

The ORDER



THE NATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION

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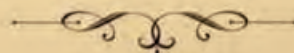
RRP \$10.00 inc. GST

PAST AND FUTURE IN A GENEROUS GIFT



Ode of Remembrance

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.



A Student Citizenship medallion awarded by the South Australia Branch of the OAA in 2023 and a memorial to SX8150 Private Keith (Chook) John Fowler, a WW2 veteran of active service in North Africa and Java with the 2/3rd Machine-Gun Battalion AIF, and a prisoner-of-war sent to work on the infamous Burma-Thailand railway. 'Chook' received a Medal of The Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours List 2023 at the age of 102 and kindly donated funds for the medallions. He sadly passed away in December.





THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION OFFICE HOLDERS

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THE ORDER

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THE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au

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

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

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

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

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au

FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

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

In my final Australia Day address as Governor-General, I reflected on my favourite line from Dorothea Mackellar's iconic poem, My Country:

***'For flood and fire
and famine,
She pays us back threefold'.***

Knowing the character of Australian people, I agree with Ms Mackellar. Australia does pay us back threefold – and that's because of the character of our people. For all the challenges thrown our way, I can't help but be optimistic for our future. We're a good people, united and bound together.

There is, as I've said before, no better snapshot of our national character than an Honours list. Individually, recipients' stories are inspiring. Collectively, they speak to the strength of our communities.

The Australia Day Honours included 759 awards in the Order of Australia. Recipients come from all parts of the country. They have served and made an impact in just about every field you can imagine; their stories and backgrounds are diverse.

I'm pleased that for the second consecutive Honours list the majority of recipients in the General Division are women. I am confident that the work to encourage nominations for outstanding Australians from across our community, regardless of their background or field of endeavour, will ensure that the Order is inclusive, diverse and reflects the full breadth of Australia.

I hope that each recipient enjoyed being celebrated and their recognition on Australia Day. I have met enough recipients to know a few things for sure:

first, that most are humble and will try to deflect praise. Second, that receiving recognition will be a milestone, not an end point to their service and contribution to our community. They will go on working hard, giving selflessly of themselves and making a difference at the local, national or international level.

To that end, I hope that many choose to join The Order of Australia Association and contribute to the Association's many and varied impactful contributions to our community. Each of you reflects those characteristics that define us as a nation. Thank you for what you have done, continue to do and will do in the future in the service of our nation.

Photo courtesy the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General





FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

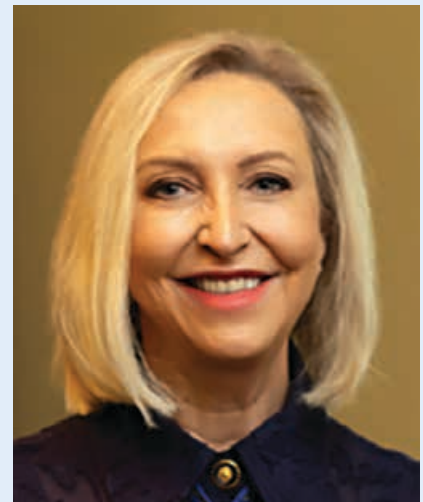
VICKI O'HALLORAN, AO, CVO, NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to all. May 2024 bring you good health and happiness and an opportunity to nominate a fellow Australian for an Order of Australia. We all know there are countless examples of selflessness and dedication by many in our communities that are deserving of recognition. I continue to encourage all members and friends to consider making a nomination. Receiving recognition at the highest level in our country significantly changes our lives and can be instrumental in uniting, inspiring and uplifting our family, friends and the broader community.

I was reading today that it is 460 years since Shakespeare's birth on 23 April 1564 and this led me to thinking that this time next year, we will be looking forward to our 50th anniversary. On 14 February 1975 The Order of Australia was instituted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for the purpose of according recognition to Australians for achievement of meritorious service. Over the course of the past 49 years, more than 43,000 Australians have been recognised in the General Division. The posi-

tive impact within our communities is immeasurable.

In December of last year, I met with our Patron, His Excellency General, the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), to provide an update of the work undertaken by the Association and Branches throughout 2023. This meeting was very positive and encouraging, offering heartfelt recognition of the significant work undertaken in each State and Territory. It was a pleasure also to be hosted by Paul Singer, Official Secretary to the Governor-General, Rob Ayling, Director Communications and Creativity, and Sharon Prendergast LVO, Director Honours and Awards, and to meet the Honours and Awards Secretariat teams and learn about their day-to-day responsibilities and operations and, in particular, to view the engraving workshop. Each medal is impressively individually and painstakingly engraved with remarkable precision and tender care. I am very much looking forward to meeting up with many of you at our National Conference in Perth, 16- 19 May. The theme Giving Service Beyond



Self is fitting and a good reminder about the value of making a positive contribution that can enhance the quality of life of others. There are many events, inspirational speakers and pre- and post-conference tours, and of course the Conference Dinner will be a highlight where six Foundation Scholarship recipients will be recognised.

I extend my best wishes to all. Go well and take good care.

EDITORIAL

I want to use this first Editorial to introduce myself but, before I do that, I want, on behalf of all the contributors to and readers of The Order, to thank Phil Morrall OA JP for looking after the magazine for seven years. Phil also spent several patient months online guiding me through the many processes involved in taking The Order from disparate items in the National Editor's inbox to a four-colour finished product in your mail. Thank you, Phil.

So I am the new Editor, June Kane AM. I "belong" to the Western Suburbs Regional Group of the Victoria Branch and received my award for my work with the United Nations in child protection. I have been involved with research, writing, editing and publications generally since my early childhood. My first

book, when I was nine years old, was called "A Dark, Stormy Night" and the bloody dagger hand-painted on the cover foreshadowed a gruesome tale of murder and mayhem. My second book was an edition, in French, of the poetry of King Francis I, the Renaissance king of France. My latest work – 45 books and research studies later – is a chapter entitled, "Making money out of misery" in a book on human trafficking.

You will see that my experience is, to say the least, wide-ranging. I have also been Publications Manager at BHP, Director of Information at the International Red Cross and, briefly, news producer at the ABC. I'm no spring chicken, so there's more. Please look at my website: www.kaneinternational.com.au if you would like to find out more about me and my work. Now, though, I am working for

you, the readers of The Order. Please do not hesitate to send your comments on the magazine to me at: NatEditor@theorderofaustralia.asn.au. Happy reading.



Dr June Kane AM

FROM THE OAA CHAIRMAN

BARRY NUNN, AO, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

I hope that all members have had a successful festive season, have been able to enjoy time with family and catch up with friends.

We enter 2024 with little improvement in either the international or the domestic scene. The threat of widening conflicts in both Europe and the Middle East are a cause of great anxiety. At home many of our members face the pressure of increasing costs of living, without the benefit of significant income increases.

It was with great satisfaction that we were able to make a small contribution to easing financial stress among members by reducing membership fees from 1 January 2024. We have passed on to members the benefits of significant reductions in the costs of running our Association. We are confident that the lowered fees will encourage more new recipients to join us and reduce the loss of existing members.

There have been some changes on the National Board, with both our Deputy Chairman, John Archer OAM, and our Treasurer, Muriel Barasso retiring

because of ill health after an extended period of valuable service to the Association. We thank them, were pleased to welcome Frank Crawley OAM as our Treasurer in December 2023 and look forward to appointing a Deputy Chairman soon.

Branches are in the process of holding Annual General Meetings and electing new members to Branch Committees. I thank those committee members who are retiring in 2024 for their service and congratulate those who have taken up the challenge of committee membership. The combination of experienced members and new appointments with fresh ideas in our management teams should generate plans for continued stability and growth.

At the end of February there will be only 46 sleeps until the opening of the National Conference in Perth. I encourage all to take advantage of early registration, secure both accommodation and transport, and be ready to enjoy a stimulating conference from 16 to 19 May. Attend the National



AGM and Forum on Saturday 18 May and contribute by asking questions of your Board and giving us ideas for improvement.

I look forward to catching up with friends of long standing and making new ones in Perth in May.

AN INTRODUCTION TO HEATHER WILLIS, NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Heather Willis is the only “official” member of staff of The Order of Australia Association (OAA). All the officials in governance and executive at all levels are volunteers, but Heather provides the ongoing and very necessary administrative support that serves as a backdrop to their work and guarantees continuity of processes as elected officers rotate.

Heather’s (part-time) work includes:

- Maintaining the database for the Association, including updating membership records;
- Managing all aspects of the introduction of new members into the database for Australia Day and King’s Birthday, including processing new membership applications and payments and troubleshooting;
- Ensuring smooth membership adminis-

tration, sending out invoices, reminders, and following up on payments;

- Handling all questions, information requests and complaints regarding membership;
- Producing and mailing all the Congratulation Letters from the National Chairman to new recipients after each Honours List announcement;
- Over recent Lists, producing and mailing by hard and soft copy Congratulation Letters on behalf of some Branches.

Heather was born in Pretoria, South Africa and, on migrating to Australia, worked for the law courts in Brisbane, Queensland, as a court reporter, working for the late Mr Earle Rawlings OAM, who was then the Chief Reporter. Heather moved to the Federal Department of Parliamentary Services, working as a Hansard reporter/



National Membership Officer Heather Willis

Senior Editor/Assistant Director, and then to the Political Section of the South African High Commission before joining the OAA in June 2016.

For more than seven years, Heather has kept the membership machine oiled and running!



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Thirty-Eighth Annual General Meeting of The Order of Australia Association Limited will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 99 Adelaide Street, Perth, WA on
Saturday 18 May 2024 at 9.00am (AEST).

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Opening.
2. Apologies.
3. Proxies.
4. To confirm the Minutes of 37th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 20 May 2023.
5. To receive, consider and adopt the Annual Report including the Annual Report including Directors' Report, Financial Report and Auditor's Report for The Order of Australia Association Limited for the period ended 31 December 2023*.
6. To note the Directors' Report and the Financial Report including the Auditor's Report for The Order of Australia Association Foundation and The Order of Australia Association Foundation Limited for the period ended 30 June 2023.
7. Advise of the election of the National Secretary.
8. Approve the appointment of Auditors for the year ended 31 December 2024.

By Order of the Board
Graham Hyde OAM
National Secretary
24 January 2024

* The Annual Report will be available on the Association website under Governance-AGM from Wednesday 24 April 2024.

Members requiring a hard copy should contact the National Secretary at natsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

NOMINATIONS

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO THE NATIONAL BOARD

Members are invited to consider nominating for a position on the Executive Committee of the National Board.

For 2024 there will be an election, with the National Secretary, Graham Hyde OAM completing a three-year term. Graham is eligible to stand for the position. The new appointment will be for a three-year term.

