



Welcome from VIC Branch Chair

Please enjoy the first edition of The Order of Australia Association Ltd (OAA) Victoria Branch E-Newsletter for 2025.

Wishing you all a year of good health, happiness and peace.

Hope you and those special to you enjoyed the various festive celebrations since our November 2024 E-Newsletter.

Congratulations to the 105 outstanding Victorians recognised in the Order of Australia Honours list on Australia Day. These recipients have made a difference in their community plus some at the national or international level. They are truly inspiring recipients from diverse backgrounds making a difference.

Thank you to those members who nominated these worthy recipients. The only barrier to outstanding people being recognised in the Order of Australia Honours list is the absence of a nomination.

Welcome to the 2025 Australia Day Order of Australia recipients who have joined the Association, look forward to seeing you during the year.

The VIC Branch first event for the year is the Inspiring Australians Oration to be delivered by John Wylie AC and 2004 OAA Foundation scholarship recipient Felicia Eng will give members and guests an update on her community work and employment. Following the Oration at the Angliss Conference Centre is the VIC Branch Annual General Meeting on Friday 28 March 2025.

Please refer to page 2 for the invitation and booking details for the Inspiring Australian Oration.

Dr Helene Bender AM - VIC Branch Chair **M:** 0407 261 951 **E:** chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

The Order of Australia Association Limited (OAA), Victoria Branch Annual General Meeting (AGM), will be held on **Friday 28 March 2025** commencing at 12.35pm.

Venue is Angliss Conference Centre

555 La Trobe Street, Melbourne

Sign in from 12.30pm following the Inspiring Australians Oration.

There are committee vacancies offering opportunities for a Treasurer/Bookkeeper and a Secretary to join the OAA VIC Branch committee.



Monday 10 February 2025, the Annual General Meeting Notice of Meeting, Nomination Form for VIC Branch committee positions and Proxy Form was emailed to financial members with an email address noted on the national database and mailed to members without an email address noted.

Please refer to <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/vic/vic-annual-general-meeting/> for AGM agenda, Chair and Financial reports, Meetings & Events Schedule and Position Descriptions.

Booking to attend the AGM is via TryBooking link <https://www.trybooking.com/CYMNK>





THE
ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
ASSOCIATION LTD
VICTORIA BRANCH

Inspiring Australians Oration

Invitation to OAA Members and Guests

Friday 28 March 2025

Doors open 10.00am for 10.30am start

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

Oration will be delivered by **John Wylie AC**



John has been a CEO and builder of financial services businesses for over 30 years. After completing undergraduate studies at University of Queensland and a Rhodes scholarship at Oxford University, he started his career in finance in London.

In 2007 he launched Tanarra in 2015 after retiring from Lazard and through Tanarra is active in venture capital investing around the world in a wide range of emerging fields such as genomics, AI, computer chip design, digital healthcare, renewable energy and robotics.

John is actively involved in public and community organisations, having served as President, Chair and Board Member of various organisations.

2004 OAA Foundation Scholarship recipient **Felicia Eng** Graduated Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) Bachelor of Science will talk about her community work and current employment.

Cost: \$10 per person includes GST + booking fee. Light refreshments will be served after the formalities event scheduled to finish at 12.25pm.

OAA Merchandise will be sold at this event

Book by Friday 21 March at <https://www.trybooking.com//CYMNJ>

Members: Order of Australia large medal may be worn at the Oration

Enquires or questions please contact OAA VIC Branch Chair Helene Bender AM

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



SAVE
THE
DATE

OAA VIC Branch Events 2025

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

Mid-Year Lunch in Melbourne CBD

Date: Tuesday 22 July

Venue: Stamford Plaza Melbourne 111 Little Collins Street, Melbourne

Speaker: Jenny Gowan AM. Citation: For significant service to medicine as a pharmacist, to professional societies, and to community health.

End of Year Dinner

Date: Thursday 20 November

Venue: Stamford Plaza Melbourne 111 Little Collins Street, Melbourne

Speaker: Georgina Gubbins OAM. Citation: For service to primary industry, and to the community.

OAA members and their guests are welcome to attend VIC Branch and Regional Group Events.

