

## **The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch**

**Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia**

# **STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS**

## **Special Edition**



### **'WITH DISTINCTION' – THE 2023 TOP 10 STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS** **Government House Adelaide, Monday 27 November 2023**

Left to right: Efthemia Kipirtoglou, Immanuel College; Nikki Pfitzner, Berri Regional Secondary College; Rogayah Hani Abul Khair, IQRA Islamic College; Jesse Isaac, Endeavour College; Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia; Mr Rod Bunten; Thomas Oxford, Parafield Gardens High School (2023 Student Citizen of the Year); Jack Haddad, Rostrevor College; Zoe Lin, Temple Christian College; Aden Croser, Cardijn College; Alexandra Meneses, Cardijn College; Jessica Grasser, University Senior College.

### **ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION, South Australia Branch**

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

## STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS 2023

### STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

Monday 27 November 2023

In an award ceremony held at Government House, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia and SA Branch Patron, presented 'With Distinction' plaques to the Top 10 students in the Order of Australia Association SA Branch Student Citizenship Awards.

Her Excellency then announced **Thomas Oxford** from Parafield Gardens High School as the 2023 South Australian Student Citizen of the Year. Thomas has kindly agreed to be guest speaker at our AGM in March.

For more information on the awards program, refer to the Order of Australia Association website:

<https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/sa/school-awards/>



*Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC*



*Mr Tony Metcalf OAM, SA Branch Chairman*

On behalf of the Branch Committee and all members of the SA Branch, Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM extends his congratulations to the following nominees who have been announced as the Top 10 students in the Order of Australia Association SA Branch Student Citizenship Awards for 2023. For images refer here (CTL + Click):

### [Student Citizenship Awards 2023](#)



#### **Aden Croser**

Cardijn College

*Aden, as a College Captain and in earlier roles, demonstrates excellent leadership, values and citizenship.*

*He drew on his organisational, management and communication skills to bring together the many activities and initiatives of Anthon Day, and to have been the spearhead for the Lunchtime Activities program.*

*Social justice is the basis for Aden's passion to help the disadvantaged.*



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### Jessica Grasser

University Senior College

*Jessica has been an exceptionally active, relentless and leading member in several community and youth run organisations in addition to being heavily involved in College and student driven events.*

*Jessica has been an inspiration through her selfless concern for the well-being of disadvantaged others in need, and through her tireless advocacy, awareness raising and dedicated fundraising efforts.*



### Jack Haddad

Rostrevor College

*Jack is a highly valued member of the college community. His involvement in whole-of-school activities include the Bullying No Way campaign, Reconciliation Week, Blue Bin clothing donation and Winter Sleepout Organisation.*

*As Prefect – Social Justice, he leads by example, assisting staff and nurturing the Junior School through a buddy/mentoring program with younger students.*

*Jack is highly organised with strong and effective communications skills, making a positive contribution towards the disadvantaged.*



### Jesse Isaac

Endeavour College

*Jesse displays a high degree of integrity, responsibility and ambition in all aspects of his life. As a College Captain, Jesse ensures the needs and wellbeing of his fellow students are met and encourages them to make the most of opportunities available.*

*As a Cadet Under Officer in the Australian Air Force Cadets, he mentors and guides junior cadets and also ensures the smooth running and constant development of his Squadron.*

*As a Premier League Hockey Umpire, Jesse mentors junior and senior members of his hockey club who aspire to be an umpire.*

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### **Rogayah Hani Abul Khair**

IQRA Islamic College

*As 2023 School Captain, Rogayah has shown exceptional leadership and served as a positive role model both for her peers at the College and for the wider community.*

*Through her enthusiastic participation, Rogayah demonstrates her dedication to assisting those in need by willingly volunteering in initiatives which include feeding the needy and homeless, providing free tutoring services to disadvantaged young people and in advancing sustainable and eco-supportive practices.*



### **Efthemia Kipirtoglou**

Immanuel College

*Mia's contribution to the school through spiritual and wellbeing committees, music and as School Captain demonstrates excellent leadership.*

