

Natalie was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2019 Australia Day Honours list for significant service to tourism, food, and the community of Victoria



As CEO of MCEC she will be responsible for the overall management, business plan delivery and future strategic direction of MCEC and the operational planning for the new Geelong Convention and Exhibition Centre (GCEC).

Natalie is joining MCEC at a crucial time as we recover from the impact of COVID-19 and build for the future. The Centre has reopened to a strong demand for business and Natalie will play a key role guiding the business back to its pre-pandemic levels of success in the coming years.

We thank The Hon John Brumby AO for the media news regarding Natalie's appointment.

Natalie O'Brien AM has accepted the invitation from the OAA VIC Branch to speak at our Thursday November 23 End of Year Dinner at William Angliss Restaurant.

Justice Gaetano (Tony) Pagone AM receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Given the impressive and diligent commitment to the field of justice and community, it is not surprising that the Honourable Justice Gaetano (Tony) Pagone AM has received numerous accolades and acknowledgments. To add to the recognition received over the years, in November this year, Justice Pagone was presented with a lifetime achievement award in Lacknow, India at the 23rd International Conference of Chief Justices of the World. The Award was presented by the city's Montessori school – a lovely synergy between the Italian pedagogical approach to education and Justice Pagone's own Italian heritage. Justice Pagone said that "it was a rare honour. It was touching to have been presented with the award."



Justice Pagone received a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2022 Australia Day Honours for "significant service to the law, to the judiciary, and to professional associations". He was appointed as a Royal Commissioner in the recent Royal Commission into the Aged Care Quality and Safety in September 2019. His commitment to aged care has seen him take up a position as Patron to Aged-care Legal Advocacy and Reform Matter (ALARM), an organisation addressing the inadequacies identified by the royal commission and contributing to the reform of the aged care sector. His driving aim is to ensure that "Australia's most vulnerable people have access to legal support and services."

Justice Pagone is President of the International Association of Judges, a co-opted member of the Governing Council of the Judicial Conference of Australia, and a professorial fellow at Melbourne University's Law School.



At the recent Order of Australia Association, Victoria end of year dinner, the Honourable Tony Pagone was presented with an acknowledgement of his contribution to Australian society. When asked about the recognition, Tony Pagone remarked humbly, it is an honour that he 'shares with all those who have contributed to and been part of his journey'.

Article and photo supplied by Dr. Teresa De Fazio OAM OAA VIC Branch committee member.

OAA logo name badges



NAME HERE
Title Here

A template on the **Name Badges Australia** webpage allows OAA members to order name badges.

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

Order of Australia Association Member - Maria Alexiadis OAM

If ever an Olympic medal were to be handed out for 'quiet achiever' or 'infectious enthusiasm' then Maria Alexiadis would surely be atop the dais. The Gold Medallist from the 2009 Oceania Championships narrowly missed out on qualifying for the Tokyo Games but has since added a medal of a different kind to her collection.

In the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours, Maria received an OAM for service to karate. Maria has done it all in the sport – athlete, coach, coaching education coordinator, development coordinator, board member and now the first-ever female president of Karate Victoria. But you won't hear her talking up her achievements.



“As honoured as I am to receive an award, I'm not a talker as such. I am someone who simply sees what needs to be done and does it. For me, it's all about serving the members.

“I want to be the person in karate who jumps in and helps make the sport better.”

Maria says the most satisfying aspect of receiving an OAM is that it means she has had a positive impact on people's lives.

“I was genuinely surprised at finding out I had been nominated. I really had no idea. It made me feel really special and was a great honour for me and particularly our sport.”

Maria acknowledges that the sport of karate is not as high profile as, say, swimming or track and field but is buoyed by the fact that it was included in the Olympics for the first time in Tokyo and hopes that helps generate interest in her sport.

“I think everyone should get involved in a sport, not just because of the health benefits but the important traits it teaches you like commitment and having a passion for something.”

The self-effacing Maria is quick to heap praise on family and friends who have been with her on her journey every step of the way, through good times and bad.

“Receiving the OAM was wonderful for my family and friends. I share the medal with them as they are big part of it.

“I think it's important that people are recognised for contributing to their community. It helps inspire others to make a positive difference. “There are so many people in the community doing good work and more people should be nominating people!”

Article from Order of Australia Recipient Profiles from the Office of the Governor-General



The Governor of Victoria, the Honourable Linda Dessau AC, and Mr Anthony Howard AM KC invited members of The Order of Australia VIC Branch to attend a free public lecture on child health issues at Government House Victoria on Wednesday 30 November 2022.

The event opened with remarks by the Governor, followed by a discussion moderated by MCRI Director, Professor Kathryn North AC, on the current health challenges facing children in Victoria, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and emerging solutions.

Panel speakers:

Professor Sharon Gelfeld: Public health expert and Deputy Director of 'GenV'

Dr Daniel MacArthur: Director of the Centre for Population Genomics

Liana Buchanan: Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People

Watch the livestream of the discussion <https://www.governor.vic.gov.au>

The most common passwords used online in Australia

Number	Password	Time to crack
1	123456	1 sec
2	password	1 sec
3	lizottes	3 hours
4	password1	1 sec
5	123456789	1 sec
6	12345	1 sec
7	abc123	1 sec
8	qwerty	1 sec
9	12345678	1 sec
10	holden	2 min

SOURCE: NordPass

A recent study by global security firm Nord Security revealed the most common passwords in over 50 countries. While the top seven were fairly generic as seen in the table below, some in the top 10 may surprise you.

While the number 1 password, 123456, may provide ease of use to some who believe this is 'uncrackable,' the research found the password used by 308,483 people could be cracked in under a second.

Some passwords that may not seem that common, but failed to have a mix of cases, numerals and letters, such as 'australia,' 'qwerty,' or the quintessentially Australian password 'holden,' were all able to be cracked in less than two minutes.

OAA VIC Branch Regional Group Chairs current December 1, 2022

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

*Denotes Interim Chair

Merchandise Shop

Our Merchandise Shop is taking a short break later this month.
Closing Thursday December 22, 2022 and Opening Tuesday January 3, 2023

To our members who purchased merchandise during the year, we appreciate your ongoing support.



See you in 2023
