



Welcome from VIC Branch Chair

On behalf of the Order of Australia Association Ltd Victoria Branch welcome to our spring E-Newsletter edition. Please enjoy the read.

Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria, hosted Investiture ceremonies for Victorian recipients of the Order of Australia 2024 King's Birthday Honours on September 4 and 5 recognising Australians who have made a significant difference to their community, their country or at an international level. We are proud of the diversity of our recipients in Victoria.

On Wednesday 9 October 2024 Vic Branch is hosting a Thank You Reception at Alex Theatre for recipients who have joined the Association this year.

The last Vic Branch event for 2024 is our End of Year Dinner on Thursday 21 November at Stamford Plaza Melbourne. Please refer to page 2 for the invitation and booking details.

Many of our Regional Groups have upcoming events in October and November; please refer to pages 3-6 inclusive for the details and booking details.

Since the June edition of the E-Newsletter the Vic Branch hosted the Mid-Year lunch at Angliss Restaurant, our annual virtual evening event and the Winter Masterpieces at the NGV. Pages 7-8 cover some information about the Mid-Year lunch and virtual event.

Pages 9-13 inclusive showcase the diverse topics covered at some Regional Group events over recent months.

Thank you recipients who have joined the Association, we value your membership and look forward to meeting you and your guests at upcoming VIC Branch or Regional Group events.



Our final E-Newsletter for the year will be early December 2024.

Dr Helene Bender AM - VIC Branch Chair **M:** 0407 261 951 **E:** chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au





THE
ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
ASSOCIATION LTD
VICTORIA BRANCH

End of Year Dinner

Invitation for OAA Members and Guests

Thursday November 21, 2024 at 6.30pm

Stamford Plaza Melbourne

111 Little Collins Street, Melbourne

Dinner speaker is **Pamela Clark AO**

Topic - The Mad Hatter and the Environment

The harmful effects of Mercury in the environment

President of the Australian Dental Industry Association

President of Australian Dental Research Foundation

NGO representative to the Minamata Convention on mercury, specifically regarding Dental Amalgam waste. Starting in 2012 and continuing today, with attending COP (Conference of the Parties) meetings



Participated in the East Africa Dental Amalgam phase down project. This pilot project was to prove the strategy proposed in the Minamata Convention was achievable in low resource settings.

This involved initial visits to Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania plus follow up visits to monitor progress.

OAA Foundation 2018 Scholarship recipient **Hannah Gandy** will provide members and guests with an update on her community service and employment.

Cost: \$50 per person GST included + booking fee. 2 course dinner, cash bar for drinks.

Book by November 13 at <https://www.trybooking.com/CVNVO>

Order of Australia **miniature** medal may be worn at the dinner

OAA merchandise will be available to purchase at the dinner

Note table seating list will be at the entrance to the restaurant

Enquires or assistance with bookings contact Helene Bender AM on 0407 261 951

2024
Victoria Branch
Regional Groups
Upcoming Events



BARWON REGIONAL GROUP

Warmly invites you and your friends to join members of the Order of Australia Association at an informal Dinner to be held

Friday 4th October 2024

6.30pm

in the

Maestro Restaurant

at Geelong Quarter, Holiday Inn,
Corner Ryrie and Fenwick Streets, Geelong CBD

Dinner is 'a la carte' with individual payments.

Acceptances /numbers must be notified to Wayne Myers OAM
waynemyers@outlook.com by Tuesday 1st October

This initiative of the Committee encourages all members, and particularly those unable to attend daytime functions, to join them at this specially planned, early evening Dinner.

Dress: *Smart Casual, small Medals can be worn.*

ALL WELCOME

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS WIMMERA REGIONAL GROUP

Chairman John Burt OAM & Committee Invites

Members and Guests

to the

Fourteenth Spring Luncheon

on

Sunday 20th October 2024

Time: 12 Mid-day for 12.30pm start

Venue: Horsham RSL

McLachlan Street, Horsham

Cost: \$ 35.00 GST included with drinks at bar prices

GUEST SPEAKER

Helen Curkpatrick

"Longerenong – a Legendary Locality"

Miniatures may be worn

RSVP on form below by Sunday 13th October 2024

I am able / unable to attend the 14th Spring Luncheon of the Order of Australia Association Central Highlands Wimmera Regional Group on Sunday 20th October 2024 at the Horsham RSL.

