

# The ORDER



THE NATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION

EDITION 76 AUGUST 2024

RRP \$10.00 inc. GST



In May 2024 His Majesty King Charles III welcomed Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC to Buckingham Palace in anticipation of her being sworn in as Australia's 28th Governor-General on 1 July.

Photo credit: WA Pool-Getty Images



## THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION OFFICE HOLDERS

### National President

The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO

### Executive Directors

**National Chairman:** MAJGEN Barry Nunn AO RFD ED (Retd)  
Mobile: 0408 540 082  
Email: natchair@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

**Deputy National Chairman:** Mr Willam Lye OAM KC  
Mobile: 0412 535 898  
Email: depnatchair@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

**National Secretary:** Mr Graham Hyde OAM  
Mobile: 0419 736 571  
Email: natsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

**National Treasurer:** Mr Frank Crawley OAM  
Mobile: 0402 288 800  
Email: nattreasurer@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

**National Membership Director:** Mrs Kathy Wooldridge OAM  
Mobile: 0408 885 527  
Email: natmbrdir@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

### Branch Nominated Directors

**ACT:** Dr Alan Morrison AM  
Tel: 02 6258 3056  
Email: direct@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

**NSW:** Mr David North OAM  
Mobile: 0419 485 071  
Email: dirnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

**NT:** Mr Alan James OAM  
Mobile: 0418 174 231  
Email: dirnt@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

**QLD:** Ms Paula Penfold AM  
Mobile: 0418 984 588  
Email: dirqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

**SA:** Noel Hender OAM BEM  
Mobile: 0409 672 882  
Email: dirsas@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

**TAS:** Dr Rosemary Callingham AM  
Mobile: 0427 445 718  
Email: dirtas@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

**VIC:** Mr Grahame Leonard AM  
Mobile: 0411 462 242  
Email: dirvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

**WA:** Mr Clive Robartson AM  
Mobile: 0419 048 556  
Email: dirwa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

### Overseas Regional Groups

#### United Kingdom/Europe

**Chairman:** Dr Caroline Hoffman OAM  
Tele: +44 79 3902 8183  
Email: uk-europe@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

#### North America

**Chairman:** Mr Gregory Copley AM  
Tele: +1 703 9094 167  
Email: grcopley@aol.com

## THE ORDER

The Order, the national publication of The Order of Australia Association Limited, is published by the National Board of the OAA. It appears also on the association's website:  
[www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au)

**Editor:** Dr June Kane AM  
Mobile: 0400 871 731

**Publisher for the Board:**  
June Kane AM  
Email: nateditor@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Please send material for publication, including letters to the editor and photographs, to:

nateditor@theorderofaustralia.asn.au or by post to:

The Order of Australia Association Limited,  
Old Parliament House,  
18 King George Terrace, Parkes, ACT

The Association does not necessarily endorse any third-party advertisement published in *The Order* or accept any responsibility or liability for those advertisements or the goods and services they advertise.

ISSN 1835-4378 (print)  
ISSN 1835-4386 (online)

Print post approved. RRP \$10.00 inc GST  
Free to OAA members

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Putting together an issue of *The Order* is like doing a huge jigsaw puzzle. Stories and photos come from all over Australia, and sometimes correspondents in other parts of the world, and the job of the Editor and then the graphics person is somehow to make a coherent whole. It's a challenging task and sometimes takes three or four attempts.

What is very clear, though, is that once the magazine has come together, it results in a vibrant, full-colour picture of what our Association is all about: people. Us. The pages demonstrate our differences and the similarities that bind us. After I put together my first edition of the magazine, I wrote to all the contributors suggesting some headings they might use: Events, Featured Member, Special Feature for example. Our similarities suggested common headings useful to everyone.

But still, every issue, there are stories and photos that don't quite fit any of the headings and that need special treatment. These differences add richness to the mix.

As I worked on my third edition of *The Order*, this one, I realised that there are obvious themes that impose themselves on both the magazine and the Association itself. The first issue of the year, for example, comes out in February and usually carries articles about Christmas or Year-End celebrations and about Australia Day commemorations. The May edition comes soon after Anzac Day and National Conference. That edition also follows Branches' AGMs so chronicles the comings and goings of Branch Committee members. By August, Branches have been active for seven or eight months and most provide news of guest speakers, new Awardees and other members. To me it is the 'people edition'.

What will the November issue of *The Order* focus on? I don't know yet, so stay tuned!



# INTRODUCING THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE MS SAM MOSTYN AC



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.

*continued next page*



from page 3

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.

It struck me that the former Governors-General whom I met expressed the same desires for our country, in almost the same words as everyday Australians.

They also reminded me that the role of Governor-General is not simply to be an observer of Australian life but to be a participant. To reflect the Australian character and its fundamentally democratic spirit...

Everyone I spoke with, from former Prime Ministers to people in the street, proudly described our country as confident and successful. Yet, in 2024, it is true that contemporary challenges are placing strains on that confidence...

Yet, despite all these challenges, I will always feel tremendous optimism for Australia.

I often reflect on the words of Cape York leader Noel Pearson. His three-part portrait of our nation frames who we are.

In his words:

- Our Indigenous foundation of 65,000 years.
- Our British institutions.
- And our remarkable multicultural present and future.

Noel's words capture so much of what is mighty about this country: the things we should celebrate, be thankful for, and fight to strengthen. A country with extraordinary advantages of geography and resources, and the generous sharing of the oldest continuing culture in the world. A country that since the end of World War Two — in less time than an average life span — has welcomed 7.5 million migrants including 950,000 refugees to our country...

Care has a deep and resonant place in our Australian identity. Care is the gentle thought and the outstretched hand that Australians have always been ready to share when great challenges present themselves. Care is the quieter, better part of ourselves. And it is that sense of care that Simeon and I will seek to depict and amplify as we take on this role...

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."

## FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

HON VICKI O'HALLORAN AO CVO



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.

## FROM THE OAA NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

MAJGEN BARRY NUNN AO RFD ED (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](mailto: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 at <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Welcome-and-Information-from-National-Chairman-UPDATED.pdf> or by contacting their Branch Secretary.





## 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 IT 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.

**Graham Hyde OAM**  
**National Secretary**

### LATEST ADDITION TO THE MERCHANDISE SHOP

#### **Umbrella Navy - compact**

53cm, three-stage folding umbrella which has automatic opening and closing.

OAA logo features on one panel.

Selling price: \$30 (incl.GST). Postage & handling extra.

Refer to the Order of Australia Association Merchandise Shop Online [www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart) and to the Order Form on page 12 of this magazine.

**NEW**





## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

Monica and I thoroughly enjoyed attending the National Conference in Perth in May. Congratulations to WA Chair and Convenor Bettine Heathcote AM 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 (ACT Branch) on 30 June 2024. We thank Her Excellency for serving as Patron of the ACT Branch of the Association, 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 ACT 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 AO 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 AO CSC, Chief of Personnel for the ADF, give the 2024 Order of Australia Association Ltd-Australian Defence Force Oration. LTGEN Fox was the first woman to reach three-star level in the ADF.

