



The Order of Australia Association

NSW Branch Newsletter

July-September 2024

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

PO Box 561, Parramatta, NSW 2124 | www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/nsw



From your NSW Chairman John Gullotta AM



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Dear NSW Members,

My apologies for the monthly Newsletter being late but unfortunately I recently lost my beloved father Andrew Gullotta OAM, who was also a previous NSW Branch Committee Member and my time has slipped away. Andrew's Vale is in the August Edition of The Order.

The good news is that you have a mega 3 month bumper issue to read! We will go back to monthly issues from October.

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

On 24th July we hosted the annual luncheon for the AD 24 New Recipients and their guests at NSW Parliament House in July. 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 with our guest speaker AD 24 New 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. The Toast on behalf of the new recipients was proposed by a truly inspiring Australian, Sue-Ellen Lovett OAM.

It is pleasing to see our membership is increasing. Our latest National membership figure is 8258 with NSW as the biggest state at 2337! However we still need to work on increasing our membership numbers so please spread the word to all the Order of Australia recipients you know.

From your NSW
Branch Chairman

From your NSW
National Director

New Members

National
Conference Sydney
1-4 May 2025

From your Regional
Group Coordinator

Illawarra Regional
Group High Tea
26th July 2024

Hunter Regional
Group Morning Tea
27th July 2024

In Memoriam

Preparations are well under way for the Sydney Conference May 1-4th 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 your kind generosity and strong support of our Association.

Registrations are coming in fast, so please register early to avoid missing out on the Welcome reception and farewell lunch as spaces are limited.

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.

I look forward to seeing some of you at our upcoming events.

Kind regards

John

Dr John Gullotta AM

NSW Chairman

Email: chairnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au | Mobile: 0418 233 069



We are currently looking for sponsors and partners for our 2025 National Conference in Sydney.

These can be companies but also individuals are welcome to be a sponsor. If you would like to be involved in sponsoring this milestone event, or know someone that can, then please contact the Conference Convenor, Dr John Gullotta AM on chairnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au for further details and a sponsorship package.



From your NSW National Director David North OAM

News from the National Board Meeting

On 21 June 2024 I joined the National Board meeting from St Paul in Minnesota after travelling Route 66 from Los Angeles to Chicago. Although in reverse and just as in the song we visited as

It winds from Chicago to L.A
More than two thousand miles all the way
Get your kicks on Route 66
Now you go through St. Louis
Joplin, Missouri
And Oklahoma City looks mighty pretty
You'll see Amarillo
Gallup, New Mexico
Flagstaff, Arizona
Don't forget Winona
Kingman, Barstow, San Bernardino

However, it is good to be home as Americans take a bit of patience and work.

On 1 July our new Governor-General the Honourable Samantha Mostyn AC

was sworn in as the 28th Governor-General of Australia at Parliament House.

Our National Membership director, Kathy Wooldridge,

reported a membership net increase 2024 in the year to date of 198, moving to a total now of 8,258, with a number of new members under 60 years of age. Indicating our drive for diversity and more female and younger recipients is showing in the latest figures.

2025 Sydney Conference 1 – 4 May 2025.

Planning is well underway and there is quite a bit of excitement throughout the other Branches with what the "Premier State" will come up with in the 2025 National Conference. As 2025 will be 50 years of the Order of Australia Awards and 45 year of the Order of Australia Association we certainly have a lot to celebrate.

Can I encourage all members of the Order of Australia Association to come together and be a part of **SYD25**.

As the NSW Branch nominated Director on the National Board

Please feel free to contact me on any concern you would like me to take to the national board. A common concern is the time it currently may take from submission of an award to approval of the award. Our national president, The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO, will be addressing this with the new Governor-General.

There appears reasonable grounds for revision of the current procedure in processing awards.

Kind regards

David

David North OAM

NSW Branch Nominated Director

Email: dirnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

New Members

The Order of Australia Association NSW Branch welcomes the following new members and we look forward to meeting you at our upcoming events.

Mrs Ruth Shanks AM
Mrs Maria Nowak OAM
Ms Sue-Ellen Lovett OAM
Professor Deborah Cobb-Clark AO
Mr Kalman Bloch OAM
The Hon Lewis R Driver AM
Mrs Christine Sinclair AM
Ms Judith K King OAM
Mr Peter J Agnew AM
Mr Michael L Cullen OAM
Mr Francis N Avis OAM
Mr Raymond F Chappell OAM
Mrs Susan J Ferguson OAM
Clin Assoc Prof John S Cullen AM
Mr Ronald W Irwin OAM
Ms Rosemary Kariuki OAM
Mr Michael J Smith AM
The Hon Robert J Webster AM
Mr Ian Clyde OAM
Mr Neville J Kelly OAM
Mrs Harinder Kerr OAM
Mrs Marie-Louise Previtera OAM
Mr Gordon Gray OAM
Cheryl Kitto OAM
Norman Kitto OAM
Mrs Concetta Perna AM

