



Welcome from VIC Branch Chair

Please enjoy reading The Order of Australia Association Ltd Victoria Branch December 2024 edition of our E-Newsletter, the last for this year.

As we reflect on the year, a warm thank you to our members and guests for supporting OAA VIC Branch events during the year.

We started 2024 with our Inspiring Australians Oration at the Melbourne Town Hall on Tuesday 19 March then our Annual General Meeting. This year the Oration was delivered by Fiona McLeod AO SC and 2008 OAA Foundation scholarship recipient James Hicks talked about his community work and employment.

Alaa Elzokm OAM was the speaker at our Mid-Year Lunch on Tuesday 25 June at the Angliss Restaurant. Luke Barron 2023 OAA Foundation scholarship recipient spoke about his current Bachelor of Marine Science at Deakin University and his link to his local community.

Ian Carson AM Co-founder of SecondBite and The Order of Australia Association National President The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO spoke at our 5.30pm virtual event Wednesday 24 July. Post the pandemic the Branch has continued with a virtual event giving members the opportunity to stay connected.

The Pharaoh Introductory Talk and Exhibition was held in August at the National Gallery Victoria.

Wednesday 9 October at the Alex Theatre St Kilda we hosted a Thank You Reception to thank Order of Australia recipients who joined the Association in 2024. Please refer to pages 4 to 6.

Our final event for the year was the End of Year Dinner on Thursday 21 November at the Stamford Plaza Melbourne with speaker Pamela Clark AO Natalie and OAA Foundation 2018 scholarship recipient Hannah Gandy See pages 7 to 9 for the event wrap-up.

On a personal note, I thank the members of the OAA VIC Branch committee and our Regional Group committees for their work during the year to ensure we stayed connected with our members. Thank you also for the support we receive from the National Executive, staff and contractors when needed.

Trust 2025 brings you and those special to you prosperity, good health and optimism.

Please stay safe and enjoy summer.



Dr Helene Bender AM-VIC Branch Chair

M: 0407 261 951 **E:** chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au



All venues selected by the **Victoria Branch** for events are accessible by members and guests of all abilities.

They are also easily accessible by public transport from metropolitan and regional areas

Inspiring Australians Oration then Victoria Branch Annual General Meeting

Date: Friday 28 March

Venue: Angliss Conference Centre. 555 Latrobe Street Melbourne

Time: 10.15am to 12.25pm

Oration

Antony Walker AM will deliver the 2025 Inspiring Australia Oration

OAA Foundation scholarship recipient

Felicia Eng 2004 recipient will provide an update regarding her employment and community commitment.

Annual General Meeting

Date: Friday 28 March

Venue: Angliss Conference Centre. 555 Latrobe Street Melbourne

Time: 12.30pm sign-in for 12.35pm AGM start.

Mid-Year Lunch in Melbourne CBD

Date: Tuesday 22 July

Venue: TBA in Melbourne CBD

There will be a speaker and OAA Foundation scholarship recipient who will update members and guests.

End of Year Dinner

Date: Thursday 20 November

Venue: TBA in Melbourne CBD

There will be a speaker and OAA Foundation scholarship recipient who will update members and guests.

Reminder OAA members and their guests are welcome to attend meetings and events outside their allocated Regional Group.

OAA VIC Branch Regional Group Annual General Meetings for 2025, please refer to website: <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/vic/upcoming-events/>

Treasurer or Bookkeeper required by OAA VIC Branch



The OAA VIC Branch currently requires a dedicated Treasurer or Bookkeeper to manage the Branch financial records with accuracy and integrity.

You will be a critical member of the VIC Branch Executive.

Responsibilities:

- Maintain accurate books on accounts payable and receivable, financial entries and reconciliations
- Prepare monthly financial reports for VIC Branch committee meetings
- Stay compliant with government and OAA financial reporting policies and requirements
- Assist with budget preparation and financial planning processes
- Use bookkeeping software

Qualifications:

- Proven bookkeeping experience
- Solid understanding of basic accounting principles
- Experience with general ledger functions and the month-end/year-end close process
- Proficient in Microsoft Office
- High degree of accuracy and attention to detail

Note this is a Voluntary position.

The National Treasurer (Frank) will assist with required training as will the fee for service bookkeeper currently assisting the VIC Branch.

For further information please contact the OAA VIC Branch Chair Helene Bender AM on: Mobile 0407 261 951 or E: chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

OAA logo name badges

A template on the **Name Badges Australia** webpage allows OAA members to order name badges.



