



Welcome from VIC Branch Chair

Please enjoy reading The Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch September 2023 edition of our E-Newsletter.

The Governor of Victoria Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC hosted the Order of Australia King's Birthday Investiture Ceremonies at Government House September 13, 14 and 15. Please refer to page 4 and 5 for further news from the Investitures.

On Wednesday October 4 the Victoria Branch is hosting a Thank You Reception for Order of Australia recipients who have joined the Association this year. There will be an article in our December 2023 E-Newsletter regarding the reception.

Our final OAA Victoria Branch event for 2023 is the End of Year Dinner on Thursday November 23 at William Angliss Restaurant. The invitation for members and guests is on page 2.

For VIC Regional Group news and October and November events; please refer to page 9 onwards. In addition to VIC Branch events, members are welcome to book and attend any of the Regional Group events statewide.

Thank you to members and their guests who attended the two Vic Branch events since our June E-Newsletter. Wednesday July 5 virtual event Dr Jenny Gray - CEO Zoos Victoria spoke on the topic Passion for Fighting Extinction. Please refer to page 5.

Sunday August 6 our annual Melbourne Winter Masterpieces Pierre Bonnard: Designed by India Mahdavi Introductory Talk and Exhibition. Refer to page 6.

2018 and 2019 OAA members and guest went on the Battlefields Tour of Turkey and the Western Front. This exclusive tour provided OAA members and their guests the opportunity to visit Australian WW1 battlefield locations and associated historic sites in Turkey and the Western Front to enable a deeper understanding and appreciation of the history. Read the testimonial from Ian George OAM on page 23. Also see page 3 for 2024 Battlefields Tour information.

For information regarding the Association VIC Branch and Regional Groups, Merchandise Shop and Order of Australia Award Nominations click on <http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au>



18 teams at the start of the season, now only 2, Collingwood v Brisbane Lions this Saturday. If one is your team, enjoy; if not there is always next year.

Our last E-Newsletter for 2023 will be mid-December.

To our members, thank you for your ongoing support, please stay well.

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



THE
ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
ASSOCIATION
VICTORIA BRANCH

End of Year Dinner

Invitation for OAA Members and Guests

Thursday November 23, 2023 at 6.30pm

William Angliss Restaurant

Enter from 550 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

Dinner speaker is **Natalie O'Brien AM**

Topic - Creating Events with Impact

With over 30 years in tourism, events and hospitality Natalie O'Brien AM shares her insights, learnings and behind scene stories from her time leading Melbourne Food & Wine Festival for 15 years, welcoming 5 million food lovers to Melbourne and regional Victoria. Natalie is now CE of Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre welcoming local and international delegates looking to leave long term legacy and a lower carbon footprint in a highly competitive event market. .



Order of Australia Association Foundation 2022 Scholarship recipient **Alex Nair** will provide members and guests with an update on her studies, community service and work

Cost: \$50 per person GST included + booking fee. 2 course dinner, cash bar for drinks.

Members please note - Order of Australia **miniature** medal may be worn at the dinner

Order of Australia Association merchandise will be available to purchase at the dinner

Book by November 15 at <https://www.trybooking.com/CLZJC>

Note table seating list will be at the entrance to the restaurant

Enquires or assistance with bookings contact Helene Bender AM on 0407 261 951



THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION



2024 Battlefields Tour

May/June 2024 join the 10 day tour of Gallipoli, followed immediately by a 9 day tour of the battlefields of Western Front

- ✓ This fully escorted tour is reserved for Order of Australia Association (OAA) members and their guests
- ✓ Highlights of the Turkey tour led by author and historian Dr John Basarin OAM will be visits to Gallipoli Battlefields [Anzac Cove, Lone Pine, Chunuk Bair, Shrapnel Gully, The Nek, Ari Burnu, Quinn's Post, Krithia and Helles], Troy, Pergamum, Ephesus and Istanbul



- ✓ Western Front tour highlights, led by researcher Garry Snowden OAM, will include cities of Paris, Ieper, Amiens and Arras and the battlefields of Menin Gate, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele, Fromelles, Bullecourt, Pozieres, Compiègne and Villers-Bretonneux.
- ✓ You can choose to tour Turkey on its own; the Western Front on its own, or combine the two. A small part of the funds go towards OAA and FOGI.
Approximate costs are:-
 - Turkey \$3,999.00 twin/double per person. Single supplement \$899.00.
 - Western Front \$4,950.00 twin/double per person. Single supplement \$990.00.
 - Combined \$9,799.00 twin/double per person.
Single supplement \$1,899.00 (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 available 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



Victoria Branch News

Order of Australia King's Birthday 2023 Investitures

As Chair of the Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch I had the pleasure of representing the Association at the first of three Order of Australia King's Birthday Investitures at Government House on Wednesday September 13.



The Governor of Victoria Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC (photo on the left) welcomed recipients and their guests to Government House noting when Gough Whitlam introduced these awards in 1975, he did so with a vision for modern Australia to recognise the contributions of our own people, in our own way. Since then, more than 40,000 Australians have received an Order of Australia Honours Award.

Victorian recipients have reflected the diverse population that calls this State home. The 2023 King's Birthday recipients are no different. Some represent communities almost as ancient as this land. Others have only recently begun to call Victoria home.

The awards represent the work undertaken in community sports clubs, performing arts centres, health services, local charities, education and research institutions and emergency services headquarters and in so many other places.

The Governor took the opportunity to encourage recipients to use the celebration of their contribution as inspiration. To think of people in their life whose work is yet to be recognised but "uplifts the horizon of the Australian people." And to nominate them so we might celebrate and acknowledge their contribution as well.

