



Dated August 2024

Vision Impaired Accessible Document



The cover photo this issue is of His Majesty King Charles the Third welcoming incoming Governor-General Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC at Buckingham Palace in May 2024.

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.

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION.

National Office Email: oaasecretariat@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

National Secretary: Graham Hyde O.A.M, Email:
natsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

National Editor of THE ORDER: Dr June Kane A.M., Email:
nateditor@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

INTRODUCING THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE MS SAM MOSTYN A.C.

Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC was sworn in as Australia's 28th Governor-General on 1 July 2024. A businesswoman and community leader, Ms Mostyn is known for her exceptional service to the Australian community. She has a long history in executive and governance roles across diverse sectors including business, sport, climate change, the arts, policy and not-for-profit.

In 2024, Ms Mostyn was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia for eminent service in the social justice, gender equity, sporting, cultural and business sectors, to reconciliation, and to environmental sustainability. She had previously been appointed an Officer of the Order in 2021.

For her continued contribution as an advocate for gender inclusion and equality, sustainability, and climate change action, Ms Mostyn was awarded the 2020 United Nations Day Honour Award and an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the Australian National University in 2018.

She was a Commissioner with the Australian Football League for over a decade until 2017 and has been a strong supporter of women in sport. She was an advocate for the creation of the AFL Women's league and co-founded the Minerva Network, Australia's only mentorship and development programme dedicated to professional female athletes.

Ms Mostyn is married to Mr Simeon Beckett SC and they have an adult daughter, Lotte Beckett. Ms Mostyn is an avid Sydney Swans fan and served on the board from 2017–2024.

In her acceptance speech at her swearing-in, the Governor-General said (edited extracts), "Sitting here today, alongside parliamentary, business and sports people, are community workers, carers, youth employment advisers, family and domestic violence specialists, allied health experts, organisers of sporting clubs and networks, as well as volunteers, and students and representatives of communities, charities and care organisations from across the country. These people are at the heart of our communities and our country. I have had the great privilege of working with and learning from all of you over the years and know that you encapsulate the very best of Australian values..."

I stand here now as Australia's 28th Governor-General, immensely conscious of this great honour and privilege. I warmly thank the Prime Minister for inviting me to serve. And I thank His Majesty The King for appointing me.

When announcing my appointment, [the Prime Minister] said he sought a modern, optimistic Governor-General, capable of uniting and celebrating the very best of Australia. In the past few months since accepting the position, I have reflected deeply on these words.

I have had to ask myself several questions about the role and impact of the office of Governor-General in 2024. I decided there was only one way to answer these questions: to get on the road and listen to people; to listen carefully to those with

unique experiences and insights. My first priority was to meet with all five living former Governors-General, including my immediate predecessor, General David Hurley. I congratulate and thank General and Mrs Hurley for their very fine service to our country over so many years. In addition to standing with Australians in the aftermath of natural disasters, they performed their duties during the difficult Covid years. Simeon and I wish them the very best for their years ahead and thank them for their warm and gracious welcome to Government House.

It was a rare and special privilege for me to meet all former Governors-General. All showed me great kindness and encouragement, and shared their wise advice, drawing on so much of the history of Australia over recent decades. In particular, I thank Dame Quentin Bryce, our country's first woman Governor-General. Her quiet dignity, experience and thoughtful counsel remain vital for me to understand, as only the second woman to serve in this Office...

In late May, I spent time with His Majesty King Charles at Buckingham Palace. I took the opportunity in that private meeting to pass on the best wishes of Australians for his and the Princess of Wales' health. I am not the first Australian to be struck by the interest and warmth The King feels for this country where he lived and studied as a young man.

In recent months I also spent time in our cities, in our regions and in the country. People from businesses small and large, civil society, philanthropy, frontline services and community organisations, as well as our scientific, sports, arts and cultural sectors. And every day, I met impressive Australians who do not hold high office, or any office. I listened to them in airports, in shopping centres, on the boundaries of sports grounds, in theatre foyers and galleries, and often just on the street.

Women and men and often children stopped me regularly to talk about this country that they love. Across a wide range of backgrounds, life experiences and opinions, all of them wished for a brighter future for Australia. And a desire for unity and optimism — a renewed sense of national possibility — in building that future together...

I will be an optimistic, modern and visible Governor-General, committed to the service and contribution that all Australians expect and deserve from the holder of this Office.

Ahead of her time, Dame Quentin Bryce described the role of the Office "as striking a balance between observing traditions and protocol and being thoroughly contemporary". I will remain alive to changing expectations and needs, whilst holding fast to respect for the role and its place in our peaceful democracy. I believe that our democracy is the golden thread that unites Australians across this vast continent and down the generations.

I am keen to begin the work of professionally and conscientiously discharging my executive and constitutional responsibilities: Presiding over meetings of the Executive Council. leading and administering our honours and awards system. And when called upon, to be Australia's representative in international

engagements.

Most of all, Simeon and I look forward to engaging with Australians, in the many places we will visit. As long as I hold this post, I will do my utmost to reflect your hopes and aspirations. To stand with you in tough times, and to celebrate your victories, great and small. To listen to you, to learn from you, and as Sir William Deane might have said, to walk with you.

We can be optimistic, confident and proud as we build our extraordinary nation's future together."