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

## ACT BRANCH

### OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Chair**

Andrew Phelan AM  
chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au  
Mobile: 0417 267 609

**Secretary**

Robert Altamore OAM

**Treasurer**

Phil Morrall AM CSC

**Branch Nominated Director**

Dr Alan Morrison AM JP

**Committee Members**

Dr Brian Babington AM  
Lynne Duckham OAM  
Mainul Haque OAM  
Narelle Hargreaves AM  
Dr Joseph Johnson CSC OAM AAM  
Dr Bill Maiden PSM OAM  
David Templeman AM  
Desmond Woods OAM

## FORTHCOMING 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

## VALE

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

**Mr Leonard GOODMAN AO** – *For service to the community through the programmes of the YMCA and Rotary International, through youth employment initiatives, as a contributor to the establishment of Diabetes Australia, and locally through health, emergency services, educational and arts groups (AD02).* Len had been a dedicated member of the ACT Branch committee for many years and was Branch Chairman when the ACT hosted the 2013 OAA National Conference in Canberra.

**The Hon Gary NAIRN AO** – *For distinguished service to the Parliament of Australia, to the communities of New South Wales and the Northern Territory, to the surveying and spatial sciences, and to disability support groups (QB15).*

**Dr David DENHAM AM** – *In recognition of service to seismology (AD1985).*

**CAPT Phillip PARKINS AM RAN (Retd)** – *For exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force in the fields of Logistics and Administration, especially in the implementation of the Defence Reform Program as the Defence Corporate Support Manager for Sydney Central (QB2000).*

**Colonel Geoffrey SIMS AM (Retd)** – *For service to the Australian Army, particularly in the field of conditions of service (AD1983).*

**Dr John GRAY OAM** – *For service to landscape architecture in the Australian Capital Territory, and to the community (QB01).*

**Mr. Michael (Stan) Cronin OAM** – *For service to the community of the Australian Capital Territory, particularly through the establishment and administration of a number of Irish associations (QB03).*



## EVENTS

### 20 MARCH 2024: MORNING TEA

The May 2024 issue had a brief outline of the story of Ebenezer Banful OAM, the 2024 ACT Senior Australian of the Year, who spoke on helping others understand Ghanaian and African values and promoting multiculturalism, while assisting newly arrived communities to integrate into Canberra. The full text of Ebenezer's talk can be accessed at the link: <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Speech-at-OAA-MorningTea-.pdf>.

### 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 AO, 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 ACT 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.*

An outline of Kate's address is at the link: <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/OAA-ACT-Kings-Lunch-talk.pdf>.

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>.



(L-R): Dr Sue Packer AO, Kate Carnell AO, Dr Brian Babington AM



(L-R): Deborah Bampton, Heidi Prowse OAM



(L-R): Cathi Moore AM, Mainul Haque OAM, Brendan Cox



David Templeman AM

## FEATURED MEMBER

### DAVID TEMPLEMAN AM

David Templeman AM has long-standing senior executive/CEO and board experience, primarily with a significant focus on community wellbeing, public health and teacher education.

As a former Director General, Emergency Management Australia, David had lead responsibility for national/international disaster preparedness and response coordination of the Australian Government's involvement in local and regional emergencies, including health protection and counterterrorism.

Through key wide ranging and diverse board appointments, he has contributed significantly to national community preventive health reform and resilience. This

has addressed priorities for First Nations Australians' health and access, drug and alcohol harm, family and domestic violence, mental health, welfare, rural law and justice support.

In all activities, David emphasises the critical importance of broader community consultation and consumer representation, combined with a comprehensive working experience to ensure engagement with/within government, non-government, and across political interests.

David is a member of the ACT Branch Committee and was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in January 2023 *For significant service to community health administration and governance.*





## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**Helene Bender AM**  
**Branch Chairman**  
[chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)

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 AM, co-founder of SecondBite, and Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO, 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](http://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.

## VICTORIA BRANCH

### OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Patron**

The Governor of Victoria,  
Her Excellency Professor the  
Honourable Margaret Gardener AC

**Chairman**

Dr Helene Bender AM  
[chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)  
Mobile: 0407 261 951

**Deputy Chairman**

Trevor Clark OAM

**Secretary**

Hatice Basarin OAM

**Branch Nominated Director**

Grahame Leonard AM

**Editor VIC pages – The Order**

Dr Teresa De Fazio OAM  
[victheordermag@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:victheordermag@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)

**Membership Secretary**

Fred Harrington OAM  
[oaavicmbrsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:oaavicmbrsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)

**Minute Secretary**

Barb Thomas OAM

**Regional Groups Coordinator**

Barb Brook OAM  
[vicrgcoord@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:vicrgcoord@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)

**Committee**

Gary Lee OAM  
Beverly Pinder OAM

## 24 JULY: GUEST SPEAKERS ONLINE

OAA 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 AM, 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](http://www.secondbite.org).

The second speaker was The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO, 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.



(L-R): Ian and Simone Carson of SecondBite



## EVENTS

### 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 OAM presented a very personal and captivating story. His presentation epitomised the diversity and spirit of community building which underlies the Order of Australia.

The Consul General of Egypt, Mr Haitham Mokhtar Abdelraouf Ibrahim, was also a special guest at the luncheon.

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".

Building connections in the community has, however, meant challenging stereotypes and prejudices and this has been done through holding Mosque Open Days each year since 2015 at the Elsedeaq Heidelberg Mosque where he works, as well as hosting Interfaith *Iftar* and community dinners.

Alaa has also been active in supporting the community through natural disasters such as bushfires and floods, the COVID-19 pandemic and through a range of mental health initiatives.

Alaa spoke about how much it meant to be awarded the Order of Australia. He sees the honour as a positive message for anyone who might be engaged in contributing to a cohesive community. He said, as a particularly important message to young people, "strive to do your best in contributing to peaceful coexistence".

The event provided an opportunity for learning, new friendships and lots of inspiration.



(L-R): Gary Lee OAM presents a 'thank you' gift to guest speaker Imam Alaa Elzokm OAM

## REGIONAL GROUPS

**South Central Suburbs RG** acknowledged 19 new King's Birthday Honours Recipients, including three posthumous awards.

At the March AGM, two committee members, Alan Rae OAM and Richard Rozen OAM, retired after many years of loyal committed service. They were presented with Certificates of Recognition and Appreciation for their excellent work.

Richard Rozen OAM was an inaugural member of The South Central Suburbs RG Committee formed in 2007. Richard served as a committee member of the State Branch and was National Merchandise Officer for many years. He was also an Australia Day Ambassador for The Order of Australia Association.

Alan Rae OAM joined the South Central Suburbs Regional Group Committee in 2015, actively serving as Membership Officer, and was responsible for maintaining and updating the RG membership list.