"My own reward is ensuring no one gets left behind": Introducing Gary Lee OAM

Gary Lee originally came to Australia from Malaysia as an international student. He was focussed on gaining a Bachelor of Business (Marketing) degree from RMIT. Little did he foresee the twists and turns which would lead him to the Victorian Government House on the 14th September, 2023 to receive the Order of Australia for Services to the Community through a range of organisations. His friends and colleagues however stated it was inevitable. "Given that Gary spent innumerable hours volunteering to community initiatives and supporting social cohesion, someone was going to nominate him."

Gary enjoyed life in Australia as a student, during which time he began volunteering as a way to meet people and connect with life in a foreign city. He enjoyed life in Australia so much, he then decided to remain and take up citizenship. In 2016 he was awarded New Australian of the Year, again based on his altruistic contributions to community. A clear focus of his work is ensuring that international students from all over the globe are welcomed and supported. He draws on his own experiences to understand the challenges and create opportunities. His dedication and skill were instrumental during the pandemic when he championed the "Our Shout" food voucher program for international students. A pivotal initiative during dark days for many students. This is just one example of the impact of his work.

Order of Australia King's Birthday 2023 Investitures continued

He is certainly active in the community and can often be spotted at a cultural festival at the Victoria Market, or at Federation Square volunteering for the African Music and Culture Festival. You might even catch him on the phones as part of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre annual fundraising drive. He was involved in raising funds for the devastating Typhoon Haiyan victims in the Philippines in 2013. He states, "I do what is needed, it is important to be part of making a difference." Gary's contribution to community includes working with North Melbourne Football Club's The Huddle, the Victorian Multicultural Commission Regional Advisory Committee, Crime Stoppers Victoria Cultural Reference Group. He is a Community Ambassador for Melbourne Victory Football Club and the Bully Zero Australian Foundation.

Gary is pleased to have received the Award in recognition for his services hoping that it inspires others to contribute to Australian community, "my own reward is ensuring that no one gets left behind in life. I just want to do my part in this."

Interviewed by Dr. Teresa De Fazio OAM an OAA VIC Branch committee member who attended the Thursday September 14, 2023 Investitures.



Annual Virtual Event

During 2020 and 2021 virtual events was the only way of staying connected to our members. We received positive feedback for our lunch and early evening virtual events from members. The VIC Branch committee made the decision to continue hosting one virtual event in July starting at 5.30pm; this has allowed some members who for various reasons are not able to attend face-to-face events.



On Wednesday July 5 the topic was 'Passion for Fighting Extinction'. Dr Jenny Gray CEO Zoos Victoria gave an informative talk on fighting extinction with a focus on survival of wildlife and preservation of habitat. She included slides and videos showing us the work being undertaken and the connection Zoos Victoria has with the community.

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

Zoos Victoria is charged with the operation of the Melbourne Zoo, Healesville Sanctuary, Werribee Open Range Zoo and more recently Kyabram Fauna Park working closely with 27 critically endangered species and engaging with over 2.6 million visitors and 350,000 members, Zoos Victoria is testing models of optimism and bravery to address threats to species survival and enhancing care of wildlife.

Melbourne Winter Masterpieces 2023

Pierre Bonnard: Designed by India Mahdavi at the National Gallery of Victoria on Sunday August 6.

OAA members and their guests enjoyed the Introduction Talk before the Pierre Bonnard Exhibition from Margaret (Maggie) Richardson AM a NGV volunteer and OAA member.

The Pierre Bonnard Exhibition features more than 100 works by the celebrated French artist, spanning the late nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century.

You step into brilliant landscapes, sumptuous tables, stirring portraits, folding screens and early cinema will bring modern France to life with startling beauty and vivid colour all set within India Mahdavi's incredible exhibition design.

Tony Ellwood AM, Director, NGV, said: 'Pierre Bonnard is one of the most captivating artists of the post-Impressionist movement. This exhibition offers a rare opportunity to experience his work within a vivid scenography designed by India Mahdavi, one of the world's leading designers working today. Both the artist and the designer are celebrated for their ingenious use of colour, which made them a natural and authentic pairing for this NGV-exclusive exhibition.'



Melbourne Winter Masterpieces 2023

Pierre Bonnard

Designed by India Mahdavi

National Gallery of Victoria

Finishes Sunday October 8

Well worth visiting

Convoy of Hope November 2023

Every month a strange ritual takes place in London. People from all over the world travel to Wimbledon to drive ambulances.

The second-hand ambulances are acquired from all parts of the UK; they are refurbished, and then stocked with essential medications.

Before dawn, on Sunday November 19, 2023, the next convoy will leave Wimbledon to drive to Ukraine to deliver the ambulances and medicines to hospitals. The ambulances will be delivered to the Ukrainian Ministry of Health, which delivers them to civilian hospitals near the Ukraine-Russian front line.

All the drivers in the convoy are volunteers and they cover their own costs. The ambulances and medicines are funded by donations.

Four ambulances will be in the November 2023 convoy, each costs \$12,000 which will also be carrying snow chains, as the convoy will be driving from Wimbledon, through the Channel Tunnel, across France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany and Poland.

Photo below taken in Lviv from the September 2023 Convoy of Hope



Somewhere near the Polish border and Lviv, the Ukrainian Ministry of Health will accept the ambulances, and the drivers will make their way back to London. It's best not to provide too many details about the logistics in case they are targeted.

So far, 37 ambulances have been delivered to Ukraine by the charity that organises the convoys – it's a group of volunteers known as Medical Life Lines Ukraine (MLLU).

