



Welcome from VIC Branch Chair

The vibrant colours of autumn are falling as winter returns for another year. Please stay warm and enjoy reading The Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch e-Newsletter June 2023 edition.

Congratulations to the VIC Branch Committee and the VIC Branch Conference Committee, who collectively hosted a quality National Conference in Geelong last month. The diversity of our speakers ensured we offered a range of business session topics linked to the conference theme *Working Together – Building the Future*. At the national conference dinner on Saturday May 20, Alex Nair was presented with The Order of Australia Association Foundation scholarship donated by The Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch from Reserves, Individual Members and Regional Groups. Alex is studying for a Bachelor of Applied Science in Medical Radiations, specifically Medical Imaging at RMIT. 2023 National Conference photos are on pages 13 to 22.

Please refer to <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/national-conference-2023/> for the complete photo gallery from the 2023 national conference. We thank photographer Lynden Smith OAM for his work during the conference.

Next week the list of Order of Australia Honours and Awards recipients will be announced. Thank you to all our members who took the time to prepare nominations or work with others in the community to do the same.

You can nominate someone by accessing the online form, or downloading an offline version via www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/forms/

Please remember the OAA VIC Branch committee will provide guidance regarding preparation of Order of Australia nominations if required.

You are invited to attend the Wednesday July 5 Virtual Event commencing at 5.30pm to hear from speaker Dr Jenny Gray the CEO of Zoos Victoria.

There will be “chat time” at the end allowing members and guests to catch up. Registration is essential for this free event. Refer to page 2 for invitation and booking details.

The 2023 Melbourne Winter Masterpieces is returning to the National Gallery of Victoria. On Sunday August 6 OAA VIC Branch members and guests are invited to the Pierre Bonnard: Designed by India Mahdavi Introductory Talk and Exhibition. Please refer to page 3 for your invitation and booking details.

Page 4 includes details of the fully escorted Battlefields Tour May/June 2024 reserved for Order of Australia Association members and their guests.

VIC Branch Regional Group news and upcoming events are covered on pages 5 to 11; hopefully your time allows you to attend these face to face or virtual events.

Our next edition of the VIC Branch e-Newsletter will be late September 2023.

Please stay well.

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



THE
ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
ASSOCIATION
VICTORIA BRANCH

Members and Guests

Invitation

Early Evening FREE Virtual Event

“Passion for Fighting Extinction”

Wednesday 5 July 2023

5.30 pm – 6.45 pm including Q&A

Over the last decade Zoos Victoria has transformed into a zoo-based conservation organisation committed to Fighting Extinction and creating a future rich in wildlife. The CEO Dr Jenny Gray will share the highs and lows of this important work and the challenges that lie ahead.

Dr Jenny Gray is the Chief Executive Officer Zoos Victoria, charged with the operation of the Melbourne Zoo, Healesville Sanctuary, Werribee Open Range Zoo and more recently Kyabram Fauna Park.



Working closely with 27 critically endangered species and engaging with over 2.6 million visitors and 350,000 members, Zoos Victoria is testing models of optimism and bravery to address threats to species survival and enhancing care of wildlife.

Jenny has a wide range of public and private sector experience having worked in transportation, airlines and banking, before moving into the zoo industry in South Africa, then Australia. Jenny has qualifications in Civil Engineering, Transportation Engineering, Business Administration and Ethics. Jenny is the Deputy Chancellor at Victoria University.

The presentation will include Q&A and an update on future 2023 OAA VIC Branch events.

Book by Wednesday 28 June 2023 at <https://www.trybooking.com/CIGJH>

If other members or guests are sharing your screen you only need to book one ticket.

The link to join this virtual event will be emailed to address used to make the TryBooking on Monday 3 July 2023.

*Enquires or assistance with bookings contact
Christina Despoteris OAM on 0426 682 682*



Pierre Bonnard: Designed by India Mahdavi Invitation
Order of Australia Association members and guests
Sunday August 6, 2023
National Gallery of Victoria - 180 St Kilda Road, Melbourne

Pierre Bonnard is one of the most beloved painters of the 20th century, celebrated for his use of colour to convey an exquisite sense of emotion. His close friend Henri Matisse declared that Bonnard was 'a great painter, for today and definitely also for the future'.



The Pierre Bonnard Exhibition features more than 100 works by the celebrated French artist, spanning the late nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century. Paintings, drawings, photographs, folding screens and early cinema will bring modern France to life with startling beauty and vivid colour.

