

The ORDER



THE NATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION

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Margaret Humphrey AO, CBE is a committee member and ex chair of the Order of Australia Association UK/Europe. She resides in England.

Her Honorary appointment as an Officer of The Order of Australia was made in 2019. The citation for her appointment is "For distinguished service to the community, particularly to former child migrants" Her work in this area continues with her frequent visits to Australia.

Her award was presented recently in Canberra by the Governor General and was attended by some former child migrants.

*In the group photo at Government House, front row from left to right:
Mr Mervyn Humphrey, Mrs Eileen Evert, His Excellency the Governor General,
Dr Margaret Humphrey AO CBE, Her Excellency Mrs Hurley, Mrs Jacqueline Honner.*

*2nd row:
Mr Ian Thwaites, Mr Tony Costa OAM, Mrs Raelene White, Mr Andrew Murray,
Miss Honoria Goldberg, Mr Norman Johnston & Mr Michael Robotham.*



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THE ORDER

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THE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au

The Association website is a source of important information: it is easy, fast, up-to-date and includes:

- The Association's aims and structure.
- Membership application and renewal.
- Editing your basic membership contact details.
- National Conference
- National Committee membership and contacts.
- National publication — The Order.
- A link to each branch with current information:
 - Committee and contacts.
 - Upcoming functions.
 - Newsletter and local information.
- Frequently Asked Questions about The Order of Australia.
- Nomination process and documentation for awards.
- Merchandise

Make the website your first port of call. If you want further information please talk to your branch committee.

If you have ideas about information you would like on the website please contact your branch committee.

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S REPORT

HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL THE HONOURABLE DAVID JOHN HURLEY, AC, DSC (RETD)

The release of the King's Birthday Honours list in June this year was, as always, extremely exciting.

As I read through the recommendations from the Council for the Order of Australia I could picture the people being put forward. I've most likely never met them in person but as I read about their service I get a sense of who they are and the impact they've had. It is inspiring and uplifting.

For any new member of the Association reading this, can I repeat my congratulations on your recognition. Please enjoy your upcoming investiture ceremony – as I say at the beginning of sessions at Government House Yarralumla, humility is an admirable trait but please put it aside for that special moment and be proud that your nation has recognised you.

The King's Birthday Honours List was also historic because for the first time more women than men were recognised in the General Division of the Order of Australia.

This was a significant achievement.

Many of you will know that ensuring the Order of Australia reflects the Australian community has been a key focus in recent years. We cannot afford to lose that focus. We need to ensure that nominations of women continue to flow into the system for consideration.

Of course, diversity is much more than gender.

Similar work is underway to better engage with our culturally and linguistically diverse communities to increase the flow of nominations from across the spectrum of Australian life.

We want all Australians to be equally aware of the Order so that any Australian, regardless of their background or field of endeavour, can be nominated if they have had an impact at the local, national or international level.

Finally, to all members of the Association, I want to repeat what I said at the Order of Australia National Conference in Geelong – I know that your commitment to the Australian community does not stop with being recognised through the Order of Australia. As members of the Association, you continue to work and contribute in so many ways.

That too is uplifting and makes me incredibly optimistic for our future.

You are connected to your communities at a local level. And you have the experience, connections, and perspective to improving awareness of the Order and understanding of the nomination process.

You are the Order's best ambassadors.



EDITORIAL

Phil Morrall AM, CSC – Editor

In the next few months, I will be handing over the editorship to June Kane AM a Victorian Branch volunteer, I thank all National, Branch and Regional Group coordinators for their cooperation and understanding. June and I will be working in tandem for both this and the November issue. June will of course bring her own experience and 'flavour' to the Editorial overview.

As advised in the last issue, the intention is to maintain the 32-page format, while using some limited tasteful and appropriate advertising to help defray additional costs. All advertising must accord with the objectives and values of the Association.

Specifically, any advertising should not be politically or socially partisan and issues of significant community debate will not be sanctioned. Preference will be given to advertisements of a national character, that have relevance to most if not all Association members.

In the first instance possible advertisers are sought from Association Members with business or other commercial affiliations.

The intention is that the National Editor and the National Membership Director control and administer the advertising issue including judging suitability and setting conditions etc. Any unsolicited enquiries would be considered on their merits.

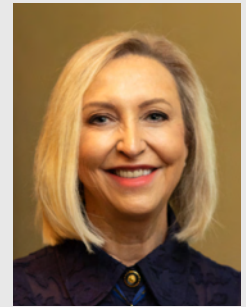
Contact the Editor for rates and administrative conditions. nateditor@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

One final prompt – SEE BACK PAGE FOR WA 2024 CONFERENCE DETAILS



NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO
National President



Greetings to all readers. I am writing to you from sunny Darwin, where the Dry Season is upon us, but the humidity is refusing to let go!

As your President I am enjoying the wonderful opportunity to connect with our members around the nation. Thank you to everyone that has reached out to me, it is a pleasure to make so many acquaintances and to hear your stories. Fabulous, life enriching and diverse stories that further highlight to me the significance of the contributions made by so many Australians who have received an Australian Honour. Australians who are recognised for their outstanding service and contributions, individuals who work tirelessly to improve the quality of life of other people and our overall communities – Thank you.

I also get to meet Australians every day that are not yet recognised, they are typically unsung heroes who do not seek recognition or thanks. I encourage every reader to take time to nominate a fellow Australian who you know would be a worthy recipient. Keep in mind anyone can nominate someone to be recognised through the Order of Australia.

“To complete a nomination I suggest that you read the very helpful information available on the Order of Australia website at <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/about-the-award/>”

Over the years many recipients have shared with me the positive and life changing impact that occurs for them, their families, and significant others upon receiving their award and the enormous pride they feel thereafter.

Fred Hollows once said ‘there is no handbook on how to navigate life but let’s celebrate someone you know who goes above and beyond’ these are selfless and inspirational words for us all to contemplate.

Giving Service Beyond Self is the name of the Association’s 2024 National Conference in Perth from the 16th – 19th May. Please join us, this conference will be welcoming, inspiring and an opportunity to be a part of a gathering with other members from each State and Territory. Our Western Australian members are renowned for their warmth and will ensure that not only the conference is superb, but we will all get to experience the numerous other events and tours and the delights that this magnificent state has to offer.

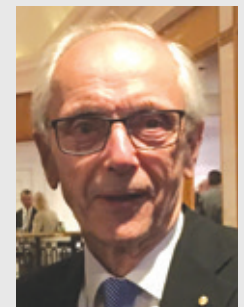
Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank The Order of Australia Foundation and very importantly the donors for supporting our next generation of leaders. The Scholarships presented every year by the Governor General at our Annual Conference Dinner highlight the significant work by the Foundation who are committed to helping promising young Australians to achieve their potential for the benefit of future generations of Australians.

I send my warmest greetings to all, until our next conversation or meeting.

Go well, Vicki

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Barry Nunn AO
National Chairman



The 2023 King’s Birthday Honours list recognised 917 worthy Australians, an increase of 30% over those recognised in the Australia Day awards. For the first time since establishment of The Order of Australia, recognition of women in this Honours List exceeded that of men. Credit is due to all who have contributed to this result, including members in those Branches and Regional Groups who have managed to increase community knowledge of The Order of Australia and encourage nominations. Those recognised do not yet represent the full spectrum of our great multicultural society and we need to continue to address this with the community.

The work of the Order of Australia Association Foundation allowed the awarding of four scholarships to university students at our National Conference in May this year. The efforts of the Foundation have been supported by individual benefactors, and this has been considerably enhanced by the work of our Association Branches, with the collection of both Branch and individual member contributions. We are now able to forecast with some confidence that we will be able to include awards of scholarships during our future National Conferences to students at universities in the Conference State.

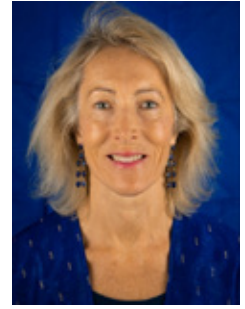
Preparations continue for the 2024 National Conference in Perth WA. The dates are 16th to 19th May and a stimulating programme is being arranged. This is a great opportunity to make and renew friendships, to have your say on Association matters, and to experience the delights of Western Australia during a season of moderate temperatures. Some tours have been arranged but stay a little longer and see a little more.

Work has now commenced on our 2025 National Conference, to be held in Sydney from 1st to 4th May 2025. More details will be available in later editions of this magazine.



UK / EUROPE REPORT

Dr Caroline Hoffman OAM
Chairman



As the name suggests the Branch membership of about 30 spans a very large geographic area, not only within the UK, but France, Spain, The Netherlands and Switzerland. The Committee tries very hard to coordinate membership, as well as taking an interest in young expatriate Australians. Periodic functions and activities have been organised, of course somewhat disrupted recently by the Covid circumstances.

The National Board welcomes Dr Hoffman as the new Group Chairman.