The November convoy this year will have a volunteer driver from Melbourne, Chris Leptos AO, who delivered the Inspiring Australians Oration at Melbourne Town Hall earlier this year.

Please read the OAA VIC Branch E-Newsletter April 2023 edition to appreciate the commitment Chris has to support Ukraine and their people.

Extract from the Oration Wednesday February 28, 2023:

"It was exactly one year ago, yesterday February 27, when President Volodymyr Zelensky stood

Convoy of Hope November 2023 continued

in Kyiv and said the following ...

We will be defending our country, because our weapon is truth, and our truth is that this is our land, our country, our children, and we will defend all of this.

When those words were spoken most of the world didn't believe him. President Zelensky and his wife were defiant. Perhaps unrealistically so, they steeled themselves for what would inevitably be a brutal and awful attack on their people, and their community, and their land."

At the Oration we also heard from 2013 Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship Recipient Tom Crowhurst who was honoured to have his two Mentors COL John Wertheimer AM and Chris Leptos AO in attendance.

Queen's Birthday 2022 Chris Leptos was an Officer of the Order of Australia recipient, elevated from AM to AO for distinguished service to the not-for-profit sector through leadership and philanthropic support, to the public sector, and to education.

Among his other talents, Chris has a heavy vehicle licence.

The lifespan of an ambulance in Ukraine is about six months – not because they break down, but because the Russians target hospitals and ambulances.

If you would like to support the November Convoy of Hope, you can make donations to a volunteer local charity **Ukraine Crisis Appeal** www.ukrainecrisisappeal.org managed by the "Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations in Australia" and "Rotary Australia World Community Services". Its aim, as is Chris's, is to provide humanitarian aid and medical assistance to the crisis affected civilians and veteran populations across Ukraine

How to donate to the Ukraine Crisis Appeal

Pleased that you are supporting Chris Leptos' convoy, OAA will report back on the total funds raised.

Direct Deposit

UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL (tax deductible)

Humanitarian Aid in Ukraine

Donation to RAWCS Project 83-2014-15 Ukrainian Humanitarian Relief Aid:

Payment by EFT: Rotary Australia Overseas Aid Fund

BSB No: 067-105

Account No: 1040 2452

Notation: CL Ambulances

Online donations available for Credit Card | Direct Debit| Cheque go to>

www.ukrainecrisisappeal.org > select donate > complete details for tax receipt > choose donation type > *in the box titled Requests insert Chris Leptos' Convoy.*

Thank you for taking the time to read Convoy of Hope November 2023

VIC Regional Groups News

Barwon Regional Group

Event: Christmas luncheon

Date: Friday November 24

Time: 12.00 pm

Venue: Waurm Ponds Hotel

Cost: \$45 per person GST included, cash bar for drinks

Speaker: Warwick Hadfield OAM

Booking details - Treasurer Peter Doak OAM pdoak@bigpond.net.au

Eastern Suburbs Regional Group

Event: ESRG Webinar

Date: Thursday November 9 at 5:30 pm

Location: This is a Zoom event. Register at <https://trybooking.com/CLABK>

Speaker: Professor Jenny Graves AC FAA, Distinguished Professor within the La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science, La Trobe University, and Professor Emeritus of the Australian National University

Topic: What Australian animals tell us about sex, genes and chromosomes ... and the future of men?

Summary: In this entertaining talk, Jenny Graves AC will explore the role of sex chromosomes in humans and other mammals, and unravel some of the complex development that has led to our current weird situation. She will talk about her work that has shown that human sex chromosomes are a relatively recent development, and that the Y "male" chromosome could disappear in just a few million years. Without men, humans would become extinct, but new sex determining genes and chromosomes could evolve, leading to the evolution of new hominid species.

Enquiries: Geoffrey Grinton OAM at VicEasternSubsRG@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Event: Guided Tour and Morning Tea at Mont De Lancey homestead, Wandin North

Date: Thursday November 30 at 10:30 am

Location: Mont De Lancey, 71 Wellington Road, Wandin North, Vic 3139

Cost: \$25 GST included with morning tea

Bookings: <https://trybooking.com/CLGUU>

Summary: On arrival, we will enjoy morning tea and then be taken on a guided tour of the homestead and surrounding property

For those wishing to spend more time after the tour ends at about 1 pm there will be opportunity to share lunch at the fully licensed *Two Peas in their Pod* Café (at own cost).

Enquiries: Geoffrey Grinton OAM at VicEasternSubsRG@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Professor Janet McCalman AC spoke recently on the topic 'From Convicts to Diggers: it all goes back to Childhood'.

Janet McCalman AC (photo right) is Emeritus Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor at the University of Melbourne. Author of four award-winning books about Australian life: *Struggletown*, *Journeyings*, *Sex and Suffering*, and most recently *Vandemonians: the repressed history of colonial Australia*. She has explored the richness of Australia's social history, tracing the origins of Victoria and Tasmania's earliest settlers and their outcomes, then making the information accessible to other scholars, students of history, medicine, philosophy of science, postgraduate students of population health, and to the community at large.



Eastern Suburbs Regional Group continued

In this webinar she explained her research findings into whether Convicts and the First AIF - Aussie Diggers who served overseas in WW1 - had much in common: young people snatched by 'history' to undergo a traumatic experience.

Her statistics showed us how much penal servitude in Van Diemen's Land and service in World War 1 affected the lives and health of those who went through those ordeals. She included other factors, starting with childhood circumstance that determined how resilient they were and whether they could recover in later life.

