



Dated November 2023

Vision Impaired Accessible Document



ONE OF OUR MANY NEW ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

FROM KINGS BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST 2023

Professor Glenda Margaret HALLIDAY AC

For eminent service to medical research in the field of neurodegenerative disorders, including the development of revised diagnostic criteria for Parkinson's disease, and as a mentor.

A SHORT SUMMARY FROM PROFESSOR HALLIDAY'S EXTENSIVE CITATION:

The University of Sydney

Professor of Neuroscience, since 2016. Member, Brain and Mind Centre.

Research Awards/Recognitions

Fellowships of Learned Academies – 2021 Member, Australian Academy of Science; 2014 Member, Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences *Scientific Awards and Distinctions* – 2022 NSW Scientist of the Year, NSW Premier's Prizes for Science and Engineering; 2021 Robert A. Pritzker Prize for Leadership in Parkinson's Research, Michael J Fox Foundation; 2020 NHMRC Elizabeth Blackburn Investigator Award – for leadership in Clinical Medicine and Science

Australian Research Contributions

Research Fellow in the National Health and Medical Research Council and Australian Research Council systems since 1988. Chief Investigator, thirteen funded National Health and Medical Research Council grants since 2013. National Health and Medical Research Council Research Committee Member, since 2022.

International Research Contributions

Research has shaped diagnostic criteria for neurodegenerative diseases and recommendations for adequate patient identification and management. Member, International Movement Disorder Society task forces for defining Parkinson's disease and multiple system atrophy; Member, International consortia for dementia with Lewy bodies; Member, many consortia for the pathological definitions of neurodegenerative diseases; Member, International Parkinson's Disease Genomic Consortium; Member, International Frontotemporal Dementia Genetics Consortium; Board Member, Multiple System Atrophy (MSA) Coalition, United States, since 2018; Member, Scientific Advisory Board, EMBO Danish Research Institute of Translational Neuroscience, since 2013.

NOTICES & EXCLUSIONS:

This version of our National magazine is not intended for general distribution to the wider public but is prepared as a service to those of our members who require the use of vision-impaired screen-reader technology. Thus, certain pages of the hard-copy version involving complex graphics or page layout have been omitted.

A summary of these pages and other notes of a general nature will be listed here.

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION.

National Office – Email: oaasecretariat@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

National Secretary – Graham Hyde OAM Email: natsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY

Having completed our Spring Investitures at Government House Canberra, I found myself reflecting (again) that presiding over investiture ceremonies is one of my favourite responsibilities.

It is a joy that I share with the whole team at Government House and I know that is replicated in Government Houses across the country. The ceremonies are a celebration of the individuals receiving recognition and, I hope, a memory that will last a lifetime for them and their loved ones.

More broadly, I would challenge anyone watching a single ceremony – let alone a week's worth – to not be uplifted or to feel anything other than optimistic for the future. The breadth of talent and achievement never ceases to amaze. The knowledge of not only what recipients have done but also what they will do reaffirms my optimism for our future.

The message that recipients in the Order keep contributing, continuing to have an impact and striving to make a difference is an important one. Members of the Association are a terrific example and I'm uplifted to hear about the great work happening in branches across the country. It is inspiring and reflects the best of our community.

I'm also pleased that the progress we have made in advancing the Order of Australia and its role in celebrating outstanding Australians is increasingly reflected in investiture ceremonies. As the end of 2023 fast approaches, we can take stock at our achievements and reflect on the progress we have made – including reaching gender parity for the first time in the King's Birthday Honours List.

But as Mark Twain is reported as saying, "Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection."

The job on improving the awareness of the Order and making it more diverse - both for gender and cultural diversity - is not done. We look back on what has been achieved, including working closely with the Association, with pride and look forward to what will be achieved in 2024.

I value the close relationship between my Office and the Association. Linda and I are looking forward to attending next year's National Conference in WA and spending time with members.

I hope that members have a relaxing and safe end to 2023.

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Greetings all,

We are fast approaching the end of the year, yet there is no slowdown in sight. For many of us this time of year can mean planning for the festive season or if you are lucky, the planning of a holiday

elsewhere, elsewhere of course being that magic place where we can forget routine and relax and elsewhere also being that magic and unknown place often referred to by our weather commentators most evenings on our TV screens! Before we get close to celebrating Christmas let us take a moment to also celebrate all of the incredible work undertaken this year by the Associations in each State and Territory. Your commitment to leading by example to celebrate and promote outstanding Australian Citizenship and the many volunteer hours you do to ensure the success of your respective associations and to support your members is commendable.

I have been reflecting on what it means to be a good citizen and very importantly the importance of teaching our children the value and significance of being kind and contributing members of our communities. Conversations are often key. Conversations between family members, colleagues and friends about what that looks like. Is it about volunteering and joining community groups who strive to improve the lives of others, I think it can be different things to different people, but overall, it is about having compassion and empathy, taking responsibility for our own actions, being tolerant and accepting of others beliefs and attitudes and also recognising and respecting the truth. My mother always said it is important to be grateful for what you have and to 'give back' – very sage advice. It is remarkable to learn about the generosity of Australians as I travel, I continually learn more about the true value of citizenship because it is there at every turn and thriving in all communities. We may not always see it but it is there and often happens behind the scenes by humble people who are quiet achievers. These people are Australians who are very worthy of a nomination for an Order of Australia. Let's make it our responsibility to uncover them and nominate them. Recognition at the highest level has an immediate and ongoing positive impact on people's lives. I asked a 7-year-old last week what makes a good citizen and he said, "it is about always telling the truth, being kind to everyone and helping your friends", I thought how fitting, there is always much to learn from others and certainly our children.

Wherever you are in Australia or overseas reading this magazine, I wish you well and send you my very best wishes.

Take good care and go well,

Vicki

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As 2023 draws to a close we can look back on a year of quiet achievement for our Association. Branch activity is now back at pre-COVID levels, despite the concern of reinfection. Nominations for awards in the Order are high, with considerable promotional effort in Branches and Regional Groups. The emphasis on diversity in nominations has had some success, with the 2023 King's Birthday Honours listing, for the first time, more women than men. Wider diversity to reflect the breadth of Australia's multicultural society is still required.

I ask all members to continue to reach out, particularly, to the disadvantaged in our multicultural communities and to offer friendship and support.

2023 has been a year of turbulence worldwide, with armed conflict, natural disasters and inflation problems widely reported. Although distant from much of this, in Australia the emotional as well as the financial impacts are clear. Your Board is mindful of the increasing financial burden borne by members. As a result of economies achieved throughout the

organisation, a reduction in Association membership fees from January 2024 has been agreed, details are on page 14.

We can all play a part in encouraging new recipient membership of the Association by our warm welcome, our ongoing contact and our demonstration of the value of membership.

Our 2024 National Conference, to be held in Perth 16th to 19th May, is developing well with a challenging array of subjects and speakers as well as enjoyable events and outings. The 2025 Conference, Sydney 1st to 4th May is also beginning to take shape.

The annual National Conference is a great opportunity to renew acquaintances, meet new friends and have your say on the direction of the Association. I encourage you to attend and look forward to meeting you there.

I wish you and yours a joyous Festive Season and a New Year filled with hope and achievement.

Barry Nunn AO

National Chairman

EDITORIAL

This is the last opportunity I will have to share some thoughts with you as Editor, as I hand over to Dr June Kane AM, a member of the Victoria Branch who has agreed to take carriage of our Magazine.

At the outset I should thank those Branch and Regional Group newsletter coordinators who collate and feed the various contributions to me for each edition, it takes time and effort and so often their contribution is forgotten. Ditto to members of our National Board and of course His Excellency, and his staff.

Our printer and publisher Advance Press in Perth do a great job.

On the wider front, if at times like me you have doubts about the state of our Nation may I urge you to do two things:

- Each Australia Day and Kings Birthday take a few minutes to study the Honours List. That on each list, over 700 of our fellow Australians are recognized within our Order, plus others in various awards, says to me Australia is in good shape.
- If you despair at 'today's youth' then please look out for articles on Branch Student and Citizenship Awards and the Foundation Scholarships. Attending these awards ceremonies be it at Branch functions or the National Conference, I find inspirational. How do these young people find the time to study?

You will see details of the 2024 National Conference in Perth in May, could I urge you to consider attending. I find these activities uplifting in terms of fellowship and an opportunity to have a say at the programmed AGM and Members' Forum.

Which brings me to one of my stable of hobby-horses; member participation in the governance of our Association. Regional Group, Branch and National committees offer opportunities for any member to assist with the management and governance. Our Association has one single part-time employee – Ms Heather Willis, who operates the National Office in Old Parliament House.

All the rest of the work associated with our Association is done by volunteers, just like you.

Thank You for the opportunity to be Editor.

Phil Morrall AM, CSC

NATIONAL NEWS

IS THERE VALUE IN MEMBERSHIP?

Are you an active member of our Association? Do you attend activities, link up with old friends and new and participate in everything on offer? Or do you find what is offered uninteresting or hard to get to?

Whether you answer ‘yes’ or ‘no’ your Branch or Regional Committee needs to hear from you. Committees can only arrange activities if they know what members need.

Our Association has done well in the management of finances over recent years, building up reserves and supporting branch and regional activities with funds for both administration and development.

Our recruiting of new recipients of an award and the retention of existing members is below expectations. We need to properly welcome new recipients and ensure that our member activities are inviting and meet their needs.

We have begun a review of the ‘financial framework’ of our Association – the way we do business at all levels and, particularly, the best ways to grow membership. One immediate measure, helped by our good financial performance, is to reduce membership fees from 1 January 2024. These new fees will apply both to new members and to those renewing or completing payment of existing membership. An option will be introduced to allow 10-Year membership to be paid in two instalments over two years and Lifetime membership will be limited to 25 years, with an instalment option. Existing Lifetime member conditions will remain unchanged.

