



Welcome from VIC Branch Chair

Please enjoy the first edition of the Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch E-Newsletter for 2024. Pages 10-13 highlight the community commitments some of our long-term members are still making years after their award.

Wishing everyone a year of good health, happiness and peace.

Congratulations to the 205 outstanding Victorians recognised in the Order of Australia Honours list on Australia Day. These recipients have made a difference in their community plus some at the national or international level. They are truly inspiring recipients from diverse backgrounds, thank you for making a difference and thank you to those who nominated them. The only barrier to outstanding people being recognised in the Order of Australia Honours list is the absence of a nomination. The profiles of three recipients are on pages 15 & 16.

Please take 5 minutes to watch the Governor-General's Australia Day Message 2024 in iView <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/governor-general-s-australia-day-message-2024>

There is reference to the Order of Australia diverse recipients and the six 2023 Order of Australia Association Foundation scholarship recipients who will be acknowledged at the national conference in Perth this May.

The VIC Branch first event for the year is the Inspiring Australians Oration to be delivered by Fiona McLeod AO SC; 2018 OAA Foundation scholarship recipient Hannah Gandy will give members and guests an update on her community work and new employment. This will be followed with our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 19 March at the Melbourne Town Hall. Please refer to page 2 for the invitation and booking details for the Inspiring Australian Oration.

Happy Lunar New Year.

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

Victoria Branch Annual General Meeting

The Order of Australia Association Limited (OAA), Victoria Branch Annual General Meeting (AGM), will be held on **Tuesday 19 March** 2024 commencing at 1.00pm Melbourne Town Hall 90-130 Swanston Street Melbourne. Sign in from 12.45pm.

Friday 2 February 2024, the Annual General Meeting Notice of meeting, Nomination Form for VIC Branch committee positions, Nomination Form for Branch Nominated Director on the National Board and Proxy Form will be emailed to financial members with an email address noted on the national database and mailed to members without an email address noted.

Please refer to <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/vic/vic-annual-general-meeting/> for the AGM agenda, Chair and Financial reports, Position Descriptions and 2024 Meetings & Events Schedule.

Separate booking for AGM is essential via TryBooking link <https://www.trybooking.com/COTZM>





Inspiring Australians Oration Invitation to OAA Members and Guests

Tuesday 19 March 2024

Doors open 10.30am for 10.45am start

Melbourne Town Hall: 90-130 Swanston Street, Melbourne

Oration will be delivered by **Fiona McLeod AO SC**



Fiona McLeod AO SC is a Senior Counsel at the independent Bar in Australia practising in the areas of commercial and public law matters. She appears in jury and judge-alone trials and appeals and is also briefed in common law and criminal matters.

Fiona is recognised for her clear legal advice, advocacy and strategic thinking. She represented the Commonwealth of Australia in major cases including leading the legal team in the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission, Queensland Floods Commission and the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sex Abuse.

2008 Order of Australia Association Foundation scholarship recipient **James Hicks** will talk about his community work and employment.

Cost: \$10 per person includes GST + booking fee. Light refreshments will be served after the formalities event scheduled to finish at 12.30pm.

Book by Tuesday 12 March at <https://www.trybooking.com/COTXK>

Members: Order of Australia large medal may be worn

OAA Merchandise will be sold at this event.

Annual General Meeting at 1.00pm will follow the Oration.

Enquires or assistance contact Helene Bender AM VIC Branch Chair
M: 0407 261 951 E: chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au



CITY OF MELBOURNE

SAVE THE DATE



Victoria Branch Events for 2024

All venues selected by the VIC Branch are in the Melbourne CBD and accessible by members and guests of all abilities. They are close to metropolitan, regional and rural public transport options.

Tuesday 19 March – Inspiring Australians Oration for members and guests. 10.30am sign in for 10.45am; please refer to page 2 for the invitation including the booking link

Tuesday 19 March – Annual General Meeting 12.45pm sign in for 1.00pm; please refer to page 1 for the booking link. If you have bookkeeping or accounting experience and use **Xero** please consider nominating for the position of Treasurer. Appreciate we have put a call out before inviting members to nominate for this vacant position.