Lives were reconstructed from birth to death, with family history, critical life stages, impact of stress and trauma, family formation after experience and social class at end of life examined. Sample groups studied were 24,000 convict life courses (almost 8000 female), 12,000 AIF life courses and a control group to whom not much trauma had occurred.

Differences noted were that convicts were forced labour, exiles and usually destitute, while AIF were volunteers, often poor, but of a better social class. Convicts included more women. Similarity was found in that many had lost parents.

Findings after research into convicts concluded male convicts did well biologically out of being transported and serving their seven years, while female convicts, entering servitude under a burden of previous abuse and deprivation, and then usually continuing violence, did not survive well.

Not many family formations occurred. Drink was a major factor in low survival rates, especially with women. Looking at this recipe concocted with rum it is not surprising few survived its potency. Diggers' mortality rate was found to be strongly correlated with individual characteristics. Tall men, young men and men from higher social levels who held rank were more likely to die.

The perils of colonial life:

The recipe for the 'Knocker', Main Street, Ballarat, 1850s

Half pint methylated spirits
Half cupful of cayenne pepper
Half a teaspoonful of Indian opium
2 gallons of water
2 gallons of Jamaica rum
Use hot water.
Stir well.
Allow to stand for 24 hours



concocted with rum it is not surprising few survived its potency. Diggers' mortality rate was found to be strongly correlated with individual characteristics. Tall men, young men and men from higher social levels who held rank were more likely to die.

The study found there were key similarities between Convicts and Diggers.

*Early life influences and personal characteristics, including how they managed stress like solitary confinement, etc often

determined their life outcomes.

*Early life trauma and insecurity was of huge importance in outcomes.

*Persistence of social class was either a life-long disadvantage or a protective factor in later life.

It was found public investment was of key importance in these lives for rehabilitation. Can history help us to do better in the future?

Gippsland Regional Group

Gippsland Coast rich in dinosaurs

Fossil expert Lesley Kool OAM told a Sale lunch audience of the Order of Australia Association Gippsland Regional Group Bass Coast erosion would continue to yield further dinosaur fossils Mrs Kool, of North Wonthaggi, an adjunct researcher, School of Geosciences, Monash University, author and co-author of 21 publications relating to Gippsland dinosaurs, told the luncheon that the first dinosaur skeleton found on the Gippsland coast, at Eagles Nest, was by field geologist William Ferguson in 1903.

Gippsland Regional Group continued

It was identified as the claw of a medium sized theropod or meat-eating dinosaur.

In 2004 a jaw proved that a group of mammals called multituberculates lived in Australia more than 125 million years ago. She said Gippsland was one of few places in Australia where dinosaurs could be found.

Mrs Kool commented that rock cropping along the Bass Coast represented the southern edge of the Strzelecki Group – a geological group of sedimentary rocks dated at about 125 million years.

These rocks represented large river channels that flowed in a giant valley separating the coast from Antarctica. Mrs Kool said that all the animals that lived in his valley existed in a polar environment, experiencing two to three months of darkness each polar winter.

Over a period of 30 years, the coast's Flat Rocks site, a kilometre north of Eagles Next, had become the richest early cretaceous site in Victoria, yielding more than 20,000 fossil bones and teeth.

Her address was supported with photos of dig volunteers showing dig sites at high tide, a metre of water covering the sites and resulting in up to two hours work to remove accumulated sand just to expose the fossil layer.

However, all this effort resulted in some spectacular discoveries. In the past 30 years two ornithopod plant-eating dinosaurs had been named and many others were waiting further diagnostic evidence before they could be named.



Photo left:

Dinosaur dig enthusiast Mrs Lesley Kool OAM from North Wonthaggi, recipient of the Medal of Order of Australia for services to palaeontology, and joint discoverer of the second Victorian cretaceous dinosaur locality in Gippsland, in 1991, addressing the recent lunch gathering in Sale



Photo right:

Lesley Kool, OAM was welcomed and thanked at the lunch, at the Star Hotel, Sale, by OAA Gippsland Regional Group chair Doug Caulfield, OAM RFD



THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION GIPPSLAND REGIONAL GROUP

PROUDLY PRESENTS



THE SIR FRANK MACFARLANE BURNET ANNUAL DINNER AND ADDRESS

Wednesday 18th October 2023

6.30pm for 7.00pm

Dal Mondo Restaurant & Function Centre, 7 Post Office Pl, Traralgon VIC 3844.

\$90 or \$75 for students. Includes drinks and canapés. Two course dinner.

Drinks at bar prices.

Booking and payment prior to event are essential - RSVP by Monday October 9th

GUEST SPEAKER:

Professor H. Miles Prince AM. Australian Haematologist and Professor of Medicine



"HARNESSING THE IMMUNE SYSTEM FOR CURING BLOOD CANCERS; A 'CLIMATE CHANGE' MOMENT"

Professor Miles Prince is an internationally recognised Australian Haematologist and Professor of Medicine at both Melbourne and Monash Universities. He is the Director of Cancer Immunology and Molecular Oncology at Epworth Healthcare and a Haematologist at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

He is a very active clinician, also overseeing clinical and laboratory research - the latter involving stem cell research and cancer immunology. He has been involved in numerous clinical trials of new therapies for blood cancers and has been the Principal Investigator of over 100 clinical trials involving myeloma, lymphoma, leukemia, transplantation and supportive care. He has published over 500 peer-reviewed manuscripts.

He is the Chief Investigator for an NH&MRC Program Grant in Cancer Immunology, Victorian Cancer Agency translational grants in Epigenetics, Melbourne Genomics Health Alliance and holds large US and European research grants.

