



Dated November 2024

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THE COVER PHOTO THIS MONTH IS AN OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH FROM BUCKINGHAM PALACE OF HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III AND HER MAJESTY QUEEN CAMILLA, RELEASED TO COMMEMORATE THEIR VISIT TO AUSTRALIA IN OCTOBER 2024. THE KING IS WEARING HIS ORDER OF AUSTRALIA INSIGNIA AS SOVEREIGN OF THE ORDER.

NOTICES & EXCLUSIONS:

This version of our national magazine is not intended for general distribution to the wider public but is prepared as a service to those of our members who require the use of vision-impaired screen-reader technology. Some pages of the hard-copy version involving complex graphics or page layout have been omitted.

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

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LETTER FROM HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, Hon SAM MOSTYN AC

In a season of firsts, I am delighted to contribute my first message to *The Order*. In the months since my swearing-in on 1 July, I have come to understand the abiding bond between the Australian people and the office of the Governor-General. It has been a privilege to encounter Australians across the country performing acts of extraordinary service – often quietly and with great humility – to their communities, regions and the nation.

I thank former Governor-General David Hurley and Mrs Linda Hurley for their inestimable service to Australia and to the Order of Australia. Together, at Yarralumla and across our nation, they demonstrated a remarkable and deep respect for all Australians. It was a special honour to be inducted as Companion of the Order of Australia by General Hurley in the presence of Mrs Hurley and my family and friends.

At Government House in September, I was honoured to preside over the first induction ceremonies of my term in office. Over the course of a week, I met the most wonderful Australians who, from the widest array of disciplines, exemplify Australian values in action. It is said that an honours and awards system is only as good as the people it recognises. Having encountered the most recent cohort of inductees to the Order of Australia, I can say with confidence that our Australian system is the best in the world.

United by the qualities of kindness, care, respect and generosity, these new members of the Order of Australia demonstrate care for people and communities, our democratic institutions and our stunningly beautiful continent and natural environment. Their dedication to serving their communities and our nation is essential to the optimism, confidence and pride of all Australians as we build our remarkable nation's future together.

I am pleased to continue the tradition of the Office by becoming patron of the Order of Australia Association and of the Foundation.

The 50th anniversary of the Order of Australia in 2025 will bring many opportunities to acknowledge the contribution of our system of honours and awards to the life of our nation. I look forward to meeting and celebrating with you at events in Canberra and across the country, and I encourage you to continue your excellent work to promote the nomination of our fellow Australians for awards with the Order.

NOTICE AND REQUEST FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Australian honours system, the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General is planning to coordinate a range of events and activities in 2025.

This is likely to include exhibitions, promotion through social and traditional media, and other events. We are seeking digital copies (high resolution) of photographs from investiture ceremonies prior to 2010.

If you are willing to share your photo, please send to:

ooacommunications@gg.gov.au by 1 December 2024.

Please also include your name, the year and location of the ceremony. Note that, by providing your image, you are also providing approval for the Office to use it in print or online as part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations, as part of an exhibition or across social media.

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

HON VICKI O'HALLORAN AO CVO

In early September I was invited by Her Excellency, the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia, to attend the Spring Investitures at Government House in Canberra for the presentation of the Australian Honours and Awards.

It was a great pleasure to witness again the celebration of outstanding individuals who make a difference in our communities, and acknowledge their significant contributions to our nation. I was truly inspired by the stories of service, ingenuity, kindness and bravery by recipients. You certainly have a full heart and a real sense of appreciation of your fellow Australians during these ceremonies and thereafter.

Her Excellency spoke about the love and support from the guests of the recipients and recognised the important part others play in that recognition. I will always feel eternally grateful to my husband Craig and daughter Coco, my family, colleagues and friends for their unwavering love and support during my career and none more so than when I served as the Administrator of the Northern Territory. It takes a village....

In October, I had the great pleasure to attend the Parliamentary Reception hosted by The Honourable Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia, and Ms Jodie Haydon in the Great Hall, Parliament House, Canberra, for Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Australians were wearing their Order of Australia insignia with pride, as was His Majesty, and the weather was glorious: blue skies and just a slight breeze which delighted the crowds that lined the walkways.

The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Peter Dutton, both warmly welcomed Their Majesties. Our Prime Minister acknowledged it was the first visit to Australia as the Sovereign for King Charles III. He also spoke about the extraordinary duty to the tradition so carefully upheld and protected by generations of His Majesty's forebears, not least his Mother, Queen Elizabeth II, "herself such a shining thread through the story of modern Australia".

I will close by sharing some very welcome news for the Association. At a meeting with Her Excellency, she generously welcomed our invitation to be our Patron and to being involved with the Association during her term.

Sending you all my very best, go well.

FROM THE OAA NATIONAL CHAIRMAN MAJGEN BARRY NUNN AO RFD ED (Retd)

Are we still a “lucky country”?

Looking back on the events of this year, it is easy to be discouraged by the apparent inability of some to disagree politely and learn from differences in opinion. Instead, we have angry protests, domestic violence, discord and the vilification of some sectors of our society. This is not the Australian way.

Australia has been the destination for many who have sought a better life. They have been welcomed and our society has been greatly enriched by their contribution. The success of this has much to do with the concept of the ‘fair go’ for all. Concern is sometimes expressed at a perception of ‘difference’ in a part of our community, but the individual is still well accepted for his or her contribution.

Our Association’s efforts “to celebrate and promote outstanding Australian citizenship” can be enhanced by all of us accepting that personal differences are an opportunity for greater insights and understanding, rather than a cause for argument or protest.

We all need to work towards a more harmonious and tolerant society. All those holding an award in the Order of Australia have a responsibility to lead by example and to contribute to a more welcoming and understanding community.

It has been pleasing to see the increasing number of new Order recipients joining our Association. The membership numbers and diversity are a tribute to the work done by our Branches and Regional Groups in making new recipients welcome.

If you can contribute to our activities in your state or territory, I encourage you to consider nominating for a Branch or Regional committee position when general meetings begin early in 2025. Work is now well under way in preparation for the 2025 Annual Conference in Sydney from 1 to 4 May 2025. Registrations to date are encouraging. I hope that I will have the opportunity to meet many of you at this not-to-be-missed event.

On behalf of all who manage this great Association, I offer you our hope that you enjoy a pleasant Festive Season and a rewarding and more settled 2025.

NATIONAL NEWS

THE OAA JOINS SOCIAL MEDIA

The Order of Australia Association has launched its first social media accounts to maintain and improve our communications with members of the Association, help us reach new audiences (such as award recipients who have not joined the OAA), and to raise awareness of the Order of Australia awards and nomination process.

We are currently trialling Facebook, LinkedIn and X (formerly Twitter) as our social media platforms. This will be in addition to our existing communication channels such as *The Order* magazine, the

Association website and regular Branch and Regional newsletters.

