



Dated FEBRUARY 2023



A selection of NSW Branch members enjoying the pleasures of a Sydney Harbour cruise. More details in the NSW Branch pages.

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.

National Office – Email: oaasecretariat@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

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

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

In my National Address on Australia Day, I reflected on what it means to be Australian.

Of course, there isn't a single, simple answer. My experience is different from yours and yours will be different from your neighbour's.

Mine is informed by the people Linda and I have had the privilege of meeting. They and their experiences are as diverse as our country is big. Our conversations tell me that Australia is not a finished product, but that we are a good people. Yes, there are many challenges and, yes, we don't agree on everything.

We do however work hard, look out for each other and are not afraid to take on the big challenges.

We are a country to be proud of and that is worth celebrating.

As members of the Association well know, the Order of Australia provides the means to recognise and celebrate the individuals who help make us proud.

The Australia 2023 Honours List included 736 recipients in the General Division and 30 in the Military Division. The range of service amongst recipients is, as is always the case, remarkable. Amidst that diversity, the characteristics I spoke of in my National Address are writ large – hard work, compassion for others and the drive to take on big tasks and change our community for the better.

I congratulate all recipients. Each has had an impact at the local, national and international level. Each is, in their own way, inspiring.

I was pleased to see positive coverage in the media about a wide range of the recipients. Pleased for the individuals themselves – humble as they may be they deserve to be celebrated publicly. Moreover, pleased because each Honours List is a chance to remind ourselves as a nation of just how much good there is in our community. We should take inspiration from the individuals and be proud of our country.

Each Honours list is also an opportunity to remind people that recipients have something else in common – they were nominated. If the Order is to reflect Australia's diversity and strength – and it must – we need to keep working to encourage nominations.

I would like to thank the Association and all of its members for their ongoing work and contributions. I value the role the Association plays and look forward to meeting as many members as possible during the National Convention later this year.

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We enter 2023 with the aftermath of floods and difficult economic conditions still impacting the lives of many Australians. Our Association has an important role in supporting all in the challenging task of recovery. Through our Branch organisations we need to reach out to both members and the broader community with, where possible, support, ongoing contact, and fellowship.

Elections for Association office bearers are well under way as this edition of the magazine goes to print. I congratulate all who have accepted nomination and look forward to working with the successful nominees. Active membership of, and the continuing contribution of new ideas to the work of our Board and Branch committees is essential to the success of our Association.

The Honourable Shane Stone AC KC completed his term as chairman of the Order of Australia Council in late 2022 and was succeeded by Ms Shelley Reys AO. Shane has been an enthusiastic supporter of our Association throughout his term of office. We look forward to working with Shelley as we have done with Shane.

Our National Conference is to be held in Geelong from 18th to 21st May 2023. A worthwhile programme of presentations, activities and entertainment has been arranged by the conference committee. This will be a great opportunity to catch up with long standing friends once more, make new acquaintances and appreciate the attractions of Victoria's largest regional centre.

I look forward to meeting members throughout 2023 and in Geelong this year.

EDITORIAL – PHIL MORRALL AM, CSC

As we step out into 2023, if inspiration is needed, I commend to you those Australians who received Honours in the Australia Day list.

If one should ever doubt the endeavors and talents of our fellow citizens, then there is the proof of an energetic, talented and generous group, going above and beyond and serving their fellow Australians.

Many of these recipients will be known to association members, others will perhaps be met for the first time at Branch welcome functions or perhaps at the Investitures held around the Nation. Please encourage them to join our Association ask them to help us to support the efforts of His Excellency and our Board in increasing nomination numbers and the diversity of those nominations.

The Order of Australia Association Foundation is our chosen vehicle to acknowledge and foster excellence in younger Australians. Please consider donating, you will see details in this edition.

If you attend the National Conference in Geelong in May, you will see the awarding of Foundation Scholarships and have the opportunity to be inspired by the unbelievable talent and energy of the recipients.

Hope to see you there.

Editor

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 18 – 21 MAY 2023 - GEELONG

Working Together–Building the Future

Conference only \$95 per person GST included.

Ticket includes Thursday early evening reception, Friday all day and Saturday afternoon panel sessions.

Conference and Dinner & Awards \$205 per person GST included.

Ticket includes Thursday early evening reception, Friday all day, Saturday afternoon panel sessions and the National Conference Dinner and OAA Foundation Scholarship Awards are at Mt Duneed Estate.

Conference & Sunday Jazz Brunch \$155 per person GST included.

Ticket includes Thursday early evening reception, Friday all day, Saturday afternoon panel sessions and Sunday Jazz Brunch.

Full Conference \$265.00 per person GST included.

Ticket includes Thursday early evening reception, Friday all day, Saturday afternoon panel sessions, the National Conference Dinner and OAA Foundation Scholarship Awards are at Mt Duneed Estate and Sunday Jazz Brunch.

Saturday Dinner & Awards \$110.00 per person GST included.

The National Conference Dinner and OAA Foundation Scholarship Awards are at Mt Duneed Estate.

Note:

Annual General Meeting and Members' Forum is no cost, booking is required to attend.

Essential for **catering** purposes dietary and allergy requirements are noted at the time of booking.

Mobility requirements should also be noted at the time of booking to ensure we provide appropriate transport to meet the needs of members and guests.

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

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Thursday May 18

Registration Desk and Merchandise Shop open 12.30pm to 5.30pm at Geelong Events Centre Myers Street entrance next to conference hotel Rydges Geelong Hotel cnr Myers and Gheringhap Streets, Geelong.

Early evening 6.00pm to 7.30pm – Welcome to Geelong Vice-Regal Reception with His Excellency Governor-General and Mrs Hurley at the Geelong Library & Heritage Centre Level 5. 51 Little Malop Street, Geelong. Drinks and finger food included. 7-minute walk from Rydges Geelong Hotel.

Dinner at your expense in the dining precinct along Little Malop Street.

Friday May 19

Registration Desk and Merchandise Shop open 8.15am to 1.30pm at Geelong Events Centre Myers Street entrance.

9.00am: Welcome to Country then Official Opening, Address by His Excellency the Governor-General, Oration, Keynote address, business panel session and preparing quality Order of Australia nominations. Lunch.

1.45pm: Field Trip to two innovative business precincts that have formed clusters working together and growing with smaller industries and service providers building the future. Transport included.

Saturday May 20

Registration Desk and Merchandise Shop open 8.15am to 3.30pm at Geelong Events Centre Myers Street entrance.

National Annual General Meeting and Members' Forum 9.00am to 11.30am at Geelong Events Centre Myers Street entrance. Registration essential to attend AGM and Members' Forum.

After lunch Panel sessions from 12.30pm to 3.30pm focusing on working together – building the future:

- * Social and economic values of multi-cultural communities Australia wide.
- * Indigenous leadership in our nation.
- * Health & Wellbeing in the Future.

National Conference **Dinner and presentation of OAA Foundation** scholarship certificates at Mt Duneed Estate Winery 65 Pettavel Road, Waurin Ponds an iconic Geelong winery, evening includes welcome drink and three course dinner, drinks at bar price.

His Excellency the Governor-General, Mrs Hurley and OAAF Chair Helen Nugent AC will be in attendance.

Return transport from Rydges Geelong Hotel.

Sunday May 21

Registration Desk and Merchandise shop open 9.45am to 1.30pm at Geelong Events Centre Myers Street entrance.

