



Dated May 2023

Vision Impaired Accessible Document

2022 – FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



The very proud winners with Their Excellencies after the presentation at the recent Association Conference dinner at the Mt Duneed Estate in Geelong Victoria.

Further details about each recipient are available in this edition.

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

HIS EXCELLENCY – THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

It was a delight for Linda and me to be with so many members of the Association in Geelong for the National Conference.

Indeed, as I said in my speech at the conference, it was a delight because the opportunity to spend time with people who have been recognised in the Order of Australia is never to be missed and because I value the work of the Order of Australia Association.

I greatly appreciate the work you do in our communities and your custodianship of the Order.

Your membership of the Association tells me a lot about you. Most importantly, it's that you haven't stopped. You're still giving back, you're still looking out for other people, and you're still making a difference in our community.

It reinforces in me that recognition in the Order of Australia isn't an end point. People don't spend their careers or adult lives working to win a medal. They work to make an impact and to help those around them.

The theme of the National Conference, 'Working together – building the future', encapsulates that spirit perfectly.

The great strength of our system is that anyone, no matter who they are, where they are from or what field they have contributed to can be recognised. That egalitarian design principle is the Order's defining characteristic. Ours is a bottom-up system that relies on nominations. For everyone recognised, someone has taken the time to put them forward.

That means that the equality of design can only be reflected in outcome if there is equal awareness, understanding and ability to access.

Regarding awareness, more people than ever before are seeing, hearing and reading about the sorts of people recognised in the Order. We're also telling more and different stories, including talking to people who have nominated others in order to share their motivation and experience. We're working with diverse organisations, including FECCA, multicultural councils and many more, to reach new audiences.

To increase understanding, we've begun a regular series of live webinars — taking people's questions and making our team available to provide guidance. We're making more information public about how the process works.

To improve access, we've built a new nomination system. This new back end will make the nomination and sounding processes easier for the user and give us access to contemporaneous, detailed data to inform outreach efforts.

I value the partnership between my Office and the Association. You are the boots on the ground and people of influence in your communities. My Office stands ready to support your work in any way we can.

The work is ongoing, but I'm confident and pleased that, consistent with the theme of the National Conference, we are working together and building the future for the Order.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW NATIONAL PRESIDENT

The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO



The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO was sworn in as the 22nd Administrator of the Northern Territory on 31 October 2017 and remained in office until 30 January 2023.

As Administrator, Her Honour represented the Crown in right of the Northern Territory. Her Honour performs the constitutional role aligned to that of a State Governor.

Her Honour was born in Tasmania and moved to Darwin in 1989, where she has resided for the past 34 years.

As Administrator of the Northern Territory, Her Honour valued the importance of supporting and promoting the Territory and Territorians. She was Patron to 60 organisations, and actively supported the development of emerging Territory leaders. Her Honour was very passionate about sharing Government House Northern Territory with the wider community, and pursued innovative opportunities to enable access to thousands of Territorians and visitors each year.

Prior to her appointment as Administrator of the Northern Territory, Her Honour was Chief Executive Officer of Somerville Community Services. She has been a member of a range of boards and committees locally and nationally. Her Honour was Chair of National Disability Services Northern Territory, serving as National President of National Disability Services from 2012-2015, and Chair of the Northern Territory Government Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability Reform.

Her Honour was a Committee Member of the Northern Territory Government Community Benefit Fund, National Disability Insurance Scheme Pricing Committee, National Disability Insurance Scheme Operations Committee, National Disability Insurance Agency, Independent Advisory Council's Housing Innovations Working Group and the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) Northern Territory. She was also a member of the AICD Not for Profit Chairs Forum and the Territory Economic Summit External Reference Group.

Her Honour was also the Chair of the Northern Territory Housing Appeals Board for eight years and a member of the Children Australia Journal's Editorial Board. She has been a juror on numerous Award panels, most recently the Australian Institute of Architects Northern Territory Architecture Awards.

In 2015 Her Honour was a Territory (State) Finalist in the Australian of the Year Awards. In 2013 she was appointed to the Northern Territory Government Events Ambassador Program, a position she held for two years. Her Honour was named Telstra Northern Territory Business Woman of the Year in 1998.

Her Honour has represented the Northern Territory on the national and international stage promoting the importance of good governance and social inclusion. During her tenure as Chief Executive Officer of Somerville the organisation was nationally recognised as an employer of choice and champion of cultural diversity.

Her Honour was invested as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2019 for her distinguished service to the people of the Northern Territory. In 2014 she was invested as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her significant service to people with a disability. In December 2022, Her Honour was appointed a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO) by His Majesty The King in recognition of her eminent service as Administrator of the Northern Territory during her lengthy term. Her Honour holds a Bachelor of Children's Services and a Diploma of Business.

Her Honour and Mr O'Halloran married in 1993. They have one daughter, Coco, who works and resides in Melbourne.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Order of Australia Association 35th National Conference "Working Together- Building the Future was extremely enlightening and successful. Thank you to our Patron and Governor General, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and Her Excellency, Mrs Linda Hurley for being so involved and extending their ongoing support. His Excellency said, 'that given the challenges of recent years I am particularly pleased to see that "Health and Wellbeing in the Future was part of our panel discussion' - after all, our health and wellbeing defines our activities and our future.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Geelong Conference Committee Chair, Helene Bender AM and members William Lye OAM, Fred Harrington OAM, Barb Thomas OAM, John Archer OAM, Barb Brook OAM, Pam Robinson AM, Cathy Roth OAM, Teresa De Fazio OAM, Christina Despoteris OAM and Katherine Mac Kenzie for your remarkable work, we are very grateful to you all.

It was both a unique and inspirational experience to be surrounded by so many esteemed Australians at the Conference and in the one location who by way of being recognised with an Order of Australia have contributed so much to the rich tapestry of our society.

This National Conference highlighted that despite the challenges of the past few years, our organisation has remained steadfast in our commitment to promoting good citizenship and unity.

I encourage all members of their respective associations to continue to be passionate and creative in raising public awareness about The Order of Australia, recognising we are one of the most multicultural societies around the world and working towards ensuring our recipients of an Order reflect and showcase this diversity.

Importantly we must remind ourselves that our system relies on nominations and that for every notable person recognised through the Order of Australia, someone has taken the time to nominate them, to recognise and celebrate their contributions. Every community in our vast country has within them outstanding Australians doing remarkable things, whose kindness and generosity of spirit has a positive impact often for years to come. Let's work together to ensure these deserved individuals are recognised by our most eminent awards system.

During my term as the Administrator of the Northern Territory from 2017 - 2023 I invested numerous extraordinary Territorians at Government House and on country where I witnessed firsthand the gravity and sheer delight not only for the recipients being invested, but their family, friends and significant others in their lives and very importantly the broader community.

On a final note, it is a great privilege to be your National President, I look forward to continuing to meet and talk with many of you and to sharing the journey of continuing to uphold and progress the Purpose, Vision, Principles and Activities of the Order.

Together we can build a bright and prosperous future for all Australians.

I can assure you that advancing and recognising others serves us all.

Go well, Vicki

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Our National Conference was held, for the first time, in a regional location rather than a capital city. Our meeting in Geelong, Victoria, was a great success with good attendance and the enthusiastic support of the Victorian Government, Geelong regional authorities, local business, and the community. A highlight was the awarding at the Annual Dinner, in the presence of our Governor General, Chancellor of the Order and our Patron, of four scholarships to tertiary students from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, South Australia University and Adelaide University.

I congratulate the Victoria Branch Conference Committee, led by Helene Bender AM, for their success in staging the Association's first conference in a region rather than a capital city. I thank all who attended the conference and contributed to discussion, and those who expressed their views by proxy voting at our AGM.

The National Conference was, as always, a great opportunity for members to meet, renew and make new friendships and to appreciate the unique environment of each of our great States

and Territories. A report on the National Conference is included later in this edition of the magazine.

Your National Board met face-to-face for the first time in 12 months during the Geelong conference. This was followed by productive discussion of Association affairs between directors and Branch chairmen. During the National Board meeting, I was re-elected as National Chairman, John Archer OAM was re-elected as National Deputy Chairman and Muriel Barasso OAM as National Treasurer.

We were pleased to welcome The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO as our National President at the conclusion of our AGM on 20 May 2023. We look forward to her involvement with the Association.

The Conference saw vigorous debate of the Association position on the issue of the coming 'Voice' referendum. Decision on this is a matter for individual members, based on careful consideration of the facts of the matter and informed and objective debate. It would be inappropriate for your Association to take a position on this personal decision that is to be taken by every Australian.

A slight decline in Association membership is of note. Nominations in 2022 for an award in the Order were down 34% on the 'peak' year of 2019. Once nominated, 75% of nominations result in an award. I encourage members to be active in encouraging friends, colleagues, and organisations to nominate worthy Australians. To assist you, the OAA brochure 'Introducing the Order of Australia' is available from Branch secretaries, and further guidance is available on both the OAA and the Governor General's websites.