If you use social media, we encourage you to follow our new accounts. You can find our accounts by searching “The Order of Australia Association” within each social media platform or by clicking the links below:

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/order-of-australiaassociation

Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560448315014

X (AKA Twitter): <https://x.com/orderofAusAssoc>

While social media can be a great communication tool, they can also be misused. The Association established a working group to oversee development of a policy, code of practice and strategy for the OAA social media presence. A code of practice has been developed and this, above all else, recognises that integrity and respect for others is paramount. The code of practice will be included in the Resource section of the website.

Social media are only as good as their content. Our accounts are an opportunity for all our Regional Groups and Branches to share news of their activities. We will be looking for articles of interest and comments from members. In particular we will be looking for:

- Information about upcoming events
- Photos and recaps of past events
- Profiles of members
- Stories of members’ achievements

Content for posting on social media needs to be submitted via our dedicated online form. Our admin team will then review and post to social media. We are always looking for those who have an interest in social media or writing to support or be part of the admin team. Please let us know if this is you (you don’t need to know how to use social media!). This is an opportunity for members to contribute to the Association without taking up a formal office.

Kathy Wooldridge OAM

National Membership Director

Jo Newton OAM

Social Media Working Group

NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Tony Metcalf OAM, Branch Chairman

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We have continued to hold several successful activities including Fellowship luncheon meetings, our second New Recipients' reception for the year, and several Regional Group events. I would like to pay tribute to the efforts of Mrs Maree Anderson OAM, who for many years has been our Minlaton Regional convenor for the Yorke Peninsula Regional Group. Maree has moved to Keith to be in a unit close to John, who is in the nursing home there.

Deliberations for the 2024 Student Citizenship Awards are now finalised; on behalf of all our members I would like to express my gratitude for those who have volunteered their time to join this panel and review the many nominations. Your unseen efforts are greatly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing Branch members at our upcoming events, which include our annual Christmas Morning Tea, and then next year our Celebration of Australia Day luncheon and Annual General Meeting.

On behalf of the Branch Committee and members of the SA Branch, I wish all a joyful Christmas and we send our best wishes for the new year.

HERE ARE THE OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRANCH:

Patron

The Honourable Frances Adamson AC

Chairman

Tony Metcalf OAM

Deputy Chairman

Noel Hender OAM BEM

Secretary

John Phillips OAM

Treasurer

John Ziesing OAM

Member Secretary SA

Greg Gordon OAM JP

Student Citizenship Awards

Convenor

Noel Hender OAM BEM

Regional Groups Coordinator

Ken Coventry OAM JP (co-opted)

Merchandise Officer

Cathy Chong AM JP

Editor/Webmaster

Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP

Other Committee Members

Deborah De Williams AM

Don Clark OAM

Toni Cocchiaro OAM

Flavia de Pasquale OAM

Pamela Rajkowski OAM

Branch Nominated Director

Noel Hender OAM BEM

Website

[https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.](https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/sa/about-us/)

[au/sa/about-us/](https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/sa/about-us/)

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South East Regional Group

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Riverland and Mallee Regional Group

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Yorke Peninsula Regional Group

Elaine Bussenschutt OAM (Kadina)

elaine@yp-connect.net

Eyre Peninsula Group

Ken Coventry OAM JP

kencoam08@gmail.com

FORTHCOMING S.A. BRANCH ACTIVITIES

Friday 6 December: Branch Christmas Morning Tea

Saturday 18 January: Celebration of Australia Day luncheon

Thursday 27 February: Honours recipients fellowship luncheon meeting

Saturday 8 March: SA Branch Annual General Meeting

Thursday 17 April: Honours recipients fellowship luncheon meeting

EVENTS

STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS 2024

Student Citizenship Awards convenor, Noel Hender OAM BEM, reports that 49 nominations for this year's awards were received – a greater response than in previous years – and once again, the calibre and achievements of the young people nominated by their schools have been outstanding and most impressive.

Nominations were received from 35 senior schools and colleges across the State, and included 11 Catholic colleges, 12 state secondary schools/colleges, one Islamic college, three Lutheran and eight independent schools/colleges.

At a reception to be held at Government House on Monday 25 November, the Top 10 awardees will receive a 'With Distinction' certificate and special plaque with a medallion from Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, the SA Branch Patron. One among them will be announced by Her Excellency as the 2024 Student Citizen of the Year.

All other awardees will receive a certificate signed by Her Excellency along with a cased medallion funded through a donation by our late member Keith (Chook) Fowler OAM, and these will be presented by members of the Association at school ceremonies in Term 4.

NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION

In our second New Recipients' reception for the year, held on Monday 16 September, we acknowledged nine new recipients announced in the King's Birthday Honours List, and two who had been announced in the 2024 Australia Day Honours List.

We thank the City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters for their generous support and assistance, and Mayor Robert Bria who gave the welcome address.

The guest speaker was Mr David Seaton OAM, on the topic: "63 years a Chartered Accountant and other things". David was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia, "*For service to the community through roles with medical education, health administration and charitable organisations, and as Honorary Consul for Sweden in South Australia*" (AD09). David also holds the Australian Defence Medal and the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal, acknowledging his service with the 1956 intake, with the 16th National Service Training Battalion at Woodside Barracks in the Adelaide Hills.

David served as the Honorary Consul for Sweden in South Australia from 1986 until 2009, for which he was appointed Commander First Class in the *Kungliga Nordstjärneorden* – the Royal Order of the Polar Star (KNO). This is a Swedish order of chivalry created by King Frederick I on 23 February 1748, to reward Swedish and foreign merit and devotion to duty. Between 1975 and 2023, the order was only awarded to members of the royal family and foreigners, notably foreign office holders. The order is also known as the 'Royal Order of the North Star'. Its motto is *Nescit Occasum*, a Latin phrase meaning 'It knows no decline'. This identifies that Sweden is as constant a Guest Speaker Mr David Seaton OAM as a never-setting star.



Photo of guest speaker David Seaton OAM.

COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS

Korean War veteran John Jarrett AM was a very special guest at a Korean War Commemorative Service held on Saturday 27 July which acknowledged the 71st anniversary of the signing of the 'Korean Armistice Agreement' on 27 July 1953, which brought fighting to an end in the Korean War. John served in Korea from 30 May 1953 and beyond the Armistice through to 29 August 1953, and for two further periods of duty in November-June 1954 and July-August 1954. He was recently appointed a Member of the Order, *For significant service to community health, and to veterans and their families* (AD23).

Several members and Order recipients attended a Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Service on Sunday 18 August, which honoured the service of all Australian, New Zealand and Republic of Vietnam service personnel who fought in the Vietnam War, and particularly the 523 Australians, 37 New Zealanders and as many as 300,000 service personnel from the Republic of Vietnam who lost their lives during the Vietnam War.