Tuesday 25 June – Mid-Year Lunch for members and guests at William Angliss Restaurant. 12noon for 12.30pm seating. **Speaker: Alaa Elzokm OAM** – Order of Australia citation – For service to the Islamic community. There will also be an OAA Foundation scholarship recipient speaking at the lunch

Wednesday 24 July – Virtual Event via ZOOM 5.30pm to 6.45pm. **Speaker: Ian Carson AM** Co-founder of SecondBite. There is no cost to attend this event

Sunday in August – subject to National Gallery Victoria confirmation. 10.30am start includes Introduction Talk and Pharaoh Exhibition

Wednesday 9 October – Thank You Reception for Order of Australia recipients who join the Association in 2024. Event commences 1.15pm at Alex Theatre St Kilda within walking distance of rail and tram services including from Melbourne CBD. There is no cost for the member and guest to attend.

Thursday 21 November - End of Year Dinner for members and guests at a venue in Melbourne CBD. 6.15pm for 6.30pm seating. **Speaker: Pamela Clark AO** – Order of Australia citation - For distinguished service to the dental profession, particularly through a range of roles with national and international associations, as a supporter of research and technical dental standards, and to manufacturing. 2018 OAA Foundation scholarship recipient **Hannah Gandy** will also be a speaker at the dinner.

Website link www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/vic/upcoming-events includes Victoria Branch and Regional Group organised events regularly updated during the year.

Mid-Year Lunch with Alaa Elzokm OAM

Imam Alaa Elzokm OAM believes the greatest impact of his work is in establishing and participating in peaceful and cohesive relationships between the Australian Muslim community and the wider Australian community.

“Particularly the youth,” he says. “My message to all young people is to focus on respect and compassion towards all people, regardless of their culture or religion.”



Recognised for his service to the Islamic faith, and to multiculturalism, Imam Alaa says he is motivated to overcome misconceptions spread among members of the community about both Muslims and non-Muslims and observes that often these misconceptions are held by youth, or by elders.

He says the award of the Medal of the Order of Australia is particularly special for him as a young Muslim Imam (religious leader) and also as a migrant.

“It shows that being from overseas, young and Muslim does not make it impossible to excel and make positive contributions to the Australian community. I hope my work sets an example for others to do their best and never be deterred by any challenge. Those who seek success will find it if they strive. I pray that it inspires others, particularly the youth from the Muslim community.”

This Valentine’s Day, SBS will re-write the book of love with *The Matchmakers*, a heart-warming yet confronting documentary series that dives into the unique and private world of three of Australia’s most successful cultural matchmakers. All three episodes of the series will be available to stream free on SBS on Demand from Wednesday 14 February, with episodes airing weekly at 8.40pm.

In an age of online dating, profile pics, swipe-rights and high divorce rates, many hopeful Australians are turning to the ancient traditions of matchmaking to find ‘the one’. *The Matchmakers* goes behind the scenes of Australia’s traditional Jewish, Muslim and Hindu matchmakers as they help singles in the quest for love in contemporary Australia.

Sheikh Alaa Elzokm facilitates marriages in Melbourne’s growing Muslim community <https://www.sbs.com.au/whats-on/article/new-sbs-series-the-matchmakers-explores-the-world-of-traditional-matchmaking/kmpczamb2>

Alaa Elzokm OAM is the speaker at the VIC Branch Tuesday 25 June Mid-Year Lunch.

Receive an e-copy of *The Order* national magazine

With a focus on the environment and reducing plastic wrap and printing, members are encouraged to opt for an e-copy of the quarterly national magazine. This approach will reduce the cost of printing, plastic wrap and postage.

If interested please email National Membership Officer (Heather) oaanatmbrofficer@theorderofaustralia.asn.au asking to be changed to the e-copy distribution. Thank you in advance for making a difference.