Sunday Jazz Brunch 10.30am to 1.00pm.

Together we have worked through unparalleled challenges.

We will respectfully acknowledge: frontline people in the community from agricultural, cashiers, cleaners, delivery drivers, educators, food processors, healthcare, maintenance, protective services and beyond.

Will also thank 2023 national conference committee, MCs and volunteers.

Sponsors current December 31 2022

The nature of the Order of Australia Association is such that the Association's members are drawn from all walks of life and a variety of economic circumstances. Sponsorship is therefore important allowing us to keep the cost of attending the 2023 conference at an affordable level.

Reciprocally, we thank our sponsors, where possible please support them.

Admiralty Inn Motel
Bureau

Melbourne Convention

Barwon Water

Mt Duneed Estate Winery

Budget Car and Truck Rental

R Hotel Apartments

Business Events Geelong

RK Group

Business Events Victoria

Rydges Geelong Hotel

Deakin University

The Challis Group

Federal Mills

Vision Overseas Group

Geelong Events Centre

Vue Apartment Hotel

Geelong Library & Heritage Centre
Industries

Waurm Ponds Estate Futures

Gordon TAFE

Additional information:

For addition information regarding booking to attend the conference, accommodation or tours please contact OAA VIC Branch Chair Helene Bender AM. Email: chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au Mobile 0407 261 951

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA – NOMINATION TOOLKIT

The Governor-General has prioritised ensuring that the Order of Australia reflects our diverse community, and that it is (and is perceived to be) Australia's highest form of recognition.

The Honours Secretariat would love your help to encourage nominations in your community using the Order of Australia Toolkit:

<https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awardsorder-australia/order-australia-guidance-and-promotional-products>

The Toolkit contains:

- an important message from the Governor-General
- key information about the Order of Australia
- ready-to-use promotional materials
- profiles of inspiring recipients (available as videos and text).

If you haven't already done so, please follow the Order of Australia Facebook page [@AussieHonours](https://www.facebook.com/AussieHonours) to stay up-to-date with news and upcoming events.

For example, in late-November 2022 there will be the very first **LIVE webinar** on **'How to nominate'** via [@AussieHonours](https://www.facebook.com/AussieHonours) This will be an opportunity to better understand the Order of Australia nomination process.

WA BRANCH

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

We take this opportunity to congratulate our Patron, His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson APM Governor of Western Australia on his award of AC in the Australia Day Honours Awards.

This issue of "The Order" covers many of the end of the year functions held by the WA Branch. We are now looking forward to a successful and interesting year of events in 2023.

Plans are in hand for our two Receptions to honour the new recipients of an award in the Australia Day and Kings Birthday Honours as well as our annual formal dinner and Christmas function. In addition, we have some interesting speakers lined up for our coffee mornings and the regional conveners are busy planning their events for the year.

Our participation as Patrons at the Police Academy is very much appreciated as can be seen in the article in this issue and, with the anticipated increase in the number of squads going through the Academy, more Patrons will be required. This is a particularly enjoyable experience, and all WA members are urged to consider participating in this program.

Bettine Heathcote AM

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN OAAWA AND THE WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE FORCE

Mr Michael Bleus OAM, The Order of Australia Association (WA) Committee Office Bearer and WA Police Academy Patron/Mentor Co-ordinator, was invited to a formal dinner on 16 September 2022 for the Western Australia Police Commissioner Officers' Mess.

In the presence of the Minister for Police and newly appointed Police Commissioner, Mr Bleus was introduced to the members. This recognised his much-valued leadership of the OAAWA program with its volunteer support to the WA Police Force.

- Both the Minister and Commissioner commented on the value of OAAWA members supporting and guiding new recruits on community expectations and professional standards required in service for the community of Western Australia.

As an OAAWA initiative the Recruit Squad Patron Scheme was introduced to the Western Australia Police in October 2000. The scheme provides recruits-in-training with access to a respected member of the community who can provide a community expectation of the police and provide appropriate personal advice and guidance.

Mr Bleus was hosted by OAAWA member, Murray Lampard.



L to R - Hon Paul Papalia CSC MLA, Minister for Police, Mr Michael Bleus OAM, Police Patron Co-ordinator, Police Commissioner Col Blanch APM, Retired Deputy Police Commissioner Murray Lampard AM APM JP.

THE GREAT SOUTHERN FUNCTION 2022

At the end of November Jan Savage OAM invited members of the OAA WA to a special event for those in the Great Southern Region. 10 members from the metropolitan area in Perth joined the local members. It started with a service at the historic St John's Anglican Church in Albany where the local priest, Revd Karen Cave, warmly welcomed everyone. A delicious lunch was held at the Motel Le Grand with welcomes from Jan Savage OAM, Murray Montgomery AM and a welcome to country from Robbie Miniter OAM from Gnowangerup. Among the participants, was Cecilia Sounness OAM, who has just turned 100. Major General Barry Nunn OA and Margaret Nunn OAM produced an excellent Christmas Quiz that had many stumped.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2023

Once again WA members of OAA met on Thursday 8th December at the Fremantle Sailing Club, a delightful venue, where we enjoyed a delicious lunch. We were welcomed by the Chairman of the WA Branch, Bettine Heathcote AM. Major General Barry Nunn AO spoke about the National Board and acknowledged the work of Robin Watts, now retired. Elections are coming up and we need to increase the numbers of our organisation with more nominations of Western Australians required as the percentage of awards received is still far too low. A successful raffle was held of some wonderful prizes generously donated by members. The Christmas Quiz compiled by Lorraine Hammond had everyone guessing. The lunch was an excellent start to the Festive Celebrations.

THE HON NEVILLE OWEN AO

The Honourable Justice Neville Owen AO is a committed Roman Catholic, born in Western Australia, educated at St Ildelphonsus College New Norcia and then the University of Western

Australia, where he lived at St Thomas More College and enjoyed College life. He was undecided on a career and initially was studying science but once involved in Law Studies he realised corporate law, equity and commercial law were of greatest interest. He graduated in 1968 with Bachelor of Laws (honours)

Justice Owen was a barrister and solicitor from 1972 – 1991. In 1991, he was appointed to the Supreme Court of Western Australia from 1991 - 2010.

From 2001 through to 2003 after being appointed by John Howard, Prime Minister, he headed the HIIH Insurance Royal Commission in Sydney. In July 2003 he started the five-year hearing into Alan Bond's group of companies.

In 2005 he was appointed as an inaugural member of the Court of Appeals Division.

He has been associated with the University of Notre Dame Australia almost from its inception from 1989. He has been Governor, Director and Trustee of the University and served a term as Chancellor.

In 2014 he was appointed by the Roman Catholic Bishops to chair The Truth, Justice, and Healing Council as the Church's official coordinating agency with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

In 2018 Pope Francis appointed Hon Neville Owen AO as one of seventeen members to the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of minors.

Justice Owen is a humble man who despite the accolades he has received, questions whether he is worthy of it! In relation to his role as a judge he commented that his education and upbringing impressed on him 'the need to treat everyone who comes into court and on whom I must pass judgement (civil or criminal) as another human being, no matter how flawed her or his character or how despicable his or her actions may appear to be.'

He is married with five children and eleven grandchildren.

His relaxation is walking, following the Dockers, playing tennis, and reading biographies and history.

In 2019, Justice Owen was awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to the law, to the judiciary, to legal education and to the community of Western Australia.