Dr Caroline Hoffman OAM, PhD, RN, BSW, originally from Melbourne, moved to the UK in 1985. At that time, she was working in the intensive care setting. Always interested the link between mind and body, she introduced and started researching the effects of touch therapies in critically ill patients. She unwittingly became a pioneer in integrative healthcare, involved in practice, education and research.

In 1993, she did a sideways step into cancer support and since then she has been involved in integrative oncology, bringing the best of psychological support, complementary therapies and healthy lifestyle support to people affected by cancer over the last 30 years.



St Mary-le-Bow London

The Church has a long-standing relationship with members of both our Association and our Air Force.

This pleasant interior and the crypt have over the years hosted UK / Europe Group activities.

Please note on the left, an Order of Australia banner is hanging from a staff and just closer in shot is a partial image of the Ensign of the Royal Australian Air Force.

<https://www.stmarylebow.org.uk/>

She was Clinical and Research Director for a UK-based breast cancer support charity for 20 years and she has specialised in teaching and researching mindfulness and more recently self-compassion to people affected by cancer. Her pioneering doctoral research evaluating mindfulness in women with breast cancer was published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology. She continues to teach mindful self-compassion and lead retreats.

More recently, she has started working with bilateral brain stimulation (in the form of Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing – EMDR) as a way of safely and rapidly relieving trauma and PTSD with people affected by cancer but also with people in other settings such as the armed services and other trauma sufferers.

In addition to her private and voluntary work, she is part-time CEO of Paul's Cancer Support, a London-based charity which helps anyone affected by cancer.

Caroline was awarded an OAM for services to breast cancer in June 2014.

She is married to a Brit and lives in rural Hampshire. She also enjoys singing in The Bach Choir in London as well as cycling and kitesurfing off the south coast of England.

"I am honoured to take up the position of Chair of the Order of Australia UK and Europe. I am looking forward to being of service and working with our wonderful Committee to make a difference."



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Andrew Phelan AM
Branch Chairman
chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

The ACT Branch is proud to present annual awards to ACT school students and school groups for voluntary community service and good citizenship. The awards mirror the Association's purpose of 'celebrating and promoting outstanding Australian citizenship.' Earlier this year I sent requests for nominations for this year's awards to all school sectors within the ACT. When nominations closed, the Association had received 18 nominations for individuals and groups, from public, private and Catholic schools - an excellent result. The judging panel was impressed, as it has been each year, with the amazing and humbling efforts some students will go to in the support of others. Our awards presentation evening on Thursday, 24 August 2023 will provide an opportunity for Association members, parents, siblings, relevant teachers, school principals and heads of education sectors to acknowledge and celebrate the citizenship achievements of awardee students.

On 18 July 2023, Greg Hood AO spoke to the Branch's well-attended, mid-year luncheon, focusing on his time as Chief Commissioner and CEO of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, including winding up the search for MH370, the accident in which a Super King Air aircraft struck the Direct Factory Outlet at Essendon, and the loss of the C130 Hercules Large Aerial Tanker in January 2020. Greg was appointed an Officer in the Order on Australia Day 2023 for distinguished service to the national transportation and aviation industries, and to the not-for-profit sector.

I had the privilege of writing to 37 local recipients of honours and awards in the King's Birthday list, to congratulate them and to invite them to our Spring reception for new recipients at the Commonwealth Club on 20 September 2023. It is gratifying that a third of new recipients have since joined the Association.

Our minds are also turning to the annual OAA-Australian National University Lecture, to be held late in the year.

Warm regards,

Andrew Phelan AM

ACT BRANCH OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley

Branch Nominated Director

Dr Alan Morrison AM JP

Chair

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Phil Morrall AM CSC

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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

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.

Dr Peter McCawley AM – Australia Day 2019 – For significant service to the Asia-Pacific region through economic advisory roles.

WELCOME TO NEW OAA MEMBERS FROM THE 2023 KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

PROFESSOR EMERITA Berwyn CLAYTON AM. For significant service to the vocational education and training sector.

Mrs Gillian BAILEY-GRAHAM OAM. For service to the performing arts, particularly through music.

Mr Ebenezer BANFUL OAM. For service to the African community, and to health.

Mrs Catherine BOHM OAM. For service to the community, particularly through the church.

Mr Lesley BOHM OAM. For service to the community, particularly through the church.

Mrs Jaishri FALCETTA OAM. For service to the community through social welfare organisations.

Dr Fergus GARDINER OAM. For service to medicine.

Mr Mainul HAQUE OAM. For service to the multicultural community of Canberra.

Mr Barrington JARMAN OAM. For service to Australia-Japan relations.

Mrs Heidi PROWSE OAM. For service to community health.

Mrs Nishi PURI OAM. For service to the Indian community of Canberra.

Mrs Margaret SHADFORTH-NICHOLLS OAM. For service to women, and to the community.

MEET OUR MEMBERS

KATRINA FANNING AO PSM – INDIGENOUS ADVOCATE AND A LEADER IN WOMEN’S RUGBY LEAGUE



For over 25 years, Wiradjuri woman Katrina Fanning AO PSM has been dedicated in the promotion of rugby league and she was excited to see the establishment and acceptance of the National Rugby League Women’s (NRLW) competition and more recently, her hometown team, the Canberra Raiders, join the competition.

A pioneer in women’s rugby league, Ms Fanning represented the Jillaroos 26 times, including in the inaugural Australia-New Zealand test match in 1995. Following a successful career as a player, she was appointed manager of the Indigenous Women’s All Stars team, Chairperson of the Australian Rugby League Indigenous Council, and previously held the roles of President of both the Canberra and Australian Women’s Rugby League Associations.

In 2014, Katrina was named Canberra Woman of the Year, and ACT NAIDOC Person of the Year. In 2019, she was the third woman to be appointed to the Canberra Raiders Board of Directors. She has held senior government roles with Centrelink, Aboriginal Hostels and the Department of Education, and Employment and Workplace Relations.

Katrina was ACT Australian of the Year in 2020, and was named the 2023 Canberra Citizen of the Year, being recognised for her dedication and work for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Originally from Junee, NSW, Katrina is the Director of Coolamon Advisors, an Indigenous majority-owned and managed consultancy, as well as being involved in numerous roles within the community. Some of her roles have included Chairperson of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body as well as board member of the Fred Hollows Foundation and the Women’s Legal Centre. She firmly believes that the ACT can lead the way nationally for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people outcomes, in creating and leading their own solutions.

Katrina was also part of the National Co-Design Group tasked with developing options and models for a national Indigenous voice.

In January 2023 Ms Fanning was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to the Indigenous community through education and health initiatives, and her contribution to sport.

A LONG LIFE DEDICATED TO FAITH – REV JOE MULLINS MC, OAM

On 16 July, Reverend Joe Mullins MC, OAM celebrated his 103rd birthday at church with friends and relatives. He grew up in the UK and served in the British Army in the Burma Campaign in World War II under Field Marshall Sir William Slim and was awarded the Military Cross for courage in battle. After the war he studied at Oxford University and gained an Honours BA and an MA and was ordained in the Diocese of London. Joe served for many years in India, including ten years as a Scripture Union missionary, and it was there that he met his wife, Edith.

Joe and his family arrived in Canberra in 1974 and he was appointed Associate Priest and then Rector of the Anglican Church at Weston Creek for eight years. His strong evangelistic ministry helped to lay the foundations for the building of the present St Peter’s Church. After further service in North Goulburn, Pambula and Wanniasa, Joe retired in 1987. Reverend Mullins was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia on Australia Day 1998 for service to the community, particularly through the Anglican Church and as the rector of St Peter’s Church, Weston.



Rev Joe Mullins
OAM MC with Liz
Scrivener OAM,
his cousin Dan
Etherington AM and
Maureen Etherington

MID-YEAR LUNCH – GUEST SPEAKER GREG HOOD AO

On 18 July 2023, Branch member Greg Hood AO spoke to the Branch’s mid-year luncheon, focusing on his time from 2016 to 2021 as Chief Commissioner and CEO of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, including winding up the search for missing Malaysian airliner MH370, to which Australia contributed significant resources, the accident in which a Super King Air aircraft struck the Direct Factory Outlet at Essendon with the death of five occupants, and the loss of the Coulson C130 Hercules Large Aerial Tanker



Andrew Phelan AM, Greg Hood AO,
Kym Osley AM CSC

in January 2020 while fighting fires near Cooma, NSW. Greg particularly noted the dedicated investigation that is required to determine the cause of aviation accidents and mentioned the poignancy that attends

the meeting of relatives of accident victims. He was Chair of the International Transportation Safety Association from 2019 to 2021 and is also very active volunteering in the not-for profit sector.

Following his fascinating presentation which is available to view at <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/act/events/>, Greg fielded many questions from the members present. He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia on Australia Day 2023 for distinguished service to the national transportation and aviation industries, and to the not-for-profit sector.



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, Leper, 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

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA GUIDANCE AND PROMOTION

Every person recognised through the Order of Australia has at least one thing in common - someone has taken the time to nominate them for recognition.