The group welcomed two new committee members: Felicity Frederico OAM and Emma Gierschick OAM.

The annual Mid-Year Luncheon was held at the Sandringham Club. New Honours Awardees were welcomed, along with the Mayor of the City of Glen Eira, Councillor Anne-Marie Cade. Venue Facilitator and MC Roger Wilson OAM was presented with a certificate recognising 15 years of contribution to the Regional Group.

Guest Speaker Patricia Burke OAM presented a talk entitled, *Creating a Generous and Inclusive Australia: an Overview of Philanthropy in Australia*. She is Senior Advisor, Engagement and Philanthropy, Philanthropy Australia.

Patricia sits on many Boards and is the Chair and Co-Founder of the Melbourne Women's' Foundation, Director of the National Trust of Victoria Foundation and Director of the Victoria University Foundation.



(L-R): RG Secretary Graeme Woolcott OAM, Chairman Jill Page OAM, Mayor the City of Glen Eira Councillor Anne Marie-Cade





(L-R): Barb Brook OAM, Vic Regional Group Coordinator, Geoffrey Grinton OAM, ESRG Chairperson, Adele Schonhardt OAM

Patricia gave an in-depth and fascinating insight into philanthropy and giving in Australia and Victoria, examining many possibilities for future giving and the long history of giving in Victoria, for example through The Felton Bequest and The Sidney Myer Fund.

Members of the **Eastern Suburbs Regional Group** gathered for an interesting Annual General Meeting earlier this year.

The guest speaker was David Langworthy OAM, former Chairperson of Disaster Aid Australia. In his presentation David spoke of the origins of the organisation, which aims to provide sustainable

humanitarian aid relevant to people affected by natural and other disasters, including safe water and shelter.

Through the Smart Aid programme, response and assistance are offered following disasters such as earthquakes, typhoons and tsunamis. Another programme is designed to ensure “safe water for every child” in these situations. David explained the development of equipment and facilities that provide very practical and efficient assistance, and how it can be easily adapted to a wide range of disaster conditions.

At the short meeting following this presentation, the Chairperson of the Regional Group, Geoffrey Grinton OAM, outlined achievements of the group over the previous year, including the successful on-line webinar programme, and recommencement of face-to-face events with a visit to the historic Mont De Lancey homestead in the Yarra Valley.

A welcome was extended to members who had received awards in the previous 18 months. Newer recipients were recognised by an acknowledgement and were provided with a small presentation.

Retiring committee member Terry O’Callaghan AM was also acknowledged. He joined the OAA as a Life Member in 2002 on receiving his award *For service to the dairy industry through the promotion of the economic, environmental and corporate interests of farmers and the community*. Terry soon became an active contributor to the Association’s activities. He joined the local committee in 2009 and was a member for 15 years. He was elected Chairperson in 2011 and held the position for the next four years.

## VALE

### A TRIBUTE TO STEFAN ROMANIW OAM

It is with deep sorrow that we remember the passing of a giant man with a giant heart, Mr Stefan Romaniw OAM. He was well known and well regarded by many in the Association and wider community.

Stefan passed away in Poland while on a trip home from Lithuania where he travelled to represent the Australian Ukrainian community at a conference.

Stefan was tireless in his work in raising government and community awareness of the consequences of the war in Ukraine and, before that, Holodomor. He was the First Vice President of the Ukrainian World Congress and sat on the Australian Executive Committee.

He was active in raising money for medical needs, food aid and other humanitarian aid for those affected by the war. He also advocated for refugees fleeing the conflict. On 16 August 2022, Stefan was guest speaker of the Victorian Branch of the Association and spoke about the important contribution to Ukraine of Australia’s donation of Bushmaster infantry vehicles – something he had helped secure.

The list of his contributions is lengthy and includes Chairperson of the Victorian Government’s Australia Day Committee and Executive Director of Community Languages Australia. He was a champion of multiculturalism, serving as the Victorian Multicultural Commissioner and Chair of Multicultural Arts Victoria.

The Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch offers deepest condolences to Stefan’s wife Anastasia, his children Peter and Theresa, his five grandchildren and all his family.

Eternal memory.



(L-R): Prime Minister Anthony Albanese with Stefan Romaniw OAM



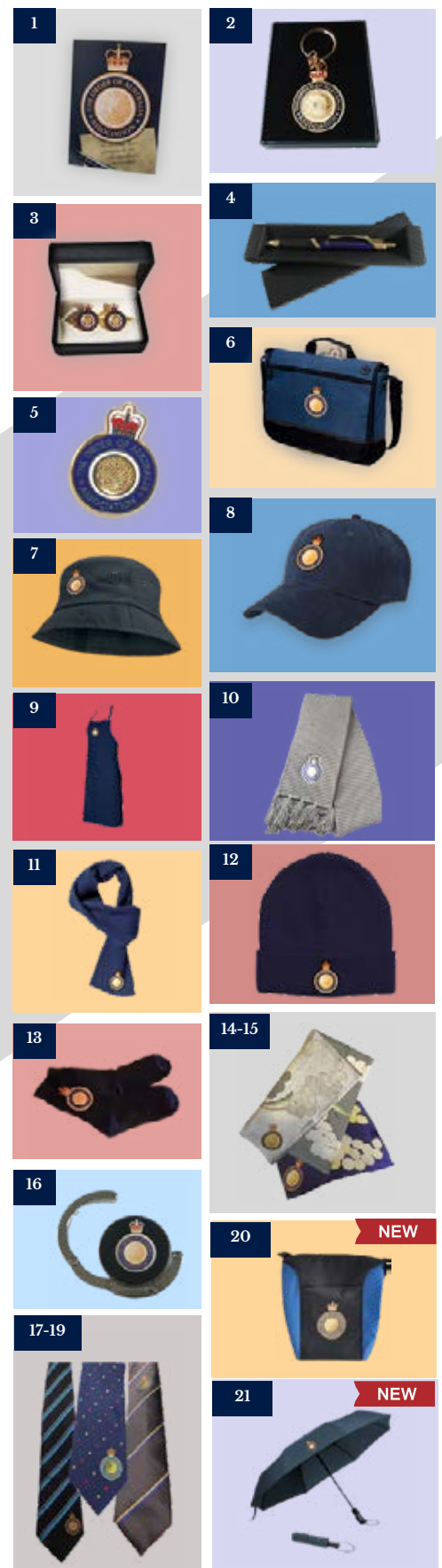


# THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION

## Merchandise Order Form

Item and Description	PRICE	QTY	Total \$
1 Blank greeting cards + envelopes (5)	10.00		
2 Key ring in gift box	12.00		
3 Cufflinks in gift box	35.00		
4 Blue/gold Pen	7.00		
5 OAA Lapel Badge with magnetic fitting not OA official investiture pin	15.00		
6 Laptop Satchel	37.00		
7 Bondi Bucket Hat Size L (60cm)	16.00		
8 Cap	21.00		
9 Apron	30.00		
10 Scarf unisex knitted (grey)	25.00		
11 Rib knit loop scarf (navy)	26.00		
12 Roll up beanie (navy)	18.00		
13 Socks -unisex	11.00		
14 Ladies' pure silk scarf (silver/grey)	45.00		
15 Ladies pure silk scarf (blue original)	45.00		
16 OAA branded Bag Holder	10.00		
17 OAA aqua stripe black tie	30.00		
18 OAA spotted tie	30.00		
19 OAA charcoal grey tie	30.00		
20 Cooler Bag 10L with strap <b>NEW</b>	20.00		
21 Compact umbrella (navy) 53cm Auto open/close with OAA Logo <b>NEW</b>	30.00		
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>			
<b>Postage &amp; Handling</b>			<b>13.00</b>
P&H: Multiple items will be put in one postage pack where possible.			
<b>TOTAL PAYABLE</b>			<b>\$ _____</b>

