



The Order of Australia Association

NSW Branch Newsletter

November 2024

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

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



From your NSW Chairman John Gullotta AM

Dear NSW Members,

On the 25th 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 youth and will continue to hold these awards annually. We thank Her Excellency The Hon Margaret Beazley AC KC for her commitment to our Youth Awards and for hosting them at Government House Sydney, which is such a fitting venue for these prestigious awards. There is a full feature report in this month's Newsletter.

Our Christmas Luncheon will be held on the 30th November 2024 in the Cellos Grand Dining Room at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel. Our guest speaker will be confirmed shortly.

We will also be holding our 2025 Annual Australia Day Harbour Cruise and Luncheon aboard MV Captain Cook III. This is always a well enjoyed day on our beautiful Sydney Harbour and tickets sell fast so please book your tickets via the link. It includes a 3 course seated meal with soft and alcoholic drinks so it is very good value.



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I hope to see you all at these upcoming events.

The NSW Branch is attending as many regional events as possible and a sincere thank you to our Regional Director, David North OAM and our Hon. Secretary Diane North OAM for representing the NSW Branch in our regions, the lifeblood of our Association throughout regional and remote NSW.

Preparations are well under way for the Sydney Conference May 1-4th 2025 which also marks 50 years of The Order of Australia Awards. Registrations are coming in fast, so please register early to avoid missing out on the Welcome reception and Farewell Lunch as spaces are limited. There is more information and a link on our OAA National Website. We are now working on securing some very dynamic and motivating speakers and we 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.

Once again, I look forward to seeing some of you at our upcoming events, including our Christmas Luncheon on 30th November 2024 and Australia Day Cruise Luncheon on 26th Jan 25.

Kind regards

John

Dr John Gullotta AM

NSW Chairman

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



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

These can be companies but also individuals are welcome to be a sponsor. If you would like to be involved in sponsoring this milestone event, or know someone that can, then please contact the Conference Convenor,

Dr John Gullotta AM on chairnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

for further details and a sponsorship package.



From your NSW National Director David North OAM

The last National Order of Australia Association Board meeting was held on 18 October 2024. Sadly, we were told our National Membership Director Kathy Wooldridge does not intend to renominate for the position in 2025. Kathy will certainly be missed and has helped the NSW Branch on numerous occasions.

Nominations for the position of National Membership Director will be called for in 2024 and any member who may be interested in nominating should commence researching this position.

The conferences for Sydney in 2025 and Darwin in 2026 were discussed and the National Board was pleased with the progress on SYD25 and over 150 registrations so far.

The National Audit and Risk committee will shortly release a draft for consideration by Branches and their regional groups for comment on Working with Children policies and procedures.

Social media planning is still underway and the release of policies and procedures for consideration has been delayed.

Kathy Wooldridge has requested assistance from members of the Order of Australia Association to put together a history of the Association ready for the 50th anniversary in 2030. Please let me know if you have any special stories and photos that Kathy can use.

Kind regards

David

David North OAM

NSW Branch Nominated Director

Email: dirnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

New Members

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

Ms Margaret Covi OAM
Ms Brianna Casey AM
Ms Laura Greaves OAM
Mr Anthony Bastic AM
Rev'd Dr Graham Hill OAM
Professor Tracey A O'Brien AM
Mrs Fiona E Balfour AM

Upcoming NSW Branch Events

NSW BRANCH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Saturday 30th November 2024

CELLOS GRAND DINING ROOM, CASTLEREAGH BOUTIQUE HOTEL

BOOK NOW - <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/PP1F9>

2025 AUSTRALIA DAY CRUISE & LUNCHEON

Sunday 26th January 2025

ABOARD CAPTAIN COOK III

BOOK NOW - <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/QELJA>





THE
ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
ASSOCIATION

National Conference Sydney 2025

Conference Program

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

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Celebrating 50 years of The Order of Australia

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NOW**



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

**SCAN FOR
EARLY BIRD
SPECIAL RATE**

JOIN US AT SYD25

Annual OAA NSW Youth Community Service Awards Presentation Ceremony at Government House Sydney 25th October 2024

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. 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.

In his opening address, NSW Chairman, Dr John Gullotta AM, thanked Her Excellency Margaret Beazley AC KC for hosting the awards once again at Government House Sydney. “It is such a fitting location to present these prestigious awards to our NSW Year 11 & 12 student recipients” he said. 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,” Dr Gullotta said.

Communities served by past Awardees range from local to state, national and international. The Award was initiated in 1992 by Dr John Lincoln AM and first offered in 1993. It has been offered each year since then (except in 2020 due to Covid).