*Coupled with organising and communication skills and a concern for others, in particular her volunteering with Surfing for the Disabled and her work in the Northern Territory with homeless and indigenous people, her contributions are indicative of good citizenship.*



### **Zoe Lin**

Temple Christian College  
(Mile End Campus)

*Zoe is an exceptional young woman with a heart for service and a great energy and enthusiasm to help others.*

*She has received numerous school awards for her care and mentoring of fellow students, is active in the Student Service Council, and is a prefect, sports captain and musician.*

*Her skills in organisation and communication enable and facilitate students to participate in Beyond Blue, RUOK, and the Care Group.*



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### Alexandra Meneses

Cardijn College

*Alexandra has contributed in many ways to her school community. She applies herself enthusiastically, striving to leave a positive imprint through leadership and citizenship.*

*Her concern for social issues and working with organisations that contribute to the betterment of the community demonstrates an interest in the well-being of her fellow students and those less fortunate members of our society.*



### Thomas Oxford

Parafield Gardens High School

*Showing exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment in driving significant initiatives across the school, Thomas has been instrumental in implementing several projects that have brought great benefits to the school and wider community.*

*His consistent dedication and proactive approach to the development and sustainability of the environment engages and inspires others to become agents of change and to deliver successful programs such as the school's recycling bin program, the Clean-up Australia Day activities and many other environmentally friendly activities.*



### Nikki Pfitzner

Berri Regional Secondary College

*Nikki consistently demonstrates skills in organisation, management and communication throughout her various roles.*

*Her ability to effectively coordinate projects, and engage with others, showcases her as a capable and reliable leader within the school and wider community.*

*Her involvement in various environmental projects and community initiatives reflects her passion for contributing to the development and sustainability of her community.*

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*Thomas Oxford with the Honourable Blair Boyer MP, Minister for Education, Training and Skills.*

### STUDENT CITIZEN OF THE YEAR Thomas Oxford

*Showing exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment in driving significant initiatives across the school, Thomas has been instrumental in implementing several projects that have brought great benefits to the school and wider community.*

*His consistent dedication and proactive approach to the development and sustainability of the environment engages and inspires others to become agents of change and to deliver successful programs such as the school's recycling bin program, the Clean-up Australia Day activities and many other environmentally friendly activities.*



We acknowledge the generous support of AH Trophies in Cumberland Park – “The Trophy Shop”  
<https://ahtrophies.com.au/>

### Vacancy – SCA Assessment and Selection Panel

Are you interested in the SA Branch Student Citizenship Awards and feel like making a contribution?

Perhaps you might consider joining the Assessment and Selection Panel? There is currently a vacancy for a new member to join the panel in 2024. Experience in the education sector is helpful but not a mandatory requirement. You must however have access to email. Please contact Mr Noel Hender OAM BEM for more information:

[sca.sabranh@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:sca.sabranh@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)



## The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch

### SA BRANCH NEWSLETTER, December 2023

We have had quite a busy time in recent months – with meetings, receptions, luncheon meetings, visits and a Student Citizenship Awards ceremony.

In addition, our members have attended or participated in various commemorative events, investiture ceremonies, and ‘Lunch on the Lawns’ events at Government House.

I would like to thank all who have supported the Student Citizenship Awards Assessment and Selection Panel, and note that there is a vacancy for a new member in 2024. Please contact Noel Hender for more information.

Coming up, I encourage you to attend our annual ‘Celebration of Australia Day’ luncheon and our Annual General Meeting, and we also have coming up an interesting series of fellowship luncheon meetings and regional group luncheon meetings.