Questions: Please phone 0413 008 571  
 Email order form with payment details to [merchandise@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:merchandise@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)  
 OR  
 Mail to OAA Merchandise PO Box 18389,  
 Collins Street East, Melbourne VIC 8003  
 OR  
 Order online and pay with PayPal or credit card:  
[www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart)



Current 1 August 2024

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ State/Territory \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost of order: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cheque made payable to **Order of Australia Association** enclosed  Y  N or

Please debit my  Mastercard  Visa Card: Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ CSV \_\_\_\_\_



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

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.



The SA Branch Committee for 2024-25. Front row (L-R): Flavia de Pasquale OAM; Greg Gordon OAM JP; Toni Cocchiario OAM; Cathy Chong AM JP; Don Clark OAM; Pamela Rajkowski OAM  
Rear: Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP; Noel Hender OAM BEM; Tony Metcalf OAM; John Ziesing OAM; John Phillips OAM. Not pictured: Deborah De Williams AM; Ken Coventry OAM JP (co-opted)

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRANCH

### OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Patron**  
The Honourable Frances Adamson AC

**Chairman**  
Tony Metcalf OAM

**Deputy Chairman**  
Noel Hender OAM BEM

**Secretary**  
John Phillips OAM

**Treasurer**  
John Ziesing OAM

**Member Secretary SA**  
Greg Gordon OAM JP

**Student Citizenship Awards Convener**  
Noel Hender OAM BEM

**Regional Groups Coordinator**  
Ken Coventry OAM JP (co-opted)

**Merchandise Officer**  
Cathy Chong AM JP

**Editor/Webmaster**  
Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP

**Other Committee Members**  
Deborah De Williams AM  
Don Clark OAM

Toni Cocchiario OAM  
Flavia de Pasquale OAM

Pamela Rajkowski OAM

**Branch Nominated Director**  
Noel Hender OAM BEM

**Website**  
<https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/sa/about-us/>

### Regional Contacts

**Fleurieu Regional Group**  
John Hutchinson OAM  
johnhutc@bigpond.com

**South East Regional Group**  
Eric Roughana AM  
roseric1@bigpond.com

**Riverland and Mallee Regional Group**  
Tim Grieger OAM JP  
tgrieger@riverland.net.au

**Yorke Peninsula Regional Group**  
Elaine Bussenschutt OAM (Kadina)  
elaine@yp-connect.net  
Maree Anderson OAM (Minlaton)  
mareeanderson@internode.on.net

**Eyre Peninsula Group**  
Ken Coventry OAM JP  
kencoam08@gmail.com





## 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 OAM, *For service to local government, and to the community* (KB23).



John Minney OAM

## FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEONS



New Recipients standing (L-R): Frank O'Neill OAM, John Ward OAM, Jeffrey Dry OAM, Dr Barry Elsey OAM, Arch Boonen OAM, Clinical Associate Professor Robert Ali AO, Ashleigh Gore AM, Peter Christopher OAM, Noel O'Brien OAM, William Maxwell (Max) Lyle OAM, Reverend Barbara Paull-Hunt OAM. Seated (L-R): Dr Margaret Folkard OAM, Yvonne Tyler OAM, Ray Norton OAM, Carlsa Carter OAM

For the April Fellowship Luncheon, held on Anzac Day, Jenny Macintosh OAM 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 AFC OAM: *Living on a Wing and a Prayer; Memoirs of the RAAF and Outback Ministry*. Bob had been awarded the OAM, *For service to the community, particularly through church and veterans' organisations* (QB15). Jenny had earlier received the OAM: *For service to the community, particularly through the Embroiderers' Guild of South Australia, and to the Guiding movement* (AD11).

The guest speaker at the June Fellowship Luncheon was Wendy Chapman AM, 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* (QB86).



Attendees at the Fellowship Luncheon on Thursday 27 June



## KING'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

On Saturday 1 June the SA Branch held a luncheon to celebrate the official Birthday of His Majesty King Charles III. Our guest speaker was Clinical Associate Professor Robert Ali AO, a public health physician and specialist in addiction medicine, who was appointed an Officer of the Order, *For distinguished service to medical and health research, particularly drug and alcohol dependence, and to education and training* (KB23). He spoke on the topic: "Vaping- Friend or Foe". We had a display of King Charles III coronation memorabilia, and a portrait of King Charles III was kindly provided on loan by No 604 Squadron, Australian Air Force Cadets.

Following a tradition of celebrating the lives of our centenarian members, a special guest at this year's King's Birthday Luncheon was Joan Durdin AM FRCNA. Joan has been described as, 'an architect of the transformation of nursing training in South Australia from the hospital to the tertiary education sector'. Joan was granted an Honorary Fellowship of the College of Nursing Australia in 1984 (FRCNA), and was appointed a Member of the Order, *In recognition of service to nursing education* (QB85). A prolific researcher and author of two books on nursing history in South Australia, Joan was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Flinders University in 1994.



Clinical Associate Professor Robert Ali AO

## REGIONAL GROUPS

Regional Groups Coordinator Ken Coventry OAM JP reports that the Yorke Peninsula Regional Group held a successful half-yearly luncheon gathering at the Ardrossan Hotel/Motel on Sunday 28 April. The guest speaker was SA Branch Committee member Don Clark OAM, who received his medal, *For service to the livestock industry* (AD19). Those present discussed possible projects for the Yorke Peninsula Group for ongoing engagement with secondary schools on the Peninsula, to provide a focus on the SA Branch and its flagship programme, the Student Citizenship Awards.

The half-yearly luncheon meeting of the Fleurieu Regional Group was held on Friday 3 May at the Chiton Rocks Surf Life Saving Club on Hindmarsh Esplanade, Hayborough. The guest speaker was Bob Bruce, a member of the group, who received the OAM, *In recognition of service to surf lifesaving* (AD89). Bob spoke of his enjoyment and experiences in surf lifesaving over several decades.