He is a member of the Australian Blood Cancer Taskforce which has just developed Australia's first national Strategic Action Plan for Blood Cancer.

He is a Fellow of the Academy of Health & Medical Sciences and in 2014 Miles was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for distinguished services to medicine particularly in the areas of blood cancer research, patient care and philanthropy leadership.

Booking form is available on www.orderofaustraliagippsland.org





THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION
GIPPSLAND REGIONAL GROUP

THE SIR FRANK MACFARLANE BURNET ANNUAL DINNER AND ADDRESS

BOOKING FORM

Date: Wednesday 18th October 2023

Time: 6.30pm for 7.00pm

Dal Mondo Restaurant & Function Centre, 7 Post Office Pl, Traralgon VIC 3844.

Cost: \$90pp or \$75pp for students

GUEST SPEAKER:

Professor H. Miles Prince AM.

Australian Haematologist and Professor of Medicine
MBBS (HONS) MD FRACP FRCPA AFRCPA AFRACD FAHMS

“HARNESSING THE IMMUNE SYSTEM FOR CURING BLOOD CANCERS; A 'CLIMATE CHANGE' MOMENT”

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Guest name/s: _____

Dietary requirements No Yes, _____

Payment options

DIRECT DEPOSIT/ EFT or in PERSON to the Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633 000

Account No: 149 983 009

Name: Order of Australia Assoc Gippsland

Reference: Surname and intial e.g. J SMITH

CHEQUE

Payable to: The Order of Australia Association Gippsland Regional Group

Post to: PO Box 906 Traralgon 3844

Reference: Surname and intial e.g. J SMITH

Please RSVP by Monday 9th October 2023

Please forward this booking form to PO Box 906 Traralgon 3844 or email
secretary@orderofaustraliagippsland.org

For further information contact Doug Caulfield 0409 008 494

Melbourne Central Regional Group

The recent Melbourne Central Regional Group Network night was held at the new **Hilton Melbourne** Little Queen Street conveniently located in the heart of Melbourne's vibrant arts, theatre and dining precincts, on the doorstep of the city's key business districts and has easy access to public transport.

Being on the corner of Little Queen and Bourke Streets, the hotel is within walking distance of Bourke Street Mall and Federation Square and a short tram ride from popular tourist attractions such as the National Gallery of Victoria, the Royal Botanical Gardens and the Melbourne Cricket Ground.



The setback position of the Bourke Street entrance creates prominence to the grand building façade, whilst the inclined laneway leads to the hotel's porte cochere. A colourful large-scale mural by local graffiti artist Kitt Bennett, part of the Juddy Roller collective, is captured in the entrance's angled bronze panels.

Our hosts were the General Manager Jeremy Healy and as an invited guest a former Managing Director of Equity Trustees Company Don Christie, Hilton Melbourne's heritage building was formerly the Melbourne Equity Chambers, built in 1931, which was renowned for its architectural style and Italian Romanesque and Gothic detailing. In its reimagining, architecture and design studio Bates Smart has respected the building's Old World charm by restoring original features, then injected new life into the site adding a modern six-level extension, and a new 16-level tower. Alongside 244 rooms and suites, guest facilities include the signature 'Luci' restaurant and bar, featuring a modern Australian menu with touches of European culinary traditions.



display.

The new Hilton Melbourne is steeped in history, the original Melbourne Synagogue was built on the same site in Little Queen Street in the 1840's; where the Hebrew Congregation remained until a new synagogue was built in St Kilda.

Words from a guest who attend the networking evening.

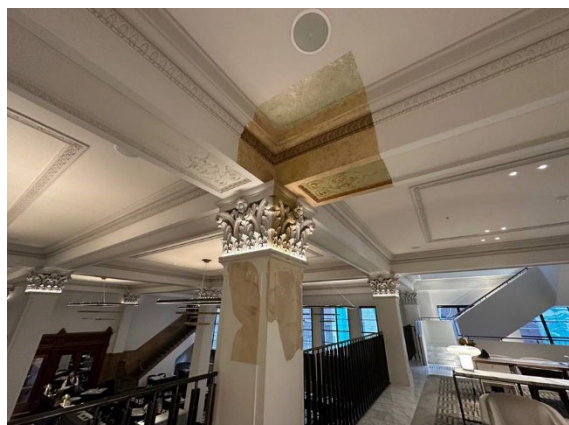
I've always had an interest in history and personal stories and as a member of the Ballarat Hebrew Congregation; I took a keen interest in the history of the site that housed the first synagogue in Melbourne.

Melbourne Central Regional Group continued

As a member of the Ballarat Hebrew Congregation, I always feel in awe walking into the synagogue which was built during the gold rush in the 1850's, knowing of those who have come before me and not just the building history but the personal history of the Congregation. The Hilton Melbourne gave me the same feeling as I perused the display cabinet of artefacts that had been found during renovation. It is a part of Jewish history in Melbourne but also Melbourne history in general, the original building may not stand today, but the history will always be there.



In more recent times, the current site of the hotel would be known to many as the Equity Trustees building, and what a grand building it was and again is. Don Christie, who was a Managing Director of Equity Trustees, spoke of the history of the building, its quirks, and stories of some of the people who worked there. There is now a wonderful display of letter and notes from these days that are of a personal nature and business related.



As I sat upstairs in the lobby before the MCRG event, I looked up to see a portion of the coffered ceiling and ornate plasterwork had been meticulously restored to its former state. When I asked why the full area had not been restored, I was advised that based on the section that had been transformed; the complete restoration of the grand hall would have taken numerous years to complete at a cost of more than the full build of the hotel itself. I appreciate the section that was completed to show what the building was and

what it has now become.

