



**The Order of Australia Association
Tasmania Branch**

'Recognising outstanding service and exceptional achievement of citizens in our communities.'

Northern Region May 2023 Newsletter

Dear Members and Affiliates,

A message from the Chair of the Northern Region (Tas) – Dr George Merridew AM



Greetings for 2023 to all members of the Association, Tasmania Branch, Northern Region!

We have an enthusiastic regional Committee, as evidenced by the splendid newsletter that Mrs Jenny Fraser OAM keeps on producing. Feel free to make her life easier by presenting her with articles, or at least a telephone call for negotiating same.

The Association has appointed a new National President, The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO, who was Administrator of the Northern Territory until January this year. She will take up her duties as President at the finish of the Association's national AGM in Geelong on 20th May. The National Presidency has been vacant for the year since Heather Ridout AO stepped down.

I am pleased to welcome to the Association the sole awardee from the Northern Region in the 2023 Australia Day list, Mrs Sarah Merridew AM, a process in which I was not involved.

The solemn occasion of Anzac Day was observed by many Association members. Our Deputy Chair, Major (Retd) Dr Nicholas Chantler AM laid a wreath at the main service at the Launceston Cenotaph, on our behalf. I was the Master of Ceremonies at the Swansea main service, and laid a wreath to commemorate those armed services personnel who have died in training, a tragedy that continues.

There are several looming events which Association members from our region are welcome to attend.

On Friday 5 May, the Order of Australia Association Tasmania Branch's Coronation Dinner will celebrate the Coronations of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. This Black-Tie occasion will be at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania (RYCT), Marieville Esplanade Sandy Bay, at 6.30 for 7.00 p.m. (with miniature medals). At the time of writing, there are over 70 acceptances from around the state.

On Friday afternoon 12 May, new awardees will be invested with their Honour at Government House Hobart by the Lieutenant Governor of Tasmania, The Honourable Justice Alan Blow AO, in the presence of awardees' family and friends, and other prominent citizens of Tasmania.

A Pre-Investiture Luncheon arranged by the Order of Australia Association Tasmania Branch, will be held at the RYCT, starting at 11.30 a.m. (full size medals).

On Wednesday 21 June our Winter Solstice Luncheon will be held at the Riverside Golf Club. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter.



We are very fortunate to have an industrial visit booked, on Wednesday 9 August at 11.00 a.m., a 1.5-hour tour with comprehensive explanations at the Waverley Woollen Mill, which currently is undergoing a substantial refurbishment. The new management are keen for us to be there and if there are more than 20 attending two tours will be conducted.

Nominating potential awardees

We all know members of the community (regional, state, national) who richly deserve the formal recognition provided by the Order of Australia awards, but have not been nominated. I encourage all Association members in the Region to ensure the nomination of 3 suitable citizens. There is considerable information on the website of the Governor General of Australia to guide nominators and referees. That includes contact details of the Honours Secretariat for email and telephone advice.

<https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards/order-australia>

Members of the Association, including on the Northern Regional Committee, have much collective experience in the system.

My best wishes for the coming months go to you all,

George

INVITATION TO MEMBERS

**The Order of Australia Northern Region Committee
invites you and a partner to our Winter Solstice Luncheon**

Where: The Riverside Golf Club

When: Wednesday June 21st at 12 noon for 12.30.

Cost: \$40

RSVP and payment by June 7th to Jenny Fraser OAM

jenny.fraser444@hotmail.com Ph 0417 160 707

Guest Speaker: Dr George Merridew AM and his recent trip to Antarctica



Come along and enjoy the fellowship.

See the attached invitation for ordering and payment details



Getting to know our members: Lynn Mason AM



*Lynn Mason AM and family
Charles Mason, Peter Atkinson OAM,
Jamie Mason, Lynn Mason AM,
Eleanor James and Felicity Richards.*

Lynn grew up in Queensland and met her husband Jamie in Greece, where they both got work on a charter yacht in the Aegean. On their return to Australia, they married and began their lives on Flinders Island, farming firstly with Jamie's parents, then spreading out with their own family. 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. That took a few years, a lot of cake stalls, a lot of sausage sizzles (wallaby hamburgers, actually), an auction of donated livestock, and Lynn's special contribution, a recipe book for shearers' cooks. (On Flinders at

that time each farm provided the shearing gang two smokos and lunch; it was hard work.) Trying to get the support of Flinders Council for the gymnasium project led Lynn to think that she could achieve more from inside the meeting room, instead of lobbying 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 the growing of seedlings that could be used as windbreaks or shelter belts, and to assist in township beautification. She 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, printed off on a Gestetner machine, and then collated and stapled by another group of volunteers. It was fun. (No computers then).

On Council Lynn was immediately charged with organising for the Bicentenary Celebrations – another five years of fundraising 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. At the first National Reconciliation Conference the Council was awarded the Community Award for that work. Council also agreed unanimously that Lynn, as Mayor, could apologise to the Stolen Generation children, many of whom lived on Flinders and Cape Barren islands.

After moving residence to Carrick, Lynn increased her board work. She became Chair of the Tasmanian Community Fund, Chair of Tasmanian Affordable Housing Ltd, Chair of Metro Tasmania, Senior Vice-President of the Australian Local Government Association, Deputy Chair of Crime Stoppers Tasmania, Deputy Chair of the Primary Industries Education



Foundation Australia, Deputy Chair of the Tasmanian Abalone Council, and a member of the Board of Rural Alive and Well. Lynn served on the Glenorchy Council Board of Inquiry with Barry Easter OAM, and is a Life Member of the Local Government Association.