In line with the OAA Constitution (Clause 43), the current term of the National Membership Director (Kathy Wooldridge OAM) ends in 2025, the National Chairman (Barry Nunn AO) and Deputy National Chairman (John Archer OAM) in 2026. The National Treasurer (Frank Crawley OAM) was appointed by the Board in November 2023 as a casual vacancy due to the retirement of the former National Treasurer (Muriel Barasso OAM) and his first term ends in 2026.

A member of the Association is any member who is currently financial, in accordance with the Constitution (Clause 13.1). The Nomination form is to be completed by two members and the nominee.

Nominees are requested to provide a resume of no more than 400 words noting their skills and experience relevant to the responsibilities of the position.

Nominations are to be lodged with the Chairman of the Nominations Committee on or before 5pm (AEDT) 28 March 2024 as follows:

Mr Peter McMurtrie AO. KStJ

Postal Address:

Chairman Nominations Committee
The Order of Australia Association Ltd
5 Lee Street, PIMPAMA QLD 4209
Email: dirqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au
Ph 0408 887 923

Note

The Board Charter includes a Position Description and Application Form for Executive Director positions and is on the OAA website at:

<https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/G2-Board-Charter.pdf>

or is available from the National Secretary at natsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au.

Intending nominees are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the statutory and legal requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC) and the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC): <https://www.acnc.gov.au/tools/factsheets/responsible-people-board-or-committee-members>



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

We congratulate each Australia Day New Awardee on your achievement and welcome you to the ever-increasing list of inspiring Australians to be so well recognized. Each of you has been acknowledged for

making a positively impacting contribution to the well-being of Australia.

The diversity of the latest Awardee citations is very alike a 1,000 piece jigsaw puzzle but we need more nominations to at least reach that 1,000 in January and in June each year.

Can you imagine what such a puzzle would look like and the many messages which could be drawn from it?

It is not just the individual faces but the impacts they accumulate together. The diversity of service is so broad: hands on care for individuals; research of medical, legal, dental, structural, academic, educational, environmental and scientific kinds; social justice adversarial and advisory; support, care and empowerment of young, disabled, disadvantaged and aged people; cultural, cross-cultural and faith related; performing arts, writing and entertainment; sport; public service, emergency and military services; social welfare; and community services. The list goes on and on, for there are so many opportunities to make Australia a better place for all.

As a Branch Committee member, I have found the investiture ceremonies are so uplifting for they highlight so many amazing and inspirational people. We need to nominate many more such people, including younger Australians, for The Order is not just for long service.

And we need all Awardees to become members of the Association so together we can advance the importance of The Order of Australia. We do much together as members through activities and continue to learn from each other for Australia's benefit.

The Christmas Luncheon was a great success and we raised \$7,500 towards our NSW Branch Foundation Scholarship which will be presented at the 2025 National Conference in Sydney.

Our recent Annual Australia Day Cruise was well supported with a sell-out attendance and a day of inclusivity with the theme of reflect, respect and celebrate on our beautiful Sydney Harbour. We raised \$4,000 for the Rev Bill Crews Foundation to help less fortunate Australians in need during these dire times.

As this is my last report as NSW Chairman, as my term comes to an end at our AGM in March, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the NSW Branch Committee for their support, hard work and dedication. I would also like to thank our members around all our regions of NSW as well as in metropolitan Sydney for your support in my years as Chairman of this prestigious organization.

I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM, future Branch events and our National Conference in Perth 2024.

NSW BRANCH OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC

Chairman

Mr James Mein, AM

Deputy Chairman, Metro Events & Public Relations Co-Ordinator

A/P John Gullotta, AM

Honorary Secretary

Ms Martha Jabour, OAM

Honorary Treasurer

Ms Gail Dunne, OAM

Committee Members:

Regional Coordinator & Web Coordinator

Mr Chris Dunne, OAM

Communications & Publicity Liaison

Mrs Louise Davis, AM

Youth Community Service Award Co-Ordinator

Dr Frank Kelleher, OAM

Branch Membership Officer

Dr Geoffrey Glasscock, AM, FAPS

Assisting Events Co-Ordinator

Mr Romano Di Donato, OAM

Assisting Youth Community Service Convener

Mrs Trish Wetton, OAM

OAA Foundation

Mr Harold Sharp OAM

Strategic Plan Implementation

Mrs Diane North, OAM

Branch Nominated Director

Mr David North, OAM

For contact details:

<https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/nsw/committee-members>

SAVE THE DATE: 1 - 4 MAY 2025

The Order of Australia Association National Conference 2025, Sydney, Thursday 1 – Sunday 4 May 2025

SOFITEL Sydney Wentworth – 61 Phillip Street, Sydney

The theme of our 2025 conference will be:

CELEBRATE | MOTIVATE | NOMINATE - "Inspiring Australian Achievers"

This theme captures three sub-themes:

Celebrate the achievements of our awardees,

Motivate others, especially our young people, to serve and inspire and also drive people to

Nominate others for Order of Australia awards.

For sponsorship enquiries or any further information please contact Dr John Gullotta AM,

Committee Chair & Convener, OAA National Conference Sydney 2025.

NSW BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE: 19 MARCH 2024

VENUE: To be confirmed.

Further details will be on our website and all financial NSW members will be emailed with the required information package 21 days before the AGM.

For further information, please contact the Hon. Secretary Ms Martha Jabour OAM



EVENTS

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON A GREAT SUCCESS!

The Order of Australia Association NSW 2023 Christmas Luncheon was held at the Kirribilli Club on the 2 December 2023. More than 80 members and guests gathered to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season but also importantly to raise money for The Order of Australia Association Foundation.

The Foundation supports our next generation of leaders by helping promising young Australians to achieve their potential for the benefit of future generations of Australians. The NSW Deputy Chair and Events Manager, Dr John Gullotta AM, welcomed guests and introduced guest speaker Dr Helen Nugent AC, Chair of the Order of Australia Association Foundation.

Dr Nugent addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of the Foundation in fostering and promoting our future leaders in prospective candidates that may not be able to afford their university degree. By offering scholarships of \$45,000 each the Foundation provides life changing funding to worthy applicants.

Mr Jim Mein AM, Chairman of the Order of Australia Association NSW, gave his official welcome and reinforced the importance

of the Foundation in making a difference. The audience was then entertained by the operatic voices of tenor Gaetano Bonfante and soprano Julie Lea Goodwin, who transported the audience into a magical journey of opera and musical theatre with a Christmas themed twist!



Gaetano Bonfante is an Italo-Australian tenor who has been on the classical concert stage for many years. He has performed in 15 productions for Opera Australia and also toured with La Traviata (as Alfredo) to 18 Cities in China. Julie Lea Goodwin is a principal soprano with Opera Australia. Aged only 19, Julie Lea was invited to sing the leading role of Christine Daae in the national tour of The Phantom of the Opera,

starring Anthony Warlow. The following year, she played Maria in West Side Story across Australia.

It was a very successful event with more than \$7,500 raised towards a NSW Branch Foundation Scholarship which will be presented at our National Conference in Sydney in 2025



MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ENJOY A CHRISTMAS LUNCH AND PRESENTATION BY HELEN NUGENT AC

THE OAA NSW BRANCH COMMEMORATES REFLECT, RESPECT AND CELEBRATE ON AUSTRALIA DAY 2024

The Story of Australia began 60,000 years ago. New chapters are written every day. On 26 January, we reflect on our history, its highs and its lows, and the need to respect the stories of others. We celebrate our nation, its achievements and, most of all, its people as we are all part of the story.

This year a capacity crowd of 165 NSW members and guests enjoyed the Australia Day Harbour cruise and luncheon, a longstanding annual event for our Branch.

It was a most enjoyable, relaxed day on Sydney Harbour aboard the Captain Cook III on a picture-perfect summer day. Everyone enjoyed the atmosphere with good food, drinks and importantly stories and life experiences exchanged with other Order of Australia recipients from all walks of life and different cultural backgrounds. All aboard had front row seats to the 21 Gun Salute, Australia Day Ferrython, Air Force Roulettes flying display, Navy Seahawk Helicopter flag display, Maritime Mayhem water show, Australia Day Harbour Parade, Tall Ships Race and the Working Harbour Display.

In the theme of the Australian spirit, the charity we supported this year was the Rev Bill Crews Foundation which has been caring for the homeless and those in need for almost 40 years. Our very generous members and guests raised \$4,000 on the day.

The Order of Australia Association NSW Chairman Mr Jim Mein AM welcomed members and guests and highlighted the importance of The Order of Australia Awards in recognising the significant work and service of our fellow Australians, especially in rural and remote areas across our nation.

Deputy Chairman and Event manager Dr John Gullotta AM thanked everyone

for attending and supporting this special day and acknowledged the tremendous contribution that Order of Australia recipients have made to our nation via their hard work, service and dedication. He highlighted and expanded on the excellent work of the Rev Bill Crews Foundation.

Poverty and homelessness is a real issue facing us, with 14% of Australians living below the poverty line in 2020 and more than 123,000 homeless people. This number will certainly be much higher in 2024 and John urged everyone to dig deep and help the less fortunate Australians in our community this Australia day.

We can make a difference and help struggling Australians, especially in this dire economic climate, by nourishing the hungry, caring for rough sleepers and helping vulnerable kids break the poverty cycle. Today, The Rev. Bill Crews Foundation is at the forefront of alleviating the causes and effects of homelessness and poverty.

They offer community support via legal advice, alcoholics anonymous, gamblers anonymous, and other support groups. Free meals, free healthcare via doctors, nurses and dentists are at their clinic, as well as through their healthcare van. Additionally, their literacy program helps children with low skills achieve better educational and social outcomes as well as welfare and support services including food parcels, clothing, rent and utility assistance.

It was a very successful and enjoyable day and we look forward to reflecting, respecting and celebrating every day leading up to Australia Day 2025!



ALL ABOARD! MEMBERS AND GUESTS SET SAIL FOR AUSTRALIA DAY



FEATURED MEMBERS

CAROLYN STEDMAN OAM AND DAVID STEDMAN OAM

In 1976 Carolyn was in her kitchen with her two children at the time and heard a call on the radio calling for foster parents. "I think God spoke to me in that moment," she says. "I knew I liked staying home and looking after kids, so I thought, 'that's something I could do'".

Four decades later, Carolyn and her husband David have cared for more than 75 children, as well as raising six children of their own and supporting 26 grandchildren. Their home has become a safe place for so many children in need.

David adds, "At one point we had nine children living under our roof! That happened to be when the census man came along," he said. "He gave us one form, and it only had enough room for six people. So we had to chase him and get another form. And he said, what have you got there, a commune?"

"I didn't plan to foster so many children but felt like I had a gift for caring," Carolyn says.