OAA VIC Branch Regional Group Annual General Meetings for 2025, please refer to website:

<https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/vic/upcoming-events/>

OAA VIC Branch Regional Group NEWS

Central Highlands Wimmera Regional Group

Sunday 18 May

Annual Lunch - venue to be confirmed

Sunday 19 October

Spring Lunch - Horsham

Contact Jean Wise OAM Email: honeywise@bigpond.com

Gippsland Regional Group

Sunday 23 March

AGM at 2.00pm with a High Tea to follow

Rotary Centenary House Traralgon

For further information contact Doug Caulfield OAM Email: emnetworksolutions@gmail.com

Loddon Campaspe Regional Group

Friday 4 April

10.30am Visit to Rochester Sports Museum, Annual Mural Exhibition & Lunch

Excursion & Luncheon at Maldon via Goldfields Railway Castlemaine to Maldon & Return

V-line return travel between Bendigo [and places south] to Rochester is available.

Guided Museum tour with Bob Knight OAM. 12 noon. Lunch at a negotiated venue in Rochester
Venue, menu and costs to be advised to attendees prior this trip] 2pm Stroll through the 2025
Rochester Mural Exhibition [gold coin donation]

The murals are mainly in Mural Park in Moore Street [site of the railway station] and Gillies street.

This event began in 2015 after the 2011 floods.

- Leaves Bendigo Station 8.30 am

- Leaves Rochester at 3.35 pm.

Bookings are essential for this event, contact Deb Fleming OAM on Mobile: 0409 542 619

Wednesday 17 September

10.45am Heritage train trip from Castlemaine to Maldon and return, with lunch at historic Maldon

An outing through the countryside between Castlemaine and Maldon on a vintage steam train
promises to be a most enjoyable experience.

12 noon: Lunch in central Maldon

Afternoon activities include: A walk along the main streets of central Maldon to look over many
interesting shops and businesses, a tour of Maldon Museum, a tour of the Maldon Heritage
Machinery Museum, a visit to Maldon Information Centre, etc.

Castlemaine – Maldon: Depart Castlemaine 10.45 am. Arrive Maldon 11.30 am

Maldon – Castlemaine: Depart Maldon 4.00 pm Arrive Castlemaine 4.45 pm

Bookings are essential for this event, contact Deb Fleming OAM on Mobile: 0409 542 619

Melbourne Central Regional Group

Friday 21 March

Kooyong Tennis Club 11.45am AGM, 12.30pm Lunch

Cost: \$85.00 GST incl.

At the lunch there will be a conversation lead by Rupert Myer AO, Australian Council for the Arts
and Tony Ellwood AM Director, National Gallery of Victoria.

For further information contact Trevor Clark OAM Email: tclark@bigpond.net.au

North East Victoria & Goulburn Valley Regional Group

Sunday 23 March

Annual General Meeting and March Lunch

Benalla Lakeside Market at Benalla Showground – 12.00pm for 12.30pm

Guest Speaker: Reg Poole OAM Country and Western singer

Cost \$65.00 GST incl.

For further information contact Secretary Margaret Attley OAM Email: negvoaa@protonmail.com

Sunday 12th October

Luncheon – Fowles Winery, Guest Speaker: Matt Fowles the Winemaker (includes Wine tasting).



Western Suburbs Regional Group

AN INVITATION TO ALL OAA VIC BRANCH MEMBERS

Please join Western Suburbs Regional Group for our first event of 2025, which promises to be a new beginning for us as we move from the third Thursday of the month, which we have maintained since the group was formed, to piloting a Sunday lunch meeting three times a year.

Sunday 23 February

Annual General Meeting commences at 12.30pm sharp; Lunch at 1 pm

Venue: Pascoe Vale Hotel, Railway Parade, Pascoe Vale

There is plenty of parking at PVH, both on Railway Parade and in the hotel carpark behind the main building. Pascoe Value railway station is also just a few minutes' walk away for those who prefer not to drive.

You are invited to order your meal and drinks at the bar when you arrive. Meals will be served in the room reserved for us starting at 1 pm after the AGM has concluded.