Working Together-Building the Future

Yes, this was the 2023 national conference theme.

At times our paths cross with other Order of Australia recipients who have not joined the Association for various reasons. Perhaps the time is now right to have the conversation. In the past few months the VIC Branch has welcomed 2016, 2020, 2021 and 2022 recipients as new members.

Please email a copy of this E-Newsletter to the recipient/s and the online membership application link - www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/membership-application

Working together we are able to build our future.

Regional Group AGMs – 2024

Barwon Regional Group

Sunday 18 February – Barwon – Leopold Sportsmans Club (Function Room), 135 Kensington Road, Leopold Sign in 2.00 pm for 2.15pm AGM. After AGM speaker Joel McGuinness, CEO and Creative Director, Geelong Arts Centre. Cost: \$30, afternoon tea GST included. RSVP to Wayne Myers OAM (waynemyers@outlook.com) by February 11.

Central Highlands Wimmera

Sunday 25 February – Central Highlands Wimmera

Eastern Suburbs Regional Group

Tuesday 12 March – Eastern Suburbs

Frankston Mornington Peninsula Regional Group

Thursday 14 March – Frankston Mornington Peninsula lunch at Ranelagh Club Mount Eliza

Gippsland Regional Group

Sunday 17 March – Gippsland – 2pm in the Main meeting room Rotary Centenary House (39 Valley Drive) Traralgon Guest speaker: A senior member of the Centenary House Committee. High Tea to follow AGM at a cost of \$40 including GST

Loddon Campaspe Regional Group

Friday 5 April – Loddon Campaspe – Bendigo including the option for a Gallery visit – *Paris: Impressions of Life 1880-1925*

Melbourne Central Regional Group

Tuesday 27 February – Melbourne Central – Hilton Hotel Bourke Street 5.00pm sign in. Presenter after AGM Kay Craddock AM owner of Antiquarian Bookseller.

North Central Suburbs Regional Group

Wednesday 13 March – North Central Suburbs 11.15am Sycamore Tree (185 Burgundy Street) Heidelberg. Booking for the AGM to Fred Harrington OAM fred.harrington@gravity.net.au by 5:00pm Tuesday 12 March. Lunch (after AGM) at approx 12:15pm at Sycamore Tree Café. Members and guests order from the menu and pay the café individually. Bookings for lunch to Irene Harrington OAM at harri@gravity.net.au by 5:00pm Friday 8 March



North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley Regional Group

Sunday 24 March – North East & Goulburn Valley AGM and March luncheon Guest Speaker the Hon Pat McNamara AM. Venue -Memorial Hall 2 Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre, Ovens Street, Wangaratta

South Central Suburbs Regional Group

Wednesday 6 March – South Central Suburbs 11am AGM The events room, The Bridge Hotel, Mordialloc with lunch to follow speaker Geoff Bransbury Lunch cost is \$40.00 including GST, includes pre-lunch drink, lunch, coffee.

South West Regional Group

Friday 22 March – South West – Mortlake

Western Suburbs Regional Group

Thursday 15 February – Western Suburbs 12.30pm Pascoe Vale Hotel speaker June Kane AM

For Victoria Branch and Regional Group events regularly updated refer to the OAA Events website link - www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/vic/upcoming-events/

Perth awaits

The 2024 national conference, Annual General Meeting and Members' Forum will be held in Perth Thursday 17 to Sunday 19 May.



Refer to website www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/national-conference-2024/

News from the Regional Groups

Melbourne Central Regional Group

Wednesday 21 February – Networking Event 4.00pm to 6.00pm at the residence of the British Consul-General Stephen Lysaght

Please note: Numbers will be limited; it will be on a first come basis. An entrance fee of \$35 will apply. Bookings will close on 14 February. Contact Trevor Clark OAM email: tclark@bigpond.net.au

North Central Suburbs Regional Group

Thursday 15 February – ZOOM session commencing at 5:30pm with speaker Detective Senior Sergeant Joy Murphy APM OAM

In 2020 Joy was acknowledged by International Associations of Women in Policing as the longest Serving Female Police Officer in the World.