Cost: \$44 per person incl. GST covers the Introductory Talk and Exhibition
9.30am to 10.00am Registration and collection of Exhibition ticket/s – enter via the North Entrance next to the Arts Centre Melbourne forecourt, not via the front entrance with the water wall
10:00am -10:45am Introductory Talk
11:00am The *Pierre Bonnard: Designed by India Mahdavi* Exhibition at your own pace – allow one hour

Note: Large OA medals may be worn for this event

Lunch is not included; there are café options in NGV, next door at Arts Centre Melbourne or Southbank next to Hamer Hall. If staying in the arts & cultural precinct recommend you make a booking for lunch.

Bookings: Please book no later than **Tuesday July 25, 2023**

All Bookings are to be made through TryBooking at: <https://www.trybooking.com/CHIOV>

After you have booked you will receive an email message confirming your TryBooking.



Enquires or assistance with bookings please contact
E: chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au



THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION

You are invited to join the 10 day tour of Gallipoli, followed immediately by a 9 day tour of the battlefields of Western Front [May/June 2024]



- ✓ This fully escorted tour is reserved for Order of Australia Association (OAA) members and their guests.
- ✓ Highlights of the Turkey tour led by author and historian Dr John Basarin OAM will be visits to Gallipoli Battlefields [Anzac Cove, Lone Pine, Chunuk Bair, Shrapnel Gully, The Nek, Ari Burnu, Quinn's Post, Krithia and Helles], Troy, Pergamum, Ephesus and Istanbul
- ✓ Western Front tour highlights, led by researcher Garry Snowden OAM, will include cities of Paris, Ieper, Amiens and Arras and the battlefields of Menin Gate, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele, Fromelles, Bullecourt, Pozieres, Compiègne and Villers-Bretonneux.
- ✓ You can choose to tour Turkey on its own, the Western Front on its own, or combine the two. A small part of the funds go towards OAA and FOGI.

Approximate costs are:-

- a. Turkey \$3,999.00 twin/double per person. Single supplement \$899.00.
 - b. Western Front \$4,950.00 twin/double per person. Single supplement \$990.00.
 - c. Combined \$9,799.00 twin/double per person. Single supplement \$1,899.00 (this includes the flight from Turkey to Paris).
- ✓ All 3-4 star accommodation, breakfasts, several meals, site entrance fees, luxury coach travel, sightseeing, and services of professional tour guides are included.
 - ✓ Not included are international airfares from Australia, insurance, some meals and expenses of personal nature.

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

Proudly Supported by Friends of Gallipoli Inc. [FOGI]



Boer War Day Commemoration Service

On Sunday May 28, 2023 a Boer War Day Commemoration Service was held at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance. This was to acknowledge the 121st Anniversary of the Signing of the Peace Treaty of Vereeniging in South Africa to end the Boer War.

The Boer War took place 1899 to 1902 and we honour the service of 23,000 Australians and the sacrifice of over 1,000 Australians who were killed in action. Six Australians were awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest award for bravery.

On this day each year a March is held from St Kilda Rd up to the forecourt of the Shrine where a wreath laying ceremony is held. The Master of Ceremonies is Lt. Colonel Neil Smith AM, a member of the Order of Australia Association.

Several members of the Order of Australia Association were among the distinguished guests and this year Ross Newton OAM laid a wreath on behalf of the Order of Australia Association. Ross's grandfather served in the Boer War as part of the 3rd New South Wales Imperial Bushmen Regiment.

The theme of this years' Service was 'They Served Again'. Approximately 25% of Boer War veterans served again in World War 1. These men were welcome as they had experience of being under fire and many were accepted into the ranks as officers. Ross's grandfather who enlisted at aged 19 for the Boer War then returned to fight at Gallipoli and on the Western Front.

These were incredibly brave men and it is imperative that the younger generation acknowledge them during these Commemoration Services, particularly those who gave their lives so that future generations would remain free to enjoy our wonderful country.



Article and photo from Ross Newton OAM, member of the South Central Suburbs Regional Group

Governor's Oration - The Contributions of Governors' Spouses

The Governor of Victoria, the Honourable Linda Dessau AC CVO and Mr Anthony Howard AM KC, invited representatives of The Order of Australia Association Limited (Victoria Branch) to attend an Oration on the contributions of Governors' spouses, delivered by Her Excellency at Government House Victoria on Tuesday May 30, 2023.



Nearing the end of her eight-year term, the Governor highlighted that, although she is the first female in the role, the influence of many women has been felt at Government House, and throughout the wider Victorian community, across the last 170 years.