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

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

As members of the Order of Australia Association, we are part of an honoured and respectful group committed to recognising and celebrating outstanding contributions to our nation. The Australian Honours and Awards system stands as a testament to the values we hold dear: excellence, service and dedication to community.

One such exemplary individual within our ranks is Lesley Woolf OAM with a career spanning five decades in nursing, always going above and beyond. Lesley has dedicated her life to improving healthcare access in both her professional and personal life, particularly in rural and remote communities. Her passion for nursing is unwavering and has made a tangible difference in people's lives. Lesley embodies the spirit of service above self that defines the Order of Australia. Her motivation stems from a deep-seated belief that everyone deserves access to quality healthcare, a belief that has driven her to advocate tirelessly for improved systems and services in isolated areas of our country.

When Lesley was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia she expressed, not surprisingly, gratitude and humility. She was deeply touched by the recognition and acknowledgement – how befitting of an everyday Australian who works and volunteers daily to improve the quality of life of others.

As we reflect, as we often do, on the impact of the Australian Honours and Awards system, let us take pride in the accomplishment of Lesley Woolf and so many other recipients like her and the many Australians out there yet to be nominated who, like Lesley, work and volunteer for the greater good. Their service inspires us to strive for excellence in our own endeavours and reminds us of the profound impact that dedication and service can have on our communities and our country as a whole.

Let us continue to be unified in upholding and celebrating the spirit of excellence that defines our Order by nominating and recognising those whose contributions enrich the fabric of our nation and the values we hold dear.

Go well everyone.

MESSAGE FROM THE O.A.A CHAIRMAN

MAJOR GENERAL BARRY NUNN A.O. R.F.D. E.D. (Retd)

It was pleasing to see 493 Order of Australia recipients honoured in the 2024 King's Birthday Honours list. All are congratulated on recognition for their contribution. The female/male balance of awards now properly reflects our community but, regrettably, not yet the wide cultural diversity of our society. We can all improve this situation by promoting wider recognition of the Order and encouraging nominations.

Some Association members expressed disappointment that the number of awards was below that of previous years and that there appears to be a longer than normal delay between nomination and award. These matters have been raised with the Honours Secretariat, where some improvements in processing are in progress.

Association membership continues to rise, thanks to the efforts of all in welcoming new recipients to the Order and in demonstrating the camaraderie that comes from Association membership.

With a successful National Conference in WA now concluded, the focus has turned to the 2025 Conference, to be held in Sydney from 1 to 4 May at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth. The theme of the conference is *Inspiring Australian Achievers*. The venue, a challenging programme of activities and the backdrop of the City of Sydney all bode well for a further outstanding gathering.

The National Board has authorised the development of a social media 'presence' for our Association. The programme will be developed over the coming months with training and information sessions for both contributors and viewers.

The Australian Honours System will celebrate its 50th anniversary, and the Association its 45th in February 2025. This 'golden anniversary' of the Honours System is to be celebrated by the issue of commemorative coins and stamps. Your Association celebrations, both nationally and in Branches and Regions, are to be formulated over the coming months.

We are updating the history of our Association. If you have any relevant material, it would be welcome. Please send to Natmbrdir@theorderofaustralia.asn.au.

An introductory letter is now sent to all new members of our Association. This letter provides information on our organisation, its structure and operation.

Existing members can obtain a copy from the OAA website.

A.C.T. BRANCH

CHAIRMAN ANDREW PHELAN A.M.'S REPORT

Monica and I thoroughly enjoyed attending the National Conference in Perth in May. Congratulations to W.A. Chair and Convenor Bettine Heathcote A.M. and her team for their outstanding organisational efforts.

By convention, vice-regal patronage ceases when the Governor-General leaves office. Accordingly, Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley relinquished her position as Patron of the Order of Australia Association (A.C.T Branch) on 30 June 2024. We thank Her Excellency for serving as Patron of the Branch and especially for her contribution to the Branch Student Citizenship Awards.

On behalf of all members, I congratulate all the honours recipients announced in the 2024 King's Birthday Honours List, in particular the recipients from the A.C.T and Region. Branch Committee members look forward to attending the investiture ceremonies at Government House in September and, later that month, holding a reception to honour local recipients.

Around 60 members and guests enjoyed our King's Birthday Luncheon while listening to our special guest speaker Kate Carnell A.O. address what she described as a 'taboo' topic in our society: planning for the death of loved ones and ourselves.

On 25 July, we were privileged to hear Lieutenant General Natasha Fox A.O C.S.C, Chief of Personnel for the A.D.F, give the 2024 Order of Australia Association Ltd-Australian Defence Force Oration. Lieutenant General Fox was the first woman to reach three-star level in the A.D.F.

Planning is underway for several activities, commencing with the Student Citizenship Awards evening, to be held in the Royal Canberra Golf Club on Thursday, 29 August 2024.