NAME HERE
Title Here

To order name badges, please follow the instructions found on the document that you can download from [here](#).

Thank You Reception

The OAA VIC Branch hosted a reception at the Alex Theatre St Kilda on Wednesday 9 October to say congratulations to new members on their recognition as Order of Australia recipients and the outstanding contribution they have and are making to the community and to also say thank you for joining the Association.

We thank The Australian Women's Choir led by Founder Wendy Stapleton for the National Anthem at the start and an inspiring song of their choice at the end of the formalities.



MC David Mann AM read the inspiring citations noting the diversity in recipients and the number members with international connections. Each member was presented with a gift from OAA VIC Branch Deputy Chair Trevor Clark OAM on behalf of the Victorian Branch.

Citations included:

For significant service to paediatric medicine as a clinician and academic, and to public health research, including extensive research and publications and service to the Victorian government. Charitable contributions including Board Member Jewish Care Victoria and Director of Very Special Kids.

For significant service to business and to industry as a leader and mentor. Contribution to manufacturing, conservation and environment, director of several companies, member of Melbourne Angels and several roles in Leadership Victoria including more than three decades of volunteering. Recognised in the Banksia Awards and Manufacturing Hall of Fame among others.

For significant service to the community of the Barwon South West Region. Former CEO, Geelong Chamber of Commerce, non-executive director for two decades of Geelong Business Club, recipient of Outstanding Woman of Achievement, Zonta Club of Geelong and a wide range of board, advisory and community roles.

Thank You Reception continued

For service to education and to the community. A former silver medallist for excellence in service with University Melbourne and co-author of 'In Affectionate Remembrance: The Story of the Mythical Ashes', Melbourne Cricket Ground and 'The Centenary Test, Melbourne Cricket Ground March 1977', Melbourne Cricket Club Library.

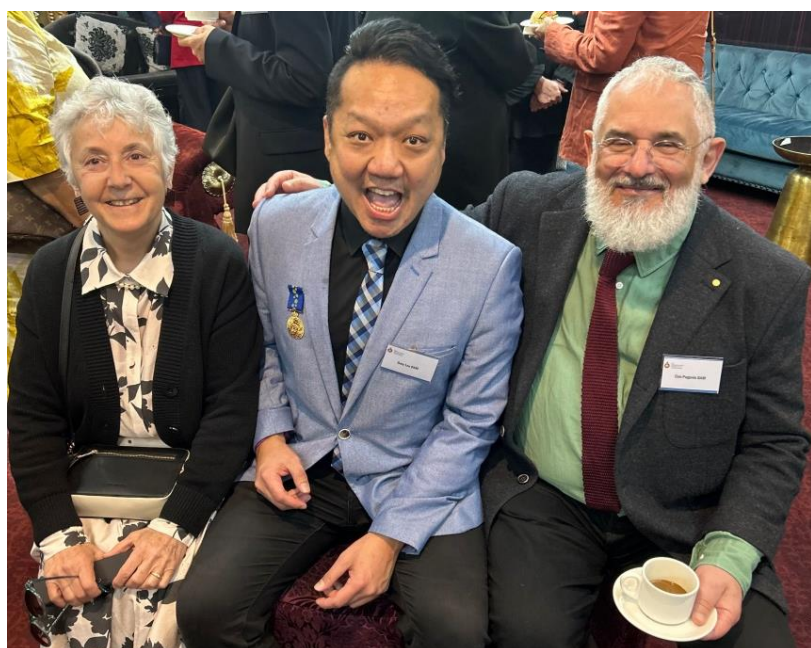
For service to community and school history, and to tertiary education. An historian who made an outstanding contribution to community understanding of Victorian Service and Sacrifice in Wars and in Peace-Keeping, Shrine of Remembrance in 2015. Recognised for key roles in the teaching and learning of history.

After all the formalities David invited members and their guests to mingle and enjoy refreshments courtesy of OAA member Aleksandar Vass OAM.

The OAA VIC Branch thanks committee member Gary Lee OAM for the photos



Thank You Reception continued



THE
ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
ASSOCIATION LTD
VICTORIA BRANCH

End of Year Dinner

The Thornbury Room at Stamford Plaza Melbourne in Little Collins Street Melbourne was fully booked for the Thursday 21 November Victoria Branch End of Year Dinner. After the National Anthem William Lye OAM KC National Deputy Chair proposed the Toast to King Charles III and The Order of Australia Association Limited.