Nominating someone worthy is a way of recognising and celebrating the contribution that they have made, their achievements and the impact that they have had on their community.

There are resources to help:

- an electronic toolkit, including social media assets, editorial and videos
- a printable factsheet
- guidance about the process, including the answers to commonly asked questions.

You can also contact the Honours Team for assistance.

Order of Australia guidance and promotion | Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia (gg.gov.au)



NT NEWS



Alan James OAM

Members of the NT Branch of the OAA are delighted that our previous Administrator The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO has been appointed National President of the Order of Australia Association. Chairman Alan James OAM says "Having such a strong advocate for the NT in that position will be very positive moving forward." Further news is that our current Administrator, His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie PSM, has agreed to be our Patron.

The Annual Dinner of the NT Chapter is being held on Tuesday 8 August 2023 in the Signature Room, Darwin Hilton Hotel, 32 Mitchell Street, with 70 members booked

to attend. Guest speaker at the dinner is Deana Cuming Director (A/g), Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat, Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General.

We have recently had confirmation that The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Darwin, The Hon Kon Vatskalis, will be hosting an event on October 19. This formal reconnection with the City of Darwin (Council) is exciting as it revives a long-standing relationship between the NT branch and the City of Darwin.



His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie PSM
Administrator of the NT



NT BRANCH OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie PSM

Chairperson

Mr. Alan James OAM

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TBA

Secretary

Mr. David De Silva AM

Treasurer

Professor Jai Singh AM

Membership Secretary

Ms. Linda Fazldeen AM

Committee Members

Mrs. Jane Aagaard AM

Ms. Robyn Burridge OAM

Mr. Wayne Kraft AM

KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

The number of King's Birthday Honours awardees in the Northern Territory was greater than usual – twenty high achievers received an honour, including fifteen women.

NT MEMBERS

Ms Linda Fazldeen AM, our Membership Secretary, reports that there are currently 128 members in the NT Association.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Helene Bender AM
Branch Chairman
chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Victoria Branch acknowledged 275 Order of Australia King's Birthday Honours and Awards recipients in June. Thank you to our members who have taken the time to nominate exceptional achievers from diverse backgrounds, ages and cultures.

The Branch holds one virtual event each year ensuring some members who for various reasons are unable to attend face-to-face events still stay connected with the Association.

Last month Dr Jenny Gray PSM 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, spoke at the virtual event.

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. 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.

The Victoria Branch hosted the 2023 Melbourne Winter Masterpieces at the National Gallery of Victoria on Sunday 6 August. An introductory talk set the scene prior to members and guests visiting the Pierre Bonnard Exhibition showcasing one of the most beloved painters of the 20th century, celebrated for his use of colour to convey an exquisite sense of emotion. The Pierre Bonnard Exhibition featured more than 100 works by the celebrated French artist, spanning the late nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century.

A 'Thank You Reception' for Order of Australia recipients who join the Association in 2023 will be held on Wednesday 4 October 2023 at the Alex Theatre in St Kilda. Invitation with TryBooking link will be emailed to new members week commencing 21 August. The final event for VIC Branch members and their guests is an End of Year Dinner on Thursday 23 November at William Angliss Restaurant with speaker Natalie O'Brien AM. Natalie was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2019 Australia Day Honours and Awards for significant service to tourism, food, and the community of Victoria.

January 2023 Natalie commenced as CEO at Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre responsible for the overall management, business plan delivery and future strategic direction of MCEC and the operational planning for the new Geelong Convention and Exhibition Centre (GCEC).

Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship recipient Alex Nair will provide members and guests with an update on her studies, work and community service.

For further information regarding VIC Branch and Regional Group events and the OAA Merchandise Shop please refer to the Association national website www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au

To our 2023 Order of Australia King's Birthday recipients, please enjoy your Investiture next month at the picturesque Government House.

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 National Annual General Meeting and Members' Forum was held on Saturday morning. There is a separate National report regarding the AGM and Members' Forum on page 16

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.

THANK YOU TO OUR PATRON



Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC was sworn in as Victoria's 29th Governor on 1 July 2015, the first female in the role.

Her term finished 30 June 2023.

The Order of Australia Association (OAA) Victoria Branch thanks our Patron for hosting Investitures at Government House over the past eight years including virtual Investitures during COVID.

Friday 24 February 2017 at the Deakin Edge, Federation Square in Melbourne, Her Excellency Linda Dessau AC Governor of Victoria delivered the OAA VIC Branch Inaugural Inspiring Australians Oration

Her Excellency spoke of the many people in her life that had inspired her, whether at school, university, the sporting arena, the military or within the community.

The Governor concluded with the following: "I hope this wonderful initiative of the Victorian Branch of the Order of Australia Association is repeated next year and each year thereafter."

The Inspiring Australians Oration is an annual event giving OAA members, guests and students the opportunity to be inspired

In 2017 the Governor was made a Companion of the Order of Australia for "eminent service to the people of Victoria through leadership roles in the judiciary, to the advancement of economic ties and business relationships, and as a supporter of charitable, sporting and arts organisations.

We also thank Anthony Howard AM KC, the husband of the Governor of Victoria. Individually and together they have made diversity one of their priorities, welcoming Victorians from all walks of life.

Professor Margaret Gardner AC commences her five-year term as Governor on Wednesday 9 August 2023 after concluding her current role with Monash University.

During the interim period before Professor Gardner's inauguration, the Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria, Professor James Angus AO, administered the State of Victoria.

VICTORIA BRANCH

OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron:
Vacant

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Committee members
Margaret Attley OAM
Dr Teresa De Fazio OAM
Christina Despoteris OAM



Check out our website
www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au



INTRODUCING “THE MEN’S TABLE”

A GAME-CHANGING PLATFORM FOR MEN’S MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

In a world where men’s mental health often takes a backseat, a remarkable organization is breaking barriers and providing a safe space for men to connect, share, and support one another. I recently had the privilege of attending one of The Men’s Table’s entree dinners, and the experience left me in awe of the openness, honesty, and bravery displayed by the men in attendance. This organization’s unique approach is revolutionizing the way men communicate and support each other, free from judgment and the pressures of societal expectations.

The Men’s Table is not about hierarchy or dominance; instead, it thrives on the principle that everyone leads and no one leads. This refreshing concept eliminates the need for competition and allows men to shed their professional personas. As the attendees shared their stories, worries, and fears, it became evident that this gathering was a catalyst for genuine and meaningful connections.

The entree event, a stepping stone to joining or establishing a local table, showcased the power of vulnerability and the beauty of empathy. Men from all walks of life openly expressed their concerns, ranging from sleepless nights to personal insecurities. Some stories were heavy, laden with challenges, while others were lighthearted and brought smiles to our faces. Nevertheless, every tale held value and resonance for each person present.

What struck me most was the immense value I found in listening to these men. Their stories offered unique perspectives, shattered preconceived notions, and, above all, reminded us of the privilege we held. The trust and respect within the group were palpable, reinforcing the idea that simply being present and lending an ear can alleviate fear, stress and pressure.

There is an indescribable power in a gathering where everyone has an equal opportunity to speak and be heard. The Men’s Table cultivates an environment where authenticity thrives, enabling men to share their triumphs, struggles and everything in between. No longer bound by traditional notions of masculinity, these men come together with a shared purpose: to create a space devoid of judgment and full of compassion.

The Men’s Table is more than just a support group; it’s a movement that fosters brotherhood and emotional well-being. It encourages men to embrace their vulnerabilities, redefine masculinity, and find strength in community. Through its approach, this remarkable organization is challenging the stigma surrounding men’s mental health and revolutionizing the conversation.

If you have the opportunity, the need, or even just the interest, I wholeheartedly urge you to get behind The Men’s Table. By supporting this initiative, you contribute to the growth of a much-needed support system for men across Australia.

In a society that often perpetuates the notion that men should be strong, silent, and invulnerable, The Men’s Table stands as a beacon of hope and change. I hope that men will embrace this remarkable organization, giving them a sense that no man should feel alone or silenced in his struggles. Remember, it only takes a listening ear and an open heart to make a substantial difference in someone’s life.

Website: www.themenstable.Org Email: hello@themenstable.Org



Article written by OAA VIC Branch member
David Gregory OAM

OAA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP TEAM – 10 YEARS ON



Photo: L-R: COL John Wertheimer AM, Chris Leptos AO, Hugh Morgan AC and Tom Crowhurst

At the 2023 OAA VIC Branch Inspiring Australians Oration delivered by Chris Leptos AO at the Melbourne Town Hall we were fortunate to have with us the members who are still an integral part of the 2013 Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship.

OAA Foundation scholarship donor Hugh Morgan AC, the scholarship recipient Tom Crowhurst and his two Mentors Chris Leptos AO and COL John Wertheimer AM

Tom Crowhurst updated members, guests and students on the opportunities the scholarship has provided him over the past ten years. Tom was studying Commerce Economics, Finance and Engineering Mechanical at the University of Melbourne where he was named on the Dean’s Honours List in 2011 and 2012 and helped refugee Secondary students with their studies at Trinity College.