We begin another year of active engagement throughout our Association, and continue planning for the next National Conference, In Perth WA, 16th to 19th May 2024. I look forward to another year of Association activity and the chance to meet many of you face-to-face in Perth in May 2024

Barry Nunn AO
National Chair

EDITORIAL

In this edition the Association Foundation Scholarships are prominent. Four extremely talented young Australians were presented with Foundation scholarships at the National conference in Geelong. Their stories (so far) are inspirational, who knows what greater things might be achieved? Please read their Bio's printed on the following pages.

You can contribute to the Foundation corpus that funds this important community endeavour. Please see the appropriate details further in this edition.

In the next few months, I will be handing over the editorship to another Association volunteer, I thank all National, Branch and Regional Group coordinators for their cooperation and understanding.

The intention is to maintain the 32-page format, while using some limited tasteful and appropriate advertising to help defray additional costs. Please read the details further in this edition.

Phil Morrall AM, CSC

2022 - FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

PRISCA ISSA



Prisca Issa, who is 21 years old, is enrolled in a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Bachelor of Psychology at the University of South Australia.

Prisca grew up in a refugee camp in Zambia after her parents fled the Congo during the 1998 Civil War. At age nine, she migrated to Australia with her parents, unable to read, write or speak English.

She uses an Undergraduate Certificate in Aged Care to work as a support worker at HenderCare, where she supports people with daily tasks. However, what gives her the greatest satisfaction is providing emotional support to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

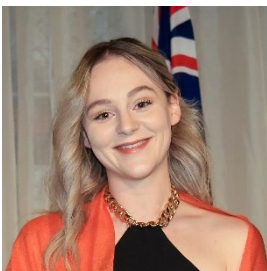
Since her parents returned to Zambia, she looks after and financially supports her younger sister. At the same time, she has acquitted herself with distinction in pursuing her Law and Psychology degrees.

Prisca actively advocates for others in her community in a way that is described as inspirational.

Prisca truly values the mentorship she is receiving from Ms Sarah Matheson AM, who for 20 years was an intellectual property lawyer with Allens, before pursuing a career as a non-executive director.

This Scholarship was donated by Mr Paul Wheelton AM KSJ.

AMY MARTIN



Amy Martin, who is 25 years of age, is undertaking a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) Degree at the University of Adelaide. She wants to become a paediatric surgeon, combining her interest in anatomy and surgery.

She initially studied for a Bachelor of Health and Medical Sciences receiving straight High Distinctions, while having one child under two years of age.

Since transferring in 2021 to a MBBS Degree, Amy has separated from her partner and is now a single mother with two children under four years of age. Both children are in day care while she studies and works to support them.

Being awarded The Order of Australia Foundation Scholarship has gone some way to alleviate the financial stress arising from Amy's being a single parent at the same time as pursuing her degree.

Amy has been the Gender Representative for the Adelaide Medical Students Society and previously provided writing support to students at the University of Adelaide's writing centre.

Amy is being mentored by eminent Adelaide paediatric surgeon, Associate Professor Dr Ross Haslam AO.

This Scholarship was donated by the Riddiford Trust.

RANI ALEXANDRA NAIR



Alex, who is 22 years old, is studying for a Bachelor of Applied Science in Medical Radiations at RMIT. Alex lives in Sale, which is three hours away from RMIT's Bundoora Campus.

Alex is actively involved in her community, having been a Youth Councillor, Deputy Youth Mayor and Youth Mayor in the local Youth Council. She has actively participated in 'Upswing', part of Sale's annual Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Festival and worked with the Wellington Shire Youth Council to facilitate a Youth Summit. She has been a member of the Sale and District Agricultural Society and helped organize the Tiny Tots and Junior Quest event for the Sale Show. She actively participates in the University's medical imaging community.

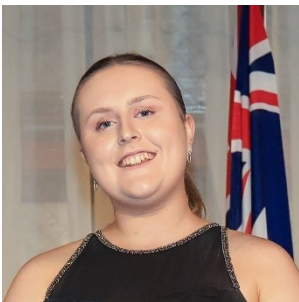
She has achieved a Distinction average in her degree, while holding down three jobs, four to five days a week and undertaking extensive course placements.

Receiving The Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship has allowed her to concentrate more on her studies.

The distinguished radiation oncologist, Professor Dr David Ball AO is providing mentorship for Alex.

This Scholarship is donated by the Victorian Branch of the Order of Australia Association.

SKYLA SCHMID



Skyla, who is 22 years old, is studying for a Bachelor of Business (Tourism and Event Management), at the University of South Australia, and will undertake a Master of Management (Marketing).

Skyla is committed to building a thriving tourism industry in South Australia, recognising the spin-off benefits for the wine, agriculture, and transport sectors.

She has volunteered in tourism, including for the Beer and BBQ Festival; Tasting Australia; Unlimited Feet Performing Arts; OzAsia Festival; and the Adelaide Fringe Festival. She has been employed at Illuminate Adelaide; Sydney Film Festival; Adelaide Fringe Festival; Feast Festival; WOMADelaide Festival; and Adelaide Oval. She is also a former Executive

Member of the University's Tourism and Event Management Club and has volunteered for the Jeans for Genes Foundation.

Skyla lives in Rockleigh, over an hour away from the University's City West Campus, which impacts her time and financial situation.

Skyla has acquitted herself academically with distinction, recognized with her receiving two Chancellor's Letters of Commendation. She was also awarded the SA Tourism Student of the Year Award.

She is being mentored by Mr Martin Radcliffe, the General Manager of the Adelaide Convention Centre.

Mr Paul Wheelton AM KSJ donated this scholarship.

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION - ORATION 2023 GEELONG - 19 MAY 2023

Still the lucky country

BERNARD SALT AM

Australia is facing innumerable challenges including but not limited to maintaining geopolitical stability in our region, managing our response to climate change, and ensuring that we remain a galvanised nation in the face of social divisions that seem to be emerging.

My thinking on these (and other) matters is that we should always continue to work to find solutions. However, we should also take the time to consider our great fortune to call Australia home.

I am an optimist. Even with the many challenges that lie ahead I am confident that Australia will remain a great place to live and work and raise a family in the 2020s and beyond.

According to the IMF in calendar 2022 Australia ranked as the 14th largest economy on earth in terms of GDP and as measured in USD. No higher ranked country has a lesser population.

We are really rich per capita.

And while there are issues around the distribution of our wealth this challenge also applies to other nations.

In 1980 Australia ranked 20th out of 195 countries in terms of GDP per capita. Today, or last calendar year to be correct, we ranked 9th by this measure.

Our relative wealth per capita has risen over 40 years largely because we are very much a trading nation. Globalisation has delivered prosperity to the Australian nation and people.

But it's more than this. We Australians command the resources of an entire continent. Not even the Americans make such a claim. This makes us especially rich in terms of resources.

The biggest mining company on earth (BHP) is based in Australia. We have rightly built corporate assets around our competitive advantage.

We have built a modern Australia largely founded on the basis of immigration. Around 30 per cent of the Australian population was born overseas. That proportion for the US is 16 per cent. For the UK it is 15 per cent. For Germany it is 14 per cent.

In the 2023 financial year we will bring in 400,000 net additional immigrants, the most ever added in any single year. A large part (around 100,000) of this number comprises foreign students returning to universities in and near our city centres.

Thereafter the immigration rate slows down.

With very roughly one-third of the Australian nation now comprised of overseas born residents we have shifted our culture.

We are now an Anglo-Mediterranean-Asian-Indian-Arabic fusion culture and especially our cities. In Melbourne and Sydney roughly 38 per cent of the population was born overseas.

As long as we offer new residents the opportunity to work, to contribute and to build a version of their dream—a job, a home, a family—then skilled immigrants will continue to seek out Australia.

Immigration plus resources as well as education, agribusiness, tourism, healthcare and so much more are the foundations upon which we have built our nation.

There are challenges that lie ahead and that must be confronted and managed. But we have overcome world war in the past, and the great depression and now two global pandemics.

And on the other side of these challenges, we have come out maybe a bit battered and bruised but we have always been optimistic about the future.

We are a young, capable, confident people, with resources, with skills, admired by others and envied by others again.

There is every reason to think that beyond any current crisis, beyond any emerging division, beyond the myriad future challenges presented by climate change, we can and we will prevail.

As indeed we have prevailed over the most recent pandemic. We have emerged from that experience more determined to rebuild a better version of the nation we left behind (in 2019).

And if I haven't yet convinced you as to why Australia is still the lucky country then consider this question: where else is better?

What nation other than Australia offers the freedoms, the quality of life, the prospects for growth, the geopolitical alliances, the resources that we offer?

And if by some remarkable chance you are able to find a fictional place, a notional country, that delivers on all these and other measures, then ask yourself whether that 'other country' offers anything that can compare with Australia's weather, beaches, bush and, frankly, authentic, can-do call-a-spade-a-spade people.

And so it is for this reason that I say Australia was, is, and is likely to remain the lucky country.

A synopsis of the Oration.

Bernard Salt AM is an Australian business advisor, columnist and corporate speaker. He was appointed as a Member of The Order of Australia (AM) in the Australian Day honours list in 2017.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND THE MEMBERS FORUM HELD ON SATURDAY 21 MAY 2023

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

One hundred and one members attended the meeting and there were one hundred and forty- five valid registered Proxies lodged by COB 12 May 2023. Forty- nine apologies were received (including National Treasurer). It was noted that about 33% of the attendees were attending their first Association AGM.