Member:

Partner/Guest(s):

Dietary Requirements:

Payment **\$35.00** GST included per person for the meal: \$

Pay to: **OAA Central Highlands Wimmera Group**

BSB: 633 000

Account: 1570 080 20

Ref: Please use your Surname

Or by cheque payable to: **OAA Central Highlands Wimmera Group**

Mail to: Jean Wise OAM, PO Box 42, WARRACKNABEAL Vic 3393



LODDON CAMPASPE REGIONAL GROUP

The Chairman, Alex Stoneman OAM extends an invitation to

Members & guests

to attend our

Springtime lunch at Hanging Rock Winery

Friday 25 October 2024 commencing 11.30am

\$50 per person [all-inclusive including GST] *Cash or card - pay on the day*

We are thrilled to invite you to an exclusive event at **Hanging Rock Winery** where the esteemed CEO **John Ellis OAM** will share insights into the winery's rich heritage and the exceptional wines that define the brand.

Gain a deeper understanding of the winemaking process and the passion behind each bottle.

Enjoy, over 20 stunning sculptures by acclaimed local, interstate, and international artists, all set against the picturesque backdrop of the Macedon Ranges.

INCLUDES:

A light lunch of estate grown, Hanging Rock Beef pies or sausage rolls with salad, a local produce platter, a glass of wine and afternoon tea

Lunch will be held in the all-weather marquee, overlooking Hanging Rock and the Macedon Ranges.

Travel: By car is preferred as there is no public transport that will bring OAA members and guests to the winery door. However, we are happy to pick up a small number of guests from the Woodend train station if required.

RSVP Essential: Kindly respond to Loddon Campaspe Regional Group Secretary (Deb) by Wednesday 16 October via Phone or text: 03 5426 1931 /0409 542619 Email: canddflemings@bigpond.com to confirm your attendance and dietary requirement



GIPPSLAND REGIONAL GROUP

Wednesday 23 October The Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnett annual dinner

6.30pm for 7.00pm at Vine & View Vineyard, 140 Burnets Road, Traralgon.

Cost \$85 or \$75 for students includes GST, a welcome drink, table wine and three course dinner.

Speaker Dr Lisa Mielke PhD

Laboratory Head, Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute

Topic: "UNLEASHING IMMUNE CELLS FOR DEFENCE AGAINST BOWEL CANCER"

Dr Lisa Mielke is a Victorian Cancer Agency Fellow and Head of the Mucosal Immunity and Cancer laboratory at the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute. She is a Cancer Program Lead for the La Trobe Institute of Molecular Sciences, La Trobe University. Dr Mielke is an expert in immune cell biology, gut homeostasis and bowel cancer.

Contact Gippsland Regional Group Chair Doug Caulfield OAM on Mobile 0409 008 494 for further information including booking and payment options

NORTH EAST VICTORIA & GOULBURN VALLEY REGIONAL GROUP

Sunday 20 October lunch

Venue: The Woolshed in Shepparton

Speaker will be Don Kilgour OAM and he will talk about the golden years of radio of television.

Contact North East Victoria & Goulburn Valley Regional Group Chair Mary-Lou Davis OAM on Email: marylout@bigpond.net.au for further information.

SOUTH WEST VICTORIA REGIONAL GROUP

Thursday 10 October lunch with speaker

12noon at Hopkins River Café Deakin University Warrnambool Campus, Building H Level 1
Princes Highway Warrnambool

Cost: \$30 pr person GST included for finger food and drink.

Speaker Bob Handby AO Topic "Rwanda, 30 years on from the genocide"

Contact South West Victoria Regional Group Chair Georgina Gubbins OAM on
Mobile 0417311561 or E: maneroofarms94@gmail.com for further information.

Save the Date

BARWON REGIONAL GROUP



Friday 22 November lunch supporting a local charity

Our Christmas luncheon will be held at the Waurin Ponds Hotel and include a guest speaker.

At this event we continue our practice with members invited to bring along food items to be given to a local charity, Uniting Barwon, for distribution to those in need.

Contact Barwon Regional Group Chair Wayne Myers OAM E: waynemyers@outlook.com for further information.

