



The Order of Australia Association

NSW Branch Newsletter

October 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



CONTENTS

Dear NSW Members,

I hope you all had a safe and relaxing October long weekend!

It has been a busy time for the Branch with the King's Birthday 2024 Investitures at Government House. It was heartwarming and very moving to see awardees from all walks of life in a myriad of diversity and different professions, being acknowledged for many decades of hard work serving our Community. The citations were a testament of their dedication in promoting Australian Citizenship in all fields. On behalf of the Order of Australian Association I would like to congratulate all new KB24 awardees and I hope you join the Association and become involved in our events and activities. You will see some of our KB24 Awardees later in this Newsletter.

Later this month we will have our Annual Youth Community Service Awards Presentation Ceremony at Government House Sydney. Our Patron and NSW Governor, Her Excellency Margaret Beazley AC KC will acknowledge the contribution of 26 NSW High School Children and present them with a special certificate and trophy. Our special thanks to Dr Frank Kelleher OAM for successfully organising and guiding these awards for many years. A full report will be in the next newsletter.

It is pleasing to see our membership is slowly increasing. There has been increased diversity in our recipients as well as a close match now in gender. We still need the process to be quicker from nomination to investiture. Hopefully the new computer nomination system will prove itself very soon so as to shorten the time from nomination to award and hopefully decrease the amount of posthumous awards given to family members to accept which is very sad to see.

From your NSW
Branch Chairman

From your NSW
National Director

New Members

National
Conference Sydney
1-4 May 2025

King's Birthday
2024 Investitures at
Government House
Sydney

From your Regional
Group Coordinator

OAA Illawarra
Regional Group Day
Trip to Grace's Place

In Memoriam

Our latest National membership figure is 8258 with NSW as the state with the largest membership. 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, work with or meet at an event or function.

Preparations are well under way for the Sydney Conference May 1-4th 2025 which also marks 50 years of The Order of Australia Awards.

Registrations are coming in fast, so please register early to avoid missing out on the Welcome reception and farewell lunch as spaces are limited. There is more information and a link on our National Website.

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.

Please look out for further information for our Christmas Luncheon.

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

The next OAA board meeting will be on 18 October 2024 and as your NSW Branch nominated director please contact me if you have any queries that you may like raised at the national level.

Members of the OAA should visit the National OAA website and explore all the information and resources available.

Following this, then explore the NSW Branch OAA website and again be amazed at the information available there.

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

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.

Ms Cassandra M E Wilkinson OAM

Mr Roy I Wakelin-King AM

Chief Petty Officer William J Carter OAM

Ms Nalika P Padmasena OAM



THE
ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
ASSOCIATION

National Conference Sydney 2025

Conference Program

THURSDAY 1st MAY

- ✓ ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION AT SOFTEL SYDNEY WENTWORTH
- ✓ BOARD/BRANCH CHAIRS MEETING
- ✓ WELCOME RECEPTION AT NSW GOVERNMENT HOUSE

FRIDAY 2nd MAY

- ✓ ARRIVAL & REGISTRATION FOR CONFERENCE
- ✓ WELCOME TO COUNTRY & OFFICIAL OPEN
- ✓ ORATION & KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
- ✓ PANEL DISCUSSIONS
- ✓ EVENING EVENT TBC

SATURDAY 3rd MAY

- ✓ ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MEMBERS' FORUM
- ✓ AFTERNOON AT LEISURE / OPTIONAL TOURS
- ✓ CONFERENCE DINNER & FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS

SUNDAY 4th MAY

- ✓ WREATH LAYING CEREMONY
- ✓ FAREWELL LUNCH AND HANDOVER TO DARWIN

REGISTER NOW!
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**



[mrs.cventevents.com/
OAAConfSYD25](https://mrs.cventevents.com/OAACnfSYD25)

