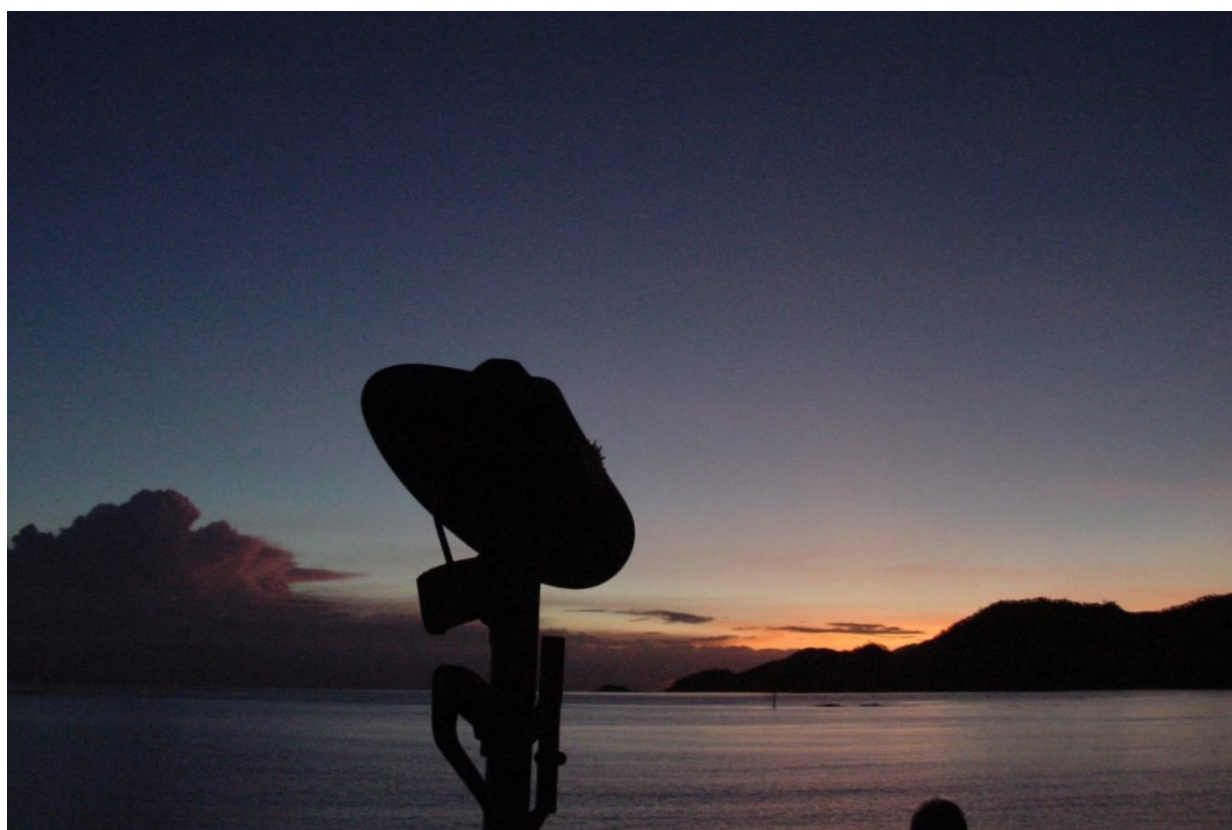




Dated May 2024

Vision Impaired Accessible Document



On the front cover is a photo of a digger's hat balanced on a rifle, in front of the sea at sunset. An inset photo shows Major Paul Rosenzweig and Warrant Officer Class 2 Tony Steer, who conducted a special Anzac Day Dawn Service on the wharf at Port Hera on 25 April 2002. They were serving with the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) on Operation 'Tanager'. There is a *Special Feature* on this in the magazine this month.

NOTICES & EXCLUSIONS:

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL THE HONOURABLE DAVID JOHN HURLEY, A.C, D.S.C (RETD)

This message from the Governor-General was delivered via video message at the 2024 National Conference.

It is a privilege for me to provide this message for your national conference.

Linda and I had planned to join you in Perth but, regrettably, a change in travel dates for a State Visit to Indonesia prevent us from doing so.

Can I begin by commending the Western Australia Branch for arranging this year's gathering and putting together a great program.

We all know it takes a lot of work and many long hours — congratulations to all involved.

Last month, I presided over my last investiture ceremony as Governor-General. It was a significant moment for me for two reasons. First, as Governor-General and as Governor of New South Wales before that, I have participated in a great many investiture ceremonies over the past 10 years. I have loved every single one of them. Every single one.

Because I, with Linda, have had the privilege of meeting people who represent the best of Australia. Who live and breathe community and who want to make

the world a better place.

It is uplifting and it is inspiring.

The second reason is that the breadth of achievement and diversity is a microcosm of our community. And, so, by recognising people who do extraordinary things, we are providing Australians with a reflection of themselves and their country.

It is a message that, I think, needs to be heard.

Ensuring the Order of Australia is — and is perceived to be — the pre-eminent means of recognising achievement AND ensuring it reflects the breadth and diversity of our community have been priorities across my term.

We have reached gender parity and that is pleasing.

However, we are not where we should be in Indigenous representation and those from culturally diverse backgrounds.

The Order should — and must — reflect our community.

My term as Governor-General finishes at the end of next month.

Linda and I have enjoyed immensely our involvement with The Order of Australia Association and particularly our interactions with members.

I commend each and every one of you for the work you are doing in your communities and for your custodianship of the Order.

You inspire us all.

Moreover, your membership of the Association tells me a lot about you. Most importantly, that you haven't stopped working. You're still giving back, you're still looking out for people, and you're still making a difference in the community.

No one sets out to win a medal, nor is anyone entitled to one.

That's the strength of the Order — recognition is earned through hard work, commitment and the difference you make. It's a by-product of those efforts that fuels further contribution.

Thank you again for what you do.

I wish you a productive national conference and every success for the future.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

VICKI O'HALLORAN, A.O, C.V.O

Congratulations to Western Australia! What a successful, innovative and inclusive annual conference. I must applaud you, too, on your amazing powers to ensure the end of autumn turned into the middle of summer for the duration of our stay.

I would particularly like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Chair of the WA Conference Committee Bettine Heathcote A.M. for her leadership

throughout this significant event in our calendars, and the conference committee and volunteers for their hard work.

This annual gathering provides us with the occasion to meet face to face the day before as a Board and then come together again at conference events and functions as a national collective. The A.G.M. held the day after the conference was well attended and evidenced the commitment of the Association to a high level of good governance and continuous improvement.

One of the highlights at our conferences is the showcasing of our future leaders at the Conference Dinner, who are awarded with life-changing scholarships from the Order of Australia Association Foundation. This year's six recipients (below, L-R: Luke Barron, Chelsea Allen, Roisin Wallace-Nash [Hon. Chris Dawson A.C A.P.M], Lotte George, Bree Harris, Hukam Kohli) are all remarkable Australians who we know will make a positive contribution to our communities for many years to come.

On behalf of each State and Territory, I extend our immense gratitude to our Governor-General, His Excellency General David Hurley, and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley. Your patronage, support and commitment to the Order has been steadfast and achieved a great deal. We look forward to our ongoing relationship with you both.

I also extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Governor of WA, The Hon. Chris Dawson, and Mrs Darrilyn Dawson for hosting us at Government House in such a warm and generous manner; the evening will always be remembered by how you made us feel.

Finally, thank you for the great pleasure to be your National President. I am privileged to engage every day in this role with people who work and volunteer for the common good and who continue to find purpose in the service to others.

Let's keep on keeping on in that vein. Best wishes and go well.



MESSAGE FROM THE O.A.A CHAIRMAN

Barry Nunn A.O.

The Governor-General, His Excellency General David Hurley A.C. D.S.C, is to retire at the end of June. His Excellency and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley have been great advocates for the Order and enthusiastic supporters of our Association. We thank them for their generous support and wish them well in the future.

I was pleased to meet so many members at our very successful National Conference in Perth in May. The theme of the conference, *Giving Service Beyond Self* was well expressed in an Oration by the Honourable Malcolm McCusker AC KC and by the interesting and thought-provoking addresses that followed. The Annual Dinner, attended by the W.A. Governor, the Honourable Chris Dawson A.C. A.P.M, and Mrs Dawson saw the presentation of six tertiary student scholarships, three of which were funded by members of our Association.