The Oration touched on some of the hardships they experienced in colonial times, the intense scrutiny they endured and some of their finest initiatives.

Photo: Christina Despoteris OAM - OAA VIC Branch Events Committee Chair, Teresa De Fazio OAM - OAA VIC Branch committee member attended as a Board Director of Zoos Victoria and Trevor Clark OAM – OAA VIC Branch Deputy Chair



Eastern Suburbs Regional Group

The Eastern Suburbs Regional Group is continuing its popular program of online webinars for OAA members and guests.

To book contact ESRG Chairperson, Geoffrey Grinton OAM
VicEasternSubsRG@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Thursday July 13 at 5:30pm Janet McCalman AC, is Emeritus Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor at the University of Melbourne. She is the author of four award-winning books about Australian life: *Struggletown*, *Journeyings*, *Sex and Suffering*, and most recently *Vandemonians: the repressed history of colonial Australia*. Her subject in this webinar will start from the basis that Convicts and the First AIF have much in common: young people snatched by 'history' to undergo a traumatic experience. How much did penal servitude in Van Diemen's Land and service in World War 1 affect the lives and health of those who went through those ordeals? Or were there other factors, starting in childhood that determined how resilient they were and whether they could recover in later life? Can history help us to do better in the future?

Thursday September 14 at 5.30pm Dr Neil Roy AM was a consultant paediatrician at the Women's Hospital from 1975 to 2007, and a key contributor to the development of NETS, the Newborn Emergency Transport Service, designed originally to safely bring newborns needing specialist care to the Women's Hospital.

Thursday November 9 at 5:30pm Jenny Graves AC is a renowned Australian Geneticist, a Distinguished Professor within the La Trobe University's Institute for Molecular Science. Her wide research interests have included mapping the genome of Australian marsupials, and she is particularly well known for her theories of the origin and evolution of human sex chromosomes and sex determining genes. Her many awards include the Prime Minister's Prize for Science.

Gippsland Regional Group

Twenty members and guests made the journey to Fish Creek in South Gippsland to enjoy lunch and hear from Gippsland Regional Group member Terry Shannon OAM at the Group's April scheduled outing.

Terry provided an entertaining and informative collection of anecdotes that stemmed from his fascinating journeys through some interesting (and sometimes hair raising parts) of Eastern Europe whilst engaged in some very 'challenging' business activities for a large multinational confectionary company.

Guests gathered at the picturesque Fish Creek Hotel and were well catered for by the friendly host and his staff. Of note was the presence of two new members of the Association who received their awards in this year's Australia Day Honours List, David Denton AM KC RFD and Lesley Kool OAM.



Both joined the Association very shortly after receiving their respective awards and were made very welcome by all those in attendance. Unfortunately, due to work requirements, David has had to relocate to the Melbourne metropolitan area and is to have his membership transferred to Melbourne Central so it was both a welcome and a farewell event on the same day.

Photo: An expression of Appreciation to our Guest Speaker Terry Shannon OAM presented by Gippsland Regional Group Chair Doug Caulfield OAM RFD following an enjoyable and entertaining presentation at Fish Creek.

On the positive side though, the other of our newest members, Lesley Kool OAM has graciously agreed to be guest speaker at our next scheduled event in Sale for the August luncheon.

Sunday August 6 luncheon 12noon for 12.30pm meal at the Star Hotel in Sale

Guest speaker Lesley Kool OAM will provide members and guests with a fascinating look into the discovery of dinosaur fossils in the Gippsland area and how one particular Cretaceous amphibian fossil got its name and ended up being made the official state fossil emblem of Victoria in 2022. More details of this event will be forthcoming in the near future.

Photograph: South Gippsland Sentinel-Times. On Australia Day, Thursday, January 26, Lesley Kool of Wonthaggi North was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for services to palaeontology



North Central Suburbs Regional Group

The group continues to provide a mixture of f-2-f events and ZOOM sessions.

Monthly **ZOOM** sessions commencing at 5:30pm

Forthcoming sessions are:

Thursday June 15

Our speaker will be NCSRG member Professor Emeritus Judith Charlton AM. Judith received her honour in the 2021 Queen's Birthday honours list for "For significant service to road safety and injury prevention research". Her topic will be: Emerging vehicle technologies and the future of driving for an ageing population." Judith will include some research on autonomous vehicles as well as current vehicle technologies and how these can support/extend safe driving of older adults.