Joy's career has included the following roles:

Officer in Charge, Mernda Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team, since 2017

Officer in Charge, Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Unit, 1987-2017

Leader, Unaccounted-For Persons and Disaster Victims Identification Units, Black Saturday Bushfires, 2009

Joy Murphy OAM was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia King's Birthday 2023 for service to the community through emergency response organisations.

Joy will talk about her journey as a policewoman in Victoria Police over her career and will highlight how things have changed in policing generally.

Bookings to Fred Harrington OAM at: fred.harrington@gravity.net.au by 5:00pm Wednesday 14 February.

The ZOOM Link will be distributed to those who have booked following the closure of bookings

Thursday 21 March – ZOOM session commencing at 5:30pm with speaker to be advised.

Bookings to Fred Harrington OAM at: fred.harrington@gravity.net.au by 5:00pm Wednesday 20 March. The ZOOM Link will be distributed to those who have booked following the closure of bookings

OAA logo name badges

A template on the Name Badges Australia webpage to allow members to order name badges



To order name badges, please follow the instructions found on the document that you can download from [here](#).

News from the Regional Groups

South Central Suburban Regional Group

The Annual General Meeting of the Order of Australia Association [Vic Branch] South Central Suburban Regional Group will be held at the Bridge Hotel Mordialloc, Nepean Highway Aspendale on **Wednesday 6 March** at 11.00 AM.

This is a special time for our Regional Group with the election of the Management Committee for the next 12 months and the dealing of other statutory business. It shall be followed by an interesting talk by our Guest Speaker Mr. Geoff Bransbury OAM on the subject of motor cycling over 90,000 kilometres across five continents and at more than a reasonable age to set out on these epic journeys.



Following the AGM, we can enjoy a luncheon at the cost of \$40 GST included for a one course meal with a welcome drink plus tea or coffee, all in the company of friends and hopefully like - minded individuals.

✂.....

THE BRIDGE HOTEL – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & LUNCHEON

I wish to attend the AGM and luncheon at the Bridge Hotel Mordialloc on **Wednesday 6 March** 2024, commencing at 11.00 AM followed by a luncheon at \$40 Per Person GST included. Drinks shall be at a further cost.

Please find enclosed cheque forpersons at \$40 each [GST Included] \$.....

Cheques should be made payable to The Order of Australia Association and mailed to the SCSRG Treasurer by February 28 2024.

Alternately, pay by Direct Debit to Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000. Account number 132398835. No receipts will be issued.

If paying by Direct Debit please tick box indicating "Annual General Meeting".

Name and Post Nominals.....

Phone.....Email.....

Dietary Requirements.....

Name/s of your Guest/s.....

.....

Jacket and tie for gentlemen and full-size decorations are to be worn.

Post cheques to Treasurer Alan Samuel OAM JP, C/O 1/20 Neville Street Carnegie 3163 If you have any queries, you can contact Alan on 0408 024 224 or via email alan@samuelfamily.net

For the smooth handling of your booking, especially if by an EFT, please advise the Treasurer of your guest/s and if there are any dietary requirements via email.



Mann about town: 50 years at 3AW for David Mann AM

December 17 2023 marked 50 years at **3AW** for **David Mann AM**. David is potentially the longest serving person at a single radio station, and perhaps also for the multiple roles he has held there either full time, part time, or now as Mann About Town.



David started as an office boy just before Christmas in 1973, before being promoted to panel operator, then given a journalism cadetship. The cadetship led to an on air role for two decades. He also was production manager, creative director and the promotions and marketing manager for 23 years, holding other positions such as Chairman of the Victorian Radio Time Club.

During the Ash Wednesday fires in 1983 3AW dropped all regular programming and used their immediacy to offer on the spot assistance. A fundraiser that followed, which David was heavily involved in, raised more than \$1 million to distribute to people who had been left with nothing.