The dinner MC Beverley Pinder OAM a VIC Branch committee member introduced our first speaker **Pam Clark AO** whose topic was The Mad Hatter and the Environment with a focus on the harmful effects of Mercury in the environment.



In 2006, Pam assumed the role of Federal President of the Australian Dental Industry Association (ADIA), serving until 2010. Her dedication to the dental sector was further acknowledged in 2017 when she was admitted as an Officer of the Order of Australia.

In 2022, Pam Clark AO was inducted as an Honorary Member at the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons (RACDS) for her national and international services, long-standing and significant contributions to the broader dental industry.

The RACDS is the highest award to be bestowed on a member, reserved for individuals who have made an outstanding contribution of service to the College. It is exceptionally rare for RACDS to recognise non-dentists as members and it is testament to the commitment and impact Pam has made to the advancement of the dental community.

Pam spoke about the known Minamata Convention on Mercury in a United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) initiative, the objective of which is to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds. The Convention covers the life cycle of mercury by controlling and reducing mercury across a range of products, processes and industries.

Mercury can produce significant neurological and other health effects, especially in unborn children and infants.

Neurological symptoms began to appear in 1956, and became known as 'Minamata disease'. The feline population was first affected, and was given the name 'dancing cat fever'.

Dental amalgam is specifically cited, in contrast to most other mercury-containing products and processes, the Convention allows for a 'phase-down', rather than a 'phase-out', approach, recognising that many countries depend on amalgam as their main restorative material and a suitable alternative has yet to be identified.

What can we do – monitor fish consumption such as flake/shark and swordfish, limit crispy skin on all fish. Recycle batteries, mobile phone, washing machines and televisions responsibly. Every action makes a difference.

Photo above: MC Beverley Pinder OAM and speaker Pam Clark AO

End of Year Dinner continued

Hatice Basarin OAM VIC Branch Secretary thanked Pam Clark AO and presented her with a gift from the VIC Branch.

The second speaker was Order of Australia Association Foundation 2018 scholarship recipient **Hannah Gandy**.

MC Beverley also welcomed Philip Mayers AM Freemasons Foundation Victoria Director noting the Foundation was the donor of Hannah's scholarship.

Hannah acknowledged as Adviser to the Minister for Treaty and First Peoples the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather this evening. She also mentioned the Victorian government has begun formal negotiations on a statewide treaty with Aboriginal communities.

Hannah spoke the challenges she experienced as a child that impacted on her education and her years at The Pavilion School and noted she was the first student in the history of the school to go to university; over the years she has worked with some of the students to ensure other students from the school have gone to university.

In 2018 Hannah (photo right) was the recipient of an Order of Australia Association Foundation prestigious undergraduate scholarship to La Trobe University Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Arts (Politics) graduating with high distinctions. In addition to financial support, the scholarship included formal mentoring from former Prime Minister, The Honourable Julia Gillard AC.



In 2022 Hannah was the Victorian Government John Monash Scholar recipient commencing a Master of Law and Science Justice at University College London later that year. She spoke fondly about her regular meetings in London with Julia and the advice she gave her.

Hannah has a strong passion for working with disadvantaged youth which stems from her own experiences growing up. She is a Board member at The Bridge Inc that provides services and support for people living with a disability or experiencing disadvantages.

The end of this year Hannah will complete the Australian Institute of Company Directors Foundations of Board Governance – Not for Profit Directors sponsored by The Observership Program and AICD.

In closing Hannah thanked the Order of Australia Association Foundation, her scholarship donor the Freemasons Foundation Victoria and her mentor The Honourable Julia Gillard AC.

MC Beverley Pinder OAM mentioned some Order of Australia recipients who joined the Association in 2024 unable to attend the Thank You Reception on October 9 at the Alex Theatre were presented by VIC Chair Helene Bender AM with a gift from the VIC Branch after the Citations were read acknowledging the contribution these members make in the community.

End of Year Dinner continued

The diverse citations included recognitions for:-

For significant service to mental health care and to the community including being an Ambassador for Global Goodwill Ambassadors Humanitarian, former President of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Foundation and a leader and active member of the African Australia Community. Recipient of an Australia Day award, African Community award and, Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence.