Members of all Regional Groups are welcome to join this ZOOM session. Bookings close at 5:00pm on Wednesday June 14. Bookings can be made through Fred Harrington OAM at: fred.harrington@gravity.net.au

Thursday July 27

Our speaker will be Alex Beard. Alex works for a company that install electric vehicle charging stations throughout the east coast of Australia. Alex will talk about the strategy and challenges of installing charging stations, including necessary infrastructure, along the major and minor highways and also the emerging technologies in electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Members of all Regional Groups are welcome to join this ZOOM session. Bookings close at 5:00pm on Wednesday June 26. Bookings can be made through Fred Harrington OAM at: fred.harrington@gravity.net.au

LUNCHESES

Wednesday June 14

Our winter seasonal lunch will be held, commencing at 11:45 am, at the Sycamore Tree café 185 Burgundy St Heidelberg. The café is a social enterprise activity of the Uniting Church and is being supported by NCSRG. Parking is available on site. Members and partners/guests can order off the menu and pay individually.

Booking close at 5:00pm on Monday June 12 and can be made with Irene Harrington OAM on either 0407 865 447 or harri@gravity.net.au

Sunday August 13

Our Yarra Valley Lunch and reception for 2023 honours recipients will be held, commencing at 12 Noon at the Yering Meadows Golf Club Café., 178 -180 Victoria Road Yering.

Members will order off the menu and pay individually for food and drinks.

Booking close at 5:00pm on Tuesday August 1 and can be made with Irene Harrington OAM on either 0407 865 447 or harri@gravity.net.au

Wednesday 13th September

Our spring seasonal lunch will be held, commencing at 11:45 am, at the Sycamore Tree café 185 Burgundy St Heidelberg. The café is a social enterprise activity of the Uniting Church and is being supported by NCSRG. Parking is available on site. Members and partners/guests can order off the menu and pay individually.

Booking close at 5:00pm on Sunday September 10 and can be made with Irene Harrington OAM on either 0407 865 447 or harri@gravity.net.au

North Central Suburbs Regional Group

Saturday 7th October 2023

This event will be a 'high tea' commencing at 2:00pm to be held at the Heidelberg Golf Club, Main Road Lower Plenty. Cost will be in the order of \$40 per head. Further details will be advised closer to the event.

North East & Goulburn Valley Regional Group

Vale Dr John Richards OAM

We are saddened by the passing of Life member Dr (Frederick) John Richards OAM. John, a former OAA NEGV committee member and resident of Yarrawonga had recently moved to Melbourne where he passed away.

John a former Yarrawonga Citizen of the Year is well known for his work in the Yarrawonga community.

John was a jackaroo, conscript, farmer, and newsagent. He made very significant contributions to the community in northern Victoria and held a number of positions in local health and community organisations.

John was the inaugural president of the Yarrawonga District Health Service board of management and a member of the Rural and Regional Council of the Victorian Healthcare Association.

He was also instrumental in the establishment of the Moira Healthcare Alliance, a not-for-profit organisation based in Yarrawonga that provides home and community care services in Moira Shire and the surrounding communities.



John made a significant donation to Latrobe University to establish a centre to lead research and innovation related to the aged care workforce and health delivery initiatives for aged care in rural communities. The centre, based at Latrobe in Wodonga, is named in his honour. He was also awarded a Doctor of Science (honoris causa) by Latrobe University.

Dr (Frederick) John Richards was an OAM recipient June 2007 for service to the community of the Moira Shire, particularly as a contributor to health sector development, and to the newsagency industry through the Victorian Authorised Newsagents Association.

John was a true gentleman and will be remembered well by those of us who knew him.

Sunday June 25 luncheon at Yarrawonga/Mulwala Golf Resort with speaker Tony Rinaudo AM. Tony is an Australian agriculturist, who is widely known as the "forest maker." Having lived and worked in African countries for several decades, he has discovered and put into practice a solution to the extreme deforestation and desertification of the Sahel region. With a simple set of management practices, farmers can regenerate and protect existing local vegetation, which has helped to improve the livelihoods of millions.

Tony has pioneered a technique that involves growing up trees from existing root systems, which are often still intact and which he refers to as an "underground forest."

North East & Goulburn Valley Regional Group

By choosing the right plants and pruning and protecting them in a certain way, farmers can help them grow into trees. Changing attitudes has been key to Tony's successful work. He realised that if people had reduced the forest to a barren landscape, it would require people to restore it.

