



The Order of Australia Association NSW Newsletter DECEMBER 2023



Dear NSW Members,

As we approach the end of year 2023, I am challenged by two comments from Richard Harris who authored a must-read book entitled “Imagine”: Imagine <https://amzn.asia/d/gVFStGP>

“To keep up to date, you need a mindset of change” and

“To succeed, you need champions of great ideas who escalate change, change for peace.”

Both attracted me as 2023 has been a roller coaster of troubling events, like the conflicts in the Ukraine, the Middle East, Sudan and Myanmar, the impacts of the failed Australian Referendum, fear-influenced worldwide politics, socio-economic pressures such as on living costs, increasing natural disasters, and growing inequality in Australia and overseas.

Add to this, the world needs hope for a better time ahead in 2024 and beyond.

Keeping up to date is but the start of the journey. The harder task is looking for value -adding changes, well ahead. How can we be different and what does the future hold? What changes are happening?

What are the opportunities? What do the current and potential markets and the governing legislation behold? In all my charity, not-for-profit, and for-profit experiences over decades, the biggest questions centered around the “what if”? It is one thing to be a strategic thinker, but there are fewer people who are futuristic.

Futurists seem to be a somewhat dying race. They have the ability to envisage what has yet to come, as remote as that might be. Some may say the strategist thinks within the next five years, but the futurist may be guilty of dreaming and thinking well beyond that time of the might-be possible. Let me share one actual example.

An age care organization on whose board I once served for many years engaged such a futurist. That was two decades ago. Internationally renowned as a member of the Club of Rome, he cornered me in an

amazing series of conversations about the future of ageing, particularly on the preface of “what if” and how would I react. The best example was: what if voluntary assisted dying was legislated? Would your values allow this? What type of facility change would that need? How would you promote that? And so on. That is now close to a reality.

That would certainly require a mindset change. Would that get you a competitively strategic advantage if you are readily able to implement such a service, once legislated? What is the likelihood, and when? A great idea? How would you champion the idea? When do you begin to promote the impossible to get it to happen? Why don't leaders think well ahead?

At this time, the world needs both strategists and futurists to influence us to see well into the future. They can champion mindset changes for us, and may peace and community unity be the ultimate outcomes. If only that could be in 2024, or forever.

This my last Newsletter for 2023 and the next will be in February 2024. Enjoy a safe, future thoughtful, energy recharging period over December and January.

Jim Mein AM, Branch Chairman, The Order of Australia Association
NSW jimmein@bigpond.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

26 January, 2024 – Annual Australia Day Cruise

Our Annual Cruise aboard MV Captain Cook III I a great day on our beautiful harbour with good food, drinks and an opportunity for front row seats on picturesque Sydney Harbour! To be held on Australia Day J– Friday 26 January 2024. Booking via: www.stickytickets.com.au/FIAB4

2025 Sydney Conference 1-5 May 2025

Planning is underway for our National Conference in Sydney in 2025. Details will be revealed in May 2024 at the Annual Conference in Perth.

A/P John Gulotta AM, Deputy Chairman, Metro Events & Public Relations Coordinator

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA 2023 KINGS BIRTHDAY AWARDEES CELEBRATION, PARLIAMENT HOUSE SYDNEY

On 31 October Judy Hannan, MP for Woollondilly and Member of the Legislative Assembly hosted 60 new Awardee Recipients, family and friends at a celebration lunch in the Strangers Dining Room at Parliament House Sydney.



CENTRAL COAST ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION held a morning tea at the Erina Leagues Club

Guest speaker was Kelly Gavin, Group Counselling and Community Programs Manager, Life Line Direct, Life Line Australia. Kelly spoke about the statistics of suicide on the Central Coast; the mitigating factors leading to suicide, Services provided by Life Line and Partnerships with other services. She also spoke about the gaps in funding for essential support.

We would like to thank the Erina Leagues Club for donating the use of the room and morning tea, free of charge.