The couple explained that, although they love to help, fostering has come with its challenges, with some children having a hard start to life and some even addicted to drugs. Carolyn says she's spent countless nights wandering her living room settling babies to sleep, supporting them through the drug withdrawal process.

Carolyn and David offer temporary placements for children, meaning they eventually have to say goodbye to the children once they leave their care, something they say is never easy. David reflects, "The couple of years or the time we've got with them, we try just to give them that little bit of stability and love. We don't know what the end result is, but we feel that it's well worth it and most rewarding".

"People keep saying to us, are you going to do it again?" Carolyn said. "And I know what they're thinking - you're too old. But I think we're fit, and we can and there's a shortage so, we will."

Over their forty years of fostering, Carolyn and David have cared for newborn babies up to 17-year-olds. However 75% of their placements have been babies and toddlers. They are certainly not too old as they have just taken up caring for another 4 week-old baby!

In their overwhelming humility, Carolyn describes David and herself to be "ordinary people". However, in reality they are extraordinary, generous people who have dedicated their lives to caring, loving and supporting babies and young children who need a safe and nurturing environment, so they can thrive and have a chance in life.

Carolyn and David both received a Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours List "for service to children particularly as foster parents".



Left to Right: Gill Mein, Jim Mein AM , David Stedman OAM and Carolyn Stedman OAM (with four-week-old foster baby)

UK/EUROPE BRANCH UPDATE

2023 saw the end of pandemic restrictions across Europe, so no events had been planned for early in the year.

There was a change of Chair in August, when Dr Caroline Hoffman OAM replaced Andrew Koo AM. A new member joined the Committee in July: Richard York OAM, who is based in Luxembourg.

The Chair sent out a survey to the OAA UK/Europe membership in October to ask them what they wanted from the Branch, and there was a 30% response rate from across Europe. The results showed that members would value opportunities to connect with other OAA members who live overseas; opportunities to learn more about the activities of OAA members

living overseas and their contacts; to hear more about Australian society and Australian arts/music/culture. Predominantly, they were happy to meet in London or Paris.

The Committee has taken this on board for events in 2024 and has been planning events accordingly.

The Branch joined with the Britain Australia Society for their beautiful service of Carols and Readings at St Mary le Bow church in London on 7 December 2023, followed by a reception.

The Chair and Committee member John Bond OAM had a meeting with the Australian Deputy High Commissioner, Elisabeth Bowes, at the Australian High



Dr Caroline Hoffman OAM

Commission on 13 December 2023 to see how the OAA and the High Commission could work more closely together.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

2024 will be a busy year for the WA Branch and, on behalf of our members, I wish all members across the nation a very Happy New Year.

As always, the early part of the year has a number of important events. The AGM followed by a Brunch will be held overlooking the Swan River at Matilda Bay Restaurant in February, then the Australia Day Reception, hosted by the City of Stirling in March. We have arranged a visit to a Boutique Organic Vineyard in April. Of course, a major focus will be the National Conference in May, and preparations are well in hand to welcome members to what is promising to be a memorable Conference. To register, go to the Order of Australia website where you can also access a video we have made to encourage members to register.

A sharp rise in the cost made it necessary for us to find an alternative venue for our Christmas Lunch. Holding it at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, where the Conference will take place, gave members a chance to visit the hotel, and the committee an opportunity to experience working with the hotel staff which will ensure smooth running of the Conference.

We look forward to seeing many members from other Branches in Perth in May.

EVENTS

Government House Open Days 1-2 April and 28-29 October

Each year the Governor, His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM, and Mrs Darrilyn Dawson, open Government House and Gardens to the WA public. The Order of Australia Committee WA is invited, with other non-for-profit organisations, to display their activities. On two occasions this year we were able to discuss nominations with the passing public, many of whom did not understand that Order of Australia awards are nominated by the public and not government.

Upcoming WA Branch Events

AGM and Brunch: Sunday 25 February 10am at Matilda Bay Restaurant.

Australia Day Awardees Reception: Wednesday 13 March at the City of Stirling

Visit to Hainault Boutique Organic Vineyard and Winery in the Bickley Valley for a wine tasting, two-course lunch and a talk by the owner at 12.00 noon Saturday 13 April.

National Conference of the Order of Australia Association: 16 – 19 May

WA BRANCH OFFICE-HOLDERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

to be advised

Vice Patron:

Hon Kerry Sanderson AC

Chairman:

Bettine Heathcote AM

Secretary:

Margaret Lobo AM

Treasurer:

Michael Lee OAM

Committee Members

Capt. Michael Bleus OAM CSC|
Convenor Police Patron Scheme

Geoffrey Cattach AM

Lorraine Hammond AM

William Hassell AM JP
Newsletter Editor

Jackie Scurlock OAM

WA Editor of the Order

Rebecca Tolstoy AM

Brad Norman AM

Regional Conveners

South West Region

Hon Barry House AM

Great Southern Group of WA

Janet Savage OAM JP

Contact Information

wabranch@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Phone: 0418 865 313

Mail: General Correspondence

The Hon Secretary: 26B Albemarle Street Scarborough 6019

Financial Correspondence

The Hon Treasurer: PO Box 477 West Perth 6872



Jackie Scurlock OAM and Clive Robartson AM, 28 October Open Day 2023



GREAT SOUTHERN REGION WEEKEND

Officially, the Great Southern Region holds an annual Church Parade followed by a lunch at a local motel in Albany. Unofficially, this has become a most enjoyable weekend, with a number of members travelling from Perth and other centres to spend the weekend catching up with old friends, visiting places of interest and generally enjoying the cooler weather Albany has to offer.

The service takes place in a different church each year and in November 2023 it was held in the Albany Uniting Church, where our members were made most welcome. A delicious lunch at Le Grande Motel completed the Sunday event which was enjoyed by 39 Regional and visiting members attending. State Chairman Bettine Heathcote AM and National Chairman Barry Nunn AO kept those present informed with the goings-on at State and National levels and encouraged Great Southerners to attend the National Conference in 2024. Murray Montgomery AM gave a presentation, on behalf of Peter Snow OAM, on the development of the old whaling station into the wonderful tourism destination that it is today.

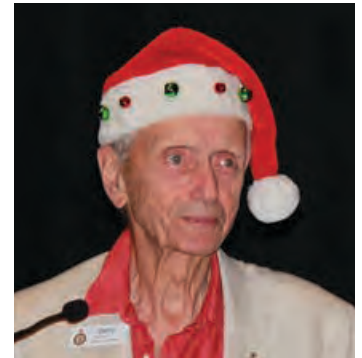
In addition to the Sunday activities, it has become a tradition that local and visiting members meet at Rustler's Steak House

on the Saturday evening. This proved to be a most convivial evening and made a very welcome start to the weekend.

OAA WA Branch Christmas lunch

At lunchtime on 8 December 2023, 120 members and guests gathered in the ball-

room of the Hyatt Hotel. It was an informal, enjoyable time in preparation for Christmas, with turkey and Christmas pudding. It is always a lovely way to start the festive season with the inevitable crackers containing jokes and hats that many wore. Our Chairman, Bettine Heathcote AM, welcomed us and wished everyone the compliments of the season. Once again Barry Nunn AO and Margaret Nunn OAM prepared a Christmas Quiz that was not as easy as the Quiz Master, Barry Nunn, suggested!



Major General Barry Nunn AO, Quiz Master.



Tim Bailey OAM and Rebecca Tolstoy AM



Bruce Sunderland OAM with Sue Page and Max Page OAM



Marcus Stafford AM and Celia Holdaway with Bill Hassall AM

FEATURED MEMBER

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

Dr Mi Kyung Lee OAM was born in Seoul, South Korea. At the age of 18 she migrated, with all her family, 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 because she loved food and the idea of helping people through an understanding of Nutritional Science. After graduation, she worked in the Federal Department of Health in Canberra, developing national nutrition policy and dietary guidelines.

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

She has volunteered with the WA group of the Nutrition Society of Australia, and was Chair of the WA Chapter of KASEA, the Korean Academy of Scientists and Engineers Australasia, a not-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 President of KASEA.

Mi Kyung is Chair of the Wesley Congregational Meetings in Perth. Her childhood hero was Mother Teresa, whom she met in India in 1996. Mother Teresa said, "Wherever God has put you, that is your vocation. It is not what we can do but how much love we put into



Dr Mi Kyung Lee OAM, BSc, GradDipHSc, MA, PhD

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!

WHY SHOULD YOU ADVERTISE IN 'THE ORDER' MAGAZINE?

- 'The Order' goes out in hard or e-copy to more than 8,000 members in Australia and overseas;
- Beyond this primary readership, it is likely that the magazine is shared online or in hard copy to family members and relevant associates;
- The magazine is also posted on the OAA website (www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au), where it is accessible to anyone, whether or not they are a member.

The OAA has not before permitted advertising in its national magazine but has now opened up the possibility to advertise for members who run their own businesses, large and small, and who believe that they have products or services suitable for OAA members.

Advertisers may purchase a half or full page (A4) with costs (February 2024) as follows:

- o Cost per half-page advertisement = \$300 per edition
- o Cost per half-page advertisement (4 editions commitment) = \$250 per edition
- o Cost per full page advertisement = \$500 per edition

Advertisers should provide complete artwork in a format and size to be included in the magazine.

All advertising must accord with the objectives and values of the Association. Specifically, advertising should not be politically or socially partisan and issues of significant community debate would not be sanctioned.

Advertising with a national perspective would be preferred but relevance to a particular Branch or Region would be considered on its merits.

Any questions should be directed to the National Editor of The Order at: nateditor@theorderofaustralia.asn.au.



**AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL MEMBERS ABOUT
2024 NATIONAL CONFERENCE 16 – 19 MAY
SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW
ALTERNATIVELY GO TO WA PAGE ON OAA WEBSITE**

Our Sponsors



Julian Burt



The Order of Australia Association National Conference 16th - 19th May 2024
To celebrate and promote outstanding Australian citizenship Hyatt Regency Perth



Thursday 16th Reception at Government House	\$50
Hosted by the WA Branch and supported by His Excellency Hon Chris Dawson AC APM and Mrs Darrilyn Dawson	
Friday 17th Conference only at Hyatt Regency Hotel	\$100
Includes all sessions, morning/afternoon tea and lunch	
Saturday 18th Annual General Meeting and Members Forum	FREE
at Hyatt Regency Hotel includes Morning tea	
Saturday 18th Conference Dinner and Scholarship Award Presentations	\$100
at Hyatt Regency Hotel Includes set entrée, pre-ordered main course and dessert Entertainment by W.A. Academy of Performing Arts. Presentation by the Governor General of the 6 Scholarship Awards 2 from Victoria, 1 from the Northern Territory and 3 from WA	
Sunday 19th Wreath Laying at the War Memorial and Farewell Lunch	\$85
at Frasers Restaurant Includes set 2 course lunch and handover to NSW	
5.00 pm Choral Evensong	FREE
at St George's Cathedral St George's Terrace, Perth	
Optional extras:	
Friday 17th evening visit to Lamonts Boutique Restaurant	
for tastings of "The Best in the West" wines, finger food and (for those who choose) freshly shucked oysters with Jerry the Oyster Shucker	
	\$80
<i>[Option to stay on for dinner at own cost]</i>	No oysters \$55
Saturday 18th afternoon visit to Collection of Historic Pianos	FREE
Suggest shared taxis to WA Academy of Performing Arts	

For instant online registration scan QR code below or go to link on WA Page of OAA website



The Order of Australia Association
To celebrate and promote outstanding Australian citizenship

**National Conference
16th - 19th May 2024**



**Register & Pay
by 29 Feb for
Early Bird Prize Draw***
**You could win
1 of 4 Prizes**
**See Conditions*





The Order of Australia Association
En celebrando y promoviendo el distinguido ciudadanía

National Conference 16th - 19th May 2024
Hyatt Regency Perth



Before & After Conference Tours

3 day, 2 night Tours: Sun 12th – Tues 14th May

Tour 1: Albany, Geographe Bay & Wellington Dam

Visiting Williams, Albany attractions including National Anzac Centre, Busselton, Wellington Dam & Bunbury

Tour 2: A Sample of the Peel region and Southwest

Visiting Rockingham, Mandurah, Margaret River, Prevelley Park, Cape Leeuwin, Jewel Cave, Leeuwin Estate, Olio Bello, Manjimup (truffles), Wellington Dam, Bunbury

2 day, 1 night Tours: Mon 13th – Tue 14th May

Tour 3: A Taste of the Southwest

Visiting Wellington Dam, Busselton, Canal Rocks, Cape Leeuwin, Jewel Cave, Leeuwin Estate, Olio Bello.

Tour 4: A good Sample of the Southwest

As for Tour 3 but with the addition of visits to Prevelley Beach (home of Margaret River surfing classic), Margaret River, Vasse Felix, Aravina Estate, a little more time at Busselton Jetty and Underwater Observatory.

3 day, 2 night Tour: Mon 20th – Wed 22nd May

Tour 5: A Sample of WA's Coral Coast

Visiting the Pinnacles at Nambung National Park, Cervantes (including lobster lunch), Geraldton, Port Gregory (Pink Lake), Kalbarri & HMAS Sydney II Memorial



Optus Stadium



National Anzac Centre, Albany



Albany's Historic Whaling Station



Busselton Jetty



Wellington Dam

For full itineraries and information and to book contact Blue Travel Level 7, 524 Hay St, Perth
T: (08) 6210 0900 M: 0417 989 760
E: mengw@blueco.com.au



Conference Program & Where to Stay

Click on "**Click here for further info**" link on OAA website Home Page or for instant online registration, scan the QR code at the foot of this page



The Order of Australia Association
En celebrando y promoviendo el distinguido ciudadanía

National Conference
16th - 19th May 2024





CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

Following approval by the National Board of the closure of the dormant Southern Tablelands Regional Group, the NSW and ACT Branches agreed that members in that region would be offered membership of the ACT Branch, which is more suitable for them than any one of their adjoining NSW regions. Over the past month or so, I have had the pleasure of welcoming 10 members of the former Southern Tablelands region to the ACT Branch. Members who live in areas adjacent to the ACT have always been welcome at our events and we look forward to catching up with our newly transferred members in the near future.

On behalf of all members, I congratulate all of the honours recipients announced in the 2024 Australia Day Honours List, in particular the 36 recipients from the ACT and region. Congratulations are also due to Branch member Ebenezer Banful OAM, volunteer and multicultural advocate, who is the 2024 ACT Senior Citizen of the Year.

Branch events for 2024 began on an ACT self-government theme with Mr Gary Humphries AO, a former Senator and Chief Minister of the ACT, giving the presentation at the Branch's well-attended Australia Day Breakfast at the Hyatt Hotel Canberra. One point he made was that it took 166 years for self-government to come to every community on this continent – the last being the national capital. We look forward to our 2024 AGM next month, at which Dr Michael Moore AM, former Minister in the ACT Government and internationally regarded public health advocate, will speak. Over the next few months, we shall be holding a morning tea and the annual Order of Australia Association – Defence Force Oration, details of which will be available in the next few weeks.

Monica and I look forward to attending the National Conference in Perth in May 2024. We hope to see as many of you as possible there.

ACT BRANCH OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Patron**
Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley
- Branch Nominated Director**
Dr Alan Morrison AM JP
- Chair**
Andrew Phelan AM
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Mobile: 0417 267 609
- 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

EVENTS

OAA-ANU LECTURE, 6 NOVEMBER 2023

Professor Kieran Kirk AM, Dean ANU College of Science, delivered the 2023 OAA-ANU lecture on the topic Humanity's ongoing battle with infectious disease at the ANU Kambri Cultural Centre, following an introduction by ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Schmidt AC.

In his address, Professor Kirk dealt with a complex subject in a way that the audience could easily understand the issues regarding the development of vaccines, and how vaccine-resistant and drug-resistant pathogens are continually emerging, necessitating the ongoing development of new vaccines. He also reflected on the significant contribution that the ANU has made, and continues to make to the development of measures to prevent and treat infectious diseases, including bacterial infection, viral diseases such as smallpox, and the parasitic disease, malaria.

Professor Kirk was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in January 2023 for significant service to science education and research, and to professional organisations.

Following the lecture, a lively Q&A session with Professor Kirk was facilitated by Branch Chair Mr Andrew Phelan AM. The lecture

can be accessed at the link [Humanity's ongoing battle with infectious disease](#).

A post-event reception was held in The Gallery, Kambri Cultural Centre.

The Branch is particularly appreciative of the strong support that the retiring ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Schmidt AC has provided for the OAA-ANU Lecture over many years.



L-R: Andrew Phelan AM, Professor Kieran Kirk AM, ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Schmidt AC

2024 AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

We were privileged to have Gary Humphries AO as the guest speaker for the annual Branch Australia Day Breakfast held at the Hyatt Hotel. Gary was a senator for the ACT from 2003 to 2013, Chief Minister of the ACT from 2000 to 2001, and a member of the ACT Legislative Assembly from its inception in 1989 until 2003.

In his presentation, Gary explored some of the research he has undertaken as part of his PhD thesis at the ANU. He is writing a history of ACT self-government, describing events in which he was sometimes a participant. He explained that it took 166 years for self-government to come to every community on this continent – the last being the national capital. He discussed the reasons for this and, in particular, the fears of local residents that self-government would mean the end of generous Commonwealth spending in Canberra. This was evident in the referendum for ACT self-government held in 1978 and rejected by 63.75% of the voting residents.

Gary described the fractious result from the first ACT election, where anti-self-government MLAs made up almost a quarter of the parliament! He outlined the machinations that led to the formation of the first ACT government in May 1989: a group of new MLAs gathered on the morning the government was to be elected in an attempt to elect Liberal leader Trevor Kaine as the first chief minister but, when Kaine stormed out of the meeting in a huff, the plan broke down. Instead, ALP leader Rosemary Follett was elected Chief Minister later that day – the first woman to lead an Australian government.

Gary said that he considered the real purpose of studying history was to understand human nature better and guide us in making better decisions by understanding how well our predecessors made similar decisions. He said that one question his thesis (also soon to be a book) would try to answer was whether, in light of all the original anxiety about self-government, it has



Gary Humphries speaking

been a success or whether people's fears of 1989 been realised?

Gary's presentation was well received by the 82 attendees, most of whom have been keen observers of the ACT self-government process over the years, and they appreciated the detailed insights that Gary was able to give them.

A branch member, Gary was appointed an Officer of The Order of Australia in January 2019 for distinguished service to the Parliament of Australia, and to the Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory.



Lynne Duckham OAM, Rosemary Follett AO, Elizabeth Woods



L-R: Former MLA Michael Moore AM, Former Chief Ministers Rosemary Follett AO & Gary Humphries AO, Andrew Phelan AM

VALE

We regret to advise the recent passing of the following ACT Branch members and pay our respects for their contribution to the Association and the Australian community:

Mr Peter HIDER AM

Queen's Birthday 1991 – For service to aviation and to the community.

Dr John GRAY OAM

Queen's Birthday 2001 – For service to landscape architecture in the Australian Capital Territory, and to the community.

Rev Joe MULLINS MC OAM

Australia Day 1998 - For service to the community, particularly through the Anglican Church and as the rector of St Peter's Church, Weston. Rev. Mullins was 103.



SPECIAL FEATURE

THE LONELIEST VCs

Of the 101 Australian military personnel who have been awarded the Victoria Cross (VC), our highest honour for bravery, most lie in recognised graves. But five of our fallen – including our newest and only naval VC – have no known final resting place.

To explain further: when the recipients of the Crosses were given their honour, many were awarded posthumously. Recipients had died in the action in which they performed their feats of bravery, but their bodies were recovered and later buried or cremated.

Many of the other Cross recipients survived warfare. Later they died, and the usual process followed: they were given a funeral but often they were overseas when that happened, often reflecting the fact that many of these military personnel were born overseas and had sometimes gone to the country of their birth after their Australian military service. As a result, 37 of our 101 VCs are interred in other countries. Perhaps the most remote of these is the grave of Sergeant Samuel Pearse, who earned his VC in 1919. He is buried in a military cemetery near the Obozerskaya railway station, between Emtsa and Archangel, in North Russia.

Of the VC recipients interred in Australia, most lie in the states or territories where they spent the rest of their lives. They

are distributed as follows: Australian Capital Territory 2; New South Wales 13; Queensland 5; South Australia 5; Tasmania 3; Victoria 18; Western Australia 9. The Northern Territory's only VC was Albert Borella from WWI. He was buried in Albury-Wodonga, where he spent his final years.

Four VCs are still living with us, and five of our 101 have no known grave.

Sixty-four Victoria Crosses went to the Australian Army in World War I. The Gallipoli campaign saw nine of these in only around six months, testimony to the fierce and close quarter fighting. When Gallipoli was closed down, the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) moved to the Western Front, where they were joined by thousands more Australians for almost three more years or fighting.

Four of the five "no known grave" VCs come from WWI although, curiously, one received his VC for a WWI action but died in WWII.