Victoria Branch NEWS from recent Event

Mid-Year lunch – An Imam's Journey in Australia

At the Angliss Restaurant in Melbourne, Victoria Branch members and guests had the opportunity to hear from one of our members; **Imam Alaa Elzokm OAM** a King's Birthday 2013 Medal of the Order of Australia recipient for service to the Islamic community.

Egyptian born, Alaa arrived in Australia aged 26 ready to start a new life and connect with the community. Alaa valued the diversity of the community and multifaith acceptance of him as he worked with the youth encouraging them to have strong connections with their community.



Alaa met his wife Rheme in Australia; they are both working hard to ensure new migrants have a smooth transition and necessary support and access to programs that are beneficial to their future growth.

Since 2015 Mosque Opens Days are held annually at the Elsedeaq Heidelberg Mosque where Alaa works, it serves as a spiritual hub for the community, fostering harmony and understanding. The open days allow Alaa to link with the community and coexist.

The lunch was the first opportunity some members and their guests had to interact with a Muslim.

The second speaker at the lunch was **Luke Barron** a 2023 Order of Australia Association Foundation scholarship recipient presented at the 2024 national conference in Perth; the scholarship was donated by the Order of Australia Association. Luke is a third year Marine Science student from Deakin University studying across the Geelong and Warrnambool campuses.

Luke thanked Imam Alaa for his strong and compassionate messages of peace and integration of religion within modern Australia. These messages resonate with some of what I will be speaking about today where a focus towards compassion and understanding local and cultural contexts regarding our natural marine and terrestrial environments.

The highlights of my course so far have been a Deakin Study Tour of Borneo and Placement as a survey scuba diver in the Philippines. Both served as great opportunities to experience different contexts and cultures first hand whilst recognising the priorities and urgencies in developing regions where local livelihoods are effected by over exploitation of natural resources alongside the compounding influences of global climate impacts like extreme weather, rising sea level, ocean acidification and pollution.

In the future, I would like to complete further study directly in Marine Science in the form of an Honours year and am currently



Mid-Year lunch continued

looking into opportunities to study abroad in Indonesia. The themes and skill sets I would like to develop are intercultural communication, language studies and ways to mitigate the effects of climate change on the health and livelihoods of developing countries.

The Order of Australia Association Foundation scholarship represents the opportunity to fully immerse myself within in my studies whilst working and volunteering in meaningful ways. It has helped me take on local and global internships which align with my passion whilst developing an invaluable network of connections facilitated through my mentorship with leading ecologist professor Emma Johnston.

Annual Virtual Event – the work of SecondBite

During the COVID lockdowns the Vic Branch host a few Virtual events with speakers of interest to ensure we stayed connected with our members. The feedback was positive, not all members for various reasons are able to attend events in person.

One of the speakers at the last event was **Ian Carson AM** Co-Founder of SecondBite. The agency partners to whom SecondBite supply food; offer food programs such as community pantries, hampers, pre prepared meals, run soup vans, street meal programs, and school breakfast programs to name a few. Because we provide the food free of charge the agencies can offer wrap around services such as a nurse to check on mental and physical health or a social worker who checks in on what services such as housing or economic support might be required.

Excitingly, on 30th June SecondBite merged with Fareshare to better serve those in need. A seismic shift in the food rescue sector.

Regular access to fresh, healthy food does a lot more than satisfy hunger. It is hard to believe that in our country every day there are Australians making difficult choices to go without meals so that they can buy medicine, pay their utility bill, or cover their rent or mortgage.

Food is not simply a collection of nutrients. It is an integral part of us....in our economy, culture, history, cognitive capacity, and spirituality.

LinkedIn article and photo earlier this month of Simone Carson AM Co-Founder SecondBite.



We're incredibly proud to announce that, together with Coles Group and SecondBite, we've raised the equivalent of 2.16 million meals to support Australians in need this winter.

It's devastating that nearly half of Australians are anxious about accessing enough food, but this Winter Appeal is proof that the power of collaboration can make a meaningful difference.

Regional Group NEWS from recent Events

Barwon Regional Group

2024 Primary Schools Citizenship Award

The 2024 Primary Schools Citizenship Award function was conducted by the Barwon Regional Group in August. This was the seventh award occasion and the first when individual students were asked to present on what citizenship meant to them. Previously groups of students presented what they had undertaken in their school to build understanding of citizenship.