The W.A Branch Conference Committee, led by Bettine Heathcote A.M, are to be congratulated on the staging of the conference, as are the members who attended in person or by proxy and contributed to the future direction of our Association. I am also pleased to report that N.S.W Conference preparations are well under way, with the event planned for Sydney from 1 to 4 May 2025.

Directors and Branch Chairmen met face-to-face during the conference after 12 months of only on-screen discussion. Incoming directors to the National Board joined their colleagues in a wide-ranging discussion of strategy and opportunities for growth for the Association. William Lye O.A.M K.C replaced John Archer O.A.M as Deputy National Chairman following John's retiring for health reasons in January. Regrettably John

passed away in mid-May. His 17 years of continuous effort as member, Branch Chairman and director is acknowledged with gratitude. There is a tribute to John in this magazine.

We see the beginning of an upturn in membership of our Association. This is in part a result of the increase in awards in the Order, but the efforts of Branch Committees and members contributed to this pleasing outcome. I encourage all members to promote nominations in the Order, encourage new recipients to join us and let committees know if you have ideas for attracting and retaining members.

I look forward to another year of achievement throughout the Association and look forward to meeting many of you in Sydney for the next National Conference in May 2025.

INTRODUCING THE NEW DEPUTY NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION

William Lye O.A.M K.C

William Lye O.A.M K.C, our recently appointed Deputy National Chairman, embodies legacy rich with professional distinction and personal depth. His journey is more than a testament to legal prowess; it reflects enduring commitment to education, community engagement, and an unwavering support for cultural diversity.

Born in Malaysia, William chose Australia as his home, a place where he pursued and achieved academic distinction with degrees in Computer Science and Law from Monash University, and a postgraduate degree in Entrepreneurship and Innovation from Swinburne University of Technology. The seeds planted during his university days blossomed into a legal career of considerable breadth, touching on commercial law, intellectual property and the intricate nuances of international arbitration and mediation.

Since his admission to the Victorian Bar in 1988, William has navigated the legal landscape with an exceptional ability that led to his appointment as Senior Counsel (now King's Counsel) in 2018. He is the first Malaysia-born of Chinese descent to have been appointed in that rank since the establishment of the Bar in Australia. This accolade is reserved for those whose mastery of the law is both recognised and revered. Reflecting the global reach of his legal expertise, William serves on international panels such as the Czech Arbitration Court, focusing on domain name disputes.

His passion extends beyond the courtroom and into the heart of community service. William played a foundational role in establishing the Asian Australian Lawyers Association and served as its past National Vice President, highlighting

his commitment to shaping an inclusive legal community. He is also a Patron of the North American Australian Lawyers Alliance. This reflects Australia's cultural fabric and ensures the profession mirrors the society it serves.

For his extensive service to the law and community, William was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2017. Further accolades, including *Barrister of the Year* and the *Excellence Award* from the *Lawyers Weekly Australian Law Awards*, attest to his standing in the legal community.

William's passion for education is evident through his association with Swinburne University of Technology, both as a Council Member and as Adjunct Professor at Swinburne Law School.

On a personal level, William's life is a partnership with Cheri Ong, who is a pillar of strength and achievement in her own right. Cheri is a notable leader who has her own impressive list of achievements, including founding the Asian Australian Foundation and serving on the board of the State Library of Victoria. Together, they lead teams of *pro bono* volunteers and lawyers, such as in Project Sunflower, assisting the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations. This initiative reflects a shared commitment to international human rights and provides an online platform for displaced Ukrainians in Australia to share their harrowing experiences, contributing to the historical record of war crimes, atrocities and human rights violations, and international advocacy efforts.

William and Cheri have two sons, each with his own distinct success, in computational architecture and contemporary art. Their sons' achievements are a testament to the family's emphasis on education, innovation and creativity.

Members of the Association can look forward to William's leadership, which is bound to enrich the Association with his varied expertise and altruistic approach to life. As Deputy National Chairman, William's professional excellence, advocacy for diversity and commitment to education will resonate with the values of Association. His role signifies not just a continuation of his life's work but also a promise to lead with the ideals of justice, support and promotion of diversity.



A.C.T. BRANCH

CHAIRMAN ANDREW PHELAN A.M.'S REPORT

The A.C.T. Branch is proud to present annual awards to A.C.T. school students and school groups for voluntary community service and good citizenship. The awards mirror the Association's purpose of "celebrating and promoting outstanding Australian citizenship". In April, I sent requests for nominations for this year's awards to all school sectors within the A.C.T. We have a very experienced, well-qualified team of committee members led by convenor Dr Bill Maiden PSM O.A.M, who will examine all nominations in detail. I look forward to celebrating the achievements of our young citizens later in the year.

On 20 March 2024, 40 members and guests attended a morning tea at the Royal Canberra Golf Club, at which Ebenezer Banful O.A.M, the 2024 ACT Senior Australian of the Year, spoke about his 40-year commitment to assisting African immigrants to settle in Canberra and promoting multiculturalism. Ebenezer was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2023 King's Birthday List, for service to the African community and to health. Branch member Kate Carnell AO will be our guest speaker at the 2024 King's Birthday Luncheon, to be held at the Canberra Southern Cross Club on 11 June 2024; and our deferred Order of Australia – Australian Defence Force Oration, to be delivered by LTGEN Natasha Fox A.O C.S.C, will now take place in late July.

On 8 May 2024, 70 members and guests attended a reception at the Commonwealth Club to congratulate local Australia Day 2024 recipients of Honours and Awards. Members of the Branch Committee had previously attended all the Award ceremonies at Government House as official guests, and I was privileged to have attended the very last ceremony presided over by His Excellency General the Hon David Hurley A.C C.S.C (Ret'd), on 12 April 2024.

Monica and I are attending the National Conference in Perth, and we hope to catch up with as many fellow members of the Association as we can.

Warm regards.

FORTHCOMING A.C.T. EVENTS

Tuesday 11 June 2024: King's Birthday luncheon

July 2024: The 2024 OAA-ADF Oration

Thursday 29 August: 2024 Student Citizenship Awards

EVENTS

14 FEBRUARY 2024: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and DR MICHAEL MOORE A.M. PRESENTATION

The 2024 A.C.T Branch Annual General Meeting was held at the Royal Canberra Golf Club, with a good number of members in attendance. Branch Chair Andrew Phelan AM presented the Annual Report for approval. David Templeman A.M. and Mainul Haque O.A.M. were nominated to join the 2024/25 Branch Committee. Coralie Wood O.A.M. stood down from the committee and was thanked for her participation.

Following the AGM, Adjunct Professor Dr Michael Moore A.M. spoke on *Population Health*. Michael was a former independent member of the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly who served as Minister for Health and Community Care in the Liberal minority government led by Chief Minister, Kate Carnell A.O., and later Gary Humphries A.O. Following his time in A.C.T local government, where he pioneered sometimes controversial health policies, Michael became involved in promoting public health initiatives, including as C.E.O of the Public Health Association and President of the World Federation of Public Health Associations. Michael was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2017 *for significant service to community health, particularly to social policy reform, and to the community of the Australian Capital Territory.*

20 MARCH 2024: MORNING TEA

Members and guests met in the Royal Canberra Golf Club for morning tea and to hear Ebenezer Banful O.A.M, the 2024 A.C.T Senior Australian of the Year, tell his story. Ebenezer arrived in Australia more than 40 years ago and spoke about the countless hours he has dedicated to helping others understand Ghanaian and African values and promoting multiculturalism, while offering advice and assistance to newly arrived communities to help them integrate into Canberra. He referred particularly to the difficulties of integration faced by refugees and African migrants when they first arrive in Australia. Ebenezer was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the King's Birthday 2023 honours list *for service to the African community, and to health.*

AUTUMN RECEPTION FOR AUSTRALIA DAY RECIPIENTS

Seventy Branch members and guests gathered at the Commonwealth Club on 8 May to welcome 13 new recipients of Honours in the Australia Day awards. This followed their investiture at Government House in April. It is pleasing to see that 18 Australia Day recipients have joined the A.C.T Branch of the Association. The Branch welcomes the contribution made by the A.C.T Government towards facilitating the welcome event.

FEATURED MEMBER

Professor Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt A.O.