Two had fairly conventional ends. Lance-Corporal Alexander Burton died in 1915. Born in Kyneton, Victoria, in 1893, Burton, an ironmonger, joined the AIF and was posted to the 7th Battalion. Although he missed the landing on Gallipoli on 25 April 1915, he saw it from the deck of a hospital ship, where he was being treated for an infection. A week later he was in



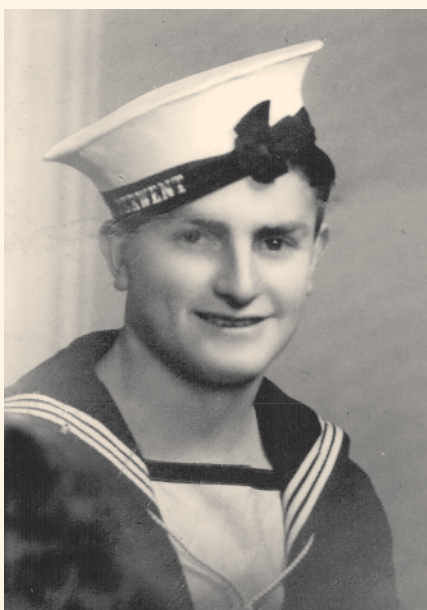
Captain Alfred Shout – a studio portrait (Public domain)

the trenches, fighting in different areas with his Battalion.

On 9 August at Lone Pine, the Turks launched a counterattack on a newly captured trench commanded by Lieutenant Frederick Tubb. The Turks advanced and knocked over a sandbag barricade, but Tubb and Burton rebuilt it, together with a Corporal William Dunstan. The enemy twice more destroyed the barricade, but each time was driven off and the barricade rebuilt. Burton was killed by a bomb while he was building up the parapet.

Burton's body was not recovered. Although this is difficult to understand, it reflects the fact that often soft-skinned humans in combat can be literally blown apart. To make matters worse, their bodies can lie in a contested area – often know as "No Man's Land" -- where they might lie for some time. Others may lie in the same area. When one side or the other takes that part of the battlefield, hasty burials often result, usually into mass graves. It is an unpleasant aspect of battlefields, but reflects the fact that it is urgent necessity, not nicety, that is needed at the time. Burton has no known grave. He is commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial.

Private Thomas Cooke died in 1916. He was 35 years old, comparatively old for a private, and married with a family. Born in New Zealand, he had migrated to Australia shortly before the war. In the initial attack on Pozières, France, Cooke's battalion captured ground and held on under heavy enemy artillery fire and



Teddy Sheean in uniform, wearing the cap tally of HMAS Derwent, the shore base where he was training in Hobart (Sheean family)



Sergeant Walter Ernest Brown VC DCM, of the 20th Battalion, AIF. (Public domain)

counterattacks. Cooke was in a Lewis machinegun team working in a dangerous position. After the others with him were killed or wounded, he remained fighting at his post. Cooke was later found dead at his gun. His body was lost in later fighting. He has no known grave site. Cooke's name is recorded on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial and on the war memorial in Kaikōura NZ, his town of birth.

Captain Alfred Shout, despite being an Army soldier in WWI, was curiously buried at sea.

Shout had served in the Boer War and following that conflict worked as a carpenter in Sydney, while serving part-time as an officer in the local militia. He joined the AIF when war was declared and took part in the landing on Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. He was awarded the Military Cross and Mentioned in Despatches for actions over the next month.

In August, in fighting at Lone Pine, Shout was involved in an action that saw him attacking an enemy trench, killing eight Turks with grenades. Later that day he was with one of the locally made grenades when it exploded prematurely, causing horrendous injuries. Shout died on a hospital ship of his injuries two days later. He was buried at sea, with his Victoria Cross awarded two months later. He is commemorated at the Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey (Australian War Memorial. <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P11036537>).

Corporal Walter Brown served in both WWI and II. A Tasmanian, he enlisted in 1915 in the Light Horse before transferring to the infantry. He gained the Distinguished Conduct Medal in 1917 for bravery before he was involved in an attack on a German trench at Villers-Bretonneux in France. He then attacked an enemy sniper with two Mills bombs and caused the surrender of several other enemy soldiers. He was awarded the Victoria Cross.

When WWII broke out, Brown volunteered for the Army, despite being married and of older years. He went missing after the fall of



Corporal Alexander Burton VC. This portrait was taken prior to embarkation as a private in August 1914. Following his posthumous award of the Cross, the medal and corporal's stripes were added to the image (Public domain)



A studio portrait of Corporal Thomas Cooke VC (Australian Army)

Singapore in February 1942, when he was last sighted declaring, "no surrender for me". He likely died fighting in the confusion surrounding the island's last stand.

Teddy Sheean is the last of the five with no known grave. HMAS Armidale was attacked relentlessly from the skies by Japanese aircraft on 1 December 1941, and hit by at least one torpedo. Despite "Abandon Ship" being ordered, he returned to his 20mm Oerlikon gun to defend his shipmates from the strafing and circling enemy. HMAS Armidale has not been found. She lies in waters closer to Timor than Australia, and a search for her has begun.

It is a sad aspect for the bravest of our brave that they lie in unmarked graves. But at least we can remember them by recalling their stories.

Tom Lewis

Dr Tom Lewis OAM, a retired naval officer, is a military historian. Recent books include Teddy Sheean VC; the only biography of Australia's only naval Victoria Cross winner; Attack on Sydney Harbour – about the midget submarine raid of 1942; and Bombers North, a study of the Allied air missions out of northern Australia in WWII. His latest work The Sinking of HMAS Sydney – how sailors, lived, fought and died in Australia's greatest naval disaster, was released by Big Sky in November 2023.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

As we begin this new year, on behalf of all SA Branch members I would like to extend our congratulations to everyone who has received an award in the 2024 Australia Day Honours List.

We look forward to meeting you at your investiture, and hope you will take up the opportunity to be formally acknowledged at our New Recipients' Reception. You are of course always welcome to join one of our honours recipients' fellowship luncheons, regional group gatherings or Branch events, and I hope you will see the value in becoming a member of the SA Branch of the Order of Australia Association.

I would like to acknowledge with thanks our Branch Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, and Mr Rod Bunten for hosting our annual Student Citizenship Awards presentation ceremony and reception late last year.

Other events we have held since then have included our Christmas Morning Tea, and our Celebration of Australia Day luncheon.

On behalf of the Branch Committee and members of the SA Branch, I wish you all a fruitful and meaningful new year.

BRANCH COMMITTEE

In anticipation of the Branch AGM on Saturday 2 March 2024, Chairman Tony Metcalf extends his thanks and appreciation to those who have provided service as a member of the SA Branch Committee during 2023-24.



left to right: Pamela Rajkowski OAM, John Ziesing OAM, Ken Coventry OAM JP (co-opted), Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP, Noel Hender OAM BEM, Ted Iuliano OAM, Tony Metcalf OAM, Kathryn House AM, Flavia de Pasquale OAM, John Phillips OAM, Greg Gordon OAM JP, with Mrs Cheryl Metcalf (centre); not pictured Don Clark OAM and Joe Ienco OAM.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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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 Convener**
Noel Hender OAM BEM
- Regional Groups Coordinator**
Ken Coventry OAM JP (co-opted)
- Merchandise Officer**
Kathryn House AM
- Editor/Webmaster**
Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP
- Other committee members**
Don Clark OAM
Flavia de Pasquale OAM
Pamela Rajkowski OAM
- Alternate Branch-Nominated Director**
Joe Ienco OAM
- Website**
<https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/sa/about-us/>
- Regional Contacts**
- Fleurieu Regional Group**
John Hutchinson OAM
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- South East Regional Group**
Eric Roughana AM
roseric1@bigpond.com
- Riverland and Mallee Regional Group**
Tim Grieger OAM JP
tgrieger@riverland.net.au
- Yorke Peninsula Regional Group**
Elaine Bussenschutt OAM (Kadina)
elaine@yp-connect.net
Maree Anderson OAM (Minlaton)
mareeanderson@internode.on.net
- Eyre Peninsula Group**
chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

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.

Branch members have kindly volunteered to attend various end-of-year ceremonies to present Student Citizenship Award certificates and medallions to recipients in front of their peers and families.

Branch Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM has extended his thanks to all those who have been able to give time to assist with these Year 11 and Year 12 presentations and also those who have been members of or have supported the Student Citizenship Awards Assessment and Selection Panel.

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



Her Excellency with Thomas Oxford from Parafield Gardens High School, the 2023 South Australian Student Citizen of the Year.

STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

In a ceremony held at Government House Adelaide on Monday 27 November 2023, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia and SA Branch Patron, presented plaques to the Top 10 students in the Order of Australia Association SA Branch 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.

Each of the Top 10 awardees also received a 'With Distinction' certificate signed by Her Excellency and SA Branch Chairman Mr Tony Metcalf OAM.

Her Excellency 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 Branch AGM in March.

A further 29 students – 20 of whom were rated as 'Highly Commended' – received a framed signed certificate and a cased medallion, presented by a Branch member at a school presentation. The initiative of including a medallion with every award was made possible through a generous donation from one of our members, Mr Keith 'Chook' Fowler OAM.

Keith joined the SA Branch immediately after being awarded the OAM on Australia Day 2023 – at the age of 102 – and very quickly became a close friend. Sadly, Chook passed away last December, just a few days after celebrating his 103rd birthday. Chook (SX8150 Private Keith John Fowler) was a WW2 veteran of active service in North Africa and Java with the 2/3rd Machine-Gun Battalion AIF, and a prisoner-of-war sent to work on the infamous Burma-Thailand railway. Many thanks Chook, you will be missed.



Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP with Nazish Zahra Abbas from Playford College in Elizabeth ('Highly Commended').



Pamela Rajkowski OAM presented an Award certificate and medallion to Isabella Agnos of St Michael's College at Henley Beach



Student Citizenship Awards Convenor Noel Hender OAM BEM with Abbas Hosseini of Blackfriars Priory School ('Highly Commended').

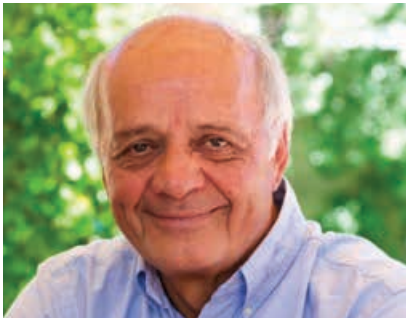


Ken Coventry OAM JP with Bella Schubert of Unity College in Murray Bridge ('Highly Commended').



EVENTS

Dr Tony Cocchiaro AM



Guest Speaker Dr Tony Cocchiaro AM

The SA Branch held its annual 'Celebration of Australia Day' Luncheon on Saturday 20 January 2024. The Guest Speaker, Dr Tony Cocchiaro AM MBBS FRACGP, gave a balanced historical perspective and thought-provoking address on the topic,

Australia Day, should we change the date? Tony was a member of the SA Australia Day Council for 10 years, five of them as Chairperson, and on the National Australia Day Council for five years.