A judging panel selected George Bramley, from Mount Duneed Regional Primary School, as the winner with Hugo Olsson, from Christian College Geelong's Surf Coast Campus, as runner-up. All seven students participating received a certificate with the winner and runner-up also receiving a cash prize. Mount Duneed Regional Primary School holds the "Spirit of Anzac" perpetual trophy provided by the Geelong RSL Sub-branch. The Geelong RSL has continued to support the Regional Group with the award function by providing the room and refreshments.

The students provided a wide variety of reasons for the importance of citizenship with George focusing on his charity work for "Love Olive" in memory of his sister. George has undertaken fundraising activities with his team for the Royal Children's Hospital as a way of showing the importance of the hospital and medical research. He has used this to help others understand what can be done from little steps.

This award is provided by the Barwon Regional Group as a way of meeting its aim "To celebrate and promote outstanding Australian Citizenship".



Photos L-R: Winner George Bramley from Mount Duneed Regional primary School with the Spirit of Anzac trophy.

George Bramley (Mount Duneed Regional Primary School) and Hugo Olsson (Christian College Geelong - Surf Coast campus) with their certificates

Eastern Suburbs Regional Group

Visit to 1812 Theatre

The Eastern Suburbs Regional Group held its second 'in-person' get-together of members this year with a visit and guided tour of the 1812 Theatre, Upper Ferntree Gully. Because of the success of this year's events another is planned closer to Christmas.

The program for the day was to tour an old cinema/playhouse type theatre and then relax over an informal 'Christmas in July' lunch.

Our tour started with the introduction of two very informative guides, who gave us an outline of the theatre's history.

The 1812 Theatre began in the 1940s and is one of the longest running repertory theatre companies in Melbourne.

Situated in the Dandenong Ranges foothills, it was established because the theatre group held the belief that the Hills deserved quality theatre and that in the Hills amateur theatre would flourish.

They were correct; the theatre not only grew, but prospered!



In earlier days performances were held in a converted army hut in Ferntree Gully, but the audience size outgrew the venue. They moved to Lysterfield, and the volunteers worked hard to create a community theatre in the progress hall.

Then, in 1972, tragedy struck. A fire destroyed everything.

Almost overwhelmed by the setback, these battlers decided not to give up and began resurrecting their theatre company in a derelict cinema site in Ferntree Gully - and that is where they reside to this day.

The large area and buildings provided a new era of creative opportunity. They built, painted, innovated and artistically worked hard on their dream. What a transformation – the old theatre came to life – and was loved by the Hills community, who continually, to this day, volunteer help.

There is only one paid worker (who is worth her weight in gold) and many volunteers.

Having heard the history, the members toured the theatre complex, a series of interconnecting rooms and outbuildings. This included the media box, with its up to date sound, lighting and electronic equipment, the dressing rooms, the costume making area, the wardrobes, props and back stage. Outside the members saw the scenery making carpentry and painting areas, as well as storage for large scenery and backdrops.

Regrouping in the foyer to thank our tour guides, we viewed, and were amazed by, the myriad awards the group had received.

The 1812 Theatre Group stages a minimum of four plays a year in the main theatre. Recently, with immense effort from volunteers, generous financial commitments and a special grant from the Victorian Government, they have built an additional performance and display area, now

called Bakery@1812, and which encompasses a flexible space 'theatre in the round' arena which seats 50. This enables them to support community ventures such as workshops; one-act plays, artistic displays, recitals, and gives them an extra rehearsal area. It has become a very popular addition.

The 1812 theatre is a fantastic theatrical space. Its reputation is such that enthusiastic theatre-goers come from all parts of suburban Melbourne for the performances and recitals.

There was so much to see and discuss. This continued on well into lunch at a nearby hotel where we relaxed over a delicious lunch with a lot of chatter and good cheer.

Everyone agreed it had been a most informative tour and a delightful day.

Melbourne Central Regional Group Lunch with Commander Mark Galliot APM

Melbourne Central Regional Group hosted a lunch in the Melbourne CBD Angliss Restaurant last month with speaker Commander Mark Galliot APM.