The new fees from 1 January 2024, inclusive of GST, will be:

Annual	\$70.00
3-Year	\$160.00
10-Year	\$600.00
10-Year x 2 Instal	\$300.00 x 2
Life (25 Year)	\$1,100.00
Life (25 Year) x 4 Instal	\$275.00 x 4

We are looking at ways to better fund Branch and Regional Group activities, make sure we provide member value and allow greater certainty in planning. Your contribution to this is important.

You should get value from your membership. I ask you to speak with your committees and work with them to produce programmes that engage with the community and enhance member knowledge, fellowship, and networking.

Barry Nunn AO
National Chairman

STRATEGIC PLAN

Order of Australia Association- Strategic Plan

A Strategic Plan has been prepared and approved by the Board to take the Association forward for the next few years. A key component of the plan is to grow the Value of the Association to its Members.

The plan was developed with input from the Branches to ensure it has relevance to the various Branches and their membership and their specific needs. Each Branch is, thus, able to take from the plan that which suits their activities and needs.

The Strategic Plan can be found in the OAA Website in the Governance section : [Governance - The Order of Australia Association](#)

We encourage members to look at it.

The Strategic Plan is considered a “Live” document and hence, feedback from and the views of members are appreciated.

All the Best

Kathy Wooldridge OAM

Chair Strategic Planning Committee

MAGNETIC LAPEL PIN UPDATE

Thank you to all those who responded to our request for interest in purchasing a Magnetic Lapel Pin/s.

The Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General will follow up with those who have registered an interest when the badges become available.

They are yet to indicate the exact date when the Magnetic Lapel Pins will be available.

Kathryn Wooldridge OAM
National Membership Director
Order of Australia Association
E: natmbrdir@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

FOUNDATION ARTICLE



WILL YOU HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Each member of the Order of Australia has made a distinctive contribution to Australia. For that you have been recognised with the award you have received. The Board of the Order of Australia Association Foundation asks you to consider making a further contribution to Australia by supporting its Scholarship programme.

Why should you consider this request? Here are just a few reasons.

It represents an investment in Australia's future

The Scholarship programme aims to identify full time students in their second year of University who are exceptional in their field of study, who have given back to the community, and who can benefit from the financial support provided by the Scholarship.

Through the Scholarship programme, the Foundation seeks to identify students who have the potential to become future awardees of the Order of Australia.

They come from all disciplines in areas as diverse as health, law, the arts, marine biology, and many, many more. They are all committed to making a difference to Australia. John Atkins AO, Dina Browne AO and I, together with specialist academics have recently completed interviewing all short-listed candidates for the six Scholarship awards to be presented at the Perth Conference in 2024. To say it was awe-inspiring experience is an understatement. With students of this calibre, we know Australia's future is in good hands.

It is life changing for the recipient.

The recipient receives \$40,000 paid over two years. For the students selected, the value of the Scholarship is life changing. It allows them to realise their potential in the face of needing to make trade-offs between work and university, food and transport, completing their degree or taking a year off, living in a van or having a roof over their head, or overcoming other more subtle forms of disadvantage.

The additional benefit the recipient receives is a mentorship from a member of the Order of Australia in the student's area of expertise and career ambition. Winners have described this as having a benefit beyond money. We thank the members of the Order of Australia who have selflessly provided such mentorships.

It is prestigious.

The scholarship is highly regarded not just by the recipients, but also by the universities with whom we work. That prestige is enhanced by the presentation of the Scholarship awards by the Governor-General at the Annual Dinner of the Order of Australia Association. Next year when the Conference is held in Perth, 55 scholarships will have been awarded via 21 different Universities. At that time, six scholarships will be presented: two from the University of Western Australia (in Science and Law); and one each from Edith Cowan University (WAAPA in the Performing Arts); Swinburne (in Business); Deakin (in Marine Biology); and Charles Darwin (in Exercise and Sport Science). Earlier this year, at Geelong, four scholars were presented from RMIT, the University of Adelaide, and two from the University of South Australia. Those present at the dinner were inspired by the scholars and their stories.

It is well governed.

The Board of the Foundation maintains the highest standards of governance in relation to the awards, at the same time as keeping costs to an absolute minimum. We seek and value the input of academics from each university in the selection process for each scholarship, at the same time as members of the Foundation Board are actively involved. We give our time and commitment freely, with, over time, the largest single donor group being members of the Foundation Board. To date, 21 scholarships have been donated by members of the Foundation Board. Two of the scholarships to be given in Perth are donated by Mr Nicholas Paspaley AC and Mr Paul Wheelton AM K SJ, continuing their history of generously giving. The other four were donated by the Order of Australia Association; the Western Australia Branch of the Order of Australia; the McCusker Charitable Foundation and the Goodeve Foundation. We are extremely appreciative of the generosity and support of all our donors.

It is tax deductible.

Any donation made to the Scholarship programme of the Foundation is tax deductible. We have a rigorous programme of acknowledging your donation and providing a receipt to enable you to claim your tax deduction.

We need donations for awards to be made in Sydney in 2025

We need to be proactive. By early next year, we need to be organised to award Scholarships for the Sydney Conference Dinner to be held on 3rd May, 2025. Working with the donors, we will determine the Universities and faculties in which the scholarships will be awarded. The Universities advertise the scholarships to the relevant pool of students, following which a short list will be developed. And then we will come full circle to members of the Foundation Board. Working with academics from each university, the Selection Panel will meet face to face with the short listed students to make a decision, before making recommendations to the Foundation Board.

You can help. You can help by making a tax deductible donation to the Order of Australia Association Foundation. Alternatively, if the Branch in your state is working to fund a specific scholarship, you can donate directly to the Scholarship appeal via your Branch. That too is tax deductible. A donation can be made by the form below or through the Foundation's website. <https://oaafoundation.org.au/>

By making a donation, you will make a real difference. Thank you in anticipation.

Dr Helen M. Nugent AC
Chairman
Order of Australia Association Foundation
sec@oaafoundation.com.au

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Members can donate directly to the Foundation. Alternatively, members can donate to an Association National Scholarship Program which allows Branches and individual members to contribute to a consolidated account, which when it reaches the Scholarship funding level (currently \$45,000), will allow the award of an Association Scholarship.

Donations made directly and indirectly attract DGR tax deductibility.

Donations should 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 Tel: (02) 6273 5995

STOP PRESS:

Do you know a Recipient who has not joined our Association? If so, point them to these short YouTube videos to see and hear what we are about and why they might enjoy our company.

2023 - National Conference: https://youtu.be/wzP6fg_GcBw

2023 - National Conference - Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO interview:
<https://youtu.be/lChWuF7y4Yk>

2023 - National Conference - Barry Nunn AO interview:

<https://youtu.be/SRloJ0cjOwQ>

We thank His Excellency and his staff for their assistance in producing these videos.

ENCOURAGING NOMINATIONS.

Anyone can nominate someone for the Order of Australia. If you would like to encourage your community, colleagues or friends to nominate, please use any of these promotional resources.

[Order of Australia resources and promotion | Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia \(gg.gov.au\)](#)

- Case study - [Sarah Brown AM](#) - ([Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) tiles) - "I think it is really important that stories that don't usually get light on them, get told. And that people understand what a diverse, and creative and resilient country we are."

- Case study - [Regula Black OAM](#) - ([Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) tiles) - "I do what I do because I enjoy it and I love being in the community - it's just stunning to me that someone appreciates the work."

Western Australia Branch

WA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is hard to believe we are almost at the end of another year with end of the year functions only weeks away. Add to that next year's National Conference is coming ever closer and planning for that is in the final stages. We are working hard to keep the attendance cost as low as possible and details are in this issue of 'The Order'. Registration for the Conference will be open on November 30th on the WA website and will be in the next edition of 'The Order'. We look forward to welcoming many members from other Branches.

We were delighted to have the opportunity to recognise and congratulate 28 recipients of an award in the King's Birthday Honours at the Reception hosted by the Wanneroo City Council. It is always a privilege to share the stories of these recipients and to acknowledge the contribution each has made.

128 members and guests attended the Annual Black tie dinner at Royal Perth Golf Club and our Guest Speaker Dr Tom Ridsdill-Smith gave a most informative address on energy and its future.

Barry Nunn's talk, attended by 40 members and guests, on 'Catalinas in Crawley' was most informative and elicited many memories for those of us who remembered wondering how on earth these large planes would ever get off the water. A visit to the Aircraft Museum as part of the morning's activity was also thoroughly enjoyed.

The Annual South West Region function was a most enjoyable lunch at the Augusta Hotel attended by 55 members from the region as well as some from Perth. It was interesting to hear the stories of some who were attending this event for the first time. At the end of November, the Great Southern Region Church Service and lunch will be held in Albany.

We will wrap up the year's activities with our Christmas Lunch at Fremantle Sailing Club. Although a little early, on behalf of the members of the WA Branch we extend Seasons Greetings to all.

Bettine Heathcote AM

KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS RECEPTION

On 4th August a Reception for the King's Birthday Honours Awardees was held at the City of Wanneroo Banksia Function Rooms. Mrs Bettine Heathcote AM and Her Worship the Mayor of the City of Wanneroo, Mrs Linda Aitken JP, welcomed all present. The Mayor welcomed us, "Kaya koorda. Wandju nidja Noongar Boodja," she acknowledged all present and that among the 26 awardees present, she was proud that four were from the City of Wanneroo. Tony House OAM responded succinctly thanking the Mayor and Councillors present saying that "it is a real privilege for me to offer to you and to those involved in the organization of this Reception for the recipients of His Majesty the King's Birthday honours list, indeed the first of his reign – the thanks of us all for your hospitality, kindness and warm welcome to both the Association and the City of Wanneroo.

I know I speak on everyone's behalf. From the moment we arrived, those who were named in the King's Birthday list, were treated as known friends, but even more importantly, we have been made to feel a part of each's award, a part of that wider community than our own circle, a part of the healthy activity that works for the betterment of our State and Nation. The recognition of which – not of the individuals so honoured – is the recognition of the myriad of challenges still existing and which needs people and their abilities to create an even healthier and more compassionate community.”