David also supports people during and after disasters in an operational capacity with more than three decades of service to the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Ambulance Victoria and the Victorian Police Force. He was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in 2006 for service to the community through a range of police, nursing, heritage and emergency services organisations and in June 2018 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to the community of Victoria, particularly through charitable organisations, to business, and to the promotions and marketing sector.

Christmas Day last year marked the 35th that David has been a volunteer part of the Pensioners Christmas Party looking after senior citizens and single parents.

David has generously given of his time to MC numerous Order of Australia Association VIC Branch events including the Inspiring Australians Oration, annual lunches and dinners and Thank You receptions.



On Wednesday 9 October David will MC the VIC Branch Thank You Reception for Order of Australia recipients who join the Association in 2024.

David Mann AM said: "When the world is bad, radio is good. The 3AW team, listeners and sponsors make a difference to those in need. It's still one of the most powerful mediums around and I'm very proud to be a part of the number one station in Melbourne."

Thank you to our Mann About Town - David Mann AM.

Making a contribution in Tasmania and Victoria

Heather Butler AM and Geoff Butler AM

A combination of community interests in the beautiful East Coast of Tasmania kept Heather **Butler AM** busy, leading to her Member of the Order of Australia in June 2012 for service to the community of the east coast of Tasmania, particularly through the tourism and hospitality sectors, to youth, and to the Parliament of Tasmania.

In addition to managing their tourism businesses, she developed the East Coast Counselling Service, was a qualified company director for TT Line, RSPCA Tasmania, Uniting Aged Care, Break O' Day Tourism Association and the Friends of Appin Society. Following the sale of their businesses, Heather's strong interests in education, and community development, saw her Chairing the St Helens District High School Association, Community Bank Steering Committee, School Op Shop, initiating the Georges Bay Dragon Boat Club, and involvement with Naval Cadets and St Helens Hospital Auxiliaries.



In 2005 Heather was inducted to the Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women. The same year she was elected to the Tasmanian Parliament as a Member for Lyons, Heather undertook wide responsibilities including Government Whip and Parliamentary Secretary, Deputy Speaker, and membership of Joint Committees.

Since moving back to Gippsland, where her family settled in 1852, Heather has maintained an interest in community, family history and art. She is the Social Issues Officer for Bundalagwah branch of CWA and has fun in the choir. Membership of the Friends of the Gippsland Gallery gives cultural benefits and opportunities for budding artists, again featuring a strong commitment to community.

Geoff Butler AM initially became involved with community issues in Victoria when in 1979 until 1982 he was elected as a local government Councillor, chairing both finance and administrative committees.

During the next decade he became State and Regional Manager for a pharmaceutical company in Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland. A change of career saw Geoff and Heather move to Tasmania where they purchased tourism businesses on the East Coast.

Geoff became a member of the Tourism Council of Australia, Chairman of the local tourism group, East Coast Regional Tourism Association and established a co-operative chain of tourism businesses throughout the state.

For many years he served as President and Secretary of the Business Enterprise Centre, President of the St Helens Chamber of Commerce and St Helens Athletics Club, while running tourism businesses. Geoff also served as a Board Member of Medea Park Nursing Home and Residential Care and was a Volunteer Tasmanian Ambulance officer on the east coast.

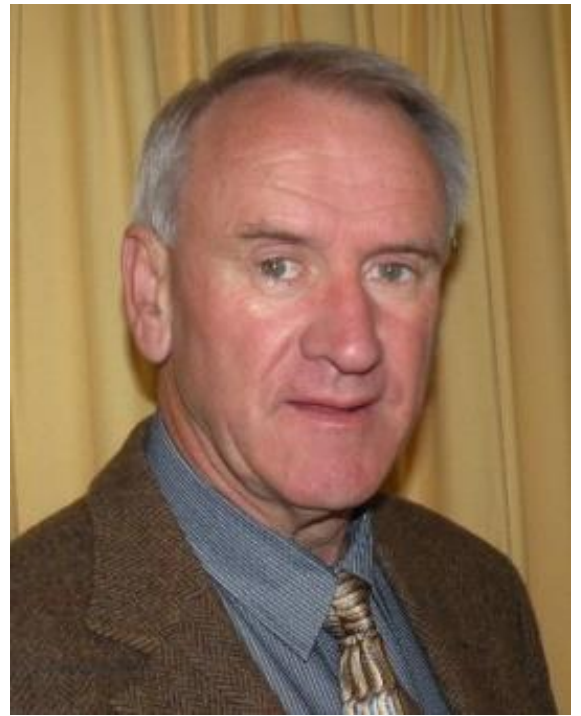
From 2002 to 2012, Geoff was a member of the Tasmanian Pharmacy Board and Tasmanian Pharmacy Authority.