Over his 35-year career, Commander Mark Galliot has worked in a broad range of operational and strategic roles, demonstrating significant commitment and service to the Victorian community. As commander of Melbourne's Central Business District (CBD) and Melbourne West over the last three years, he has provided strategic and dynamic leadership overseeing the policing and community's safety needs of Melbourne's diverse CBD, as well as some of the busiest policing areas in Melbourne's western suburbs.

He presented on the problem of youth violence, a subject that is in the front of many people's minds and provided a true picture with the statistics of the perpetrators. Further, he spoke of the domestic situations from which they came. He said that in many cases they are showing off to their mates, and getting on a social media site.

Mark leads the delivery of the Embedded Youth Outreach Program (EYOP), and Youth Crime Prevention and Early Intervention Project, with both programs focused on reducing the risk of young people entering the criminal justice system.

Mark stated that the number of offenders at any one time is about 800. He spoke of the need for greater family involvement, particularly of the father.

He was very good giving us all a true picture of the problem on just what the media presents.

Photo: L-R: Commander Mark Galliot APM, Trevor Clark OAM MCRG Chair, Peter Norman OAM MCRG Treasurer and Meg Davoren-Honey OAM MCRG committee member



North Central Suburbs Regional Group

ZOOM session on *Strategies to secure volunteers*

The guest speaker at our July monthly ZOOM session was Mike Lescai. Mike has nearly 40 years' experience as an Executive and Non-Executive Director serving and advising executive teams across a broad range of industries.

This year, he completed nine years on the Board of the Council on the Ageing Victoria with four as President. He is currently Chair of LINK Community & Transport, Victoria the largest not for profit provider of transport services.

The topic of Mike's presentation was *Strategies to secure volunteers*. Following his presentation Mike kindly provided a copy of his PowerPoint presentation, associated documents and links to the various websites he referenced in his presentation.

Committee members and others with involvement with volunteers have already made use of the documents.

If any member would like a copy of this presentation and associated documents, please contact NCSRSG Chair, Fred Harrington OAM at: fred.harrington@gravity.net.au or 0417 116 304.

August Lunch to welcome 2024 Honours Recipients

Against a great background view of the Yering Meadows Golf course the NCSRSG group held its lunch and reception to welcome 2024 Honours recipients.

The attendees were pleased to welcome the following 2024 Honours recipients: Jim Liaskos AM, Francis Acquah AM, David McCabe OAM, Glenys Gayfer OAM, Denise Stothers OAM, Jenny Gowan AM, Jeff Franklin OAM, Michael Buxton AM, Christopher Hall AM and Peta Whitford OAM.

The program for the lunch provided each of the honours recipients with the opportunity to address attendees and outline their achievements that lead to them receiving their honour.

Congratulations to Michael Buxton for winning our 'spot the ball' competition and winning the Dymocks Book voucher. Equally thank you to all who participated and helped us raise funds to cover the various venue hire costs and presentation items for new recipients.



Photo L-R: Fred Harrington OAM NCSRSG Chair, Dr Jenny Gowan AM, Glenys Gayfer OAM, Christopher Hall AM, Jeff Franklin OAM, Peta Whitford OAM, Prof Michael Buxton AM, Francis Acquah AM, Denise Stothers OAM and David McCabe OAM. (Missing from photo Jim Liaskos AM)

North East Victoria & Goulburn Valley

Mid-Year lunch talking about rural health

The North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley Regional Group of the Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch held its mid-year luncheon at the RSL Club in Numurkah in June.

55 members attended the luncheon to hear about regional health administration from Jacqui Phillips OAM (photo below).

Jacqui has extensive experience in rural health services and until recently was the inaugural CEO overseeing the amalgamation of Numurkah, Nathalia and Cobram health services.

She has a passion for rural living and rural and regional health and is now involved in the federal initiative known as Primary Health Network.

Jacqui, within the Primary Health Network has led several key initiatives including the rural junior doctor program, building local career pathways, emergency management and recovery, community health and capital projects including a new aged care facility.

Jacqui stressed the importance of rural community support for farming women to ensure equity of access to health. There is an important program to keep people out of hospital by providing hospital in the home and some rehabilitation support in their homes.

Jacqui identified the problem of G.P. clinics closing in rural areas as they are no longer viable. The introduction of new technologies such as Tele Health will help many isolated rural people to access medical care.

