



The Order of Australia Association NSW Newsletter JANUARY 2024



Happy New Year to you all. For some, great expectations are sought. For others, world peace is your dream. For others, the journey will be tough for health, emotional and/or relational reasons, for reality generally says that not everything will fit into neat boxes.

Two sayings I proffer in your approach to year 2024: –

- “Fight for the things you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.” (Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1933-2020). My response is, if we could just do that, our job would be done!
- “Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.” (Arthur Ashe). To this wisdom, I add my own motivating maxim: “I live 95% for today and tomorrow, for I can’t change yesterday-only learn from its history”.

Both these wise statements epitomize the success of so many citizens, whether they serve(d) locally, statewide, nationally and/or internationally. And one of the greatest joys for me has been meeting so many members of our Association, and through them, others who should be nominated for an Order of Australia or are ineligible internationals.

Invariably, they are humble personalities who have fought for things they care about, have the ability to attract others and bring them along for life changing experiences, and are inspiring team leaders. Likewise, they start with an identified purpose to make a positive difference for others, and achieve through sacrificial time and garnering people and funding resources along the way.

Please make one of your 2024 goals to share your inspiration as encouragement of your friends, colleagues and successor generations to fight for a better world, greater recognition of the Order of Australia, and mentor younger generations.

Our very successful Christmas lunch raised more than \$9,000 for the Order of Australia Association

Foundation towards a University Scholarship to be announced at the NSW based 2025 National Conference. The Foundation’s Chair, Dr Helen Nugent AC inspired us to support a future Australian leader in this way as our State has not had one for many years.

There have been 55 such scholars in the Foundation’s national history, but few from NSW. Branch Committee member, Harold Sharp OAM is spearheading this fundraising initiative.

Our next Branch activity is the Annual Sydney Harbour Luncheon Cruise and the registration link is attached to this newsletter. The attendance has to be limited to some 150 passengers so do NOT delay booking yourself and friends.

I am also pleased to announce that the Branch is to organize at least four low-cost member luncheons in the Sydney suburban areas in 2024, now that we believe they are possible after the three years or so of covid impacted disruption. More information later.

The Branch's 2024 Annual General Meeting will be held on 19 March, 2024 in Sydney and will be immediately followed by a luncheon with a guest speaker. This will be my last activity as your Branch Chairman and I am ever so thankful to you all for making the journey so positively memorable. There will four Committee members retiring and nominations will be called for shortly. I never realized when I became a "morning person" (AM) in 2010 that membership of the Association would be so rewarding.

As I have learnt from others and in my own experience over many decades, when a leader retires: For so many years you were IT. Now you are EX-IT AND SHOULD EXIT. This allows your successor to have greater ease in bringing new ideas to benefit the organisation's future. It has always successfully worked.

MAY WHATEVER HAPPENS FOR YOUR IN 2024, BE POSITIVELY MEANINGFUL.

Jim MEIN AM

NSW BRANCH CHAIRMAN chairnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA NSW 2023 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON 2 December 2023

The Order of Australia Association NSW 2023 Christmas Luncheon was held at the Kirribilli Club on the 2nd December 2023. Over 80 members and guests gathered to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season but also importantly to raise money for The Order of Australia Association Foundation.

The Foundation supports our next generation of leaders by helping promising young Australians to achieve their potential for the benefit of future generations of Australians. The NSW Deputy Chair and

Events Manager, Dr John Gullotta AM welcomed guests and introduced the guest speaker Dr Helen Nugent AC, Chair of the Order of Australia Foundation. Dr Nugent addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of the Foundation in fostering and promoting our future leaders in prospective candidates that may not be able to afford their university degree.

By offering scholarships of \$45,000 each the Foundation provides life changing funding to worthy applicants. Mr Jim Mein AM Chairman of the Order of Australia Association NSW gave his official welcome and reinforced the importance of the Foundation in making a difference! The





audience were then entertained by the operatic voices of tenor Gaetano Bonfante and soprano Julie Lee Goodwin who transported the audience into a magical journey of opera and musical theatre with a Christmas themed twist!