For service to the communities of Geelong and Ballarat. Current Lions District 201V2 Governor who has held many positions within Lions including Geelong President, Secretary, Membership Officer and Catering Co-Chair. Volunteer at St John of God Geelong Hospital Auxiliary, Geelong Region Cancerians Deputy Chair, and Barwon Health Foundation. Ballarat Hebrew Congregation Secretary and The Challis Group Managing Director.

For service to ballet. Australian Ballet former Ballet Mistress, Dancer and Former Rehabilitation Facilitator. Dancer New York City Ballet, Classical Dance Lecturer, West Australian Academy of the Performing Arts, Classical Dance Lecturer, Victorian College of the Arts, Rehearsal Director, NT Dance Company, and current Freelance Ballet Teacher. Blackwood and Barry's Reef Landcare Group current Committee Member.

In closing Helene thanked MC Beverley, OAA VIC Branch committee members who assisted with the event and staff at the Stamford Plaza Melbourne. As this is the last event for 2024 it was appropriate to note Christmas Day and Hanukkah both being celebrated on December 25 this year and wish everyone a day of celebration.



Photo: Barb Thomas OAM Vic Branch Committee member and Michelle Challis OAM



Photo: Silvio Pitruzzello OAM and wife Lucy



STAMFORD
Plaza
Melbourne

111 Little Collins Street Melbourne

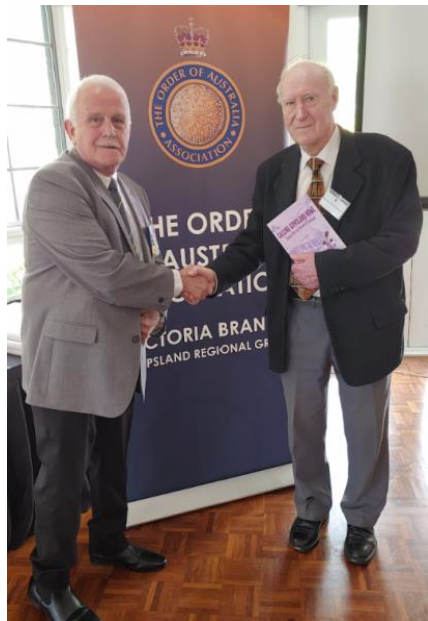
OAA Victoria Branch Regional Groups – NEWS

Gippsland Regional Group

Spring lunch in Warragul

Thirty-four members and guests travelled from across the Region to attend the Gippsland Regional Group's Spring luncheon in Warragul on Sunday 22 September. An additional fifteen members offered apologies for inability to attend the event, and the Committee was encouraged by the increased level of interest being exhibited by Regional Group members in participating in locally organised activities.

The luncheon event was held at the Black-Tie Reception Centre in Warragul where the group was entertained by local historian, The Reverend Dr Jim Connolly who spoke on the topic of Gippsland's outstanding citizens.



Reverend Connolly is an accomplished author and has written over a dozen books (including several children's books) but he concentrated his presentation on a publication entitled 'Calling Gippsland Home – Famous Men and Women of Gippsland'.

As he explains in the Forward of his book, it contains details of twelve eminent Australians who have lived part of their lives in Gippsland. Reverend Connolly explained that his original list commenced with twenty-one and, once people became aware of his project the list grew.

Ultimately, he published the book addressing the background and history of the chosen twelve to illustrate the contribution that they have made to Gippsland, Australia and, in some cases, internationally.

Well-known names like Mary Grant Bruce, a prolific children's author, arguably Australia's most foremost scientist (and inaugural Australian of the year) Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnet and David Williamson, who became the most-produced playwright in Australia's history are just a few of those featured in Reverend Connolly's absorbing study of people and place.

The next luncheon is scheduled to be held in April, 2025 and the Committee is now in the process of selecting a date, venue and guest speaker. Information will be announced once the details are finalised.

Photo: Gippsland Regional Group Chair Doug Caulfield OAM RFD thanks Reverend Dr Jim Connolly for his presentation following the delivery of an entertaining and informative session entitled 'Gippsland's outstanding citizens'.

The Annual Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnet Dinner and Oration

Arguably, the Regional Group's major event of the year (The Annual Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnet Dinner and Oration) was held at The Vine & View Vineyard in Traralgon on Wednesday evening 23rd October and was very well patronised by ninety-six guests consisting of Order of Australia Association members, guests and students.

The event is held each year on (or as close to) the 20th of October as this is the date that the Nobel Prize was awarded to Sir Frank who, incidentally, was also the inaugural Australian of the

Gippsland Regional Group continued

Year in 1960.