All in all, it was another enjoyable event hosted by Melbourne Central Regional Group at a wonderful location with amazing speakers.

Words from Michelle Challis daughter of Barwon Regional Group member Phillipa Challis OAM

Photo top right: Artefacts found during the restoration and building works of the current hotel which are displayed in the hotel lobby.

Photo bottom left: Meticulously restored section of the plasterwork in the hotel lobby.

September 2023 lunch

There will be a report in the December 2023 E-Newsletter from the MCRG lunch held earlier this week at The Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club with speaker Dr Alan Finkel AC on the topic "Tackling the hardest economic challenge since the dawn of agriculture."

North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley Regional Group

Luncheon-Yarrowonga/Mulwala Golf Resort

66 members and guests attended the June luncheon with Tony Rinaudo AM as guest speaker. It was great to hear Tony speak of his valuable work and see photos of the amazing work that he has done in regenerating vast areas of the African landscape. Teaching Nigerian farmers to prune and manage the existing tree shoots enabled these subsistence farmers to increase their food and timber production as well as helping with climate extremes.

Tony, working for World Vision now oversees land regeneration projects world-wide.

We were very fortunate that Tony was in Australia and took the time to speak to us.

Tony – Anthony Rinaudo AM was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia on Australia Day 2019 for significant service to conservation as a pioneer in international reforestation programs.

New Member profile

Mrs Judi Hanlon OAM received her award on Australia Day this year for her contribution to the Shepparton Community. Judi's involvement in the community continues to this day after decades of work with organisations ranging from the Australian Red Cross and Vision Australia to the Kiwanis Club of Shepparton Sunrisers and the Euroa and District University of the Third Age, where she is secretary.

Judi was also a volunteer for the Sydney Olympics and Commonwealth games as well as the Citizens Advice Bureau, Kids Helpline, Euroa Community Cinema, People Supporting People, Longwood Community Centre, Kids Town, the Queen Victoria Women's Centre in Melbourne, and the Shepparton Driver Training Complex.

Judi lived in the Euroa/Longwood district for about 20 years. During that time, she managed the Euroa Community Cinema for seven years and stayed on as a volunteer.



She has also worked with Strathbogie Shire Council, Euroa Health, the News, and the Promotion of Adult Education Centre.

We welcome Judi to the NE&GV Regional Group and the Association.

Remaining Event for 2023:

Sunday October 8 at The Woolshed @ Emerald Bank, Shepparton at 12.30pm - Guest Speaker Dr Pieter Mourik AM, well known to our members who will speak on: "Then and Now; Changes in Medicine in My 50 Years".

Pieter's ambition was always to be a rural doctor. His medical training commenced in Geelong, and then he travelled to Winchester England to specialize in Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Surgery. After Winchester, he worked in Falkirk Scotland. From Britain, he moved to Durban South Africa training in General Surgery, but later transferred to Pietermaritzburg returning to Women's Health. From South Africa he moved back to Guildford in England and passed his specialist exams.

Returning to Perth WA in 1978 doing cancer surgery and finally starting a practice in Wodonga as the first specialist Obstetrician and Gynaecologist in Northeast Victoria in 1979.

Since graduation, there have been many amazing advances in Medicine that many of us now take for granted.

Cost for the 2 course lunch is \$60 GST included. Drinks cash bar price. To book please contact Marg Attley OAM, Email: negvoaa@protonmail.com

The venue is very close to the Museum of Vehicle Evolution (MOVE) so perhaps consider a visit beforehand and make a wonderful day of your time in Shepparton!

North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley Regional Group continued

Annual General Meeting and March Luncheon 2024

Please put Sunday 24th March in your diaries for our AGM and March luncheon. Guest Speaker will be the Hon Pat McNamara AM. Venue to be confirmed

South Central Suburbs Regional Group

Midyear Luncheon

Every year South Central Suburbs Regional Group celebrates the midyear with a luncheon featuring a guest speaker.

This year the luncheon was held at the West Brighton Club, Brighton.



The speaker was Professor George Werther AO MD FRACP who treated us to a most eloquent and interesting speech. George specializes in paediatric endocrinology at The Royal Children's Hospital, for which he has received many prestigious award.

His ground breaking work focuses on diabetes, growth, sexual development, bone health and research into the skin disease psoriasis.

He engaged the audience with his warmth and humour, as he cleverly combined his work as a paediatrician and his passion and involvement in community theatre.

Photo L to R

Mary Werther, Professor George Werther AO, Jill Page OAM, Dr Chery Threadgold OAM

2023 Order of Australia recipients

In August members attended a cocktail reception at The Sandringham Yacht Club to welcome the 2023 Australia Day and King's Birthday Order of Australia recipients.

This event is held annually, and shared on a rotating basis between the cities of Bayside, Kingston and Glen Eira. The Mayor of Bayside Cr Hanna El Mouallem, welcomed the new Honourees individually, and each received a splendid award in recognition of their excellent and varied contributions to their communities.



Also present were the Mayor of Kingston Cr Hadi Saab, Bayside Councillor Sue Pennicuik representing the Mayor, and Bayside, Kingston and Glen Eira councillors.

South Central Suburbs Regional Group Chair Jill Page OAM warmly welcomed the new recipients and invited them to join the Order of Australia Association.

Wednesday 22 November

The next event is the End of Year Dinner at The Commonwealth Golf Club, Glennie Ave, Oakleigh South from 6pm.