Heather Butler AM and Geoff Butler AM continued

On 26 January 2015, Geoff was awarded Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the community of Tasmania through health and aged care, sporting, business, local government and tourism bodies.

After 27 years in Tasmania, Heather and Geoff returned to family and friends in Gippsland. Geoff has joined the Friends of the Gippsland Gallery, Sale and Districts Aeromodellers Association and the Gippsland Vehicle collection Inc. With 11 grandchildren, there are many visitors and life is full.

A couple who have made an excellent contribution to their communities in Tasmania and Victoria – thank you.



Making a difference to the experiences of our Veterans'

Terry Black OAM and Regula (Reg) Black OAM

I **Terry Black OAM** was a young man who had no idea of what the future would bring when I joined AMP in 1965 as a callow youth aged 16. After a few years I was required to register for National Service and "won" the ballot. After Army recruit training I was allocated to the Royal Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME). Conscription was a life-changing event, ultimately involving 12-months active service in Vietnam.

On discharge, I returned to AMP and spent 40 years in various roles, mainly involved with the superannuation and financial planning sector. I am a Life Member of the AMP Advisers Association, having been involved as Secretary and President and a 15-year sub-committee role involving regular meetings in Sydney negotiating with AMP management.

I met Reg shortly after my discharge and we married in 1972, two years after my return from Vietnam and two weeks after **Reg Black OAM** graduated from Teachers' College. Reg's passion for education led to further studies at Melbourne University where she obtained her Bachelor of Education degree then a Post-Graduate Diploma in Special Education whilst working full time in mainstream education.

Reg's Special Education career continued until 2006 when she retired due to work-related injuries. Subsequent spinal surgeries caused nerve damage in her legs and a dropped foot. I too retired early due to health issues, since resolved.

During our working careers we were both active volunteers on various committees and with other organisations, and achieved great satisfaction in those roles.



Terry Black OAM and Regula (Reg) Black OAM continued

I had been asked by one of my superannuation clients whether she had enough capital to retire. During my fact finding, it emerged that she had been married to an older WW2 veteran who had since died. His history suggested that we should apply for a War Widow's pension from DVA, which was granted 8 days after lodgement. This single event made me realise the power of advocacy. As a direct result of this experience, I joined Legacy and remain active.

Our involvement in the RSL (since 1970) became our social network and soon became much more. I was coerced into a committee role as Secretary and spent 10 years negotiating with State branch to ensure the viability of our Sub-Branch.



I was also on an RSL State Sub-Committee for many years and mentored other RSL's experiencing trading or committee difficulties.

Prior to each ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day, schools in our area were invited to the RSL to meet Veterans, to learn about the veterans' experiences and life during and after their service and also learning about Australia's commitment to world peace and lessons learned. I and a few others represented Vietnam during these sessions.

Reg was also asked to sell raffle tickets on a Friday night – the ubiquitous meat raffle. On one of these evenings, she was asked to assist with the taking of minutes at a Women's' Auxiliary meeting - her first introduction to the work of the Auxiliary and she was very quickly voted in as Secretary.

Reg organises many fundraising events, from Opera on the Hill and other RSL days, raising much needed funds for veterans. She also organises an annual Christmas lunch and a mid-year lunch for the local community, raising further funds for Veterans and their families. Through this work she was named RSL Club Person of the Year in 2010. She was awarded Life membership of the National RSL Women's Auxiliary in 2019.