Barry Nunn, the National Chairman advised the Association was without a National President during 2022 thus he would be chairing the meeting. Vickie O'Halloran AO.CVO has been appointed as National President for three years commencing 21 May 2023 and will chair future general meetings.

In presenting his 2022 National Chairman's Report he noted that:

The year will be remembered with great sadness at the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the accession of His Majesty King Charles III, who is now Sovereign of the Order of Australia.

2022 was very much a transition year as our Association moved from a period of meeting and movement restriction under COVID to the ability to again work face-to-face. Member participation in activities, event and meetings resumed quickly as a result of the great work done by all to retain contacts and enthusiasm throughout the organisation in the earlier restricted period.

A very successful National Conference, originally planned for 2021, was held in Canberra in May 2022.

The National Board met face-to-face only once during the year, at the National Conference. The remainder of its 7 meetings were held on-line, a much higher frequency than that limited by time and cost constraints in prior years. The Board completed work on a suite of governance documents that should provide a framework for future operations and continued the development of strategy and growth through Board committees.

Helene Bender AM, John McKellar AM and Robin Watts AM left the Board during 2022. We welcomed as incoming directors Kathy Wooldridge OAM, Joe Ienco OAM and Clive Robartson AM.

While international events resulted in considerable movement in Association investments, business activity was healthy with an underlying surplus generated.

Branches were active throughout the year in promoting the Order, maintaining member interest and in arranging successful activities. Member donations to Association Scholarships were promoted and as a result scholarships sourced from member donations are to be presented at National Conferences in Geelong in 2023 and Perth in 2024.

The strength of any voluntary organisation is in the willingness of its members to cooperate, communicate and participate. In 2022 this has been well demonstrated and on behalf of the National Board I thank all members for their great contribution to another successful year. The Annual Financial Report was presented by the National Secretary in the absence of the Treasurer.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2022 YEAR INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL REPORT INCLUDED:

Membership Fees were held at level of previous years;
Trading Income increased by 12% ;
We had a surplus of \$77,466 excluding investment value decrease;
The average income per member was \$47.00 and the average expense per member was \$39.72
The details of this income and expenditure were illustrated by 'pie charts';
The National Investment Income increased by 10 % but investment value reduced by \$133,074 to \$1,702,162;
Administrative Grants to Branches totalled \$49,500;
Members Equity (assets-less-liabilities) decreased by 15% primarily due to changes in investment value;
The Order Magazine costs were held at \$58,667 despite increases on cost of printing and postage.
We welcomed 547 new members and 61 members re-joining but regrettably lost 785.;
At year end the Association strength was 8045 members- a net loss of 177 members;
The Conversion rate of Award recipients to Association membership increased;
The Board had set aside \$45,000 from the 2022 surplus for a Foundation Scholarship to be awarded at a time decided by the Board.

All business requiring member approval was passed unanimously.

MEMBER'S FORUM

The National Chairman welcomed members to the Annual Members Forum and reminded members that this was their meeting and a time to raise any issues of concern or suggestions for improvements.

Matters raised included.

The Voice Referendum.
The future of the Conference-agreed to continue holding an Annual Conference.
Give consideration of providing electronic copies of presentations.
Survey Conference attenders and non-attenders.
Newer members not always made to feel welcome at Branch Functions.
The current and future Strategic Plan.
The Board has agreed to include paid advertising in *The Order Magazine*.
Diversity increase is required.
Suggestion that new awardees be given a one-year complimentary membership as a way of increasing membership.
Review the OAA Values.
Need to increase the awareness of The Foundation.

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

Graham Hyde OAM National Secretary.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH

WA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Bettine Heathcote AM



Matilda Bay Restaurant, situated on the banks of the Swan River, provided a very pleasant venue on a hot Sunday morning in February for the Branch AGM which was followed by a delicious brunch. Clive Robartson AM who had been co-opted as the Branch Nominated Director to the National Board was formerly elected to this position and three other Committee members who had come to the end of their terms, being eligible, were re-elected.

In March members of the Branch welcomed 22 recipients of an Honour in the Australia Day awards at a Reception hosted by the City of Melville. We thank the Mayor and Councillors for their hospitality which contributed to a very successful evening. Citations of each of the new recipients were read out and the breadth of contributions made was outstanding. We feature the story of one of these recipients in this issue of 'The Order'.

On the 1st and 2nd April Government House held "Open Days" and we were invited to participate. Members of the committee attended a table set out with information brochures and we were able to speak to several visitors, explain the process and encourage them to nominate someone they know for an Honour.

Perth members travelled to Mandurah to join members of the Peel Region for a "Let's Talk About" coffee morning. The Mayor of Mandurah very generously hosted the morning tea which followed the talk by Dr Brad Norman AM on "Swimming with Whale Sharks".

The Conference Sub-committee has been very busy planning for next year's Conference and, as can be seen in this issue of 'The Order' we hope many members will 'Join us in Perth in 2024'.

OAAWA AGM 26.2.23

The Catalina Room at the Matilda Bay Restaurant was a delightful venue for the 2023 AGM. The Swan River was resplendent with even two black swans swimming by as we listened to our WA Chairman, Treasurer and National Chairman. We had forty members attending and fourteen guests.

Bettine Heathcote AM, WA Chairman, gave a very informative Report. We had had an excellent year with good attendances at all functions, including the two Receptions for both Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Honours Recipients. There was a record attendance at the Ecumenical Evensong at St George's Cathedral.

We had a successful Dinner at Royal Perth Golf Club and an enjoyable Christmas Lunch at the Fremantle Sailing Club.

The two talks by guest speakers at St Louis Estate were enjoyed by all who attended.

We were delighted our new Governor has agreed to be our patron.

It is pleasing we now have three country regions who are organising local activities.

Particular thanks were given to Margaret Lobo AM, our Honorary Secretary, who is supporting Bettine in so many ways.

Bettine also spoke about the National Conference next year and the work being done by the Scholarship Fund and Conference Committees.

The Patron Scheme at the Police Academy has been very active, and Michael Bleus OAM continues to actively organise those taking part.

We continue to have just over 700 members. Once again it was pointed out that we continue to be behind other States in the nominations per head of population for an Order.

The Treasurer presented his report which showed our funds are in a healthy state.

There were three places up for election as three members of the Committee were up for re-election and were appointed unopposed. Lorraine Hammond AM, Rebecca Tolstoy AM and Jackie Scurlock OAM. Clive Robartson AM, who had been co-opted as the WA nominated Director to the National Board, was formerly elected to this position.

Barry Nunn, National Chairman, spoke about National Issues – we should be getting into the Social Medium this year. He reiterated Bettine's concern re the poor number of WA nominations and discussed the Scholarships.

The morning was completed by most attendees staying to enjoy a delicious breakfast.

RECEPTION FOR THE AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS AWARD RECIPIENTS 2023

The Mayor of the City of Melville, Hon George Gear JP, welcomed the Australia Day Honours Award recipients and their guests and OAAWA members to the City Melville Civic Centre on Thursday 9 March. He recognised that in the past being a member of Commonwealth and local Government, governments are constrained by all the demands and funds. It needs the gaps filled by people like the awardees who volunteer their time and expertise in so many areas of the community. 17 awardees attended the Reception. It was a wonderfully diverse group with distinguished medical practitioners, engineers, musicians, environmentalists, businesspeople, those involved in sporting clubs, many voluntary organisations, Indigenous work, and a waste disposal expert.

Steven Scudamor AM responded on behalf of the recipients. He recognised the many diverse areas represented. He recognised that the awardees do not stand alone and are supported by “those who stand beside us.” People at the coal face are so important. The awardees are an inspiration to others.

Major General Barry Nunn AO spoke about the Order of Australia being unique. Any person may nominate any citizen in Australia. Three quarters of those nominated are awarded an honour.

The evening concluded with a delicious supper where awardees were able to mingle with their guests and members of the Association.



Steven Scudamore AM

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.



Norma Beer OAM holding the medal awarded her at the first Paraplegic Commonwealth Games held in Perth in 1962 and wearing the Lifetime Service Medal.

KEITH RICKMAN OAM

Keith was awarded an OAM in the 2023 Australia Day Honours List for: Service to the Community of Stirling.

Keith is a West Australian, born in Midland, in a family of 4 boys. Keith has been in Waste industry for nearly 50 years and retired in 2021 but has been called back at times for occasional shifts within the City of Stirling.

At the age of 14 Keith left school and started working for Stirling Council as a “Garbo,” being part of a team of 4 in a truck who in those days picked up rubbish from the backs of houses. He worked his way up through the ranks and on his journey, he initiated many improvements in Waste management. He was a strong supporter of disability services and along with the city helped those with a disability in house training including hands on experience finding work in waste management. This was important to Keith who has a son with a disability. He has played a major part in Community Recycling, helping charities with their clothing bins, and introducing best practice guidelines leading to thousands of tons being diverted from landfill. He worked closely in assisting and establishing one of Australia’s leading electronic waste recyclers with Total Green Recycling. The City has received many awards in the waste industry.