Professor Lahiri-Dutt has been Professor, Resource, Environment and Development Program at the Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University since 2002. Kuntala's research is on people's lives and livelihoods in natural resource sectors such as mining, water, farming and fishing, with a particular emphasis on the important role that women in Asia have played in working and managing these natural extractive industries. Through her outstanding work, recognised internationally, she has certainly succeeded in "retrieving and illuminating women's labour contributions to all these important areas of our daily lives, making them more visible".

Professor Lahiri-Dutt has also had a leading role in the Australian Council for International Agricultural Research, the Australian Research Council, the World Bank (especially as senior advisor in Indonesian matters) and many other international organisations such as the United Nations Environment Programme. She was a member of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women Expert Group, 2021.

Kuntala was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia on Australia Day 2024 *for distinguished service to natural resource management research and innovation, to gender equality, and to tertiary education.*



NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

CHAIRMAN DR JOHN GULLOTTA A.M.'S REPORT

I am humbled and honoured to be elected as Chairman of the N.S.W Branch of such a prestigious organisation and I strive to continue the good work of the Association to celebrate and promote outstanding Australian citizenship.

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 O.A.A N.S.W 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 A.M for his hard work and leadership over the past three years. My thanks also to the outgoing committee members, Louise Davies A.M (Communications and Publicity Liaison), Treasurer Gail Dunne O.A.M and Regional and Web coordinator Chris Dunne O.A.M, for their many years of invaluable and outstanding service.

I congratulate the newly formed N.S.W 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.

Now our work begins, including meeting with our Regional Group chairs to strengthen our regions, increase membership and arranging functions both regionally and in Sydney. The 2024 King's Birthday Investitures will be held at the end of May, and we look forward to attending the investiture ceremonies at Government House Sydney to represent and promote our Association. We will also hold the annual luncheon for the K.B.24 new recipients and their guests at N.S.W Parliament House in June.

I am happy to announce that the Young Australian Leaders are now under our auspices as a subcommittee of the Branch and will be coordinated by our newly co-opted member Helen Clarke. We also need your help to promote our Youth Community Service Awards which are an excellent Branch Initiative.

As we come out of a highly successful National Conference in Perth, our congratulations to W.A Chair and Convenor Bettine Heathcote A.M, and

preparations are well under way for the Sydney Conference 1-4 May 2025 which marks 50 years of The Order of Australia Awards and 45 years of our Association. I look forward to all of you joining us at SYD25!

EVENTS

19 March 2024: Annual General Meeting

The 2024 AGM was attended by more than 60 members and guests. Outgoing 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 Branch's financial status, which is excellent.

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 under the NSW Branch Committee photo.

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 more than \$550,000 for cancer-related causes. Molly is an inspiration to young people and adults alike. Her effervescence and positivity captivate every audience that has the privilege of hearing her speak, and we were certainly no exception.



VALE

A Tribute to John Robert Archer O.A.M

By Jim Mein A.M, Immediate Past Chairman N.S.W Branch

The late John Archer was an amazing contributor to the wellbeing of The Order of Australia Association on all levels of our activities, including as: Deputy National Chairman, NSW Branch Nominated Director, Chair of the National Audit Committee and as National Board member of many National Conference Organising Committees. He also served as NSW Branch Committee Chairman and a long-term Committee member and regularly attended many NSW regional events.

John died on 8 May 2024, and this was a shock to so many people, not just in the Association but to family and friends, including many in the lawn bowling community. He had only stepped down from the National Deputy Chairman position in late January and still seemingly had energy to burn.

John was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2007 *for services to lawn bowls as a competitor and through executive roles*. His contributions to his special sport extended to writing several books on the art and skill of playing bowls which are still being used these days. That achievement alone broadcast his many communication skills from which so many of us benefited.

Similarly, he was an effective networker, mentor and historical source for so many in bowls as well as our Association. He was still encouragingly ringing, 'coffeing' and generally contacting many of the national and NSW branch leaders and will be sorely missed by us all.

He worked in various parts of New South Wales as a State Public Servant up to senior managerial status and was a great raconteur of his experiences.

We thank John, the master team player who so indelibly affected so many of us over many, many years. A great model of continuing to give to the betterment of the community, long after being awarded his OAM.

SAVE THE DATE

OAA National Conference Sydney 1-4 May 2025

The theme of our SYD25 Conference is

CELEBRATE | MOTIVATE | NOMINATE

“Inspiring Australian Achievers”

Early Bird Registration NOW OPEN

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Gala Dinner at the 2024 Order of Australia Association Conference in Perth was a night of celebration and acknowledgement, where the Governor of Western Australia presented certificates to six Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship awardees.

The dinner marked 20 years since the first three Foundation Scholarships were presented in 2004. In a magnificent display of generosity, each of the three inaugural Scholarships was donated by the Foundation’s former Chairman, Mr Hugh Morgan A.C. The current Foundation Chairman, Dr Helen Nugent A.C, acknowledged Hugh’s steadfast leadership.

One of the first three recipients of the award, Mr Rahul Khubchandani, joined new Awardees at the dinner. Having received the 2004 award while studying Commerce and Engineering at the University of Western Australia, Rahul subsequently worked for Wesfarmers’ corporate development team in Perth, before gaining an MBA with First Class Honours from the University of Cambridge. He then joined The Boston Consulting Group’s London office, where he is now a Partner and Associate Director specializing in mergers and acquisitions. Rahul described the award as transformational, giving him the confidence to discover himself and shape his future path. Rahul’s mentor at the time, Mr Denis Glennon A.O, was also at the dinner.

This year’s six awardees celebrated with their donors, mentors, university staff and family members as they reflected on what the award meant to them.

Mr Hukam Kohli, undertaking a Law/Commerce Degree at the University of Western Australia, expressed profound gratitude to his parents for moving from Punjab to Australia, which had allowed him to grow as a person. He also acknowledged the McCusker Charitable Foundation’s generous donation of the Scholarship and the value provided by his mentor, the Honorable Robert French

AC, the former Chief Justice of Australia and the current Chancellor of the University of Western Australia. Hukam said that being mentored by Robert French had not just “renewed his enthusiasm and purpose” but given him “crucial insights into the legal profession”. Robert French recognized Hukam as “an impressive young man to whom the scholarship will mean a great deal”.

Ms Sarah Foley O.A.M is mentoring Scholarship winner Ms Bree Harris. Bree, who is studying Exercise and Sports Science at Charles Darwin University, aspires to undertake a Masters of Physiotherapy before returning to work in a regional community. Sarah, a physio by training, who has been recognized for her contribution to the Geelong community, stressed the value and leadership Bree can provide to regional communities. The Scholarship was made possible through the generosity of Mr Nicholas Paspaley A.C, who is on the Foundation Board. Professor Dominic Upton, from Charles Darwin University, who was on Bree’s Selection Panel, flew in to attend the dinner.

Mr Luke Barron, studying Marine Science at Deakin University, expressed his profound gratitude for the mentorship of Professor Emma Johnston A.O, who is Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research at Sydney University. He observed that Professor Johnston’s expertise in marine biology is invaluable in “broadening [my] understanding of working within the sector and fostering valuable connections”. Having initially trained as a carpenter, Luke intends to make a significant contribution to the “future of marine science, global conservation and the transition towards a sustainable economy”. Associate Professor David Francis from Deakin University, who was on Luke’s Selection Committee, joined Luke at the dinner along with Mr William Lye O.A.M K.C, representing the Order of Australia Association, who donated Luke’s scholarship.

Ms Lotte George, studying for a Bachelor of Biomedical Science at the University of Western Australia, spoke about her ambition to be a specialist doctor, researcher and lecturer, arising from her experience of having an electrical heart condition. She acknowledged the presence at the dinner of the esteemed Australian cardiologist, Professor Peter Thompson A.M, and the privilege of being mentored by him. Mr Stephen Munday, representing the Goodeve Foundation, which donated Lotte’s Scholarship, and Professor Jeffrey Keelan, the Head of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Western Australia and on Lotte’s Selection Committee, were both present.

Ms Chelsea Allen expressed her debt to Mr Paul Wheelton A.M, a member of the Foundation Board, for donating her Scholarship, giving her the confidence to embark on a six-month university exchange to Sweden to progress her dream of operating a nutritional health business after she completes her Business and Health Science Degree at Swinburne University. She acknowledged the mentorship of Emeritus Professor Linda Kristjanson A.O, the past Vice-Chancellor of Swinburne University. Swinburne’s current Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Pascale Quester, flew to Perth to attend the dinner.