Harold Sharp OAM, Convenor, Central Coast OAA NSW

ILLAWARRA BRANCH AGM AND LUNCHEON 3 NOVEMBER

Forty-three people gathered at Dapto Leagues Club on Friday 3rd November to celebrate with the 3 new recipients of awards announced in the King's Birthday Honours list.

Three of the new recipients were able to attend –

Arthur Booth who received his OAM for his services to the Illawarra community. Allan Leaver who received his OAM for services to railway heritage and Geoffrey Phillips who received his OAM for his services to broadcast media and the Illawarra community.

We were honoured to have OAA NSW Chair Jim Mein AM present at our function. We are grateful that Jim attends all our functions. He addressed the group and congratulated the new awardees. He

reminded everyone that there is still so much work to be done in our communities. He spoke about the upcoming NSW OAA Christmas party and the Australia Day cruise on Sydney Harbour. Dianne North, the group's events co-ordinator is organising a contingent of people from the Illawarra to attend both events.

Our guest speaker was Vicki Tiegs OAM who spoke about her life, starting as a sales assistant for Katies, then working for WIN television in Queensland and in the Illawarra, gaining 25 years of experience in media and marketing. Vicki now has her own events company, Waples Marketing and Blue juice Events.

Vicki received an OAM on Australia Day 2021 for her contribution to the Illawarra community. Vicki

chairs the International Women's Day Illawarra committee and has worked on numerous committees for local organisations. She was the cofounder of the Grants and Fundraising Institute in Wollongong, helping many organisations gain grant funding. Vicki was named Wollongong's Citizen of the year in 2018.

At the AGM a new committee member was elected – John Meehan OAM who received his award in 2009 for service to surf lifesaving and to the community. John will be a great asset on the committee. He is an active member of the OAA Illawarra Group and a regular volunteer at the OAA Illawarra group's Bunnings BBQs to fund a university scholarship. John joined Surf Life Saving in the 1957/58 season and in 2018 was recognised with a 60 Years Surf Life Saving Association Long Service Award. John has held positions including Vice Club Captain, Publicity Officer, First Aid Officer, Judicial Committee. John is a respected beach official at local, state and Australian carnivals. John is a Life Member of Surf Life

Saving Illawarra, Surf Life Saving NSW and the Surf Life Saving Association. John is also well known in baseball circles as the foundation president of the Pirates baseball club in 1967.

All other positions on the committee will remain the same, Phil Thompson OAM – Convenor, Judi O'Brien OAM – Secretary, David North OAM – Treasurer, Dianne North OAM – Events Co-ordinator, Graham Lancaster AM – Committee Member.



Jim Mein AM, with 3 new Recipients: Geoffrey Phillips OAM, Allan Leaver OAM, Arthur Booth OAM, with Phil Thompson OAM, Illawarra Regional Convenor.

HONOURS RECIPIENTS IN AGED CARE OR NURSING HOMES

Further to our article in last month's Newsletter, we have heard from Jackie Wood, who is the daughter of an Honours Awardee, Beverlee Adams AM, who was recognized in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2001, for her service to local government through the Scone Shire Council, to support for rural women, to sustainable agriculture and to environmental management.

Bev's list of accomplishments include time on the shire council as both shire president in 1989 – 1990 and deputy mayor from 1993 to 1995 and in 1995 Bev was voted as the ABC NSW Rural Woman of the Year. She has also been a member of the NSW's Premier's Council for Women, Chairman of the

Agribusiness sub-committee, Upper Hunter Towards 2000 Task Force and Chairman of the Agribusiness Sub Committee HEDC.

Bev is also recognized as a specialist in wildlife preservation and catchment management, and she helped set up the Hunter Valley Broom Council to eradicate the noxious weed, Scotch broom. In addition to these outstanding achievements, Bev also helped raise \$300,000 for research into the biological control of this plant.



We are delighted that Jackie contacted us as a result of our short article in the November Newsletter. If other Members of the OAA, or anyone with a relative with an Honours Award, currently living in an aged care or nursing home in NSW, please contact Trish Wetton OAM tkwetton@icloud.com

We would love to contact as many Awardees in Care, or Nursing homes in NSW, and hear their amazing stories.