From 1988 he was initially involved in the Waste management with the State Life Saving Championships and became more involved from 2006 when the City sent him and a team of officers to the Gold Coast to help with waste management and logistics when all State and Australian Life Saving Championships with about 3,000 plus competitors, was held in Scarborough and has continued his support, mostly in WA and some interstate.

Keith is an active volunteer in the community. He drives the City of Stirling Community Bus and is part time manager of the Stirling Community Men’s Shed.

Keith is a well deserving of his latest honour.

“SWIMMING WITH WHALE SHARKS”

The Peel Region of the Order of Australia Association in WA convened a Morning Tea and Talk by Dr Brad Norman AM on 28th April in the Tuckey Room Mandurah Council Chambers.

Brad has been researching whale sharks since 1985. The whale shark was only first described in 1828, but up until the mid-1980s, only 320 sightings of this species had been confirmed worldwide. They are filter feeders and the largest fish/shark in the sea. They can be up to 20 metres long, although on the Ningaloo Reef, a fringing reef, where Brad first started his research, they are usually between 4 – 7 metres long. Brad’s research focussed on photography of a specific area behind the gills (where the pattern of spots resembles a fingerprint). Using astrophysicists, image recognition software and the engagement of ‘citizen scientists’ has resulted in 11,000 identified from 50 countries throughout the equatorial region in the past 25 years.

The morning finished with many attendees enjoying a fish meal at Cicerellos.

COMING EVENTS 2023

18 June 2023 at 5.00pm. **Ecumenical Evensong**, St George’s Cathedral Perth, followed by refreshments in the Burt Hall.

9 August 2023 **King’s Birthday Honours List Reception** at Wanneroo Civic Centre further details to be advised.

20 September 2023 **OAAWA Annual formal dinner** at Royal Perth Golf Club .

17 October 2023 “**Catalinas in Crawley**” Talk by Maj Gen Barry Nunn AO at RAAFA, Booragoon, with visit to the aircraft museum.

20 October 2023 **South-West Group annual event** Augusta Hotel Motel.

7 December 2023 **OAWA Christmas Lunch** at Fremantle Sailing Club.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BRANCH OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley

Branch Nominated Director

Dr Alan Morrison AM JP

Chair

Andrew Phelan AM
Chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au
0417 267 609 (M)

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



I am delighted to have been elected as the new Branch Chair at the Branch AGM on 15 February 2023. I thank Mike Crane DSC & Bar, AM, our retiring Chair, for his outstanding leadership of the Branch over the past five years – a period in which the variety and tempo of Branch events were maintained in the face of COVID restrictions, and the Branch hosted the very successful 2022 National Conference.

The ACT Branch commenced 2023 with presentations at our Australia Day Breakfast and AGM followed by a morning tea at which Roxanne Missingham OAM presented “Saving our memory – new roles of libraries and archives.” In April, we were privileged to hear Vice Admiral Mark Hammond AM RAN, Chief of Navy, deliver the 2023 Order of Australia Association – Australian Defence Force Oration, in which he sketched his views on the strategic situation, contemporary issues for his command and the critical role which the Royal Australian Navy will continue to play in the defence of the Nation.

Branch Committee members represented the Association as official guests at all nine of the Investiture Ceremonies held at Government House, Canberra, in April. Our Branch’s autumn reception, held on 10 May, was a wonderful opportunity for us to congratulate 20 recent recipients of honours and awards in the Order.

The ACT Branch of the Order of Australia Association is proud to present annual awards to ACT school students and school groups for voluntary community service and demonstration of good citizenship. On behalf of the Branch, I have written to all of the schools in the ACT about this and look forward to hosting an awards ceremony later in the year.

Warm regards,

Andrew Phelan AM

PROFESSOR ROBERT CARE AM – REDR PROGRAMS

At an event conducted immediately after our Branch AGM in February, Professor Robert Care AM, Chair of RedR Australia, spoke about “*The Humanitarian Challenge Ahead*” and fielded questions from the audience. RedR Australia is a leading international humanitarian response agency that selects, trains, and deploys technical specialists. Robert painted a compelling picture of the global humanitarian need and sketched the efforts of RedR in response. You can read a transcript of Robert’s address and see his slides at <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/act/events/>. A Branch member, Professor Care was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in June 2012 for *service to engineering through a range of executive roles, to the business sector, to international humanitarian programs, and to the sport of athletics.*

MORNING TEA with ROXANNE MISSINGHAM



Members and guests met at Royal Canberra Golf Club for morning tea on 22 March to hear Branch member Roxanne Missingham OAM speak on the topic “*Saving our memory – new roles of libraries and archives.*” Roxanne talked about how our memories are recorded and the initiatives she has led or been involved with to provide a way to make collections available to Australians and the new challenges we are facing. She also described the work she has done in Myanmar and what she is now doing on legislative reform. Roxanne was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in June 2021 *for service to the library and information sciences*. Further details of her talk can be found at <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/act/events/>.

WELCOME TO NEW OAA MEMBERS FROM THE AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Rear Admiral Peter QUINN AO CSC RAN – For distinguished service to the Royal Australian Navy and the Australian Department of Defence.

Ms Laura BUNYAN OAM – For service to community history.

Dr Charlotte GALLOWAY OAM – For service to education, and to history.

Mr Philip GREENWOOD OAM – For service to the not-for-profit sector, and to the community.

Mrs Deborah MASLING OAM – For service to secondary music education.

Warrant Officer Class 1 Nardia McCULLOCH OAM – For meritorious service as the Command Chief Clerk at Forces Command and Headquarters 2nd Division, and as Technical Manager at the Army Personnel Support Unit (New South Wales).

Mr Glenn ROFF OAM – For service to education.

THE OAA-ADF ORATION

A special event on our calendar each year is the OAA – ADF Oration which brings together Defence Force and other recipients of the Order to create a closer understanding of each other’s commitment to service as recognised through the Australian Honours system.

Members and guests gathered at Russell Offices Ngunnawal theatre on 18 April for the 2023 Oration with **Chief of Navy**, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond AM RAN.

Vice Admiral Hammond sketched his views on the strategic situation, contemporary issues for his command and the critical role which the Royal Australian Navy will continue to play in the defence of the Nation. His emphasis on submarines drew a wide range of questions.

Vice Admiral Hammond was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2018 *for exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force in senior command and staff roles*.



Michael Crane DSC and Bar AM, VADM Mark Hammond AM, RAN, Andrew Phelan AM

WELCOME TO NEW OAA MEMBERS FROM THE AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

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Mrs Deborah MASLING OAM – For service to secondary music education.

Warrant Officer Class 1 Nardia McCULLOCH OAM – For meritorious service as the Command Chief Clerk at Forces Command and Headquarters 2nd Division, and as Technical Manager at the Army Personnel Support Unit (New South Wales).

Mr Glenn ROFF OAM – For service to education.

RECEPTION FOR AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDEES

Eighty members and guests gathered at the Commonwealth Club on 10 May to congratulate and welcome twenty new awardees from the Australia Day Honours. It was particularly pleasing to also see that there has been a 40 per cent take-up of OAA membership by the Australia Day general awardees from the ACT region.

VALE

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

Mr Denis Strangman AM – Queen's Birthday 2015 – For significant service to community health through advocacy, public policy, and support organisations for people with brain tumours.

VICTORIA BRANCH

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2023 National Conference

On behalf of the Order of Australia Association 2023 national conference committee thank you to members and their guests who attended the May 18-21 *Working Together – Building the Future* themed national conference in Geelong.

We also thank the Executive of the Association for accepting the OAA VIC Branch recommendation to hold the national conference in a regional city; this was a first for the Association, noting all previous conferences have been held in a capital city. VIC Branch evaluated two Melbourne venue options and two regional locations.

In excess of eighteen multi-cultural communities dressed in their national costume to welcome delegates and Their Excellencies to the Vice-Regal reception in the Geelong Library & Heritage Centre on Thursday May 18. Like all cities and regions Australia-wide with a high number of multi-cultural communities our workforce and volunteer systems are the richer for their contribution.

The Official opening of the national conference at the Geelong Events Centre on Friday was ably MCed by Diane James AM with Welcome to Country by Nikki McKenzie with Didgeridoo player Norm Stanley and the National Anthem sung by Geelong Lutheran College's Newtown campus students. The students stayed to hear the 2023 National Conference Address by His Excellency the Governor-General Bernard Salt AM delivered the Association Oration titled "Still the lucky country: Reasons to be optimistic about Australia's future".

Arron Wood AM gave the Key address focussing on the theme and the environment and how as individuals and collectively we can make a difference.

The first of the Conference Panel discussions – "What does the journey to success in sport look like on and off the field? With questions being answered by Rosie King OAM, Hayden Opie AM and Ayden Shaw.

Rob Ayling from the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General was informative and also answered questions from delegates related to the nomination information, processes in assessment and response time.

In the afternoon delegates had the opportunity to visit Deakin University Manufacture, Carbon Nexus & IISRI Waurn Ponds and Federal Mills Business and Invention North Geelong.

At times Victoria experiences at least three seasons in one day, sunshine and blue sky, clouds and rain and then the strong wind and icy blast; all were experienced on Friday afternoon at Federal Mills and Saturday night at Mt Duneed Estate.