LIFETIME SERVICE AWARDS 2022

On 24 November 2022 Norma Beer OAM was one of five extraordinary Western Australians awarded one of the inaugural Lifetime Volunteer Service Awards for over 60 years of voluntary service in a single organisation. Norma's 60 years of service has been with Rebound WA (formerly WA Wheelchair Sports Association) an organization dedicated to helping people with physical disabilities rebound from adversity. She is a life member and served in many positions on the Board as well as the Paralympic Medical Commission for Drugs in Sport along with being WA team nurse for 9 National Games, six International Games, and four Paralympics.

Norma Beer was a trainee nurse when she started working with the spinal cord injured athletes at the first Paraplegic Commonwealth Games held in Perth in 1962. She has been involved in encouraging the public to change their attitude to those with a disability, especially the value of sports for those with a disability. In 2000 she was awarded a Sports Medal and in 2005 was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for services to the Spinal Cord injured community in nursing, research, and sport. She has an ongoing commitment to helping others and is a very active member of OAAWA.

ACT BRANCH

OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley

Branch Nominated Director

Dr Alan Morrison AM JP

Chair

Andrew Phelan AM
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Secretary

Robert Altamore OAM

Treasurer

Phil Morrall AM CSC

Committee Members

Dr Brian Babington AM
Lynne Duckham OAM
Narelle Hargreaves AM
Dr Joseph Johnson CSC, OAM, AAM
Dr Bill Maiden PSM OAM
Coralie Wood OAM
Desmond Woods OAM

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

ACT Chairman's Report Michael Crane DSC & Bar AM Branch Chairman

The ACT Branch has been blessed recently with three outstanding events. In December, our annual Australian National University Lecture, delivered by Professor Rory Medcalf AM, was particularly well attended and drew national media attention. At our Australia Day breakfast, Professor Tanya Monro AC gave an inspirational address about Science for Purpose. And our AGM on 15 February was followed by a thought-provoking presentation on humanitarian challenges by Professor Robert Care AM. Our next event will be a morning tea in March, followed by the annual Australian Defence Force Oration in April; our Orator for 2023 will be the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond AM RAN. As ever, details of coming events will be in the next Branch newsletter.

Congratulations to all recipients of honours and awards in the Australia Day list, particularly those from the ACT and region. We look forward to meeting many of you soon.

This is my last report as Chair of the ACT Branch. It has been a great honour to serve, and I thank all our members for their support during my tenure. I wish our new Committee every success.

THE OAA-AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY LECTURE

Members and large numbers of guests gathered in the new ANU Research School of Physics auditorium on 7 December to hear the Head of the National Security College, Professor Rory Medcalf AM, deliver the 2022 OAA-ANU Lecture on “*Making sense of national security*”. Rory outlined the College’s role, challenged the audience to rethink national security, and offered some prescriptions for improving Australia’s national security. His professional background has involved three decades of experience across diplomacy, intelligence analysis, think tanks, academia and journalism, including as founding Director of the International Security Program at the Lowy Institute from 2007 to 2015. Professor Medcalf was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in June 2022 *for significant service to international relations, and to tertiary education*. The Lecture and the Q&A session that followed can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/oGdi1vF45eo>.



ANU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian Schmidt AC, Professor Rory Medcalf AM, Michael Crane DSC & Bar AM

WELCOME TO NEW OAA MEMBER

Rear Admiral Michael ROTHWELL AM CSC – Queen’s Birthday 2014 – For exceptional performance of duty as Director Information, Communication and Technology Capability Coordination in the Chief Information Officer Group, and as Amphibious and Afloat Support Group Capability Manager.

AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

Members and guests gathered at Royal Canberra Golf Club for the annual Branch event to celebrate our national day and acknowledge the achievements of ACT and region recipients in the 2023 Australia Day honours list. Our special guest speaker was the Chief Defence Scientist, Professor Tanya Monro AC, who spoke about “Science for Purpose”. Tanya gave an inspirational address, touching on her own experiences in science, the importance of engaging young people in STEM, and as Capability Manager for Innovation, Science and Technology within the Department of Defence, how she is re-shaping the Defence Science

and Technology Group (DSTG). She expressed the joy she feels in applying science to solve problems and noted the happy truth that solving one problem often leads to advances in quite unrelated areas.

Professor Monro's previous roles include:

- Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Innovation and ARC Georgina Sweet Laureate Fellow at the University of South Australia;
- Inaugural Director of the Institute for Photonics and Advanced Sensing (IPAS) from 2008 to 2014; and
- Inaugural Director for the ARC Centre of Excellence for Nanoscale Bio Photonics (CNBP) at the University of Adelaide.

She is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science (AAS), The Australian Academy of Technology and engineering (ATSE), the Optical Society of America (OSA), the Australian Institute of Physics (AIP) and is a member of the Board of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

A Branch member, Professor Monro was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in June 2022 *for eminent service to scientific and technological development, to research and innovation, to tertiary education, particularly in the field of photonics, and to professional organisations.*



Paul Hornsby OAM, Professor Tanya Monro AC, Richard Etherington, Dan Etherington AM

COLIN BERRYMAN OAM – A KOREAN WAR VETERAN

Colin Berryman OAM, an 89-year-old Korean War veteran and Branch member, recently visited the Republic of Korea (ROK), by invitation of the government for a reunion of UN War Veterans. While there, he was awarded the ROK Presidential Citation which was presented to him by the ROK Prime Minister at one of the formal functions. Colin has been performing extensive liaison and co-ordinating with the ROK Embassy now for the last half century, mostly as part of the function of performing duties as ACT Delegate of the Korean Veterans Association of Australia. Sadly, there are few from the Association still alive, although it still exists, as next of kin of surviving and deceased veterans still carry on the main functions. Colin will be returning to the Republic again this year, with the Department of Defence Korean Missing-in Action (MIA) Committee, on which he still participates. He was also invited back

there again by the ROK Department of Patriots and Veterans Affairs. The MIA Committee is still working in close liaison with the Army Unrecovered War Casualties Section. Colin is an original member of this Committee which has been functioning now for many years. He was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in June 2004 *for service to veterans and their families in the Australian Capital Territory*.

VALE

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

Air Marshal John Newham AC – Queen’s Birthday 1986 – For service to the Royal Australian Air Force, particularly as Chief of the Air Staff.

Brigadier George Salmon AM – Australia Day 1990 - For service to the Australian Army in the field of new capital equipment procurement..

Mr Gabriel Savas AM - Australia Day 1998 – For service to the community in the area of policy development for liquor law reform, and to the Alcohol and Drug Foundation of the ACT.

Mrs Cynthia Watsford OAM – Australia Day 2005 – For service to the visual arts in the Canberra region.



VICTORIA BRANCH

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Helene Bender AM
Branch Chairman

On behalf of the Victoria Branch we hope 2023 has started well for you.

Our last event for 2022 was the end of year dinner at William Angliss Restaurant with speakers Allan Myers AC KC and Order of Australia Association Foundation 2016 recipient Jeremy Doupe.

Please refer to the December 2021 edition of VIC Branch e-Newsletter on the OAA website <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/vic/newsletters/> for a detailed article on the dinner.

The start of a new year also brings the list of outstanding Order of Australia Honours recipients announced on Australia Day. Victoria welcomes 200 recipients, 51.5% males and 48.5% females who have made a significant impact in their region, state of Victoria or beyond – thank you. They have gone above and beyond and represent a cross section of ages, cultures and areas of expertise.