On Friday 30 August, a Malaya and Borneo Veterans Day Service of Commemoration was held in the West Torrens War Memorial Gardens, hosted by Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM (Retd), who is President of the SA & NT Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc. In this ceremony, the focus was kept on a select group of family members honouring specific named personnel who served or lost their lives in the Malayan wars.

For the Dardanelles Cenotaph Commemoration on Sunday 8 September, hosted by the Legacy Club of South Australia & Broken Hill together with the Australian War Widows (SA) Inc, the Master of Ceremonies was Legatee Mark Bouchier OAM, who received the OAM, *For service to the community of South Australia* (AD20).

Ms Tanya Kaplan OAM, Honorary President of the Turkish Association of S.A, recited the Atatürk Statement. She had received the OAM *For service to Turkey-Australia relations, and to the Veteran community* (QB17).

On Friday 20 September, members attended an East Timor Veterans Commemorative Service to mark the 25th anniversary of the first Australian Defence Force deployments to East Timor. This was the largest ADF deployment since the Vietnam War. More than 5,500 Australians deployed in the Australian-led operation to restore peace and security in East Timor – facilitating ongoing U.N humanitarian assistance operations and subsequent nation-building operations.



Photo: After the Malaya and Borneo Veterans Day Service, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, complimented the Air Force Cadets from No 604 Squadron, AAFC who had filled multiple roles during the ceremony.

NEWS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM AND EUROPE



Caroline Hoffman OAM, Chairman

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In May this year the Australian Ambassador to France, Her Excellency Gillian Bird, kindly hosted a lunch at the Australian Embassy in Paris for OAA members and Order of Australia recipients resident in Europe. Eight OAA members travelled from Britain to the event, joining members and guests based in France and elsewhere in Europe.

During the event the Australian Ambassador honoured General Elrick Irastorza (Retd) by appointing him a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) *For significant service to the relationship between Australia and France during the ANZAC Centenary Commemorative period in France (2014-2018)*. General Irastorza was former Chief of Staff of the French Army. Also present were 10 mayors from towns in Northern France whose annual commemorative events honour the Australian troops who served in their locality, especially during the First World War. Other participants included Stéphane Jacob-Langevin AM, who runs the Galerie Arts d'Australie in Paris, featuring Australian artists, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

On Thursday 17 October members of the UK/Europe Branch of the Association and their guests were privileged to attend a private showing of the newly opened *Nala Ngura* exhibition of Australian art in Paris by leading Indigenous artist Konstantina, presented by the artist herself together with gallery owner Stéphane Jacob AM.

The art series is on show at Arts d'Australie Stéphane Jacob in the Marais district of Paris until 25 January 2025. It reimagines the traditions of Aboriginal artists and offers a modern narrative illustrating Konstantina's passion for language, culture and history of First Nations people in Australia. Guests enjoyed an excellent dinner afterwards in the adjoining Bistro Parcelles.



Photo of Ambassador Bird addressing members, with an excellent view of the Eiffel Tower through the window.

NEWS FROM NEW SOUTH WALES



Chairman John Gullotta AM

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It has been a busy time for the Branch with the King's Birthday 2024 Investitures at Government House, Sydney. It was heart-warming 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 to their dedication in promoting Australian citizenship in all fields. On behalf of the NSW Branch Committee, I would like to congratulate all new KB24 awardees, and I hope you join the Association and become involved in our events and activities.

On 25 October 2024, we held our Annual Youth Community Service Awards Presentation Ceremony at Government House, Sydney. Our Patron and NSW Governor, Her Excellency Margaret Beazley AC KC, acknowledged the contribution of 26 NSW high school children and presented them with a special certificate and trophy. Our special thanks go to our Convenor, Dr Frank Kelleher OAM, for successfully organising and guiding these awards over the past seven years. The NSW Branch is committed to promoting and recognising the inspirational achievements and exceptional community service of our young people and will continue to hold these awards annually.

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

Preparations are well under way for the Sydney Conference 1-4 May 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 OAA national website www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au. We are now working on securing some very dynamic and motivating speakers and will let you know more once names are confirmed. I would like to sincerely thank the sponsors that have already come on board for their generous support. Our Gold sponsors are LSH Auto Australia, ABAL Banking and HSBC. Our Silver sponsors are Stanmore Mazda and DeLorenzo Australian Made Haircare.

We are looking for more company and individual sponsors so please contact me if you can help in any way.

I look forward to all of you joining us at SYD25!

HERE ARE THE OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH:

Patron

Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC

Chairman

Dr John Gullotta AM

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Deputy Chair

Ms Martha Jabour OAM

Mobile: 0417 442 287

Honorary Secretary

Mrs Dianne North OAM

Mobile: 0429 774 363

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Honorary Treasurer

Mrs Louise Paisley OAM

Mobile: 0414 597 323

Branch Nominated Director and Regional Coordinator

Mr David North OAM

Mobile: 0419 485 071

Email: dirnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Branch Membership Officer

Dr Geoffrey Glassock AM

Youth Community Service Award Coordinator

Dr Frank Kelleher OAM

OAA Foundation NSW Scholarships Coordinator

Mr Harold Sharp OAM

Committee Members

Mr Romano Di Donato OAM

A/Prof Sophie Scott OAM

Mr Gary Smith AM
Mrs Trish Wetton OAM
The Order of Australia Association NSW Branch Postal Address
PO Box 561
Parramatta NSW 2124

EVENTS

ANNUAL YOUTH SERVICE AWARD

Twenty-six Year 11 and 12 students from high schools across NSW were recognised for their community service at a special ceremony held at Government House in Sydney on 25 October. These very special awards were presented by our Patron and NSW Governor, Her Excellency, The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC.

Family members, friends and school principals attended to congratulate and celebrate these amazing students. Several members of the OAA NSW Branch Committee were also on hand to congratulate the students.

The students are recognised for the work they do in their communities – such as organising blood donation drives, finding ways to improve mental health issues in sport, organising gift packs for mums and dads staying at Ronald McDonald House, a blind equestrian raising awareness of people with disabilities, environmental work and improving the environment for a platypus. There were so many wonderful stories from these young people.

The OAA Youth Community Service Award is conducted annually by the NSW Branch of the Order of Australia Association. The Award recognises community service by individual students that would not normally be recognised by their school systems, that usually reward academic, sporting and leadership achievements. This Award recognises the significant service performed by students beyond their school boundaries in the wider community, in the areas of Campaigning and Fundraising, Mentoring and Volunteering.

Since inception we have awarded 690 Youth Awards, 411 to young women and 279 to young men. Most of the recipients are from Sydney (421), Greater Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, with the rest of state at 269. A total of 280 schools have nominated students for an award over the past 30 years.

Chairman John Gullotta AM thanked Dr Frank Kelleher OAM for his work as Convenor for the past seven years, the judges of the Award and our Patron, Her Excellency Margaret Beazley AC KC and her highly efficient team at Government House, Sydney for hosting the event.