I am looking forward to our 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

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Friday 1 December:** SA Branch Christmas Morning Tea at Goodwood Community Centre

**Tuesday 16 January:** Student Citizenship Awards Assessment and Selection Panel review meeting

**Saturday 20 January:** ‘Celebration of Australia Day’ luncheon, Arkaba Hotel (Fullarton Room)

**Friday 23 February:** South East Regional Group meeting at Beachport

**Thursday 29 February:** Honours recipients fellowship luncheon meeting with guest speaker Associate Professor Elaine Murphy AM

**Saturday 2 March:** SA Branch Annual General Meeting, Arkaba Hotel (Fullarton Room)

**Sunday 28 April:** Yorke Peninsula Regional Group luncheon meeting in Ardrossan

**Friday 3 May:** Fleurieu Regional Group luncheon meeting

### INVITATION



#### ‘CELEBRATION OF AUSTRALIA DAY’ Saturday 20 January 2024

Join us for our annual luncheon at the Arkaba Hotel.

The cost is \$75 for Order of Australia Association members and their partner, \$80 for non-members, partners and guests, for a 3-course meal; cash bar.

The Guest Speaker will be Dr Tony Cocchiaro AM: “Australia Day, should we change the date?”.

Full-size medals should be worn. Association merchandise will be available to purchase.

Please refer to the Reply Form attached and online: preferably register via the Humanitix link.

### SAVE THE DATE



#### 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Saturday 2 March 2024

Join us for our 38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, commencing with Morning Tea at 10 am and Guest Speaker at 10.30 am. The AGM will start at 11 am, and conclude by 12 noon.

Lunch will follow at 12.30 pm for those who wish to join, at your own expense.

Full-size medals should be worn. Association merchandise will be available to purchase.

Please register via Humanitix if possible, otherwise RSVP with the attached Reply Form by Tuesday Monday 12 February 2024.

Please notify apologies to the Secretary:  
[john@thinkenvironment.com.au](mailto:john@thinkenvironment.com.au)

## The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch

### NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION

Monday 9 October 2023

Our second New Recipients' Reception for the year was held at Payneham Library, and we thank the City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters for their generous support and assistance.

We also thank Vili's Family Bakery for subsidising the cost of the refreshments:

<https://www.vilis.com/>

We acknowledged 20 new recipients announced in the 2023 King's Birthday Honours List. For photographs and additional information on the Order of Australia and the Association, click here:

[NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION, October 2023](#)



Associate Professor Tony Phillips AM:  
"Optometry as a Dangerous Profession"



Ms Merry Wickes AM (right)  
with Dr Aileen Connon AM MD



Ms Dawn May Borchardt AM (right)  
with Jan Forrest OAM



Ms Suzanne Caragianis OAM (right)  
with Jill Argent OAM



## The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch



Mr Geoff Coombe OAM (left)  
and Dr Sam Coombe



Mr Lynton Donisthorpe OAM (left)  
and Caron Donisthorpe



Mrs Annette Forbes OAM  
and Mr Jim Forbes



Mr Ian Robert Grant OAM  
and Pamela Grant



Mrs Susanne Harris OAM  
and Mr Keith Harris



Mr John Minney OAM  
and family

## The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch

### FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2023



*Attendees on Thursday 26 October (left to right): Dr Richard Willing OAM, Peter Routley AM (MC), Pamela Rajkowski OAM, Liz Linn, Deborah De Williams AM, David Linn OAM (Guest Speaker), Flavia De Pasquale OAM (Coordinator), Glenys Jones OAM JP, John Bishop AO, Barbe Pidcock, Helen Smith, Gill Rogers OAM (Hospitality). Not in picture: Kate Davies.*

#### **FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON MEETING Thursday 26 October 2023**

Our guest speaker for the October Fellowship Luncheon Meeting was Mr David Linn OAM, assisted by his wife Liz, on the topic, “Books for Lesotho – a Nation Building Project”. David was awarded the OAM, “*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, and the organisation was incorporated in 2016.

Peter Routley AM reports that their venture actually started in 2006 – during a visit to Lesotho, David and Liz met the librarian of the Transformation Resource Centre.

She explained that whilst English was used in the teaching of all subjects at schools, reading for pleasure was not customary in her country. Few schools in Lesotho had a library, so the B4L project springs from the TRC’s plan to facilitate the establishment of school-libraries.