Tom has an outstanding academic record, and proven leadership capabilities in the community and on the sporting fields.

Tom is now an Investment Analyst at L1 Capital Catalyst Fund, a global investment manager with offices in Melbourne, Sydney, Miami and London that manages money for a range of

clients including large superannuation funds, pension funds, asset consultants, financial planning groups, family offices, high net worth individuals and retail investors.

Donations to the Order of Australia Association Foundation scholarship program is money well spent.



A CALL TO ACTION FROM THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION



Members of the Order of Australia Association can make a real difference in the life of a young Australian by making a tax deductible contribution to an Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship.

Each year the Order of Australia Association Foundation awards prestigious and generous scholarships to eligible students in a defined course of study at a designated university. The objective is to support the next generation of leaders by helping promising young Australians achieve their potential for the benefit of future generations of Australians. These scholarships are life-changing for the recipient.

The Foundation, so far, has awarded 49 Scholarships to undergraduates in all States and Territories. Victoria has received 14 Scholarships, South Australia 13, NSW 8, Tasmania and Northern Territory 4 each, with Western Australia, Queensland and ACT, each receiving 2. Adelaide University has received 10 scholarships, which is double the number for any other university.

The next group of awardees will be presented at the gala dinner in Perth. It is likely that scholarships will be offered to a student at each of Deakin and Swinburne University, as well as at Edith Cowan and Charles Darwin University and the University of Western Australia.

FUNDRAISING

The number of scholarships offered is currently defined by the funds available to the Foundation and the requirement under the Foundation's tax-deductible gift status to distribute each year at least 4 percent of its assets from the prior year.

Historically, scholarships have been funded through a range of initiatives. Foundation Board Directors have funded 19 scholarships; external Foundations and Estates 13; Individuals and Corporations, 11; The Order of Australia Association 4 and Branches of the Order of Australia Association, 2.

The two scholarships so far funded by Branches of the Order of Australia Association both came from the Victorian Branch. The Western Australia Branch is funding a Scholarship for presentation at the Perth Conference, increasing the number funded by Branches of the Association to three.

We urge other Branches to join this worthy endeavour and to support making a life-changing scholarship for a promising young Australian.

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

Recipients of these scholarships receive a Scholarship of \$40,000, paid in equal tranches over two years and a mentorship from a member in the Order of Australia who is eminent in the Awardee's chosen field of study.

Eligibility

To be eligible, the applicant must meet the following criteria.

- Fundamental Criteria: be an Australian citizen; currently enrolled in their first University Degree, and in their second year of study; aged in their twenties, and a full time student, expecting to complete their course by full-time study;
- Differential Criteria: have demonstrated high academic achievement in their studies; qualities of leadership, initiative and involvement in community affairs; and the need for financial assistance.

Each year, Awardees are presented with their Certificate by the Governor-General or his representative, at an Awards Ceremony at the Association's Annual Conference Dinner.



PROCESS FOR THE SELECTION OF AN AWARDEE

The process for the selection of an awardee involves a six stage process.

1. Selection of the designated University and course

The Foundation Board determines the course at a specific University from which an Awardee will be chosen. This is done taking into consideration the views of the donor. The views of a Branch as to their preferred Faculty and University would also be considered.

2. The designated University advertises the Scholarship

The University, in association with the relevant Faculty, advertises the course, making clear the criteria for the Scholarship. The Foundation uses a common application form across Universities to ensure that all applicants can be assessed against the Foundation's criteria.

3. The University shortlists applicants

This is done by relevant Faculty from the University and a member of the Foundation Board by assessing the applicants against the Foundation's criteria.

4. The University with members of the Foundation Board selects the Awardee

Members of the relevant University Faculty and up to three members of the Foundation Board make a final decision on the Awardee using the criteria for the Award of the scholarship.

5. The Foundation Board recommends the Awardee

The Foundation Board meets and considers the recommendation of the Committee who considered the shortlist. The award is dependent on the Foundation Board making a decision.

6. The Foundation selects a mentor for the Awardee

The Foundation, taking into account the views of the Awardee chooses a mentor for the Awardee. The views of the relevant branch of the Order of Australia may be canvassed during this process.

Members of the Association have already given so much to the community. This is a further way of giving back so that the cycle of community leadership and achievement is reinforced.

THE ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

Members might recall the creation of an Association National Scholarship Program to allow Branches and individual members to donate into a consolidated account, which when it reaches the Scholarship funding level (currently \$45,000), will allow the award of an Association Scholarship.

Donations through the Foundation attract DGR tax deductibility.

Donations may be made to:

Name of Account: The Order of Australia Association Foundation Ltd Gift Account

BSB No: 013006

Account No: 314735771

Please advise details of EFT transfers to: sec@oaafoundation.com.au

MAGNETIC LAPEL PINS EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

In concert with the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat (the Secretariat) at Government House Canberra, selected members of the ACT Branch have, over recent months, trialled a magnetic lapel pin, where the normal pin attachment has been replaced by a magnet and magnetic fitting bar.

These trials have been most successful, the magnetic pin being both robust, as well as 'kinder' to more delicate fabrics. The trial by both male and female members involved day to day normal use as well as the rigours of packing and unpacking for domestic and international travel. There has not been an instance of the magnetic pin being displaced or lost.



The Secretariat now wish to gauge the interest, and likely volume of orders and thus establish time frames for production and delivery.

The following are the indicative costs, noting that recipients are able to order six lapel pins per calendar year (of either the pin or magnetic variety):

Cost per item incl GST

AC \$92.13
AO/AM \$36.77
OAM \$36.09

Please Note: The magnetic lapel pin is not suitable for people with pacemakers or similar medical appliances. If uncertain, seek medical advice.

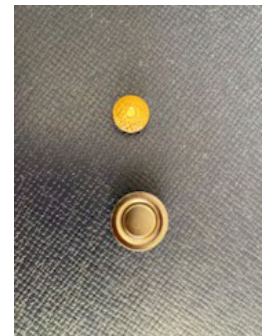
Expressions of Interest.

If you wish to register a no-obligation interest in the magnetic lapel pin, please send an email as below, before the end of August:

To: natmbrdir@theorderofaustralia.asn.au
Subject: MAGNETIC LAPEL PIN – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Name: (as inscribed on your medal)
Award: (AC, AO, AM or OAM)
Address:
Association Branch:
Number of Pins:

The Secretariat will use this data and, once supplies are available, purchase details and processes will be announced.

Regards
Kathy Wooldridge OAM
National Membership Director



CHANGE IN NOMINATION ADMINISTRATION

The Honours Secretariat have advised:

What is changing?

Old links to nomination forms will not work.

From 14 July, nominations will be submitted through an online portal. Users will log in, complete and submit nominations, and be able to monitor the status of a nomination from submission to completion.

What happens to old nominations someone has started?

Please reach out to us at - honours@gg.gov.au or contact us at (02) 6283 3604 – if there are difficulties.

Sharon Prendergast LVO
Director
Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat



MEMORIALIZING VIVIAN BULWINKEL AO MBE ARRC

To receive an Order of Australia honour is a privilege and well-deserved recognition of service by the awardee.

Sometimes it is nice to be able to bring further news of recognition of recipients of awards. Vivian Bulwinkel AO MBE ARRC is a case in point.

A statue of Vivian Bulwinkel was unveiled at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on 2 August 2023. The statue is in recognition not only of Vivian's war service, but also her service to nursing after the war. It also recognizes the other 21 Nurses who did not survive the Bangka Island massacre of 1942.

Vivian Bulwinkel was the sole survivor of the massacre. She was shot but feigned death which enabled her to survive and tell the story. However, she was interned as a Japanese prisoner of war for three years.

After the war Vivian retired from the army as a Lt. Colonel and took up the role of Director of Nursing at Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital in Melbourne. Whilst in the role she established the Australian Nurses Memorial Centre (ANMC) with two nurses, Betty Jeffrey and Beryl Woodbridge, who had been prisoners of war with her in Sumatra.



She was the first female member of the Council of the Australian War Memorial, serving as a Trustee from 1963 to 1977. She was a member of the Council of the College of Nursing, which later became the Royal College of Nursing Australia, serving as president from 1973 to 1974. During her career she advocated for better education and conditions for nurses.

The statue is the first to commemorate an individual nurse or woman in the Memorial's grounds. It has been funded by the Australian College of Nursing who are also awarding 21 scholarships in the names of the other 21 Nurses.

This is not the full extent of Vivian's service. Further information on Vivian Bulwinkel can be found in The Australian Women's Register, which is a collaboration between the University of Melbourne and the National Foundation for Australian Women (NFAW).

Stories such as Vivian's are inspiring and, no doubt, there are more stories out there of awardees who deserve further recognition.

CONVENTION ON REGISTRATION AND USE OF POST-NOMINALS WITHIN THE ASSOCIATION DATABASE

Several queries to both the Association's National Office and the National Membership Director have sought an explanation of the registration and use of Post-Nominals within the Association database.