John concluded by saying, “Once again, as NSW Chairman and on behalf of our NSW Branch Committee, congratulations to all the Awardees for your exceptional, excellent work and dedication to community service. Your citations are certainly a true inspiration to us all”.

Following the ceremony, the recipients, family members and friends joined Her Excellency for canapes and drinks in the beautiful gardens of Government House Sydney.



Photograph of guests in the gardens of Government House Sydney.

LUNCHEON IN DUBBO

On Saturday 19 October, 72 people attended a luncheon at Dubbo RSL Memorial Club to congratulate the 2024 Australia Day and King's Birthday Awardees. Many had travelled for four hours or more to attend. They came from as far away as Louth, Cobar, Nyngan and Gilgandra.

Regional Convenor, Ruth Shanks AM, welcomed everyone. OAA NSW Branch Regional Coordinator David North OAM brought news from both the National and the NSW Committees. David then congratulated and recognised the 2024 Awardees present.

Sue-Ellen Lovett OAM, a blind dressage competitor and Paralympian, represented Australia at the Paralympics in Atlanta in 1996 and Sydney in 2000. Sue-Ellen received her Award on Australia Day for her fundraising activities and her service to equine sports. Ellen Stanmore OAM received her award on Australia Day for decades of helping the community, particularly the Royal Flying Doctor Service. And Jennifer Armstrong OAM received her medal for service to the Dubbo community including Dubbo Hospital and the St John's Ambulance.

After a delicious lunch, guests were treated to a very entertaining presentation from Paralympian Sue-Ellen Lovett OAM. Sue-Ellen hails from Mudgee and told the story of her long-distance horse riding. In 1997 she rode from Melbourne to Sydney to raise money for the Sydney 2000 Paralympics. In 2018 she rode more than 800km all around the Central West area to raise funds for the oncology unit at Dubbo Hospital. She raised \$80,000 on that ride.

Sue-Ellen is an author and has written several books, including "The Blind Chick". She took many questions from the audience and had everyone enthralled.

One notable person present was the youthful Ruby Riach OAM who is still very active at 98 years of age. She has some wonderful stories to tell of her time as OAA NSW Branch Secretary, and her many years on the Dubbo Committee.

FORTHCOMING N.S.W BRANCH ACTIVITIES

30 November 2024 – NSW Branch Christmas Luncheon:

<https://www.stickytickets.com.au/PP1F9>

26 January 2025 – Annual Australia Day 2025 Harbour Cruise Luncheon:

<https://www.stickytickets.com.au/QELJA>

1-4 May 2025 – NATIONAL CONFERENCE SYDNEY 2025: Early Bird Registration NOW OPEN

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Mrs Bettine Heathcote AM, Chairman

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As reported in these pages, members of the WA Branch have enjoyed several major events in the last couple of months: the King's Birthday Reception, Annual Dinner, Peel Region Civic Reception and South West Region Luncheon, with the Great Southern Region Annual Church Service and Luncheon and Annual Christmas Lunch still to come to round off the year's activities.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held in February 2025, at which we will be electing two committee members as well as Branch Chairman. Having come to the end of my three terms, I shall be retiring and take this opportunity to thank all members for their support both for our WA activities and also the National Conference held in Perth in May.

Although a little early, on behalf of the WA Branch, I extend Christmas Greetings to all.

HERE ARE THE OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH:

Chairman

Bettine Heathcote AM

Secretary

Margaret Lobo AM

Treasurer

Michael Lee OAM

WA Nominated Board Director

Clive Robartson AM

Membership Secretary

Lorraine Hammond AM

WA Newsletter Editor

Bill Hassell AM JP

WA contribution to The Order editor

Jackie Scurlock OAM

Committee Members

Judith Hogben AM

Ronald Louis OAM JP

Brad Norman AM

Rebecca Tolstoy AM

Co-opted Member Police Patron Scheme

Michael Bleus OAM

Great Southern Group of the WA Branch Convenor

Jan Savage OAM JP

Southwest Group of the WA Branch Convenor

Hon Barry House AM

Peel Group of the WA Branch Convenor

Prof Jan Barker AM

EVENTS

OAAWA RECEPTION FOR KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS AWARD RECIPIENTS

On 7 August, on a wintry Perth evening, 21 awardees and their guests were welcomed by the Right Honourable Lord Mayor, Mr Basil Zempilas, City of Perth and the Chairman of the OAA WA Branch, Mrs Bettine Heathcote AM, at the City of Perth Council House. The Lord Mayor welcomed everyone on behalf of the councillors and the team from the City of Perth. He pointed out how important these receptions are in highlighting the variety of backgrounds and different fields of each recipient. He spoke about the honour to his mother and family when she received an OAM in 1996.

Bettine welcomed the new recipients and encouraged them to join the Association, discussing the Foundation Scholarships, the recent National Conference in Perth and the activities of the WA Branch, particularly the Police Patron Scheme. The award and the citation of each recipient was read out. The citations were once again overwhelming with the amount of volunteering and community support that each recipient has made. Suzanne Ardagh AM responded on behalf of the recipients and thanked the City of Perth for holding the reception. She congratulated the award recipients and said, "Let's celebrate each other and the great things happening in Perth".

Maj Gen Barry Nunn AO, OAA National Chairman, spoke about the honour to be again at Perth Council House and thanked the team who made the evening successful. He pointed out that the awards are really team awards for behind each recipient are family, friends and colleagues who give support. The evening concluded with a delicious supper.

REGIONAL EVENTS

Peel Region: On 4 September, the Mayor of Mandurah, RhysWilliams and the Mandurah Council gave a civic reception for recipients of the Order of Australia, with 31 recipients in attendance.

The mayor spoke of their past and ongoing contribution and asked them to consider using their skills to mentor and guide young people in Peel.

South-West Region: On 18 October, in a beautifully restored room, 65 OAA members and friends attended the South-West Region's Annual Lunch at the historic Rose Hotel in Bunbury. This beautiful building has been and is still being restored, keeping in mind its long history.

Attendees were welcomed by Hon Barry House AM, convenor of the South-West Branch. The Host of the Hotel, Matt Jeffrey, spoke of the hotel's history and the many owners. The first Rose Hotel was built in 1865 and rebuilt in 1904. The Mayor of Bunbury, Jaysen Miguel, a young, enthusiastic advocate for his city, spoke of his 11 years in local government. Coming from a sporting background, he is keen on a collaborative approach and spoke of how many new developments can be seen: State and Commonwealth Governments have built wonderful facilities; the ongoing requirement is for local government to maintain them. It was a very happy, noisy gathering, with meetings of new and old friends. Among the participants were several with historical South-West surnames: Bill Bunbury OAM and his wife, Jenny and Delys Forrest OAM.



Photo of Paddy Creevey OAM, Mayor Rhys Williams, Em Professor Jo Barker AM (photo: Office of Mayor and Councillors City of Mandurah)

FORTHCOMING W.A BRANCH ACTIVITIES

26 November: At midday – OAAWA Branch Annual Christmas Luncheon at the RAAFA Estate Bull Creek.

February: OAAWA AGM – date to be advised.