It was a very successful event with over \$7500 raised towards a NSW Branch Foundation scholarship which will be presented at our

National Conference in Sydney in 2025!

Thank you to all who attended, and donated so generously.

A/P John Gallotta AM, Deputy Chairman

Opera Singer Biographies:

Gaetano Bonfante is an Italo Australian tenor who has been on the classical concert stage for many years. He has performed in 15 productions for Opera Australia and also toured with La Traviata (as Alfredo) to 18 Cities in China.

Julie Lea Goodwin is a principal soprano with Opera Australia Aged only 19, Julie Lea was invited to sing the leading role of Christine Daae in the national tour of The Phantom of the Opera – starring Anthony Warlow. The following year, she played Maria in West Side Story across Australia.!

SYDNEY TO HOBART YACHT RACE 2023, OAA NSW Member, Adrienne Cahalan OAM

“The fastest Australian to circumnavigate the globe, trailblazing navigator Adrienne Cahalan has become used to winning races and setting records but now she is about to share in a bit of Sydney to Hobart history with another woman.

Cahalan, sporting a rope burn on her face, and crewmates on the Tasmanian yacht Alive are expected to be confirmed as the overall handicap winners of the Sydney to Hobart on Saturday having beaten the Marcus Ashley-Jones skippered URM and Sean Langman’s Moneypenny for the most coveted honours in the ocean classic – with the majority of the fleet still at sea.

Alive, sailing in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race, 26 December, 2023

This result will mean that for the first time in history, the first two placegetters in the overall race were navigated by females with Alice Parker calling the weather shots on URM.

“Wouldn’t that be a great statement. Two senior roles on the boats filled by women,” said Cahalan, a lawyer, mother-of-two and now three-time overall winner, six time line honours winner and two time race record holder in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race.”

Bravo on your outstanding achievements. With thanks to Amanda Lulham, Sailing Editor, The Australian.



LINDSAY MAY OAM – competed in his 50th Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race

Congratulations to Lindsay May OAM on completing his 50th Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, in 2023, on the yacht Antipodes. The photo below was taken at the start of the race.

On Australia Day 2017, Lindsay was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for service to sailing, and to health and social welfare groups. Lindsay is very active in Rotary International, having joined in 1978. Lindsay served as District Governor for Rotary District 9685 in 2021-22. Lindsay founded The Mailing House in 1986. This is a direct mail company fundraising for NFPs. He is a certified fundraising executive (CFRE).

Lindsay May is well known for his achievements in offshore yacht racing

including 3 Overall Wins and 1 Line Honours win in the Sydney Hobart Yacht Race. His line honours win was on the yacht, Brindabella, in 1997. Lindsay holds the record for the most consecutive number of races sailed, starting in 1973.

Lindsay as an international offshore sailor and navigator, has sailed in many other of the worlds most highly regarded regattas and races including the Admirals Cup, the World 8 Metre Championships, Fastnet Race, China Sea Race, Transpac Race and the Newport to Bermuda Race.

In the 1993 Sydney Hobart race, Lindsay was aboard the yacht, Atara, that rescued sailor John Quinn who had been washed overboard and spent nearly 6 hours in the Tasman Sea.

In 2006, Lindsay skippered Love & War to victory as overall winner. This win equalled the overall record for a yacht with Love & War becoming only the second yacht to win the race three times

(1974, 1978 and 2006).

In May 2007, Seahorse International Yachting Magazine recognised Lindsay's Sydney Hobart victory by inducting him into their Hall of Fame as Sailor of the Month.

KEEP THE DATES:

NSW BRANCH AGM: 19 March 2024 – and lunch – venue TBA

ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE, SYDNEY CBA MARCH 2025, Sydney Sofitel Wentworth Hotel. MORE DETAILS AND DATES TBA.