The National Chairman, Major General Barry Nunn AO acknowledged that the awards are a team award where the recipient is supported by family, friends, and community. He noted that WA received 5.5 – 6% of the awards which is lower than the 11% of the Australian population. This is the first time since 1975 that the percentage of women has exceeded that of the men awardees. We need to broaden the scope of the awards. The Reception ended with a delicious supper.



Anthony (Tony) House OAM



The King's Birthday Honours Recipients 2023

THE OAAWA ANNUAL DINNER 2023

On a balmy Spring evening in September the OAA WA Branch once again held its Annual Dinner at the Royal Perth Golf Club. Members and Guests were welcomed by the Chairman, Bettine Heathcote AM, who raised a toast to the King and was followed by the National Chairman, Major General Barry Nunn AO who toasted the OAA Association. Grace was said by Venerable Canon Kathy Barrett-Lennard OAM.

A delicious meal followed with the after Dinner Speech given by Dr Tom Ridsill-Smith, an academic who has worked in the private sector and at the University of Western Australia. Dr Tom Ridsill-Smith challenged his audience with the problem of the Global Energy Transition.

“Our Challenge is the ever-growing consumption of energy. Despite the increasing development of energy sources with renewables, nuclear and hydropower, we do not generate enough to supply our increasing needs as the global population gets larger and richer. Fossil Fuel use has grown for the last 200 years and is still growing. Back in 1800 the world’s population was 1 billion and the energy consumed was in wood and animal dung. In 223 years the population has grown 8-fold, our total energy consumption is 32 times greater. On average each person uses 4 times more energy today than they did in 1800. We have a dramatically raised standard of living in many parts of the world. Despite this nearly 800 million people around the world do not have access to electricity. It’s like the energy transition bus is driving hard to catch us up, while we just continue to accelerate away from it. The challenge for developing nations is to provide clean, affordable energy to lift their poorest citizens out of poverty. The developed nations need to reduce the amount of energy we use. This is not easy.” Tom asked us to take up the challenge in our own lives and in the other parts of our lives be that business, government, NGOs, clubs and so on. “Solutions are going to come from many places and will need to be implemented in an equitable manner by people who understand the impact they will have on our lives. Don’t let perfect be the enemy of good – the energy transition needs all our ideas.”



Dr Tom Ridsdill-Smith



Major General Barry Nunn AO, His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia, Dr Tom Ridsdill-Smith



Michael Lee OAM, and Mrs Wendy Lee, Bettine Heathcote AM, John Garland AM, Joy Sinclair OAM

COFFEE MORNING

At the RAAFA Estate Bull Creek on Tuesday 17 October members and friends were entertained with a fascinating walk-through WWII history by Major General Barry Nunn AO. “Catalinas in Crawley” is a little unknown but important episode in WWII. Five ex-British Royal Navy Catalina’s were stationed in Matilda Bay to enable Qantas to maintain a civilian air service from Matilda Bay in Perth to Lake Koggala Ceylon (Sri Lanka). The first flight was on 29 June 1943. They flew at 2,000 feet. Each flight took from 28 – 35 hours non-stop and were loaded with a large amount of fuel and three passengers requiring 6km to lift off and clear the Fremantle Traffic Bridges. These were known as the Double Sunrise operations as the first sunrise was at Exmouth, the second sunrise was over the Indian Ocean. The pilots were from Qantas and the 4 crew wore Qantas Uniforms flying and off duty were in civilian clothes. They flew 271 crossings with no radio communication, navigation was by dead reckoning! They carried VIPs, War priority cargo, and mail. Members were able to see a Catalina in the Aircraft Museum after the talk but not the specific planes as after the war all were destroyed, being on lend lease loan from the US.

Some members stayed on to enjoy lunch at RAAFA.

DR MI KYUNG LEE OAM, BSC, GRADDIPHSC,MA,PhD

Dr Mi Kyung Lee was born in Seoul, South Korea. At the age of 18 years she, with all her family migrated to Perth Western Australia, where she fell in love with the space, warm weather, the endless blue skies and the ocean. Mi Kyung studied nutrition at Curtin University for she loved food and the idea of helping people with Nutritional Science. After graduation she worked at the Federal Department of Health in Canberra, developing national nutrition policy and dietary guidelines.

When she returned to Perth she studied for a PhD and later taught nutrition at Murdoch University for 20 years.

Mi Kyung has volunteered with the WA group of the Nutrition Society of Australia, was chair of the WA Chapter of KASEA, the Korean Academy of Scientists and Engineers Australasia, a non-for-profit academic organisation that focuses on the dissemination and exchange of knowledge and research relating to science, engineering and technologies across South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

She became their finance manager, then vice president and finally the president of KASEA.

Mi Kyung is Chair of the Wesley Congregational Meetings in Perth. Her childhood hero was Mother Theresa who she met in India in 1996. She mentioned “Wherever God has put you, that is your vocation. It is not what we can do but how much love we put into it – not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” Her life has been Mi Kyung’s inspiration.

Mi Kyung is supported by her husband, Professor Colin Binns AO, and two dogs!



Dr Mi Kyung Lee OAM

SOUTH-WEST REGION ANNUAL EVENT

On 20th October at the Augusta Motel Hotel 55 members and guests enjoyed a buffet lunch organised by Hon Barry House AM the SW Convenor. Dr John Williams spoke about using a light plane to fly around his country practice. At one stage he even landed on an Aircraft Carrier!



Hon Barry House AM Convenor of the SW Region welcoming members and guests.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OAAWA Christmas Lunch at the Fremantle Sailing Club 7th December 12 pm

Annual General Meeting 2024 to be confirmed

National Conference Perth 16-19th May 2024.

Australian Capital Territory Branch

OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley

Branch Nominated Director

Dr Alan Morrison AM JP

Chair

Andrew Phelan AM

Chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

0417 267 609 (M)

Secretary

Robert Altamore OAM

Treasurer

Phil Morrall AM CSC

Committee Members

Dr Brian Babington AM

Lynne Duckham OAM

Narelle Hargreaves AM

Dr Joseph Johnson CSC, OAM, AAM

Dr Bill Maiden PSM OAM

Coralie Wood OAM

Desmond Woods OAM

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



The ACT Branch recently hosted several important events. At the Royal Canberra Golf Club on 24 August, we had the great pleasure of presenting 18 Student Citizenship Awards to outstanding students and student groups from all sectors of ACT schools, in front of 140 members, parents and students, teachers and school administrators. It was wonderful to have received a message of support from our Branch Patron, Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley. On 20 September at the Commonwealth Club, we celebrated 22 local recipients of honours and awards in the King's Birthday 2023 Honours List at our Spring Reception for New Recipients. I am very pleased to have welcomed 16 ACT recipients from that list who have joined the Association.

On 6 November, Professor Kiaran Kirk AM presented the 2023 Order of Australia Association - Australian National University lecture on *Humanity's ongoing battle with infectious disease*. Professor Kirk was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia on Australia Day 2023 for significant service to science education and research, and to professional organisations.

Warm regards,
Andrew Phelan AM

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR JAMES INGRAM AO FAIIA

Branch Chair Andrew Phelan AM represented the Association at the memorial service for life member, James Ingram AO FAIIA. The service was held at the Australian National University on 9 August 2023. Jim's career included appointments as Australian Ambassador to the Philippines, Australian High Commissioner to Canada, and inaugural head of the Australian Government's Aid Agency (1975-81) where, with Sir John Crawford he was instrumental in establishing the Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research. The highlight of his career was his 10-year (1982-1992) term as head of the United Nations' World Food Programme, which he reformed to enable it to become the world's largest humanitarian agency and in 2020 the programme was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. At the photo, shown speaking at the service is Cindy McCain, the newly appointed Executive Director of the World Food Programme, with the Hon Gareth Evans AC KC looking on after giving his address. The Hon Dr Penelope Wensley AC, former Australian Ambassador to the UN and former Governor of Queensland is standing at the right.

Mr Ingram, who passed away in February at age 94, was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in the 1984 Australia Day Honours *for public service*.

SPRING RECEPTION FOR KING'S BIRTHDAY RECIPIENTS

Branch members gathered at the Commonwealth Club on 20 September to welcome 22 new recipients of honours in the King's Birthday awards. This followed their investiture the previous week at Government House. It is pleasing to see that 16 King's Birthday recipients have joined the Association. The Branch welcomes the contribution made by the ACT Government towards facilitating the welcome event. A selection of photos from the event are provided below.



Kings Birthday reception – New recipients

2023 STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS PRESENTATION

The Branch annual Student Citizenship Awards presentation was held at the Royal Canberra Golf Club on Thursday 24 August 2023. There were a record 18 awards presented on the night with students from public, independent and church schools honoured for a wide range of significant contributions. The Branch patron, Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley was unable to attend, but sent the event a message which is enclosed.

The judging panel, Mrs Narelle Hargreaves AM, Ms Lynn Fletcher OAM, Dr Joe Johnson OAM and convenor Dr Bill Maiden PSM, OAM assessed the nominations. A selection of winners are highlighted here.



Mila Costa, a student in Year 4 at Canberra Girls Grammar School, and **Zara Skepev**, a Year 3 Canberra Grammar School student, initiated and led a selfless and highly passionate fundraising campaign to support children suffering from brain cancer. Working together, over six months they diligently handcrafted thousands of pairs of earrings. The culmination of their hard work and dedication was a most successful pop-up store on the lawns of Manuka shopping centre, where they raised over \$14,000.00.

Both students were awarded the Association Branch's top Medallion Plaque Award for outstanding community service and citizenship.

Mila Costa and Zara Skepev

The nomination of **Shiori Ishikawa** (Year 12, Canberra College) contained many high-level examples of her leadership and community service. Her nomination concluded that her leadership, her community-mindedness, and inclusive nature in reaching out to support students across her college was significant in changing the culture of the college's community.