Warm Regards

FORTHCOMING A.C.T. EVENTS

Thursday 29 August 2024: 2024 Student Citizenship Awards

9-13 September 2024: Reception for 2024 King's birthday recipients

October 2024: Morning tea with David Templeman AM

EVENTS

THE 2024 KING'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

Around 60 members and guests enjoyed our King's Birthday Luncheon at the Canberra Southern Cross Club while listening to our special guest speaker, Kate Carnell A.O, address what she described as a 'taboo' topic in our society: death. Those who attended came away with more confidence about practical (and flexible) planning for the death of loved ones (and ourselves). Kate's reflections on her parents' situation were meaningful for attendees, who also appreciated her common sense and professional and lived experience in health care. She is a former A.C.T Chief Minister who was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2006 *For service to the community of the Australian Capital Territory through contributions to economic development and support for the business sector, knowledge industries, and medical technology advances.*

Ms Carnell advised that there are two underfunded organisations that address some of the issues that she raised, but they are not well known:

She is the chair of *Violet*, a national not-for-profit organisation set up to help people navigate the final stage of life whether planning for themselves or a loved one. The technology platform of *Violet Guides* provides training and education programmes and care that align with patient preferences and alleviate the burden on the health system. This can be accessed at <https://www.violet.org.au>.

Mable is free online facility that can connect people looking for aged care support with local independent support workers. This allows the aged person to choose a verified local support worker for the best match within a Home Care Package and helps the person to retain their independence of living at home. This can be accessed at <https://mable.com.au>.



There's a photo of Kate Carnell A.O. with Dr Sue Packer A.O. and Dr Brian Babington A.M.

VICTORIA BRANCH

CHAIRMAN HELENE BENDER A.M.'S REPORT

Victoria Branch congratulates the 137 Order of Australia 2024 King's Birthday

Honours and Awards recipients. We welcome the recipients who have joined the Association and say “thank you” to our members who have taken the time to nominate exceptional achievers from diverse backgrounds, ages and cultures. The Branch annual virtual event was held on Wednesday 24 July commencing at 5.30pm with two speakers; Ian Carson A.M, co-founder of SecondBite, and Vicki O’Halloran A.O C.V.O, National President of the Association. The Victoria Branch holds one virtual event each year at no cost ensuring members who for various reasons are unable to attend face-to-face events still stay connected with the Association.

On Sunday 4 August the Victoria Branch hosted the 2024 Melbourne Winter Masterpieces at the National Gallery of Victoria. An introductory talk set the scene before members and guests visited the PHARAOH exhibition showcasing 3,000 years of ancient Egyptian art and culture.

The Thank You Reception for Order of Australia recipients who join the Association in 2024 will be held on Wednesday 9 October starting at 1.15pm at Alex Theatre St Kilda. The venue is within walking distance of rail and tram services including from Melbourne Southern Cross Station. There is no cost for the member and guest to attend. A Save the Date has been emailed to members who joined the Association in 2024.

The final event for members and guests is our End of Year Dinner on Thursday 21 November at Stamford Plaza Melbourne, 111 Little Collins Street, Melbourne. For further information regarding VIC Branch and Regional Group events and the OAA Merchandise Shop please refer to the Association national website www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au.

To our 2024 Order of Australia King’s Birthday recipients, please enjoy your Investiture next month at the picturesque Government House.

EVENTS

24 JULY – GUEST SPEAKERS ONLINE

O.A.A Victoria Branch members and guests had the opportunity to hear from two inspirational speakers on Wednesday 24 July in an online presentation.

The first speaker was Ian Carson A.M, co-founder of SecondBite. It is hard to believe that, back in 2004 when Ian and his wife Simone started to seriously think about food waste and hunger, virtually nothing was being done to rescue food at scale in Australia, the problem was ‘in plain sight’ yet nothing was being done about it.

Charities like SecondBite report a 61 percent increase in demand in the last six months. Thirty-two percent of these charities cannot meet current demand and reported that 30 percent of the people they support are seeking food relief for the first time.

Back in 2005 when Ian and Simone started SecondBite, they rescued about 600kg of food. In the last 12 months, SecondBite delivered 25 million kg of food to

charities, equivalent to more than 50 million meals. In environmental terms, this food rescue has offset more than 45 million kg of greenhouse gas emissions. Since 2005, SecondBite has provided the equivalent of more than 300 million meals to their agencies. Working with growers, manufacturers and retailers, they rescue surplus, unsold edible food that would otherwise go to waste and distribute it free to about 1,100 charities nationally.

Excitingly, on 30 June this year, SecondBite merged with FareShare to better serve those in need.

SecondBite contact details if your opportunity and time allow you to make a difference: www.secondbite.org.

The second speaker was The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran A.O C.V.O, Order of Australia Association National President, who spoke about the enjoyment of Investitures during her five-year term as Administrator of the Northern Territory and the opportunity it gave her to meet those in the community working to make a difference.

18 JUNE: AN IMAM'S JOURNEY IN AUSTRALIA

Victorian Branch members were treated to an excellent luncheon event on 18 June when Imam Alaa Elzokm O.A.M presented a very personal and captivating story. His presentation epitomised the diversity and spirit of community building which underlies the Order of Australia.

Alaa is Egyptian born and arrived in Australia at 26 years of age to start a new life. He met his wife Rheme in Australia. Together, they have built a life and have two young daughters.

Alaa's mission from the outset was always to do his part in contributing to Australia as a harmonious, peaceful and connected community. However he did not dream that, in doing so, he would receive an Order of Australia Medal in the King's Birthday Honours 2023 as an acknowledgement of his work.

Upon arriving in Australia, Alaa was delighted by the multiculturalism of the community – its diversity and multifaith acceptance. Alaa has done more than just enjoy the benefits of the community; he has been steadfast in his own contributions since stepping off the plane to start his new life in Australia.