NEWS FROM TASMANIA



Photo of Tasmanian Branch Chairman Alastair Douglas OAM with Association Deputy Director William Lye OAM KC

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Right across Tasmania during September, wild weather with storm-force winds and rain brought down trees and powerlines across roads leaving thousands of Tasmanians without electricity for lengthy periods, some for up to two weeks and others dealing with floods. As expected with Australians, volunteers alongside government agency personnel worked tirelessly to restore, repair and clean up in difficult and often dangerous conditions to help our citizens overcome the many adversities inflicted by the weather. We have to thank these people for their tireless and expert work over extended periods to help us all.

September was a busy month with the King's Birthday investitures being conducted at Government House by Her Excellency the Hon. Barbara Baker AC. Between the morning and afternoon investitures, the Branch held its usual celebratory lunch with 65 members and guests attending where the new awardees present were acknowledged, with details of the background to their award announced to those attending.

The Branch committee had its September meeting in Launceston with OAA Deputy National Chairman William Lye OAM flying in from Melbourne for the day. To have William in attendance at our meeting was much appreciated and considered of much value to have his thoughts and input. Following the meeting, members of the committee and William were introduced to Branch members who attended a very pleasant lunch at the Launceston Club.

While it still seems some time away, the Branch Annual General Meeting arrangements will soon be considered. The last AGM was conducted using Zoom, but the Branch Committee supports an in-person meeting. When the formal AGM notices are sent in the New Year, members are invited to consider nominating to fill committee vacancies. Please feel free to contact me or any committee member for further information.

HERE ARE THE OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE TASMANIA BRANCH:

Patron

Her Excellency The Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania

Branch Chairman

Mr Alastair Douglas OAM

Mobile: 0418 127 897

Hon Secretary

Mrs Beatrice Lawrence OAM

Hon Treasurer

Mr Ron Blake OAM

National Board Director

Dr Rosemary Callingham AM

Branch Committee

Mr Neville Bingham AFSM OAM

Mr Barry Easter OAM

Mrs Belinda Hazell OAM

Dr Peter Holm OAM

Dr Frank Madill AM

Dr George Merridew AM

Mrs Maureen Oates OAM

Mrs Vicki Purnell OAM

Regional Convenors

South

Mrs Belinda Hazell OAM

North

Dr George Merridew AM

North West

Mr Graeme Milburn AM

EVENTS

VISIT TO THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

Members of the Tasmania Branch, Northern Region, visited the local Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) base on 7 August and were informed about the extensive programmes they provide including their dental outreach service which delivers more than 15,000 free dental treatments each year.

Supporting residents in rural and remote areas across Tasmania, the RFDS Tasmania primary health team also delivers more than 7,800 consultations each year in areas of mental and physical health including cardio. Members also had the opportunity to inspect a dental mobile bus and an air ambulance where the duty pilot outlined the operations, often flying 1,100 patients a year.



Photo of Jeff Hockley OAM and Sandra Atkins OAM inside the air ambulance

FEATURED MEMBER

ELIZABETH (LIBBY) PERKINS OAM

Elizabeth (Libby) Perkins lives at Gunns Plains on the north-west coast and was recognised with an OAM in the Australia Day Honours List in 2022 *For service to the community through a range of roles, in particular veterans.*

In 1969, at just 18 years of age, Libby waved a consent form in front of her father for him to sign and began her life of service when she joined the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC) at the height of the Vietnam War. It was a far cry from the teaching career that her mother wanted for her. She served with several signal regiments during her three years, but her final deployment was to the 9 ANZUK Signal Regiment in Singapore as a Corporal.

Libby undertook special training and received top-secret clearance. Swearing an oath to uphold the Official Secrets Act, she was tasked with encrypting and decrypting messages, especially highly secret correspondence coming in from Vietnam. Libby was only granted permission to speak about her life 30 years after the completion of her service, when it was acknowledged that she had indeed served overseas for her country during the Vietnam War.

Libby often says, "Soldiers today are not the stereotype. Nowadays, some of the soldiers are five-foot one. They are mothers. I can cook scones with the best of them. But I am not the wife of a returned soldier; I am a returned soldier."

NEWS FROM VICTORIA



Chairman Dr Helene Bender AM

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardener AC hosted investiture ceremonies for Victorian recipients of the 2024 Order of Australia King's Birthday Honours at Government House in September. Recipients were acknowledged for various contributions across Victoria, the majority honoured for their selfless dedication to local communities. The Governor reflected on this in her speech to recipients and their guests:

"Whether you're receiving your award today for your volunteer service, for your profession or for a particular achievement, you are being celebrated by your community for contributions that we admire and value. For every award that is invested today, there are countless Victorians that have been uplifted by your work".

Nominating someone worthy is a way of recognising and celebrating the contribution that they have made, their achievements and their impact that has made Victoria a more positive place to live. To nominate someone, you need: the full name and contact details of the person you are nominating; your full name and contact details; an outline of how your nominee has made a significant contribution to the community; the names and contact details of up to four referees who can directly comment on your nominee's contribution. Visit www.gg.gov.au today to nominate someone you know who makes a difference. The VIC Branch hosted a Thank You Reception on Wednesday 9 October to thank Order of Australia recipients who joined the Association this year. The event was sponsored by Alek Vass OAM at the Alex Theatre, St Kilda. Wendy Stapleton and The Australian Women's Choir provided wonderful entertainment and David Mann AM, the event MC, read the citations confirming the diversity of our members and the contribution they make in their community, to Victoria, Australia and internationally.

On behalf of the VIC Branch committee and our Regional Groups, thank you for your ongoing support again this year. Please enjoy your upcoming festive season and care for those who are special in your life. See you in 2025.

HERE ARE THE OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE VICTORIA BRANCH:

Patron

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

Chairman

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Trevor Clark OAM

Secretary

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Minute Secretary

Barb Thomas OAM

Regional Groups Coordinator

Barb Brook OAM

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Committee

Gary Lee OAM

Beverley Pinder OAM

EVENTS**WELCOMING 2024 OAA NEW MEMBERS**

Smiles and congratulatory messages flowed freely at the Alex Theatre, St. Kilda on 9 October. It was a vibrant gathering of many who came to celebrate the achievements of the Order of Australia recipients who joined the Association in 2024.

The MC of the event was David Mann AM, who read the citations which again proved that we have so many in the community who are deeply committed to contributing to the social and economic good of Australia. Guests were treated to a moving performance by Wendy Stapleton and the Australian Women's Choir who not only sang the national anthem but provided the guests with a lovely rendition of Peter Allen's *I still call Australia home*.

After the formalities, recipients and guests all gathered for a lovely afternoon tea amongst the stunning and eclectic décor that characterises the Alex Theatre.