Fiction and reference-books are donated by local schools here, who no longer require them. Books also come from charity book-shops and private donors. These are then sorted by volunteers for varying age-groups and differing levels of reading competence, and packed for transit.

Between 2007 and 2023, almost 300,000 books have been sent to two hundred schools, various communities and local institutions in Lesotho.



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### Books for Lesotho, *continued*

Over time, B4L has also sent computers, wall-posters, various board-games, jigsaw-puzzles, pens, pencils, rulers, staplers, exercise-books and folders. Making use of all available space, issues of National Geographic, other magazines and even tennis-balls have been sent. Partners in Lesotho now include not only the Transformation Resource Centre, but also the Rotary Clubs of Mantsopa and Maloti. In round figures, there are 2,500 primary-schools and 250 high-schools as well as local libraries.

Donations to this inspired work are tax-deductible, and contact may be made with David by e-mail:

[mdlinno8@gmail.com](mailto:mdlinno8@gmail.com)

Most of us at the luncheon had never heard of this remarkable enterprise, which is a credit to all who are involved in it. Your help and support for their venture will be appreciated.

### FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2024

Members of the Order of Australia together with other honours recipients, partners and friends are invited to share in the fostering of fellowship, in an informal setting.

The next honours recipients fellowship luncheon will be held on **29 February 2024** at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club at 111 Hutt Street in Adelaide.

The speaker will be Associate Professor Elaine Murphy AM. Her topic will be: *"Right Place, Right Time"*.

Guests should arrive at 12 noon. Lunch commences at 12.30 pm, the guest speaker begins at 1.15, and the event will conclude by 2 pm. A dress code applies at the NMAF Club: smart day wear for ladies, and long trousers and jacket for men. To RSVP please contact:

Flavia de Pasquale OAM  
0438 873 025 || [deflavia750@gmail.com](mailto:deflavia750@gmail.com)

Pamela Rajkowski OAM  
0400 810 196 || [pamraj@bigpond.com](mailto:pamraj@bigpond.com)



### ADELAIDE SAILING CLUB TOUR Saturday 21 October 2023



David Russ from Port Noarlunga attended this recent visit and tour, where participants learnt the history of the Adelaide Sailing Club at West Beach – which was formed in 1998 through the union of Glenelg Sailing Club and Holdfast Bay Yacht Club. He provided this report on the event.

*On a cool and windy spring Saturday morning, we took refuge in the Fuego by the Sea dining room at the club rooms. We met the Order of Australia Association group enjoying wide views across the marina and wind-swept gulf with a welcome drink and nibbles.*

*Our host Gillian Rogers OAM had arranged to guide us on a club historical review and story-telling in the 'Sunny South Room', which was packed with memorabilia, trophies and historical items all referenced in Gillian's presentation.*

*Around us, club members made preparations for the day's normal club sailing activities. They were unfortunately forced to cancel for the day due to the excessive windy conditions. It was noted that sailing involves a significant investment in time waiting for the wind to blow or wind to calm down.*

*Gillian's research revealed stories and accounts of the Club's formation, significant events and development. It prompted a few questions and stories of the evolution, types of sailing boats and achievements of club sailors. It was an interesting presentation made enjoyable by Gillian's personal accounts of experiences and stories of her life-long club involvement.*

## Regional Group News

The **Yorke Peninsula Regional Group** held their Spring luncheon meeting at the Ardrossan Hotel/Motel on Sunday 22 October, with 16 members and guests in attendance. They were joined by SA Branch Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM and wife Cheryl, and Regional Groups Coordinator Ken Coventry OAM JP and wife Di.

During the luncheon, short interviews were conducted with two Branch members who shared their life journey and the background to their honour:

**Tony Metcalf OAM** – *“For service to youth, to aged welfare, and to motor enthusiast organisations in South Australia”* (AD12)

**Ken Algate OAM** – *“For service to people with a disability, and to the community”* (AD19)

Those present enjoyed learning more about their colleagues, many having known each other for several years but with limited appreciation of the contributions that they have made in their lives.

The next meeting of the Yorke Peninsula Regional Group will be held on Sunday 28 April 2024 at the Ardrossan Hotel/Motel.