The speaker is Dr Cheryl Threadgold OAM who will present a lightning review of the development of amateur theatre in Victoria.

Cheryl is well known for her self-published book "*In the Name of Theatre*".

Cost \$80pp GST included / 2 course dinner, welcome drink, tea & coffee.

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

Western Suburbs Regional Group Meeting Jane from The Beautiful Bunch

On 3 August, members of the Western Suburbs Regional Group gathered at Pelicans Landing, overlooking the Williamstown seafront, for lunch and to hear from guest speaker Jane Marx, founder of The Beautiful Bunch.

The Beautiful Bunch is “a floral delivery service bringing joy through flowers and creating jobs for women from refugee backgrounds”. Jane told us that there are 15 refugee and new migrant women currently in the programme, learning not only floristry but administrative and language skills that will ease their entry into Australian life.

The Beautiful Bunch is an online florist that delivers flowers across greater Melbourne, but there are plans to expand to corporate work and into other states.

Flowers can be ordered from the website: www.thebeautifulbunch.com.

Jane brought with her a magnificent bouquet that was auctioned as a modest donation to the organization. WSRG member John Webb OAM was thrilled to win the flowers but called to ask if there was a photo of the presentation because his family wouldn't believe that he had, for once in his life, won something!



Photo: John Webb OAM receives his prize bouquet from Jane Marx, founder of The Beautiful Bunch

Upcoming Thursday November 16 Museum event

The Western Suburbs Regional Group's next event for members and guests will be on Thursday November 16 and will include a visit to the **Johnston Collection**, “a multi-award-winning and critically acclaimed museum that invites creatives from the broader visual arts and design communities to re-interpret the collection through a regular programme of re-installation and interventions of the permanent collection.

The museum has a superb collection of English Georgian, Regency and Louis XV fine and

decorative arts, and objets d'art which was a gift from William Robert Johnston (1911-1986) to the people of Victoria.

Johnston was a prominent Melbourne-born antique dealer, real estate investor and collector. The collection is displayed in a constantly changing domestic setting, in his former residence, *Fairhall*, an historic East Melbourne townhouse.

More information will be available in mid-October from oaamelbwest@gmail.com.



Order of Australia Association Foundation News

Title: "Hannah's Journey and Advocating for Youth Experiencing Adversity"

Dear readers from the pen of Hannah Gandy,

I'm excited to share my journey with you since I had the honour of being awarded the 2018 Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship.

The Scholarship not only furthered my passions, offered a mentorship that would be life-changing and set me on a path toward advocating for social justice, but also deepened my already strong commitment to making a difference in the lives of young people experiencing adversity.

I studied at La Trobe University, pursuing a Bachelor of Laws/ Bachelor of Arts (Politics). During this time and thanks to the Foundation, I had the privilege of being mentored by The Hon. Julia Gillard AC. Her guidance and wisdom shaped my dedication for helping others and drove me to work harder for positive change.

Today, I work at the Centre for Multicultural Youth in the Youth Referral and Independent Person Program. This program supports young individuals aged 10-17 who are in police custody. My role involves coordinating responses to legal and welfare issues that arise at police stations, ensuring vulnerable youth are treated fairly and receive the support they need to live a life away from crime.

In 2022, I was awarded the Victorian Government John Monash Scholarship and a Rotary Global Grant Scholarship for Community Economic Development. These awards opened doors for me to pursue a Master of Laws Specialising in Social Justice at University College London.

My research has delved into critical issues, including improving access to justice, human rights, criminal law, and the impact of punitive policing, procedures, and detention on marginalised communities across Australia.

Upon returning to Melbourne, I have taken on the role of co-chair for the Victorian Raise the Age Working Group for Change the Record. Together with my colleagues, we advocate for reforms and strengthening of systems to see vulnerable youth supported to thrive without ending up in the justice system.



I've also recently had the privilege of speaking at the 2023 Monash Commemorative Service at Parliament, where I connected John Monash's beliefs in education and perseverance in the face of doubt to my own journey and motivations for working with youth.

Reflecting on my journey so far, receiving the 2018 Order of Australia Foundation Scholarship was a life-changing moment. It set me on a path toward a future filled with opportunities to make a lasting impact, and I'm deeply grateful for the chance to advocate for those who need it most.

Donor of Hannah's OAA Foundation scholarship: Freemasons Victoria Supported by Freemasons Victoria Foundation Ltd

OAA Foundation website: www.oaafoundation.org.au

News from the Merchandise Shop on-line

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart

New items have arrived in the OAA merchandise shop

CAP Premium soft cotton navy (Unisex)

100% cotton fabric.
Structured 6 panel design with slight pre-curved peak
Velcro closure
Embroidered eyelets.
Comfortable padded sweatband.
Cost \$21.00 each plus P&H



APRON with central pocket navy (Unisex)

Bib apron with adjustable halter self fabric strap around neck
Unique styling



Towel loop at back of apron
1 Large central front pocket with special side slide pen and bottle opener provision.
97cm (width) x 86cm (length)
Cost \$30.00 each with P&H

Low stock



Barista Travel Cup

Environmental use for hot & cold drinks
Cost \$15.00 each plus P&H

A favourite has returned



OAA Blue/gold pen in gift box

Triangle shaped full metal blue/gold pen
chrome fittings in black gift box.
Cost \$7.00 each plus P&H