By their very nature entries into fields on the database predicate what is printed out on a variety of reports and documents drawing on that database (for example the magazine mailing labels). Editing the products of any mail-merge is both a time-consuming and costly process.

Based on several iterations over the years, it has been decided for administrative convenience and practicality, to restrict Post-Nominals in the database to Australian and Imperial Honours & Awards.

Post-Nominals relating to 'Professional' and similar awards, for example, in Academe, Medicine, Law and Accountancy etc are not included.

However, when not using the database, for example on articles within The Order magazine the use of more extensive Post-Nominals is usually a matter for the author on a case by case basis.

Kathy Wooldridge OAM
National Membership Director



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mrs Bettine Heathcote AM
Branch Chairman
chairwa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Western Australia had a record number of recipients of an award in the King's Birthday Honours and we are currently organising a reception on 4 August which will be hosted by the Mayor of the City of Wanneroo. We look forward to welcoming new recipients and encouraging them to join the Association.

For the first time in several years, although cold, it did not rain on the evening of our Annual Church Service at St George's Cathedral in the city. We are always made most welcome by the clergy and members of the congregation, and the reception following the service was an opportunity for our members to meet with them.

Royal Perth Golf Club will be the venue for our signature Black Tie Dinner; we have a talk in October when Barry Nunn AO will share insights into "Catalinas in Crawley"; our South West annual event will be held at the Augusta Hotel Motel on 21st October; and the Great Southern weekend is planned for 25-26 November. We will end the year with our Christmas Lunch at Fremantle Sailing Club on 7 December.

Meanwhile we are getting on with plans for the National Conference in May of next year and look forward to welcoming members from across the nation.

Bettine Heathcote AM

UPCOMING EVENTS 2023

13th Annual Black Tie Dinner Royal Perth Golf Club Wednesday 20 September

Catalinas at Crawley Talk by Barry Nunn AO at RAAFA 17 October with morning tea beforehand

South West Annual Event: Augusta Hotel Motel 21 October

Great Southern Annual Event: Church Service and Lunch in Albany 26 November

Christmas Lunch at Fremantle Sailing Club 7 December

National Conference 16 – 19 May 2024

“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 28 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 and 7 metres long. Brad's research focused 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 whale sharks 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.

Dr Brad Norman AM
with a whale shark





MICHAEL ROBERT BLEUS OAM

Michael was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 2014 “for service to the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia”.

Michael was born in Midland, educated at De La Salle College and Governor Stirling High School. In 1969 he gained his Commercial Pilots Licence.

Michael spent 44 years with the Royal Flying Doctor Service. He was Chief Pilot for the RFDS for more than 22 years.

His career with the RFDS started in Carnarvon in 1973, moving to Port Hedland in 1976 and then the Jandakot base in 1978. As well as Aeromedical flying, he was involved in the training and checking of the service pilots. Over the many years with RFDS Michael saw many changes, including the advent of pressurised and turbine aircraft, advent of GPS technology for navigation, improved communication technology and modernised medical equipment. During his time at RFDS, Michael created several computer programs to enhance the safety of RFDS operations.

In an interview, Michael said it was “great to combine his love of flying with helping people in need.” He reported “it was uplifting to see someone with incredible injuries, such as a man he flew to Perth with 75% burns to his body, come back to the Port Hedland Base eight months later to thank the staff for their care”.

Michael is on the OAAWA Committee. He has been the coordinator of the Western Australian Patron’s Scheme at the Police Academy. There have been increasing demands for patrons as the Academy enlarges with significant changes. Michael meets with the Principal of the Academy and works hard to enlist interested members and support them. The Committee is very grateful for his commitment. Michael is always smiling, welcoming and willing to help at OAAWA events.

OAAWA ECUMENICAL EVENSONG

At 5pm on Sunday 18 June, a number of members of OAAWA attended Choral Evensong at St George’s Cathedral. We were warmly welcomed by the Dean, The Very Reverend Chris Chataway. It was a moving part of the service when the recipients of the Order of Australia renewed their dedication to the Order of Australia. “We dedicate ourselves to celebrate and promote outstanding Australian citizenship, to uphold the high principles and prestige of the Order of Australia.” The Dean responded: “God who has granted you the will to serve, give you strength to continue faithfully in this calling. Amen.”

The sermon was given by The Most Right Reverend Kay Goldsworthy AO. She had recently been in the Pilbara where she observed the red dust and the hardiness and resilience of the vegetation, coping with a harsh climate and conditions. The reading had been about the father of faith, Abraham, and Sarah, his wife, leaving all, setting out to a harsh land. Through Abraham, God’s Promise was the covenant that all the families on earth would be blessed. They had outstanding resilience like pioneers at the old Onslow town site. Recipients who have been awarded at local, national and international level have been incredibly resilient and a blessing to others. They look not only for their own interests but the interests of others.

We enjoyed the music of Dr Joseph Nolan, his choristers and Mr Stewart Smith, Assistant Organist. A delicious supper was enjoyed after the service where many were able to mingle and talk with the Dean, clergy, and parishioners.

Archbishop of Perth, The Most Right Reverend Kay Goldsworthy AO





CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Tony Metcalf OAM
Branch Chairman
chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

We began June with our inaugural King's Birthday Luncheon, which also celebrated the Coronation. The lunch was exceptionally well attended and enjoyed by all present. I thank Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia, our Branch Patron, who was our Guest Speaker and was very engaging with our members and their guests.

On behalf of all of our members, I would like to congratulate all four Order of Australia Association Foundation scholarship recipients who were announced at the Order of Australia Association national conference dinner – notably the three young South Australian recipients! On behalf of the Branch, I offer Prisca, Amy and Skyla our special congratulations.

We have continued to hold our Honours Recipients Fellowship luncheon meetings at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club in Adelaide with interesting guest speakers, and our Regional Groups have been holding interesting self-funded events. I again 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.

The deadline for nominations for our Student Citizenship Awards program was Monday 31 July, and our Branch Assessment and Selection Panel has been busy considering the nominations. On behalf of all our members I would like to express my gratitude for those who have volunteered their time to join this panel and review the many nominations. Your unseen efforts are greatly appreciated.

I would like to acknowledge another generous donation made by Mr Keith 'Chook' Fowler OAM, a second donation which will cover the production of Student Citizenship Award medallions for 2024. Many thanks Chook, your generosity will be greatly appreciated across the State.

EVENTS

In our first New Recipients' Reception for the year, held at Payneham Library on Monday 1 May, we acknowledged 24 new recipients announced in the 2023 Australia Day Honours List.

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. Regional Groups Coordinator Ken Coventry OAM JP 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", AD15) and Fred Manno OAM ("For service to veterans", QB22). 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 and Di Coventry, 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".

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**
Mr Greg Gordon OAM JP
- Student Citizenship Awards Convener**
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 Zeising OAM
- Alternate Branch Nominated Director**
Noel Hender OAM BEM
- Website**
<https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/sa/about-us/>
- Regional Contacts**
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- Riverland and Mallee Regional Group**
Tim Grieger OAM JP
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- Yorke Peninsula Regional Group**
Elaine Bussenschutt OAM (Kadina)
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Maree Anderson OAM (Minlaton)
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- Barossa, Gawler and District and North Regional Group**
chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au



FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEONS

The guest speaker for our third honours recipients fellowship luncheon for 2023 was Branch Committee member Don Clark OAM, who spoke on the topic: "My involvement with livestock in the Middle East". Don was awarded the OAM, "For service to the livestock industry" (AD19).

Besides his extensive career in the livestock industry, which formed the basis of Don's talk, he also has a significant military background.

Don was born in Strathalbyn in 1938. During World War 2, Don's father Roy Charles George Clark served at home as a Private with the 4th Battalion Volunteer Defence Corps. Towards the end of the war, Don's brother Colin John Clark (born in 1925) served in the Second Australian Imperial Force as a Private with the 5th Australian Army Ordnance Depot.

At the age of 18, Don served under the National Service Scheme (1st Intake, 1957) at Woodside Army Barracks in the Adelaide Hills. He was a member of No 8 Platoon in 'B' Company of the 16th National Service Training Battalion. As an Army trainee, Don was required to serve 98 days' continuous basic training. This was to be followed by 78 days' training in the Citizen Military Force (CMF) over three years.

After his three months at Woodside, Don began part-time service at Warradale Barracks while also working five days a week with Southern Farmers in Franklin Street, Adelaide. For his service, Don subsequently received the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal which was created in 2001. For his army service, Don also received the Australian Defence Medal after it was introduced in 2006.

Peter Routley AM gave this report on the luncheon:

Don's career was in senior management positions in the exportation of livestock to various parts of the world. This was a very complex and demanding role. Much of the trade was with Middle-eastern countries, the demands of which had to be handled with tact, knowledge and respect. He met Princes and spoke in Parliaments to ensure that clients were satisfied. Don travelled widely, visiting at least thirty-four countries in the course of his career.