Our newest recipient Sarah Merridew AM (Australia Day Honours list)

Sarah was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2023 Australia Day Honours List. She has been a trail blazer in Tasmania for female directors and has applied her professional training and wise experience as a Chartered Accountant extensively in her community.



Sarah was born and educated in Hobart, and as one of four soon learned that everyone needed to speak up! She was educated at Fahan and won a Tasmanian Government Treasury Department scholarship to study economics at the University of Tasmania.

She graduated with majors in economics and accounting. Rather than staying in Tasmania she set off for Melbourne and

embarked on a career in chartered accounting with Peat Marwick and Mitchell (now KPMG). As a chartered accountant she was able to transfer her skills to wherever life took her. She followed her husband Dr George Merridew AM as he worked in Perth and Darwin in the Air Force and then Adelaide as a civilian.

Her 2 daughters were born in Adelaide; then the family travelled and lived in England, Hong Kong and the USA while George was developing his career in anaesthesia.

On their return to Tasmania in 1986, Sarah took steps to rekindle her own career while the family settled in Launceston. She did some part-time work with KPMG and then Deloitte, building her experience and profile until she became a partner in Deloitte in 1993, one of only 3 female partners in the Australian firm at that time. She had also joined the board of her daughters' primary school having previously been president of the P&F.

In the 1990's her expertise as a Chartered Accountant with broad business knowledge led to her appointment as a company director, for a Government Business Enterprise, a listed Tasmanian trustee company, and an industry organisation.

Her interest in corporate governance grew during this period and she was elected to the Tasmanian Council of the AICD. Since then, her board experience has been diverse, so she has learned a lot about State Government finances, banking and managed investment schemes, water and sewerage supply and management, freight rail and now electricity transmission and distribution. This has made for a fascinating career.

Life was intense but always interesting, and juggling family and work commitments was often exhausting. Sarah says "I would never have managed to do all this without a lot of support and understanding from my family and loyal household helpers."



Since retiring from Deloitte, Sarah has put her experience to use for the community and has had a long-term involvement with the board of the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Tasmania (RFDS Tas), a City of Launceston marketing and promotional board, and her Masters Swimming Club. She is on the board of Supported Affordable Accommodation, a trust developing accommodation for people living with a disability.

She was recognised as an outstanding company director with the award in 2020 of the AICD Tasmania Gold Medal, has been inducted into the Tasmanian Honour roll of Women, and awarded life membership of RFDS Tas.

With her family she has established the Merridew Foundation, a charity that invests in education and wellbeing for Tasmanian women, and in medical research.

She enjoys sharing knowledge and assisting aspiring women, which continues the theme gained as child in Hobart where girls in her family were encouraged to gain a good education and to speak up.

April Citizenship Ceremony: Dr Frank Madill AM and Dr George Merridew AM represented the Northern Region at the ceremony at the Tram Sheds, Inveresk.



Group Photo



George Merridew AM, Prof. Nigel Forteach AM,
Dr Frank Madill AM, Councillor Susie Cai



Dr Frank Madill AM, Jasbaani Kaur, Jatinder Kaur, Davinder Singh Grewal

2023 Northern Region OAA Committee:

Chair: Dr George Merridew AM

Deputy Chair: Dr Nicholas Chantler AM

Treasurer: Rod Fraser OAM

Committee members: John Osborne OAM, Gary Carr OAM, Jenny Fraser OAM,
Dr Frank Madill AM, Lou Johnson AM and Betty Laverty OAM.



Members with 15-20 years OAA Membership



17	Mr	Barwick	Graeme James	OAM
12	Dr	Chantler	Nicholas	AM
18	Mrs	Chilcott	Christine Elizabeth	OAM
16	Mr	Dent	John William	OAM
13	Mr	Easther	Barry Maxwell	OAM
16	Professor Em	Einoder	Bernard John	AM
16	Professor	Forteach	George Nigel Ross	AM
11	Mrs	French	Sandra	AM
16	Dr	Hazzlewood	June Margaret	OAM
15	Mr	James	Ivan David	AO
10	Mr	Johnston	Neil William	OAM
10	Hon	Llewellyn	David Edward	AM
11	Mrs	Martin	Chloris Muriel	OAM
18	Mr	McLennan	Geoffrey Bruce	OAM
13	Mr	Millar	Lindsay Douglas	OAM
12	Mr	Richards	Kevin Lawrence	OAM
15	Mr	Richardson	Sam	OAM
13	Mr	Shaw	Alwyn Jeffrey	AM
15	Hon	Shaw	George Arthur	OAM
16	Mrs	Smart	Margot Elizabeth	OAM
16	Dr	Smith	Henry Brian	OAM
15	Mrs	Tasker	Betty Rae	OAM
			Berta Frances Luita	OAM
14	Mrs	von Bibra	Cockburn	

Thank you for your service.



Waverley Woollen Mill visit. 45 Waverley Road.

When: Wednesday August 9th 11.00am-12.30pm

RSVP: Jenny Fraser 0417 160 707

jenny.fraser444@hotmail.com before the end of June.



Prince of Wales Hotel Wednesday 23rd March 2023



Twenty five members enjoyed a delicious lunch at The Prince of Wales Hotel, Evandale. Professor Berni Einoder AM gave a very entertaining and interesting presentation about whiskey production.

The next edition of the Newsletter will be in September. Please forward your photos and news items to the Newsletter Editor, Jenny Fraser OAM jenny.fraser444@hotmail.com