Yorke Peninsula Regional Group members in Ardrossan, Sunday 28 April



Fleurieu Regional Group members at Chiton Rocks, Friday 3 May (images by Di Coventry)

### UPCOMING SA BRANCH ACTIVITIES

- Thursday 29 August:** Honours recipients fellowship luncheon meeting
- Thursday 19 September:** SA Health and Medical Research Institute tour
- Friday 27 September:** Riverland and Mallee Regional Group luncheon meeting, Barmera
- October:** Eyre Regional Group meeting, Tumby Bay
- Sunday 27 October:** Yorke Peninsula Regional Group luncheon meeting
- Thursday 31 October:** Honours recipients fellowship luncheon meeting
- Friday 1 November:** Fleurieu Regional Group luncheon meeting
- Friday 6 December:** Branch Christmas Morning Tea

# Governology

Providing Legal and Governance Advice to Associations

## About Governology

*Whatever your cause, Governology can assist with your legal and governance matters.*

*We specialise in assisting associations, charities, and other not-for-profit membership bodies.*

## Our Services

*Organisational Structures | Governance | Constitutions | Membership Structure | Board Composition | Taxation | Association Mergers and Amalgamations | General Meetings | Policies | Bylaws | Strategic Planning Facilitation*

[www.governology.org](http://www.governology.org) | [info@governology.org](mailto:info@governology.org)

Follow the new Australian Honours and Awards LinkedIn account to receive the latest guidance, news and profiles of recipients:  
search *Australian Honours and Awards*

You can also follow us on Instagram and Facebook  
*@AussieHonours*



THE  
ORDER OF  
AUSTRALIA

Australian Honours and Awards

@AussieHonours

@AussieHonours







## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**Dr John Gullotta AM**  
**Branch Chairman**  
[chairnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:chairnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)

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 NSW 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 HMAS Canberra. On behalf of the Association, sincere thanks to our NSW Branch Patron and NSW Governor Her Excellency The Hon Margaret Beazley AC KC and to Rear Admiral Christopher Smith AM CSM RAN, 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.

## NSW BRANCH

### OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

#### Patron

Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC

#### Chairman

Dr John Gullotta AM  
Mobile: 0418 233 069  
Email: [chairnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:chairnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)

#### Deputy Chair

Ms Martha Jabour OAM  
Mobile: 0417 442 287

#### Honorary Secretary

Mrs Dianne North OAM  
Mobile: 0429 774 363  
Email: [dianne\\_north@bigpond.com](mailto:dianne_north@bigpond.com)

#### Honorary Treasurer

Mrs Louise Paisley OAM  
Mobile: 0414 597 323

#### Branch Nominated Director and Regional Coordinator

Mr David North OAM  
Mobile: 0419 485 071  
Email: [dirnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:dirnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)

#### Branch Membership Officer

Dr Geoffrey Glascock AM

#### Youth Community Service Award Coordinator

Dr Frank Kelleher OAM

#### OAA Foundation NSW Scholarships Coordinator

Mr Harold Sharp OAM

#### Committee Members

Mr Romano Di Donato OAM  
A/Prof Sophie Scott OAM  
Mr Gary Smith AM  
Mrs Trish Wetton OAM  
Ms Helen Clarke (Co-opted YAL)

#### The Order of Australia Association NSW Branch

#### Postal Address

PO Box 561  
Parramatta NSW 2124

#### Website

<http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/nsw>

## SAVE THE DATE

**OOA 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

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**SYDNEY 1-4 MAY 2025**

Sofitel Sydney Wentworth



**CELEBRATE | MOTIVATE | NOMINATE**  
"Inspiring Australian Achievers"  
Celebrating 50 years of The Order of Australia

**REGISTER NOW**



[mers.cventevents.com/OAAConfSYD25](https://mers.cventevents.com/OAAConfSYD25)

**SCAN FOR EARLY BIRD SPECIAL RATE**





## VALE

### A TRIBUTE TO ANDREW WILLIAM GULLOTTA OAM

By Dr John Gullotta AM

The late Andrew William Gullotta OAM was not only my father but my inspiration in life, my role model, hero, mentor and best mate! His charisma and infectious smile would always light up a room and his networking skills were second to none.

Andrew served on the Order of Australia Association NSW Branch Committee from 2011 to 2018 and was a proud member of our Association and stood by our ideals and those of the Order of Australia.

He was short in stature but always stood tall in his studies, work and in his community service. He always loved to have a go and help people when he could.

His motto was E=R. Effort equals Results. If you don't do the work and put in the effort, you do not get the results you are after. He taught this mantra to me but also his students, employees and anyone who wanted to listen!

He dedicated his life to helping others by working in his pharmacy at Matraville for more than 40 years with wife Lina as well as assisting the elderly Italian community and migrants with his big nurturing heart.

Andrew was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2005 *For service to pharmacy and to the Italian community.*

He was my driving force, always supporting me and urging me to strive higher, work harder and make a difference. He also instilled the mantra of service above self into me. Giving back and helping

people and community service is now part of my DNA thanks to him.

Andrew passed away peacefully on 8 July 2024 aged 86, surrounded by his close family and friends.

He touched so many of us over many decades and was a great example of someone who continued to give back long after being awarded his OAM.

Andrew William Gullotta OAM was larger than life and will never be forgotten.



Andrew William Gullotta OAM

## EVENTS

# UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY ALUMNI CELEBRATION FOR ORDER OF AUSTRALIA RECIPIENTS



Back row standing (L-R): Juliette O'Brien OAM, Dr John Gullotta AM, Kate May, Director Alumni, University of Sydney, and Australian of the Year Professor Richard Scolyer AO. Front row sitting (L-R): Cr HY William Chan, Councillor City of Sydney, and Jane Spring AM

On behalf of the NSW 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 OAM, Jane Spring AM, and Australian of the Year Professor Richard Scolyer AO.

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

On behalf of the OAA NSW, 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 NSW 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 MP, member for Drummoyne. Our guest speaker was AD 24 recipient David Koch OAM, Australian television presenter and financial journalist, "In Conversation" with Sophie Scott OAM, Branch Committee Member, award-winning medical TV journalist for the ABC 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 OAM. 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.



Sue-Ellen Lovett OAM offering The Toast



(L-R): Dr John Gullotta AM, Ms Martha Jabour OAM, Ms Stephanie di Pasqua MP



Australia Day 2024 recipients and the NSW Branch Committee





## THE SAPPHIRE VASE

KING O'MALLEYS X CANBERRA GLASSWORKS

A wonderful collaboration between King O'Malleys and the Canberra Glassworks is transforming empty Bombay Gin bottles, upscaling them into stunning, limited edition 'Sapphire Vases'.

Canberra Glassworks artist Katie-Ann Houghton heats the Bombay Gin Bottles in the furnace to create a hexagonal vase which is then hand polished, each one becoming a unique piece of art.