Recipients all shared the same messages: they were delighted to have been acknowledged through their respective awards and were pleased to be of service to the betterment of the community.

Recipients included those who received awards as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM), amongst them Jim Liaskos for significant service to business and to industry as a leader and mentor. Also, Con Pagonis, *for service to the multicultural community of Victoria*. Ms. Connie Boglis received her OAM *for services to mental health in the community and with veterans*. Her own contribution was spurred on by the loss of a loved one to suicide. Also, Toni Joel who is the founder of Off your back, an organisation that donates preloved jackets and coats to the homeless. Paul Brophy, the longtime CEO of the Father Bob Foundation, continues to work tirelessly leading a group of more than 80 volunteers and a handful of staff to ensure that Father Bob's vision of caring for the marginalised in the community does not stop. Services to medical research, ballet, culinary arts, aged welfare, education, girl guides, women's health, farming and so many other areas – all are part of the tapestry represented by the newly minted Order of Australia Association members.

A very special afternoon to acknowledge some very special members. Welcome!

REGIONAL GROUP EVENTS

North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley: On 20 October, a glorious spring day, with the sun shining

on the lake in front of the Woolshed reception centre in Shepparton, the North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley Regional Group held a very successful Spring luncheon.

Regional Group Chair Mary Lou Davis OAM welcomed 50 members and guests to the event. Following a delicious lunch, the participants settled back to hear one of the members of the group, Don Kilgour OAM, speak about the golden days of radio and television. Don had an extensive career in both radio and television as well as being a former member of the Victorian Parliament. Those present were reminded about what they had listened to on the radio as they grew up and what they watched in the early days of television.

Don spoke about the emergence of radio in the 1930s and what it meant particularly to country people living a distance from regional centres. Radio provided farmers with vital information through a stock market report. Local church ministers gave a thought for the day and an epilogue and a most important segment was the funeral announcements each morning to advise when local funerals would be held. Radio jingles helped sell products for the advertisers with ads for products such as BEX Powders and Tablets, Dr. McKenzies Menthoids and Ford Pills. In the early 1960s the introduction of television brought major changes to radio listening when radio had to supply what television could not such as popular music and instant news.

The electronic media, both radio and television, played an important role in everyday life and those present enjoyed the opportunity to think about their favourite entertainment programmes in the past. It was an enjoyable and memorable afternoon with lots of laughter and discussions afterwards. The group's next luncheon will be the AGM at the Benalla Lakeside Community Centre on Sunday 23 March 2025 with guest speaker Dr. Will Twycross OAM.

Central Highlands Wimmera: Chair John Burt OAM welcomed 25 attendees at the 14th Annual Spring Luncheon held at the RSL, Horsham on Sunday 20 October 2024. This was again a successful event, with many members travelling from Ballarat to take the opportunity to catch up with their rural counterparts. Distance is a major factor in holding the group's luncheon events, so members grab the chance to meet up with old friends and enjoy the friendly atmosphere generated by the gathering.

The guest speaker, Helen Curkpatrick from Horsham, is a local historian. Her topic *Longerenong – Legendary Location* was informative and, as one member put it, eye opening, as to the past of our regional area, recalling long-lost small towns and communities and the farming heritage, highlighted by the 'Longerenong Homestead'.



Photo of the Longerenong Homestead (photo: Jean Wise)

South Central Suburbs: The group had much pleasure in accepting an invitation again to The City of Kingston Youth Awards held during Youth Week. This takes place at Platform 81, as the Youth Services building is opposite the Mordialloc station. Members are honoured to attend this event and to meet the amazing young achievers in our local communities. It is a tradition that members are passionate about, and the group presents a cash bursary and certificate to the young Citizen of the Year annually chosen by council.

This year's winner is an incredible young person who is vision impaired. Her story is one of resilience

and determination. She introduced blind tennis in Cheltenham, and through her efforts she has fostered a supportive community, empowering others and promoting social connection. Her dedication to breaking barriers makes her a significant role model inspiring an inclusive future. It is an opportunity to mingle with the other nominees, all of whom are making an amazing difference. Many of these are children of primary school age, also recognized by the City of Kingston for making a difference by their contributions to the community. South Central Suburbs Regional Group members also give a bursary to the City of Glen Eira Young Citizen of the Year during Volunteer Week in May.

FEATURED MEMBER
COLIN KRYCER OAM



Photo of Colin Krycer OAM

Colin Krycer OAM was delighted to be at the Victorian Reception for new recipients of the Order of Australia for his services to the LGBTQIA+ community.

Colin explains, “Volunteering has given me the absolute delight of meeting the most extraordinary, wonderful people and giving me the opportunity to give something back to my Victorian LGBTQIA+ community.”

By profession, Colin was a Court Services public servant to which he dedicated 29 years of service. Alongside this role, Colin saw a need in the community and stepped up to provide a voice and advocate for the LGBTQIA+ community. He became a volunteer for the Victorian AIDS Council, now known as Thorne Harbour Health, of which he has received life membership.

“Back then it was all about volunteer care teams and hands-on assisting people with HIV/AIDS. Very grim days back then,” he says. Colin was not deterred by the ‘grim’ and difficult days during a period when misinformation fuelled discrimination against the LGBTQIA+ community. The community felt marginalised and voiceless as many suffered and lost their lives to HIV/AIDS.

However, the community has moved on and Colin continues to his volunteer his time, experience and expertise. “Today with Thorne Harbour Health I volunteer to make fundraising events happen, not only for them but for several other LGBTQIA organisations such as Living Positive Victoria, Melbourne Gay & Lesbian Chorus, Melbourne Rainbow Band, Positive Attitude.”

Colin has been a long-standing board member of the Pride Foundation Australia, a philanthropic organisation run by a team of amazing volunteers. He is also a past convener of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. To add to his CV, he is a founding member and one of the original on-air presenters of LGBTQIA FM station, JOY 94.9.

This has all been as a volunteer. When asked about his motivation for all the voluntary work he contributes across the community, Colin explains that he simply loves “helping out and making a

difference to people's lives".

FORTHCOMING VIC BRANCH ACTIVITIES

28 March: 2025 Inspiring Australians Orations and Annual General Meeting. Oration - 10.15am to 12.25pm; AGM - 12.30pm sign in for 12.35pm.

Venue: The Angliss Conference Centre, 555 La Trobe Street, Melbourne.

A REMINDER THAT ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION MERCHANDISE CAN BE ORDERED FROM THE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE: www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au

NEWS FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



Chairman Alan James OAM

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I was privileged to attend the investiture of King's Birthday Awardees at Government House, Darwin, in September. Awards were presented by the Administrator of the Northern Territory and our patron, His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie AO PSM. Northern Territorian recipients of the Order of Australia are often awarded for work and service unique to the Territory context.



Photo of some of the recipients of Awards in the King's Birthday Honours List 2024, with Northern Territory Administrator His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie AO PSM.

