



# The Order of Australia Association

## NSW Branch Newsletter

### April 2024

Patron: Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of NSW

PO Box 561, Parramatta, NSW 2124 | [www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/nsw](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/nsw)



## Chairman's Report

Dear NSW Members,

I am humbled and honoured to be elected as Chairman of such a prestigious organisation and I strive to continue the good work of the Association to celebrate and promote outstanding Australian citizenship. Thank you for placing your trust in me and I will strive to make you all proud!

We need to focus on the key areas of membership, diversity and youth which are important in the future of our Association. Membership is the lifeblood of any organisation and it's extremely important that the OAA NSW adapts to current times and aims to recruit and retain valued members like yourselves, targeting younger members and those from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

As the youngest Chairman and the first of Italian heritage elected, since the formation of the Association in 1980, I am extremely proud and I will make it my mantra to see increased new membership as well as retaining members and improving their benefits as a top priority.

My thanks to outgoing Chairman Jim Mein AM for his hard work and leadership over the past 3 years. My thanks to the outgoing committee members, Louise Davies AM Communications and Publicity Liaison, Treasurer Gail Dunne OAM and Regional & Web coordinator Chris Dunne OAM, for their many years of invaluable and outstanding service.

I congratulate the newly formed NSW Branch Committee and I am very excited to be working productively with such a dynamic and enthusiastic Committee. I look forward to achieving our common goal of celebrating and promoting outstanding citizenship via The Order of Australia Awards.

Kind regards

*John*

**Dr John Gullotta AM**

NSW Chairman

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Conference  
Perth  
16-19 May 2024

**Save the Date**  
National  
Conference  
Sydney  
1-4 May 2025

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# New NSW Branch Committee Elected

The Order of Australia Association NSW Branch AGM was held on the 19th March 2024.



## NSW Branch Committee 2024

**Back Row: (L-R):** Mr David North OAM, National Director; A/Prof Sophie Scott OAM, Committee Member; Dr John Gullotta AM, Chairman; Mrs Louise Paisley OAM, Treasurer; Mr Romano Di Donato OAM, Committee Member.

**Front Row: (L-R):** Dr Frank Kelleher OAM, Youth Community Services Award; Dr Geoffrey Glasscock AM, Membership Officer; Ms Martha Jabour OAM, Deputy Chair; Mrs Dianne North OAM, Hon. Secretary; Mrs Trish Wetton OAM, Committee Member.

**Apologies:** Mr Harold Sharp OAM, NSW OAA Foundation Appeal Coordinator and Mr Garry Smith AM, Committee Member.

## Annual General Meeting

The 2024 AGM was attended by over 60 members and guests. NSW Chairman, Mr Jim Mein AM gave his final Chairman's report highlighting his achievements and memories of his many years in the Association and the past three years as Chair. The Treasurer's report was tabled by outgoing treasurer, Mrs Gail Dunne OAM who outlined the Association's financial status which is in a very good state. There was no election for the Branch Committee as only the required number of nominations were received by the closing date.

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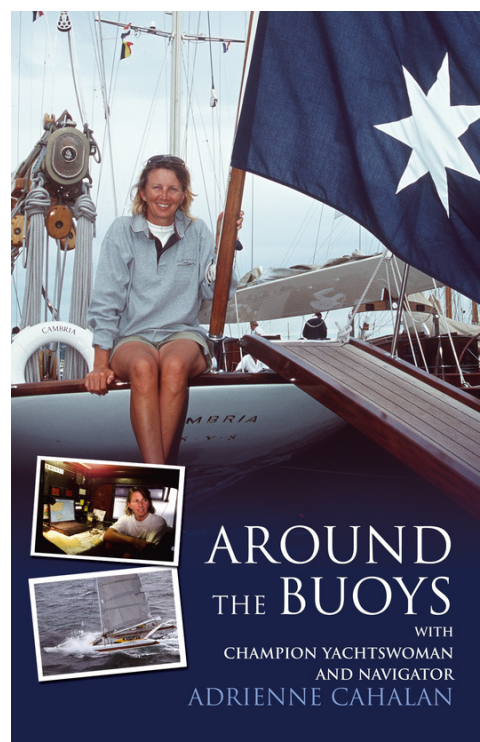
Dr John Gullotta AM was elected unopposed as our Chairman as was Ms Martha Jabour OAM as Deputy Chair. A full list of committee members is listed on the previous page.