Profile on Yasseen Musa OAM and his 25 year service to the African community

Yasseen's Order of Australia medal was awarded for his service to the African community over the last 25 years. When Yasseen and his family came to this country, they struggled to settle in smoothly due to lack of language and cultural shock. It took them a bit of time to adapt to this country, along with the rest of the African community. From the lessons we learned from our experienced, Yasseen and a few others formed a group dedicated to helping emerging refugees that will encounter a similar journey into Australia. Over the years, we developed 5 key elements of how exactly we would aid them:

1. Helping adults with job searches, opening bank accounts and familiarising them with services such as Centrelink and Victoria Police.
2. Organising programs, such as homework club and advanced English teaching, to enhance the youths' language skills and help them progress to Year 10 and onwards in high school.
3. Organising sport programs and events for the youth to attend so they can experience Australian sport to fill up the time they have on the school holidays.
4. Yasseen Musa volunteered with AFL as an ambassador to help the young African community to join the footy.
5. Using his position as a volunteer ambassador, he established 'Team Africa', a footy team within our community, to empower the youth to engage with and join the sport.

As part of Yasseen's volunteer work, as community leader, he helped the residents at the 9 towers in North Melbourne and Flemington during the COVID-19 lockdown period. This work included going door-to-door encouraging the residents to go for testing, delivering food packages and provide students with devices to aid their schooling. Additionally, we also communicated with DFFH to host information sessions for the community about COVID related issues to raise awareness amongst them.

Yasseen was awarded the John H. Kerr, Community Service Award from the Rotary Club of Footscray in 2014, and an Order of Australia recipient Australia Day 2023 for his service and the difference he has made in the community.



Vale Ronald (Ron) Dale Barassi AM 1936-2023

Tributes have flowed from every state and territory for Australia Rules legend Ron Barassi AM who died on Saturday September 16, 2023 aged 87.

A descendant of Swiss-Italian migrants who arrived in Victoria during the 1850s gold rush, his father played for Melbourne's 1940 premiership team before being killed with Australian forces at Tobruk in 1942.

Young Barassi pioneered professionalism by switching to Carlton in 1964 and was an early advocate of the national competition that became the AFL.

Barassi's story is well told - as a player and coach he won 10 premierships with Melbourne, Carlton, and North Melbourne, while his stint with the Sydney Swans in the 90's is regarded as a turning point for the struggling footy club.

Barassi is considered one of the most important figures in the history of the game, and was the very first player to be inaugurated into the Australian Football Hall of Fame as a Legend.

He was a pioneer of the ruck-rover position, as well as of the "Irish experiment", recruiting Gaelic footballers from Ireland in a trend that continues across the country at every level of the sport successfully to this day.

Ron was named a Member of the Order of Australia Queen's Birthday in 1978 in recognition of service to the sport of Australian Rules football and selected in the AFL's Team of the Century fittingly at ruck-rover.

October 2000 he was awarded the Australian Sports Medal and March 2013 Commendation for Brave Conduct.

On the night of Ron's passing a moment of silence was held before Port Adelaide's clash with GWS at Adelaide Oval, fans remained extremely respectful and didn't call out. Appropriate respect for a man widely revered and loved.



Ron Barassi AM immortalised in bronze In a statue at the MCG in 2003



NOTICE

STORAGE AREA

OAA VIC Branch requires storage space please for:-

- *Pull up banner in carry bag
- *OA medal board & easel
- * Flag base
- * 3 flag poles fit in carry bag
- * 3 flags

From October 2023 for events in Melbourne CBD at William Angliss Restaurant and the Melbourne Town Hall

If you are able to store and deliver the above items for the VIC Branch please email Helene Bender AM chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Battlefield Tours Testimonial Ian George OAM

In 2018 I preceded my Gallipoli trip with a 10 day tour of east Turkey which is highly recommended.

My tour of the peninsula was absorbing and very well administered throughout. Accommodations



were carefully selected and excursions to all the well-known locations accompanied by experienced and knowledgeable leaders.



The whole experience was moving (dawn at ANZAC cove, war cemeteries, Lone Pine etc) and memorable. No hesitation in recommending to all who value our military legacy.

Refer to page 3 of this E-Newsletter for details of the 2024 Battlefields Tour

Please contact 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

Predictable based on a series of milestones

Recent LinkedIn article from Bernard Salt AM a regular columnist for the Weekend Australian. Bernard delivered the 2023 National Oration at the Order of Australia Association National Conference in Geelong.

Everyone feels that they are special or unique in some way. And in many respects, this is perfectly correct.

However from a demographic “averages” perspective the lives we lead are remarkably predictable based on a series of milestones. Here’s my assessment of the milestones in the modern Australian way of life.

Age most likely to live in a de facto relationship-23

Age at which traditional marriage is more popular than de facto-28

Age at which Australians are least likely to believe in a god (of any sort) - 28

Age at which an Australian woman is most likely to have their first child-30

Age at which Australians working fulltime earn most income-43

Age at which most Australians most likely to volunteer-45.

Age at which most Australian women describe their relationship status as divorced-46 (52 for men)

Age at which teenagers most likely to be in the family home-48

Age at which empty-nest syndrome typically begins-55

Age at which unpaid care peaks-57 (looking after 80-something parents)

Age at which anxiety suddenly drops-65

Age at which most people deliver unpaid care for a child not their own (eg grandchild)-67

Age at which there is least anxiety & depression symptoms “the 70s”

Age at which loneliness skyrockets, early 80s (loss of life partner)

Age at which most Australians most likely to believe in a god (of any sort)-early 90s

So, there you have your life mapped out as a pathway with a series of check-in points or milestones... if you happen to be an average kind of person

2024 National Conference

Perth Thursday May 16 to Sunday May 19