Vision Overseas Group included umbrellas for inclusion in the conference bag and OAA merchandise sold blue beanies and loop scarf or grey scarf to assist combat the weather challenge.

The afternoon Conference Panel discussions MCed by William Lye OAM KC covered topics applicable to *Working Together – Building the Future*.

"Social and economic values of our multi-cultural communities Australia wide"

Panel members Dr Teresa De Fazio OAM, Vivienne Nguyen AM, and Nyadol Nyuon OAM spoke about their experiences, challenges, opportunities, and achievements.

"First Nations Peoples leadership in our nation" panel members Christine Couzens MP and Margaret Webb AM spoke about their parliamentary experience and employment experience giving indigenous students in Northern Territory an education in Victoria noting the success stories.

“Health & Wellbeing in the future” -Professor Catherine Bennett, Frances Diver and Dr Hugh Seward AM spoke about their responsibilities and lessons learnt during COVID. They also spoke about the importance of being active daily, it is important to be up and moving for at least 5 minutes per hour during waking hours. Quality of fresh fruit, vegetables and meat and seafood is essential and treats in moderation.

The business sessions finished Saturday afternoon with the handover to OAA WA Branch to promote the 2024 conference in Perth.

The Conference Dinner and Foundation Scholarship Awardees presentation MCed by Ian Cover OAM a current Coodabeens Champion member was held at Mt Duneed Estate.

Helen Nugent Order of Australia Association Foundation Chair provided a brief bio on each recipient and the Governor-General presented a certificate to each student.

The Victoria Branch congratulated the four scholarship recipients noting Alex Nair who is studying for a Bachelor of Applied Science in Medical Radiations, specifically Medical Imaging at RMIT received her scholarship from The Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch from Reserves, Individual Members and Regional Groups.

At the end of the formalities Mrs Hurley who led us in the National Anthem earlier in the evening sang a song she had written about the Association.

The final day was a Sunday Jazz Brunch with The Kym Dillon Jazz Quarter organised by Jazz Australia. Kathryn Mackenzie OAM was the MC.

After the Acknowledgement to Country, National Anthem, Loyal Toast to the King and Toast to the Order of Australia Association and Grace; there was a one minute silence to reflect on members and partners who have passed away in the past 12 months.

Helen Nugent AC – OAA Foundation Chair spoke about the work of the Foundation in awarding scholarships to worthy recipients who meet the criteria. She looks forward to working with all the Branches.

The brunch gave us the opportunity to acknowledge the contributions by our diverse communities who kept us as safe as possible and united while working together during national disasters such as floods, droughts and fires plus COVID-19.

Elizabeth Drozd OAM – Spoke about the outstanding work of diverse communities during natural disasters, this includes preparing and delivering meals; fundraising and support for those who have lost their home or business including agri stock losses.

Cathy Roth OAM – Outlined the value of volunteers Australiawide and the team of volunteers who assisted at the conference.

The brunch was the final opportunity for delegates to buy OAA Merchandise; visit the OAA WA Branch stand promoting the 2024 national conference in Perth and talk with Alan from italktravel&cruise Ballarat about the OAAQ 2024 Battlefields Tour.

We thank our conference photographer Lynden Smith OAM who volunteered his time for the duration of the national conference. Information regarding accessing photos will be emailed to attendees together with the conference survey.

Our Sponsors - 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 was important, allowing us to keep the cost of attending the 2023 conference at an affordable level.

We thank our sponsors, where possible please support them:- Admiralty Inn Motel; Barwon Water; Budget Car and Truck Rental; Business Events Geelong; Business Events Victoria; Deakin University; Federal Mills; Geelong Events Centre; Geelong Library & Heritage Centre; Intersect Global Partners; Lady & The Fox catering; Melbourne Convention Bureau; Mt Duneed Estate Winery; R Hotel Apartments; Rydges Geelong Hotel; The Challis Group; Van Loons Nursery; Vision Overseas Group; Vue Apartments Hotel; Waurn Ponds Estate Futures Industries

In closing thank you and please support the Perth Conference May 16 – 19, 2024

2023 MELBOURNE WINTER MASTERPIECES

Pierre Bonnard: Designed by India Mahdavi Invitation

Sunday August 6, National Gallery of Victoria - 180 St Kilda Road, Melbourne

Cost: \$44 per person incl.GST covers the Introductory Talk and Exhibition

9.30am to 10.00am Registration and collection of Exhibition ticket/s 10:00am 10:45am Introductory Talk

11:00am The Pierre Bonnard: Designed by India Mahdavi Exhibition at your own pace – allow one hour.

TryBooking link: <https://www.trybooking.com/CHIOV>

SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRANCH

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Tony Metcalf OAM

SA Branch Chair

chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

On behalf of all of our members, I would like to congratulate all recipients in the 2023 Australia Day Honours List. On four days in April, myself and Branch committee members represented the Association at a series of investiture ceremonies at Government House for these recipients, and then on 1 May we acknowledged 24 of them at our traditional New Recipients' Reception.

We held a successful Annual General Meeting, and some of the outcomes are included here. We had the privilege of hearing from two guest speakers – our joint 2022 South Australian Student Citizens of the Year.

We have held two Honours Recipients Fellowship luncheon meetings at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club in Adelaide with interesting guest speakers. And in April and May, the Riverland and Mallee, Yorke Peninsula and Fleurieu Regional Groups held their self-funded events. I thank Regional Groups Coordinator Ken Coventry OAM JP and each of the individual Group Contacts for their efforts in keeping our regional members and other recipients engaged and informed.

Our Student Citizenship Awards program is under way for 2023 with the deadline for nominations being Monday 31 July. After the nominations have all been compiled, our

Branch Assessment and Selection Panel will hold a review meeting to consider the nominations.

By the time this issue of *The Order* goes to print, we will have celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla: the SA Branch will honour this event and the King's Birthday at a special luncheon at which Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia, our Branch Patron, will be our Guest Speaker.

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

Ted Iuliano OAM

Flavia de Pasquale OAM

Pamela Rajkowski OAM

John Ziesing OAM

Branch Nominated Director

Joe Ienco OAM

Website

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

REGIONAL CONTACTS:

Fleurieu Regional Group

John Hutchinson OAM

johnhutc@bigpond.com

South East Regional Group

Eric Roughana AM

roseric1@bigpond.com

Riverland and Mallee Regional Group

Tim Grieger OAM JP

tgrieger@riverland.net.au

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The SA Branch held its 37th Annual General Meeting at the Arkaba Hotel on Saturday 25 February, with a pleasing number of members and guests in attendance. The Returning Officer advised that the various incumbents of executive and committee appointments who had re-nominated were uncontested, and were deemed re-elected.

We congratulate Mr John Ziesing OAM who was elected to fill a vacancy on the Branch Committee. John was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2022 Australia Day Honours List, “*For service to hockey, and to the community*”. John has had significant service

with the Adelaide Hills Hockey Club and Hockey SA, and also SA Primary School Amateur Sports Association and Scouts SA. He has been a member of the South Australia Country Fire Service since 1984. Fire Fighter John Ziesing was awarded the National Medal on 9 March 2001 for 15 years' service.

In his report to the AGM, Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM referred to members taking up the opportunity to play a more active and tangible role in supporting the activities of the SA Branch. Voluntary contributions help the Branch to conduct its various endeavours and increase public awareness, as part of the Governor-General's aim of increasing the Association's exposure Australia-wide. Tony said, *"We have received several financial contributions which will assist with our general expenses. We have also received one substantial contribution which will be allocated to a specific project. I wish to thank all who have contributed in this way"*.

The Chairman also announced that Honorary Life Membership of the Order of Australia Association has been granted to the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, our immediate past Patron and former Governor of South Australia. The SA Branch was very privileged to have had the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC as our Patron for seven years. He was in fact patron of more than 200 organisations during his term as Governor.

The Honourable Hieu and Mrs Lan Le made an immense contribution to the work of the Association in their Vice-Regal capacities. Their support for the Student Citizenship Awards – our flagship endeavour – was a wonderful driver in engaging with the Education sector and some really fine students as they moved into young adulthood and their careers. A most significant event at which we enjoyed their support was the National Conference of the Order of Australia Association, hosted in Adelaide in 2018. Their presence and participation at the Annual Dinner and presentations, and the relaxed manner in which they both mixed with those present, will remain as a highlight of a wonderful relationship.

We were privileged to have the two 2022 Student Citizens of the Year as our guest speakers for our Annual General Meeting at the Arkaba Hotel on Saturday 25 February – Callum Barrott-Walsh from Cardijn College and Jordan Norman from Urrbrae Agricultural High School.

Title: 2023 STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

The SA Branch has announced its Student Citizenship Awards program for 2023. The Student Citizenship Awards program is the flagship endeavour of the SA Branch of the Order of Australia Association.

A professional brochure has been published to promote the Awards program to schools and colleges. This brochure includes images from last year's presentation ceremony and reception at Government House Adelaide on Monday 14 November 2022 hosted by Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia and our Branch Patron, and Mr Rod Bunten.

The Convenor of the Student Citizenship Awards program, Mr Noel Hender OAM BEM, said: *"We anticipate having a Student Citizenship Awards Top 10 'With Distinction' award ceremony and Reception later this year, at which time the 2023 Student Citizen of the Year will be announced"*.