Our guest speaker is William Lye OAM KC, Deputy National Chairman of the Order of Australia Association. William was appointed last year after serving as the Victoria Branch representative on the Board for several years. Born in Malaysia, William chose Australia as his home, achieving academic distinction with degrees in Computer Science and Law from Monash University, and a postgraduate degree in Entrepreneurship and Innovation from Swinburne University of Technology. The seeds planted during his university days blossomed into a legal career of considerable breadth, touching on commercial law, intellectual property and the intricate nuances of international arbitration and mediation.



Since his admission to the Victorian Bar in 1988, William has navigated the legal landscape with an exceptional ability that led to his appointment as Senior Counsel (now King's Counsel) in 2018. He is the first Malaysia-born of Chinese descent to have been appointed in that rank since the establishment of the Bar in Australia. Reflecting the global reach of his legal expertise, William serves on international panels such as the Czech Arbitration Court, focusing on domain name disputes.

His passion extends beyond the courtroom and into the heart of community service. For his extensive service to the law and community, William was awarded the OAM in 2017. Further accolades, including *Barrister of the Year* and the *Excellence Award* from the *Lawyers Weekly Australian Law Awards*, attest to his standing in the legal community.

On a personal level, William's life is a partnership with Cheri Ong. Cheri is a leader who has her own impressive list of achievements, including founding the Asian Australian Foundation and serving on the board of the State Library of Victoria. William and Cheri have two sons, each with his own distinct success, in computational architecture and contemporary art. Their sons' achievements are a testament to the family's emphasis on education, innovation and creativity.

As always, friends and family are welcome.

Please reply to oaamelbwest@gmail.com by Tuesday 18 February

South Central Suburbs Regional Group

Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 2 April

The Annual General Meeting of the Order of Australia Association Ltd Vic Branch South Central Suburban Regional Group will be held at the Bridge Hotel Mordialloc, Nepean Highway Aspendale on Wednesday 2nd of April at 11.00 AM.

This is a special time for our Regional Group with the election of the Regional Group Committee for the next 12 months and the dealing of other statutory business.



After the AGM is lunch with two speakers Paul Hameister OAM and his daughter Jade Hameister OAM on the subject of Climbing Seven Summits and Trekking the Polar Hat Trick. Cost \$40 (GST incl) for a one course meal with a welcome drink plus tea or coffee.

Further drinks shall be at an additional cost.

For booking and payment information contact Secretary Graeme Woolacott OAM on 0408 345 049 or via email woolyg@bigpond.com

Welcome Reception 2024

South Central Suburbs Regional Group members are predominately from Cities of Glen Eira, Kingston and Bayside.

Each year, one of these councils hosts a Welcome Reception for the new Australia Day and King's Birthday Order of Australia Recipients.

This function is held on a rotating basis and the City of Kingston hosted the function at Woodlands Golf Club to congratulate the 2024 Australia Day and King's Birthday Honours and Awardees.

The event late last year was attended by the Order of Australia Recipients, Members of Parliament, the three council CEO's and Mayors, many councillors and OAA SCSRG committee members.

The Order of Australia Recipients were invited individually to the stage to be congratulated and receive a framed Certificate and small token of appreciation.



Upcoming Events

Wednesday 16 July 2025

Mid-year lunch – 12 noon The Sandringham Club

Thursday 13 November 2025

End of year dinner – 6.30pm The Bridge Hotel Mordialloc

South Central Suburbs Regional Group

End of Year Dinner 2024

SCSRG hold an end of year dinner every year, and last year it was held at The Bridge Hotel Mordialloc late November.

The venue was decorated festively and was well attended by a group of members, friends and family. We were delighted to welcome new Order of Australia recipients also. The dinner menu offered a multitude of choices, and was served by friendly smiling staff.

When everyone was seated, the MC, Roger Wilson OAM introduced the Chairman, Jill Page OAM who gave the acknowledgement of country.

The MC then introduced the Guest Speaker Geoff Bransbury OAM. Geoff had an unusual retirement, as he made a decision to travel the world, solo, on his motorcycle. His journey covered five continents, covering 90,000km. Geoff told his story about his journey from Vladivostock, Siberia to London, warmly and honestly, telling of some humorous episodes, keeping the audience engaged.