Shiori's conspicuous leadership skills, and passion for making a positive impact in her community, resulted in her being awarded the Association's Medallion and Plaque Award for outstanding community leadership and achievement.

Shiori Ishikawa



Samia Farhana, (Year 10 at Islamic School of Canberra), is an active and caring citizen who is an energetic volunteer in the support of others. She participates in volunteering in the school garden, assisting clean up her neighbourhood on 'Clean Up Australia Day', and collecting donations.

Samia also has a leadership role in her community in the planning and organising events at her local mosque. She has found her work at a special needs school has been a rewarding experience creating a relationship with students who need it most. In addition, she works with the Young Muslim Sisters Association, where she assists in providing a safe and supportive space for girls in the community. She has also been involved in fundraising efforts to support those affected by the recent earthquake in Turkey. Samia was awarded the Branch's Highly Commended Certificate for significant community involvement.

Samia Farhana



Katherine Polette

Katherine Polette (Year 12) strives to make Canberra College a positive, memorable, and equitable place. She volunteers to address college assemblies to promote community building activities, such as running the fundraising bake sale for ‘Relay for Life’. She was also a driver of the Canberra College Clothes Swap this year which ran throughout Environment Week.

Katherine’s leadership skills were demonstrated with her co-conducting a forum in 2022 designed to hear the voice of Year 11 students and was successfully repeated this year.

Katherine’s generosity of spirit has been evident in her significant roles in the College’s Harmony Day and she was awarded the Branch’s Plaque Award for outstanding citizenship and leadership.



Phoebe Vassallo

Phoebe Vassallo is a Year 10 student at St Mary MacKillop College who has introduced and led many initiatives over her time at the College demonstrating strong and sustained community service.

A recent example of Phoebe’s community spirit and leadership skills was her organisation and running of an outstanding citizenship project, the ‘Gift of Life Walk’, an event held to raise awareness about organ donation. The event was most successful with over 100 senior students and staff participating on the day. What was notable about Phoebe’s leadership and the project was her success in organising and motivating students who were more senior in years than herself. Indeed, this project served to open conversations with families and friends about organ and tissue donation and, importantly, the walk encouraged people to register with the Australian Organ Donor Register.

Phoebe was awarded the Branch’s Plaque Award for exceptional leadership and community service.



Belconnen High School Year 10

have sought safety in Australia from persecution, torture and war related trauma.

After months of planning, \$1200.00 was raised for these causes on their special day.

These students were awarded the Branch's Highly Commended Certificate for excellent leadership and achievement.

Three Year 10 Student Representative Council members at Belconnen High School, **Riddhi Shah, Niti Desai, Jasmine Dubey** decided that this year they would like to celebrate Harmony Day and multiculturalism at Belconnen High School and proposed a Colour Run aimed at promoting multiculturalism at the school and the wider community and create an event for students to socialise and have fun.

The trio's other aim of the day was to fundraise for a local non-government community-based organisation called Companion House at the suburb of Cook, which works with adults and children who



Yuna Rougeaux

Yuna was awarded the Association's Highly Commended Certificate for outstanding leadership.

Since **Yuna Rougeaux** (Telopea Park School Year 5) was in Year 3, she has been passionate about all activities concerning sustainable development and, through this interest, has demonstrated a sense of community spirit for other students. Her commitment to the school's community garden is constant and her good citizenship is always on display as she does not hesitate to support arriving new students by sharing her knowledge with them.

Another example of her citizenship is that Yuna supports younger children in the garden in a kind and helpful manner.

Yuna's nomination describes her excellent organisational and leadership skills. She speaks at school assemblies to share her point of view and announce upcoming events.

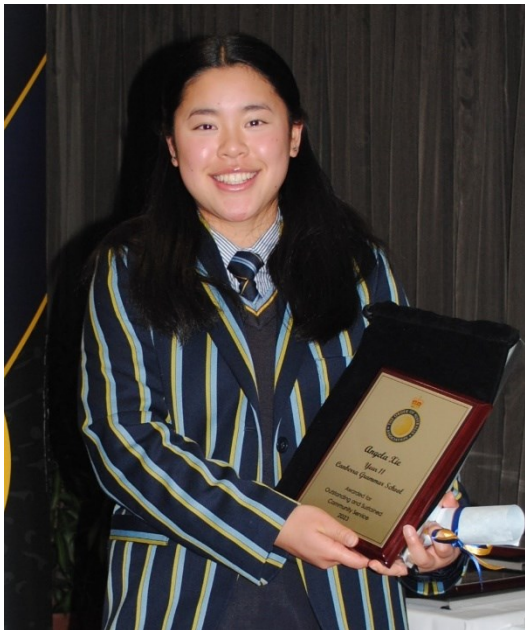


The **Year 12 cohort** of 264 students from St Mary MacKillop College raised \$74,000.00 for ‘Relay for Life’ this year. The relay was completed on 1 April with over 25 students walking or running a marathon in 12 hours to support many in the community who are affected by cancer.

Over 185 students were able to volunteer 12 hours on a Saturday to raise awareness and funds for this project. The efforts of the students, generous help from the community and support from teachers and staff before and after the marathon day was remarkable.

The St Mary MacKillop College students’ contribution to the Cancer Council was the second highest total in the country. Many Year 12 students worked tirelessly to organise this citizenship project to support families who may be affected by cancer.

For this achievement, the Year 12 cohort at St Mary MacKillop College was awarded the Branch’s Plaque Award for exceptional community service.



The nomination of **Angela Xie** (Year 11 Canberra Grammar School) cited many instances of outstanding service and commitment to voluntary work and service leadership over the last two years.

For example, she completed 113 hours of voluntary community service while in Year 10 in which she served both younger and older students and the community. She has served with enthusiasm as the Chair of the Canberra Grammar Service Council and was able to lead a committed group of 14 other students to run large service events at school, including the annual Anglicare Winter Appeal and Pink Day (Breast Cancer Fundraising).

Angela is highly regarded as a role model for younger students and has been awarded the Branch’s Plaque

Award for outstanding community service.

Angela Xie

Victoria Branch

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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 in perfect spring weather allowing recipients and their guests the opportunity to mingle in the picturesque gardens. Hearing the citations on the Wednesday confirmed the diversity we have in our community and their commitment to make a difference.

The VIC Branch held a Thank You Reception on Wednesday October 4 to thank Order of Australia recipients who have joined the Association this year. The event was hosted and sponsored by Alek Vass OAM at the Alex Theatre St Kilda. David Mann AM was the event MC and read the citations confirming the diversity of our members and the contribution they make in their community, to the State, Australia wide and internationally. Each member was presented with a gift from the Victoria Branch, and while thank you rolls off the tongue easily, please be assured we are genuine in our appreciation you have taken the time to join the Association.

Our final VIC Branch event for 2023 is the End of Year Dinner on Thursday November 23 at William Angliss Restaurant with speaker Natalie O'Brien AM. Her topic is Creating Events with Impact. With over 30 years in tourism, events and hospitality Natalie will share 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

In the OAA VIC Branch September 2023 E-Newsletter page 7 and 8 covered the story - Convoy of Hope November 2023. Please take the time to read the article, go to <http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au> and click VIC then Newsletters.

It is pleasing to give an update from Chris Leptos AO who will be driving one of the ambulances from Wimbledon to Ukraine this month.

The Ukraine Ambassador Vasyl Myroshnychenko in the photo on the left side of Chris Leptos AO was in Melbourne last month to support this worthy cause.

Donations and pledges are being received from Order of Australia Associations members – a huge thank you for your support of this project.

How to donate:

- Via link à <https://www.ukrainecrisisappeal.org/>
- Please note in the remarks that the donation is for '**Ambulances**'.

In signing off for 2023, thank you to our National Magazine Editor Phil Morrall AM, CSC for the time and effort he has devoted to The Order national magazine over many years. This is Phil's last edition; June Kane AM will take over as National Editor January 2024.

Please stay safe, enjoy your upcoming festive season and take care of those who are special in your life.

SAVE THE DATES - 2024 VIC BRANCH EVENTS

Tuesday March 19 – 11.00am Inspiring Australians Oration at the Melbourne Town Hall
12.45pm Annual General Meeting sign in for 1.00pm start

Tuesday June 18 – 12noon Lunch with guest speaker at William Angliss Restaurant

Wednesday July 24 – 5.30pm Virtual Event with guest speaker

Thursday November 21 – End of Year Dinner at William Angliss Restaurant

Pharaoh Winter Masterpieces Introductory Talk and Exhibition at the National Gallery Victoria will be held on a Sunday in July or August, date to be confirmed.

Event invitations will be included in VIC Branch E-Newsletters during the year.

2023 CITY OF KINGSTON YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch South Central Suburbs Regional Committee was invited by the City of Kingston to present a Bursary to the 2023 Young Citizen of the Year at Platform 81, Mordialloc.

Jill Page OAM noted it was a great pleasure to represent the South Central Suburbs Regional Group to present an award bursary and certificate, and to meet all the inspirational young finalists.

The Young Citizen of the Year is Josie Thornton. Josie is in a Robotics class at Parkdale Secondary College and is passionate about developing others in the STEM system which covers academic disciplines such as science, engineering, mathematics, astronomy. She also plays a major leadership role in her school by assisting Year 7 students to transition into the school community. SCSRG is very enthusiastic to encourage and support the talented young achievers in our local communities being the Cities of Kingston, Glen Eira and Bayside.



Photo: L to R

Jill Page OAM, Josie Thornton Young Citizen of the Year, Lesley McGurgan OAM, City of Kingston Mayor Cr Hadi Saab

CITY OF BAYSIDE HOSTS ORDER OF AUSTRALIA RECIPIENTS

The City of Bayside hosted the South Central Suburbs Regional Group's Cocktail Party Reception to acknowledge and welcome the 2023 Australia Day and King's Birthday Order of Australia Honours and Awards recipients.