*Interviewees Ken Algate OAM (standing, left) and Tony Metcalf OAM, with joint Regional Contacts for the Yorke Peninsula Regional Group Maree Anderson OAM (left) and Elaine Bussenschutt OAM.*



*Members and guests at the Yorke Peninsula Regional Group Spring luncheon meeting at the Ardrossan Hotel/Motel on Sunday 22 October (images by Di Coventry).*



## Regional Group News

**Fleurieu Regional Group.** The Spring luncheon meeting of the Fleurieu Regional Group was held at the Golfview Bistro and Function Centre at Victor Harbor Golf Club in Victor Harbor on Friday 3 November.

There were 32 in attendance, including Branch Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM and wife Cheryl, Regional Groups Coordinator Ken Coventry OAM JP and wife Di who has kindly become our informal photographer at these events.

The Guest Speaker was Fleurieu Group member Dr Richard Willing OAM, who spoke to slides outlining his time on his "Antarctic Adventure".



*Speaker Dr Richard Willing OAM with SA Branch Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM (left) and Fleurieu Regional Group Contact John Hutchinson OAM (image by Di Coventry).*



Richard, pictured left at the New Recipients' Reception held on Tuesday 23 November 2021, received the OAM, "For service to conservation and the environment" (QB21).

He has had a long involvement with Scouts Australia, and has extensive experience in medicine (as a gastroenterologist and lecturer) and as a farmer (promoting scrub retention and sustainable grazing and landcare).

For his earlier service with the 1957 Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions mission to Antarctica, on 5 January 1960 Richard received the Polar Medal in silver with the clasp 'Antarctica 1957'.

There were just 202 awards of this imperial Polar Medal in silver bearing the effigy of Queen Elizabeth II awarded to Australians for ANARE service, and only 28 '1957' clasps were ever awarded.



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### REMEMBRANCE DAY 2023

Various commemorative events were held to honour the fallen as we reflected on the 105th anniversary of the Armistice which brought World War 1 to an end.

As a volunteer Officer of Cadets, Branch Committee member Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP supported the Air Force Cadets of No 604 Squadron who participated in a Remembrance Day ceremony at Endeavour College in Mawson Lakes on Friday 10 November.



*Catafalque Party member Cadet Corporal Gustaw Czechowicz in the Rest on Arms Reversed position.*

The participation of the Cadets was arranged and coordinated by Cadet Under Officer Jesse Isaac, the Cadet Executive Officer of 604 Squadron and an Endeavour College School Captain – and also one of our Top 10 Student Citizenship Award recipients.

CUO Isaac holds the Bronze and Silver Awards in the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, and is a current Gold Award participant.

He obtained his Recreational Pilot Licence in early 2021 and has been awarded the AAFC Cadet Pilot Badge.

He will attend the Australian Defence Force Academy next year, with the intention of becoming a pilot in the Royal Australian Air Force.



*Catafalque Party Commander CUO Jesse Isaac with the 604 Squadron Honour Guard.*



*Cadet Under Officer Jesse Isaac (left) in the Endeavour College Anzac Pavillion with his grandfather Alan Orrock who was awarded the OAM, "For service to the community through a range of organisations" (AD17), including St John Ambulance – South Australia; with Flight Lieutenant (AAFC) Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP.*



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### REMEMBRANCE DAY 2023

At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, commemorative events were held throughout Commonwealth nations, centred on a Cross of Sacrifice or war memorial.

SA Branch Secretary John Phillips OAM attended a Remembrance Day service in Blenheim on the South Island of New Zealand. As in many other countries, after World War 2 'Armistice Day' in New Zealand was converted to 'Remembrance Day'.

Remembrance Day is a day of special significance to all New Zealanders, commemorating the loss of lives in all wars, conflicts and peace operations. It is also an appropriate time to acknowledge the families/whānau who provide crucial support to the families of fallen Defence personnel.