Ms Roisin Wallace-Nash spoke of how the Scholarship is acting as a powerful

catalyst to shape her career in the performing arts once she completes her Bachelor of Performing Arts at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA). She made mention of the invaluable mentorship of Ms Heather Croall A.M, who is the C.E.O of the Adelaide Fringe Festival. The Foundation Chairman, Dr Helen Nugent A.C, observed that Heather is precisely the right person to help Roisin with her dream of taking Australian voices to the world. Professor David Shirley from WAAPA, who was on Roisin's Selection Committee, was also present. Roisin's Scholarship was donated by the Western Australian Branch of The Order of Australia, the Conference hosts.

QUEENSLAND BRANCH CHAIRMAN RONDA NIX O.A.M'S REPORT

At the Annual General Meeting of the Queensland Branch held on 18 March 2024, Paula Penfold A.M was elected Queensland Branch Nominated Director on the National Board. The outgoing Director, Peter McMurtrie A.O, K.St.J, will remain a member of the Queensland Branch Committee. Congratulations Paula and thank you Peter for your past six years of service as our BND. The elected members of the Branch Committee remain unchanged, however two appointed members, Carol Cox A.M (Assistant Secretary) and Kathy Wooldridge (Merchandise Officer), O.A.M have stepped down. Both will be sadly missed. Two new Regional Group Convenors have been appointed to succeed retiring convenors Mrs Marjorie Voss O.A.M and Dr Wallace Taylor OAM, both of whom have been convenors par excellence. Mrs Rhonda Clayton A.M succeeds Marjorie as Sunshine Coast Convenor and Mr Grant Cassidy O.A.M succeeds Wal as Central Queensland Convenor. We wish them well in their endeavours to serve the members in their regions.

On Thursday 4 April the Governor-General the Honourable David Hurley A.C D.S.C (Ret'd), in his role as Chancellor of the Order of Australia, and Mrs Linda Hurley hosted a private lunch at the Sofitel Hotel, Brisbane, for the four executive members of the O.A.A.Q Branch Committee plus our Multicultural & Diversity Officer and our Secondary Schools Awards Coordinator. It was a most pleasant occasion held in a very relaxed atmosphere and was enjoyed by all present. Discussion was free and frank and allowed those present to gain valuable insights into the workings of the Office of the Governor-General.



EVENTS

Fun, good fellowship and a ‘simply irresistiBULL’ guest speaker at the Annual Dinner

One hundred and three guests attended our Annual Dinner on Monday 18 March 2024 in the Blue Pacific Ballroom at Kedron Wavell Services Club in Brisbane. Everyone present enjoyed good fellowship in a relaxed and happy atmosphere and were ‘blown away’ by our irresistible guest speaker Barry Bull OAM, who delivered a most memorable and nostalgic after dinner presentation with his thought-provoking theme of “No finish line”.

For more than 30 years, Barry Bull O.A.M owned and managed the successful and iconic music store Toombul Music, at the former Toombul Shopping Town in Brisbane. He has had the rare privilege of sharing magic moments with some of the best stars of the modern rock ‘n’ roll music industry including Sir Cliff Richard, Neil Diamond, Michael Crawford, John Denver, Jimmy Barnes, John Farnham, Olivia Newton-John and the list goes on and on. Barry emphasised his strong philosophy of “No is Negotiable” throughout his talk. There was no better example than when he refused to accept ‘no’ for an answer in convincing these music stars to come to his store and promote their personality and music to scores of adoring fans. Barry enjoyed phenomenal success with his Toombul Music store which resulted in the business winning more than 30 Westfield retail awards and becoming one of the most loved music retail outlets of its time.

Barry also shared with us the touching story of Archer, his grandson, who was born with a disabling hearing loss and how the Hear and Say Clinic in Brisbane, founded by Dr Dimity Dornan A.O, has vastly improved young Archer’s hearing prospects. In appreciation of what Hear and Say has achieved, and leaning on his love of music through his guitar playing, Barry has been performing regular

fundraising concerts for Hear and Say, providing much needed funds for this vital organisation helping children with hearing difficulties.

Finally we were given a moving insight into how Barry, through his personal grief, came so close to abandoning everything that he had achieved, after his wife Kayleen unexpectedly passed away in 2018, after a 53 year marriage partnership. We marvelled as, with much sincerity, he explained how slowly but surely he has managed to carry on in her memory with renewed drive and enthusiasm – reinforcing his talk theme that there is definitely “No finish line”.

What a wonderful inspirational journey we were privileged to share with this remarkable Queenslander.

Also at the Dinner three outstanding Queensland senior volunteers (Ian Cameron from Ferny Grove, Brisbane, William Henderson from Bridgeman Downs, Brisbane, and Jeffrey McColl from Bundaberg) received their Queensland Branch Senior Volunteer Awards from Michael Rayner A.M representing Blight Rayner Architecture, the award sponsor).

A well-attended Annual General Meeting of the Queensland Branch preceded the Dinner in the V.C Suite. As part of proceedings, Ronda Nix O.A.M, the Queensland Branch Chairman, presented Grant Cassidy O.A.M, the new convenor for the Central Queensland Regional Group with his Regional Group Convenor’s name badge.

SPECIAL FEATURE; INTERVIEW WITH THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

The Order: *Before becoming Governor-General, your army career took you to some difficult postings. Canberra must have offered the promise of more peaceful times. But in your civic role you have shared some extremely challenging times with fellow Australians — floods, drought, bushfires. What do you take away from these experiences?*

G-G: That we are a strong nation comprising good people who can overcome big challenges.

Over the last nearly five years as Governor-General, Linda and I have visited many regional and rural communities including those impacted by natural disasters. We have seen devastation on a grand scale, including loss of life, homes and property. But in the face of often insurmountable odds, these communities remain tightknit, strong and determined to rebuild. The people in these communities, and in others, are incredibly inspiring.

I ask myself how do these people pick themselves up and continue to give back

to their communities and families and so on?

That gritty determination is inspiring.

I often quote Dorothea Mackellar ... the end of her poem *My Country* really speaks to me. Talking about Australia and the many challenges she throws our way, she concludes: “... *she pays us back threefold.*”

And the reason ‘she pays us back threefold’ is the quality of people we have in Australia. Good people — compassionate, tough, gritty and determined.

It makes me optimistic for the future of our country.

The Order: *On a happier note, you have represented Australia at some momentous occasions in the past five years, especially as the Second Elizabethan Age came to an end and a new King ascended the throne. What are your fondest memories of your ceremonial/representative role?*

GG: Linda and I had the opportunity to meet with The Late Queen prior to commencing my term. We had lunch at Buckingham Palace in 2019 and expected to be amongst a number of guests. Instead it was an intimate affair with just Her Majesty, Prince William (and the two corgis!).

Another highlight was celebrating Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee – both representing all Australians in London, and, in a sign of our times, hosting a 30-minute video call where we introduced the Australians of the Year to her.

It was a special honour to attend Her Majesty’s funeral and, on behalf of Australians, recognise and celebrate all she gave to us.

The Late Queen was a beautiful woman, so warm and engaging. She had a knack for putting people instantly at ease and making them feel special. Throughout her reign, she consistently demonstrated tireless and selfless service, devotion to duty and a compassion for others.

Those are values to which we can ascribe and aspire. They are values His Majesty The King Charles and Her Majesty The Queen Camilla also exemplify and showcase.

Linda and I also attended the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen in the United Kingdom in May 2023. As we walked into Westminster Abbey, I turned to Linda and said, “What would our parents think if they could see us now?!”

I cherish those memories.

Of course, the ceremonial aspect of my role as Governor-General that I most enjoyed (as I did when I served as Governor of NSW) were investiture ceremonies. They are such joyous occasions.

Hundreds of people have stood in front of their loved ones to be recognised. Each has made an outstanding contribution to our nation. Each deserves to be celebrated.

What we see during investitures week is a microcosm of what Linda and I have witnessed first-hand almost every day for the past nearly five years — good people doing good work for the benefit of Australia.

The Order: *Many people may not know that the Governor-General also plays an*

important constitutional role and is a part of Parliament and Government. What are your lasting memories of your role as the Monarch's delegate in our constitutional monarchy?