In a new initiative being trialled in 2023, all nominees receiving a certificate will also receive a cased medallion. Those selected in the Top 10 ('With Distinction') will have their medallion mounted on a wooden plaque.

Noel said: *"Mr Keith 'Chook' Fowler OAM is one of our newest members, and a generous benefactor to the SA Branch. Keith's generous donation has been used to cover the costs of medallions for the Student Citizenship Awards in 2023"*.

Keith Fowler OAM, aged 102, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in this year's Australia Day Honours List. 'Chook' Fowler is a veteran of the Second Australian Imperial Force – he served with the 2/3rd Machine-Gun Battalion AIF (7th Australian Division) in North Africa, and then on Java with 'Blackforce' under Brigadier Arthur Blackburn VC from South Australia. From March 1942, Keith was a Prisoner-of-War, working on the notorious Burma-Thailand railway.

Our Student Citizenship Awards program is separate from, but proudly presented in collaboration with, the Governor's Civics Awards for Schools.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEONS

Our February honours recipients fellowship luncheon was well supported once again by

members who shared in comradeship, some for the first time. The guest speaker was Elaine Attwood AM – “From There to Here; a Consumer Advocate’s Journey”. Elaine was appointed a Member of the Order in the 2011 Queen’s Birthday Honours List: “*For service to the community, particularly women, through executive roles with the National Council of Women, and as a contributor and advocate for consumer rights, human nutrition and health care policy development*”.

Elaine was a joint awardee of the 2020 International Standards Organisation Simon Holland Award – the first consumer advocate to have been awarded that honour. She has recently been awarded Life Membership of the National Council of Women of South Australia.

The guest speaker for our second honours recipients fellowship luncheon on Thursday 27 April was Lieutenant-Colonel David Brook AM (ret’d), who spoke on the topic: “Why the Naval, Military and Air Force Club was formed in 1879”. David received the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2016 Queen’s Birthday Honours List, “*For services to Military History and the Recreational Boating Industry*”.

David is a retired Regular Army artillery officer, who was born in Adelaide and was educated at Prince Alfred College. Called up under the National Service Training Scheme in January 1957, he was later commissioned and transferred to the Regular Army, and saw active service with the 12th Field Regiment, RAA in South Vietnam in 1968-69. David has written and lectured on military history topics. Notably, David has been a member of the Naval, Military and Air Force Club since 1966, and he compiled the book, *The Club: Martial and Mufti* – the history of the Naval, Military and Air Force Club of SA (Inc).

EVENTS

Regional Groups. The South East Regional Group held its meeting at the Mount Gambier RSL on Friday 24 February with guest speaker Dr Jerry Leech AM. Mount Gambier’s Dr Leech was made a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2022 Queen’s Birthday honours list, “*For significant service to the forestry industry, to tertiary education, and to the community*”. Jerry’s career has spanned involvement with the Institute of Foresters Australia (now Forestry Australia), the Association of Consulting Foresters of Australia, and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), notably in Myanmar, China, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Bhutan and in Rome.

Through his long involvement with Rotary since 1989, Jerry has been a Paul Harris Fellow in 2005 and 2021, and he received a Citation for Meritorious Service from The Rotary Foundation (2014-15). His other awards include the Medal of Excellence, South East Asia and Pacific Region, Commonwealth Forestry Association (2009), President's Award, Institute of Foresters of Australia (2011) and the NW Jolly Medal awarded by Forestry Australia (2021). He is a Life Member of the Commonwealth Forestry Association.

The Riverland and Mallee Regional Group met at Our Lady of the River Parish meeting centre in Berri on Sunday 16 April. They were joined by the Chairman of the SA Branch Tony Metcalf OAM and his wife Cheryl, and Regional Groups Coordinator Ken Coventry OAM JP and his wife Di.

Guests met new Australia Day recipient, Dean Kerley OAM JP of Loxton, who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia, "*For service to the community of Loxton Waikerie*" and his previous life in the Mallee. They also met Max Wurfel OAM, awarded the Medal "*For service to the community, particularly towards the preservation of the history and heritage of the Pinnaroo region*" (2009 Queen's Birthday Honours List). Both Dean and Max were interviewed and spoke briefly of their life history.

The Yorke Peninsula Regional Group held their half-yearly luncheon meeting at the Ardrossan Hotel/Motel in Ardrossan on Sunday 30 April, one of the largest for some time. Ken Coventry reports that 31 members and guests gathered, including Ken and his wife Di, and the SA Branch Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM. There were five who attended for the first time.

Ken interviewed Maree Anderson OAM ("*For service to the community of Minlaton*", Australia Day 2015) and Fred Manno OAM ("*For service to veterans*", Queens Birthday 2022). Members again recognised that the citation is simply a brief synopsis of the prime factor(s) that awardees are involved in, but there is so much more to the background of honours recipients that stretches out into many fields.

The Fleurieu Regional Group held their half-yearly luncheon at the Mount Compass Hotel on Friday 5 May. 37 members and guests attended including Ken Coventry OAM JP and his wife Di, and Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM and his wife Cheryl. The Reverend Tony Gates, world-travelled author and speaker, was the guest speaker, on the topic "The City in the Sea – Venice".

UPCOMING SA BRANCH ACTIVITIES:

Thursday 29 June: Honours recipients fellowship luncheon, with guest speaker Mr Don Clarke OAM

Thursday 31 August: Honours recipients fellowship luncheon, with guest speaker Dr Vic Squires AM

Saturday 21 October: Guided talk & history presentation, Adelaide Sailing Club

Sunday 22 October: Yorke Peninsula Regional Group luncheon meeting

Thursday 26 October: Honours recipients fellowship luncheon, with guest speaker Mr David Linn OAM

Friday 3 November: Fleurieu Regional Group luncheon meeting

Friday 1 December: SA Branch Christmas Morning Tea, with guest speaker Mrs Anne Bachmann OAM JP

TASMANIA BRANCH

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The highlight for this edition is reporting on the Coronation Dinner held in Hobart celebrating the crowning of Their Majesties, King Charles III and Queen Camilla. With the Governor of Tasmania, the Hon Barbara Baker AC away in London for the Coronation, the Branch was fortunate to have the Lieutenant Governor His Excellency Alan Blow AO attend the dinner and deliver an address.

Held at The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, 112 members and guests enjoyed the three-course black tie evening with good food, good fellowship and an occasion to remember in relation to a day in history with the crowning of the King and Queen the next day.

Earlier in the year the Branch conducted its AGM in early March using the online medium of Zoom. The year to 31 December 2022 was very successful with some significant events held across the State that have been mentioned in previous editions of The Order. While Zoom is a logical method of connecting with members for some convenience and cost, it misses the valuable personal interaction that can occur in a face-to-face meeting that can include a lunch and guest speaker. It is a challenge to overcome considering the spread of our membership across the State

The Australia Day investiture will have taken place by the time this edition is distributed. I will be pleased to report on that in the next issue.

Alastair Douglas OAM
Branch Chairman

BRANCH COMMITTEE DETAILS:

TASMANIAN BRANCH OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

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

Branch Chairman

Mr Alastair Douglas OAM
(P: 0418 127 897)

Hon Secretary

Mrs Beatrice Lawrence 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 Maureen Rudge 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

LYNN MASON AM

Lynn grew up in Queensland and met her husband Jamie in Greece, where they both worked on a charter yacht in the Aegean. On their return to Australia, they married and began their farming life on Flinders Island. Lynn rapidly became involved in island life, at first in pre-school and primary school activities. There was no pre-school at that time, so Lynn set up informal play group sessions for parents with young children like their own. When school age came along a group was formed to try to get a gymnasium built for the school.

It wasn't long before Lynn thought that she could achieve more in the meeting room, instead of lobbying from outside. She served on Flinders Council for 33 years, 4 years as Deputy Mayor, six years as Mayor, and simultaneously six years as the President of the Local Government Association of Tasmania.

Lynn started a Tree Group to encourage growing seedlings that could be used as windbreaks or shelter belts, and to assist in beautification of the townships. She also made the mistake of attending a meeting of the little group that produced the Island News once a fortnight and came home as Editor. The entire paper was typed up by a wonderful group of volunteers and then printed off on a gestetner machine and then collated and stapled by another group of volunteers. (No computers then!)

On Council Lynn was immediately charged with organising for the Bicentenary Celebrations – another five years of fundraising and balls and sporting events, culminating in a wonderful day on 26 January 1988 where the greatly enhanced Museum was officially opened.

As Mayor, Lynn was privileged to work with the Flinders Island Aboriginal Association to try to resolve ownership and management issues at the Wybalenna site. The Council was awarded the community award for that work at the first National Reconciliation Conference. Council also agreed unanimously that Lynn, as Mayor, could apologise to the Stolen Generation children, many of whom lived on Flinders and Cape Barren.

After moving residence to Carrick, Lynn increased her board work, becoming Chairperson of the Tasmanian Community Fund, Chairperson of Tasmanian Affordable Housing Ltd, Chairperson of Metro Tasmania, Senior Vice-President of the Australian Local Government Association, Deputy Chairperson of Crime Stoppers Tasmania, Deputy Chairperson of the Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia, Deputy Chairperson of the Tasmanian Abalone Council, and a member of the Board of Rural Alive and Well. Lynn is a Life Member of the Local Government Association.