Was the meat to be frozen, fresh or sent live? Lambs or mature animals or cattle? From where in Australia were the cattle or sheep to be sourced and loaded? Shipping was not a simple task, either. Animals had to be loaded on to ships and fed – with what, how often and by whom? Mistakes meant disease and ship-board mortality, and even refusal to accept the cargo at the port of arrival. Haj lambs sent to Mecca had to be 'clean' and have no more than two teeth to be acceptable for sacrifice.



Don was careful to refrain from discussing the political vicissitudes of his subject, but they were doubtless an ever-present background to his work as Chair of the Industry Council in South Australia, then in Victoria for three years, and finally as Federal Chair for eight years.

A long and very demanding career and an absorbing talk for those at our luncheon.

RICHARD HOUSE OAM



Richard House OAM

SA Branch member Richard House OAM recently retired as Chairman of Victor Harbor Coastcare after 20 years' voluntary service and in tribute to his service, the local Fleurieu Sun published a full page spread of a special 'thank you' function held by the group at The Anchorage Hotel in Victor Harbor.

Mayor Dr Moira Jenkins of the City of Victor Harbor and several people who are top helpers from the Council and Landscape Board were in attendance.

Richard said that the words in his first annual report twenty years ago started with "When I was elected Chairman last year, I had no idea that I was letting myself in for so much work!". He says now, he was right!

"How could I have imagined what the next twenty years would hold for me" he said.

Not being an environmentalist was the first challenge for Richard, but he notes that with support he quickly learned a lot.

"It has been such a pleasure to work with so many dedicated and friendly members of Victor Harbor Coastcare", he said. "A lot of our early days' work was along the coastline of Hayborough and around the River Hindmarsh estuary. It was at this time that I began to learn the complexities, but subsequent benefits, of applying for grants".

"The coastal tea tree was the main targeted weed and there were plenty of them. Our success can be measured by the fact that there are very few around there now".

Richard was involved in the creation of the Bridge Point dune plants garden, the introduction and construction of paths and fences around the Hindmarsh estuary lagoon, and weed control and revegetation on the Bluff.

"Many new members have joined over the years and it has been a pleasure to get to know them, and introduce them to the challenges of what is either a weed or a good plant in the dunes. Plant identification led me to writing a small educational booklet 'Richard's Dune Plants Guide', and I have given a talk 'Your Dunes my Dunes' to over ten community groups".

In 2005, Richard was awarded the Coast Care Award by the SA Coast Protection Board. In the 2013 Australia Day Honours List he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia, "For Service to conservation and the environment, and to the community".

But Richard says that one of the greatest awards of them all was in 2022, when Victor Harbor Coastcare was awarded the State Award for Coastal Work in the SA Landcare Awards.

Richard contemplated: "I have now handed the role to a younger person. It is time for younger people to run Victor Harbor Coastcare but I will still work with the group, and I wish all its members well for the future".

KING'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON



South Australia Branch Committee members present on the day (left to right): Pamela Rajkowski OAM, John Ziesing OAM, Ken Coventry OAM JP (co-opted Regional Groups Coordinator), Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP (Editor), Noel Hender OAM BEM (Deputy Chairman and Student Citizenship Awards Convenor), Ted Juliano OAM (Events Sub-committee Chairman), Cheryl Metcalf and Tony Metcalf OAM (Chairman), Kathryn House AM (Merchandise Officer), Flavia de Pasquale OAM, John Phillips OAM (Secretary), Greg Gordon OAM JP (Member Secretary SA). Not in photo Don Clark OAM. Photograph by Di Coventry.

On Saturday 3 June, we held a very successful luncheon in the Victorian Room of the Edinburgh Hotel in Mitcham to mark the King's Birthday and the Coronation of the fifth monarch of the House of Windsor. We were very honoured to be joined by our Branch Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, and Mr Rod Bunten.

Her Excellency was our Guest Speaker, and shared some experiences of her trip to London and the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. She took questions from the floor, and in response to one question gave a description of the symbology used in the official emblem for the coronation of King Charles III – primarily the flora from the four countries that make up the United Kingdom: the rose of England, the thistle of Scotland, the daffodil of Wales and the shamrock of Northern Ireland.

The lunch was complemented by a display of historic coronation medals and ephemera to acknowledge the extensive history sitting behind the recent coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla on 6 May.

The sequence of medals began with a large silver Coronation

Medal of King William IV of the House of Hanover (8 September 1831) – who is of significance to South Australians through the naming of King William Street in the city, and because on 11 July 1818 he had married Adelaide of Saxe-Meiningen (Adelaide Amelia Louise Theresa Caroline), after whom the City of Adelaide was named.

Also on display were small brass medallions struck to mark the coronation of Her Majesty Queen Victoria on 28 June 1838, and other medals and ephemera relating to the coronations of Edward VII (1902), George V (1911), George VI (1937) and Elizabeth II (1953). The display also included rare souvenir medallions produced in 1936 for the proposed coronation of King Edward VIII, the former Prince Edward of York, Prince of Wales, on 12 May 1937 – which did not eventuate due to his abdication on 11 December 1936.

For those interested in such history, the SA Branch monthly newsletters from August 2022 to August 2023 have included a feature on Coronation medals.



The lunch was complemented by a display of historic coronation medals and ephemera.



Earlier, the newsletters from September 2021 to July 2022 included features on Jubilee medals. These newsletters may be found on our website:

<https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/sa/newsletter/>

We thank Her Excellency the Governor and Mr Bunten for attending our King's Birthday and Coronation luncheon, and in particular we thank Her Excellency for a very interesting and informative address.

Her Excellency the Governor was Guest Speaker, and came forward to take questions from the floor.

UPCOMING SA BRANCH ACTIVITIES:

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

Friday 23 February 2024: South East Regional Group meeting



DATO LIM KIAN HOCK OAM



The Australian Chargé d'affaires in Kuala Lumpur Ms Clare Gatehouse presents Dato Lim Kian Hock with his OAM.

In a very special and personal investiture ceremony at the Australian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday 22 June the Australian Chargé d'affaires Ms Clare Gatehouse, on behalf of the High Commissioner His Excellency Dr Justin

Lee, presented the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) to Dato Lim Kian Hock from Sarawak.

Dato Lim received the Medal of the Order of Australia (Honorary): "For service to Australia-Malaysia relations, particularly to commemorating the role played by Australians in Sarawak, Malaysia, during World War II".

Earlier, in 2016, Lim Kian Hock was awarded the Panglima Setia Bintang Sarawak (PSBS) by the Governor of Sarawak. This decoration, Commander of the Order of the Star of Sarawak, bestows upon the recipient the title 'Dato'.

Dato Lim has a special connection with South Australia. Much of the commemoration he has been involved with was conducted in conjunction with the late Jack Tredrea MM from SA. Jack parachuted into Borneo in March 1945 as member of Z Special Unit to work with the local Dayaks in resistance against the Japanese occupation. Another South Australian connected with the Sarawak capital Kuching was Brigadier Tom Eastick DSO – later Sir Tom Eastick CMG DSO ED JP (1900-1988). As Commander Kuching Force, Eastick played a substantial role in the liberation of Kuching in 1945.

More recently, Dato Lim has supported commemorative events hosted by the South Australia & Northern Territory Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc (NMBVAA).

SA Branch member Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM (ret'd) attended the ceremony in Kuala Lumpur in his capacity as President of the SA & NT Branch of the NMBVAA. Paul gave an address on the key role Dato Lim has played in acknowledging the service of Australians and New Zealanders during the period of Indonesia's Confrontation with Malaysia (1962-1966).

A key feature of this support was a commemorative service held in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching on Friday 29 August 2016, during which the SA/NT Branch unveiled and dedicated a black granite Confrontation memorial plaque honouring the sacrifice of Australian Service personnel on the Malay Peninsula and in northern Borneo.

One of Dato Lim's earlier major achievements was the creation of the Batu Lintang Memorial Square in Kuching, as a moving and respectful monument to those who died in Batu Lintang POW Camp during World War 2. Under the Japanese occupation of Sarawak, the former Lintang Barracks near Kuching became a Japanese internment camp. 'Batu Lintang Camp' had a maximum population of some 3,000 Allied prisoners of war and civilian internees.



Dato Lim (left, foreground) with South Australian NMBVAA members at the Batu Lintang memorial in August 2016, and the renovated Batu Lintang memorial, pictured in September 2022.

These included 178 Australian officers and men, British and Indian officers and soldiers, Dutch KNIL officers and men, Indonesian soldiers, Roman Catholic priests and various other religious men.

Life in the camp was harsh, with forced labour and brutal treatment: hundreds of POWs and internees died there through starvation and disease. Amongst official Japanese papers found at the camp following its liberation were two 'death orders' describing the proposed execution of every POW and internee in the camp.

Batu Lintang POW Camp was liberated on 11 September 1945 by the 9th Australian Division under Brigadier Tom Eastick DSO, Commander Kuching Force. The timely liberation of the camp prevented the murder of over 2,000 men, women and children.