New Members - Continued

Professor Konstantin Yastrebov AM
Ms Margaret A Cook AO
Ms Meryl L Hare OAM
Mrs June L Stevens OAM
Mrs Inga M Eckerstrom-Fancelli OAM
Mrs Kerrye S Katz OAM
Ms Amanda Gordon AM
Mr William C Gee OAM
Dr Eileen Gallery AM
Ms Fiona Shewring OAM
Mrs Maureen A Rutledge OAM
Mr Austin Suk-Hwan Kim OAM
Mrs Anita B Keelan AM
Mr Robert A Maul OAM
Mr Jonathan S Gleeson OAM
The Hon Shelley E Hancock OAM
Ms Anna Oi Chan Lao AM
Mr John F Ford OAM
Dr Ramanandar Kamath OAM
Ms Anne Maree Stanfield AM
Professor Karen Canfell AC

Order of Australia Merchandise

The May edition of the Order (Edition 75) on the back page displayed the range of merchandise available. A tip to save on postage and handling is for regional groups to place a group buy and reduce and spread the postage and handling costs. As advertised on the back page P & H: Multiple items will be put in one postage pack where possible.

To see the **SYD25 NATIONAL CONFERENCE VIDEO**
click on the link below:

[CLICK HERE TO SEE THE SYD 25 PROMOTIONAL VIDEO](#)



THE
ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
ASSOCIATION

National Conference Sydney 2025

Conference Program

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| THURSDAY
1st MAY | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION AT SOFITEL SYDNEY WENTWORTH✓ BOARD/BRANCH CHAIRS MEETING✓ WELCOME RECEPTION AT NSW GOVERNMENT HOUSE |
| FRIDAY
2nd MAY | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ ARRIVAL & REGISTRATION FOR CONFERENCE✓ WELCOME TO COUNTRY & OFFICIAL OPEN✓ ORATION & KEYNOTE SPEAKERS✓ PANEL DISCUSSIONS✓ EVENING EVENT TBC |
| SATURDAY
3rd MAY | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MEMBERS' FORUM✓ AFTERNOON AT LEISURE / OPTIONAL TOURS✓ CONFERENCE DINNER & FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS |
| SUNDAY
4th MAY | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ WREATH LAYING CEREMONY✓ FAREWELL LUNCH AND HANDOVER TO DARWIN |

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FOR A SPECIAL EARLY BIRD RATE
SCAN THE BAR CODE OR
CLICK HERE TO REGISTER



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

**REGISTER
NOW**



[mers.cventevents.com/
OAACnfSYD25](https://mers.cventevents.com/OAACnfSYD25)

**SCAN FOR
EARLY BIRD
SPECIAL RATE**

JOIN US AT SYD25



From your Regional Group Co-ordinator David North OAM

Regional group convenor's meeting.

Along with our NSW Branch Dr John Gullotta AM, I am looking forward to meeting with our regional group convenors on Friday 12 July 2024 by ZOOM. The ZOOM link and an agenda have been sent out and there will a lot to discuss at this meeting.

King's Birthday Order of Australia Award Recipients.

Our NSW Branch Secretary, Dianne North OAM and our NSW Branch Membership Coordinator, Dr Geoffrey Glassock AM, have been and are available to assist regional groups make contact with the latest recipients of Awards to celebrate their achievements.

Coming visits:

I am looking forward to the following regional group events at

- The Illawarra Regional Group's High Tea at Corrimal RSL Club on Friday 26 July 2024.
- The Hunter Regional Group's Morning tea at the Cardiff RSL Club with guest speaker Minmi Magster (Bob Skelton) on Saturday 27 July 2024.



The "Minmi Magster" an Australian and International Award Winning Poet
Author of 7 books of poems and yarns along with numerous Albums

- The Clarence/Richmond Regional Group's Alstonville Bowling Club lunch on Sunday 11 August 2024 I will be joining Grahame Gooding OAM along with members and guests to hear their guest speaker Mr Lance Smith AM to speak on "The brighter side of a death threat". Author of a book of the same name on Reflections, Opinions and Recollections of an Ordinary Bloke on an Extraordinary Journey Through Life, with All Its Challenges and Rewards
-

I cannot wait to hear these guest speakers and share with you in our next NSW Branch newsletter the stories they had to tell. I also looking forward to visiting any event our regional groups may be planning.

It never ceases to amaze me.

The quality of guest speakers our regional groups can call upon. In many cases from their own members. The Illawarra regional group at its 31 May 2024 lunch held at the Dapto Leagues Club had **Chief Inspector Gary Raymond APM OAM** an exceptional individual with a remarkable career in law enforcement. Gary's career has involved over **1,500 rescues**, ranging from motor vehicle collisions suicide crisis negotiations and armed offender confrontations. His presentation demonstrated his unwavering courage shining through even in the face of disasters and crises, which included the **Hilton Hotel Terrorist Bombing**, the **Luna Park Ghost Train fire**, the **Sri Lankan Tsunami**, **Thredbo landslide**, the **Anita Cobby murder**, bushfire emergencies, and more. Truly an amazing and inspiring man.