QUEENSLAND BRANCH CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Mrs Ronda L. Nix OAM
Branch Chairman
chairqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Greetings from the Queensland Branch. Much has happened in Queensland since the February Edition of "The Order" was published. At a well-attended Queensland Branch AGM on 20 March, a new Chairman, new Secretary (Robyn Porter OAM) and new Treasurer (Dr Dennis Young AM) were elected along with two new Committee members (Irene Cayas OAM and Kelvin Brown OAM). Though I have served on the Queensland Branch Committee for the past five years as Treasurer, the others are first timers. While there has been considerable renewal on the Branch Committee, the

remainder of the Committee are very experienced members so there is a good balance of the old and the new. On behalf of the Queensland Branch, I record our most sincere thanks to our outgoing Chairman Dr Gary Bacon AM, whose energy and enthusiasm during the three years of his term in office saw the Branch thrive and prosper. Gary has left us in very good shape, and we wish him well in his “retirement”. The Annual Dinner was held immediately following the AGM. The Guest Speaker was Dr Amanda Dines OAM who enthralled all present with the journey she has undertaken during her amazing career in both the Military and in Medicine.

The first Branch meeting for the new Committee was held the day immediately after the AGM. Several Committee members then travelled to a lunch at a Winery in Childers in the Wide Bay Burnett Region on 26 March where long serving retiring Regional Group Convener Donna Duncan OAM was presented with a plaque of appreciation for her service and the new Region Convener Judy Peters OAM was welcomed. We are very pleased that Judy has joined the ranks of our Regional Group Conveners. With our capital Brisbane situated as it is in the bottom righthand corner of our very large State, we could not serve our members without the assistance of our Regional Group Conveners who service the remaining vast area. We are very fortunate that Queensland has such active Regional Group Conveners who serve our members so well.

Queensland members enjoyed two events held in conjunction with The Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship Brisbane to honour the Sovereign of The Order of Australia, His Majesty King Charles III. These were (a) a gala King’s Coronation Dinner held on May 5th, and (b) a Coronation Tribute Church Service at St John’s Anglican Cathedral held on the 7th May.

The Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, held investiture ceremonies for those Queenslanders honoured with awards in The Order of Australia on Australia Day this year, in Cairns and then at Government House Brisbane in mid-May, immediately prior to the National Conference in Geelong. On behalf of the Branch, our sincere congratulations to all recipients.

[BRANCH COMMITTEE DETAILS:](#)

Patron

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

Chair

Ronda Nix OAM
Tel-0409 615 514

Deputy Chair

Dr Mick Davis AM ASM
Membership Officer

Secretary

Robyn Porter OAM

Tel-0407 223 600

Treasurer

Dr Dennis Young AM

National Board Director

Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ.

Committee Members

Graham Hyde OAM
Qld Branch Editor -*The Order*

Paula Penfold AM
Governance/Policy Review Officer

Darryl Secombe OAM
Regional Groups Coordinator

Marjorie Voss OAM
Protocol Officer & Regional Convener Sunshine Coast

Geoffrey Cowles OAM
Awards & Metro Events Coordinator

Kelvin Brown OAM

Assistant Merchandise Officer

Irene Cayas OAM

Multicultural & Diversity Officer

Co-opted Members

Kathy Wooldridge OAM
Merchandise Officer

Dr Carol Cox AM

Assistant Secretary

All correspondence to:

Robyn Porter-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: Judy Peters OAM

A MOST MEMORABLE AND ENJOYABLE ANNUAL DINNER

One hundred and thirty guests attended a most memorable and enjoyable Annual Dinner on Monday 20 March 2023 in the Blue Pacific Ballroom at Kedron Wavell Services Club in Brisbane. Everyone present, enjoyed good fellowship together in a relaxed and happy atmosphere.

A well-attended Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Queensland Branch preceded the Dinner in the VC Suite. At the AGM, a commemorative plaque of appreciation was presented to retiring Queensland Branch Chairman, *Dr Gary Bacon AM* and a Certificate of Appreciation presented to *Ross Patching OAM*, also retiring from the Committee.

Our Annual Dinners attract wonderful guest speakers and this year's Dinner was no exception. Our audience had the pleasure of hearing from guest speaker *Dr Amanda Dines OAM*, who received her award in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours for service to medicine. Her talk "*Plan, What Plan?*" included a collection of interesting anecdotes from her multi faceted working career, based on her wide experience in both Medicine and the Royal Australian Air Force. Amanda has been there, done that and has a strong work ethic. She has reached the rank of Air Commodore and was deployed to Iraq and East Timor. Amanda was previously Executive Director Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital; Military Medical Advisor, United Nations; and Senior Visiting Fellow King's College London. Her current work roles include being Director General Health, Reserve-Air Force; Director General International Congress in Military Medicine 2024; an Honorary Aide de Camp to the Governor General of Australia; Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Queensland Medical School; Board Chair, Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation and Deputy Board Chair, Ronald McDonald House Charity – South East Queensland.

At the Dinner three outstanding Queensland senior volunteers (*Lorraine Duckwitz* from Aspley, Brisbane; *Pamela Ferguson* from Carindale, Brisbane, and *John Herwig* from Elliott Heads, near Bundaberg) received their Queensland Branch Senior Volunteer Awards from *Michael Rayner AM* representing Blight Rayner Architecture, the award sponsor).

Geoff Cowles OAM
Awards and Metro Events Coordinator

SUNSHINE COAST REGION CELEBRATES

On a bright sunny day in March the function room at the Gympie RSL was full of laughter and good cheer as 66 members and guests joined together for the first Region function for 2023 and to also celebrate International Womens' Day. We were happy to welcome Gympie Mayor Glen Hartwig and Mayoress Talitha Passey, our Guest Speaker Dr. Branka Starcevic and Gympie resident Mrs Maureen

Rush OAM who was awarded the OAM in the Australia Day Honours. Maureen was welcomed into the Region membership and her citation was read.

To celebrate IWD, Dr Branka Starcevic a well-known Gympie dentist was invited to speak of her journey from migrating as a child in 1971 from her home in the former Yugoslavia to her life to-day as a true Australian. Her story took the audience on a journey of a young girl and her sister who were happily adapting to their new life when the accidental death of their mother left them to eventually fend for themselves. While supporting her sister, Branka put herself through University and coped with the trials, tribulations and eventual triumphs of not only being a migrant but also a female with determination.

Her powerful power-point presentation which was at times emotional and at other times hilarious took everyone on a roller coaster of emotions. When she spoke of returning to Croatia as an adult to find her mother's grave and the grief when she couldn't find it and then elation when she accidentally found unknown relatives who assisted her, she had many of the audience in tears. She spoke of her respect for the Australian people when she was first sent to Western Queensland as a dentist and for her desire to make life easier to those who are struggling.

Following the presentation Branka was thanked and presented with a gift and Certificate of Appreciation by Paula Penfold AM, OAAQ Governance /Policy Review Officer.

Marjorie Voss OAM

Sunshine Coast Region Convener

CALL SIGN NURSE

Fifty members of the Darling Downs Regional group, and their guests, gathered at the Downs Club, Toowoomba on 21 April for a presentation by Annabelle Brayley, author of *Our Vietnam Nurses*.

Those present were deeply moved as they listened to Annabelle explain why she was motivated to write the book and share the stories of some of the Australian women who nursed in South Vietnam between 1964-1972. Prior to the publishing of *Our Vietnam Nurses* in 2016, little was publicly known about these courageous, compassionate Australians and the sacrifices they endured.

Annabelle also spoke of the evolution of a newly composed opera *The Nurses at Vung Tau* which premiered in Brisbane, June 2022. Inspired by Annabelle's book, and created by young Australian Soprano, Elizabeth Lewis with music composed by Dr Brenton Broadstock AM and conducted by Patrick Pickett CSM, this opera was written as a tribute to the men and women who served in Vietnam.

A video vignette of the production illustrated the evocative, often haunting score, which enriched the magnificent voices of Elizabeth and the cast and emphasised the stark simplicity of the stage setting.

The 11 January 2023 commemorated the 50th anniversary of the end to Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to read *Our Vietnam Nurses* and urge

you to actively support any move to stage the production of The Nurses at Vung Tau in your part of the world.

Megan McNicholl OAM

Darling Downs Convener

THE FIRST WIDE BAY REGION FUNCTION IN MANY YEARS

It was both fitting and apt that my first function on 26th March as incoming Convener of OAAQ Wide Bay Region is also the home of our outgoing Convener Donna Duncan OAM who has held this role for the past 11 years. Our region is known for its beautiful countryside and perfect weather and sitting at Vitner's Secret Vineyard, Childers certainly gave some 26 members and guests a perfect setting to enjoy fellowship and make and/or renew friendships.

Our guest Speaker was Trish Mears, Community Engagement Advisor for Bundaberg Regional Council who spoke about her role and the importance of including all members of a community in decision making.

Donna Duncan OAM addressed the guests on her 11 years as the Regional Convener and the experiences she has had over the years. Ronda Nix OAM, Chair of the Branch Committee was joined by Majorie Voss, Convener- Sunshine Coast as well as other Branch Committee members from Brisbane to thank Donna personally for her efforts. Donna was presented with a plaque from the Queensland Branch in appreciation.