OAA Hastings Macleay Branch Christmas Luncheon 2023

It was a pleasure to share a delightful luncheon and mateship with the good-looking group of people in the photo below. Thank you to Emeritus Professor Gail Whiteford AM (accompanied by Husband Harry) for giving our Acknowledgment to Country and for outlining her contribution to society culminating in her receiving the Australia Medal.

We were very pleased to have two members from the Manning Branch come all the way from Forster, Wendy Borchers AM and Helen Bryan OAM.

Thank you Virginia Cox OAM and husband Grae, for running the Christmas games. Fun was had by all even though no cheating was allowed! Patricia Johnson OAM and my lovely wife Barbara, thank you for your organisational skills in meeting and greeting everybody, you made things flow so well.

To the staff at Port City Bowling Club, we can't thank you enough for the lovely Christmas theme set-up of the room. Also, Rose, Kate and Elly, you are an absolute asset to Port City Bowling Club.

We hope that everyone, including those who could not attend, have a joyous and safe December and January before we catch up again in the New Year.

Laurie Smith OAM, Convenor, Hastings Macleay Branch, OAA NSW.



And our entire OAA NSW Committee says “hear hear” to that!!

SENIORS CARD NSW SENIORS STORIES VOLUME 9:

On Friday November 17, The Hon. Jodie Harrison MP, Minister for Seniors, Minister for Women, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, launched the 9th edition of “Seniors Stories”,

at Parliament House Sydney. This year’s subject was “Aging and Life Lessons”. OAA NSW Communications Liaison, Louise Davis AM was one of the selected 100 authors. Her story follows:

The publication, with all 100 stories is available on the Seniors Website at :

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/community-services/seniors-card/news-events-0/seniors-stories-vol-9-pdf>

LISTEN & RESPOND WITH EMPATHY:

As I approach my 84th birthday, I have been revisiting my life journey in preparation for writing a farewell note to my family and friends. I want to thank them all for making my life meaningful and fun.

I realise that one of my main enjoyments all these years has been to feel useful to others.

By some stroke of luck, I was appointed Social Services Representative when I was in High School at MacRobertson Girls’ High School in Melbourne when I was 14 to 16. It was a wonderful experience, helping others. I had no idea at the time that many years later I would have a 30 year career at IBM, focused on Community Service.



I have been fortunate in having generous friends who have thought of me when they heard of jobs which might be suitable for me. After 4 years with the agents for Christian Dior Perfume and Cosmetics in Melbourne, I spent 4 exciting years in Canada and the United States, Washington DC and New York City. Returning to Dior in Australia at 24, and becoming the first female Cosmetics representative in Victoria.

I stayed with Dior until I was 47 by which time I was the general manager in Australia.

I then considered what I really wanted to achieve in life, and decided to study horticulture full time. It was a huge leap of faith which I never regretted. My husband and I bought 2.2 hectares in Dural and I started a wholesale plant nursery. It

was hard work physically but very good for ones soul.

I am still friends with girls from High School, and from my life in Melbourne all those years ago as well as friends and workmates from Dior and IBM. Friends are the key to happiness in my opinion. If friends are there for each other, it is a strong buffer against life's inevitable challenges. Sharing our joys and sorrows is critical. Laughing and crying with friends, and being useful to others is rewarding and life affirming.

Not to forget the huge importance of having close family ties with plenty of love and laughter. Our family fortunately have great senses of humour, so can almost always turn difficulties into something to laugh about.

I did not stop full time employment until I was 79, and since then I have been working for The Order of Australia Association as a volunteer.

The many health challenges during my life, including osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, many fractures, 4 hip replacements and a recent stroke have made friendships even more important to me.

I try to do helpful things every day, even very simple things like helping a friend with online research, eg about how to get rid of pests in their gardens, the aged care system, or how to arrange for a library to deliver books to their homes. Or mentoring young people as they find their way in this ever changing world.

If one can develop good listening skills and be kind to others, there is no end to the ways we can enrich those lives and our own. By giving, we all benefit.

Louise Davis AM