Kei Wareware Tātou  
Lest we Forget



*Below: a collection of New Zealand civil, military and police coins and poppies used to mark Remembrance Day and Anzac Day in New Zealand.*

*SA Branch Secretary John Phillips OAM attended the Remembrance Day service in Blenheim, New Zealand.*





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### His Royal Highness The Prince Edward KG GCVO, Duke of Edinburgh Tuesday 21 November 2023

SA Branch Committee member Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP had the privilege of attending a dinner at which HRH Prince Edward, Patron of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, recognised the efforts of Award Ambassadors, Friends and volunteers throughout Australia. Paul is an Award Friend in a personal capacity, and also a Squadron Coordinator and Award Leader in the Air Force Cadets, and he holds the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Australia Medal of Recognition for Long Service. This was Prince Edward's first visit to Australia as Duke of Edinburgh since being appointed on 10 March this year.



### PATRONAGE GARDEN RECEPTION Wednesday 22 November 2023

The SA Branch is proud to have Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, as our Branch Patron. Recently, Her Excellency and Mr Bunten hosted 600 guests from community groups of which they are Patron at a reception in the grounds of Government House to thank them for their work. The SA Branch was ably represented by Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM and Cheryl Metcalf, and Deputy Chairman Noel Hender OAM BEM and Jill Hender. Branch Committee members Kathryn House AM and Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP were also in attendance, representing other associations with which they are affiliated.





## Jubilee Medals

### A Brief History, Part 12

During 2021 and 2022, commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne, our newsletters carried a series of articles on British Commonwealth jubilee medals.

This article records another recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal, who had completed at least five years' service as at 6 February 2022.

#### Colour-Sergeant Tuljung Gurung MC

Colour-Sergeant Tuljung Gurung is the Mortar Sergeant in Support Company of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles.



*Colour-Sergeant Tuljung Gurung MC (nearest) with the British Forces Brunei detachment in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching on Monday 28 August 2023.*

1RGR is currently deployed as the British Army's resident fully acclimatised jungle specialist battalion with the British Forces Brunei garrison. Colour-Sergeant Gurung recently joined a small detachment from Brunei which supported the Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service of commemoration held in Kuching on 28 August.

Afghanistan war veteran Colour-Sergeant Gurung is a recipient of both the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012) and the Platinum Jubilee Medal (2022) – the fifth and sixth in his group of medals (pictured right).

His service in Afghanistan was under Operation 'Herrick 17' from October 2012 to April 2013, as a Rifleman in Mortar Platoon of Support (Medicina) Company, 1RGR.

Towards the close of the tour, Rifleman Gurung fought a singularly heroic action in which he ferociously fought off in hand-to-hand combat insurgents who attacked his patrol base, for which he was awarded the Military Cross (MC) – a bravery decoration awarded for "*an act or acts of exemplary gallantry during active operations against the enemy on land*". Prior to 1993, it was exclusively awarded to junior officers and warrant officers.



#### Military Cross

On 22 March 2013, Gurung was on guard duty in a 3-metre high hesco bastion construction sangar, overlooking the entrance to Patrol Base Sparta, Lashkar Gah in Central Helmand. At 0345 am, under cover of a thick dust cloud (which rendered surveillance devices ineffective), two insurgents conducted a close-quarter attack on the front gate, directly on Gurung's sangar, in order to gain access.

Gurung was engaged with several bursts of extremely accurate small arms fire. Rounds struck the frame of the sangar as Gurung returned fire, and he was struck in the helmet by one round, which knocked him to the ground.

He regained his footing to resume firing, when a grenade bounced off the wooden frame of the sangar and landed next to him. "*Showing exceptional instinct and courage*", he picked up the grenade and threw it out of the sangar. The grenade detonated, peppering the sangar with fragmentation, and Gurung was again knocked off his feet.

One insurgent then scaled his tower and tried to drag him out. Gurung instinctively drew his kukri and engaged the insurgent in hand-to-hand combat. In the struggle, Gurung grabbed the insurgent in a bid to prevent him from escaping and was pulled from the sangar, falling three metres to the ground.