Tony's farmer-managed natural regeneration method has restored 50,000 km² of land with over 200 million trees in Niger alone. It has the potential to restore currently degraded drylands in an area the size of India. What he has created is much more than an agricultural technique; he has inspired a farmer-led movement that is regreening land in the Sahel region and beyond.

Please contact Barb Thomas OAM on 0419889804 if you would like to attend. Invitations have been sent out to NEGV OAA members

Sunday October 8 at The Woolshed @ Emerald Bank, Shepparton -Speaker Dr Pieter Mourik, well known to our members who will speak on: "Then and Now; Changes in Medicine in My 50 Years". The venue is very close to the Museum of Vehicle Evolution (MOVE) so perhaps consider a visit beforehand making a wonderful day!

South Central Suburbs Regional Group

The Regional Group members were represented by Graeme Woolacott OAM and Alan Samuel OAM presenting a Bursary to the Young Citizen of the Year at the City of Glen Eira Awards held on Wednesday May 17 during Volunteers Week held in Glen Eira's main Auditorium. The Young Citizen of the Year is Benji Orwin. Benji is an exceptional young person, who started a project "Socks for Support" when he was eight years old, and has now reached the age of thirteen having distributed 40, 000 pairs of socks to the needy in five years.



His ongoing project has distributed socks to residents in locked down towers during COVID, socks to the flood victims in the Dandenong Ranges, a shanty town in

South Africa and many more worthy organizations. He is also an advocate and motivator within his own generation.

This is the second year this Regional Group has awarded a Bursary to the current Young Citizen of the Year in the local suburban areas that we represent. We strongly support and want to actively encourage the young achievers.

Several members of our Regional Group enjoyed a visit to Black Rock House, a historic house in Ebdon Street, Black Rock. Built in 1856 and 1858 for Victoria's first Auditor – General, Charles Hotson Ebdon it was purchased by the former City of Sandringham in 1974.

It has been restored extensively to its former glory, and is now lovingly maintained by the Friends of Black Rock House, who work with Bayside City Council and conduct tours and public open day events.



Dr Cheryl Threadgold OAM, who in a member of our Regional Group, conducted a most interesting tour, together with other Friends of BRH who served a lovely morning tea

South Central Suburbs Regional Group

Congratulations to South Central Suburbs Regional Group member **Ralph Butcher OAM** who turns 105 this month.

105
HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

Ralph has lived a life of service caring for others in the community. From his Army service in WWII to his continuing support for war widows, Ralph gets tremendous satisfaction from volunteering and helping people through his work with Probus, Legacy, Girl Guides and the Beaumaris War Widows Club.

We wish you a very Happy Birthday Ralph.

Wednesday June 14

The next event is the Mid-Year Luncheon on Wednesday June 14 at The West Brighton Club Park Street St Kilda.

The Speaker is Professor George Werther AO MD FRACP who is best known for his world class work in paediatrics for which he received many well-deserved honours

Awarded the Officer of the Order of Australia in 2022 for distinguished service to medicine, paediatric endocrinology (diabetes) and research

Cost \$75.00 ph GST included for a two course meal, welcome drink, tea and coffee.

Contact SCSRG Treasurer Alan Samuel OAM alan@samuelfamily.nett or M: 0408 024 224

Western Suburbs Reginal Group

Thursday June 8 @ 7.00pm

RAPALLO CINEMA, 337A NAPIER STREET, STRATHMORE

Join us for this extraordinary evening at the private Rapallo cinema, hidden away in a little street behind the Bendigo Bank on Napier Street, Strathmore.

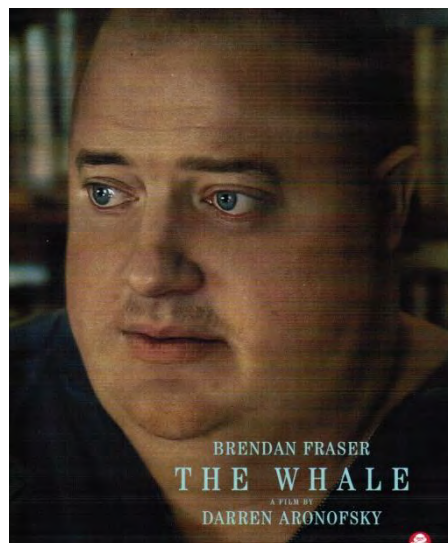
There is usually plenty of parking in the evenings on the shopping strip a two-minute walk away. Our evening selection is *The Whale*, for which Brendan Fraser won the Best Actor Oscar at the 2023 Academy Awards.