City of Bayside Mayor Cr Hanna El Mouallem and fellow councillors welcomed recipients to the Sandringham Yacht Club. A total of 54 residents from Bayside, Kingston and Glen Eira had received Honours Awards in recognition of their excellent achievements and fine contributions to their communities.

SCSRG Chairman Jill Page OAM on behalf of the South Central Suburbs Regional Group welcomed everyone, she thanked recipients who have already joined The Order of Australia Association and encourages others to join.

MERCHANDISE



Two new items have been added to our range.

Cap: premium soft cotton fabric with Velcro closure and comfortable sweatband.

Apron: Bib front with central front pocket side provision for pen and bottle opener.

Both are navy and unisex.

The models are OAA NSW Branch members from Illawarra Region. The Events Coordinator Di North OAM and the

Convenor Phil Thompson OAM at their local Bunnings marketing the Order of Australia Association including the importance of nominating locals who have gone above and beyond.

When ordering merchandise please use the current October 2023 order form.

Merchandise is also available online from the Order of Australia Association Merchandise Shop.

Website: www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart

THE VALUE OF AN ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

As a young person who had experienced adversity, I was enrolled at The Pavilion School, a school for young people excluded from education. Becoming the first to ever graduate VCE and attend university, I studied Law/ Arts (Politics) at La Trobe University because I wanted to make a difference in the lives of children let down by the legal and social systems around them. I took on roles to make my community a better place for young people, and this was a big part in my application for the 2018 Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship.

Before providing an update, I want to express thanks to the Foundation for recognising this, and believing in me. Receiving the scholarship marked a pivotal



and transformative moment in my life. It set me on a trajectory filled with opportunities and self-belief. It not only supported my studies financially, but provided me a mentorship with The Hon. Julia Gillard AC, which helped me see the bright possibilities that were ahead and deepened my already strong commitment to making a difference in the lives of young people experiencing adversity.

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 focused on improving access to justice, criminal law, impacts of punitive policing and the minimum age of criminal responsibility.

Whilst I haven't been home for long, I have taken on the role of co-chair for the Victorian Raise the Age Working Group for Change the Record. I've also 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. Daily, I work at the Centre for Multicultural Youth, coordinating responses to legal and welfare issues that arise in police station interviews with 10-17 year olds. The program supports young people to live a life away from crime.

Writer of this article Hannah Gandy will be one of the speakers at the OAA VIC Branch Inspiring Australians Oration on Tuesday March 19, 2024 at the Melbourne Town Hall.

Freemasons Victoria supported by Freemasons Victoria Foundation Ltd was the donor of Hannah's 2018 scholarship.

OAA Foundation Scholarships support the next generation of leaders by helping promising young Australians achieve their potential for the benefit of future generations of Australians. Please refer to the OAA Foundation website: www.oaafoundation.org.au for further information about other recipients.

THE GREATEST GIFT

Trevor Cohen AM Member of the Order of Australia QB 2019 recipient for significant service to the Jewish community, and to heritage preservation. Current Chairman - The Block Arcade Melbourne
There has never been a better time for writing family histories than right now.

Self-publishing has become a low-cost exercise that can produce very short print runs, and there are a number of services that, through computers searching data banks, can take the drudgery out of research.

The downside is that there are virtually no gatekeepers on writing, layout or production, meaning that most family histories end up for family consumption and little else, which is often the author's intention anyway. So no harm done.

In his foreword Professor Geoffrey Blainey AC describes the book as “exceptionally frank judged by the standards of most family histories” and he notes that Cohen presents “a story of friction as well as friendships” and encouraged its publication for a wider audience.

But you can forget all this when it comes to Trevor Cohen's 200-year account of where his family came from, beginning with arguably Dickensian characters in London who, by various routes, find their way to the rickety colonial towns of Sydney and Melbourne in the early 1800s. Like pieces of a jigsaw coming slowly into focus, alliances are formed, marriages made and businesses established – and not always successfully. Apart from the obvious application of hard work and mental agility, what

kept the Jewish immigrants resilient was their traditional adherence to Judaism and their unshakable belief in the envelopment of family.

The Greatest Gift (which the author considers is his ancestors' legacy to the current generation) is really two books in one. The first, and major part, comprises accounts of various family members' lives which, at the same time, colourfully illustrate the opportunities and difficulties of life in pre-federation Melbourne. The second part is a short auto-biography of the authors' life growing up in 1950s Melbourne suburban comfort but certainly not opulence. For the record, Trevor's father founded the Godfreys vacuum cleaner chain but didn't see the fruits of his labour until relatively late in life. After a career as a successful lawyer, Trevor turned his hand to real estate development and uncovered a prodigious skill. Its most visible manifestation was the 2014 purchase of Melbourne's Block Arcade and then fastidiously restoring it to where it has become one of Melbourne's most cherished and outstanding landmarks.

Apart from its storytelling, the book is notable for two other reasons. First it was written by Trevor Cohen himself - a feat made especially praiseworthy because he is not a professional writer, yet manages to appear so. And the second, the book's hard cover production is nothing short of artistic and practical perfection. I have never seen better.

Front cover photo left: Victoria House, Collins & Elizabeth St intersection, otherwise known as 'Cashmore's Corner' after the author's great-great Grandparents who were its first occupants from 1840.

One of the joys of Jewish writing is its underlying laconic humour – and this book is no exception - without meaning to be, I'd guess. One lengthy quotation that had me laughing out loud was from Vaiben Louis Solomon Junior's unpublished autobiography *No Taste for Accounting* where he recalls his reactions, as an eleven year old boy in 1908, to being sent to live with his religious grandparents. *My grandmother's ever advancing age, weight and respiratory obstructions were forcing a decision to move to a house without stairs. Even the kitchen chair available for relaxation and refreshment on the half-way landing ceased to provide the necessary stimulus for a spirited attack on the last lap.*

Book reviewed by Fraser Beath McEwing a school friend and professional book reviewer.

South Australia Branch

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Following on from our successful King's Birthday Luncheon, we held our fourth fellowship luncheon at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club in Adelaide with speaker Mark Bouchier OAM, and then our final luncheon meeting for the year with Mr David Linn OAM.

Our Regional Groups have continued to keep our regional members and other recipients engaged and informed.

On behalf of all of our members, I would like to congratulate all honours recipients announced in the 2023 King's Birthday Honours List.

I, and several of our members, represented the Association at a series of investiture ceremonies. Of note, we have developed a Branch-specific Order of Australia Association information brochure and, with the approval of Her Excellency, this was included in the information folder received by all new recipients. We had the opportunity to meet many of

these new awardees at our second New Recipients' Reception for the year on Monday 9 October.

Our Student Citizenship Awards Assessment and Selection Panel finalised its deliberations and selected the Top 10 ('With Distinction') nominees plus additional students who will receive a certificate and medallion. I would like to acknowledge and thank Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia, our Branch Patron, who has agreed to host an award ceremony and reception at Government House.

On behalf of all our members, I would also like to express my gratitude for those who have volunteered their time with the assessment and selection panel, and also with the presentation of certificates and medallions – your largely unseen efforts are greatly appreciated.

Finally, we will wrap up the year with our usual Christmas Morning Tea, where we will hear from Mrs Anne Bachmann OAM JP and Dr Rob Wight OAM.

On behalf of the Branch Committee and members of the SA Branch, I wish all a joyful Christmas and we send our best wishes for the new year.

Tony Metcalf OAM

SA Branch Chair

BRANCH COMMITTEE DETAILS:

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Office-holders and committee members

Patron

The Honourable Frances Adamson AC

Chairman

Tony Metcalf OAM

Deputy Chairman

Noel Hender OAM BEM

Secretary

John Phillips OAM

Treasurer

John Ziesing OAM

Member Secretary SA

Greg Gordon OAM JP

Student Citizenship Awards Convenor

Noel Hender OAM BEM

Regional Groups Coordinator

Ken Coventry OAM JP (co-opted)

Merchandise Officer

Kathryn House AM

Editor/Webmaster

Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP

Other committee members

Don Clark OAM

Joe Ienco OAM

Ted Iuliano OAM

Flavia de Pasquale OAM

Pamela Rajkowski OAM

Alternate Branch Nominated Director

Noel Hender OAM BEM

Website

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

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South East Regional Group

Eric Roughana AM

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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)

elaine@yp-connect.net

Maree Anderson OAM (Minlaton)

mareeanderson@internode.on.net

Eyre Peninsula Regional Group

chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

HONOURING THE FALLEN

A number of SA Branch members have been involved in some significant commemorative services in the last few months.

Korean War veteran John Jarrett AM, Group Captain Robert Black AM RFD (ret'd), Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Denny AM BM (ret'd) and Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM (ret'd) attended a Korean War service of commemoration at the South Australian National War Memorial on North Terrace on Thursday 27 July. This service acknowledged the 70th anniversary of the signing of the 'Korean Armistice Agreement' which brought fighting to an end in the Korean War.

On Friday 18 August, several members joined military veterans and families at a service of commemoration at the Vietnam War Memorial at Torrens Parade Ground, conducted by a group of veteran organisations in partnership with the South Australian Vietnamese community. The service acknowledged the 50th anniversary of the proclamation to end Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. This commemoration honoured those who lost their lives, and also those who served and the families that support them.

Meanwhile, three important events marked Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day. The SA/NT Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc hosted a Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service of commemoration in the West Torrens War Memorial Gardens in Adelaide on Friday 11 August. This service acknowledged the 57th anniversary of the signing of the Malaysia-Indonesia Peace Agreement or 'Jakarta Accord' at Istana Merdeka in Jakarta in Indonesia on 11 August 1966, which brought to a close the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia.

Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia and SA/NT Branch NMBVAA Patron, and Mr Rod Buntten were guests of honour and placed the first tribute. Other Order of Australia recipients in attendance were Group Captain Robert Black AM RFD (ret'd), Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Denny AM BM (ret'd), Lieutenant-Colonel John Spencer OAM RFD (ret'd), Mrs Jenny Macintosh OAM, and Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM (ret'd), the SA/NT Branch President who hosted the service.