Alaa's work is varied. It focuses on supporting young people, particularly in ensuring they maintain a strong sense of community engagement. One way he does this is drawing on sport as a powerful way to engage young people. He has formed partnerships to create some impactful community-based initiatives with sporting groups such as Melbourne Victory.

He also works to address women's issues and supports women's leadership programmes. He is keenly aware, from his own experiences, of the adjustments migrants make and is active in ensuring new migrants transition smoothly into their new lives in Australia.

Alaa shared his life journey – growing up and studying in Egypt then coming to Australia with a strong commitment to “building connections between Muslims and their Non-Muslim brothers and sisters”. He explained that building peaceful

and respectful rapport “is a fundamental lesson of Islam, to ensure peaceful coexistence and freedom to worship in safety”.



Here is a photo of Imam Alaa Elzokm O.A.M receiving a thank-you gift from Vic Branch Committee member Gary Lee O.A.M.

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH CHAIRMAN DR JOHN GULLOTTA A.M.'S REPORT

It has been a busy time with attending the National Conference in Perth and the Australia Day 2024 Investitures at Government House Sydney.

I was also honoured to attend and be one of the guest speakers at a University of Sydney event on 26 June for Order of Australia recipients who are Alumni of the University. It was well attended with more than 100 guests and very inspiring guest speakers who spoke about their personal journeys toward being awarded an Order of Australia.

On 24 July we hosted the annual luncheon for Australia Day 2024 recipients and their guests at N.S.W Parliament House. There is a full report in the Events section below, but it is worth repeating that it was a very successful event.

Preparations are well under way for the Sydney Conference May 1-4 2025, which marks 50 years of The Order of Australia Awards and 45 years of our Association. It gives me great pleasure to announce that the Welcome reception has been confirmed at Government House Sydney and the Wreath Laying Ceremony, Farewell Luncheon and handover to Darwin will be held aboard the H.M.A.S Canberra. On behalf of the Association, sincere thanks to our N.S.W Branch Patron and N.S.W Governor Her Excellency The Hon Margaret Beazley A.C K.C and to Rear Admiral Christopher Smith A.M C.S.M R.A.N, Commander Australian Fleet, Royal Australian Navy, for their kind generosity and strong support of our Association.

I look forward to all of you joining us at SYD25! We are looking for company and individual sponsors so please contact me if you can help in any way.

EVENTS

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY ALUMNI CELEBRATION FOR ORDER OF AUSTRALIA RECIPIENTS

On behalf of the N.S.W Branch, I would like to thank City of Sydney Councillor HY William Chan and Kate May, Director Alumni and Supporter Experience at The University of Sydney, for hosting an Alumni event celebrating the achievements of Order of Australia Award recipients that are Alumni of the University of Sydney. It was a real honour to address this illustrious audience, joining Councillor Chan, Juliette O'Brien O.A.M, Jane Spring A.M, and Australian of the Year Professor Richard Scolyer A.O.

Professor Scolyer A.O delivered a very moving and inspiring address about his personal experience with brain cancer and how, together with colleague and friend Prof Georgina Long A.O, they are using their world-breaking research in melanoma treatment to fight his brain cancer which is currently in remission.

I spoke on the journey to receiving my Award and my special focus on youth, as well as speaking about our Association and the SYD25 National Conference. It was certainly an honour and a privilege to be in a room full of such illustrious people, recognised for outstanding service and committed to making a difference.

24 JULY 2024: NEW RECIPIENTS' LUNCHEON

On 24 July we hosted the annual luncheon for Australia Day 2024 recipients and their guests at N.S.W Parliament House. It was a very successful luncheon with 42 new recipients attending with their family and friends. Our Parliamentary Host was Ms Stephanie Di Pasqua M.P, member for Drummoyne. Our guest speaker was Australia Day 24 recipient David Koch O.A.M, Australian television presenter and financial journalist, "In Conversation" with Sophie Scott O.A.M, Branch Committee Member, award-winning medical TV journalist for the A.B.C and international speaker and educator. David entertained the audience with his wit and humour and gave the audience an insight into his extensive charity work and how he strives to make a difference.

The Toast on behalf of the new recipients was proposed by a truly inspiring Australian, Sue-Ellen Lovett O.A.M. Sue-Ellen was diagnosed with the hereditary condition *retinitis pigmentosa* at age 12. She is now completely blind and has had a guide dog since 1981. Despite all this, she always had dreams of representing her country, taking up dressage in 1994. Sue-Ellen is a Dual Paralympian in Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000, and Bronze Medallist at the 1999 World Dressage Championships in Denmark where she was ranked 4th in the World. She is in the Top 10 percent of elite dressage riders in Australia, a cancer survivor, fundraiser of \$3.2 million for various charities doing 10 marathon long-distance endurance rides, Director on the Paralympic Games Committee Board, author, wife, Aussie country girl and horse addict. In May 2020, she published her first book, *Johno and the Blind Chick* exploring the horse/rider experience from her horse Johno's perspective.

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

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

CHAIRMAN RONDA NIX O.A.M'S REPORT

Queensland Branch members celebrated the King's Birthday with a well-attended black-tie dinner at Tattersall's Club held in the presence of the Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young A.C P.S.M and her husband Professor Nimmo, on 4 June.