I undertake the organisation of the annual Long Tan dinners, sourcing guest speakers and am MC on the evening. Funds from these evenings are donated to various organisations including ward 17 at Austin Health, where many veterans are in great need of medical and psychological support

I remain active with Legacy (supported by Reg) and ultimately had 60 legacy widows under my care – although their numbers are diminishing - providing them with support to claim pensions and assistance through DVA, to enable them to live independently. I became a JP in 1999, as this

Terry Black OAM and Regula (Reg) Black OAM continued

helped facilitate the paperwork necessary for their claims and was available to other Legatees for this purpose. Together, we delivered Christmas gifts to these widows each year ensuring that they were aware of services Legacy provides. As we've gotten older, I now send a Christmas letter to each.

We are also involved in the Anzac Day badge appeal and the Poppy appeal and with the



community Commemorations conducted locally on ANZAC and Remembrance days. Reg and her sister-in-law, Donna, have made all the wreaths laid by local organisations for the past 18 years and coordinated the afternoon teas for attendees after the services.

Reg is also committed to the Family Life charity and works as a volunteer in their Op Shop distribution warehouse two days a week and assists with their monthly Saturday sale.

We have worked side by side complimenting each other and we feel we have a mutual purpose in contributing towards and making a difference in our community through awareness and care. We often reflect on how a society like ours would function without the many millions of volunteer hours contributed across the country.

On Australia Day 2018, I was awarded an OAM for my contribution to Veterans and their families. In 2021 Reg was awarded an OAM in the Queen's Birthday list for her contribution to the Veteran community. These awards made us quite proud and we are active participants in Order of Australia Association VIC Branch events.

The OAA VIC Branch thanks Terry and Reg for looking after Ralph Butcher OAM when he attends lunches with them. Ralph is 105.

Merchandise Shop

Online shopping: <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart/>



Pack of five (5) greeting cards
Blank inside & envelopes

Cost: \$10 per pack

Boxed Keyring

Cost: \$12

Plus postage & handling



Which medal to wear when?



Day Functions

The full-size insignia (Main Piece) is generally worn at day functions where decorations have been prescribed by the event, for example Anzac Day, Remembrance Day ceremonies or special services such as a State Funeral, Memorial or Thanksgiving Service.

Evening Functions

At events such as evening receptions and dinners where decorations have been prescribed, the miniature insignia is generally worn. The main exception to this is Neck Decorations (AC and AO), which are worn in full-size.

Every day Wear

A lapel pin may be worn on civilian clothes at any time. Only one badge should be worn at a given time and not when other insignia pieces are worn.

OAA Lapel Badge from merchandise shop

OA Lapel Pin from Investiture

Reminder: The OAA Lapel Badge with magnetic fitting is not the Order of Australia lapel pin recipients receive with the medal pack at their Investiture.

For additional Order of Australia lapel pins or medals please contact Honours Secretarial via phone or email. Tel: 02 6283 3533 E: honours@gg.gov.au



Australia Day 2024 Order of Australia recipients

Zeynep Yesilyurt OAM

Empowering women and celebrating culture

Zeynep Yesilyurt OAM believes that the greatest impact of her work has been improving the wellbeing of women and older multicultural community members.



Her commitment, passion and the impact she has had have resulted in Ms Yesilyurt being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to multicultural communities, and to women's affairs

"My commitment has been to ensure that our multicultural communities have access to the necessary resources and support services, maintain strong social connections, and retain a sense of pride in their cultural traditions and faith," Ms Yesilyurt says.

"Empowering and supporting other women from multicultural backgrounds to navigate education and employment pathways and witnessing their achievement along the way has also been truly rewarding. I hope that in some way my efforts have enhanced their settlement experience in Australia.

"I find satisfaction in knowing that I contribute in some way to bringing people together and witnessing the pride that comes from celebrating and sharing their culture."