He had countless adventures, some hair raising and some inspirational. One of the highlights were the many countless friendly and hospitable people he met, proving language was not a barrier. He was always welcome where ever he travelled. In London, he was met by his wife, Merry, who is an accomplished equestrian, where he relaxed, and welcomed having clean clothes and a proper bathroom again.

Photo of the intrepid Geoff Bransbury OAM on his trusty motor bike during his travels



South West Regional Group

Sunday 2 March

Warrnambool RSL, 1 Artillery Crescent, Warrnambool, commencing at 12pm

Cost for lunch \$30 (incl GST) for members and \$35 (incl GST) for nonmembers



Speaker at the Lunch after the AGM is Leila McDougall who wrote the screenplay *Just a Farmer*, produced and also starred in the movie. The movie addresses mental health challenges in rural communities and first screened in 2024. Information on *Just a Farmer* can be found at this link: <https://www.justafarmermovie.com/>

To book contact Georgina Gubbins OAM Email: maneroofarms94@gmail.com

Profiling 2025 Australia Day Order of Australia recipients

Selba-Gondoza Luka OAM

Selba-Gondoza Luka OAM is founder and CEO of Afri-Aus Care Inc. In addition to being a trained Mental Health Clinician, Selba's work at Afri-Aus Care has also seen her become a grassroots community leader and impassioned advocate for ending family violence and implementing the NDIS within the African Australian community.

Afri-Aus Care is a not-for-profit organisation that provides culturally appropriate support services to at-risk African Australian youth, their families, and the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community at large. Selba-Gondoza takes a bottom-up strength-based approach to her work and delivers essential services through the concept of UBUNTU and the Positive Change Model, a theory of change that she established. UBUNTU (meaning humanity in some Bantu languages, such as Zulu) describes a set of closely related Bantu African-origin value systems that emphasize the interconnectedness of individuals with their surrounding societal and physical worlds. She has been an innovator of positive crime prevention strategies



that promote social cohesion by emphasising connections between community members and stakeholders. Following this methodology has seen Selba-Gondoza co-found the Black Rhinos Basketball Club, the UBUNTU Peer-to-Peer Restorative Family Youth Program, and the Empowering African Woman: UBUNTU in Practice initiative.

Selba-Gondoza's engagement with key community stakeholders has empowered her to be a strong and effective advocate for CALD peoples. Selba-Gondoza is a Charter Member of the Rotary Passport

Club of Melbourne and has served as the Deputy Convenor for Police Victoria's African Australian Community Taskforce. She also holds positions on the University of Melbourne AREiA Advisory Board, the Department of Health CALD Health Advisory Committee, the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Volunteer Strategy Committee, and the Victorian Multicultural Commission Regional Advisory Committee – to mention just a few.

Selba-Gondoza's leadership within Victoria's CALD community has been recognised through awards such as the Rotary Phonse Tobin Award and the VMC Meritorious Service to the Community in the Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence. More recently, Selba-Gondoza was awarded the 2021 Citizen of the Year by the City of Greater Dandenong.

Selba-Gondoza Luka OAM joined the Association this month; she is a member of the OAA Victoria Branch Eastern Suburbs Regional Group.

Photo credit Berwick Star News

Profiling 2025 Australia Day Order of Australia recipients

John Head OAM

John Head OAM is many things: husband, father, grandfather, friend, artist, actor, writer, podiatrist and business owner to name a few.

John is the owner and principle podiatrist of Shepparton Foot Clinic. He purchased the business in November 1983 after completing a Bachelor of Podiatry at Lincoln Institute (later La Trobe University) in Melbourne. John since completed a Graduate Diploma of Podiatry in 1993 and a Masters of Health Sciences in 2002 at La Trobe University Melbourne on the topic of Bone Metabolism.

John attained a fellowship of the Australasian Academy of Podiatric Sports Medicine in 1996 and has been a sports podiatrist volunteer in the medical departments of the 2000 Sydney Olympics and the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games. He has also lectured extensively at podiatry and sports medicine conferences on the topics of bone injury and foot pathology.