GG: It is a responsibility that I take most seriously. Our representative democracy is something that all Australians should be proud of, have respect for and protect. It is the bedrock of our way of life, and one only has to look around the world to see how fortunate we are to have a system where the rule of law is sacrosanct, we all have a say in the direction we head as a country and there is peaceful transfer of power.

These responsibilities – including chairing the Federal Executive Council, considering and giving Royal Assent to legislation through to very public occasions such as the Opening of Parliament – are at the core of the Governor-General's role because they are at the centre of our democracy. It has been a privilege to play a part in that democracy and in service of all Australians.

The Order: *You have met many interesting people from all walks of life over the past five years. Of all of these, which have left an indelible mark on your mind or heart?*

GG: It is a big trap for a Governor-General to nominate his favourite anything! So let me answer your question this way.

In July 2019, in my first week in the role, Linda and I visited Cloncurry and Julia Creek — to visit an area six months after the massive floods in January-February. It's not widely known that there was a body of water the size of Victoria that fell in 12 days and then rushed up north through that region. It took with it topsoil, 500,000 head of cattle, fences, people's livelihoods.

In Julia Creek, I was talking to some property managers and owners. During the conversation I said, you have a lot of hard work ahead of you. One of them said, "Governor-General, we are not afraid of hard work, just give us a good season".

That comment has stayed with me for the past five years. It tells me so much about who we are as Australians. In more than 50 years of service life, I have never heard such a concise explanation of who we are. We're not looking for short-cuts or a handout, we just want a level playing field, the chance to work hard and to get ahead.

It has helped fuel my optimism for the future of our country.

To give another example, on Wednesday 6 March 2024, Linda and I were in western and central Victoria, visiting communities impacted by the recent fires.

What struck me, particularly in Pomona, was the impact of good, compassionate leadership. The community had learnt from previous disasters, come together and planned for what they would do if fire struck again. As a result, within days of a third of the homes being lost, those who had lost homes had been housed within the community.

The community was putting its collective shoulder against the wheel – in the moment but also in the months and years leading up to it. It is critically

important to lead people well.

The Order: *Her Excellency Mrs Hurley has been at your side throughout your tenure as Governor-General. Are you both looking forward to more 'down time' together, perhaps with children and grandchildren? Or will you move on to something new and equally challenging?*

GG: The past 10 years in Vice Regal roles — as Governor-General and as Governor of New South Wales — have been wonderful.

It's the people who have made it so. We've met some amazing people, people who have inspired and uplifted us, no matter how dire their circumstances. So, there will be a period of adjustment for us — to come down, in a sense, from the high we've been on.

Linda has been there with me every step of the way. I could not have done it without her love and support. She never sought a public role but has worked tirelessly, given enormously of herself to uplift others and brought kindness to all. I am greatly indebted to her.

We look forward to spending more time with our three grandchildren — all of whom were born during the term — and our extended family.

We'll take a break and then return to Canberra and begin the next phase of our lives. What that might look like is still to be determined. I will, however, make sure that I'm a paid-up member of the Association and — in that context — look forward to seeing many of you again in the future!

NORTHERN TERRITORY BRANCH

CHAIRMAN ALAN JAMES O.A.M.'S REPORT

I would like to express my thanks to all who attended our successful Annual General Meeting held on 12 March. Your presence and participation are among the highest, as a percentage of membership, of the various Australian branches, and I thank you for your continued support. At the A.G.M, we bade farewell to two Committee members, Professor Jai Singh A.M and Robyn Burrige O.A.M, whose dedication and service over the past three years have been invaluable to our Association. We extend our heartfelt thanks to them for their contributions.

I am pleased to announce the addition of two new members to our Committee, Amin Islam O.A.M, who will be serving as our new Treasurer, and Annette (Floss) Roberts O.A.M. Their wealth of experience and enthusiasm will undoubtedly enrich our association, and I look forward to working with them.

I am gratified that the number of N.T individuals receiving recognition through awards is on the rise, reflecting the remarkable contributions of our fellow

Territorians. Moreover, our membership continues to grow steadily, underscoring the enduring appeal and relevance of our association.

As we move forward, I continue to encourage the nomination of worthy Territorians representing the diverse cultures in the N.T.

EVENTS

At the end of March, N.T Branch members had the privilege of attending a memorable function in Darwin, graciously hosted by His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley A.C D.S.C (Ret'd), the Governor General of Australia and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley. Chairman Alan James O.A.M says, "It was an honour to witness His Excellency's genuine interest and care as he engaged with the senior Territorians in attendance".

FEATURED MEMBER: SALLY THOMAS A.C

It has become customary to honour an eminent member of the N.T Branch with a surprise tribute at our A.G.M, and this year we recognized The Hon Justice Sally Thomas A.C, twentieth and first female Administrator of the Northern Territory, serving from 1992 to 2009. She was presented with a certificate expressing the appreciation of our members for Sally's "lifetime of service to the people of the Northern Territory" through her work for the Law, patronage of numerous community organisations, especially the arts, and service as Administrator.

We were also delighted by a surprise visit and message of greeting from O.A.A National President The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran A.O C.V. O, immediate past Administrator of the Northern Territory, shown in the photo with Professor Scott Bowman A.O, Vice-Chancellor of Charles Darwin University, and Derek Puh O.A.M, NT historian and author.



FORTHCOMING N.T.EVENTS

- May 18: Investiture of King's Birthday Order of Australia Awardees, Government House, Darwin.
- July 30: Annual Dinner, Hilton Hotel, Darwin.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

S.A. CHAIRMAN TONY METCALFE O.A.M'S REPORT

Branch Committee members and I attended a series of investiture ceremonies and in May we held our New Recipients' Reception to welcome awardees from the 2024 Australia Day Honours List.

Other recent events include our 'Celebration of Australia Day' luncheon, our AGM, honours recipient fellowship luncheon meetings every second month, luncheon gatherings of our regional groups and our major mid-year event, the King's Birthday Luncheon on Saturday 1 June.

We supported an Open Day at Government House Adelaide, where we had members on duty beside the Order of Australia medal display in the library with our Branch information brochure and insert, to assist with enquiries from members of the public about the Order of Australia. Our brochure is directed at existing recipients of the Order of Australia, to give an overview of the S.A Branch and the benefits of membership of both the Association and the Branch. The insert provides information about the Order of Australia and a guide to the nomination process.

Our Student Citizenship Awards Assessment and Selection Panel held its first meeting for the year and planning for 2024 is well under way.

EVENTS

S.A. Branch 38th Annual General Meeting

The S.A Branch held its 38th A.G.M at the Arkaba Hotel on Saturday 2 March, with a pleasing number of members and guests in attendance, including several who made the journey in from regional areas.

We were privileged to have as our guest speaker Thomas Oxford, formerly of Parafield Gardens High School, our 2023 South Australian Student Citizen of the Year.

For the election of office-bearers, Chairman Tony Metcalf O.A.M referred to the report submitted by the Returning Officer, Mr Ken Coventry O.A.M J.P. We congratulate John Ziesing O.A.M on his election to the position of Treasurer, and Noel Hender O.A.M .BE.M on his nomination to be Branch Nominated Director. In addition, Greg Gordon O.A.M J.P was announced as re-elected to the Branch Committee.

On behalf of the Branch Committee and members of the S.A Branch, Chairman Tony Metcalf O.A.M extended his thanks and appreciation to the following who have provided service as a member of the Branch Committee up to the date of the 2023 A.G.M: Kathryn House A.M, Joe Ienco O.A.M and Ted Iuliano O.A.M.

We also welcome the following who have volunteered to fill casual vacancies on the Branch Committee for 2024-25: Cathy Chong A.M J.P, Toni (Antonietta) Cocchiario O.A.M and Deborah De Williams A.M

Branch celebrations of Australia Day and a remarkable life

Australia Day: The guest speaker for our annual 'Celebration of Australia Day' Luncheon on Saturday 20 January was Dr Tony Cocchiario, who was appointed a Member of the Order, *For service to the development of multiculturalism in South Australia through community organisations, and to support for the social and cultural interests of the Italian community* (AD04). Dr Cocchiario's various community contributions have also been recognised with the award of the *Ordine della Stella di Solidarietà Italiana* (Order of the Star of Italian Solidarity) in 2007.

Tony gave a balanced historical perspective and thought-provoking address on the topic, 'Australia Day, should we change the date?'. This is a subject that Tony is well qualified to address: he was a member of the S.A Australia Day Council for 10 years, five of them as Chairperson, and served on the National Australia Day Council for five years.