I had the privilege of congratulating the 73 Queensland recipients of honours and awards in the 2024 King's Birthday list and inviting them to a Celebratory Dinner Reception to be held by the Branch during the week of the investitures at Government House in Brisbane in September. For the first time in Queensland, more women (39) than men (34) received awards, however more men (14) than women (11) were awarded an A.M.

Some investitures of recipients in the King's Birthday honours have already been held in the north of the state. I am indebted to David Jackson O.A.M, Regional Group Convenor for the Townsville Region, for deputising for me at investitures that were held in Townsville on 10 July.

The new Regional Group Convenor of the Sunshine Coast Region, Rhonda Clayton A.M, held her first function on 4 July on Bribie Island where I presented her with her Convenor's badge. It was a most enjoyable and successful event.

On 12 July I flew to Mackay to attend a function held by the Convenor of the Mackay/Isaac/Whitsunday Region, Carmel Daveson A.M, where I was warmly welcomed by all present. Several members travelled from towns quite some distance away. It transpired that I was the first Branch Chairman to pay an official visit to the Region, so members were quite keen to talk to me and hear what I had to say.

The Paris Olympic Games are now upon us, and we look forward to many of our Queensland athletes bringing home the gold and adding an O.A.M to their names.

EVENTS

CELEBRATING AND WELCOMING 2024 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD RECIPIENTS

One hundred and thirty guests including 26 O.A.A.Q members attended our Welcome Celebratory Dinner Reception for the 2024 Australia Day award recipients, held in the Blue Pacific Ballroom at Kedron Wavell Services Club, Brisbane, on Tuesday 14 May 2024.

In a departure from the usual lunch time format for these welcome functions, the Queensland Branch chose to hold a dinner reception, and it proved to be a great success. It was a privilege to be at this event to welcome the 21 Order of Australia award recipients in attendance, and to celebrate their fine achievements leading to their awards.

During the evening each new award recipient was introduced individually and their citations were read out to the assembled guests. Their achievements were many and varied. Collectively these wonderful Queenslanders have made an outstanding contribution to their communities and to our nation. Congratulations to all.

A NEW HOSPITAL FOR TOOWOOMBA

On 15 March, 43 members and guests of the Darling Downs Regional Group gathered for a morning tea at the Downs Club in Toowoomba. Our guest speaker was Mr. Mike Horan A.M. A former Leader of the Opposition (N.P) and Health Minister, Mike is the outgoing Chair of the Darling Downs Health and Hospital Board, a role he has held since 2012.

As the inaugural chair, Mike reflected that, when the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service first began on 1 July 2012, it had some 4,900 staff and an operating budget of roughly \$500 million. Twelve years later, the organisation has grown significantly with 6,793 staff and an operational budget that is more than double the 2012 funding.

Mike highlighted the exciting times ahead for health in Toowoomba. Outlining plans for the redevelopment of the old Toowoomba C.B.D hospital site, and the new \$1.3 billion Toowoomba Hospital project, where construction has started.

During his tenure as Board Chair, Mike has guided Darling Downs Health through significant periods of expansion and reform and has led a community- and patient-focused Health Service. Our members thank him for his leadership and wish him well in his retirement.



Here there is a photo of Carol Cox A.M, Mike Horan A.M, Ronda Nix O.A.M, Kent Bligh O.A.M

NORTHERN TERRITORY BRANCH

There was no message from the Chairman this month but more information on events.

EVENTS

On 30 June, 70 members of the Northern Territory Branch and their guests enjoyed our Annual Dinner at the Hilton Hotel in Darwin. We were privileged to have Mr. William Lye O.A.M K.C, Deputy Chair of the Association, as our guest speaker. William spoke on the theme of 'Inspiration through Service' and shared personal life stories and some of his poetry to illustrate this theme. Also present were O.A.A National President The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran A.O C.V.O who introduced William, and The Order editor Dr June Kane A.M.

Guests at the dinner were entertained by twin 14-year-olds Mose and Elijah Shanahan on violin and piano, and vocalist Nimila Heys.

Chairman Alan James OAM again encouraged members to nominate worthy members of the community who represent our multi-cultural and youthful population for an Order of Australia Award.

Alan also discussed the 2026 annual conference to be held in Darwin and encouraged all members to attend the May 2025 conference in Sydney.



Here there is a photo of Deputy National Chairman William Lye O.A.M K.C with Justice Graham Hiley A.M at the Annual Dinner

FEATURED MEMBER: TERRITORY LEGEND JUSTICE GRAHAM HILEY AM

After decades of service to the Territory's law and justice bodies, the Honourable Justice Graham Eric Hiley R.F.D was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the King's Birthday awards.

Graham first came to the Northern Territory for a short visit in the Wet Season of 1976, but "got flooded in and never left". He started establishing productive friendships with icons of the legal fraternity such as solicitor John McCormack, Hugh Bradley (later Chief Magistrate and now A.M) and George Cridland, whose firm he joined in 1977. Graham became a barrister in 1978, was appointed President of the N.T Law Society in 1987 and was a founding member of the NT Bar Association in 1991.

He was made a Queen's Counsel in the N.T in 1987, chair of the Planning Appeals Committee between 1984 and 1994, deputy chair of the Lands Acquisition

Tribunal from 1983 to 1995, and a member of the Legal Practitioners Complaints Committee from 1990.