John is an endorsed podiatric prescriber for approved medications including some antibiotics and anti-inflammatories. John is highly qualified and skilled in most aspects of general podiatry and is committed to providing the Goulburn Valley with top quality podiatry for a reasonable price.

John was also on the board of the SheppARTon Festival between 1999 and 2015 with the role of Artistic Director from 2005 to 2014. He is a Board member of the Shepparton Theatre Arts Group and a regular actor and playwright. John paints portraits in his spare time and plays the harmonica after two glasses of good red wine.



John Head OAM has been involved in the arts scene in Shepparton for decades.

He's now been recognised for his contribution with an Order of Australia Medal.

Photo in the Shepparton News by Rodney Braithwaite

John Head OAM joined the Association this month; he is a member of the OAA Victoria Branch North East Victoria & Goulburn Valley Regional Group



Profiling 2025 Australia Day Order of Australia recipients

Dr Robyn Miller AM

MacKillop Family Services CEO Dr Robyn Miller has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to children, young people and families.

The honour recognises Dr Miller's 40 years of tireless commitment to transforming the lives of children and families in need of support, and her leadership in advocating for systemic change to deliver better outcomes for disadvantaged children, young people and families.

Dr Miller's community service began as a volunteer for St Vincent de Paul and the Brotherhood of St Laurence, whilst studying Social Work at RMIT University. She completed her Clinical Masters in Family Therapy and later worked at the Bouverie Family Therapy Centre for 14 years, before becoming the Chief Practitioner at the Department of Human Services in Victoria, where she was responsible for professional leadership of Victoria's child protection, out of home care, family support and family violence services.



Seeing the need to address the challenging issue of sexual exploitation of young people, Dr Miller took on a role as a consultant to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, before accepting her current role as CEO at MacKillop Family Services in 2016.

Since her appointment at MacKillop, Dr Miller has led a significant expansion in service delivery, with MacKillop now operating nationally and employing more than 2,200 employees to provide family support, family violence, out of home care, homelessness, disability and education support programs to thousands of children, young people and families.

Passionate about early intervention to address the trauma experienced by children and families, Dr Miller has initiated innovative programs that provide outreach and practical support to those who need it most. These include Power to Kids – a child sexual abuse prevention program inspired by the findings of the Royal Commission – which has been delivered in residential care nationally, and is currently being expanded into schools.

She also has a commitment to continuous improvement, which has driven the establishment of partnerships with universities across Australia, and the creation of the MacKillop Institute, a training organisation that shares evidence-based programs to other agencies and services nationally.

In response to receiving the Award, Dr Miller said: "I am deeply humbled to be recognised with an Order of Australia, although the people who really deserve an Award are the brave children and families I am privileged to work with every day. They are the real heroes, and I consider myself fortunate that I have had the opportunity to work with them throughout my career."

Photo and article credit MacKillop Family Services

Profiling 2025 Australia Day Order of Australia recipients

Dr Robyn Miller AM

"I dedicate this Award to the children and families I have worked with, the extraordinary staff and carers at MacKillop, and all my colleagues in the sector, whose unwavering commitment to keeping children safe and supporting families makes a real difference every day."

For MacKillop's Board Chair, Charles Reis, "Dr Miller exemplifies the values that guide our organisation. Her leadership has had a profound and lasting impact on countless lives, and this recognition is richly deserved."

Dr Robyn Miller AM joined the Association this month; she is a member of the OAA Victoria Branch Melbourne Central Regional Group

Christine Wheal OAM & John "Tony" Wheal OAM

Husband and wife team Christine and John "Tony" Wheal have both been honoured 2025 Australia Day with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), for their service to their hometown of Barwon Heads.



The award is recognition for their decades of active volunteerism that includes postings at the All Saints Opportunity Shop in Hitchcock Avenue, the Ocean Grove Barwon Heads RSL Sub-branch, the Geelong Aero Club and for Tony, a non-operational position with the Barwon Heads Fire Brigade.