Now available to purchase at the Canberra Glassworks for \$220 with all proceeds going to the Glassworks and their artists.



canberra glassworks



11 Wentworth Avenue, Kingston ACT  
E: [contactus@canberraglassworks.com](mailto:contactus@canberraglassworks.com)  
T: (02) 6260 7005

131 City Walk, Canberra City ACT  
E: [info@kingomalley.com.au](mailto:info@kingomalley.com.au)  
T: (02) 6257 0116



## FROM THE FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN

DR HELEN NUGENT AC



The Directors of the Order of Australia Association Foundation (OAAF) 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 AM, 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.

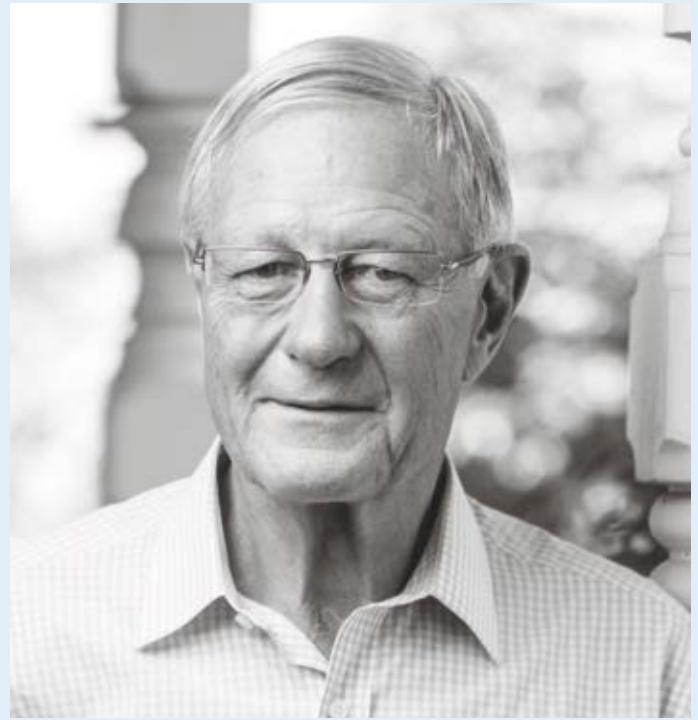
- 3. Work with donors to identify the university and disciplines to whom the Scholarship should be awarded.** It is proposed that four of the five scholarships this year will be awarded to NSW universities, recognizing that next year's Annual Conference of the Order of Australia Association will be held in Sydney. Two will go to the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) in Creative Industries Faculties as well as in Health; one to the University of New England (UNE) 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 NSW 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.





Mr Paul Wheelton AM KSJ



Mr Tim Fairfax AC  
Russell Shakespeare *Tim Fairfax AC* 2018.  
National Portrait Gallery of Australia. Commissioned with funds provided by  
The Calvert-Jones Foundation 2018.  
© Russell Shakespeare

## OFFICE HOLDERS AND DIRECTORS

### Chairman

Dr Helen Nugent AC

### Secretary

Mr Paul Wheelton AM KSJ

### Treasurer

Mr Leo Tutt AM

### Directors

Mr John Atkins AO

Mr Peter Benson AM

Ms Bonnie Boezeman AO DSG

Ms Dina Browne AO

Mr Vedran Drakulic OAM KSJ

Mr Hugh Morgan AC

Mr Barry Nunn AO

(OAA Chairman)

Mr Nicholas Paspaley AC

Check out our website  
[www.oaafoundation.org.au](http://www.oaafoundation.org.au)



## CHAIR'S REPORT

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

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 AC PSM 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 AM.

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 OAM, 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 AM, 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 AM, 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 OAM to their names.

## QUEENSLAND BRANCH

### OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

#### Patron

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

#### Chair

Ronda Nix OAM  
Mobile: 0409 615 514

#### Deputy Chair

Dr Mick Davis AM ASM  
Mobile: 0429 462 764

#### Membership Officer/Secretary

Robyn Porter OAM  
Mobile: 0407 223 600

#### Treasurer

Dr Dennis Young AM  
Mobile: 0411 631 3444

#### National Board Director

Paula Penfold AM  
Mobile: 0418 984 588

#### Committee Members

Graham Hyde OAM  
Qld Branch Editor - *The Order*

#### Governance/Policy Review Officer

Paula Penfold AM

#### Regional Groups Coordinator

Darryl Secombe OAM

#### Protocol Officer

Marjorie Voss OAM

#### Awards & Metro Events Coordinator

Geoffrey Cowles OAM

#### Merchandise Officer

Kelvin Brown OAM

#### Multicultural & Diversity Officer

Irene Cayas OAM

#### Policy Officer

Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ

#### All correspondence to:

Robyn Porter, Secretary  
secqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

### Regional Group Convenor Details

**Central Queensland:** Grant Cassidy OAM

#### Darling Downs:

Megan McNicholl OAM

#### Far North Queensland:

John Hardy OAM

**Gold Coast:** Sandra Doumany OAM

**Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday:**

Carmel Daveson AM

**Sunshine Coast:** Rhonda Clayton AM

**Townsville:** David Jackson OAM

**Wide-Bay Burnett:** Judy Peters OAM

## THE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

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

- The Association's aims and structure.
- Membership application and renewal.
- Editing your basic membership contact details.
- National Conference.
- National Committee membership and contacts.
- National publication — The Order.
- A link to each branch with current information:
  - Committee and contacts.
  - Upcoming functions.
  - Newsletter and local information.
- Frequently Asked Questions about The Order of Australia.
- Resources – tools for members, Branches and Regional Groups.
- Merchandise.

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

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

[www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au)





## EVENTS

# CELEBRATING AND WELCOMING 2024 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD RECIPIENTS

One hundred and thirty guests including 26 OAAQ 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.



Our fine parade of 2024 Australia Day award recipients who attended the 14 May Dinner Reception. Standing (L-R): Douglas Porter AM, Colin Meng OAM, Jeffrey Maurice OAM, Professor Cliff Mallett OAM, Distinguished Professor Louise Ryan AO, Ken Rogers OAM, Associate Professor Jennifer Cullen AM, Gary Golding OAM, David Kerrigan AM, Nicole Cleary OAM, Dr Brian Hoepper OAM, Dr Helen MacGillvray AM, Ken Martin OAM, Sue Smith OAM. Seated (L-R): Professor Donna Pendergast AM, Robin Cooke AM OBE, Professor Zarnie Lwin OAM, Ronda Nix OAM, John Moran OAM, Kathy Neehouse OAM, Tess Rowley OAM, Barbara Page- Hanify OAM

## 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 AM. A former Leader of the Opposition (NP) 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 CBD hospital site, and the new \$1.3B 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.