The Victoria Branch congratulates two of our members who were elevated this year; Emeritus Professor Warwick Anderson from AM to AO for distinguished service to health and medical research organisations, and to professional associations; and Margret Webb from OAM to AM for significant service to the community, to the philanthropic sector, and to women.

Thank you to our members who have taken the time to nominate exceptional achievers from diverse backgrounds, age groups and cultures.

For information and tips regarding the Order of Australia Award Nominations please refer to the Association website www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Victoria Branch Events planned for members and guests this year are listed below:-
Tuesday February 28: 10.30am to 12.30pm. The Inspiring Australians Oration at Melbourne Town Hall 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. 2013 Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship recipient Tom Crowhurst will give an update ten years on of his scholarship benefits and talk about his community work and current employment. Book via TryBooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/CESXG>

Tuesday March 28: 10.45am sign in for 11.00am Annual General Meeting at William Angliss Institute.

Annual Lunch at 12.15pm in the William Angliss Restaurant with speaker Dr Patrick Mahar OAM

Book via TryBooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/CFQEA>

July/August on a Sunday - National Gallery of Victoria Winter Masterpieces event; waiting for 2023 exhibition dates from NGV. The event will include onsite lecture, exhibition and a lunch option

Thursday November 23: 6.15pm End of Year Dinner at William Angliss Restaurant with speaker Natalie O'Brien AM and an Order of Australia Association Foundation scholarship recipient.

For Regional Group events please refer to the Association website.

We have escaped natural disasters so far this year, be assured our thoughts are with members and families impacted by the horrific floods October last year.

Stay safe and look forward to seeing you during the year at a Victoria Branch or Regional Group event or the National Conference in Geelong May 18-21.

WEBINAR INVITATION TO OAA MEMBERS AUSTRALIA WIDE

When the newly-elected Eastern Suburbs Regional Group (ESRG) Chairperson and committee took office in early 2021 they were faced with the dilemma of needing to arrange an activity program which did not involve bringing people together during COVID lockdowns. A tentative start with one online webinar has now developed into a solid program with speakers from a wide range of areas. Speakers at intervals of about two months share their passion and the ways they have been able to make a difference in the community, and engage in the lively discussion.

The last speaker for 2022 was Robyn Guymer AM, Professor of Ophthalmology at Melbourne University, who spoke about her life-changing research into the treatment of macular degeneration. Other speakers in 2022 addressed the world's rich diversity of edible plants, the role of Chaplain in the Victorian Police and the role of communication in a time of pandemic.

The schedule for 2023 is now complete, with the first webinar to be held in conjunction with the ESRG AGM on Thursday March 16 when the speaker will be Iain Edwards, CEO of Guide Dogs Victoria. All ESRG webinars are open to all Order of Australia Association members Australia wide.

Other speakers planned for 2023 include Hazel Edwards OAM; Author of *There's a hippopotamus on our roof eating cake*, who will speak about the physical and intellectual risks of being a long-term author with a family and a life. Janet McCalman AC, of the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health and author of *Vandemonians*, will examine the issue of how penal servitude in Van Diemen's Land and service in World War 1 may have affected the lives of those who went through those ordeals. Later speakers will include Dr Neil Roy AM, consultant paediatrician at the Women's Hospital from 1975 to 2007 and Jenny Graves AC, Australian geneticist, Distinguished Professor within the La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science and a winner of the Prime Minister's Science Prize.

Most webinars are recorded, and the Regional Group has established a public repository to allow members unable to join at the scheduled time to share in the event at a later date. These recordings, which are post-processed to ensure they meet quality guidelines, have proved to

be very popular, both within the Group's own membership and, increasingly, to a wider audience. All currently available recordings are available at https://www.youtube.com/@oaa_esrg.



Photo L–R: Chairperson of the Eastern Suburbs Regional Group, Geoffrey Grinton OAM, thanks Professor Robyn Guymer AM during a 2022 Zoom webinar.

For enquiries about booking to join 2023 webinars please contact ESG Chairperson, Geoffrey Grinton OAM, at VicEasternSubsRG@theorderofaustralia.asn.au.

NORTH EAST VICTORIA & GOULBURN VALLEY REGIONAL GROUP 30th ANNIVERSARY

Members and their guests are invited to attend the North East Victoria & Goulburn Valley Regional Group 30th Anniversary lunch on Sunday March 26, 2023 in Benalla at the Lakeside Community Centre, Benalla Showgrounds commencing at 12.10pm.

Speakers: John Brown AO and Pam Robinson AM

Cost \$60 per person GST included. Glass of prosecco on arrival then 2 course lunch and anniversary cake. Cash bar for drinks.

For further information and bookings please contact NEV&GVRG Secretary Margaret Attley OAM.

E: negvoaa@protonmail.com Phone. 0400 256 035

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SA BRANCH

BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE:

SA Branch Chair

chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

We were very busy in the fourth quarter of last year, hosting multiple formal events, lunches and social activities.

Most notably, we held an award ceremony and reception at Government House Adelaide at which Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia and SA Branch Patron, presented 'With Distinction' plaques to the Top 10 students in the Student Citizenship Awards. Her Excellency then announced the 2022 South Australian Student Citizens of the Year Callum Barrott-Walsh from Cardijn College and Jordan Norman from Urrbrae Agricultural High School. We congratulate all recipients, thank the schools for their participation, and thank Her Excellency and Mr Bunten for their hospitality.

Our regional groups have been equally busy, and I thank Regional Groups Coordinator Ken Coventry OAM JP and each of the individual group contacts for their efforts in keeping our members and other recipients engaged and informed.

During January, our Student Citizenship Awards Selection and Assessment Panel met to start preparations for this year's program, including the production of an updated brochure, and we held a successful 'Celebration of Australia Day' lunch.

This month we have our Annual General Meeting, at which we will hear presentations from our two 2022 South Australian Student Citizens of the Year. And our first Honours Fellowship luncheon meeting for the year will be held as usual at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club in Adelaide.

On behalf of all SA Branch members, I would like to congratulate everyone who has received an award in the 2023 Australia Day Honours List. We look forward to meeting you at your investiture ceremony, and hope to see you at one of our events.

Tony Metcalf OAM

BRANCH COMMITTEE DETAILS:

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Office-holders and committee members

Patron

The Honourable Frances Adamson AC

Chairman

Tony Metcalf OAM

Deputy Chairman

Noel Hender OAM BEM

Secretary

John Phillips OAM

Treasurer

Joe Ienco OAM

Member Secretary SA

Greg Gordon OAM JP

Student Citizenship Awards Convenor

Noel Hender OAM BEM

Regional Groups Coordinator

Ken Coventry OAM JP (co-opted)

Merchandise Officer

Kathryn House AM

Editor/Webmaster

Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP

Other committee members

Don Clark OAM

Charles Figallo OAM

Ted Iuliano OAM

Flavia de Pasquale OAM

Pamela Rajkowski OAM

Branch Nominated Director

Joe Ienco OAM

Website

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

REGIONAL CONTACTS:***Fleurieu Regional Group***

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South East Regional Group

Eric Roughana AM

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Riverland and Mallee Regional Group

Tim Grieger OAM JP

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Yorke Peninsula Regional Group

Elaine Bussenschutt OAM (Kadina)

elaine@yp-connect.net

Maree Anderson OAM (Minlaton)

mareeanderson@internode.on.net

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

chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

2022 STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

On Monday 14 November last year, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, and Mr Rod Buntin kindly hosted an award ceremony and reception at Government House for the 2022 Student Citizenship Awards. Her Excellency is our Branch Patron.