Congratulations Dato Lim Kian Hock OAM.

GOVERNANCE ISSUES - OF IMPORTANCE TO ALL MEMBERS

The Order of Australia Association (OAA) strives to operate with integrity and good governance, and from time to time it is helpful to draw attention to the "Governance" section of the OAA website where there are links to important policies and processes that support good governance.

The website: <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/national/governance/> includes:

- Board Committee Charters
- Complaints process
- Constitution and Bylaws
- Strategic Plan
- OAA Policies

These documents guide the way the OAA operates and, importantly, they apply to both Officers of the Association and members as well. All members are encouraged to browse through them occasionally to contribute to the smooth running of our organisation at all levels.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

On 12 June, 157 Queenslanders were recognised in the very first King's Birthday Honours List. The Branch congratulates all recipients on their well-deserved awards. We look forward to welcoming all our 2023 recipients, both the Australia Day and King's Birthday awardees, at a combined Welcome Lunch to be held in Brisbane on October 11. As Branch Chairman, I represented the OAAQ at a Reception hosted by The Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, at Government House on 13 June to celebrate the Coronation and Birthday of His Majesty, King Charles III.

On 13 July Branch members and guests enjoyed a most convivial Fellowship Lunch in Brisbane. I travelled to meet members and to speak and encourage nominations at functions in the Darling Downs Region on 21 April, Central Queensland Region on 31 May, Sunshine Coast Region on 8 June, and in the Wide Bay Burnett Region on 17 June. I was unable to attend Investitures conducted by the Governor in Townsville on 28 July, but our Regional Group Convener, David Jackson OAM, kindly deputised for me. Our Gold Coast Regional Group Convener, Clive Michell-Taylor OAM, has been in indifferent health for some time, and stepped down from the role in May. On behalf of the Branch Committee, I record our appreciation to Clive for his work for the members in the Gold Coast Region. Mrs Sandra Doumany OAM has been appointed his successor.

The amazing people we meet and the enjoyment we derive from socialising with open minded people who can have a civil discussion with others with different views from their own is what makes our Association special. This is such a contrast to what is happening in society these days where anyone who dares to express their views publicly can be subject to hate mail and vicious online abuse. The old saying "I may disagree with you, but I defend to the death your right to say it" attributed to Voltaire no longer holds sway. Thank goodness for The Order of Australia Association.

THE PARAMEDIC OF TODAY CLINICAL

The view from Alex Surf Club, Alexandra Headland was of a glittering ocean as 76 members and guests met for pre-luncheon drinks and fellowship at the latest Sunshine Coast Regional Group function held on 8 June. Before lunch began I had pleasure in welcoming our guest speaker Professor Stephen Gough ASM, Council representative Councillor Joe Natoli and members of the OAAQ Branch Committee. It was also a pleasure to welcome and read the Citations of Dr Paula Dawson AM, Mrs Karen Neuendorf OAM, Mr Thomas Holden OAM, Mrs Maureen Lyon OAM and Mrs Wendy Cutting OAM who were recipients of Honours announced on Australia Day and who were attending their first Regional function. Mrs Susan Shea OAM formerly from Tasmania was also warmly welcomed to her new Region.

As the Sunshine Coast Region had 20 people honoured in January and another 20 honoured in June we are looking forward to welcoming further new awardees to our September function.

After partaking of the first course of lunch it was a pleasure to relax and enjoy the presentation of Professor Stephen Gough ASM, Assistant Commissioner -Sunshine Coast & Wide Bay Region Queensland Ambulance Service whose topic was "The Paramedic of To-day-Clinical Practice and Professional Registration". As Chair of the Paramedicine Board, Australia and his passion for the development of the Paramedic profession, innovation and change, his presentation covered past work of the Ambulance up to the present day. The questions put to Stephen after the presentation showed the interest of those present.

Included in my closing remarks were reminders to members to register for the 2024 AGM & Conference, consider donating to the Order of Aust. Association Foundation and to encourage all recipients of an award in the OAA Honours to join the Association.

Marjorie Voss OAM
Sunshine Coast Regional Group Convener

QUEENSLAND BRANCH OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Patron**
Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeanette Young 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**
- Qld Branch Editor *The Order***
Graham Hyde OAM
- Governance/Policy Review Officer**
Paula Penfold AM
- Regional Groups Coordinator**
Darryl Secombe OAM
- Protocol Officer & Regional Convener Sunshine Coast**
Marjorie Voss OAM
- Awards & Metro Events Coordinator**
Geoffrey Cowles OAM
- Assistant Merchandise Officer**
Kelvin Brown OAM
- Multicultural & Diversity Officer**
Irene Cayas OAM
- Co-opted Members**
- Merchandise Officer**
Kathy Wooldridge OAM
- Assistant Secretary**
Dr Carol Cox AM
- All correspondence to:**
Robyn Porter-Secretary
Email: secqldoaa@iinet.net.au
- Regional Group Convener Details**
- Central Queensland:** Dr Wallace Taylor OAM
- Darling Downs:** Megan McNicholl OAM
- Far North Queensland:** John Hardy OAM
- Gold Coast:** Sandra Doumany OAM
- Mackay-Isaac Whitsunday:** Carmel Daveson AM
- Sunshine Coast:** Marjorie Voss OAM
- Townsville:** David Jackson OAM
- Wide-Bay Burnett:** Judy Peters OAM



YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION DISCUSSED AT ROCKHAMPTON



l-r. Mayor Tony Williams (Rockhampton); E. Professor Ross Homel AO; E. Professor Debbie Clayton AM; Ronda Nix OAM, QLD Branch Chair; Brittany Lauga, Asst Minister for Health; Mayor Neville Ferrier (Banana); Grant Cassidy OAM; and Inspector Ben Carrol, convenor, Community Based Crime Action Committee (CBCAC), QPS.

The Central Queensland Regional lunch held at the Frenchville Sports Club, Rockhampton on 31 May was attended by 76 members and community representatives. This included 12 year 12 students from three local High Schools, Mayors Tony Williams (Rockhampton) & Neville Ferrier (Banana) and Ms Brittany Lauga, the Qld Asst. Minister for Health. Ms Ronda Nix OAM, Qld Branch Chair outlined the relevance, aims and roles of the OAA stressing the importance of obtaining more nominations for Australian Honours from the CQ region.

The guest speaker E. Professor Ross Homel AO provided a very informative presentation on the data and deductions from his long experience with preventing youth crime. He reinforced the consistent findings from global and Australian studies, stressing the vital need for early age educational and attitudinal interventions for personal engaged youth development. In the absence of such support, incarceration

tended to increase youth crime. The talk was very well received and inspired an engaged question and answer session with the audience, particularly with the Year 12 students who demonstrated a very high level of understanding and empathy in addressing the issue of youth crime.

Dr Wal Taylor OAM
Central Queensland Region Convener.

WIDE BAY REGION MEMBERS GATHER IN WONDAI

A very early start to the day did not deter the many members who gathered in Wondai, the southern end of our region. We warmly welcomed by Elaine Madill, Ros Heit and the volunteers at the Wondai Regional Art Gallery where we learnt about the region and what it has to offer – from cross country racing, historic places and the gel that this community is known for – its people. A quick trip around town, noting distinctive Queensland architecture, history museums, maroon flags being displayed in support of an upcoming football game and a coffee shop called 'the rumour mill', Wondai is certainly full of personality.

We then enjoyed a delicious lunch at the RSL Wondai and had our incredible and most learned guest speaker Mr. Winston Burrows join us. Winston recalled the growth and/or demise of businesses and organisations over time and recalled the importance of voluntary work which adds to more than assisting others but adds to your own well-being as well.

Winston who is born and bred in this community is proud to see the commitment that the Wondai community has given him in his role as Chair of the Wondai and District Homes for the Aged known as 'The Laurels'. This project commenced after an important decision was made to keep local aged residents in their local environment where friends and loved ones were nearby. After a few false starts 1966, and 1971 it was 1974 when the first 2 units to be built were set in motion. Following a huge effort from locals, revised plans and a tender in place funding was sought, government subsidies in place and the project finally could proceed. The first set of duplex units opened in 1977 by the then Premier Joe Bjelke Petersen and then in 1982 and 1987 as federal and community funding was received. This continued until today there are 24 units managed by a local committee (including residents) who are mindful of the long waiting list they have so that many more can make their home in 'The Laurels'.

Judy Peters OAM
Wide Bay Burnett Regional Convener



JOHN MCCOY OAM SHARES HIS INSIGHTS ON HIS 50 YEARS OF RADIO EXCELLENCE



Portion of the 63 guests enjoy their meal at the Members' Fellowship Lunch in the Skyview Room at Wynnum Manly Leagues Club

Photo courtesy of Geoff Cowles OAM

Sixty-three guests, including 41 OAAQ members, attended the Members' Fellowship Lunch in the Skyview Room at Wynnum Manly Leagues Club, at Manly West in Brisbane on Thursday 13 July 2023.