(L-R): Carol Cox AM, Mike Horan AM, Ronda Nix OAM, Kent Bligh OAM

## LUNCHEON SUCCESS DESPITE EFFECTS OF ILL HEALTH

The first luncheon of the year organised at Tom's Tavern in Townsville in April for the Townsville Regional Group again proved successful, even after several members and their guests had to withdraw because of ill health.

The Townsville Group takes in the area from Home Hill in the south to Ingham in the north and west to Mount Isa, where there are many recipients of Australian Honours. Invitations are also sent to award recipients in the Winton area, who are in the Central Queensland group but who also travel to Townsville for business reasons whenever necessary.

The guest speaker for the function was George White OAM who, with his wife Jan (who is also an OAM recipient) arrived in Townsville in 1979 from Melbourne.

However they did not regard themselves as 'new arrivals', having worked in Melbourne/Port Moresby/Cairns/Weipa and Townsville and coming in from the north of the border, not the south.

In 1996, a young lady, Annemarie Hodson, who was the stand-in guest for George's wife Jan at this luncheon, approached him (because of the beard) and asked if he would be interested in helping out as Santa for their group of Special Children's Christmas Parties in the area. Naturally, he was very interested as it was for Special Needs Children up to the age of 12 years and the rest is history. George's stories were revealed in his presentation, which covered the period from 1996 to 2021. Now for our annual dinner on Friday 23 August.



George White OAM





## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**Alastair Douglas OAM**  
**Branch Chairman**  
[chairtas@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:chairtas@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)

The Tasmania Branch Committee is looking forward to the visit in September of William Lye OAM KC, 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.

## TASMANIAN BRANCH

### OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Patron**

Her Excellency The Honourable  
Barbara Baker AC  
Governor of Tasmania

**Branch Chairman**

Mr Alastair Douglas OAM  
Mobile: 0418 127 897

**Hon Secretary**

Mrs Beatrice Lawrence OAM

**Hon Treasurer**

Mr Ron Blake OAM

**National Board Director**

Dr Rosemary Callingham AM

**Branch Committee**

Mr Neville Bingham AFSM OAM  
Mr Barry Easter OAM  
Mrs Belinda Hazell OAM  
Dr Peter Holm OAM  
Dr Frank Madill AM  
Dr George Merridew AM  
Mrs Maureen Oates OAM  
Mrs Vicki Purnell OAM

**Regional Convenors**

**South**

Mrs Belinda Hazell OAM

**North**

Dr George Merridew AM

**North West**

Mr Graeme Milburn AM

## EVENTS

# WINTER SOLSTICE LUNCHEON



(L-R): Dr George Merridew AM, Barry Easter OAM, Dr Frank Madill AM

OAA member Barry Easter OAM 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."]

## FEATURED MEMBERS

### TERESE BINNS OAM

Terese Binns, a fourth-generation Tasmanian, was recognised with an OAM 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

WW1. 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. Other battlefields visited included Gallipoli and Lemnos Island, Greece and Macedonia, where she attended several major Armistice Centenary Services.

Terese continues to be a driving force for the recognition of and education about the plight of war animals. She has organised commemoration services for war animals at the local Campbell Town Cenotaph since 2019 in recognition of National War Animal Day on 24 February.



The Northern Tasmanian Light Horse Presentation at the 2022 Anzac Day Service and Parade at Campbell Town

### JEFF HOCKLEY OAM



Jeff Hockley OAM

“Don’t ask him to dance!”, the Tasmanian Governor, Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, told the Investiture audience when introducing Jeff Hockley at Government House, Hobart, on 8 September 2023. Jeff was presented with his Medal of the Order of Australia

for services to community theatre. Her Excellency reported later that she had been reading up on Jeff’s CV from various sources and noticed a quote he had made about his work in theatre and thought that, with all his successes and range of achievements, here was the one thing that he said he couldn’t do.

Jeff can dance, apparently, but chooses to work as a theatre practitioner behind the scenes, rather than in front. Not that he hasn’t had his fair share of acting successes, ranging from comedies (*Are You Being Served*, *‘Allo ‘Allo*, *Fawlty Towers*), to drama (*Rosehaven*), to revues and dramas, including the award-winning *Twelve Angry Men*. He is probably best known as a stage director and has presented Northern Tasmania with a range of works over the past 50 years. His notable directing successes include such works as *Les Misérables*, *Amadeus*, *Spamalot*, *Chess*, *Dad’s Army* and the world’s first community production of *Evita*. Jeff has lit more than 50 productions, directed 30 and appeared in about 40, all while working

in various positions at the University of Tasmania including Head of Audio-Visual Services, and as the Graduation Officer for the past 25 years.

Jeff has worked for all the main theatre companies in Launceston, Burnie and Devonport. Overseas he has directed for the Modena Theatre Company in Italy and did the stage lighting for the graduate student showcase for the Indianapolis City Ballet.

Jeff has received several notable community awards and honours: Life Member, Launceston Players; a 2000 Citizen Award for Community Service, Launceston City Council; Paul Harris Fellow medal for service to the community; and Living Icon of Launceston.

Getting back to the dance theme, he says he did go to a tap dance class – just once – to prepare for directing the play *Stepping Out*, and recently did some lessons with Melissa Wimmer’s School of Theatrical Dance for a project later in the year. He says he can’t sing, either.



# Celebrating Your Contribution to Australia



## THE LEGEND LIVES ON

King O'Malleys Irish Pub celebrates Australians who have demonstrated outstanding service or exceptional achievement. Our namesake was a member of Australia's first Federal Parliament and a noteworthy figure in Canberra's history. His colourful story adorns our pub walls, where the legend lives on.

We invite Order of Australia Association members visiting or living in Canberra to join us for a drink or meal with friends in our cosy pub atmosphere.

GREAT ALL DAY MENU

---

COSY FIRESIDE DINING

---

BEER GARDEN CHEERS

---

DRINK SPECIALS

---

HIDEAWAY ROOMS

---

OPEN 11AM TO LATE

---

MONDAY TO SUNDAY

---

131 CITY WALK, CANBERRA | 02 6257 0111 | [kingomalley.com.au](http://kingomalley.com.au)



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**Mrs Bettine Heathcote AM**  
**Branch Chairman**  
[chairwa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:chairwa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)

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 of 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 South West 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 RAAFA Estate in Bull Creek.

## EVENTS

# ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION 36TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2024

Perth hosted members from around Australia from 16 to 19 May at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, where the staff were diligent in their support.

In the beautiful Government House Ballroom, the Governor of Western Australia His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM welcomed the delegates.

The theme of the Conference, *Giving Service Beyond Self*, was exemplified by the speakers on Day One, from Western Australia, who presented their service in the variety of their contributions to Australia and the world. A previous Governor of Western Australia, Malcom McCusker AC gave the Opening Oration where he noted that the Australian Honours are given to awardees whose contributions in diverse fields are for the benefit of Australia and humanity. "To those to whom much is given much is expected." The last presenter was an Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship winner in 2004, Rahul Khubchandani who, despite a disability, has risen to the top of his profession and supports others with disability. He noted how important mentoring had been for him.