More Regional Groups

Our various Regional Groups held their luncheon meetings late last year. For the Yorke Peninsula Regional Group event in Ardrossan, short interviews were conducted with two Branch members who shared their life journey and the background to their honour. 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.

A successful luncheon gathering was held in Port Lincoln on Friday 17 November to discuss the potential formation of a new Regional Group on the Eyre Peninsula. The formation of a group will be subject to further consideration at a meeting to be held in Tumby Bay in October. Regional Groups Coordinator Ken Coventry OAM JP was very complimentary of the interest and keenness of the local members in forming a regional group. He said it is a great encouragement to work with members, recipients and partners in the regions who wish to be more engaged with and part of the Association.

Associate Professor Elaine Murphy AM, a former Director of the Order of Australia Foundation, will be guest speaker at the first honours recipients fellowship luncheon for the year on Thursday 29 February, on the topic: Right Place, Right Time.



Dr Rob Wight OAM

Mrs Anne Bachmann OAM JP

We were pleased to host some 70 members and guests at our annual Christmas Morning Tea on Friday 1 December. Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM welcomed guests and led the singing of the National Anthem. We had an entertainment interlude by Dr Rob Wight OAM who played a selection of Christmas and personal favourites, and we thank him for personally arranging and funding the installation of the piano for the event.

Our Guest Speaker was 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".



Mrs Anne Bachmann OAM JP

UPCOMING SA BRANCH ACTIVITIES:

- Friday 23 February:** South East Regional Group meeting at Beachport
- Thursday 29 February:** Honours recipients fellowship luncheon meeting
- Saturday 2 March:** Annual General Meeting
- Friday 22 March:** Riverland and Mallee Regional Group luncheon meeting
- Thursday 25 April:** Honours recipients fellowship luncheon meeting
- Sunday 28 April:** Yorke Peninsula Regional Group luncheon meeting in Ardrossan
- Friday 3 May:** Fleurieu Regional Group luncheon meeting
- Saturday 1 June:** King's Birthday Luncheon



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

Despite the weather bureau's advice that El Niño would be touring Queensland this summer, he must have missed his flight, as we have had devastating floods and severe weather events from the tip of Cape York in the North to our border in the South. On behalf of the Queensland

Branch Committee, I offer my sincere sympathy to all who have been affected, not only here in Queensland, but throughout Australia.

Congratulations to all our Queensland recipients of well-deserved honours in the Order of Australia awards announced on Australia Day, and a special thank you to all the wonderful people who took the time to nominate them. Unfortunately, there are many citizens who have gone above and beyond in their service to other Australians who are not acknowledged with an award. This is simply because no-one bothered to submit a nomination for them. I encourage you to nominate at least one person this year.

Planning is already under way for Branch events in the first half of this year such as our Annual Dinner and AGM on 18 March and the King's Birthday Dinner on Tuesday 11 June. A Celebratory Welcome Lunch for 2024 Australia Day Award Recipients will be held in Brisbane in May during the week of investitures at Government House, provided the investiture dates do not clash with the OAA National Conference in Perth from 16 to 19 May. Our Regional Group Convenors are also busy planning functions in their regions. I look forward to catching up with members during the year at either a Queensland Branch or Regional Group event, or at the National Conference in Perth.

EVENTS

GOLD COAST REGIONAL GROUP SPRING LUNCHEON

During Covid and later with the bad health of the Convenor, the Gold Coast Group was inactive.

With the appointment of a New Convenor, Sandra Doumany OAM, came the first function: a Spring Lunch in September 2023 at the Sanctuary Cove Golf Club.

Delighted attendees were happy to be renewing friendships and making new ones. The vista of the golf course and very good buffet helped to make a very successful function.

The Guest Speaker was Professor Michael Good AO who heads up the Malaria Vaccine Research Project at the Glycomics Institute at Griffith University Gold Coast. The success of this vaccine will save the lives of approximately 630,000 children a year. I chair the fundraising arm of the project.

We look forward to more functions in 2024.



Prof. Michael Good AO, Guest Speaker

VALE

- FREYLING Wallace OAM
- Mc CONNELL Dr David Henry OAM
- VIERTEL Elma (Janet) OAM
- GEOBEL Wensley Frances OAM
- OLSEN Dennis Fredrick OAM
- JENNINGS Stanley Earl AM RFD ED
- THOMPSON Frank Waldren (Major)
- BAILEY Earle OAM
- Hon AHERN Mike AO

QUEENSLAND BRANCH OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeanette Young PSM, Governor of Queensland

Chairman

Dr Gary Bacon AM Tel: 0400 733 822

Deputy Chairman

Dr Mick Davis AM ASM
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Ronda Nix OAM

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Ross Patching OAM

Newsletter Editor

Graham Hyde OAM

Governance/Policy Review Officer

Paula Penfold AM

Regional Convener Liaison Officer

Darryl Secombe OAM

Merchandise Officer

Kathy Wooldridge OAM

Regional Convener Sunshine Coast

Marjorie Voss OAM

Events and Awards Coordinator

(Metro)

Geoffrey Cowles OAM

All correspondence to:

Robyn Porter-Secretary
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Regional Group Convener Details

Central Queensland: Vacant

Darling Downs:

Megan McNicholl OAM

Far North Queensland:

John Hardy OAM

Gold Coast: Sandra Doumany OAM

Mackay-Whitsunday:

Carmel Daveson AM

Sunshine Coast: Marjorie Voss OAM

Townsville: David Jackson OAM

Wide-Bay Burnett: Judy Peters OAM



UNDERSTANDING HOW QUEENSLAND'S EMERGENCY SERVICES RESPONDERS RECEIVE THEIR FIRST-CLASS TRAINING

Have you ever wondered how Queensland's dedicated Emergency Services personnel are trained to be the first responders coping with a real emergency?

Thirty-three Queensland Branch members and guests were afforded a rare and wonderful opportunity to find out on Wednesday 29 November 2023, when they inspected the facilities at the Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy (QCESA) at Whyte Island at the Port of Brisbane. The Academy combines two dedicated training units: the School of Fire and Emergency Training and the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) Education Centre.

Because of limited visitor parking facilities at the Academy, the group enjoyed the novelty of being transported to and from the facility by chartered bus. Everyone enjoyed the experience.

Over an impressive morning tea, the group was given a brief overview of the QCESA facility and its purpose and functions, facilitated by John Moy, the facility's Business Operations Manager and David Brose, QAS Whyte Island Coordinator, Clinical Education. Morning tea over, the staff organised an interesting tour of the complex which left our members "star struck". What this facility offers by way of on-the-spot emergency training was a real eye-opener.

The group was impressed with the 180° Virtual Reality (VR) theatre with three projectors that is used to immerse trainees in various emergency situations including procedural and familiarisation training of Emergency Services Recruits (Fire and Ambulance) and further professional development of current Emergency Services Officers.



Receiving commemorative appreciation plaques from Ronda Nix OAM, Queensland Branch Chairman, are Superintendent Adrian Gielis (left) and Superintendent Tim Watkins (right).

The tour also gave an opportunity to view first-hand the many true-to-life training props at the facility. There was a retired QR Electric Train providing the different agencies with a unique opportunity to test multiple aspects of their incident and emergency response to a major incident, within the challenging operating environment of a live rail network. There is also a retired plane, shipping containers for live fire training, a rubble site for urban search and rescue, a shopping precinct which includes a café, a bank and simulated service station and even a two-storey, fully furnished brick house. All these true-to-life training props, and many more, equip the Academy with a range of facilities that allow firefighters and paramedics to practice their skills in various scenarios.

To conclude our visit, the group watched a PowerPoint presentation offering further insight into the work of the Academy, and our Queensland Branch Chairman Ronda Nix OAM was delighted to present commemorative plaques of appreciation to each of the Academy's two training units. One was presented to Superintendent Adrian Gielis, Acting Executive Manager, Initial Services Programs – QAS Education Centre, and the other to Superintendent Tim Watkins, Executive Manager, Operations Business Management Command.

This was an outstanding event organised by the Queensland Branch for its members and thanks go to Dr Mick Davis AM ASM, our Deputy Chairman and a former paramedic, for his behind-the-scenes work in liaising with the appropriate emergency services management to make the event possible.

CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL MAYORAL LUNCH

Far North Queensland is unique for many reasons but one is that the Cairns Regional Council likes to give recognition each year to all individuals that have been awarded an Order of Australia.

Mayor Bob Manning OAM hosted a lunchtime gathering at their function room in September 2023, recognising all the new 2023 FNQ Order recipients. The 60 people present included Regional Group members and non-Association members.

In turn the Mayor, Mrs Ronda Nix OAM, Chairman OA AQ and Regional Convenor Far North Queensland John Hardy OAM addressed the group. My topic was About the Order and nominating deserving Australians for an award and Mrs Nix then addressed the group on Association activities.

All present were then treated to a good lunch in a social atmosphere. This event proved to be a last hurrah for the Mayor, who announced his resignation for medical reasons on 17 November 2023 after nearly 12 years in office. He served his council well just as he served his country well as an Army Officer in Vietnam.



L-R: Mareeba Mayor Angela Toppin AM, Joan Moore OAM, Ashley Cuppitt AFSM OAM, Louise Anderson, John Hardy OAM

TOWNSVILLE REGIONAL GROUP NEWS

The Townsville Regional Group of the Order of Australia Association, Queensland Branch, will be starting to make arrangements in the near future for their first function for 2024, in the hope of giving early warning to members of the luncheon event and its date and times to encourage increased attendance.

While the Group committee was pleased with initial registrations for the annual dinner in August 2023, it was disappointing to see attendance drastically reduced by the effects of sickness on many of the prospective attendees and their guests, including the planned guest speakers. That disappointment was also increased by the fact that the Group was welcoming the attendance of new State Chair, Ronda Nix OAM, making her first visit to Townsville in her new position.

However, those who attended recorded a positive result for the dinner, with Mrs Nix speaking at length on her role and the activities and decisions of the State Branch and how they affect members in the Townsville Region.

The Townsville Group committee will soon meet to decide on a venue, date and guest speaker for the first event of 2024, which will be a luncheon at a venue to be decided, in March or early April. It is hoped that the current wet season events that are drenching northern areas will be

over and done with by that time so that they do not interfere with the planned activities.

Townsville Group Convenor David Jackson OAM said he would be happy to hear from any award recipients from the Townsville region who would be interested in being a guest speaker at a future event.

We have a large region and there are numerous people who have received awards and who also have tremendous stories to tell of the reasons behind their

awards. We are happy to hear from any award recipients from the Townsville region who would be interested in being a guest speaker.

Advice will be sent out to all members in the Townsville Region in early February advising the date, time and venue of the first event for the Group for 2024.