Partnerships with the health workforce will help with the co-ordination of multi-disciplinary care.

Aged care is another area under constant consideration, helping residents stay in their homes whilst receiving health care access.

Mental Health is a major expenditure with many programs available to help people including a new program assisting return to work through new career pathways.

The members and guests who attended the luncheon were delighted to hear how the primary health network was instigating new programs and using new technology to support peoples' health in rural areas.

Jacqui Phillips OAM is an Australia Day 2015 Medal of the Order of Australia for service to community health in Numurkah.

Jacqui was thanked for attending and providing the latest information on a subject that we are all relying on so much.



Civic Receptions and Investitures

Barwon Regional Group

Civic Reception hosted by the City of Greater Geelong

Late last month Cr Anthony Aitken Deputy Mayor of the City of Greater Geelong hosted a Civic Reception to thank the 2024 Order of Australia recipients for their tireless contribution to the region and beyond.



Also in attendance was Wayne Myers OAM Barwon Regional Group Chair, Libby Cocker MP Member for Corangamite, Cr Ron Nelson City of Greater Geelong and Cr Jim Mason AM City of Greater Geelong.

The citations were read by Cr Ron Nelson and Cr Jim Mason AM as each recipient came forward and accepted a gift of appreciation from the Deputy Mayor on behalf of the City of Greater Geelong.

Central Highlands Wimmera Regional Group

Civic Reception hosted by the City of Ballarat

The City of Ballarat hosted a Civic Reception on Thursday

8th August for citizens who had received Awards on Australia Day and King's Birthday 2024.

There were 15 recipients acknowledged by the City of Ballarat. Mayor Cr Des Hudson OAM spoke of the outstanding contribution these individuals had made to their various communities. It was an appropriate way of formally thank them.



Civic Reception hosted by the City of Ballarat continued

John Burt OAM Chair of the Central Highlands Wimmera Regional Group had the pleasure of introducing each individual with a brief citation to the 100 people in attendance. The breadth and variety of the contribution made by the individuals was amazing.

The OAA Central Highlands Wimmera Regional Group is very appreciative of the City of Ballarat for conducting this acknowledgement. It is the second time a function of this type has been held since the interruption of COVID.

As Chair of the OAA Victoria Branch I was pleased to attend the Civic Reception and have the opportunity to meet some of the recipients and briefly hear about the work they did and are continuing to do.

As expected each had different story to tell as noted below.

David Goldsmith OAM

Having spent 52 years in private dental practice and the last 46 years in Ballarat, I have become increasingly aware that patients in many parts of the world cannot access the same levels of care



we do, especially our Pacific Island neighbours

Some 28 years ago, I set about the task of doing what I could to help others in the self-development of their Public Oral Health systems.

Since 1996, I have led more than 30 teams of like-minded volunteers in capacity-building, education, and training projects in Tonga, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, Fiji, and the Cook Islands.

In recent years I have installed a school library, a

dental repair workshop, and modern new dental clinics in Tonga's five leading secondary schools, facilitated the donation of a school dental van for the primary schools, and opened the first specialist dental hospital in the Solomon Islands with seven new surgeries.

In October, I will take a team to completely refurbish a badly neglected home for people with disabilities in Tonga; a shipping container with 686 donated medical and disability items is now in transit.

This work is ongoing. I feel it a great privilege, even in retirement, to use my dental experience and Rotary contacts to help improve the health outcomes of other nations.

Life has never been more fulfilling, and every visit is a new adventure!

Civic Reception hosted by the City of Ballarat continued

Ron Pickford AM

Ron Pickford, a fourth generation Victorian, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia on Australia Day 2024 for contributions to the building design industry, and a significant contribution to the community through devoted service to the Rotary organization.

As an experienced professional, leading the establishment of the Building Designers Association of Victoria, serving two terms as president, leading the association towards empowering building design reform, ethics, and professional accountability.

An experienced professional led him to develop challenging food manufacturing facilities through collaboration with international corporations. After decades of professional practice, Ron entered the education sector with Federation University of Australia as a lecturer in Architectural Technologies. He was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Contributions to Student Learning and was recognized in 2013 by the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching with an Australian Award for University Teaching.