Justice Hiley says working through the period when the N.T gained self-government in 1978 was an exciting time, and his land rights advocacy was hugely significant. He was involved, with Justice Toohey of the High Court of Australia, in the Mabo Case, which was successful in overturning the myth that at the time of colonisation Australia was *terra nullius* or land belonging to no one.

The High Court recognised the fact that Indigenous peoples had lived in Australia for thousands of years and enjoyed rights to their land according to their own laws and customs. Twelve months later the Native Title Act 1993 was passed. Justice Hiley AM is welcomed as a new member of O.A.A N.T.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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

The Branch Committee is well underway with planning for the year's activities, and we have held several successful activities including a series of fellowship luncheon meetings, a New Recipients' Reception and a King's Birthday Luncheon. Our Regional Groups have been equally busy with their gatherings, and we look forward to the potential formation of a new group on the Eyre Peninsula. Nominations for the Student Citizenship Awards have now closed, and our Assessment and Selection Panel is busy reviewing the nominations.

We will hold a second New Recipients' Reception later this year, following the investiture ceremonies held at Government House, to celebrate the newest worthy recipients of the Order. At the same time, we take the opportunity to remind our members about the broader purposes of the Order.

I know that we are all humbled to receive this recognition but we should remember that, having been identified as leaders and role models in our community, it is incumbent upon us all to be on the lookout for the next generation of recipients.

One of the things that makes the Order of Australia special is that people can't just put their hand up to be recognised, and they are not selected. People who have made contributions to society or the community are nominated by their peers. The bottom line is: the Australian Honours System relies on people like you and me to submit a nomination. Who do you know who is worthy? I remind members – if you feel daunted by this task, please contact me and we will do our best to put an appropriate member of the Branch in contact with you to offer help and guidance navigating the nomination process.

EVENTS

NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION

The SA Branch acknowledged 14 new awardees announced in the 2024 Australia Day Honours List, and one from 2023, at a New Recipients' Reception held on Monday 6 May. Mayor Robert Bria of the City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters gave the welcome address, and we thank the Council for their generous support and assistance. We also thank Vili's Family Bakery for subsidising the cost of the refreshments.

John Minney OAM, one of our newest members, was our guest speaker. John was a long-serving Councillor with the City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters (1997-00 and 2003-22), earlier serving as a Councillor (1971-97) and as Mayor of the City of Payneham (1987-91). John was awarded the O.A.M, *For service to local government, and to the community* (K.B.23).



Here there is a photo of John Minney O.A.M.

Fellowship Luncheon

For the April Fellowship Luncheon, held on Anzac Day, Jenny Macintosh O.A.M addressed the gathering on the topic: "My time in the Outback". The material for Jenny's address can be found in the 'double autobiography' published in June 2022, written by Jenny and her late husband Group Captain Bob MacIntosh A.F.C O.A.M: *Living on a Wing and a Prayer; Memoirs of the R.A.A.F and Outback Ministry*. Bob had been awarded the O.A.M, *For service to the community, particularly through church and veterans' organisations* (QB15). Jenny had earlier received the O.A.M: *For service to the community, particularly through the Embroiderers' Guild of South Australia, and to the Guiding movement* (A.D.11).

The guest speaker at the June Fellowship Luncheon was Wendy Chapman A.M, who served the City of Adelaide as a Councillor (1977-81) and Alderman (1981-83), and as the 68th Lord Mayor (1983-85).

The title of Wendy's presentation was, "I'm just a simple country girl", reflecting on her origins in Bordertown in the South East of South Australia. Wendy said that perhaps the greatest asset in her adulthood was the spirit and courage to open doors. Wendy was appointed a Member of the Order, *In recognition of service to the community and local government* (Q.B.86).

TASMANIA BRANCH

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

The Tasmania Branch Committee is looking forward to the visit in September of William Lye O.A.M K.C, the Deputy National Chairman of the Association. The Branch will meet in Launceston at a face-to-face meeting for the first time in more than 12 months, a nice change from Zoom meetings. Not only is it a great chance for Branch Committee members to meet William, it will also allow for a productive exchange of ideas. Following the Committee meeting, the Branch is hosting a lunch to which all Tasmania Branch members have been invited.

With nine Tasmanians being recognised in the King's Birthday Honours list, the scheduled Investiture Day Lunch for 6 September is expected to be much smaller than usual. Even so, it will still be a nice intimate function.

The three Regional Groups continue to schedule functions, with a number listed for the rest of the year. The Northern Region has a visit to the Royal Flying Doctor Service and to a nearby distillery followed by a lunch in early August. The South will be hosting a morning tea with speaker in late August and the North-West will be having a lunch at the Forth Hotel on 14 August. More information can always be found on the Tasmanian Events page on the Association website.

Having missed the majority of the Geelong Conference last year because I contracted COVID just one day in, it was a welcome change for me to attend all the activities at the Perth Conference without incident in May. With some unseasonably and pleasantly warm temperatures, it was a welcome break and added to the overall success. Thank you to Bettine Heathcote AM and her team for organising a superb conference. Tasmania was represented by five delegates at the Conference but hopefully it might be possible for more to attend the Sydney Conference in May 2025.