Her Excellency presented ‘With Distinction’ plaques to the Top Ten students from a range of schools across South Australia.

Unable to be separated by the Selection Panel, two students were announced by Her Excellency as the 2022 Student Citizen of the Year – Callum Barrott-Walsh from Cardijn College and Jordan Norman from Urrbrae Agricultural High School. Both students have each made impressive contributions to their respective schools and communities.

For more information on the awards program, refer to the Order of Australia Association website: <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/sa/school-awards/>

CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA

The SA Branch held its annual Christmas Morning Tea for some 60 members and their guests at Goodwood Community Centre on 9 December, at no cost to the participants. We thank Branch member Mrs Rosemary Milisits OAM and Vili’s Family Bakery for again generously

subsidising the cost of the refreshments.

The Guest Speaker was Brian Gilbertson AM, who was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List of 14 June 2021, “*For significant service to festivals and events in South Australia, to opera, and to voice education*”.

Brian’s story ranges from selling his legal practice in 1984 to studying Voice and Drama in Vienna, to being a regular performer on Bert Newton’s ‘Good Morning Australia’. He had a 20-year career as a principal tenor in opera and musicals, expanding into production, direction and performance around the world. He was a performer with the State Opera of South Australia from 1989, and Principal Artist from 1989 to 2001. In 2002, Brian became the Event Manager and Creative Director of the Adelaide Christmas Pageant.

Brian spoke about his earliest musical performances, his transition from law to opera to pageant director, and embracing the challenge of change involved in preparation for some of the most recent Christmas Pageants. Fresh from delivering his twentieth pageant, Brian noted the pleasure of seeing it return to the streets of Adelaide, after two Arena Spectaculars at the Adelaide Oval during the COVID Pandemic.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEONS

Our October honours recipients fellowship luncheon was well supported once again by members who shared in comradeship, some for the first time. The guest speaker was Mr John Ford OAM FASMA, who spoke on the topic “The Journey to South Australia and early Migrant Ships”. John is a renowned marine artist, and a Fellow of the Australian Society of Maritime Artists. He has numerous exhibitions and art awards to his credit. Throughout August last year, John had his artworks displayed in an exhibition presented by Genealogy SA as part of the South Australian Living Artists (SALA) Festival for 2022 – a state-wide festival of visual art.



Members and guests who attended the August fellowship luncheon (standing, left to right): Ric Ottaway, Monty Smith OAM, Libby Ottaway, Gillian Rogers OAM, Kate Davies, Helen Smith, Joe Ienco OAM [MC], Hamish Kerr [IT support], Glenys Jones OAM JP, Flavia de Pasquale OAM [coordinator].

Seated: Dr Victor Squires AM, Bryce Saint OAM ED, John Ford OAM FASMA [guest speaker].

EVENTS

NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION.

On Monday 24 October 2022, we honoured those announced in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours List. The venue was Payneham Library, and we again thank the City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters for their generous support and assistance. We also thank Vili's Family Bakery for subsidising the cost of the refreshments. SA Branch Deputy Chairman Noel Hender OAM BEM hosted the night, and proposed the Loyal Toast to King Charles III, King of Australia and Sovereign Head of the Order of Australia.

Welcome receptions such as this allow new recipients of the Order of Australia to gather and celebrate their achievements with friends and family, to meet other members of the Association, and to learn more about the activities of the SA Branch.

REGIONAL GROUPS.

The Fleurieu Regional Group half-yearly luncheon in Goolwa on Friday 4 November saw 32 members and guests attending, including State Branch Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM and Regional Groups Coordinator Ken Coventry OAM JP. The guest speaker was Dr Graeme Swincer OAM BA(Sc)(Hons) BD PhD, a retired agricultural scientist who was awarded the OAM on Australia Day 2015, "*For service to the community through humanitarian support organisations*". Dr Swincer spoke on the subject, "Saving the Soils of the World".

A meeting was held at the Barossa Regional Gallery in Tanunda on Sunday 4 December, to consider the proposed formation of a Barossa, Gawler & District and Mid-North regional group. Steven Kaesler OAM presented an 1877 Hill and Son Grand Organ Experience, which included a tour of the intricate workings inside the organ. Steven was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours List, "*For service to community music through a range of roles*". This magnificently restored organ, a stunning example of musical heritage, was originally located in the Adelaide Town Hall and was acquired in 1994.

CELEBRATION OF AUSTRALIA DAY.

The annual Branch luncheon was held on Saturday 21 January, with 40 members and guests in attendance. The Guest Speaker was Mr Michael Weatherald OAM – known widely as ‘Mick’ or ‘Weathers’. Michael has been the Managing Director of Consolidated Provincial Meat Group Ltd for some 50 years, and is well known as a sports guru, administrator and ‘A’ grade coach in South Australia; he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2012 Queen’s Birthday Honours List, *“For service to the sports of cricket and Australian Rules football as a coach and administrator”*. Michael presented a talk entitled, “Mentor of People, Sport Coach, the Meat Industry, and a Bali Bombing insight story”. Branch Deputy Chairman Noel Hender OAM BEM reports: *“The speaker was interesting and presented a number of stories based upon his sporting and career experiences, culminating with an account of the call received from son Tim who had been caught up in the Bali bombing and made the first (early morning) call to Australia advising of the disaster”*.

UPCOMING SA BRANCH ACTIVITIES:

Thursday 23 February: Honours recipients fellowship luncheon, with guest speaker Elaine Attwood AM

Friday 24 February: South East Regional Group luncheon meeting at the Mount Gambier RSL, with Dr Jerry Leach AM as guest speaker

Saturday 25 February: 2022 Annual General Meeting (37th AGM) – commencing with morning tea at 10.30 am (no cost), and followed by lunch (at own expense). The guest speakers will be the 2022 Student Citizens of the Year, Callum Barrott-Walsh and Jordan Norman

Sunday 16 April: Riverland and Mallee Group Regional gathering

Sunday 30 April: Yorke Peninsula Regional Group luncheon at the Ardrossan Hotel/Motel

Friday 5 May: Fleurieu Regional Group meeting

TASMANIA BRANCH

BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE:

For this first report for 2023 I wish all members the very best for the New Year. While Covid is still with us, life has largely returned to what we now expect to be normal. Over the past year, attendance at events has generally been better than expected which augers well for 2023. This appears to be in contrast with some organisations that have not fully recovered from the past lock-downs.

It is always with anticipation to find out who are the recipients in the honour's lists published each year. How many will be honoured with awards, will there be someone who is known and what will be the makeup of the list. I was interested to note that of the 15 Tasmanian awardees, eight are female, one appointed a Companion and a husband and wife both awarded. We will look forward to meeting and congratulating these Australia Day awardees.

In my last report I mentioned that one of our valued committee, Sue Shea OAM had relocated to Brisbane to live. To fill the casual vacancy and take the role of Northern Region Convenor I welcome Dr George Merridew AM. George was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday list in 2019 "for significant service to surgical and obstetric anaesthesia". His skills have led him on many different paths from being a permanent member of the Royal Australian Air Force in the 1970s, to be Group Captain and Consultant Anaesthetist in the Specialist Reserve in more recent years, occupied many senior executive positions with the Tasmanian Branch of the Royal Flying Doctor Service including being made a Life Member and also many years with the Launceston General Hospital including being the Director of Anaesthesia.