Fellowship luncheons: Peter Routley A.M reports on the February honours recipients fellowship luncheon meeting: *"With 15 members enjoying an excellent meal at the Naval and Military Club was our guest-speaker, Deborah De Williams A.M. She has led a remarkable life"*. Deborah's topic was: 'Lessons from the Road, Life Lessons from Running and Walking Around Australia'.

Deborah is an Australian and World Record Ultra Marathon athlete who made history as the first woman to walk around Australia in 2003 and as the first woman to run around Australia in 2010. Deborah has been described as a trailblazer whose story of triumph and hope, including her run around Australia, is documented in the book *Running Pink – Deborah De Williams' Inspiring Story* by Megan Norris (2012).

Her address filled in various details about these adventures: 265 pairs of running-

shoes have been worn-out; raising money has involved running about 45,000 kilometres and attendance at 422 sausage-sizzles. Eight thousand days of running has raised about a million dollars.

Deborah's highlights include Tasmanian Australian of the Year (2011). She was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia, *For significant service to the community through contributions to a range of cancer support organisations, and to ultra marathon running (AD15).*

Deborah is a breast cancer survivor, dedicated campaigner and a captivating keynote speaker. She says she is on a mission, despite her past obstacles, to inspire and empower others to embrace their scars and live life to the fullest.



SPECIAL FEATURE

MEMORIES OF ANZAC DAY

This year's Anzac Day commemoration also marked the 25th anniversary of the first Australian Defence Force deployments with the International Force East Timor. Several S.A Branch members served in East Timor during the period of the Australian commitment, including Air-Commodore Roger Capps A.M R.F.D (Ret'd), Brigadier Robert Atkinson A.M R.F.D (Ret'd), Group-Captain Robert Black A.M R.F.D (Ret'd) and Major Paul Rosenzweig O.A.M (Ret'd).

Paul Rosenzweig said, *"I have been involved with Anzac Day in some way my whole adult life, and have had the privilege of conducting four Anzac Day services overseas. Undoubtedly the highlight would be running a Dawn Service at the water's edge at Port Hera in East Timor in 2002 whilst deployed on warlike*

service.”

Rob Atkinson deployed to East Timor as a medical specialist (orthopaedic surgeon) in late 1999 in support of the first deployments by the International Force East Timor (INTERFET), and then three further times. As an Associate Professor, he was appointed a Member of the Order, *For service to medicine as an orthopaedic surgeon and through contributions to professional associations* (QB08). Rob has kindly compiled some recollections of his service in East Timor under warlike conditions.

“As a retired Brigadier and Orthopaedic Trauma Surgeon with 47 years in the Australian Defence Force (both full- and part-time), it gives me great pleasure to reminisce.

As medical officers, we are placed in a unique position to hear information and stories almost firsthand – ‘Guess what happened today, Doc?’. There is probably a therapeutic dimension to this, as a problem shared is a problem halved, and most certainly it is a privilege as it is to look after those who put themselves in harm’s way for us.

One story I recall was during a riot – a mob was approaching an Armoured Personnel Carrier which was armed with a .50-inch calibre machine-gun. A serious weapon. The lead rioter holding a Molotov cocktail, looked up and saw the weapon training on him. He stopped, smiled and put the cocktail down. The machine-gun tilted up. The riot stopped. I thought it unusually good judgement, as any other soldier may have opened up. Maybe the Australian way was the most sensible.

There was not a lot happening at the hospital surgically, so I was asked go on a forensic mission to look for mass graves as part of the U.N accumulating evidence for potential crimes. I am not a pathologist, but had experience with bones, so was the best there was available at the time. Our digging party dug and I examined the bones. Apparently, Timorese are often buried with their dogs. So somewhere is U.N film footage with me indicating that this skull belongs to a member of the canine family.

I had to go across country at one stage, as we had a medical unit run by New Zealanders. The trouble was that it was the Wet Season and there is mountain range running along the middle of the country. The U.N helicopter was a giant, and Russian. Off we went, up valleys with the rotors very close to the cliffs. Then the clouds closed in, and back out the valley we came and waited, landed and then tried again. We finally popped through to the other side and reached our destination. I observed the pilots, in fact three, with one sitting on a bench between the front seats. They were my age. They were good, and I felt certain they flew during the Soviet war in Afghanistan.

One time we did a practice night casualty evacuation from a town in the

mountains. To set this up, I was sent along to implement. First, I flew in a Blackhawk helicopter (Sikorsky U.H-60), just the pilot and me. We zoomed along riverbeds at zero feet. I am sure she was demonstrating her skill and for me it was a magic carpet ride. I was deposited on the 'village green', and observed the take-off along with many locals. As the helicopter left, kids ran out and dived into the draught and flew like superman. The parents were laughing, so obviously it had been done before. The pilot returned in daylight for the 'night' evacuation. No point in taking unnecessary risks.

I served four times, mostly on six-week rotations, with one of them being a bit shorter covering the Presidential inauguration as required by the U.N. I did not see much on that trip as we were locked in!

The lessons of Timor were the effects of dengue and malaria, and that the unsung hygiene people were key to prevention. The troops had facetious names for them, but all respected the medical hygiene staff for keeping them safe."

TASMANIA BRANCH

CHAIRMAN ALASTAIR DOUGLAS O.A.M.'S REPORT

At the Annual General Meeting in March, the Branch welcomed the re-election of Dr Rosemary Callingham as Branch Nominated Director and Branch Committee members Mrs Beatrice Lawrence OAM as Branch Secretary, Dr Peter Holm OAM and Mrs Maureen Oates O.A.M and, elected for the first time, Mrs Belinda Hazel O.A.M and Mrs Vicki Purnell O.A.M, all for three-year terms. I sincerely thank Dr Nicholas Chantler A.M who retired according to the rules after long and valued service to the Association, providing assistance and sound advice for many years.

A highlight of the Tasmanian A.G.M which was conducted via Zoom was the welcome appearance of the National President, the Hon Vicki O'Halloran A.O C.V.O who addressed the meeting from her home in Darwin. Vicki's address can be viewed on the Tasmanian Events page of the Association website.

The Australia Day investitures were conducted by Her Excellency the Hon Barbara Baker A.C at Government House in April. It has become custom in recent years for the Branch to host a celebratory lunch for new recipients, their family and friends along with a number of Association members. The co-operation of Government House staff greatly assists the Branch to conduct the lunch such that we have recipients from the morning ceremony and have those at lunch able to arrive at Government House in good time for the afternoon investitures.

I recently received a phone call from one of our members to apologise for not being able to attend any Association functions. While his health was generally good, he had recently given up driving and like so many was now feeling the inconvenience and isolation that it had caused him. He told me he receives some home help but otherwise lives on his own. We had a lengthy discussion about the Association, his membership and many other matters including the life-time membership he took when appointed a Member of the Order in 1993. If I didn't know otherwise, I would not have known that he is approaching his 104th birthday. He is known by many from Darwin to Tasmania, so it will be no surprise that I am referring to Brian Winspear A.M who served in the R.A.A.F and survived the bombing of Darwin during W.W.2. After the war Brian was prominent in developing a number of tourism and other businesses on Tasmania's East Coast. To be interested in life and so alert like Brian in his 104th year is something to which we should all aspire.

EVENTS

Southern Morning Tea

At a recent event, the Southern Regional Group was treated to many insights into what it takes to be a Police Search and Rescue officer. Sergeant Damian Bidgood recently retired from the Tasmania Police Search and Rescue unit after 30 years of distinguished service. He gave a detailed presentation to an appreciative audience at the Southern Morning Tea. Damian was recently recognised with a National Search and Rescue award "in recognition of his unwavering dedication, leadership and professionalism during a long-standing contribution to search and rescue in Tasmania". As you may imagine, a search and rescue officers' work can take them to many remote and technically challenging places, in the mountains, at sea, in caves or just down the street. Damian's explanation of the training and preparation for each particular type of job gives one great comfort to know that Damian, his colleagues and those in other police teams throughout Australia do their utmost to achieve a good outcome. When not engaged in a search and rescue, Damian could be at sea conducting such activities as fisheries duties or training with helicopters, oceangoing vessels or with one of the many smaller vessels Tasmania Police operate.

Association members gave enthusiastic applause expressing their appreciation of the presentation and for Damian's dedicated and skilled service to our community.