For the couple, who has lived in Barwon Heads for 27 years, the award has provided them with a newfound sense of belonging.

"There's a saying around town that you're not locals for, most people say 25 years, but the really old ones say you've got to be here 40 years, but the award is recognition that maybe we are locals," Tony said.

"It makes you appreciate that people see what you do. Neither of us blow our own trumpets...somebody else has done that for us, and we appreciate it very much," Christine added.

The extent of this humility became clear when Bellarine Times reporter Ellie Claringbold was speaking with Christine who revealed the couple had not yet informed their children that they were recipients of the significant accolade.

Some of the couple's most rewarding experiences have come from their time with the local RSL, where their focus has been on providing welfare support and funding to veterans in need.

"The highlight's just seeing someone smile sometimes after you've helped...it's just being able to make people's life better," Christine said.

"A lot of these people have got nobody that comes to see them. Anything they need, we'll try to help them achieve it."

Photo and article credit of Christine Wheal OAM & John "Tony" Wheal OAM - Bellarine Times Elli Claringbold

Profiling 2025 Australia Day Order of Australia recipients

Christine Wheal OAM & John "Tony" Wheal OAM

Privately, the couple has also been supporting a local family of Tamil refugees for about 12 years, helping to teach them English, cover their living expenses while they battled visa limbo and providing a sense of community.

The family refers to the Wheal's as mum and dad.

Despite their years of dedicated service to their local community, neither Christine nor Tony has any intention of stopping.

"I have no plans to alter what I do...it keeps you happy, keeps you well," Christine said.

"You're out there, you're having good conversations with people, and if they're sad, you're there to put an arm around them. I just can't imagine life any other way."

Christine Wheal OAM and John "Tony" Wheal OAM joined the Association this month; they are members of the OAA Victoria Branch Baron Regional Group.

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).



OAA Lapel Badge from merchandise shop



OA Lapel Pin from Investiture



Reminder: The OAA Lapel Badge with magnetic fitting is not the Order of Australia lapel pin recipients receive with the medal pack at their Investiture. of

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

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

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

Nonprofit Accounting for Volunteers, Treasurers, and Bookkeepers



The Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch committee appreciates the ongoing support we receive from our members attending events, buying merchandise, nominating potential Order of Australia recipients, providing articles for our quarterly E-Newsletter and renewing their membership.

Merchandise Shop

Online shopping: <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart/>



Above is a range of OAA Merchandise available from the Merchandise Shop for members, family and friends to buy

L-R: Apron (unisex) \$30. Blue/gold pen in gift box \$7. Premium Cap \$21 - other hats and beanies also available. Blank greeting card with envelope pack of 5 for \$10. Cooler bag \$20. Loop scarf (unisex) \$26 –other scarf options available. Ties \$30, aqua and white striped and charcoal grey also available.

Plus postage & handling noted on merchandise website

Online shopping: <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart/>



THE
ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL CONFERENCE SYDNEY 1-4 MAY 2025

Sofitel Sydney Wentworth



CELEBRATE | MOTIVATE | NOMINATE

"Inspiring Australian Achievers"

Celebrating 50 years of The Order of Australia

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

SCAN FOR
EARLY BIRD
SPECIAL RATE

Conference Program

THURSDAY 1st MAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION AT SOFTEL 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

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER YOUR](#)

RESOURCES - Promotion Tools

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

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

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.

Working Together-Building the Future

This was the 2023 national conference theme.

At times our paths cross with other Order of Australia recipients who have not joined the Order of Australia Association for various reasons. Perhaps the time is now right to have the conversation and invite them to join.

This year the OAA VIC Branch has welcomed new members from recipients of 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2022 in addition to 2025 Australia Day recipients.

If you know Order of Australia recipients who have not joined the Association please offer them a copy of this E-Newsletter and advise them of the online membership application link - www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/membership-application

Working together we are able to build our future

OAA VIC Branch Regional Group Chairs at 1 February 2025

Barwon

Wayne Myers OAM

Central Highlands Wimmera

John Burt OAM

Eastern Suburbs

Geoffrey Grinton OAM

Frankston Mornington Peninsula

Heather Barton AM

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