Our guest speaker at the AGM was Ms Molly Croft, past recipient of the OAA NSW Youth Community Service Award. In a very moving address she told the audience of her life story and battle with cancer at a very young age. Molly is a 17 year old who loves sharing her message in the hope of encouraging young people to not be defined by their circumstances, but to always look for a reason to smile. At age 12, Molly was diagnosed with Osteoblastic Osteosarcoma (bone cancer) and has lived between hospitals and her home since. She is a two time osteosarcoma survivor. As President of the Tie Dye Project, Molly has helped raise awareness and in excess of \$550,000 for cancer related causes. Molly is an inspiration to young people and adults alike. Her effervescence and positivity captivates every audience that has the privilege of hearing her speak and we were certainly no exception.

## Adrienne Cahalan OAM - *“In Conversation”*

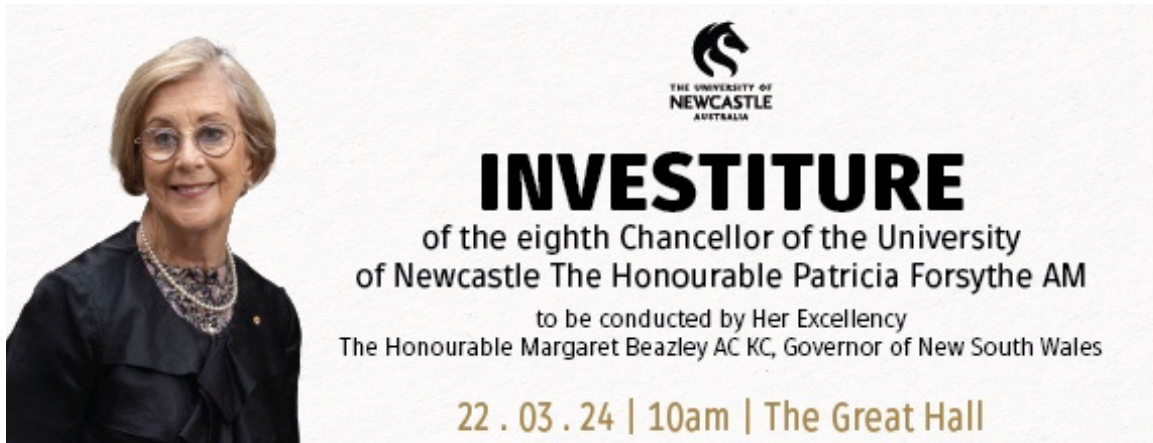
Following the AGM, members and guests enjoyed a luncheon at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel with special guest speaker “in conversation” with Adrienne Cahalan OAM. Adrienne is an Australian champion yachtswoman, trailblazing navigator, maritime lawyer and Sydney to Hobart racing legend! She is the fastest Australian to circumnavigate the globe in a record 58 days!

She is the first and only female to compete in the Sydney to Hobart race 30 times, six line honours wins and three overall victories. In October 2019, Adrienne was inducted to the Australian Sailing Hall of Fame. She is a strong public advocate and Ambassador for women in sailing and a past member of The Order of Australia Association NSW Branch Committee. More in the next The Order magazine!



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# The Hon Patricia Forsythe AM Eighth Chancellor of the University of Newcastle



I was honoured to be invited to the Investiture of The Hon Patricia Forsythe AM as eighth Chancellor of the University of Newcastle. It was conducted by our Patron, Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC , Governor of NSW. In attendance were many parliamentary and university dignitaries as well as her close family and friends. We extend our sincere congratulations.



## OAA National Conference Perth 16-19 May 2024

A reminder to register for the 2024 National Conference in Perth. If you have not booked yet please check the OAA Website or click the link [www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/national-conference-2024/](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/national-conference-2024/)

SAVE THE DATE

## OAA National Conference Sydney 1-4 May 2025

The theme of our 2025 Conference CELEBRATE | MOTIVATE | NOMINATE  
"Inspiring Australian Achievers"

*On behalf of our Chairman and the NSW Branch Committee  
Thank you for reading!*

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