The SA/NT Branch NMBVAA then conducted a special service in Kuching, Sarawak in Malaysia on Monday 28 August 2023. Order of Australia recipients in attendance were Major

Paul Rosenzweig OAM (ret'd) who ran the ceremony; Lieutenant-Colonel John Spencer OAM RFD (ret'd); Mr Rod Lees OAM (Military Division); Datuk Dr Philip Ting AM PGBK (Honorary Australian Consul to Sarawak); and Dato Lim Kian Hock OAM PSBS (former Heritage Adviser, Sarawak Tourism Federation).

At that time, the South Australian Governor was conducting an official visit to Malaysia to promote South Australian educational, trade, and energy opportunities, and to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Sister City relationship between Adelaide and George Town, the capital city of Penang. On Wednesday 30 August, Her Excellency visited the Penang (Western Road) Cemetery and laid a wreath in honour of Malaya and Borneo Veterans Day.



Korean War veteran John Jarrett AM (left): John served overseas from 30 May 1953 until the Armistice on 27 July 1953, and then continued serving in South Korea until 14 August 1954. John was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia, “For significant service to community health, and to veterans and their families” (AD23) through the Korea & South East Asian Forces Association, and was among the guests at the SA Branch New Recipients’ Reception on Monday 1 May.

STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

The Student Citizenship Awards program is conducted annually as the flagship program of the SA Branch. We present awards to year 11 and/or 12 students who have been nominated by their schools to acknowledge the outstanding voluntary service and contributions given by the student for their school and/or local communities.

At a meeting of the Assessment and Selection Panel on 8 August, the following Top 10 students were identified to receive a 'With Distinction' award:

Aden Croser, Cardijn College

Jessica Grasser, University Senior College

Jack Haddad, Rostrevor College

Jesse Isaac, Endeavour College

Rogayah Hani Abul Khair, IQRA Islamic College

Efthemia Kipirtoglou, Immanuel College

Zoe Lin, Temple Christian College

Alexandra Meneses, Cardijn College

Thomas Oxford, Parafield Gardens High School

Nikki Pfitzner, Berri Regional Secondary College

These students will be presented to Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia and Patron of the Order of Australia Association SA Branch, at a special reception at Government House in November.

Each will receive a 'With Distinction' certificate signed by Her Excellency and the SA Branch Chairman Mr Tony Metcalf OAM, as well as a Student Citizenship Award medallion mounted on an engraved wooden plaque. After presenting awards to the Top 10, Her Excellency will announce the 2023 South Australian Student Citizen of the Year.

We heartily congratulate these students on being selected for this well-deserved award.

A further 29 students – 20 of which were rated as ‘Highly Commended’ – will receive a framed signed certificate and a cased medallion from a Branch member at a presentation, usually in front of parents and peers at their respective school or college.

The SA Branch is delighted that the initiative of including a medallion with each award has been made possible through a generous donation from one of our members, Mr Keith ‘Chook’ Fowler OAM.

A total of 30 schools were represented this year, with a total of 39 nominations. A school Certificate of Appreciation, acknowledging those schools who have participated for the first time, will be awarded to IQRA College, Parafield Gardens High Schools, Playford College and Pembroke College.

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

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEONS

Our speaker for the August luncheon meeting was Mr Mark Bourchier OAM, Director of Philanthropy at Pulteney Grammar School, and an Executive Member of the Pulteney Foundation. Mark received the Medal of the Order of Australia, “*For service to the community of South Australia*” (AD20).

Mark’s topic was: “The Centenary of Legacy ANZAC Commemorative Tour, April 2023”. Mark has had a substantial involvement with the Legacy Club of South Australia and Broken Hill, as Chairman of the South Australian Badge Day Appeal since 2008, Board Chairman (2015-19) and President (2016-17). He is currently serving on the National Board of Legacy Australia, and is chair of the National Marketing Group.

Since 2001, Mark has been a Consultant with Botanica Horticultural Consultants. He is a former committee member of the South Australian Association of Nurserymen, and was a Board Member of the Horticultural Media Association of South Australia (1993-97) and Chairman in 1996. In 2016, Mark was appointed a Knight in the Sovereign Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem.

Our guest speaker for the October Fellowship luncheon meeting was Mr David Linn OAM, on the topic, “Books for Lesotho – a Nation Building Project”.

David had a diverse career following his graduation from the University of Adelaide with a degree in Civil Engineering. In his final 19 years of work, he and his wife Liz owned a small business in the service industry, which included work with several of our northern neighbouring countries.

For his service on the Board of the Australian Refugee Association for 26 years, including 13 years as President, he was announced as Senior Volunteer in the Governor’s Multicultural Awards 2014, and he received the Medal of the Order of Australia, “*For service to the community through refugee support organisations*” (AD17).

David and his wife Liz started Books for Lesotho Inc (‘B4L’) as a private initiative in 2007. They worked to establish libraries in primary and secondary schools in Lesotho with the support of many local individuals and service groups. The organisation was incorporated in 2016. David is now Chairman of the Board of B4L.

EVENTS

In our second New Recipients’ Reception for the year, held at Payneham Library on Monday 9 October, we acknowledged 20 new recipients announced in the 2023 King’s Birthday Honours List. Our guest speaker was Associate Professor Tony Phillips AM, who was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia, “*For significant service to optometry, and to professional optical societies*” (QB21). Tony came to Adelaide in 1982 as a member of a team developing the world’s first disposable contact lens, and became Principal Optometrist in the Medical Contact Lens Unit at Flinders Medical Centre. He has moved between academia, hospital work and private practice, has authored more than 50 scientific papers, and is a Churchill Fellow (1992).

The Riverland and Mallee Regional Group held their half-yearly meeting in the Loxton Club in Loxton on Friday 29 September. Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM, Cheryl Metcalf, Regional Groups Coordinator Ken Coventry OAM JP and Di Coventry were in attendance. The guest speaker was Bill Ebert OAM, the older brother of the late football legend Russell Ebert OAM. Bill shared his life story and the aspects that contributed towards his recognition through the

Order of Australia. Bill was awarded the OAM, “For service to the community of Loxton” (AD16). Members present expressed their great appreciation for his service to others.

The Yorke Peninsula Regional Group held their half-yearly luncheon meeting at the Ardrossan Hotel/Motel in Ardrossan on Sunday 22 October. The Fleurieu Regional Group held its luncheon meeting on Friday 3 November.

Regional Groups Coordinator Ken Coventry OAM JP is pursuing an opportunity to establish a regional group for the Eyre Peninsula, and intends holding a luncheon at the Grand Tasman Hotel in Port Lincoln on 17 November to gauge interest.

We will be holding our Branch Christmas Morning Tea on Friday 1 December. There will be an entertainment interlude by Dr Rob Wight OAM. Our Guest Speaker will be Mrs Anne Bachmann OAM JP on the topic, “Making our courts and prisons kinder”. Anne was appointed Special Advisor to the Adelaide Women’s Prison in 2013, but had been serving as a volunteer mentor since 1987. Anne was awarded the Department for Correctional Services Meritorious Service Medal in 2014: *“For outstanding contribution and dedication to the Department for Correctional Services and the special needs of women in custody”*.

Upcoming SA Branch activities:

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

Saturday 20 January 2024: ‘Celebration of Australia Day’ luncheon with guest speaker Dr Tony Cocchiaro AM MBBS FRACGP.

Friday 23 February 2024: South East Regional Group meeting

Saturday 2 March 2024: SA Branch Annual General Meeting

Tasmania Branch

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

After one of the largest number of awardees announced by the Governor-General, the Branch hosted what is possibly the largest number of attendees to an Investiture Lunch. Held on the same day as the morning and afternoon King's Birthday Investitures at Government House, 141 awardees with their family and friends joined members for the memorable day. The Association was pleased to welcome and congratulate many of the 36 awardees of whom some have already joined the Association. As always, the diversity of backgrounds, activities, dedication and achievements of awardees are amazing.

It seems a long way out but initial planning for the Branch Annual General Meeting has commenced. I am very pleased to say that the National President, the Hon Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO has agreed to address the meeting that will be conducted using Zoom. At the AGM it is hoped that all vacancies will be filled so members are asked to consider supporting the Association.

One casual Branch vacancy has been filled in the meantime by Belinda Hazel OAM who I am also delighted to say has filled the important role as Southern Regional Group Co-ordinator. We welcome Belinda who was awarded the Medal on Australia Day 2022 for service to primary industry. She was awarded a Churchill Fellowship and has led with assisting women in agriculture in a number of key leadership positions.

Remember to check the Association website for upcoming events in your area.

Alastair Douglas OAM
Branch Chairman

BRANCH COMMITTEE DETAILS:

TASMANIAN BRANCH
OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE
MEMBERS

Patron

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

Branch Chairman

Mr Alastair Douglas OAM
(P: 0418 127 897)

Hon Secretary

Mrs Beatrice Lawrence OAM

Hon Treasurer

Mr Ron Blake OAM

National Board Director

Dr Rosemary Callingham AM

Branch Committee

Mr Neville Bingham AFSM OAM

Dr Nicholas Chantler AM
Mr Barry Easter OAM
Mrs Belinda Hazell OAM
Dr Peter Holm OAM
Dr Frank Madill AM
Dr George Merridew AM
Mrs Maureen Oates OAM

Regional Convenors

South

Mrs Belinda Hazell OAM

North

Dr George Merridew AM

North West

Mr Graeme Milburn AM

MICHAEL WALSH AM

Michael Walsh AM was recognised in the Australia Day Honours in 2023 for his significant service to the Anglican Church of Australia, and to the community of Tasmania.

Michael grew up in Launceston and after deciding he didn't want to be a science teacher, started legal studies and was admitted to the Bar in 1967.