**SCAN FOR
EARLY BIRD
SPECIAL RATE**

JOIN US AT SYD25

King's Birthday 2024 Investitures at Government House Sydney Photo Gallery



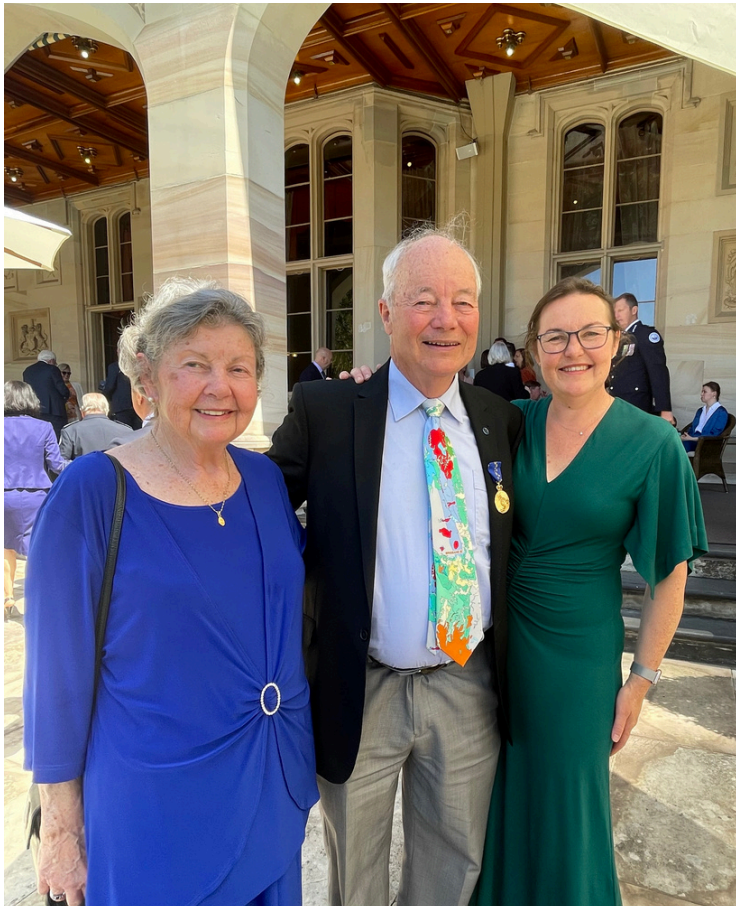
**Mr Farah Bassili Gobran OAM
Ms Lynette Guest OAM and families**



Mr Dallas Booth AM and family.



**Mr Barry Harley OAM and Ms Catherine Nugent OAM and family.
They received their OAM's for service to country music and to the community of Tamworth.**



Mr Michael Smith AM and his wife and daughter



Mr John Henderson OAM and family



Ms Pamela Phillips OAM and family



Mr Ross Edwards OAM and family



Mrs Madeline Allen OAM with friend, Cnr Vincent de Luca OAM



From your Regional Group Co-ordinator David North OAM

Around the regions

Following our 12 July 2024 NSW Branch Chair/NSW Regional Convenors' meeting we recently had a follow-up meeting on 20 September. Information from these meetings may be available through the regional newsletter, new OOA recipient recognition functions, or OAA regional group AGM. Topics recently discussed include SYD25, the NSW Branch Strategic Plan, promoting the OOA nominations at LGA community award recognition receptions, NSW Club Grants, and supporting the NSW Branch Youth Community Service Award.

I have spoken to Peter Corcoran AM, our Hunter Regional Group Convenor, who is in John Hunter Hospital after a recent medical episode and on behalf of the NSW Branch Committee and NSW Regional Group Convenor wished him a speedy recovery and hopefully only a short stay in hospital.

Please see the following pages for all our regional Group activities.

Until our next NSW Branch newsletter keep safe!

Kind regards

David

David North OAM

NSW Regional Group Coordinator

Email: dirnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

OAA Clarence/Richmond Region

Meeting at the Alstonville Bowls Club the Clarence/Richmond AOO region celebrated in the recognition of recent Order of Australia recipients.

The guest speaker at the luncheon was Mr Lance Smith AM author of P.S. Drop Dead and the Brighter Side of a Death Threat entertained the OAA members, their guests, and new Order of Australia Award recipients.



The New South Wales Branch Region coordinator, Mr David North OAM addressed the meeting extending greetings from Dr John Gullotta AM, NSW Branch Chair, about the National and NSW Branch Strategic Plan, the National Conference in Sydney on 1 -4 May 2025, and congratulating the Order of Australia Award recipients.



The following Annual General Meeting saw Mr Grahame Gooding OAM returned as the

Region's Convenor and the selection of an executive and committee.



OAA Southern Highlands.