FEATURED MEMBER

Dr Karla Fenton O.A.M

World War II was a turning point in the life of young New Norfolk teacher, Karla Fenton. Deeply attached to the Tasmanian country lifestyle of her childhood but yearning for a challenge beyond the classroom, the 18-year-old signed up to the war effort by joining the Royal Australian Air Force to work on aircraft maintenance in regional Victoria.

It was a move that would eventually lead to a medical degree and a distinguished career as a doctor in war-ravaged Malaysia, and then back home to Tasmania. But it was the initial move to the R.A.A.F base in East Sale, servicing aircraft used to patrol the east coast of Australia for Japanese submarines, that altered the life of the ambitious young Tasmanian.

“My two brothers were already in the army and I wanted to do my bit,” Dr Fenton O.A.M, 98, said from her Hobart home. “I nearly got stopped from doing so, because with all the men away, women who were teaching were told they couldn’t leave the job. But I popped down and joined, and went over to Melbourne.

“I arrived in Sale on the fourth of the fourth ’44. For me, it was wonderful experience because I was doing new things all the time.” Dr Fenton said servicing the avionics of Beauforts and Lancasters was challenging, involving working for long periods inside the cramped confines of the cockpit.

When the war came to an end in 1945, Dr Fenton’s superiors were fully supportive of her desire to study for a medical degree, which she began in Hobart at the University of Tasmania and finished in Melbourne under the tuition of war hero Sir Weary Dunlop.

Dr Fenton joined the Tasmanian Psychiatric Service in 1969 and completed 61 years in medical practice before retiring in June 2016. A recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2005 *for service to medicine as a practitioner, educator and counsellor*, Dr Fenton was awarded the Anzac of the Year Award 2005 (Tasmania) and the Senior Australian of the Year (Tasmania) in 2004.

And while Dr Fenton is keenly aware of the human costs of war – actively championing increased assistance for those veterans suffering PTSD – she said her experiences in World War II offered her the chance to fully realise her talents. “For me, it was a gift that allowed me to go on and learn all the things that were to be learned,” Dr Fenton said.

(Article contributed by Duncan Abey *The Mercury* newspaper, reprinted with permission)

VICTORIA BRANCH

CHAIRMAN HELENE BENDER A.M.'S REPORT

The VIC Branch Annual General Meeting was held on 19 March, following the Inspiring Australians Oration at the Melbourne Town Hall. Grahame Leonard A.M. was endorsed as the Branch Nominated Director to the National Board. Three new members nominated and were elected to the Branch Committee: Secretary Hatice Basarin O.A.M, Beverley Pinder O.A.M and Gary Lee O.A.M.

We congratulate William Lye O.A.M K.C on his successful election to the position of Deputy National Chairman. William joined the VIC Branch committee in 2017 and has worked diligently over the past seven years to ensure the Branch continues to grow and achieve positive outcomes for our members and the Association.

Congratulations to the 2024 Australia Day Honours and Awards recipients who attended investiture ceremonies over three days in April at the picturesque Government House. Thank you and welcome to the recipients who have joined the Association; we value your membership and look forward to meeting you and your guests at upcoming VIC Branch or Regional Group events.

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

It was pleasing to see new and familiar faces at the National Conference in Perth hosted by the W.A Branch. Congratulations and thank you to the Conference Team for their hard work ensuring the conference was a success.

In June we look forward to reading the diverse list of outstanding Order of Australia King's Birthday recipients recognised for their excellence and contributions at local, national and/or international level.

EVENTS

19 March: Inspiring Australians Oration

Fiona McLeod AO SC acknowledged the traditional owners of these lands before thanking MC William Lye OAM KC for shining a light on the need for the legal profession to embrace the Asian diaspora in Australia before it was fashionable to do so. His work, she said, has directly supported many young barristers finding their way to professional practice.

Fiona spoke about something close to her heart: justice. She said,

“As unwilling, and mostly oblivious custodians of our precious planet, humanity has done a pretty good job of keeping some of us alive and fairly comfortable, and some far greater number of us fairly miserable across the millennia.

After a reasonably longish career in the law observing injustice in so many places affecting so many millions of Australian on a daily basis, it appears that this too is something we accept as our baseline normal.

It seems to me that we are not very good at recognising system-level threat and failure. That our hard wiring is focused on threats that are immediate and in close vicinity. That we are incapable of perceiving invisible threats – even when they are dictated by basic laws of physics, chemistry and biology, without resentment and counter-productive maladaptive response.

What I have discovered over the decades of practice is that, whatever illusion we cling to, the law and our systems of justice do not offer those things that justify the existence of these systems - safety, reassurance, protection and certainty - for a significant portion of us.

I started out in life as a keen young lawyer who dreamt of a flash designer suit and the chance to run major commercial cases. It turns out, in my practice over the decades, from time to time I have been drawn to and acted for people caught up in the system.

There are a few cases in my life that have profoundly affected me; many of them unexpected, especially for a young barrister who thought she would practice commercial law. But transform me they did. And they made me realise that there was a potential for justice and that I had a role to play in that.

If you had a clean slate, if you were to start from scratch, would you design a

system that punishes the most vulnerable of us for the actions that inevitably flow from lives marked by trauma? Does that even make sense?

The next big injustice is climate change; our inability to tackle the threat of global warming will compound the hardship and injustice for our most vulnerable people.

We have the capacity for slow, rational step-by-step reasoning, but we rarely engage it. As our support for the institutions that support slow learning - our learned academies and universities, the arts in all their forms -- are stripped away, we must exert effort to maintain our ability for deep learning.

Let me ask you. When did you last experience joy? I can bet, for nearly all of us, it was a simple thing. There were no designer shoes or cars involved. We did not record the fact on social media. It was something small and sweet – the clasp of a child’s hand, the laughter of family and sharing of food, the embrace of a loved one, the sweet smell of the earth after rain or the ocean, the sound of birdsong.

To the students in the room, I want to say to you that it is ok to challenge the *status quo*. You should not accept that things have to be unjust and unfair just because they have always been that way. My lot couldn’t solve the hard problems. We did the best we could. But now if you put your hearts and souls into it, you will be unstoppable.”

OAA Foundation 2008 scholarship recipient James Hicks then gave members, guests and students an update on his ongoing studies, employment and community work.



FORTHCOMING VIC EVENTS

Tuesday 25 June at 12.15pm for 12.30pm, VIC Branch Luncheon

O.A.A Members and guests are invited to lunch on at Angliss Restaurant, 550 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.

Speakers: **Alaa Elzokm O.A.M** -- As a leader in our community, Alaa Elzokm O.A.M believes the greatest impact of his work is in establishing and participating in peaceful and cohesive relationships between the Australian Muslim community and the wider Australian community. He says the award of the Medal of the Order of Australia is particularly special for him as a young Muslim *Imam* (religious leader) and also as a migrant.

Luke Barron -- Luke is a 2023 Order of Australia Association Foundation scholarship recipient undertaking a Bachelor of Marine Science at Deakin University. The scholarship was donated by the O.A.A.

Cost: \$37 per person GST included + booking fee. Two-course lunch, cash bar for drinks. Book by 17 June at <https://www.trybooking.com/CRDKB>

Wednesday 24 July, Virtual Event via ZOOM 5.30pm to 6.45pm

Speakers:

Ian Carson A.M, Co-founder of SecondBite

OAA National President **The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran A.O C.V.O**

There is no cost to attend this event.

Sunday 4 August, National Gallery of Victoria

10.45am start includes Introductory Talk and Pharaoh Exhibition

Wednesday 9 October, Thank You Reception

For Order of Australia recipients who join the Association in 2024. Event commences 1.15pm at Alex Theatre, St Kilda, within walking distance of rail and tram services including from Melbourne C.B.D. There is no cost for the member and one guest to attend.

Thursday 21 November, End of Year Dinner

For members and guests at Stamford Plaza Melbourne, 111 Little Collins Street, Melbourne. 6.15pm for 6.30pm seating.

Speaker: Pamela Clark A.O *For distinguished service to the dental profession, particularly through a range of roles with national and international associations, as a supporter of research and technical dental standards, and to manufacturing.*

2018 O.A.A Foundation scholarship recipient **Hannah Gandy** will also speak at this event.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

W.A. CHAIRMAN BETTINE HEATHCOTE A.M.'S REPORT

I am sure it will not surprise anyone that the focus for the W.A Branch has been the National Conference. We are delighted that so many members from all Branches came to Perth for this special time to renew friendships and make new ones.