Request to complete update of regional group's executives.

In completing the recent survey to supply each regional group's current executives sent out will allow a reliable forwarding of information from our NSW Branch secretary and myself.

Regional group's strategic planning.

At the end of last year, the National and the NSW Branch strategic plan was released which stressed four goals. This may be a good time to consider your progress with these goals.

- Membership -to grow the value of membership of the Association.
- Promotion - to encourage and promote nominations and support diversity in nominations for individual contributions to the community.
- Growth – to build membership for the future of the association.
- Community – to invest in community partnerships and projects

Until our next NSW Branch newsletter keep safe!

Kind regards

David

David North OAM

NSW Branch Nominated Director

Email: dirnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

OAA Illawarra High Tea - Friday 26th July - Report by Dianne North OAM

On Friday 26th July, 34 people attended a sumptuous High Tea at Corrimal RSL Club to honour the Illawarra's new recipients of awards from the King's Birthday Honours. Three of the new recipients were to attend but unfortunately one wasn't able to come due to COVID.

MC Graham Lancaster AM welcomed everyone. Regional Convenor Phil Thompson OAM introduced the new recipients present.

Helen Pittman received an OAM for her work with various sporting, community and church organisations, in particular, Woonona Women's Bowling Club.

Greg Crofts was honoured with an OAM for his many years of work in Scouting. He has been with the Kiama Scout Group for 16 years but started his scouting career as a cub leader in 1976.

The NSW Committee was represented by The Reverend Dr Geoffrey Glassock AM who congratulated both of the awardees present and brought with him the best wishes of NSW Chair Dr John Gullotta AM. The OAA NSW Regional Co-ordinator, David North OAM and the OAA NSW Honorary Secretary Dianne North OAM were also present.

Also attending the High Tea was the Shoalhaven Regional Convenor Rod Gibb OAM.

The group's Events Co-ordinator Dianne North OAM urged everyone to consider attending the National Conference in Sydney from 1st to 4th May 2025. Dianne thanked the regular list of people who help with the monthly Bunnings BBQs. Plans are now underway to set up a scholarship at the University of Wollongong from funds raised at the Bunnings BBQs. Dianne also spoke of several upcoming events.





OAA Hunter Region Group Morning Tea Saturday 27th July - Report by Dianne North OAM

103 members, family and friends from the OAA Hunter Region Group gathered at the Cardiff RSL Memorial Club on Saturday morning 27th July 2024 to honour and congratulate three of their awardees of honours from Australia Day and the King's Birthday Honours.

MC Gerry Collins, an ABC sports broadcaster, was the MC for the occasion. The National Anthem was led by a young, vibrant Val Harvey-Hamilton OAM, who recently celebrated her 90th birthday!

A delicious morning tea of sandwiches, cakes and fruit was served with tea and coffee.

The Hunter Region Convenor Peter Corcoran AM introduced three of the Region's awardees.

Margaret O'Leary received her OAM for her service to military history. Margaret is a well known genealogical researcher and has written many soldiers' stories.

Air Commodore Gretchen Fryar received an AM for her exceptional service in Personnel Management and International Engagement for the Australian Defence Force.

Professor Tracey Dudding-Byth received an AM for her work for her research into genetics. She is a clinician researcher in the field of neurofibromatosis for which she obtained her PhD in 2012.

NSW Regional Co-ordinator, David North OAM, addressed the audience. David is also the NSW representative on the National Board so he gave lots of information from National as well as the NSW Committee. David conveyed greetings and congratulations from the NSW Chair Dr. John Gullotta AM. There was particular mention of the National Conference to be held in Sydney from 1st to 4th May 2025. After the meeting many people expressed their interest in attending the Sydney Conference.

The guest speaker was bush poet, Bob Skelton, also known as Minmi Magster. Bob told his story using many of the poems he has written. He kept the audience entertained. He truly is a bush character.



Bush Poet Bob Skelton also known as Minmi Magster.



Val Harvey-Hamilton OAM leading the National Anthem with MC Gerry Collins



Dianne North OAM, Margaret O'Leary OAM, Professor Tracy Dudding-Byth AM, Air Commodore Gretchen Fryar AM, David North OAM, OAA NSW Regional Convenor and Peter Corcoran AM

In Memoriam

We remember our members that have recently passed as well as their selfless service and the significant contribution they made to our community.



“Forever in our hearts”

Emeritus Professor Barry Boettcher AM

John Christian AO

John V Toohey OAM

Neville Sawyer AM

Dr (William) David Miller OAM

John E Mueller OAM

RADM Guy Griffiths AO

Mr Garth Doyle OAM

Emeritus Professor John Turtle AO

Lt Col Ian M Guild MBE OAM

RADM Guy R Griffiths AO DSO DSC

Mrs Antona O M Harris OAM FFE

Mr David W Morrow OAM

Mr Reginald J Ferguson OAM

Mr Andrew William Gullotta OAM

Dr Howard J Peak OAM

Dr Robert S Bell AM



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