For myself this role plays an important part of our region's profile and raising awareness of our members and extending an invitation to all OAM recipients to share their skills and experiences with each other is on the agenda.

I look forward to my role as Convener and meeting our many members across the Wide Bay Burnett Region. I trust with their support I will carry out this role to the satisfaction of the members of the Region and the Branch Committee.

Judy Peters OAM

Wide Bay Burnett Region Convener

Photo Caption

Donna Duncan OAM- Judy Peters OAM – Ronda Nix OAM

IN MEMORIAM

DOBBIN William Gordon OAM

TEAKLE, John Hartley OAM

CALLINAN Prof Vic AM

O'HAGAN, Dr John Edward AM

WATKINS, Lynnette Ann OAM

ROBERTSON, William OAM DFC

NURCOMBE, Barry AM

LYONS, Jim OAM

POWELL, Noel Gregory OAM

DRUERY Alan Edgar OAM

MCLAUGHLAN, John Joseph (Jack)OAM

FERRIER, Dr Thomas Mayne AM

MARSHALL, Dr Ian William Anthony AM

BUCHANAN, Alexander (Lex) OAM

PEGG, Prof Stuart Phillip AM

DAVIES, Graham Robinson AM

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

James Mein AM Branch Chairman chairnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Magazines tend to report on yesterday's news, but not necessarily about today's and certainly not tomorrow's, because the news has yet to happen.

That should not discourage us to imaginatively address tomorrow. Accordingly, now is the time to invest in the future.

The NSW Branch Committee has developed a three years strategic plan which effectively puts people first: better value of membership, more member and community nominations to recognise more diverse community leaders with an Order of Australia Award, greater financial health for the Association to better support its members, establish more affordable gathering activities in regional and Sydney urban locations, establish an advisory group to promote more under 60 years nominations and their wider member involvement, and members doing more for and with the youth of today as we each have more to give toward a better Australia and indeed the world.

We need long term roadmaps which put people first as we continue to look for new opportunities to help ensure the world adapts to change. In other words, think imaginatively of the future in a rapidly changing world. Or, think far ahead from today for the tomorrows need planning and our members should still give the benefits of their Award, recognised experience, to invest in the present and future generations.

Those challenges are addressed at each welcome of new Awardees in both Sydney and in our regions and we welcome the 2023 Australia Day announced Awardees and look forward to the new group to be announced on the King's birthday weekend in June.

The strength of our Association is our membership and their inspiring stories which should be shared at our gatherings. Also we should be involved in mentorship roles with recipients of our Branch Youth Community Service awards <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/nsw/youth-award/>

and with organisations such as Young Australian Leaders.

The future is also our responsibility.

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/nsw/news

NEW RECIPIENTS LUNCH

On May 11th 2023, The Order of Australia Association NSW celebrated 80 Order of Australia New recipients and their family and friends by hosting a gala luncheon at NSW Parliament House attended by 150 guests.

The New recipients and guests were welcomed by The Order of Australia Association NSW Deputy Chairman and Events Manager, Dr John Gullotta AM.

The Parliamentary host was The Hon Stephen Kamper MP, Minister for Small Business, Lands and Property, Multiculturalism and Sport. He welcomed guests to NSW parliament House and highlighted the importance of giving and service in our community. He thanked the Association for their work in arranging these events to honour citizenship and achievement within our community.

Special guests included Ms Cherie Burton, past member for Kogarah, representing the Premier of NSW, The Hon Chris Minns MP and the guest speaker, Ms Claudia Karvan OAM, one of Australia's most respected, awarded and acclaimed film and television actors. In 2023, Claudia was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the film and television industry.

Our 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. He stressed the importance of nominating worthy Australians for recognition, including women, younger people and Australians from our many diverse indigenous and multicultural backgrounds.

The highlight of the day was the "In Conversation" with Claudia Karvan OAM, the two time winner of both the Silver Logie Award for Most Outstanding Actress, and the AFI Award for Best Lead Actress in a Drama Series. Claudia is acclaimed for co-producing the television series "Doctor Doctor" and for starring in 'Secret Life of Us'. Some of her film credits include working alongside Hugh Jackman, Guy Pearce, Jim Caveizel and Judy Davis.

Claudia explained that coincidentally at age 10 she found herself in front of a camera where unknowingly she began her successful acting career and whilst she wears many hats in the industry, there is continuous satisfaction in its variety for her.

As with many Order of Australia recipients, they feel that they are undeserving of the honour because they are only doing what they love doing, and Claudia reiterated that she too is no exception to feeling so honoured and humbled for just doing what she loves doing. When it comes to looking up to someone, Claudia explained with passion, admiration and love that she is inspired by someone younger than her, that is her 21 year old daughter. Claudia also spoke about her future projects and the continuation of her passion in producing and acting, in particular the development of the 4th season of the Stan series 'Bump'.

A great day was had by everyone who enjoyed exchanging stories and life experiences with other Order of Australia recipients from all walks of life and different cultural backgrounds.

Dr John Gullotta AM

Deputy Chairman and Events Manager
The Order of Australia Association NSW



New Recipients, and The Order of Australia NSW Association NSW committee members

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The New South Wales Annual General Meeting for 2023, was held at the Castlereagh Hotel, with over 80 members and guests participating in the annual general meeting and the luncheon afterwards.

At the AGM we were honoured to have two very special Guest Speakers namely Halis Khadija Rishamsulkamal and Edward Hayek. These two outstanding young leaders are also 2022 recipients of the NSW Branch Youth Community Service Award.

We were also honoured to have an amazing Australian media talent, Ms Jean Kittson AM, who entertained us about her family, career and community passions poignantly with great humour throughout.

The fundraising activity conducted by the NSW Branch during the AGM was directed towards the Raise Foundation and managed to raise \$1100 for that cause. Jean is an Ambassador for Raise.

The election during the AGM managed to recruit two new members to the NSW committee being Mr David North OAM and Mrs Dianne North OAM.

ILLAWARRA REGIONAL BRANCH LUNCH

The Illawarra regional branch held a luncheon at the Dapto Leagues club on Friday 12th May with 69 guests attending. The Illawarra branch worked very hard to ensure that the venue was spotless and hosted the members with friendship and happiness.

Three of the guests were recently awarded their respective honours by the NSW Governor and they are Mr Darryl Shephard OAM, Mr John Stubbs AM and Mr Garry McKay OAM.

The NSW Branch Chairman Mr Jim Mein AM attended and spoke of the need to encourage more applications and acknowledgment of people in the community who continue to do outstanding work for their communities.

Professor David Currow, the Deputy Chancellor of the University of Wollongong was the guest speaker. He is a widely published academic with research in symptom control, population burden of symptoms and health services research.



Professor David Currow Guest Speaker.

NT BRANCH



MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN ALAN JAMES OAM

As we approach the middle of 2023, I look forward to welcoming the next group of recipients in the Northern Territory. The NT Branch committee is committed to increasing the number of applications and most importantly the diversity of those applications reflecting the multicultural nature of the NT communities.

It is with pride that we welcome the Territory's own The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO, as the incoming National President of the Order of Australia Association.

NT OAA AGM

Sixty members of the Order of Australia Association NT – nearly half of the Territory Membership attended an enjoyable evening incorporating the AGM in the Nitmiluk Lounge of Parliament House on March 14th. After refreshments, Chairman Alan James OAM welcomed attendees, making special mention of new members to the Branch.

The New Committee comprises:

Chairman - Alan James OAM

Secretary - David De Silva AM

Treasurer - Professor Jai Singh AM

Committee - The Hon Jane Aagaard AM, Robyne Burrridge OAM, Linda Fazldeen AM (Membership Sec), Wayne Kraft AM

On the same evening, a special surprise tribute was paid to living legend and certainly one of the Territory's most eminent citizens – The Hon Keith John Austin Asche AC KC – now ninety-seven years old but still as mentally acute as ever and alert to all around him. The Honourable Justice Trevor Reilly AO KC gave a stirring testimonial, touching on the significance of the Territory in Austin's early life, and his service to the Territory, especially as Administrator of the Northern Territory from 1993-1997. He was made a Companion of the Order of Australia in 1994.



After a brief, self-effacing reply from the Hon Asche, flowers and a framed certificate were presented to him, citing his lifetime contribution to the citizens of the Northern Territory, and his loyal service with distinction as a Companion of the Order of Australia.

Members of the committee with the Hon Austin Asche AC KC

In attendance at the AGM was His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie PSM, the new Administrator of the Northern Territory. We were pleased to have him address our event.

VALE

The NT OAA was saddened over the loss of two eminent Territorians in April:

Mrs. Faye Miller AM was Member for Katherine in the NT Parliament from 2003-2008 and the town's Mayor from 2012 – 2020. She will be honoured in a state funeral in Darwin on May 26.

The Hon Brian Frank Martin AO MBE KC served as the second Solicitor-general of the Northern Territory from 1981-1987 and was subsequently appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court, and then Chief Justice of the NT. His Honour will be remembered for his significant contributions to the administration of law in the Northern Territory.