Visiting the Southern highlands Regional Group on 23 August 2024 at their recognising 2024 awardees at the Mittagong RSL Club. The Southern Highlands Order of Australia Recipients included Commodore Peter Levy AM, Dr Brett Summerell AM, Assoc. Prof. Ian Bickerton OAM (Attending), Mr Andrew Buttfield OAM, Ms Jennifer Lambert OAM (Attending), Mrs Lorraine Mairinger OAM, Dr Stuart Quamby OAM (Attending), Mr Peter Reynolds OAM, and Mrs Catherine Sedgwick OAM.



John Jones AM (Committee), Assoc. Prof. Ian Bickerton OAM (Awardee), Sharon Hoogland (Convenor), and Dr Stuart Quarmby OAM (Awardee) and Ms Jennifer Lambert OAM (missing)



Southern Highlands Convenor Mrs Sharon Hoogland OAM and Dr Ann Parker OAM
The guest speaker was Dr Ann Parker OAM a local retired GP who spoke of her experiences as a doctor in Africa and Alice Springs and of a an interesting and very full life.



Members of the Southern Highlands committee.

Prue Carpenter AM, John Jones AM (Treasurer), Sharon Hoogland OAM (Convenor), and Shelley Boyce OAM.



OAA Illawarra Day Trip to Grace's Place

Monday 9th September 2024

- Report by Dianne North OAM

A group of 10 OAA Illawarra members travelled by minibus to Doonside to visit Grace's Place.



Gary Raymond APS OAM Dip. VET had been our guest speaker at our luncheon in May 2024. He is an ambassador for Grace's Place, and he invited us to go and see this amazing facility for ourselves.

Grace's Place is named after Grace Lynch who was Anita Cobby's mother. Grace and Gary Lynch along with the parents of Ebony Simpson got together after their unbearable tragedies because there was nowhere at that time for them to get the help they so desperately needed to come to grips with their loss and grief. In 1993, along with Martha Jabour OAM the Homicide Victims Support Group (HVSG) was established. This is funded by the Western Sydney Local Area Health District. The HVSG worked towards the building of this facility. Martha knocked on many doors. The Blacktown City Council donated the land, State and Federal Governments provided funds and many organisations provided donations and gifts in kind. Work started on Grace's Place in 2019 and had its official opening in 2022.

Gary gave us a tour of the facility giving us a great commentary on the way. The primary purpose of Grace's Place is to provide a unique place of healing and restoration for children traumatised by homicide. There are 24 beds in hotel style rooms. Each two adjoining rooms share a bathroom. Each bed has a beautiful quilt handcrafted by their volunteers. There are also trauma teddies which have been lovingly handmade by volunteers. The children get to keep these. The beds can be configured to suit any situation. Cots are available for babies. In the case of domestic violence where the father murders the mother, the children have lost both parents. Where do they go? It is a terrible world in which we need facilities such as this. The mother and surviving children from the recent Lalor Park domestic violence case was able to find some solace in Grace's Place. The Chinese family of the young Chinese girl visiting Australia and was stabbed in the recent Bondi massacre also found solace here out of the media spotlight.



They have taken in a bearded dragon, named Lady Bazza, which was owned by a homicide victim. They also have a dog, Max, who roams free with staff and the people staying at the facility. Both animals are therapeutic.

Gary showed us the counselling and playrooms. A number of trauma psychologists are available to provide the support that they need. There is a music room, and art room, a library, a toy room and a room full of foam cushions where the children can jump and play. There is a quiet room if a person just wants to get away by themselves. Outside there is a trampoline, a play area with swings and other equipment for children as well as equipment for adults. There is a barbecue and garden area.

While we visited, there was a cooking class in progress where families of victims of homicide come together, talk to one another and support one another in safe surroundings. Many volunteers provide homecooked meals, do the gardening and mow the lawns. Organisations such as Rotary fundraise and give donations. The facility also houses the Road Trauma Support Group. In many cases of road deaths, these are not just accidents, but a form of "homicide", so families who have lost loved ones in car crashes can find support here.





After our tour, Gary joined us for lunch at Blacktown RSL. It was a great opportunity to just sit and chat and enjoy each other's company before we headed back to the Illawarra.

Thanks must go to Garry May OAM for driving the bus for us today. It was very much appreciated.

Based on the success of the day, more day trips will be planned.

Order of Australia Merchandise

The August edition of the Order 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](#)



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”

Capt Harry Mansson AM

Mrs Debbie J Nilsson OAM

Mr Joseph Brender AO

Mr Ivan J Muller OAM

Mrs Margaret A Roberts OAM

Mr Stuart Burtenshaw OAM

Mr Ronald L H Johnson AM

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