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Gurung aggressively and tenaciously continued to fight with his kukri to prevent access to the Patrol Base until the two insurgents turned and fled under the cover of darkness and low visibility. The battalion recorded:

*Gurung's actions showed the highest levels of gallantry and courage. His speed of reaction and utter disregard for his own safety prevented two armed insurgents from gaining access to the Patrol Base.*

*His actions prevented loss of life and were exemplary for a private soldier.*

*In the face of the insurgent, Gurung's valour and decisive action was out of all proportion to that expected of such a junior rank and deserved recognition of the highest order.*



*Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM (ret'd) with Captain Imbahadur Ghale (left) and Colour-Sergeant Tuljung Gurung MC in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park, Monday 28 August 2023.*

## King Charles III

### The Nuclear Test Medal

The first medal to bear the effigy of King Charles III has been created – to honour veterans of Britain's nuclear tests.

The Nuclear Test Medal will recognise the contribution made by veterans and civilian staff from across Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Kiribati including scientists and local employees.

The medal was first announced by the British Prime Minister in November 2022, 70 years after the first British test of a nuclear weapon.

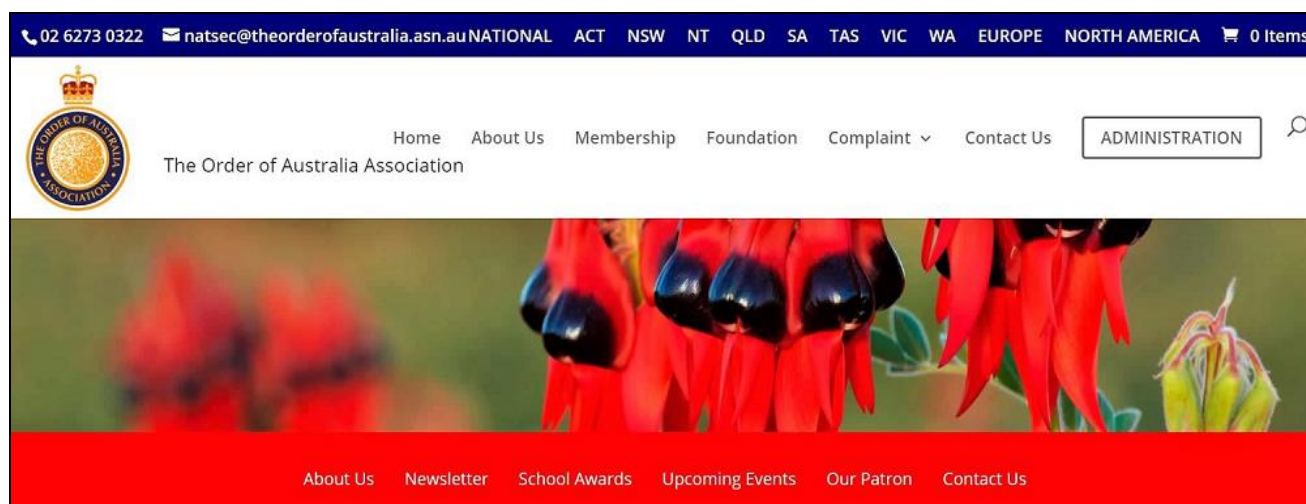
The medal recognises military, civilian and overseas staff and personnel who participated in the United Kingdom's Nuclear Test Programme during the period between 1952 and 1967.





*The ribbon design of the Nuclear Test Medal comprises colours representative of the Pacific.*



## The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch



For more information visit our website: <https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/sa/about-us/>