John McCoy OAM, the respected Queensland former sports broadcaster, was our "after lunch" speaker at this event. John totally captivated the audience with his selected insights on his 50 years of radio excellence. His presentation was highly entertaining. It was bright and breezy and he had everyone riveted to their seats and thirsting to hear more of his interesting anecdotes. In fact, throughout his 40 minute talk you "could have heard a pin drop". Of interest, to conclude his talk, John shared with us his three favourite sporting moments over his long span of broadcasting. Coming in third was John's opportunity to commentate on the first State of Origin Rugby League match in 1980 with the Late Arthur Beetson OAM captaining Queensland. In second spot was the achievement of "Rocket" Rod Laver AC MBE being the only tennis player to achieve two tennis Grand Slams (winning all four major tennis championships in the one year) in 1962 and 1969. And what was his most favourite moment? It was the very first cricket tied test match between the West Indies and Australia in Brisbane in 1960. Few could argue with John's choice of these three wonderful sporting moments.

Geoff Cowles OAM
Queensland Branch
Awards and Metro



John McCoy OAM (left) is presented with a gift and a certificate of appreciation from Robyn Porter OAM, Queensland Branch Secretary.
Photo courtesy of Chris Fitzgerald

IN MEMORIAM

FRASER Robert Henley OAM

POLLOCK James Stephen Charles
OAM

DALY Slater Denise-Ann OAM

CAMERON Ian George AM

McCAFFERTY Gerard Joseph AM

PORTER Dr Marie AM

RICHIE Des OAM

GARRICK Jean Audrey OAM

NEATE Graeme John AM

LUMER Rodney Hugh OAM

MUNROE Donald James AM

McCAWLEY Peter Thomas AM



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

I congratulate the King's Birthday Awardees, and may you never forget that you are each the first group to be awarded an Order Of Australia in the reign of His Majesty King Charles III.

I also welcome all our new members, and may you be richly rewarded by the many story conversations you will hear and share as you meet other members, each of whom has done much for Australia and its many communities here, and so often impacting people overseas.

I remember Ray Martin AM once so aptly saying: "The best story to tell is a journey".

It is easy to start a conversation with other members. Just say: "why did you get your Award?" and yet another person you will know and certainly be inspired by their story, so often spanning many decades of selfless service to the community. We will warmly encourage you to share yours as an invaluable way of getting to know you too. Furthermore, we would love you to write a note for our Branch newsletters and website.

Our visit to the expanded NSW Art Gallery in July to see the Archibald Art Prize finalists' work, the New Awardees Welcome luncheon in The Strangers Dining Room in Parliament House and the regional activities, usually luncheons or high or morning teas, have been very successful and well attended. The NSW Branch Committee and our Regional Convenors are looking for ways to give better value for money for each activity and function as Australia's higher costs of living and venue prices are particularly hurting many members.

Similarly, the Branch Committee has established a planning sub-committee for the 2025 National Conference of the Association which will be held in NSW. Please keep 1 to 5 May 2025 free to attend. We will be looking toward a theme centered around youth as leaders for today and tomorrow. Youth has always been a branch focus and 26 high school students will receive our 2023 Youth Community Service Awards in September from our Branch Patron and NSW Governor, Her Excellency Margaret Beasley AC KC at Government House. We will be keeping in contact with these remarkable winners as they develop their post-school journeys. Maybe you are willing to be a mentor to one of them. If you are, please contact our Branch Secretary, Martha Jabour OAM.*

Jim Mein AM

Martha Jabour OAM, martha@hvsgnsw.org.au

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Coopted for Scholarships Program

Mr Harold Sharp OAM
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Check out our website
www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au



THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION NSW VISITS THE 2023 ARCHIBALD AT THE ART GALLERY OF NSW

On Saturday 15 July, 60 members and guests were treated to a private tour of the 2023 Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prize exhibitions at the Art Gallery of NSW.

Our knowledgeable tour guides made the experience most enjoyable and highly interactive.

We all became immersed in the story and meaning of each of the paintings. The expert commentary was integral to making the paintings come alive with the depth and charisma of each work. It was like hearing the artist explaining their work personally to each of us.

This year the expanded Young Archie exhibition provided an excellent insight into our up-and-coming young artists with a collection of extremely high calibre art works for their age categories.

Following the one-hour tour, members and guests were invited to stay on and enjoy our beautiful Art Gallery at leisure and continue their discussions on which paintings were the favourites of the day!

Due to its great success and positive feedback with tickets sold out in less than two days, we look forward to holding the event again next year!

A/Prof John Gullotta AM
Deputy Chairman, Events Manager and Public Relations





THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION HUNTER REGIONAL GROUP MORNING TEA, PORT STEPHENS 28 JUNE 2023

The Order of Australia Hunter Regional Group held a morning tea in the Recreation Hall of the Salamander Haven Retirement Village, Port Stephens Veterans and Citizens Age Care on Wednesday 28 June 2023. The Master of Ceremonies was Gerry Collins, an ABC sports broadcaster and commentator. Ian Lovell APM is the local co-ordinator. He gave an update on Order of Australia happenings in the Port Stephens area.

Peter Corcoran AM, Order of Australia Association Hunter Regional Group Convenor, welcomed all to the morning tea and reported re activities in the Hunter Region. There had been eight Port Stephens area residents recognised with an Order of Australia award since the previous Port Stephens morning tea in June 2022. Peter introduced and congratulated four recipients who were at a Port Stephens Order of Australia Morning Tea for the first time – photo of Ken White OAM*, Kerry Schiemer OAM*, Anne Frost OAM* and Anne Flint AM*. They were presented with a copy of the Order of Australia Hunter Regional Group, brief history booklet.



*Hunter Regional Group new awardees.

The guest speaker at the morning tea was Ron Land, the President of Port Stephens Koala Hospital. He advised re the workings of the hospital and the rehabilitation of koalas as well as other native animals and birds.

Major Charles Stevens (Retd) OAM, RFD, ED

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL GROUP, JULY 3 MORNING TEA

On July 3, the Central Coast OA Regional Group held a morning tea meeting at the Erina Leagues Club Erina in a private meeting room with the Guest Speaker, Ross Pearce a local Pharmacist speaking on the latest changes to the Pharmacy rules and regulations.



Twenty three were in attendance and many questions were asked and responded to. The topic was of great interest to our Members, and we thank Ross for his very interesting and timely talk.

Harold Sharp OAM
Convenor, Central Coast

OAA Central Coast Morning Tea
July 3 2023



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16 Ladies pure silk scarf (blue original)	45.00		
17 OAA branded Bag Holder	10.00		
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20 OAA charcoal grey tie	30.00		
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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Alastair Douglas OAM
Branch Chairman
chairtas@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

We were delighted to see that 36 Tasmanians received an Order of Australia recognition in the Kings Birthday honours list in June that were equally shared between men and women. This number of awardees in a single announcement is the greatest number I can recall in my 17 years as a member. Let's hope a momentum can be maintained for significant numbers of outstanding Tasmanians to be nominated for recognition in future announcements.

The Branch has for years conducted either dinners or lunches on the days of the investitures with lunches being the norm in recent times. These functions allow the Branch to acknowledge separately each awardee, providing a precis for all the guests attending of their achievements behind their citations.

It was disappointing that only two Tasmanian members attended the 2023 National Conference in Geelong. As you will read elsewhere it was a very successful event providing attendees with an enjoyable, informative experience. Helene Bender and her team are to be congratulated for the programme and their organisation. I hope members consider attending the Perth conference and afterwards perhaps taking the opportunity to tour parts of WA they have not previously visited.



Maureen Rudge OAM retiring as a long serving member of the Branch Committee

In July the Branch received notice from Maureen Rudge OAM who has decided to retire as a member of the Branch Committee after lengthy service, which has included a long period as Branch Secretary. Maureen was recognised with the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2008 "for services to occupational therapy and vocational rehabilitation in Tasmania and to the community in a range of voluntary roles". Her outstanding professional career as an occupational therapist has been overlaid with many roles with State, local government and volunteer organisations. In addition to being Branch Secretary, Maureen has filled the roles of Branch Treasurer, Functions Co-ordinator and merchandise manager. The Branch sincerely thanks Maureen for her dedication, wise council and willingness to assist wherever needed.



Dr Peter Holm OAM with his wife Elizabeth at the tree planting at Government House

In May, a small number of Branch members were privileged to be invited to Government House for a commemorative tree planting marking the coronation of

King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Some attendees were also invited to assist in placing soil around the Cork Oak from which in years to come, Government House hopes to harvest the bark for corks when bottling their own produced wines.

INVESTITURE LUNCH



Dr Graeme Stevenson OAM and his wife Janice. Graeme was recognised for his service to conservation and the environment.

Australia Day Awards recipients were recognised at an Investiture lunch on May 12th at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania.



Dianne and Tim Hess AM. Tim was honoured for his significant service to Aquaculture, and to the community of Tasmania

SARAH MERRIDEW AM



Sarah Merridew AM

Sarah was appointed 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 two 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 three 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.

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