Notwithstanding the focus on the Conference, the Branch has held several successful activities. Following the Annual General Meeting, we were pleased to welcome two new members to the Branch Committee: Judy Hogben AM and Ron Louis O.A.M. We also thanked Geoff Cattach A.M who retired from the committee.

The City of Stirling hosted a very enjoyable evening in April when we welcomed and congratulated 30 recipients of awards in the Australia Day Honours List. It was a privilege for me to attend the Investitures held in Government House just on 1 and 2 May and to renew acquaintance with these recipients, many of whom have joined the Association.

We were once again invited to have a stand at the Government House Open Days held at the end of April where we had the opportunity to speak with well over 100 people and inform them about The Order and encourage them to nominate someone they know.

The 2024 National Conference has now come and gone. To all those who joined us, I do hope you enjoyed your visit to Perth and have started planning to repeat the experience in Sydney next year when we will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of The Order of Australia and the 45th Anniversary of the establishment of the Association.

Forthcoming W.A. Branch Activities

- 17 July: Coffee Morning, St Louis Estate: Prof Sir Al Aynsley-Green K.T speaker "Bringing compassion to dementia, medical care and bereavement".
- 18 September: Annual Dinner, Royal Perth Golf Club
- 26 November: Annual Christmas Lunch, R.A.A.F.A Bullcreek

EVENTS

OAA WA's Annual General Meeting at Matilda Bay

On a warm Sunday 25 February more than 60 members and guests met at the Matilda Bay Restaurant for the Branch's Annual A.G.M and brunch. It was an excellent attendance for an A.G.M.

The view from the upper room at the venue is special, looking over Matilda Bay towards the city. It was enjoyed by all present, seated in tables of seven.

We were welcomed by the Chairman, Bettine Heathcote A.M, who reported on the activities of the previous year with excellent attendances at all the functions. She recommended that the Committee needed new members with new ideas. Bettine is looking forward to 2024, despite a lot of work.

Once again Philip Skelton A.M took the chair for the election of the Committee. The Secretary's post was unopposed; Margaret Lobo will continue as secretary. Committee Members Michael Bleus O.A.M and Geoff Cattach A.M were retiring and there were four nominees to replace them. After counting of votes, Judy Hogben A.M and Ron Louis O.A.M were elected.

Barry Nunn O.A, National Chairman, congratulated the new members of the committee.

The Governor, Chris Dawson, and Mrs Darrilyn Dawson have discussed with Bettine Heathcote a program to support students in disadvantaged schools where "bright sparks" have been identified by the staff. These students need to meet and talk to someone, such as an O.A.A member, about areas of interest to them.

The A.G.M concluded with a delicious brunch enjoyed by those who stayed.



FEATURED MEMBER

Dudley John Kingsworth O.A.M

Dudley John Kingsnorth O.A.M was born in Kent, England, the oldest of three

children. At his school, Judd School Tunbridge, he had teachers who stimulated his interest in science, which has been the backbone of his technical interests and expertise.

Dudley studied at the University of Sheffield where he obtained an Honours degree in Metallurgy. He immigrated to Australia in 1969 as a “ten-pound pom”, initially working at Tom Price as a plant metallurgist.

He has had extensive training in many aspects of metallurgy with a Masters in Metallurgy and Management at Aston University, Birmingham, and then an intensive learning experience in Canada with Bechtel, returning to Australia initially with Bechtel, then employed in development and expertise in a variety of mining companies. He carried out research then provided these companies with technical, marketing and development advice. Dudley has been a keynote speaker at many international rare earth conferences.

In 1988 he was awarded an *Exporter of the Year Award* and in 2021 the *Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy Professional Excellence Award* for his contribution to a better understanding of the international rare earths sector.

Dudley is proudest, though, of his family’s contribution to the Alice Kingsnorth International Scholarship. During his studies in Sheffield, he was awarded a scholarship that allowed him to travel to Europe and visit various steel and copper works related to his special interests. This first-hand experience aligns with the objectives of the Kingsnorth family scholarship. In consultation with Anglicare WA, frontline employees in Anglicare travel overseas for six weeks to gain experience working in similar social organisations with issues such as mental illness, homelessness, trauma, neglect, and abuse, seeing how that experience may be applied to their work in WA. Over the past 10 years the family has sponsored 19 scholars.

Alice Kingsnorth was Dudley’s youngest daughter. She had great potential in the arts, was a caring individual who in her teenage years developed severe mental illness, depression. After several attempts she finally took her own life at the age of 19. The family set up the scholarship in her memory. “Alice put other people ahead of herself, and we want to be able to assist those people who put other people before themselves in their professional and personal development,” Dudley says.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MEMBERS FORUM HELD ON SATURDAY 18 MAY 2024

The National Secretary advised that there was a Quorum. The National President the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran A.O C.V.O welcomed 82 members and 71 guests to the Annual General Meeting. The National Secretary advised that there were 27 apologies and 80 Proxies received.

The National Chairman Barry Nunn A.O presented the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023 highlighting the following:

- The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran A.O C.V.O was appointed as our National President in April, for a term of three years.
- Our Association enjoyed a relatively 'covid-free' year in 2023, with some members regrettably affected but normal activity resumed in all Branches. All are congratulated on the resilience of our organisation and its members.
- Awards in the Order of Australia increased by 14.6% over 2022, with 1,623 recipients and 583 new members joining us. Increasing the attractiveness of membership of the Association was a priority during the year, with Branches responding with innovative messages and information to new recipients.
- The National Board continued to hold its meetings on-line with eight meetings and a single brief face-to-face meeting during the National Conference in Geelong in May. This was followed by a joint face-to-face meeting with Board and Branch Chairs to further develop strategic plans for Association development and growth.
- Elections were held for the positions of National Chairman, National Deputy Chairman and National Treasurer during the May Board meeting with the incumbents (Barry Nunn A.O, John Archer O.A.M and Muriel Barasso O.A.M) being re-elected for a further three-year term. Muriel Barasso retired in late 2023 for health reasons.
- Since the printing of the Annual Report John Archer O.A.M past National Chairman and Past Chairman of the NSW Branch has passed and asked members to reflect on John's contribution to the Association.
- Branch Nominated Director changes during the year included the retirement of Jim Mein O.A.M (N.S.W) and Joe Ienco O.A.M (S.A), the appointment of David North O.A.M (N.S.W), Noel Hender O.A.M B.E.M (S.A) and the reappointment of Alan Morrison A.M (A.C.T) and Clive Robartson A.M (W.A). The eight Board Committees continued their important work during the year with contributions to improved governance and transparency, strategy, and marketing initiatives.
- A successful National Conference was held in Geelong, Victoria in May, with attendance by 193 delegates. Highlights included several thought-provoking presentations, visits to significant sites in the Geelong area and an Annual Dinner at which our Patron the Governor General, *His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley A.C D.S.C (Ret'd)* presented scholarships to four deserving tertiary students. *Two of these scholarships were funded from Association resources.*
- *Financial performance was satisfying, with continued economies in expenditure and an \$153,362 increase in the value of the Association investment portfolio. The underlying surplus of \$52,452 was sufficient to allow consideration of a reduction in membership fees for coming year.*

The Annual Financial Report was presented by the National Treasurer. Highlights of the 2023 year included:

- Membership Fees were held at level of previous years;
- Trading Income increased by 4% including Branch, Regional Groups and investment income;
- We had a surplus of \$52,452 excluding investment value increase;
- The average income per member was \$58.88 and the average expense per member was \$52.39;
- The National Investment Income decreased by 22 % but investment value increased by \$251,445 to \$1,953,607;
- Administrative Grants to Branches totalled \$56,860 and increase of 14.8%;
- Members Equity (assets-less-liabilities) decreased by 20.3% primarily due to changes in investment value;
- *The Order Magazine* costs were \$63,729 and increase of 5% reflecting increases in postage and printing;
- We welcomed 583 new members and 67 members re-joining but regrettably lost 626 with a net annual increase of 24 members; and
- The Board had set aside \$45,000 from the 2023 surplus for a Foundation Scholarship to be awarded at a time decided by the Board.

All business requiring member approval was passed unanimously.

Graham Hyde OAM

National Secretary

-ENDS-