<p><b>Do you have email?</b></p> <p>If you have an email address that we can use to send you this newsletter, could you please advise the SA Branch Member Secretary:</p> <p>Mr Greg Gordon OAM JP <a href="mailto:oaasambrsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au">oaasambrsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au</a></p>	<p><b>The Order</b></p> <p>Contributions may be submitted by any financial member of the Association. Items may be sent to the Editor by post (as per details given in <i>The Order</i>), or by email:</p> <p><a href="mailto:nateditor@theorderofaustralia.asn.au">nateditor@theorderofaustralia.asn.au</a></p>	<p><b>Newsletter contributions</b></p> <p>Contributions for this newsletter may be submitted to the SA Branch Editor:</p> <p>Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP (ret'd) PO Box 5, SMITHFIELD SA 5114 <i>or</i> <a href="mailto:chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au">chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au</a></p>
<div></div> <p><b>IN MEMORIAM</b></p> <p>The Chairman, Branch Committee members and members of the SA Branch offer our condolences on the passing of the following former Branch members:</p> <p>James (Jim) Hullick OAM</p> <p>Kenneth Alfred Norton OAM</p> <p>Ms Elizabeth Penfold Simpson OAM</p> <p>John Maxwell Whitbread OAM QGM</p>		<p><b>REGIONAL GROUP CONTACTS</b></p> <p><b>Regional Groups</b> Coordinator: Ken Coventry OAM JP</p> <p><b>Fleurieu Regional Group</b> Meets on the first Friday in May and November. Regional Contact: John Hutchinson OAM 0427 525 670    <a href="mailto:johnhutc@bigpond.com">johnhutc@bigpond.com</a></p> <p><b>South East Regional Group</b> Meets in Mount Gambier biannually, and at an alternative regional location in the alternate years. Regional Contact: Mr Eric Roughana AM 0408 817 260    <a href="mailto:roseric1@bigpond.com">roseric1@bigpond.com</a></p> <p><b>Riverland and Mallee Regional Group</b> Meets twice a year, generally in March/April and September/October. Regional Contact: Mr Tim Grieger OAM JP 0409 099 122    <a href="mailto:tgrieger@riverland.net.au">tgrieger@riverland.net.au</a></p> <p><b>Yorke Peninsula Regional Group</b> Regional Contact, Kadina: Elaine Bussenschutt OAM 0417 806 839    <a href="mailto:elaine@yp-connect.net">elaine@yp-connect.net</a> Regional Contact, Minlaton: Maree Anderson OAM 0407 975 174    <a href="mailto:mareeanderson@internode.on.net">mareeanderson@internode.on.net</a></p>



## 'CELEBRATION OF AUSTRALIA DAY' LUNCHEON

**REPLY FORM – SA BRANCH 'CELEBRATION OF AUSTRALIA DAY' LUNCHEON, Saturday 20 January 2024** – Arkaba Hotel, 150 Glen Osmond Road, Fullarton, 12 for 12.30pm. The cost is \$75 for Order of Australia Association members and their partner, and \$80 for non-members, partners and guests, for a 3-course meal; cash bar.



Full-size medals should be worn. Association merchandise will be available for purchase.

Our Guest Speaker will be Dr Tony Cocchiaro AM MBBS FRACGP on the topic, "Australia Day, should we change the date?"

**Please register to attend and make payment not later than Friday 12 January 2024**



Register online using Humanitix (preferred) using the link below:

<https://events.humanitix.com/order-of-australia-association-celebration-of-australia-day>



Alternately, pay online via EFT, using the code "ADL + your surname"

Account Name – 'Order of Australia Association' // BSB 105-900 // Account no 147028640 (Bank SA)

Scan and send this form to: [oaasa.events@gcgordon.id.au](mailto:oaasa.events@gcgordon.id.au)



If necessary, forward this reply form and payment to:

SA Branch Events Sub-committee, PO Box 1065, CLEARVIEW SA 5085

Make your cheque or money order payable to "SA Branch, Order of Australia Association"

Name: [please print] ..... [post-nominals] .....

Preferred name: ..... Phone Contact: .....

Email or Address: .....

Dietary requirements [if any] .....

I will be accompanied by (please include post-nominals if applicable):

Guest 1: ..... [post-nominals] .....

Guest 2: ..... [post-nominals] .....

Guest 3: ..... [post-nominals] .....

Payment enclosed: ..... for ..... people

*We hope you can join us for this important celebration!*

**ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION, South Australia Branch**

PO Box 1065, CLEARVIEW SA 5085 || 0412 774 122 || [chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)

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