'Variety' said about this film: "Believe the hype...a profound performance for the ages".

This private cinema holds only 14 people, so it will be first-come, first-served.

This evening event costs \$25 (incl.GST) including snacks and a cold drink, payable to your committee at the event.

We must confirm the booking so please let us know that you wish to come, and maybe bring a guest, by June 6 at the latest. Replies to: oaamelbwest@gmail.com



Do you use Xero Accounting Software?

The Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch is looking for a member who currently uses the Xero Accounting Software and is interested in joining the OAA VIC Branch committee. Please contact VIC Branch Chair via **M:** 0407 261 951 or **E:** chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

VIC Branch Events

Wednesday July 5: 5.30pm VIRTUAL event open to members and guests at no cost. Refer to page 2 for invitation and booking details.

Sunday August 6: 2023 Melbourne Winter Masterpieces at National Gallery Victoria Introductory Talk and The Pierre Bonnard: Designed by India Mahdavi Exhibition at your own pace – allow one hour. Refer to page 3 for invitation and booking details

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

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

Thursday November 23: 6.15pm End of Year Dinner for members and guests at William Angliss Restaurant with speaker Natalie O'Brien AM.

News from the Merchandise Shop on-line

Soft and warm – unisex knitted scarf

To help you stay warm during winter – our popular knitted unisex grey scarf.

The soft, comfortable scarf has the OAA crest embroidered on one end and is long enough to wrap around the neck or to be looped.

Special: Cost \$25.00 each plus P&H. Current for winter 2023



Soft Feel Pen



Our latest pen has an elegant soft feel barrel with gunmetal grey trims and comes in a small gift box. The OAA logo has been tastefully printed in white.

Treat yourself, or purchase as a gift for family, friends and guest speakers.

Cost \$7.00 each plus P&H

Rib knit loop scarf – unisex

Stylish and warm, matches well with navy beanie

Cost \$26.00 each for the loop scarf plus P&H



Roll up navy beanie - unisex



Stylish winter warm beanie, matches well with navy loop scarf
Cost \$16.00 each plus P&H

Check out the Merchandise Shop Online:
www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart

OAA 2023 National Conference in Geelong

The OAA VIC Branch thanks the OAA National Board for allowing us to host the 2023 national conference in a regional city, this was a first.

We thank our sponsors both financial and in-kind

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

Wauron Ponds Estate Futures Industries

We also thank the conference bag content donors.

Thursday May 18:

Conference delegates were warmly greeted by representatives from some of the multi-cultural

communities in the Geelong Region when they entered the Geelong Library & Heritage Centre for the Vice-Regal Welcome to Geelong Reception with Their Excellencies.





Friday May 19:

Welcome to Country, National Anthem, National Chairman, His Excellency Address; Association Oration, Key Address, Business Panel with MC and Diversity in OA nominations.



Saturday May 20:
Conference business panels



Saturday May 20

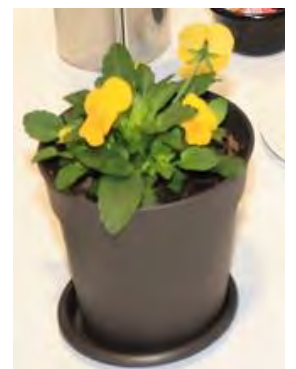
Dinner and Foundation scholarship presentations at Mt Duneed Estate







Sunday May 21:
Sunday Jazz Brunch







The money from the sale of the yellow potted violas was donated to Ukraine mother and children in Geelong.

Appreciate your support.

The 2023 national conference allowed Geelong to show case the multi-cultural diversity in the region and hear how these communities make a difference Australiawide during times of disaster by giving back in so many ways – thank you.



See you in Perth
May 16-19. 2024

2023 OAA national conference gallery please refer to link

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



OAA VIC Branch Regional Group Chairs as at June 1, 2023

Barwon

Wayne Myers OAM

Central Highlands Wimmera

John Burt OAM

Eastern Suburbs

Geoffrey Grinton OAM

Frankston Mornington Peninsula

Heather Bacon AM

Gippsland

Doug Caulfield OAM RFD

Loddon-Campaspe

Steven Lee AM

Mallee

VIC Branch committee

Melbourne Central

Trevor Clark OAM

North Central Suburbs

Fred Harrington OAM

NE & Goulburn Valley

Barbara Thomas OAM

South Central Suburbs

Jill Page OAM

South West Vic

Peter Habersberger AM RFD

Western Suburbs

June Kane AM