The following day was the AGM and the Members' Forum where, moving into the 21st Century, discussion revolved around the use of the website and the involvement of social media (see note on the Members' Forum on p.6). It is a work in progress. We were reminded by Rob Ayling, from the Governor General's Office, that next year is the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Order of Australia Honours System.

The Gala Dinner at the Hyatt Regency Hotel with presentations of the Foundation Scholarships was enjoyed by all who attended and was profiled in The Order May Edition.

The Final Event was the Wreath Laying at King's Park War Memorial, a site beloved by Western Australians, with an extensive view over the Swan River. At the Farewell Lunch at Frazer's Restaurant, Kings Park, the responsibility for next year's Conference was handed over to NSW.

*continued next page*

## WA BRANCH

### OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

#### Chairman

Bettine Heathcote AM

#### Secretary

Margaret Lobo AM

#### Treasurer

Michael Lee OAM

#### WA Nominated Board Director

Clive Robartson AM

#### Membership Secretary

Lorraine Hammond AM

#### WA Newsletter Editor

Bill Hassell AM JP

#### WA contribution to The Order editor

Jackie Scurlock OAM

#### Committee Members

Judith Hogben AM

Ronald Louis OAM JP

Brad Norman AM

Rebecca Tolstoy AM

#### Co-opted Member Police Patron Scheme

Michael Bleus OAM

#### Great Southern Group of the WA Branch Convenor

Jan Savage OAM JP

#### Southwest Group of the WA Branch Convenor

Hon Barry House AM

#### Peel Group of the WA Branch Convenor

Prof Jan Barker AM

## UPCOMING WA BRANCH ACTIVITIES

**18 September:** Annual Black Tie Dinner, Royal Perth Golf Club, 6.30 for 7pm

**18 October:** South-West Branch Lunch, Rose Hotel, Bunbury, midday.

**24 October:** "Let's talk About white-out on Mt Erebus Antarctica", RAAFA Estate Bullcreek, 10.15 for 10.30am

**26 November:** Christmas Lunch, RAAFA Estate Bull Creek, midday

**1 December:** Great Southern Church Service and lunch



from page 29

In the evening an optional Choral Evensong was held at St George's Cathedral Perth to which delegates were invited. Sixty members of the Order rededicated themselves to "celebrate and promote outstanding Australian citizenship, and to uphold the high principles and prestige of the Order of Australia". The sermon was preached by the Most Reverend Dr Peter Carnley AC, retired Archbishop of Perth.



Conference Dinner: (L-R): Bill Hassell AM, Scholarship winner Roisin Wallace, Prof. David Shirley



Scholarship winner Lotte George with His Excellency Hon Chris Dawson AC, APM



Government House Ballroom: (L-R): Rahul Khubchandani, Rhonda Nix OAM, Rachel Melvin



Keynote speakers: (L-R): Very Rev. John Shepherd AM, Sue Boyd AM, Prof Fiona Wood AO, Amber Merritt PLY

## LET'S TALK ABOUT...

### PROFESSOR SIR AL AYNSLEY-GREEN KT



Professor Sir Al Aynsley-Green

Guest speaker Sir Al reflected on the public honours systems in Australia and the UK in a presentation to members of OAA WA 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 UK 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 (OBE) and a Member (MBE). Sir Al is a Knight Bachelor and was Knighted by HM 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. It must not copy any previous Coat of Arms and took a year to design. Every heraldic symbol has meaning from something in the holder's life and work. 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 UK 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."



## 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 OAM KC, 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 OAA National President The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO who introduced William, and The Order editor Dr June Kane AM.

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.



Mose and Elijah Shanahan

## 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 RFD 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 AM) and George Cridland, whose firm he joined in 1977. Graham became a barrister in 1978, was appointed President of the NT 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 NT 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 NT 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 OAA NT.



Guests at the NT Branch Annual Dinner

## NT BRANCH

### OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

#### Chair

Alan James OAM

#### Secretary

David DeSilva AM

#### Treasurer

Amin Islam OAM

#### Members

Linda Fazldeen AM

Hon Jane Aagaard AM

Wayne Kraft AM

Annette Roberts OAM

#### Branch queries:

nora.lewis23@gmail.com



Deputy National Chairman William Lye OAM KC (left) with Justice Graham Hiley AM





## THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

ABN 89 109 314 142

### WILL YOU HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

As an awardee of the Order of Australia you have made a distinctive contribution to Australia. The Board of the Order of Australia Association Foundation asks you to consider making a further contribution to Australia by supporting its Scholarship programme.

#### **It represents an investment in Australia's future**

The Scholarship programme aims to identify full-time students in their second year of university who are exceptional in their field of study, who have given back to the community, and who can benefit from the financial support provided by the Scholarship. It is hoped these students have the potential to become future awardees of the Order of Australia.

#### **It is life changing for the recipient**

The recipient receives \$40,000 paid over two years. For the students selected, the value of the Scholarship is life changing.

In addition, the recipient receives mentorship from a member of the Order of Australia in the student's area of expertise and career ambition. Winners have described this as having a benefit beyond money.

#### **It is prestigious**

The scholarship is highly regarded not just by the recipients but also by the universities with whom we work. That prestige is enhanced by the presentation of the Scholarship awards by the Governor-General or her delegate at the Annual Dinner of the Order of Australia Association. By next year, 60 scholarships will have been awarded.

#### **It is well governed**

The Board of the Foundation maintains the highest standards of governance in relation to the awards, at the same time as keeping costs to a minimum.

#### **It is tax deductible**

Any donation made to the Scholarship programme of the Foundation is tax deductible. We have a rigorous programme of acknowledging your donation and providing a receipt to enable you to claim your tax deduction.

#### **By making a donation, you will make a real difference.**

You can help by making a donation to the Order of Australia Association Foundation, no matter how large or small.

### HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

Members can donate directly to the Foundation. Alternatively, members can donate to an Association National Scholarship Programme which allows Branches and individual members to contribute to a consolidated account which, when it reaches the Scholarship funding level (currently \$45,000), will allow the award of an Association Scholarship.

**Donations made directly and indirectly attract DGR tax deductibility.**

**Donations may be made either by Credit Card or Electronic Payment:**

**Credit Card:** Please go to the Foundation Website: [www.oaafoundation.org.au](http://www.oaafoundation.org.au)

**Electronic Payment:**

Name of Account: The Order of Australia Association Foundation Gift Account  
BSB No: 013 006  
Account No: 314 735 771

**So we can provide a Tax Receipt, please advise name for Tax Receipt and details of method of payment to: [sec@oaafoundation.com.au](mailto:sec@oaafoundation.com.au)**

**For further information, please contact:**

Chairman, Order of Australia Association Foundation

Telephone: (02) 8232 8508 or (02) 6273 5995

Website: [www.oaafoundation.org.au](http://www.oaafoundation.org.au)