In the 2023 Australia Day awards list we were pleased to read that George's wife Sarah Merridew was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia "for significant service to corporate governance, and to the Tasmanian community". As a chartered accountant and experienced company director, Sarah's financial expertise has been sought and valued by many government and non-government organisations. Congratulations Sarah on your recognition in the Order of Australia.

Alastair Douglas OAM
Branch Chairman

BRANCH COMMITTEE DETAILS:

Patron

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

Branch Chairman

Mr Alastair Douglas OAM
(P: 0418 127 897)

Hon Secretary

Mrs Maureen Rudge OAM

Hon Treasurer

Mr Ron Blake OAM

National Board Director

Dr Rosemary Callingham AM

Branch Committee

Mr Neville Bingham AFSM OAM

Dr Nicholas Chantler AM

Mr Barry Easther OAM

Dr Peter Holm OAM

Mrs Beatrice Lawrence OAM

Dr Frank Madill AM

Dr George Merridew AM

Mrs Maureen Oates OAM

Regional Convenors**South**

Mrs Beatrice Lawrence OAM

North

Dr George Merridew AM

North West

Dr Peter Holm OAM

ALISON ANDREWS AM

Alison Andrews AM has been a journalist and writer since she started her cadetship at The Examiner Newspaper, Launceston, Tasmania in March 1970.

She has worked for a number of media organisations both locally and interstate, is a published author and has run her own media and public relations company.

Alison worked for many years as The Examiner's chief of staff and as its chief reporter and owned and operated Northern Tasmanian country newspaper, THE Northern Midlands COURIER, for seven years until she retired as editor in September 2022 after selling the paper earlier in the year.

While at The Examiner, a book of 100 Tasmanian people stories called Ali's People was published, selected from a weekly series by the same name which she wrote for six years. Proceeds from book sales were donated to the Friends of the Launceston Library to help support publication of local history books.

Alison has also served on community boards and organisations including TasDance, as director and chairman and director for Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board and Eskleigh Foundation. She was recently elected as a Councillor on the Northern Midlands Council.

Her AM was awarded for services to the media, particularly print media and to the community.

LOU JOHNSON AM

Lou Johnson received an AM at the 2022 Queens Birthday Honours and after joining the Association will serve on the Northern Tasmanian Region Committee.

He has been associated with many organisations including schools, agricultural societies and the accounting profession but it is Rotary International where he travelled the world and has learnt the importance of real compassion.

His Rotary journey started in Launceston at the club level (Launceston West), then onto district level (Tasmania) followed by national appointments (Australia) and then international roles. At the international level his first challenge was learning to speak through interpreters and to speak slowly using simple words and pausing at the end of each sentence. This does not come naturally to Australians when they are enthusiastic about their topic.

The one constant over his nearly 40 years in Rotary has been the project to eradicate polio. This project appears constantly on the agenda at all levels. Rotary and its partners have reduced the number of wild virus cases by 99.9% but the remaining 0.01% has remained frustratingly beyond reach. The wild virus still circulates in Pakistan and Afghanistan, two countries where volunteers are not always welcome following incorrect publicity as to Rotary's intent. He is confident that Rotary will complete this project as history may be very unkind on this generation of Rotarians if they stopped now with the finishing line in sight. Lou continues to actively promote the work of Rotary and shares his passion for the eradication of polio as a gift to the children of the world.

NORTHERN REGIONAL FUNCTION

Members of the Northern Region met at Steve's Grill in Launceston for their November function. It was an informal gathering which provided an opportunity for members to socialise prior to the Christmas break.



New member Andrew MacGregor OAM with Professor Bernard Einoder AM who has been a member for 16 years.

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE:

Hearty Greetings are forwarded to all members.

The Queensland Branch hosted a final complimentary lunch for Queen's Birthday Order of Australia awardees after delayed Investitures at Government House in November. Presumably the next iteration will be King's Birthday Awards. We acknowledge the invitation for the Queensland Branch to represent the OAA at all Award ceremonies by Her Excellency, The Governor, and our Patron. Regional activities have been well patronised and our new North Queensland Convenor will be the Branch representative in the late January Investitures held in Cairns. A pulse of events both regional and metro is about to be launched over the next couple of months including the Branch AGM on 20 March.

A lot of us will be involved in marking Australia Day 2023. There is a perspective to Australia Day that has flown under the radar for too long. Ray Payne OAM reminded his Veteran-web network in 2021 that Australian nationality officially came into existence on 26 January 1949, when the Nationality and Citizenship Act 1948 was enacted. That was the day we were first called Australians and allowed to travel with passports as Australians. Before that special date, all people living in Australia, including those of Aborigines & Torres Strait Islander heritage, born after 1921, were called 'British Subjects' and forced to travel on British Passports. We all became Australians on the same day! This then is something we can all celebrate on 26 January.

Continue to keep well and safe.

Dr Gary Bacon. AM. BSc (Hons). PhD. FIFA.

BRANCH COMMITTEE DETAILS:

Patron

Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeanette Young AC. PSM Governor of Queensland

Chairman

Dr Gary Bacon AM.

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

Deputy Chairman

Dr Mick Davis AM ASM

Membership Officer

Secretary

Dr Carol Cox AM

Tel-0427 691 566

Treasurer

Ronda Nix OAM

National Board Director

Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ.

Committee Members

Ross Patching OAM
Assistant Secretary

Graham Hyde OAM
Newsletter Editor

Paula Penfold AM
Governance/Policy Review Officer

Darryl Secombe OAM
Regional Convener Liaison Officer

Kathy Wooldridge OAM
Merchandise Officer

Marjorie Voss OAM
Regional Convener Sunshine Coast

Geoffrey Cowles OAM
Events and Awards Coordinator (Metro)

All correspondence to:

Dr Carol Cox AM Secretary

Email- secqldoaa@iinet.net.au

REGIONAL GROUP CONVENERS DETAILS

Central Queensland: Dr Wallace Taylor OAM

Darling Downs: Megan McNicholl OAM

Far North Queensland: John Hardy OAM

Gold Coast: Dr Clive Mitchell-Taylor OAM

Mackay-Isaac Whitsunday: Carmel Daveson AM

Sunshine Coast: Marjorie Voss OAM

Townsville: David Jackson OAM

Wide-Bay Burnett: Donna Duncan OAM

CELEBRATORY LUNCH

On Wednesday 23 November 2022, the Queensland Branch hosted a Welcome Celebratory Lunch in the Blue Pacific Ballroom at Kedron Wavell Services Club, Chermside, for 2022 Queen's Birthday award recipients.

This event had originally been planned for Thursday 15 September 2022; however it was rescheduled, as a mark of respect, during the official mourning period for the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

One hundred and eight guests attended the event including 15 new award recipients (14 from the Queen's Birthday honours and 1 from the Australia Day honours). While the number of award recipients was lower than usual, what these award recipients lacked in quantity they made up for in quality with their wonderful achievements, deserving of their awards. It was pleasing that 35 members of the Association were in attendance to welcome our newest award recipients.

DARLING DOWNS MEMBERS LOOKING TO PROMOTE THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

Fifty members of the Darling Downs Regional Group and their guests met on the 2nd November 2022 for a morning tea at the Downs Club Toowoomba.