EVENTS

WINTER SOLSTICE LUNCHEON

Member Barry Easter O.A.M was the guest speaker at the Winter Solstice Luncheon on 19 June where he spoke to 40 guests about the 2006 Beaconsfield Mine Disaster when he was Mayor of the West Tamar Council.

[Readers will remember the disaster. From *Wikipedia*: "The Beaconsfield gold mine collapsed on 25 April 2006 in Beaconsfield, Tasmania, Australia. Of the 17 people who were in the mine at the time, 14 escaped immediately following the collapse, one miner (Larry Knight) was killed, while the remaining two (Brant Webb and Todd Russell) were found alive on the sixth day by miners Pat Ball and Steve Saltmarsh. Webb and Russell were rescued on 9 May 2006, two weeks after being trapped nearly one kilometre below the surface.]



Here there is a photo of Dr George Merridew A.M, Barry Easter O.A.M, Dr Frank Madill A.M

FEATURED MEMBER TERESE BINNS OAM

Terese Binns, a fourth-generation Tasmanian, was recognised with an O.A.M in the King's Birthday Honours in 2023 for her service to veterans and to the community.

Terese's interest in military history came about while investigating her husband Wayne's family history. He is a returned veteran of the Vietnam campaign, and his grandfather fought at Gallipoli.

Terese has travelled to many places overseas where Australians fought in World War 1. In 2012 she participated as a trooper in a re-enactment of the 'charge of Beersheba' with the Australian Light Horse Association on the plain in Palestine where the original battle took place. She attended the Centenary Service at Pozières and at the Windmill Memorial in 2016 during an extensive tour of the Somme and Belgium battlefields.

In 2018, she joined a thanksgiving cavalry ride, 'Pursuit to Mons' from Cambrai in France to Mons in Belgium with the International Cavalry Association, where small villages along the way held services for their fallen and welcomed the cavalcade of horses

Terese continues to be a driving force for the recognition of and education about the plight of war animals.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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

The highlight of the Western Australian Branch of the Association's year so far has undoubtedly been hosting the National Conference in May. The Conference provides an opportunity for members across the nation to come together for fellowship, to listen to inspiring speakers, to participate in the Annual General Meeting and, very importantly, to congratulate those young people who have been awarded a Foundation Scholarship.

The 2024 Conference held in Perth provided all the above and members from all States and Territories participated in what has been reported as being a most successful event. Further detailed information is included in these pages. The WA

Branch sincerely thanks our sponsors for their generous contributions which enabled us to keep costs lower than would otherwise have been possible.

We congratulate the 39 Western Australians who received an award in the Kings Birthday Honours for 2024 and look forward to meeting 21 of these people at a reception to be hosted by the City of Perth in August.

Our annual signature event – a dinner to be held at Royal Perth Golf Club - will be held in September, and in October we have a talk on the tragic air crash at Mt Erebus Antarctica. The Southwest Region annual luncheon will be held in Bunbury at the end of October, the Great Southern region weekend at the end of November and the Christmas Lunch this year will be on 26 November at R.A.A.F.A Estate in Bull Creek.

EVENTS

LET'S TALK ABOUT... PROFESSOR SIR AL AYNSLEY-GREEN KT

Guest speaker Sir Al reflected on the public honours systems in Australia and the U.K in a presentation to members of O.A.A W.A and residents at St Louis Estate, Claremont.

He said that both Honours Systems have some similarity and some differences. The principle is to recognise and reward people for their services to society, fabric and culture. It is an independent, anonymous process through nomination, evidence and scrutiny. In Australia's Order there are four tiers.

The U.K has a hierarchy of: Life Peers in the House of Lords, and Orders of Chivalry originating in the 13th century, with the Orders of the Garter, Bath, Thistle, British Empire and Knights Bachelor. Then the Officer in the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E) and a Member (M.B.E). Sir Al is a Knight Bachelor and was Knighted by Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2006 for services to children and young people. Sir Al described the process to produce his Coat of Arms from the College of Arms established in London in the 13th century. In Sir Al's case, it includes all his family and his work in academia and government. His motto is in Latin – translation: "Seek and achieve excellence".

When he was made the first Commissioner for Children in England, Sir Al was responsible for promoting the best interests of the 11 million children, loved, safe, happy, and able to reach their full potential.

Sir Al has found a new purpose in life following the death of his beloved wife. He was able to see the need for compassion that seemed to be lost in the U.K especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. He is concerned that the medical profession "can do, so will do" when it is no longer required.

He used as his role model Thomas Coram, who established the Foundling Hospital, the forerunner of Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. Coram's attributes were Courage, Compassion and Commitment. "Compassion is putting yourself in the shoes of others and doing something about it. The obstacles to providing compassionate care are Time, Territorialism, Tribalism, Traditionalism, Treasury and Terror."



Here there is a photo of Professor Sir Al Aynsley-Green

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

FROM THE FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN: DR HELEN NUGENT AC

The Directors of the Order of Australia Association Foundation have a single-minded focus and that is to award Scholarships to second year university students who have the potential to make a difference to Australia and who can benefit from the generous financial support and mentorship provided by the Scholarship.

To date, the lives of 55 recipients have been changed. This year, the Foundation is working to select five new high potential recipients, whose awards will be presented at next year's Order of Australia Association Gala Dinner in Sydney on 3 May 2025. This will bring the number of awardees to 60.