HERE ARE THE OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE N.T. BRANCH:

Chairman

Alan James OAM

Secretary

David De Silva AM

Treasurer

Aminul Islam OAM

Membership

Linda Fazldeen AM

Committee

Hon Jane Aagaard AM

Floss Roberts AM

Wayne Kraft AM

Ex-officio newsletter editor

Nora Lewis AM

FEATURED AWARDEES

Committee member **Wayne Kraft AM** is one of the founders, along with another of our members, Ted Egan AO, of Mates of the Murrnaji. In late 2020, a group of Mates decided that it was time to work with government to drive the resurrection of the Newcastle Waters Historic Township. This station and small township grew up at the junction of the biggest stock routes in North Australia, with huge historic significance.

The Mates are working at preserving the remnants of the township and creating a sustainable vision for the future, involving opportunities for tourism and cultural interaction with the Marlinja Aboriginal community. The inaugural meeting of the Mates, at the Junction Hotel in Newcastle Waters, numbered 40 and, after successful promotion and newsletters, there are now more than 400 Mates from around Australia – you too can join! The group is working towards centenary celebrations in 2026. On 4 June 2026, it will be a century since the Northern Australia Act gazetted that Newcastle Waters would be the capital of North Australia.

Doctor Grahame Webb AO is continuing his distinguished service to environmental conservation and to wildlife preservation. Dr. Webb is recognised as one of the world's leading authorities on crocodylian research and management. During his research, he has worked closely with Indigenous communities, learning from methods of traditional management. Dr. Webb believes that conservation of wildlife will be enhanced if landowners can derive economic benefit from using wildlife sustainably, thus ensuring that crocodiles, numbering now more than 80,000, become a valuable asset to the Northern Territory.



Photo of Dr Grahame Webb AO

Lesley Woolf OAM is Manager of Mala'la Health Service Aboriginal Corporation. Lesley has been a nurse, midwife and health administrator more than five decades, and was honoured this year in June. Ms Woolf has transitioned two health services to the Aboriginal community-controlled health organisation (ACCHO) model, making a tangible difference to the lives of Aboriginal Australians. "In most big health departments," Ms Wolf says, "decisions are made for the good of the territory/state, whereas we can concentrate on the community. It's really important that they have a voice".

NEWS FROM QUEENSLAND



Chairman Ronda L. Nix OAM

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

September was a busy month for the Queensland Branch. On 13 September, our annual Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards presentations were held at Parliament House in Brisbane. That same day, investitures by the Queensland Governor of recipients of awards in the King's Birthday Honours who lived in Far North Queensland were also held.

The Queensland Governor held five investiture ceremonies in September, the one in Cairns plus four in Brisbane at Government House from 16 to 19 September. A member of the Queensland Branch Committee attended all investiture ceremonies and the receptions that followed, to mingle and speak with the new awardees to inform them about the activities of the Association and encourage them to join.

Functions were organised for new awardees, their families and friends following both the Cairns and Brisbane investitures. A Recipient's Welcome Lunch was held on 13 September at Dundee's Restaurant on the Cairns waterfront and a well-attended (255 people) dinner was held in the Blue Pacific Ballroom, Kedron Wavell, Brisbane on 19 September.

Two Regional Group functions were held in October. The Sunshine Coast Regional Group held a lunch in Caloundra on the same day as our newest Regional Group Convenor, Grant Cassidy OAM, held his first function, a lunch in Rockhampton, Central Queensland.

The final members' function for the year will be a Darling Downs Region Morning Tea at the Downs Club in Toowoomba on 15 November, organised by the Darling Downs Regional Convenor Megan McNicholl OAM. Megan has advised that she will be stepping down at the end of the year after three years in the role. We thank her sincerely for her service.

HERE ARE THE OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE QUEESLAND BRANCH:

Patron

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

Chair

Ronda Nix OAM

Mobile: 0409 615 514

Deputy Chair

Dr Mick Davis AM ASM

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Membership Officer/Secretary

Robyn Porter OAM

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Treasurer

Dr Dennis Young AM

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National Board Director

Paula Penfold AM

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Committee Members

Graham Hyde OAM

Qld Branch Editor - *The Order*

Governance/Policy Review Officer

Peter Mc Murtrie AO KStJ

Regional Groups Coordinator

Darryl Secombe OAM

Protocol Officer

Marjorie Voss OAM

Awards & Metro Events Coordinator

Geoffrey Cowles OAM

Merchandise Officer

Kelvin Brown OAM

Multicultural & Diversity Officer

Irene Cayas OAM

All correspondence to:

Robyn Porter, Secretary

secqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Regional Group

Convenor Details

Central Queensland:

Grant Cassidy OAM

Darling Downs:

Megan McNicholl OAM

Far North Queensland:

John Hardy OAM

Gold Coast:

Sandra Doumany OAM

Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday:

Carmel Daveson AM

Sunshine Coast:

Rhonda Clayton AM

Townsville:

David Jackson OAM

Wide-Bay Burnett:

Judy Peters OAM

EVENTS

NEAR-RECORD ATTENDANCE AT THE KB AWARDS RECIPIENTS' WELCOME DINNER

On Thursday 19 September, the Queensland Branch hosted a Welcome Celebratory Dinner in the Blue Pacific Ballroom at Kedron Wavell Services Club, Chermside, to welcome 17 of the 2024 King's Birthday award recipients. Included was a delayed welcome for a recipient from the 2023 Australia Day honours.

While the award recipients' response was not as large as we had hoped, it was an entirely different story with the award recipients' supporters, families and friends. There were 188 of them and, along with 31 OAAQ members and 18 of their guests, this contributed to the magnificent final response of 255 guests. This was just 16 shy of the record attendance (271) at the Australia Day Award recipients' lunch at the Broncos Leagues Club on 8 May 2015.

There were five significant supporter groups on the night. New award recipients John Honeycombe OAM from Townsville and Martin Corkery OAM from Ipswich brought with them 44 and 42 supporters respectively. Most of Leonard Goode's 34 family and friends travelled from Sarina in the Mackay region and Barbara Knowles OAM from the Sunshine Coast included 17 family and friends in her party. Finally, Evelyn (Joan) White OAM from Texas on the Queensland/New South Wales border was accompanied by 18 of her fellow "Texas Rangers" to support her. As Joan explained "Someone getting an award in the Order is big news here in little old Texas!" population 790 (2021).

While the number of award recipients was lower than usual, what these award recipients lacked in quantity they made up for in quality with their wonderful achievements, deserving of their awards. There was a wide diversity of fields of endeavour represented including medicine, education, the law, architecture, veterans' affairs, business, community service, community history, women's affairs, youth and the sports of hockey and softball. It was just so wonderful to welcome these outstanding, selfless Queenslanders into the Order. With such a great crowd of people present, there was an "electric buzz" throughout the night. It was indeed a "crackerjack" welcome party and one for the memories.

CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL MAYOR RECOGNISES 2024 FNQ ORDER OF AUSTRALIA HONOURS

Mayor Amy Eden was proud that the Cairns Regional Council hosts the only local government morning tea in Queensland that recognises Order of Australia recipients. Her civic function was held

at Council on Thursday 10 October to celebrate 10 people, including seven from the Cairns area, who were announced as recipients of an Order of Australia honour this year, on either Australia Day or the King's Birthday.

In his presentation, Regional Convenor, John Hardy OAM explained the various levels of the Order and how to wear the medal. The mayor then addressed the group highlighting how it was important to recognise people who contribute to their community. Though the stories and backgrounds of this year's recipients vary, they share a common dedication to serving their community and leaving a lasting impact. She encouraged everyone to make the effort to nominate someone they believe is worthy of an Order of Australia honour.

A sumptuous morning tea followed, with harpist Joy Zahner providing a lovely ambience for those present and supporting their social interaction.



Photo of (L-R): John Hardy OAM, FNQ Regional Convenor, Colin Sparkes OAM, Raymond Byrnes OAM, Margaret Maunsell OAM, Mayor Amy Eden, David Chalk OAM, Philip Harrison AM, Jo-Ann Lees OAM, John Moran OAM, Effie Bacalakis OAM.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS CITIZENSHIP AWARDS – STILL GOING STRONG AFTER 25 YEARS

The Honourable Paul de Jersey AC CVO KC, the former (26th) Governor of Queensland, again presented the Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards at the annual Awards Presentation Ceremony in the Premiers' Hall of Queensland's Parliament House on Friday 13 September 2024. Paul performed his role splendidly and his address to the gathering, reflecting on life for students 25 years ago compared to now, was most incisive.

This was the 25th (Silver) Anniversary of these awards being conducted by the Queensland Branch, and it was another inspirational and memorable occasion. We were very pleased with the response from 60 secondary schools this year comprising both state high schools and private colleges from across Queensland, and we received a creditable 109 student nominations, 15 more than last year. Awards were presented to 12 Year 12 school students, recognised for their selfless community service in helping others and promoting true Australian citizenship.

One hundred and twenty-five guests including students and their families, school principals and representatives, State Members of Parliament and 11 members of the Association attended.

At the presentation Dr Mick Davis AM ASM, the Branch Deputy Chairman (deputising for Chairman Ronda Nix OAM, who was unable to attend), presented a special commemorative plaque on behalf of the Association to Tim Fairfax AC in sincere appreciation of his generous sponsorship of the annual Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards since 2015. Well done and sincere thanks Tim.

Since the awards programme began in 1999, the Queensland Branch has presented secondary schools citizenship awards to 305 students representing 132 schools. We salute all these students and the many others who were nominated but were not successful over these 25 years. The Queensland Branch can feel justly proud of this initiative – still going strong after 25 years and hopefully still with lots more to give.

NEWS FROM THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION



Dr Helen Nugent AO, Chairman

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Her Excellency the Governor-General will announce the Order of Australia Association Foundation 2024 Scholarship awardees at the end of November. This is after this edition of *The Order* magazine goes to print, so the 2024 awardees will be announced by e-Newsletter to members of the Association. This edition of *The Order* reports on the experience over the past year of the six 2023 awardees.

Each Scholar receives two key types of benefits: \$40,000 in financial assistance, and a mentor who is a member of the Order of Australia Association.

Financial assistance is made possible through the generous support of donors. In 2023, donors were Mr Paul Wheelton AM, The Order of Australia Association, The Goodeve Foundation, Mr Nicholas Paspaley AC, the McCusker Charitable Foundation and the Western Australian Branch of the Order of Australia Association.

Mentors selected for each awardee are acknowledged and are thanked by the Foundation for the difference they have made in the life of each awardee.

BENEFITS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The 2023 awardees have told us of the diverse ways they have benefited from the Scholarship's financial assistance.

Hukam Kohli (Law/Commerce, University of Western Australia) says the financial support has allowed him to focus more deeply on his studies without the burden of financial stress. "This has allowed me to excel in my degree," he says, "with my passion for commercial and corporate law growing significantly due to the intersection between incorporating this work within my outreach in the community".

Chelsea Allen (Bachelor of Business and Health Science, Swinburne University of Technology), explains how the funding has facilitated her studying in Sweden, allowing her to “challenge myself and step outside my comfort zone”.

Luke Barron (Bachelor of Marine Science, Deakin University) has fully immersed himself in his studies, while working and volunteering in ways aligned to his career ambitions. This includes working “with the Warrnambool City Council on the Middle Island Project where Maremma Guardian dogs were used to protect the local population of Fairy Penguins, and run tours to engage the public with active conservation initiatives.” He also travelled to Borneo, the Philippines and Indonesia, where he explored a possible Honours Project on the uses for plastic pollution. Luke has taken on a “placement with Parks Victoria monitoring invasive kelp within Port Phillip Bay and with the Wetland Revival Trust working with Indigenous Rangers in Northwestern Victoria revegetating and rehydrating native wetlands”.

Lotte George (Bachelor of Biomedical Science, University of Western Australia) travelled to Port Headland in regional Western Australia with the Teach Learn Grow Rural Programme to tutor mathematics and science at a primary school. She says she has chosen elective units without economic restrictions and has applied for postgraduate medicine through the Graduate Entry Medical School Admissions System (GEMSAS) after sitting the Graduate Medical School Admission Test (GAMSAT).

Bree Harris (Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science at Charles Darwin University) gave more time to her studies, completing 140 hours alongside accredited exercise physiologists, gaining hands-on experience with clients. This has sparked an interest in neuromuscular rehabilitation, working with clients with neurological conditions such as cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injuries and multiple sclerosis.

Roisin Wallace-Nash (Bachelor of Performing Arts, WAAPA) initiated the development of her first professional play as a writer and performer. The Scholarship has allowed her to dedicate time and practice to her first professional work. She is embarking on international travel for training to enhance her skills and contribute to her current play “Stacks”, providing an opportunity to work with global peers and mentors.

INVITATION FROM THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

WILL YOU HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

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

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

It is life changing for the recipient

The recipient receives \$40,000 paid over two years. For the students selected, the value of the Scholarship is life changing. In addition, the recipient receives mentorship from a member of the Order of Australia in the student’s area of expertise and career ambition. Winners have described this as having a benefit beyond money.

It is prestigious

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

It is well governed

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

It is tax deductible

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

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

You can help by making a donation to the Order of Australia Association Foundation, no matter how large or small. Donations made directly and indirectly attract DGR tax deductibility.

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

Credit Card: Please go to the Foundation Website: www.oaafoundation.org.au

Electronic Payment:

Name of Account: The Order of Australia Association Foundation Gift Account

BSB No: 013 006

Account No: 314 735 771

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

For further information, please contact:

Chairman, Order of Australia Association Foundation

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

Website: www.oaafoundation.org.au

--- ENDS ---