Townsville Group committee member Pauline Woodbridge OAM (left) with Mrs Rhonda Smith at the 2023 dinner



TOOWOOMBA REGIONAL GROUP VISIT TO THE QANTAS GROUP PILOT ACADEMY

The Toowoomba Regional Group hosted a visit to the Qantas Group Pilot Academy (the Academy) located at the Wellcamp Airport in Toowoomba. In partnership

with Flight Training Adelaide (FTA), the Academy was established to help meet the increasing need for skilled aviators in one of the fastest growing global industries.

The Academy is committed to providing a high standard of training delivered in an inclusive and supportive environment.

Wellcamp Airport offers state-of-the-art navigation aids and access to uncongested airspace. Located in Toowoomba, a thriving regional city with connections to major cities, it's the perfect place for students to learn how to fly.



There was plenty to see and learn at the Qantas Academy



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

On behalf of the Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch, we hope you are having a wonderful start to 2024.

Our last event for 20223 was the end-of-year dinner at William Angliss Restaurant with speakers Natalie O'Brien AM and Order of Australia Association Foundation 2022

recipient Alex Nair. Please refer to the December 2023 edition of the VIC Branch e-Newsletter on the OAA website <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/vic/newsletters/> for a detailed article on this event.

Australia Day brings a diverse list of outstanding Order of Australia honours and awards. We value and respect the diversity of the recipients recognised for excellence, achievement or meritorious service and contributions at the local, national and/or international level. Congratulations to the 205 new recipients in Victoria, 121 of whom are women, and thank you to members who took the time to prepare successful nominations. These recipients have received a letter of congratulations from our National Chairman Barry Nunn AO, together with an invitation to join the Association Victoria Branch

VICTORIA BRANCH OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Barbara Thomas OAM

OAA VIC BRANCH PLANNED EVENTS FOR 2024

Inspiring Australians Oration then Victoria Branch Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday 19 March

Time: 10.30am sign in for 10.45 am Oration

Venue: Melbourne Town Hall, Level 3, 90-130 Swanston Street, Melbourne

The Oration will be delivered by Fiona McLeod AO SC

2018 OAA Foundation scholarship recipient Hannah Gandy will provide members and guests with an update on her community work and employment.

Cost: \$10 per person GST included + booking fee for Oration, includes light refreshments.

Bookings via TryBooking link: <https://www.trybooking.com/COTXK>

If only attending the Annual General Meeting (AGM), there is no cost.

12.45pm sign in for 1.00pm AGM

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

Mid-Year lunch

Date: Tuesday 18 June

Time: 12noon for 12.30pm seating

Venue: Melbourne CBD easily accessible by public transport

Speaker: Alaa Elzokm OAM (citation: For service to the Islamic community)

There will also be an OAA Foundation scholarship recipient speaking at the lunch.

Virtual Event via ZOOM

Date: Wednesday 24 July

Time: 5:30pm to 6:45pm

Venue: Via ZOOM

Speaker: Ian Carson AM, co-founder of SecondBite

Cost: There is no cost to attend this event.

Pharaoh Exhibition Winter Masterpieces

Date: Sunday 4 August

Time: 10.45am includes Introduction Talk and Pharaoh Exhibition

Venue: National Gallery of Victoria

Thank You Reception

This reception thanks Order of Australia recipients who join the Association in 2024

Date: Wednesday 9 October

Time: 1.15pm

Venue: Alex Theatre, St Kilda

Cost: There is no cost for the member and one guest to attend.

End-of-Year Dinner

Date: Thursday 21 November

Time: 6.15pm for 6.30pm seating

Venue: Melbourne CBD easily accessible by public transport

Speaker: Pamela Clark AO

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

We look forward to seeing you during the year.

MERCHANDISE SHOP

Thank you to all the members, Branches and Regional Groups who purchased merchandise last year. We appreciate your support.

The popular Bondi Bucket Hat Navy Unisex was restocked at the beginning of summer.

Please refer to the last page of this edition of the national magazine for the current OAA Merchandise Order Form or, if you prefer online shopping, visit the OAA Merchandise Shop: <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart/>.



FEATURED MEMBER

DR PETER ROGERS AM: A SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT

From encouraging women into engineering, using engineering approaches to facilitate medical breakthroughs, to working in Indigenous communities, Dr Peter Rogers AM has had a substantial impact on our community. That impact was recognised through his appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia in the King's Birthday Honours List 2023 for significant service to engineering, to education, and to the community. Peter is a member of the OAA VIC Branch -- Melbourne Central Regional Group.

"One of the greatest impacts has been to encourage more women into engineering, a historically male-dominated field. I was involved in developing our university's world-leading engineering leadership program which provided graduates with skills in communications and teamwork. This attracted female students to the faculty, increasing enrolments and graduates from the course," Dr Rogers has said.

Dr Rogers has also been involved in facilitating developments in 3D bioprinting, producing 3D models of brain structures used to screen drugs, and to model brain trauma, and to print scaffolds for different medical applications such as growing cardiac cells and inducing bone regeneration. The establishment of an engineering innovation centre – with industry funding – with its focus on 3D additive manufacturing, led to the 3D bioprinting capability.

Initially trained as a chemical engineer, Dr Rogers has spent much of his career focused on commissioning and achieving reliability in engineering operations, building and testing systems to ensure they deliver when they are needed. It is complex work.

"But now I can use my skills and experience to solve broader problems, such as bringing engineering solutions to reduce the incidence of trachoma, a debilitating eye disease in Indigenous communities. One project takes mobile face-washing trailers with games and local community music into remote communities. This initiative is helping to stamp out the disease's transmission," Dr Rogers explained. "I have always been driven to help others – friends, family, colleagues, and our invaluable universities. I am full of gratitude to those who took the considerable time to nominate and support me for this honour."



Dr Peter Rogers AM

In particular, Dr Rogers thanks his wife Cathy Rogers OAM (2020 for service to chamber music) and daughters, as well as a wide range of mentors and colleagues. These include several University Chancellors, Vice Chancellors and Faculty Deans, particularly Dr Alan Finkel AC, Sir Ed Byrne AC, Professor Peter Darvall AO, and Professor Tam Sridhar AO to whom he is also indebted.

"Opportunities in this life are only limited by our imaginations, persistence, and by taking calculated risks."

EVENTS

VIC BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The VIC Branch AGM will be held on Tuesday 19 March beginning at 1.00pm with sign-in from 12.45pm at the Melbourne Town Hall, Swanston Street entrance.

If you have book-keeping or accounting experience and use Xero, please consider nominating for the position of Treasurer.

Refer to the OAA VIC website Administration Annual General Meeting for Notice of Meeting, Nomination and Proxy Forms, 2023 AGM minutes, Chair's Report, Financials, 2024 Meeting and Events schedule and Position Descriptions. <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/vic/vic-annual-general-meeting/>

For additional information regarding the AGM, please contact OAA Victoria Branch Chair Helene Bender AM at chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au or 0407 261 951.



EVENTS

AUSTRALIA DAY 2024 IN WANGARATTA

The North East & Goulburn Valley Regional Group celebrated Australia Day with a presentation by John Brown AO, Ambassador for the Rural City of Wangaratta, who spoke of Australia as a “nation free of racial and religious intolerance, military conflict and famine”.

John shared with the attendees some of the qualities that make Wangaratta special, and aspirations for the city’s future:

“Wangaratta is more than just a location on the map; it is a community that thrives on its diversity and celebrates its heritage.

Our region, known for its rolling vineyards and the exquisite flavors of the King Valley wine region, is a testament to the agricultural richness that sustains us. Our commitment to sustainable practices not only preserves our natural beauty but ensures a legacy for generations to come.

One cannot talk about Wangaratta without acknowledging the harmonious blend of cultures that defines our city. Whether it’s the notes of jazz and blues that resonate during our annual festivals, or the diverse backgrounds of our residents, we take pride in being a community that embraces differences, finding strength in our shared values.

As we look to the future, our vision is clear. We aspire to be a beacon of innovation in regional development, fostering opportunities that sustain our economy while preserving the essence of rural life.

Wangaratta is not just a place to live; it is a place to thrive. Through strategic partnerships, investment in education, and a commitment to technological advancements, we aim to create an environment where our residents can fulfill their aspirations without leaving the embrace of our beautiful city.

Our commitment to preserving our natural wonders is unwavering. Wangaratta is not only a city; it is a sanctuary. We will continue to champion environmental stewardship, ensuring that our open



John Brown AO

spaces, national parks, and the majestic Ovens and King Rivers remain pristine for the enjoyment of generations to come.

We must preserve and enhance our racial and religious tolerance and do what it takes to make Wangaratta region an even better place to live, work and play.

As we stand on the cusp of a new chapter for Wangaratta, let us remember that our strength lies not only in our past but in our shared dreams for the future. Today, as we celebrate Australia Day, let us recommit ourselves to the values that bind us together: resilience, unity, and the unwavering spirit that defines us as Australians. Thank you, and may this Australia Day be a joyous celebration of our shared journey as a nation.

And ladies and gentlemen, I have an admission to make! This presentation was AI generated on a mobile phone. An early example of the use of a technology that will bring major change in the way we do things in the future!”

SOUTH CENTRAL SUBURBS

The South Central Suburbs Regional Group held its end-of-year dinner at the Commonwealth Golf Club. This was well attended by members, including new 2023 Honours Award recipients and existing members.

We were privileged to meet and chat with four of the 2023 recipients:

Garry Fabian OAM for service through a range of organisations including Board Member Victorian Association of Jewish Ex Servicemen and Women Australia (VAJEX). Secretary Rotary Club of Glen Eira. Volunteer Shrine of Remembrance. Ex- Servicemen’s organisations.

Richard (Dick) Kirby OAM for services to golf. President of the VGA 2002-2007, VGA Council member for 25 years, being

honoured with Life Membership. Life Member of Golf Society.

Tom Ludwick OAM for services to the community through a range of organisations. Member of Surf Life Saving Chelsea Longbeach SLSC VIC.

Jen McVeity OAM for services to literacy education as an author and publisher. Jen is author of more than 20 books, an international speaker and Churchill Fellow, and runs her business “Seven Steps to Writing Success”

They enjoyed the dinner, mixing with members and expressed a keenness to attend more events. This was an excellent opportunity to get to know these inspirational achievers.



Jen McVeity OAM



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

With Christmas and the New Year holidays behind us, it is time to focus on the year ahead. The three Tasmanian Regional Groups have plans at hand for events throughout the year and the Branch is readying for its events. We always look forward to our Investiture

Day lunches when this year we will be able to congratulate the 23 Tasmanians who were recognised in the recent Australia Day Honours lists.