This year was the tenth event of this scale conducted by the Regional Group and the number of attendees was very encouraging in terms of confirming the format and nature of the evening. Whilst there were quite a number of 'return patrons' there were also a number of new attendees who reported that the evening was both an enjoyable and enlightening experience.

The number of participants in 2024 raised the total number of attendees to just under twelve hundred over the period of the dinners. In addition to this, there have been just under one hundred students sponsored to take part (mainly sponsored by Walter and Eliza Hall Institute) but some by Order of Australia Association members.

The guest speaker on the night was Dr Lisa Mielke, who is truly following in Sir Frank's footsteps having grown up in Gippsland and followed a path of medical research, leading to her current position as the head of the Mucosal Immunology and Cancer Laboratory at the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute.

Dr Mielke, PhD is a Victorian Cancer Agency Fellow and is also Cancer Program Lead for the Latrobe Institute of Molecular Sciences LaTrobe University, she is also an expert in immune cell biology, gut homeostasis and bowel cancer.

Lisa completed her PhD at the University of Melbourne and National Institutes of Health USA. She then performed postdoctoral studies at Trinity College in Dublin and the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research. During this time, Dr Mielke led numerous studies revealing new interactions between our diet and the function of immune cells in the gut.



These studies opened an exciting frontier of research that underpins her current interest in investigating the role of immune cells in bowel cancer.

The title of Lisa's address was: ***'Unleashing immune cells for defence against bowel cancer'***

Planning is well underway for next year's event and those interested are advised to save the date (Wednesday 22 October 2025) to avoid disappointment. More details will be issued as arrangements regarding venue and costs are confirmed.

Photo: (L to R) Gippsland Regional Group Chair Doug Caulfield OAM RFD, Dr Lisa Mielke PhD and Gippsland Regional Group Deputy Chair Dr Peter Stevens OAM with a presentation to Dr Mielke following her address at the 2024 Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnet Oration and dinner.

2025 Annual General Meeting

The next event on the Gippsland Regional Group calendar is the Annual General Meeting scheduled for Sunday 23rd of March 2025 at 2-00pm. The meeting is to be held at Rotary Centenary House, 39 Valley Drive Traralgon and is to be followed by 'High Tea' provided by the Centenary House fund raising sub-committee. An agenda, meeting papers and cost details are to be forwarded with the Notice of Meeting early next year.

South Central Suburbs Regional Group

Youth Awards City of Kingston

South Central Suburbs Regional Group offer annual bursaries to the local councils' Young Citizens of the Year, as we are enthusiastic in supporting young people who have shown great initiative and courage. We present a certificate of congratulations and a cheque to the current young citizen of the year chosen by their council. We had pleasure to again accept the invitation from the City of Kingston to attend the Kingston Youth Awards during Youth Week in September. This was held at Platform 81, Kingston Youth Services.



The Young Citizen of the Year 2024 is Kala Petronijevic (photo on the left). Kala's story is one of incredible resilience and determination. She introduced blind tennis in Cheltenham, creating a space for visually impaired children to enjoy sports. Kala has excelled in her school studies, displaying adaptability and fortitude. She enjoys empowering others and breaking barriers, encouraging a supportive community. She is a true inspirational role model.

Photo on the right:

Lesley McGurgan OAM SCSRG Deputy Chair,
Peter Bean CEO City of Kingston, Jill Page OAM
SCSRG Chair



OAA VIC Branch Members making a difference in their community

Many of our members are being recognised for continuing to give back to their community and making a difference.

Below are some recent stories.

Ian Curtis AM

The OAA VIC Branch Western Suburbs Regional Group is proud to acknowledge the success of member Ian Curtis AM, who in August 2025 became Dr Ian Curtis AM HOSM BA PhD FGIA.

Ian's doctoral thesis looked at Governance – something many OAA members are involved in as members of Boards, Committees and other governing bodies.

Ian has also been elected Chair of the Governance Council of International Needs at the international level and a member of the Executive Committee. In his capacity as Chair, he will attend the next Council meeting in Sri Lanka in November.



Photo: Dr Ian Curtis AM and Flor Curtis

OAA VIC Branch Members making a difference in their community

Congratulations

Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch members who were successful at the local council elections held last month. Some of the Councillors were re-elected and some are new Councillors, enjoy the opportunities and challenges of making a difference in your community.