During his student days he joined the Young Liberal Movement and soon became involved in the politics of the day. This interest continued for many years resulting him becoming the State President and Life Member of the Young Liberal Movement. Later, Michael served as a State Vice President of the Liberal Party for six years.

Michael and Roslyn met in the mid 1960's and were married in 1967. Since then, they have raised three sons and five grandchildren.

Michael was recognised in the Australia Day Honours in 2023 for significant service to the Anglican Church of Australia, and to the community of Tasmania.

Michael joined a fledgling legal firm in Ulverstone in 1967. As the firm expanded over the years Michael was able to specialise in Civil Litigation which continued until he retired. During his legal career Michael was appointed a Coroner, a Justice of the Peace and a Commissioner of the Supreme Court.

Michael joined the Ulverstone Apex Club in 1967 and has held continuous Apex and later Lions Club membership from then to date. Both Apex and Lions focus on service to the community and this emphasis has influenced Michael to be involved in many organisations over the years where his professional skills were helpful.

Michael's involvement with Lions continues. He was District Governor in 2016/17 and has been District Constitutional & By Laws Chairman on six occasions. He is also a Melvin Jones Fellow and a Life Member.

Roslyn & Michael have always been active Anglicans. In addition to taking part in the worship aspect of church life, Michael was a Diocesan delegate to the General Synod of the church for 15 years as well as being a member of the Synod of the Tasmanian Diocesan for 21 years and the

Diocesan Council for 15 years. Michael was asked to join the Board of Anglicare Tas Inc which he did for 13 years including a term as Board Chair. During this time, he nurtured the expansion of Anglicare's programs to the North and North West Coast. He was made a life member in 2005.

Michael joined the Board of Roland Childrens Homes in 1992 and was the Board Chair from 2004 until 2018.

One of Michael's interests is corporate and organisational governance. In 2010 he was invited to join the Board of Launceston City Mission Inc where he established a governance protocol. He also served as Board Chair and was able to promote the expansion of the mission's services to the North West Coast.

When the Skillshare and CYSS programs were established in the 1970's Michael became a founding Board Member and long serving Board Chair of Leven Training Centre Inc which operated the Skillshare and CYSS programs in Central Coast until 2009.

In 2008 Michael was asked to join the Board of Community Connections Inc which, after a merger became Youth & Family Focus and Community Connections Inc. He was awarded Life Membership in 2015.

In 2013 Michael was appointed the inaugural Board Chair of Cradle Coast Innovation Inc and served on the Board until 2020.

Michael richly deserves his AM Award for his dedication to serving others through his wide commitment across so many aspects of the community.

Queensland Branch

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mrs Ronda L. Nix OAM

chairqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

September was a particularly busy month for our Branch. On the 7th September our Sunshine Coast Regional Convener, Marjorie Voss OAM hosted a lunch for members at the Caloundra Power Boat Club, where I presented her with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the Branch to celebrate her 90th birthday. On 14th September I travelled to Cairns for a Reception for new recipients in the FNQ Region hosted by the Mayor of Cairns Regional Council, Cr Bob Manning OAM. Then on 21 September the new Gold Coast Regional Group Convener, Sandra Doumany OAM, organised a well-attended Lunch for members at the Sanctuary Cove Golf Club where I addressed those present. As well as these regional events, the Investiture Ceremonies for the King's Birthday recipients were held at Government House from 11-14 September, and each ceremony was attended by a representative from the Branch Committee. We then held our annual Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards ceremony at Parliament House on the 15th of September.

It was pleasing to finally be able to welcome a number of our 2023 recipients, both in the Australia Day and King's Birthday Honours Lists, at a combined Welcome Lunch in Brisbane on October 11. The Welcome Lunch was a very happy occasion enjoyed by all present.

The Branch Committee is planning a bus trip for members late in November to Whyte Island at the Port of Brisbane for a tour of the Combined Emergency Services Academy which provides special training for members of both the Fire and Ambulances services to be first responders prepared for any and all emergency situations that may arise. This is something the general public does not get to see, so we are privileged to be allowed this opportunity.

In conclusion, a big thank you to our Awards & Metro Events Coordinator Geoffrey Cowles for all the work he does to make the Branch events happen and also to our wonderful Regional Group Conveners who provide fellowship to our county members at functions throughout our vast decentralised state.

BRANCH COMMITTEE DETAILS:

OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

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

Chair

Ronda Nix OAM
Tel-0409 615 514

Deputy Chair

Dr Mick Davis AM ASM
Membership Officer

Secretary

Robyn Porter OAM
Tel-0407 223 600

Treasurer

Dr Dennis Young AM

National Board Director

Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ.

Committee Members

Graham Hyde OAM
Qld Branch Editor -*The Order*

Paula Penfold AM
Governance/Policy Review Officer

Darryl Secombe OAM
Regional Groups Coordinator

Marjorie Voss OAM
Protocol Officer & Regional Convener Sunshine Coast

Geoffrey Cowles OAM
Awards & Metro Events Coordinator

Kelvin Brown OAM
Assistant Merchandise Officer

Irene Cayas OAM
Multicultural & Diversity Officer

Co-opted Members

Kathy Wooldridge OAM
Merchandise Officer

Dr Carol Cox AM
Assistant Secretary

All correspondence to:

Robyn Porter-Secretary

Email- secqldoaa@inet.net.au

REGIONAL GROUP CONVENERS DETAILS:

Central Queensland: Dr Wallace Taylor OAM

Darling Downs: Megan McNicholl OAM

Far North Queensland: John Hardy OAM

Gold Coast: Sandra Doumany OAM new

Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday: Carmel Daveson AM

Sunshine Coast: Marjorie Voss OAM

Townsville: David Jackson OAM

Wide Bay Burnett: Judy Peters OAM

SHE DID IT HER WAY

On Saturday 26 August 6 Committee members and their partners of the Qld Branch gathered at the Kedron Wavell Services Club to join the 100 family and friends to celebrate the 90th Birthday of our Sunshine Coast Regional Convener Marjorie Voss OAM.

Following light refreshments and drinks the sounds of music from the 7 'Von Voss' grand-children (some of whom are trained professional singers) filled the Kittykawk Room with 5 songs from the early genre of Marjorie's life. That set the scene for a three-hour trip down memory lane.

The Master of Ceremonies Gary (the least favourite son or so he claimed) invited us to enjoy each-others' company over lunch.

Then we had more 5 more sounds from the 'Von Voss' singers again changing the genre and one could actually hear a few voices from the visitors joining in.

What followed was a kaleidoscope of photos of Marjorie's 90 years of life: birth, early school years, Miss Secretary, the Deb Ball, time in Sea Rangers (some serious and party stuff), Marj on the stage, Marj in a Fashion Parade (or 2or 3) including the 'High Heels', the engagement to Royce, their marriage day at Christ Church Bundaberg, and then the family photos of each child, their marriages, and their children and then their children's children (whew) and Mrs Tupperware.

We then followed Marg's life outside the family; Brownie Pack Leader and being awarded the EMU award for conspicuous service to guiding, teachers aide at Ironside Kindergarten, service National and State level in the Mother's Union over a 60 year period, Committee member of the Qld Branch of The Order of Australia Association and Sunshine Coast Regional Convener, Liturgical Assistant within the Anglican Diocese of Southern Queensland, active member of the National Council of Women Queensland. All this work did not go un-noticed and she was awarded a Medal in the Order of Australia on 9 June 2014 'For service to women, and to youth through the Guiding movement'.

Eventually as time moved on we saw the travel guide: Round Australia Cruise, Vanuatu, the Caribbean, Europe, USA, United Kingdom and also locally, Longreach, Tasmania, the Kimberleys and some places I can't remember.

Not be left out young Royce provided us with details of their early courting days noting his earliest memories of Marj 'as a tall slim attractive young lady neatly dressed in her office attire of white blouse, dark skirt , stockings and high heeled shoes and their 68 years of marriage noting that whilst they both have aged 'Marj still looks pretty good in a white blouse, dark skirt , stockings and high heeled shoes',

Sweets and the cutting of the Cake was followed by the return of the 'Von Voss' choir to provide the last bracket of 5 songs which had a lot of us singing and some dancing (the host included in high heels).

The final song was a rendition of 'My Way' with slight change to the last verse.

For what is Grandma, look what she's got,
She has all this, and that's a lot.
She says the things, she truly feels.

And does it all while wearing heels.
Let the record show, that we all know.
She does it her way

Marj closed the event by singing 'Yes it was, my way'

Graham Hyde OAM

OUTSTANDING STUDENT CITIZENSHIP ON DISPLAY AT THE 24TH ANNUAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

The Honourable Paul de Jersey AC CVO KC, the former (26th) Governor of Queensland presented the Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards at the 24th annual Awards Presentation Ceremony in the Premiers' Hall of Queensland's Parliament House on Friday 15 September 2023. We thank Mr de Jersey for his keen support of our awards programme over many years and for his address to the gathering on the value of citizenship and community service. This was the sixth occasion that Mr de Jersey has presented these awards, the previous five times as our Governor.

We had an excellent response from 59 schools comprising both state high schools and private colleges from across Queensland. These schools nominated 94 worthy secondary school students for the award this year. There were 20 more nominations than last year, which was very pleasing.

Awards were presented to twelve 'year 12' school students, recognised for their selfless community service in helping others and promoting true Australian citizenship. The acceptance speeches from the students were inspirational and the students brought great credit to the schools they represented. Three schools, (St Stephen's Catholic College, Mareeba; Bowen State High School, Bowen; and Coombabah State High School, Gold Coast) enjoyed success for the first time with their award winning students.

Music was provided during the Presentation Ceremony by the Cleveland District State High School Chamber Strings. Their rendition of "*Pride of the Highlands*" by Katie O'Hara LaBrie was quite outstanding and very memorable.

One hundred and fifty guests including students and their families, school principals and representatives, State Members of Parliament and seventeen members of the Association attended.

The Queensland Branch of the Association thanks Mr Tim Fairfax AC for his continued support and sponsorship of the awards programme over a number of years.