At Christmas many of us are involved with or watch major sporting events such as sailing, cricket and tennis, where the focus is usually on the main players. Behind the scenes a vast number of volunteers ensure these events run smoothly and that attention is paid to the detail that makes them a success. For example, I regularly learn, during a conversation with volunteers in one organisation I work with, just how many associations a volunteer actually supports, and usually over a long period of time. It should be possible to determine who has gone beyond the usual and is considered appropriate for a nomination. It might take a little time to gather the necessary detail for a nomination, but completing the nomination online is a simple task.

New members in Branch and Regional committees will bring fresh ideas and perspectives towards achieving our goals. We look forward to welcoming new members but thank all those who retire for freely giving their support, dedication and enthusiasm in supporting the Association and its members.

The Tasmania Branch AGM will be held on Zoom on Sunday 3 March, beginning at 2pm. You should have recently received the log-in details and we will be pleased to see you on screen. We shall also be honoured to have the National President, the Hon. Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO, address the meeting.

EVENTS

NORTH WEST LUNCHEON

On 26 November 2023, the North West Regional Group of the Tasmania Branch held a reception to introduce new award recipients from the region to fellow members and their partners.

Fifty-six people attended the reception, which was held at the Emu Valley Rhododendron Gardens in Burnie. The 2023 recipients were introduced to the attendees by the Mayors of each council area where the recipients live. The Mayors of Waratah Wynyard, Burnie, Central Coast, Devonport, Latrobe and Kentish all attended and spoke about the achievements of each recipient. The recipients then responded and addressed the group.



L-R Standing: the Mayor of Burnie Teeny Brumby, the Mayor of Latrobe Peter Freshney, the Mayor of Kentish Kate Haberle, the Mayor of Central Coast Cheryl Fuller, Tim Hess AM, Noel Pearce AM, Lindsay Bourke AM, Michael Walsh AM, the Mayor of Devonport Alison Jarman and the Mayor of Waratah Wynyard Mary Duniam.

TASMANIAN BRANCH OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

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

Regional Co-ordinators

South

Mrs Belinda Hazell OAM

North

Dr George Merridew AM

North West

Mr Graham Milburn AM



EVENTS

SOUTHERN REGION MORNING TEA

On 23 November 2023 members and guests of the Southern Regional Group gathered for a morning tea at The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania in Hobart. The guest speaker was Susie Daly who, with her husband Gerard, grows and markets A-grade potatoes near Dunalloy in south-east Tasmania. Not content to accept the wastage the market demands by not accepting potatoes of a particular size and shape, Susie decided that there had to be a better solution than cattle feed. One answer was to build a vodka distillery, and another to produce gourmet potato salads. Susie and Gerard were recognised in 2019 as Australian Farmers of the Year.

(Left) Belinda Hazell OAM (function organiser) and Susie Daly.



FEATURED MEMBER

DR IVAN JAMES AO: SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES



Dr Ivan James AO BA (Hons) PhD FCA FCPA was born in Deloraine, spent his childhood on Flinders Island, lived in Launceston, and worked in Melbourne. He trained as an accountant and spent most of his professional life as a chief executive in the Australian automotive industry. In June 2007, Ivan was appointed as an Officer

in the General Division in the Order of Australia for distinguished service to the manufacturing industry, particularly the automotive components sector and through the Australian Industry Group, and to the community through church and overseas aid organisations.

After he retired, Ivan enrolled at UTAS, majoring in Sociology and Philosophy with a minor in Aboriginal Studies. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree with First Class Honours in Sociology and a University Medal in 2017.

In June 2018, he enrolled as a PhD candidate in Sociology at UTAS, investigating refugee settlement in Launceston. His thesis entitled *Refugee Settlement and the Process of Belonging in Regional Australia: A Grounded Theory Study in Launceston, Tasmania* was accepted in November 2022, and he graduated in December that year.

While studying at UTAS, Ivan was also involved as a volunteer supporting refugees and settlement services in Launceston. His Honours and PhD research investigated the Australian Government's refugee settlement programs and the experiences and perceptions of refugees and frontline service providers in Launceston as they settled five successive waves of refugees: Chin Burmese, Nepali

Bhutanese, Hazara Afghans, and refugees from Eritrea and Ethiopia.

Ivan's groundbreaking research examined the history of oppression and discrimination that caused each ethnic group to become refugees and their experiences as they sought asylum and made their often perilous journeys to Australia. He interviewed 56 former refugees in Launceston in depth, enabling them to tell their pre-arrival and post-arrival stories and raise issues that were important to them. He also interviewed eight senior officials from local service-providers, who provided valuable insights into settlement issues in Launceston.

Ivan's research was the first to examine the operations and outcomes of regional settlement under-programs introduced nationally in 2018. His findings identified severe flaws in these new programs and significant national, state and local implementation shortcomings. His thesis contains a comprehensive set of recommendations to improve the policy and practice of refugee settlement at all three levels of government in Australia.

Ivan's thesis contributes to sociological knowledge by highlighting the importance of the concepts of 'belonging' and 'homemaking' to understand the perspective and needs of former refugees as they strive to make a new home where they are safe, respected, and belong alongside all other citizens.

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

In December 2023, the Order of Australia Foundation announced the names of the six new Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship winners for 2024. This diverse group of young scholars bring new meaning to what it means to be Australian.

Their field of endeavour is diverse: They range from biomedical science/medicine (Lotte George) to nutrition (Chelsea Allen); from law/commerce (Hukam Kohli) to marine science (Luke Barron); and from the performing arts (Roisin Wallace-Nash) to physiotherapy (Bree Harris).

The six winners come from five different universities: two from the University of Western Australia and one each from Edith Cowan University, Swinburne University, Deakin University and Charles Darwin University.

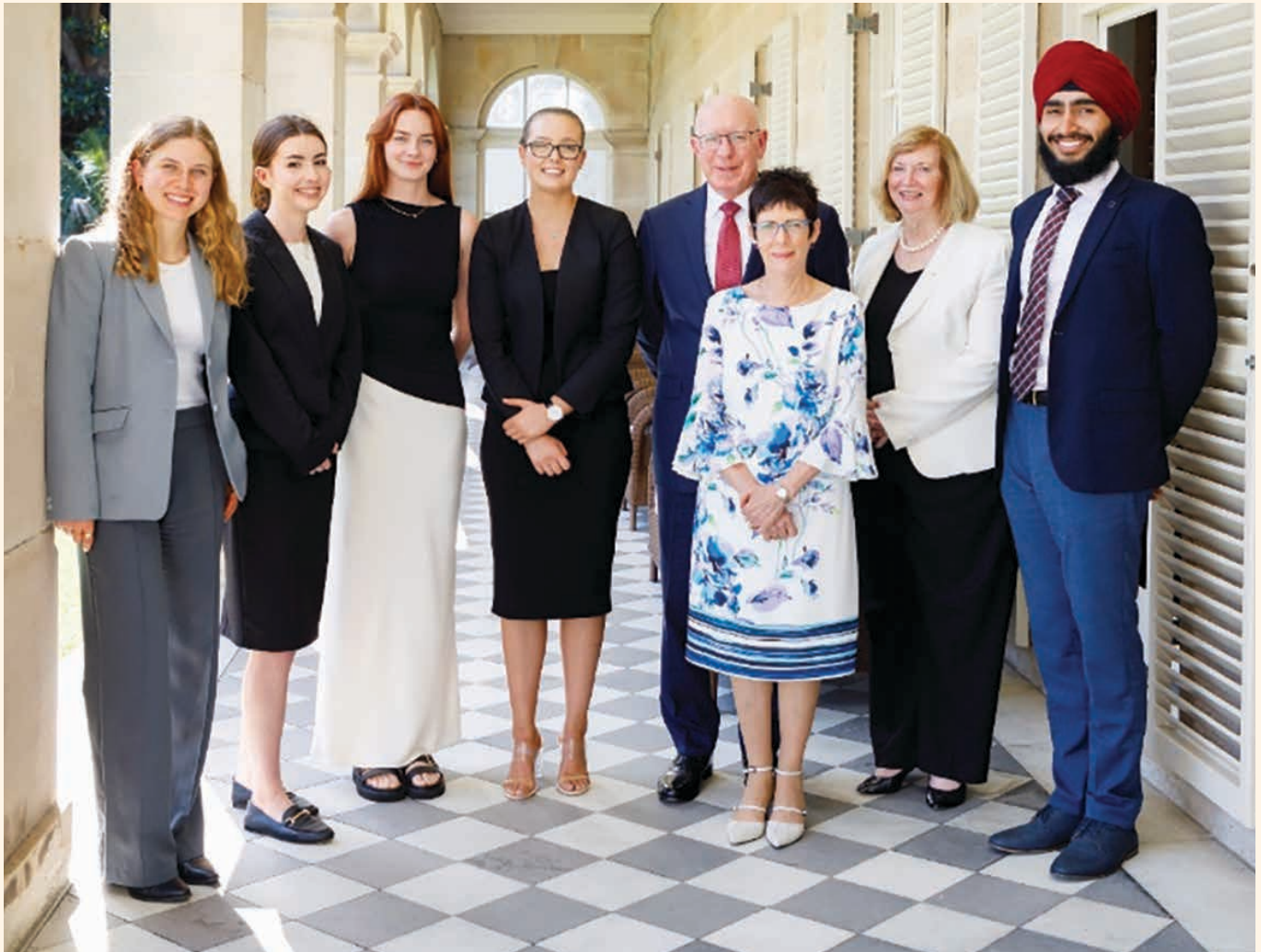
Chelsea, Luke and Bree are from rural communities, where they have made a significant contribution. Chelsea, Lotte and Hukam have demonstrated great resilience in overcoming a significant medical challenge, which has shaped their personal journey and their career choices. Chelsea, Bree and Roisin are studying at universities that are remote from their families, posing unique challenges. Hukam is a proud Sikh and the son of Punjabi migrants who have made a life in Western Australia. Roisin is proud of her Irish heritage and wants to take Irish and Australian stories to the world.

Above all, each awardee is a proud Australian who has achieved academic excellence and demonstrated a strong track record of giving back to the community. They will all benefit from the \$40,000 scholarship, which will help realise their potential for the future benefit of Australia. They also all see that mentorship from a member of the Order of Australia will enhance their ability to make that contribution.

The Governor-General paid tribute to the six students and their achievements in his Australia Day address, using footage taken from the Round Table Conference immediately before the announcement of the awards. The photo here was taken at Admiralty House on that day. Unfortunately, Luke was unable to be present because he was overseas pursuing his studies.



From left to right: Chelsea Allen, Lotte George, Roisin Wallace-Nash, Bree Harris His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley, Dr Helen Nugent AC, Chairman of the Order of Australia Association Foundation, Hukam Kohli. Inset photograph: Luke Barron.





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