We welcomed two Darling Downs residents Dr Peter Bevan OAM and Trevor Bange OAM whose awards in the Order of Australia were announced in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honors list. Peter for his service to general practice medicine and Trevor for service to recreational flying and guiding.

Julia Spicer OAM lead a conversation with a local panel who were invited to consider how we might promote the Order of Australia Awards to a younger and more diverse audience.

Artist Cheryl Moggs OAM, Dr Peter Bevan OAM and Emily Pullen, CEO of local Toowoomba business Jim's Jerky; shared their insights of leadership, community contribution, and where they saw opportunities for the Order of Australia to reach new demographics across our region.

Paul McNally OAM then outlined the OAA nomination process to those present, fielding several questions from members and guests.

Megan McNicholl OAM
Darling Downs Regional Group Convener

SUNSHINE COAST REGION WELCOMES PROF. PETER ELLIS OAM AS GUEST SPEAKER

The Caloundra Power Boat Club was ideal for this fourth Region function for 2022 which was held in November. The venue, which overlooks the junction of Pumicestone Passage and the Pacific Ocean, was the perfect setting for the gathering of the 56 members and guests. Add to this the delicious lunch, the address by the Guest Speaker, noted Forensic Pathologist Professor Peter Ellis OAM and the wonderful fellowship, it was a great way to celebrate this final event for 2022.

Professor Ellis OAM MA MB BChir FRCPA FACLM FFFLM shared with the guests, details of his work as a Forensic Pathologist with a special interest in Disaster Victim Identification. He has actively participated in incidents in Australia and overseas. These include the Victorian Bushfires, the first Bali bombing, the Fromelles WW1 mass grave project and the tourist air crashes in Nepal and Papua New Guinea as well as the Christchurch earthquake. He was the lead Australian pathologist for the Tsunami response in late 2004. He has also worked on several forensic war crimes operations in Kosovo, East Timor and Sri Lanka.

As promised to this Convenor, Peter's presentation was not "gory" but with some entertaining anecdotes gave an insight into the career path taken by a Forensic Pathologist who happens to have

been involved in some of the more dramatic incidents of the last couple of decades. Peter was accompanied on the day by his delightful wife Susie.

We were delighted to also welcome to the luncheon Councillor Terry Landsberg representing the Mayor of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council together with our Queensland Branch Chairman Dr Gary Bacon AM and other members from the Branch Committee.



Marjorie Voss OAM

OAAQ Sunshine Coast Region Convener

TOWNSVILLE BRANCH MEMBERS LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

MEMBERS and guests of the Townsville Group of the Order of Australia Association gained a close look at the work of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) in outback Queensland through their guest speaker at their final event for 2022, a dinner held at the North Queensland Club in the city in September.

The interesting and revealing address was presented by Dr Don Bowley OAM, a long-time medical officer at the RFDS Base in Mount Isa, who was forthright in highlighting the work of the organisation in looking after the medical requirements of the people of Australia's vast outback.

Dr Bowley went out of his way in making his travel arrangements to get to Townsville and back and, with the support of his wife and her family, added to our numbers for the evening.

Dr Bowley's attendance also provided another first for the Mount Isa area, being one of the first Honours recipients from the western city to attend a Townsville Group function in recent years.

The amount of travel necessary for residents of the western areas highlights the difficulty award recipients in those western areas have with travel times and costs in getting to Townsville at the same time as one of one of the Group's function dates.

Dr Bowley, who has provided more than 28 years of medical service to western areas through his work, backgrounded his address with a video presentation from some of the many trips he has

undertaken during his years as medical officer, including the RFDS plane landing on dark and narrow outback airstrips and their efforts to provide health care to patients in varying situations.

The address was very well received by the large number of people present at the function and prompted a number to make individual private donations to the RFDS after the event.

The Townsville Group will start making arrangements in the near future for their first function in 2023, which will be a luncheon in Townsville in April or May.

David Jackson OAM

Townsville Regional Convener

IN MEMORIAM

SCHNIEDER Lavinus Monica OAM

REGAN Dr William AM

BISHOP Wallace AM

PARKER David Rountrez OAM

BROUGHTON Paul OAM

RICHARDSON Patricia Edith OAM

SAITTA Sibby OAM

THOMPSON Paul Duncan AM RFD

DAVIE Neil Charles OAM

ROBERTS Thelma June OAM

SCIANI Tito OAM

Hon JOHNSON Vaughan OAM

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE: NSW

James Mein AM

Branch Chairman

chairnsw@theorerofoaustralia.asn.au

Team building has been a constant in my adult life. Teams can produce longer lasting results than individuals, especially multiskilled teams can do more than virtually any one individual, or even a group of individuals who cannot work together.

Can't change the past but learn from it. Work well now. But always, consider what is essential to an organisation's future.

Coming to the 2023 Annual General Meeting, this is a critical time for the next round of triennial elections to appoint people to the Branch Committee.

Time too to reflect on the events of the past year, say thank you for the contributions of the retiring Committee members, and most importantly, to address the future, for nothing should stand still in our dynamically changing world. Survivors are those who think forward and anticipate change and set strategies for the organisational journey ahead.

Teams also succeed where there are no passengers and the team members bring new ideas and energy, building on the successful efforts of the outgoing committee.

Our Branch AGM will be held on 21st March 2023, at which we will discuss the next triennial strategic plan, running consistently with the National Board's plan, but also addressing our NSW state-wide and regional contexts which need to be addressed. There will be elections for at least three positions and the current Branch Committee sees needs for members with governance skills in marketing, business leadership and network building. The Branch Secretary will shortly distribute nomination forms, so please consider nominating.

Our Branch will also be co-hosting (with the National Board,) the 2025 National Conference of the Association and we will be handpicking experienced event leaders to form the separate team to do the legwork of theme setting, accommodation, venues, speakers, volunteers and connected activities. We encourage nominations for that team to the Secretary.

Being a very diverse membership organisation of recognised community leaders, we should always be committed to team building, lifelong learning, building bridges, relationship building and strengthening the Organisation's future.

THE AUSTRALIA DAY THEME FOR 2023 AND OAA NSW BRANCH SHOWED US HOW!

Australia Day is a day to reflect, respect and celebrate the Australian spirit and the best of this country – our mateship, our sense of community and our multicultural diversity.

The Story of Australia began 60,000 years ago. New chapters are written every day. On our National Day, we reflect on our history, its highs and its lows and the need to respect the stories of others. We celebrate our nation, its achievements and most of all, its people as we're all part of the story.

Australians recognise the importance of celebrating our national day – an inclusive day where people from all walks of life are welcome and different views are respected. We are a multicultural nation and celebrate our achievements by coming together and connecting with family, friends and community on Australia Day. There are more citizenship ceremonies held on Australia Day than any other day, which is a fantastic way to welcome our newest Australians into the community.

This year 150 NSW members and guests enjoyed the Australia Day Harbour cruise and luncheon, a longstanding annual event for our branch.

It was a most enjoyable, relaxed day on Sydney Harbour aboard the Captain Cook III on a picture perfect summer day. Everyone enjoyed the atmosphere with good food, drinks and importantly exchanging stories and life experiences with other Order of Australia recipients from all walks of life and different cultural backgrounds. All aboard had front row seats to the Australia Day Ferrython, the Salute to Australia and fast jet flyover, the Navy Helicopter flag display, the Maritime Mayhem water show, the Australia Day Harbour Parade, the Tall Ships Race and the Working Harbour Festival.