Geoff Cowles OAM

SHELTER COLLECTIVE PROJECT ROCKHAMPTON



(l-r) Graeme Brady OAM, Grant Cassidy OAM, Dr Wallace Taylor OAM, Dave Grenfell OAM, Ree Grenfell and Kara Krehlik Principal RGGGS. (Pic Peter Lynch, CQToday)

The Central Qld Region lunch held at the Frenchville Sports Club, Rockhampton on 9 October was attended by 58 members and community representatives. This included 8 senior student representatives from 4 local High Schools. The guest speaker David Grenfell OAM outlined the success of the ‘Shelter Collective’ project (<https://thesheltercollective.com.au/>) which is aimed at helping to address the increasingly large homeless problem in Central Qld.

The Shelter Collective has to date been able to raise \$1.6 M in cash and in-kind donations through the community, local businesses, schools and volunteer organisations to refurbish 10 unoccupied single bedroom homes for homeless women over 55. Known as the ARC-20 project, this part of the Shelter Collective’s 4 projects has been initiated and will be completed within 6 months of the construction commencement and 12 months of the Shelter Collective formation, without government assistance.

The 10 Cottages will be managed through Anglicare who will allocate the cottages to the women over 55 in need. Tenants needing employment will be offered training through Apprenticeship & Training Qld leading to subsequent employment in aged care. There has also been two young men employed as carpentry apprentices on the ARC-20 Project, working with the team completing the current renovations. The presentation inspired an engaged question and answer session with the audience, particularly with the Year 12 students who demonstrated a very keen interest in becoming involved. The meeting has inspired two requests for information on nomination processes for Australian Awards

Dr Wal Taylor OAM

Central Queensland Convener

CELEBRATIONS FOR MEMBERS AT SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL LUNCH

With a marvellous view of the Pumicestone Passage, 63 members and guests gathered in September for lunch and celebrations at the Caloundra Power Boat Club and to be informed by our Guest Speaker Robert (Bob) Reid AM.

Robert spoke of his work for the United Nations in the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and its successor the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals which spanned the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and the Rwanda Genocide. From 2008 until he retirement in 2020 he was Chief of Operations to the Chief Prosecutor.

The celebrations were for the 100th birthday of long-time member Allan Quartermaine OAM and the 90th birthday of the Region Convenor Marjorie Voss OAM. A fitting tribute was given to Allan by his long-time friend Colin Brewer AM. Colin spoke on Allan's earlier life and his service to his Country and of his ongoing commitment in his civilian life to the communities to which his role as a Bank Manager took him. He also spoke of Allan's ongoing commitment to Legacy and the fact that he was one of the bearers of the Legacy Torch as it passed through the Sunshine Coast in June this year. Allan was presented with a plaque by Branch Chairman Ronda Nix OAM and Region Convenor Marjorie Voss OAM. He and Marjorie then blew out the candles and cut the beautifully decorated Birthday Cake. Marjorie was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers from the Branch Committee.

We were also delighted to welcome a further seven awardees in the 2023 Order of Australia Honours. Dr Kirstin Ferguson AM; Mrs Linda Vann OAM; Mr. Edward Vann OAM; Mr Martin O'Shannesey AM; Mrs Judith Bandidt OAM; Mr. Milton Bartlett AM; Ms Michelle Lipner OAM. It is always a pleasure to welcome our new awardees to Regional events to involve them in the fun and fellowship enjoyed by our Regional members.

Marjorie Voss OAM

Sunshine Coast Regional Group Convener

New South Wales Branch

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We welcome the many new members of the New South Wales Branch and long may you benefit from meeting a multitude of inspiring Australians, like you, who have made a huge difference to Australia's social history and well beyond. There are so many other benefits to be gained such as receiving "The Order", attending our Branch Regional gatherings, access to our member purchasing offerings, and general connecting with like minded people.

August, September and October have been very busy and rewarding months for the NSW Branch with: -

Our representation at each of the eleven Investiture Ceremonies for our latest Order of Australia Kings Birthday Awardees at Government House.

The presentation at Government House for this year's twenty-six Youth Community Service awardees from across NSW's 960 Catholic, Government and Independent High Schools.

Branch regional functions with the Branch Chair, the Regional Groups Coordinator and Treasurer sharing the attendance in Alstonville, Bega, Bathurst, Cardiff, Dubbo, Illawarra, Mittagong, Moree, Nowra and Port Macquarie. By the time this issue of "The Order" goes to our members, we will also have held our New Awardees Welcome luncheon in the Strangers Dining Room of NSW Parliament House, many of whom have already joined the Association. We are awaiting details for the Riverina and Lower Blue Mountains Regions.

Our 2025 National Conference Planning Committee has had two day-long meetings and the proposed theme is "Celebrate. Motivate. Nominate." Associate Professor Dr John Gullotta AM is the Committee Chair.

Adopted our 2023-2025 Branch Strategic Plan which includes establishing an advisory group of under sixty years old members to address how we can "youthify" our membership. Many of these members are in full-time employment and need to influence activities that interest them and are time better for their involvement as well as identify and nominate younger Australians for an Order of Australia award.

Shortly, we will be sharing details of our Christmas-time Sydney based luncheon, the Australia Day Cruise and 2024 proposed activities of the Branch and its fourteen regions. Our Annual Branch General Meeting will be held in March and there will be opportunities to nominate for membership of the Branch Committee as one third will be stepping down, including myself as my term will finish at that meeting.

I also encourage your attendance at the Perth 2024 National Conference whereat we will be promoting the Sydney based 2025 National Conference.

Please be involved.

MEET OUR MEMBERS - DR ANDY KUPER AO

It has been just a year since I was welcomed warmly into your community of members. I thought to share a recent milestone that may be relevant to the Order of Australia Association.

I met with both King Charles III and US President Joe Biden in July at Windsor Castle. I was one of 20 global CEOs and Chairs, along with the President of COP28, invited to meet with them during their summit. Prior to the meeting, US Special Envoy on Climate John Kerry and UK Secretary of State for Energy and Net Zero, Grant Shapps, convened the UK-US Climate Finance Mobilisation Forum. We discussed, as a group and then with the King and President individually, ways to raise and deploy hundreds of billions of dollars for climate solutions in emerging and developing markets.

We also announced my firm LeapFrog Investments' plan to invest \$500m USD / \$750m AUD in companies providing green tools and technologies to emerging consumers. We will back companies providing solutions in distributed energy, electric transport, built environment as well as food and agriculture – in countries such as India, Indonesia and Nigeria, that contain most of the world's people. For example, our company Sun King, which started out of Kenya, is already the largest pay-as-you-go solar financier in the world, replacing millions of unhealthy kerosene lanterns with safe home energy systems.

Overall, LeapFrog's investors' capital will empower 50 million low-income people to adapt to and mitigate against climate change.

Below are pictures from the event (these are candid snaps with the King and President as we spoke), and some links, which may be of interest to OAA Members.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/07/10/joint-fact-sheet-president-biden-and-his-majesty-king-charles-iii-meet-with-leading-philanthropists-and-financiers-to-catalyze-climate-finance/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-us-to-rally-efforts-to-help-developing-nations-tackle-climate-change>

<https://impact-investor.com/leapfrog-commits-500m-to-accelerate-green-transition-in-africa-and-asia/>

Warm regards,

Dr Andy Kuper AO

NT BRANCH



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE.

In March this year at the AGM the OAA NT branch launched a new initiative honouring the contribution of senior members to the Northern Territory, which has been received with enthusiasm by our members. At the AGM the Hon Austin Asche AC KStJ KC was recognised with an inspiring speech delivered by Richard Ryan AO, as reported in the last Order. At the annual dinner in August both Earl James AM and Wendy James OAM were honoured with the oration delivered by OAA President Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO. In October we attended a function hosted by the Lord Mayor of Darwin Kon Vatskalis. This third members' function in 2023 revived an annual event at Council chambers not held since 2018, and Ted Egan AO was the honoured Territorian.

Egan AO was the honoured Territorian.

EVENTS

The Annual Dinner on August 8 was attended by over 60 members. The evening's tribute was to Earl James AM and his wife Wendy OAM, for their exuberant and illustrious contribution to life in Darwin over 80 years, a time that included the Second World War and the dramatic evacuation of Wendy and her family. Earl entered the Northern Territory's surveying industry in 1952. His projects included the Liquefied Gas Plant at Wickham Point, the Darwin Waterfront redevelopment, and research of the remains of the Overland Telegraph Line, about which Earl wrote a book – *Rediscovering the Overland Telegraph Line*. Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO, provided an inspiring narrative, after which Earl and Wendy received flowers and Certificates of Appreciation from the Order of Australia Association NT.

*Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO, Wendy James OAM,
Alan James OAM, and Earl James AM*

On October 19 the right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Darwin the Hon Kon Vatskalis gave a reception for our Chapter at the Civic Centre. He made a very warm speech about his delight at the reinstatement of this event.

Again, the focus of the evening was a tribute to a distinguished senior Territorian - Ted Egan AO, Administrator of the Northern Territory from 2003-2007. Ted (91), present with his partner Nerys Evans, was honoured in a biographical panegyric by long-time colleague Earl James AM (92) and those present became increasingly aware of the historical significance of this semi-formal social event.

Ted Egan's status and achievements are well known - already an AM, he was promoted to an Officer of the Order (AO) in 2004 as acknowledgement of "the significance of his continuing contribution to the community culminating in his being sworn in as the 18th Administrator of the Northern Territory". Ted Egan is listed among the "Australia's National Living Treasures" by the National Trust of Australia.

But Earl James' tribute was very special - personal, detailed, and full of interesting anecdotes and uniquely Territorian insights. Those present felt moved and privileged to hear about Ted while he was in the room, from a distinguished member of the Darwin community. Ted himself treated the guests to one of his songs – *The Paragon Café*, and was then presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Alan James OAM, Chair of the NT Chapter.