Elizabeth Drozd OAM - Millennium House upgrade is completed

Elizabeth Drozd OAM spoke at the Sunday Jazz Brunch on Diverse communities at the 2023 national conference in Geelong.

June 2024 Elizabeth retired as CEO from Australian Multicultural Community Services (AMCS); it is pleasing to see after years of preparation and fundraising, the Millennium House based in Seddon has been extensively renovated. Initially built by the Polish post WWII refugees and managed by them for over 50 years, the Australian Multicultural Community Services (AMCS) have completed the major renovation for current and future community use.



Elizabeth returned last week for the opening and thanked every person she talked to about Millennium House in the last 19 years (you know who you are) for the support received throughout all that time. She also thanked all the AMCS Staff and Volunteers, the AMCS Board Members and her external Pro-bono professional team, for the efforts and sacrifices made over many years to make this happen.

Photo: Elizabeth Drozd OAM courtesy of LinkedIn

Robert (Bob) Gartland OAM

When much-loved Geelong icon Bob Gartland laid the concrete slab for the first Deakin University library 50 years ago, little did he know that he would become such a pivotal part of the University, and broader Geelong community.

So pivotal in fact that, on Wednesday 18 September 2024, his immense contribution was recognised with a Deakin Honorary Doctorate; making him Dr Robert Gartland OAM.

It was while working in the Commonwealth Bank as a 15 year old, making \$15.50 per week that his fateful relationship with Deakin University began.

'I was seeing the builders' labourers coming in depositing their \$100 paycheck each week, and thought "why aren't I doing that"?' Bob laughed.

He began working as a builders' labourer, then a steel fixer, dogman, and rigger; laying the concrete slab for the multi-storey library building at Deakin's Waurun Ponds Campus.

Bob started a career with Hayden Real Estate in Real Estate in 1983 and, after some years, became Commercial Manager. In 1993, Bob sat in the Vice Chancellery waiting area at Deakin Waurun Ponds, for weeks on end, waiting to speak to then Vice Chancellor Professor John Hay about a 1.5 hectare parcel of land his office was selling on the Geelong waterfront.

OAA VIC Branch Members making a difference in their community

Robert (Bob) Gartland OAM continued

Bob thought the land would be a great addition to the Woolstores Campus project already underway with Deakin.



Years later, in 1999, Bob started one of the most successful real estate businesses in Geelong with Gartland Real Estate; winner of multiple Geelong Business of the Year awards.

Bob was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (King's Birthday honour) in 2024 for his work in various community roles.

He was nominated for the Deakin Honorary Doctorate by Deakin University Vice Chancellor, Professor Iain Martin. Deakin honorary degrees are conferred on individuals for distinguished contributions to the community. They honour achievements that are aligned to the University's aims, and provide inspiration to members of the University

community.

Photo: supplied by Deakin University:

Dr Robert Gartland OAM and Phillipa Gartland

George Hill AM - Haute Cuisine in a Community

George Hill AM, a retired professional chef and culinary educator who was honoured with an Order of Australia (AM) on the King's Birthday in 2024, keeps residents at retirement village, (The Breeze, Point Lonsdale) engaged with a vibrant cooking program. George is amazed by the cookery knowledge and skills within the community, which he attributes to their life experiences, including dining in top-class restaurants.

This village is exceptional in offering a multitude of activities aimed at keeping residents well, focused, and entertained. Among these activities are the recurring cooking classes for the "Foodies group." In an honorary capacity, George, assisted by his wife Catherine, demonstrates the methods and techniques of a trained commercial chef to produce a series of three or four-course menus.

"I have seen foodie class menus in this village easily equal to a first-class restaurant," said George.

"I do not look upon our contribution as a class. In fact, it's not. It is a popular, fun activity that emphasizes the fundamentals of food preparation, including exploring various cultures in cooking, the safe use of equipment, interpreting recipes, and mastering techniques and presentation styles in a genuinely enjoyable way.

We demonstrate a three or four-course meal, and then the residents prepare the same. We take it a step further by setting up a quality table layout in the private dining room, complete with a printed menu, to enjoy the prepared evening meal with a glass of wine.

We contribute to a community where nearly everyone is happily involved, utilizing their considerable skills to offer a diverse weekly program of events. The Breeze is literally like living on a cruise ship."