In the theme of the Australian spirit, the charity we supported this year was the Royal Flying Doctor Service NSW who provides care to all Australians! Our very generous members and guests present raised \$3380 on the day.

The Order of Australia Association NSW Chairman Mr Jim Mein AM welcomed members and guests and highlighted the importance of The Order of Australia Awards in recognising the significant work and service of our fellow Australians especially in rural and remote areas across our Nation. The Australia Day 2023 Honours List recognises and celebrates 1,047 recipients. Jim stressed the importance of nominating worthy Australians for recognition, including women, younger people and Australians from our many diverse indigenous and multicultural backgrounds.

Deputy Chairman and Event manager Dr John Gullotta AM, thanked everyone for attending and supporting this special day. He then highlighted and expanded on the excellent work of the Royal Flying Doctor Service NSW, who bring vital emergency medical and primary health services to our remote and regional areas to reduce the disparity in health service access for all Australians.

It was a very successful and enjoyable day and we look forward to reflecting, respecting and celebrating our National Day again next year!

Dr John Gullotta AM

Deputy Chairman and Events Manager
The Order of Australia Association NSW

OAA NSW CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON TO SUPPORT NSW FLOOD VICTIMS

The OAA NSW 2022 Annual Christmas Fundraising Luncheon was held at The Kirribilli Club on Sunday 11th December 2022.

The Charity we supported was GIVIT to help people impacted by the floods in New South Wales. GIVIT was founded by Queenslander Juliet Wright OAM.

GIVIT is helping people affected by floods in Northern NSW for over six months since the east coast of Australia was battered by torrential rain, with Lismore one of the worst affected by the extreme flood event.

GIVIT is working with the NSW Government to manage donations of essential items and services for people impacted by the recent floods across the state. There are requests for almost 35,000 essential items for communities affected by this disaster. GIVIT will be working with these communities for as long as this recovery takes. 100% of publicly donated money received by GIVIT for the Storms and Flooding Appeal is used to buy essential items - exactly what's needed, when it's needed.

GIVIT buys locally where possible to support the local economy of impacted communities during these difficult times especially over the Christmas period.

As is always the case in natural disasters, Australians have shown incredible generosity. It's this generosity that enables GIVIT to provide short, medium and long-term support to people who've lost everything.

Communities have been devastated, lives have been lost, and thousands of people have been displaced and left with nothing. Recovery is going to take a very long time.

Our Branch raised \$7800 for GIVIT's Storms and Flooding Appeal and funds will be used to purchase essential items and services for those affected.

GIVIT is working with the New South Wales Government, as well as support organisations, charities, outreach teams and community groups to identify exactly what's needed to help people recover.

Unfortunately our Guest Speaker Ms Denim Rose - NSW State Manager GIVIT was unable to attend as she was working on the ground in flood affected areas so we showed a video message from CEO Sarah Tennant as well as two short videos on the great work the GIVIT does for our community.

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA NSW BRANCH WELCOME TO NEW AWARDEES, NSW PARLIAMENT HOUSE

On November 14, 2022 we held our first "New Awardee Welcome Lunch" in three years, at Parliament House Sydney, after a Covid induced delay.

We welcomed 80 new Australian Honours recipients, together with friends and family. Lunch was kindly hosted by Mr Guy Zangari MP, Member for Fairfield, and our guest speaker was Professor

Michael Kidd AM, Deputy Chief Medical Officer. Professor Kidd has been a general practitioner for 35 years, working in urban and rural areas across Australia, and is a past president of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. He is a world-leading authority on primary health care, having worked in senior leadership positions in Australia and around the world, including the World Health Organisation and the World Organisation of Family Doctors. Professor Kidd spoke about the Covid-19 Pandemic, Lessons learnt and where to from here?

It was also a special day as the 14th of November was the actual birthday of His Majesty King Charles III. As the Sovereign Head of Australia and also of the Order of Australia we wished him a very Happy Birthday.

Our Patron The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC was unable to be with us on the day, but sent her best wishes and congratulations to all of the Awardees and her personal message is attached.

Committee Member of the OAA NSW, Mrs Trish Wetton OAM proposed a toast to the new recipients, and Prof Stephanie Watson OAM responded. Professor Watson is an ophthalmic surgeon, an international leader in research and innovation with over 200 publications and is Professor at Save Sight Institute, University of Sydney. She has also developed the Safe Sight registry for corneal diseases. Stephanie was awarded her OAM in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours.



A/P John Gullotta AM, Deputy Chairman, OAA NSW

NT BRANCH



MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN MR. ALAN JAMES OAM

After almost three lost years to Covid chaos it's good to have some sense of normality back in 2023 – even this year's wet season has a sense of normality about it, reminiscent of when I grew up in Darwin in the 60 & 70's.

The recent Australia Day honours list was encouraging, with thirteen new civilian Order of Australia awards recipients in the Northern Territory. This is a significant increase from last year's rounds and thanks go to the people who took the time to make the nominations. The members of the association are well placed to identify worthy recipients in the community and to either make nominations or encourage others to nominate, and I urge you all to be proactive and work toward continually increasing the number of NT people recognised by this important Australian honours system.

Coming up on Tuesday 14 March we will hold the Annual General Meeting in Darwin. My thanks go to the committee members for their efforts over the past twelve months and to Nora Lewis AM for her continued work compiling the NT branch newsletter.

FAREWELL TO OUR PATRON

As this page is being written, Her Honour, the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO is still our Administrator, but not for much longer. It is with much appreciation and gratitude for her dedicated and gracious service that we will be saying farewell to her as Administrator, and as Patron of the Order of Australia Association, NT Branch. On Friday January 27 a representative group of well-wishers filled the Great Hall of Parliament House at the invitation of our Chief Minister the Hon. Natasha Fyles, for a formal farewell to Her Honour, where she gave an interesting summary of highlights of her time as Administrator. More significantly, she emphasized her sense of privilege to have filled this office, and her delight at meeting wonderful Territorians from all walks of life, involved in all sorts of activity over the last 7 years.



Retiring Administrator Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO with the Honourable Natasha Fyles, Chief Minister of the Northern Territory.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE 2022 NORTHERN TERRITORY SENIOR AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

When I first heard “And the winner is Robyne Burrige” I felt total disbelief.... Fortunately, I very quickly discovered I had a wonderful team of professional people behind me, including both the National Australia Day Council in Canberra and the Northern Territory Australia Day Council, to advise and help me plan. In addition, there were my incredible family and friends. They became part of what was one of the most amazing experiences of my life. The first few days were a blur, as almost immediately I was being contacted by various groups and organisations in Darwin asking me to give a presentation about what was it like to be chosen as Senior Territorian and what I would like to achieve in 2022.

On my return to Darwin, it was time to get down to the real work and spread my 2 key messages for the year. Not surprisingly as a person with a disability I chose to focus on Access and Inclusion for all and the Rights and Responsibilities of people who have a disability. I hope I have:



- 1. Led by example and made life a little easier for people both aged and/or disabled*
- 2. Improved access and education and opened some new doors – much wider – particularly good if you are in a wheelchair.*
- 3. Ensured that my disability is no longer the first thing some people see or think about when they hear my name or meet me for the first time.*

Robyne Burrige, OAM