Invited to join Rotary in 1985, he went on to serve as a club president, district governor, and a committed leader in the polio eradication program. For more than two decades, he has held the position of a Cadre of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International, traveling overseas on numerous occasions to locations overseeing humanitarian projects. His Rotary mission was awarded Five Avenues of Service Award and The Rotary Foundation Service Award for a Polio-Free World.

Investiture at Government House

Thursday 5 September 2024

Deputy Chair Trevor Clark OAM represented the OAA VIC Branch at the Investiture at Government House on Thursday 5 September and prepared the following report.



Ray Steele AM received his award for his involvement in Cricket, for significant service as a player, coach, and administrator.

The investitures were a joyous occasion for the awardees and their families. All those present were impressed with the broad range of activities for which the recipients received their awards.

Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC spoke of their community involvement and how worthy they were. The staff did a wonderful job in make the day a memorable occasion for all.

Photo: Anthony Carbines MP Minister for Police, Ray Steele AM

Member News

Robin Syme AM and Rosemary Syme OAM contribution to the community

Another couple who are Order of Australia recipients Robin Syme AM and Rosemary Syme OAM still giving back.

Robin was honoured to receive an AM in 2004 for "service to the community as a contributor to a range of organisations". These organisations included:

Member of the Committee of Management of The Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital (RVEEH) between 1972 and 1996 (President RVEEH from 1988 to 1986)

The RVEEH is a major teaching hospital drawing patients from all parts of Australia and the Pacific Islands.

Honorary Treasurer, Deafness Foundation 1980-1986.

The Deafness Foundation is a major provider of services to the hearing impaired in Victoria.

Board member Ambulance Service – Melbourne 1983-1986.

Legal Representative, National Gallery of Victoria Foundation.

Board Member, Committee for Melbourne 1995-1999.

Chairman, St. John Ambulance Victoria and member of the St. John Ambulance National Board 2002-2006. President, St. John Ambulance Victoria 2006-2009

St. John has a primary focus on teaching first aid with also a strong involvement in event health and community health care services.

Chairman, mecwacare 2000-2010.

mecwacare is one of the major not-for-profit providers of nursing home and in-home care across Melbourne and regional Victoria.



Whilst it was a privilege to able to serve the community in these roles, much of this work would not have been possible without the patience and assistance of my wife Rosemary OAM, who also had to find time for her own community commitments. Together, we made a strong team.

In September 2018 Rosemary was delighted to receive the Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division from Her Excellency the Governor of Victoria.

The Award made reference to a number of organisations to which I had contributed as a volunteer including the following:

The National Gallery of Victoria where I worked as a Voluntary Guide for many years, including as President of the Guides. This role also involved organising the programme to train future Guides and to prepare the weekly programme for all Guides, providing insight into current exhibitions.

Photo: Robin Syme AM (left) at his investiture in 2004



Robin Syme AM and Rosemary Syme OAM contribution to the community continued

The Heart Foundation where I was a member of the Board and for several years headed a committee to organise the annual Fund-Raising Soiree.

Court Network where I worked as a volunteer in the County Court for over a decade supporting distressed witnesses during their appearance in Court. This was regarded as an essential service as being a witness in Court can be very distressing. I ceased this job only when the pandemic restricted access to the Court.

Red Cross where I worked as part of a Committee supporting fund raising so necessary to finance the good work done by this organisation.



Photo: Rosemary Syme OAM (left) at her Investiture in 2018

Rodney Whyte OAM presenting at Barwon Health study day

Last month, Barwon Health Women's and Children's hosted its inaugural World Breastfeeding Week Study Day at Waurin Ponds Estate.

World Breastfeeding Week is held every year in the first week of August, and it is supported by WHO, UNICEF, and many partners of the Ministries of Health and Civil Society.

The study day was an opportunity for health professionals from across the region to learn and share knowledge with the common goal of raising awareness of breastfeeding and its many benefits.

Barwon Health Midwifery Unit Manager Marie Glover said the study day was a remarkable success, thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of everyone involved. "Our study day not only highlighted the vital importance of breastfeeding but also fostered a sense of community and shared commitment to supporting breastfeeding families," she said.



"This event has reaffirmed our collective resolve to promote and protect breastfeeding as a cornerstone of infant health and wellbeing."