The Directors of the Foundation, who give generously of their time, energy and support, coordinate a well-articulated seven-stage process as follows:

1. Determine the annual number of scholarships to be awarded.

With its Deductible Gift Recipient status, the OAAF must distribute at least 4 percent of its net assets from the preceding year. At its February meeting, the Foundation Board determined that five scholarships, each worth \$40,000, would be awarded in 2024.

2. Identify donors to support the Scholarships.

Donors for each of the five scholarships for this year have been identified. The generous support of Mr Paul Wheelton A.M, who is also Secretary of the Foundation, brings to 22 the number of Scholarships funded by Foundation Directors. A generous donation from Mr Tim Fairfax AC brings to 12 the number of scholarships supported by external individuals and corporations. A further scholarship to be funded by the Order of Australia Association will bring the number of awards they have supported to six. The NSW and Victorian Branches of the OAA are each providing a scholarship this year, bringing the total number from the Branches to five. To each individual and organisation we extend our profound gratitude. Previously, external foundations and estates have also provided 15 Scholarships, bringing the total number of awards to 60.

3. Work with donors to identify the university and disciplines to whom the Scholarship should be awarded.

It is proposed that four of the five scholarships this year will be awarded to NSW

universities, recognizing that next year's Annual Conference of the Order of Australia Association will be held in Sydney. Two will go to the University of Technology Sydney in Creative Industries Faculties as well as in Health; one to the University of New England in Agriculture; and the fourth to Sydney University in Business. The fifth Scholarship will go to Monash University in Engineering. This will bring to 12 the number of Scholarships to N.S.W universities, with both UTS and UNE being awarded scholarships for the first time. Sydney University's total will come to four. Monash's total will come to three, helping Victoria lead the tally with 17 awards in total. South Australia has the second highest number of awards, with 13 scholarships having been awarded, in large measure because of the generous support of one of the Foundation Directors, Mr Peter Benson AM and the Riddiford Trust.

4. Gain agreement with the selected universities on the specific disciplines.

This has involved determining the process and timetable whereby the university will call for applications. Such discussions occur at the highest level within the university given the prestige of the Scholarship.

5. Shortlist, interview and announce the successful awardees.

Each university appoints subject matter experts who work with members of the Foundation Board to determine the successful awardee. Following approval by the Foundation Board, the successful awardees are announced. Last year, this occurred after a Round Table Conference was held at Admiralty House with the Governor-General.

6. Identify a mentor in the awardee's chosen field of study.

Directors of the Foundation work with the awardee and the university to identify a mentor in the awardee's chosen field of study and facilitate the mentorship. Typically, such a mentor is an Awardee in the Order of Australia.

7. Formally present the award.

The final step occurs at the Gala Dinner of the Annual Conference of the Order of Australia Association where the Governor-General has historically formally presented the award. This is a highlight of the year from the Foundation's perspective, where the awardee, their family, the mentor, the donor and key members of the university come together to celebrate each awardee's success and their potential.

The Foundation looks forward to finalizing this year's process and presenting another group of high potential students at the Sydney Conference.

Donations can be made via our website: oaafoundation.org.au or for further information, please contact: Chairman, Order of Australia Association Foundation Telephone: (02) 8232 8508 or (02) 6273 5995.

ISSUES RAISED AND DISCUSSED AT THE ANNUAL MEMBERS' FORUM ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE, PERTH, SATURDAY 18 MAY 2024

The National Chairman welcomed 70 members to the Annual Members' Forum and reminded members that this was their meeting and a time to raise any issues of concern or suggestions for improvements. A summary of issues raised follows:

- The time taken by the Honours Secretariat between an award nomination and the approval of the award is not acceptable; some nearly four years.
- An explanation of the work performed by the Honours Secretariat on the award process. There can be no assumption that all nominations will receive an award.
- Increased nominations have not meant an increase in staff to process the nominations.
- There is a lack of knowledge by the general public about the Order of Australia; awards being in the media in competition to the Australia Day Awards does not help.
- The Governor-General established a Communications and Creativity Group to increase awareness and implement modern media processes to increase awareness of the Order of Australia.
- New I.T process introduced by the Honours Secretariat has been introduced to expedite the nomination process.
- Possible increase in the number of Council meetings (currently four) to expedite final decisions on awards.
- Branches do actively promote the Order and some Branches have access to community groups to promote the Order.
- Welcoming processes for new awardees.
- The Association needs a marketing plan.
- The Board should consider appointing a Communications Officer to further promote the Order and the Association.
- Some Branches have a Cultural Diversity Officer to increase awareness of the Award throughout multicultural communities.
- There is an increase of awareness of the Foundation's Scholarship Programme within Australian Universities.
- The awarding of a Foundation Scholarship process was explained.
- A vote of thanks to the Perth Conference Committee was carried by acclamation.
- The appointment of the Auditor was explained.
- An outline of the current Strategic Plan, the content of the national website including the new resources section, the implementation of the Association's social media process including the management of the programme.
- Celebration proposals for 2025 (postage stamp and coin) and further announcements to come after discussions with the new Governor-General.
- The National President thanked the National Chairman and National Secretary for the work they do for the Board and the Association; this was carried by acclamation.

-END-