Ms Yesilyurt says she felt a mix of emotions when she found out she was to be recognised in the Order of Australia.

"It was quite a surprise as I had never considered that my contributions were deserving of such recognition. Just the idea of being nominated for an award is genuinely humbling. Volunteering and giving back to the community have always been important to me.

"I would like to thank my parents, other elders in my community and the strong women in my life who instilled in me the values of community and social justice. Giving back is a small but significant way of honouring this. I recognise the sacrifices made by women and first-generation migrants that have paved the way for my current circumstances, and I greatly appreciate and acknowledge their contributions."

Professor Deli Chen AO

Agricultural scientist and philanthropist builds international relationships

Seeing fish dying in rice paddies as a young man in China inspired Professor Deli Chen AO to a research career that has seen him become an internationally recognised leader in nitrogen fertiliser use efficiency and its impacts on global food security, environmental quality and climate change.

Appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia, Professor Chen's research has led to increased crop productivity while minimising environmental damage.



Professor Deli Chen AO continued

Appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia, Professor Chen's research has led to increased crop productivity while minimising environmental damage.

"I find fulfilment in tackling scientific challenges, working with young enthusiastic researchers, and enhancing collaboration and knowledge exchange between Australia and China," Professor Chen says.

"My efforts extend to fostering close scientific collaborations particularly with Chinese researchers and facilitating many Australia-China scientific exchanges.

"I have dedicated myself to mentoring the next generation of researchers."

Professor Chen says he was thrilled by his recognition in the Order of Australia.

"It's a great honour and I am truly humbled as a Chinese-origin agricultural scientist."

Francis Nii Lanteye Acquah AM

Victorian breaks down barriers for mental health awareness

Francis Nii Lanteye Acquah AM has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to mental health care, and to the community.

"From helping a 40-year-old client with schizophrenia to move out of home for the first time, helping a young man with agoraphobia to enter the workforce and now witness him managing a team, to helping a lady with depression and stroke to travel overseas ... I am passionate about mental health and achieving small but significant goals with my clients," Mr Acquah says.



"I have used my mental health nursing experience to reduce stigma and create awareness around receiving mental health support for the CALD and African Communities, Local Communities, both in Australia and overseas.

"I was humbled, excited, and grateful to hear about being appointed a Member in the Order of Australia. One does not set out to receive an award for things they are passionate about.

"I would like to thank my wife, Ursula Mills Acquah, and my children, especially my lived experience daughter Akuorkor who has cerebral palsy and who my wife has sacrificed greatly to care for at home, and my team and colleagues who have supported me over the years."

Thank you to the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General for the three profiles in Above and Beyond

Webinar invitation from Order of Australia



Join our live webinar on how to nominate someone for the Order of Australia

Tuesday, 06 February 2024 at 5:30pm AEDT

 @AussieHonours

Multicultural Awards for Excellence Ceremony

The Governor of Victoria Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC hosted the 2023 Multicultural Awards for Excellence in December recognising the important work being done by Victorians and organisations to support multiculturalism in our State.

Across many years, international conflicts, global events and the appeal of a better life have brought people from around the world to settle in Victoria.



They've brought their traditions, their art – and to the benefit of us all – their food. Victoria is stronger thanks to its diversity, but it requires the support of individuals and communities to thrive.

The nominees in attendance represented the work being done across a range of sectors and industries to improve intercultural learning and social cohesion.

The categories of these awards offer insight into the many ways an individual or organisation can foster multiculturalism and diversity. Some have connected with others through music, dance or visual arts, sharing traditions and expertise. Others have formed close relationships through local sports.

The Governor noted these awards would not be possible without the work of the Victorian Multicultural Commission established in 1983.

The Roll recognises individuals who've made exceptional and lasting contributions to multiculturalism in Victoria and is focusing on local champions of diversity.

LUNAR NEW YEAR

Celebrate the Year of the Dragon at the National Gallery Victoria with art, performances and free activities for all ages. Saturday 10 and Sunday 12 February from 10.00am to 5.00pm - Enjoy