



The Order of Australia Association NSW Newsletter MARCH 2024



Dear NSW Members,

This is my last monthly newsletter to the NSW Branch members. A sad milestone for me but I remember a friend boldly stating at his last meeting as National President of an organization on whose Executive I held a significant role: “For three years I have been IT. Now I am EX-IT, and I will assure you I am

exiting as I do not want to be the albatross in the room, cramping my successor’s leadership style,

thinking and planned initiatives.” So memorable was his message, that I have emulated that in most of my roles as I believe three years should be the maximum in any one role: first year you are learning, the second year you are getting on top of the initiatives, and the third year is for training/preparing your successor. This approach is for seamless succession, constant and energy progression, and never to risk setting back the organization for staying too long and undoing all the achievements during your time of leadership.

I have enjoyed my time on the Branch Committee, firstly as Branch Treasurer, then Branch Deputy Chairman and the NSW Branch Nominated Director on the Association’s National Board, and lastly as Branch Chairman.

The multitude of inspirational recipients of the Order of Australia I have met is one of the greatest enjoyments, as well as attending Investiture Ceremonies, countless gatherings in the regions and in Sydney, and meeting the winners of our Branch’s highly esteemed High School Community Service awardees at Government House. Meetings with our State Governors and the Governors-General are especially part of the enjoyment too.

Our Branch Committee has been blessed with initiative-oriented members who have volunteered countless hours during a socially distanced challenged pandemic time and I am greatly indebted to them for their support. Likewise, the Regional Convenors and their committees have done so much to keep the members together in tough times.

I sincerely trust and hope the members will support the nominations of Dr John Gullotta AM as my successor and Matha Jabour AM as Deputy Chair for they are key to seamless succession for the Branch Committee’s leadership and NSW Branch’s hosting of the 2025 National Conference when we celebrate fifty years of the Order of Australia and forty-five years of The Order of Australia Association.

Please come to the 2024 Branch Annual General Meeting to participate in our future and have your say. Best wishes,

Jim Mein AM jimmein @bigpond.com Branch Chairman

NSW BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FOR YOUR DIARY: TUESDAY 19 March, 2024

11 am sharp: Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, 69 Castlereagh Street, Sydney

Papers were emailed to all NSW Members on 26 February

Please use this link: www.stickytickets.com.au/E82D5

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2024: 16 – 19 May, See details in the cover email

<https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/national-conference-2024/>

SAVE THE DATE: 1 – 4 MAY 2025 – ANNUAL CONFERENCE SYDNEY

Sofitel Sydney Wentworth, 61 Phillip Street, Sydney

The theme of our 2025 Conference will to: CELEBRATE/MOTIVATE/NOMINATE – “Inspiring Australian Achievers”

MEET OUR MEMBERS:

Professor Michael Ralph Fellows AC:

See our story about Professor Fellows AC and other NSW Members on our website at <https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/nsw/meet-our-member/>

Professor Michael Fellows AC HFRSNZ MAE, pictured with his wife Fran.



Professor Michael Fellows AC FRSNZ MAE was awarded Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in 2016 for eminent service to Higher education, particularly in the field of theoretical computer science, as a leading academic, researcher and author, as a mentor, and through public outreach programs particularly children.

Besides his work in mathematics, algorithms and complexity theory, Mike is noted for his seminal contributions to the popular communication of the mathematical sciences and related efforts in Computer Science curriculum reform at all age levels, including the much-translated “Computer Science Unplugged” (with New Zealand coauthors Tim Bell and Ian Witten), which has had substantial world-wide impact.

For these two contributions, Mike received Australia’s highest civilian honor, Order of Australia, Companion (AC). He is also listed on New Zealand’s remarkable *Hobbit List* (technically:

[HonFRSNZ](#)).

Having identified some kind of structure in our real-world problem instance, parameterized complexity explores how to exploit that structure (parameters) in order to solve the problem more efficiently and to make the problem tractable, *Fixed Parameter Tractable* (FPT). FPT is the *signal* that mathematical structure is available to be exploited algorithmically.

Roberta Conroy OAM

Dedicated community and environmental advocate Roberta Conroy was recognized with an OAM in the 2024 Australia Day Honours for her service to the community of the Northern Beaches of Sydney, contributing to Council, NSW and Federal government committees, Katandra Sanctuary, Pittwater Environmental Trust, Pittwater RSL Sub-branch, JP service, and awards and grants judging

Roberta believes her passion for service and advocacy were developed by her family but also as a student at Mount St Benedict College, strongly influenced by the Good Samaritan Sisters, leading to

achieving some wonderful outcomes eg the legacy Church Point precinct project bringing together on

.and offshore residents and creating a beautiful community space, impressive stairs linking Bayview to Church Pt, school breakfast clubs and opening school grounds out of hours for community use, and contributing her environmental expertise to local and State government planning

Roberta was also recognized for her tireless work and vision with the Northern Beaches Council Australia Day Award and as Pittwater Woman of the Year in 2020.



Brett Murray OAM was awarded his Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division of the Australia Day Awards in 2024, for service to children.

Brett co-founded, and became CEO of SafeHeart Foundation (formerly Make Bullying History Foundation. 1995 – 2015.)

He designed and delivered (in partnership with Cronulla Sharks) The Sharks Make Bullying History initiative 2015 – 2022.

In 2020 He founded The Resistance, focused on Men's health. And Founded Blood Brothers – Men's Ministry in 2018.

His publications include:

Your Game Plan, CMDR Publishing 2021; Game Plan, Arkhouse, 2018; Make Buying History, Down to Earth, 2012; A Good Swift Kick, E-book 2011; Give Yourself Permission to Fly, Finch Publishing 2008; and I DARE Ya! Self Published, 2004 and second edition Arkhouse in 2006.



<http://safeheart.mbf.com.au/>

Farewell from your Editor, Louise Davis AM. I was awarded my AM on Queen's Birthday Honours 2018, and joined the NSW Branch Committee in 2019, working with then Chairman, Peter Falk OAM. When Jim Mein AM became Chairman I continued in this role. We went through the Covid period, and tried to be as innovative as we could, reaching out to our Members across the State and encouraging stories to share, from members in all regions. Our Members were very generous in sharing their

particular situation during the time we were all dealing with confinements. Since then, we have evolved their stories to be a series called "Meet Our Members". Once again, our Members have been very

generous in sharing their community work. All stories are on our website
<https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/nsw/meet-our-members>.

With special thanks to our Chairman Jim Mein AM, and our Committee members for making my time with the OAA NSW so enjoyable. Farewell. Louise Davis AM

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PS: Nobody could do this Communications job without the support of our National Membership Officer in Canberra, Heather Willis. A thousand thank yous dear Heather.