Thank you to presenters Dr Rachel Cameron, Rodney Whyte OAM, Melissa Blake, Megan Torpey, Susanne Burt, Marion Wright, Julianne Cuthbert, Amanda Jones, and Traditional

Owner Corrina Eccles who performed an inspiring Welcome to Country.

The study day was proudly supported by Medela and the Barwon Health Foundation.

Photo: Rodney Whyte OAM and Susanne Burt registered Nurse and a Lactation Consultant

Merchandise Shop

Online shopping: <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart/>



Above is a range of OAA Merchandise available from the Merchandise Shop for members, family and friends to buy

L-R: Apron (unisex) \$30. Premium Cap \$21 - other hats and beanies also available. Blank greeting card with envelope pack of 5 for \$10. Cooler bag \$20. Umbrella navy \$30. Ties \$30, aqua and white striped and charcoal grey also available.

Plus postage & handling noted on merchandise website

Online shopping: <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart/>



Nominate someone for the Order of Australia

Anyone can nominate someone to be recognised through the Order of Australia. Nominations can be submitted at any time during the year.

To nominate go to the [online portal](#).

Before beginning you will need to gather some key information:

- The contact details of the person you are nominating
 - A short case of why/who you are nominating; including
 - Examples of how they have demonstrated outstanding qualities
 - What they have done to make things better for others
 - The role(s) or area(s) in which they have excelled
 - The period of time, or dates of service (if known)
 - Evidence of other awards or recognition received by the nominee
 - Up to four referees (including contact details).
-



Which Order of Australia medal to wear when?



Day Functions

The full-size insignia (Main Piece) is generally worn at day functions where decorations have been prescribed by the event, for example OAA Events or Anzac Day

Evening Functions

At events such as evening receptions and dinners where decorations have been prescribed, the miniature insignia is generally worn. The main exception to this is Neck Decorations (AC and AO), which are worn in full-size.

Every day Wear

A lapel pin may be worn on civilian clothes at any time. Only one badge should be worn at a given time and not when other insignia pieces are worn.

Arts & Heritage Tours Melbourne Town Hall

If you are interested in the City of Melbourne Arts and Heritage Tours at Melbourne Town Hall below is the link to the free tours

<https://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/art-and-heritage-collection-tour>

OAA Lapel Badge from **merchandise shop**

OA Lapel Pin from **Investiture**

OA Lapel Pin **repairs**



Reminder:

The OAA Lapel Badge (on the right) with magnetic fitting available in the OAA Merchandise Shop is not the Order of Australia lapel pin on the left (recipients) receive with the medal pack at their Investiture.



For **additional** Order of Australia lapel pins or medals please contact Honours Secretariat via phone or email. Tel: 02 6283 3533 E: honours@gg.gov.au and arrange payment over the phone.

If your Order of Australia lapel pin or medals needs to be **repaired** please contact:

Andrew Cohen, Solomon Brothers

466 Spencer Street

West Melbourne

Telephone: 93266822

Receive an e-copy of **The Order** national magazine

With a focus on the environment and reducing plastic wrap and printing, members are encouraged to opt for an e-copy of the quarterly national magazine. This approach will reduce the cost of printing, plastic wrap and postage.

If interested in making a change please email National Membership Officer (Heather) oaanatmbrofficer@theorderofaustralia.asn.au asking to be changed to the e-copy distribution.

Thank you in advance for making a difference.



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

OAA VIC Branch Regional Group Chairs

Barwon	Wayne Myers OAM
Central Highlands Wimmera	John Burt OAM
Eastern Suburbs	Geoffrey Grinton OAM
Frankston Mornington Peninsula	Heather Barton AM
Gippsland	Doug Caulfield OAM RFD
Loddon-Campaspe	Alex Stoneman OAM
Mallee	VIC Branch committee
Melbourne Central	Trevor Clark OAM
North Central Suburbs	Fred Harrington OAM
NE & Goulburn Valley	Mary-Lou Davis OAM
South Central Suburbs	Jill Page OAM
South West Vic	Georgina Gubbins OAM
Western Suburbs	June Kane AM



If your team is one of the four left from four different states in the AFL Finals Series at September 18 please enjoy the excitement Finals bring.

For those who follow other football codes – enjoy your Finals.