OAA VIC Branch Members making a difference in their community

George Hill AM - Haute Cuisine in a Community continued

The Foodies group, as it is named, has a waitlist for the cooking class. What I believe is that I demonstrate how a professional chef prepares a dish, knowing that most residents already have a good grasp of the dish and can compare their methods with mine, picking up on any differences.



Following the demonstration, the group prepares the menu for an evening group meal.

To date, over 150 dishes have been demonstrated, prepared, and served to the participants, usually themed around a particular culture.

For example, we've compiled menus such as: Best of British, Thai, Italian, Classical French, Indian, Canadian, and Russian, all prepared by the group and enjoyed together including dishes like:

Antipasto Placcata - Apple Amber – Gnocchi - Beef Wellington - Bruschetta - Cherry Frangipane - Vegetable Pilau - Cock-a-leekie Soup - Cream Caramel - Duck Cacciatore - Eton Mess - Fish Véronique - Fondant Potato - Fresh Linguine - Linguine - Chicken Galantine - Salmon Pave - Iced Christmas Pudding - Beef Wellington - Madras Curry - Mango Pudding - Lamb Ossobuco - Mulligatawny - Pork Vindaloo – Poutine - Spring Rolls - Ragù alla Bolognese - Ratatouille - Roast Turkey - Salmon Coulbiac - Seafood Marinara - South African Bobotie Pie - Crispy Pork Belly – Hot Fruit Salad - Strawberry Romanoff - Steak and Kidney Pie - Crab Fritters - Turducken - Risotto – Lasagna - Vichyssoise - Welsh Rarebit.



Photo: Beef Wellington

Just a Farmer

David Gregory OAM – Executive Producer of the film – “Just a Farmer”

The OAA VIC Branch E-Newsletter has made mention of “Just a Farmer” in previous editions. This film goes beyond traditional cinema; it captures the unique challenges faced by resilient farmers and the unbreakable spirit that keeps them going.



Experience the powerful story of love and community, set against the backdrop of rural life in Australia.

Just a Farmer won BEST MOVIE at the prestigious International Film Festival of Australia (IFFA) awards earlier this month at Crown Palladium. The film also won best cinematography and best

supporting actress.

Just a Farmer had 8 nominations against some of the world's best movies.

Currently on pay per view at www.justafarmermovie.com

History of The Order of Australia Association

We would appreciate your help.

History of the Order of Australia Awards and the Order of Australia Association to celebrate their 50th and 45th Anniversaries respectively in 2025



THE
ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
ASSOCIATION LTD

The National Membership Director (Kathy) is looking for more history of the Association. To achieve this we are looking for articles which may have been written, Branch notes which may be useful, photos of members, especially of early members, and other information which may be available to you. We will need to ensure we manage copyright correctly. In particular, for the February 2025 article in *The Order* national magazine, we are looking for photos of earlier members which we can use to accompany the article. We will need confirmation that these photos can be used and acknowledged.

Do you have an interest in history and would like to assist in the compiling of the history?

In 2030 it will be Order of Australia Associations 50th Anniversary and it would be greatly appreciated to have a more complete history by this time.

Please contact Kathryn Wooldridge OAM

National Membership Director

Order of Australia Association

E: natmbrdir@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Frequently Asked Question

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 Secretarial 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

For answers to other Frequently Asked Questions refer to **FAQ's** on the OAA national website www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au

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.

RESOURCES - Promotion Tools

The Order of Australia Association has added a link to the national website named **RESOURCES** – Promotion Tools as a go to site for various information members at times require such as:

- Order of Australia Nominations - How to nominate outstanding achievement and service
- Membership Information including application form and member profile
- The Ode & Guidelines for recipients and members
- Certificates of Appredciation

<https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/national/resources/>

OAA Merchandise Shop Online

10 day promotion Friday 29 November to Monday 9 December

For the full range of OAA merchandise items including the new apron and cap please refer to <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart/>

NEW



Compact 53cm umbrella Navy
Compact auto opening & closing \$30

NEW



Cooler bag 10L with strap \$20



To our members who purchased merchandise during the year, we appreciate your ongoing support.

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).
-



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) aaanatmbrofficer@theorderofaustralia.asn.au asking to be changed to the e-copy distribution.

Thank you in advance for helping to make a difference.



THE
ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
ASSOCIATION

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

 **Sofitel Sydney Wentworth**



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
The event is held each year on (or as close to) the 20 th of October as this is the date that the Nobel Prize was awarded to Sir Frank who, incidentally, was also the inaugural Australian of the	
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