It was renamed the John Lincoln Youth Community Service Award on his passing in 2012 but reverted to its original title of Youth Community Service Award in 2019.

2024 marks the 30th year of the awards.

This year nominations were sought from 972 NSW High School Principals whose schools offer the NSW HSC (Higher School Certificate) or IB (International Baccalaureate) programs.

Nominations are considered by a judging panel of three Order of Australia recipients Mrs Lynnette Smith OAM, Ms Judy Gray OAM and Prof Jim Pratley AM.



Group photo of awardees, Award judges and NSW Branch Committee Members

This year there were 42 nominations of which 26 students were selected and recommended for the Award. For students not selected, Certificates of Commendation in recognition of their service were presented at their respective school award ceremonies.

Since inception in 1993 to date we have awarded 690 Youth Awards, of which 411 were female and 279 male. The Great majority of awards, 421 were from Sydney, 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.

Dr Gullotta AM concluded by thanking Dr Frank Kelleher OAM for his work in convening these awards 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.

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



Recipients enjoying the beautiful gardens of Government House Sydney



Award recipient, Lauren Edinborough with her family and Award Convenor Dr Frank Kelleher OAM and his wife Dianne.



NSW Governor, The Hon Margaret Beazley AC KC with a group of award recipients.



Award recipient, Christa-Maria Inaty with her family and NSW Committee members.

Youth Community Service Awards at Government House Sydney PHOTO GALLERY







From your Regional Group Co-ordinator David North OAM

Around the regions

In October Dianne (NSW Branch secretary) and I were on the road spending a most rewarding time with Manning - Great Lakes Regional Group at the Tuncurry War Memorial Hall for morning tea and then the Dubbo and Western NSW Regional Group lunch at the Dubbo RSL Memorial Club.

The **Manning - Great Lakes Regional Group morning tea** attended by around thirty members and guests celebrated and recognised the regions latest recipients Dr Anne Knight OAM and Mr Ron Irwin OAM. The morning tea was provided by the Great Lakes Palliative Care Support Incorporated group and proceeds for the morning tea supporting this group.

Australia Day 2024 Honours List.

Dr Anne Therese KNIGHT OAM

For service to medicine through a range of roles.

King's Birthday 2024 Honours List.

Mr Ronald Whitmore IRWIN OAM

For service to veterans and their families, and to local sport

The **Dubbo and Western NSW Regional Group lunch** was attended by over seventy members and guests with the guest speaker, Sue-Ellen Lovett OAM Australian Para-equestrian paralympic and author, while recent Order of Australia recipients were recognised.

King's Birthday 2023 Honours List.

Mrs Jennifer Jean ARMSTRONG,

For service to the community of Dubbo.

Australia Day 2024 Honours List.

Ms Sue-Ellen LOVETT OAM.

For service to horse sports, and to the community

Mrs Ellen Elizabeth STANMORE OAM

For service to the community of Dubbo.

Kind regards

David

David North OAM

NSW Regional Group Coordinator

Email: dirnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

OAA Manning - Great Lakes Morning Tea

Thursday 17th October 2024

- Report by Dianne North OAM

On Thursday 17th October the newly reformed Manning – Great Lakes Region held a morning tea at Tuncurry War Memorial Hall to congratulate the 2024 Australia Day and King's Birthday recipients of the region.

This group had not held a function since before COVID, but with thanks to the dynamic duo of Leigh Vaughan OAM and Helen Bryan OAM, this morning tea was a great success with 29 people attending to congratulate two of the region's new awardees, Ron Irwin OAM and Dr Anne Knight OAM.

Ron received his OAM for his service and dedication to veterans and sports associations over many years. Particular mention was made of all the work he did during the Nyngan floods some years ago. Anne, who is a Senior Lecturer in Medicine at Newcastle University, received her OAM for the many health roles in which she is involved, such as being a Consultant Physician and a Senior Specialist Physician.

NSW Regional Co-Ordinator David North OAM and NSW Hon. Secretary Dianne North OAM attended this inaugural function on behalf of the OAA NSW Branch to add to the congratulations. The delicious morning tea was catered by the local Palliative Care Support Group who are raising funds for palliative patients in the Forster-Tuncurry area.

The main topic of conversation was how to revive the committee and get functions happening again in the region. Leigh Vaughan OAM has agreed to be the Convenor and Helen Bryan has agreed to take on the role of Secretary/Treasurer. A number of people present agreed to assist them on the committee.



In Memoriam



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

“Forever in our hearts”

Nola J Barkl AM

Order of Australia Merchandise

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

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

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

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