



THE  
ORDER OF AUSTRALIA  
ASSOCIATION LTD  
VICTORIA BRANCH

## OAA VIC Branch Chair Report for 1 January to 31 December 31 2024

The Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch held four face-to-face events and one virtual in 2024 for members and guests plus a Thank You Reception for Order of Australia recipients who joined the Association in 2024.

Our Regional Groups also held face-to-face and virtual events ensuring ongoing connection with members.

There were 342 Order of Australia Honours & Awards recipients from Victoria announced on Australia Day and King's Birthday holiday. The percentage of recipients (134) converted to members in 2024 is 39.2%, an increase on the 2023 percentage.

Thank you to the recipients who joined the Association and members who encouraged recipients they know to join.

If you know Order of Australia recipients who have not joined the Association, please refer them to the [www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/membetrship-application/](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/membetrship-application/)

We thank the Governor of Victoria for the invitation to attend the Investitures in April and September recognising Order of Australia recipients for their exceptional achievements and contribution to Australia.

As VIC Branch Chair I extended the invitation to committee members to attend some of the 2024 Investitures.

OAA VIC Branch hosted Events in 2024:

19 March (Tuesday morning): Inspiring Australians Oration at the Melbourne Town Hall delivered by Fiona McLeod AO SC a Senior Counsel at the independent Bar in Australia practising in the areas of commercial and public law matters.

2008 Order of Australia Association Foundation scholarship recipient James Hicks shared his motivating journey prior to and post receiving his scholarship.

James mentor Graham Kraehe AO also attended the Oration.

Senior secondary school students were in attendance.

Event MC William Lye OAM KC

The 2024 Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 19 March at 1.00pm following the Oration.

25 June (Tuesday): Mid-Year Lunch at William Angliss Restaurant with speaker Alaa Elzokm OAM. Egyptian born, Alaa values the diversity of the community and multifaith acceptance of him.

2023 Order of Australia Association Foundation scholarship recipient undertaking a bachelor of Marine Science at Deakin University also spoke at the lunch.

Event MC Dr Teresa De Fazio OAM

24 July (Wednesday twilight): Virtual event with speakers Ian Carson AM Co-founder of SecondBite and OAA National President The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO.

4 August (Sunday mid-morning): Melbourne Winter Masterpieces; Pharaoh Introductory Talk and Exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria.

9 October (Wednesday early afternoon): Thank You Reception for Order of Australia recipients who joined the Association in 2024. This event was held at Alex Theatre St Kilda.  
Event MC: David Mann AM

21 November (Thursday): End of Year Dinner at Stamford Plaza Melbourne.  
Pamela Clark AO chosen topic was The Mad Hatter and the Environment with a focus on the harmful effects of Mercury in the environment.  
2018 OAA Foundation scholarship recipient Hannah Gandy shared her studies, community work and employment with members and guests.  
Event MC Beverley Pinder OAM

There was an opportunity at most VIC Branch events in 2024 for members to purchase OAA Merchandise.

The VIC Branch acknowledges and thanks the Melbourne Town Hall, William Angliss Restaurant, Alex Theatre and Stamford Plaza Melbourne for their sponsorship and in-kind support during the year.  
We also appreciate the ongoing support we receive from the Australian Women's Choir lead by Wendy Stapleton.

The VIC Branch still has a vacancy for a Treasurer or Bookkeeper to manage the Branch financial records.

During the year the VIC Branch committee had the opportunity to provide national with comments on Policies, Procedures, Strategic Plan, By-Laws and Futures Outcomes; thank you to the Regional Groups who also provided comments.

The Branch values the service received from National Membership Officer (Heather), National Bookkeeper (Jim) and staff in the office of the Governor-General.

On behalf of the VIC Branch I thank committee members for their input during the year; also appreciate the ongoing support from members attending events, buying merchandise, nominating potential Order of Australia recipients, providing articles for our quarterly E-Newsletter and renewing membership.

## **2025 VIC Branch Event dates:**

### **Date: Friday 28 March**

Inspiring Australians Oration then Victoria Branch Annual General Meeting

Time: 10.15am for 10.30am Oration

12.30pm sign in for 12.35pm Annual General Meeting (AGM)

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

**Cost:** \$10 per person GST included + booking fee for Oration includes light refreshments.

<https://www.trybooking.com/CYMNJ>

No cost to attend the AGM.

<https://www.trybooking.com/CYMNK>

**Date: Tuesday 22 July**

Mid-Year lunch

**Time:** 12noon for 12.30pm seating

**Venue:** Stamford Plaza Melbourne 111 Little Collins Street, Melbourne

**Date: Thursday 20 November**

End of Year Dinner

**Time:** 6.15pm for 6.30pm seating

**Venue:** Stamford Plaza Melbourne 111 Little Collins Street, Melbourne

Look forward to seeing you at OAA events during 2025; please refer to OAA VIC Branch Events website page: [www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/vic/upcoming-events/](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/vic/upcoming-events/)

Dr Helene Bender AM

Chair

Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch

Current 24 January 2025