



Dated August/September 2025

Vision Impaired Accessible Document



On the front cover is a very moving photograph as Binmia Yunupingu, daughter of the late Dr G. Yunupingu, sheds tears as the Governor-General presents her with the insignia of the Companion of the Order of Australia, awarded to Dr Yunupingu. The investiture took place at Gunyagara, on Gumarj land, in the Northern Territory.

NOTICES & EXCLUSIONS:

This version of our national magazine is not intended for general distribution to the wider public but is prepared as a service for those of our members who require the use of vision-impaired screen-reader technology. Thus, certain pages of the hard-copy version involving complex graphics or page layout have been omitted.

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FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE MS SAM MOSTYN A.C

On 1 July, I was delighted to celebrate my first anniversary as Governor-General. Of course, this also means I have been Chancellor of the Order of Australia for over a year now. It has been a remarkable period, particularly as we have taken the opportunity throughout the year to mark the 50th anniversary of the Australian Honours system.

The richness and diversity of our Honours system was probably no better exemplified than the investitures I was proud to be involved with in July. Over the course of one remarkable week, I had the honour of presiding over two historic investiture ceremonies. The week began in Rockhampton, where I presented the posthumous Victoria Cross for Australia to the Late Private Richard Norden. We held the ceremony in Rockhampton at the request of Private Norden's widow, Robyn, and sons Shane and Scott. The deeply moving ceremony, in the city the family now calls home, was attended by senior members of the Australian Defence Force. A few days later, in East Arnhem Land, I had the immense privilege of presenting the insignia of the Companion of the Order of Australia to the late Dr G. Yunupingu. His daughter, Binmila Yunupingu, received the award on his behalf at a special Yolngu ceremony at Gunyangara, on Gumatj land, in the Northern Territory.

In that week alone, I saw firsthand the power of our Australian Honours system in this country, 50 years after its inception.

As I reflect on my first 12 months as Governor-General, the Investiture ceremonies at Government House in Canberra stand out as some of the most rewarding moments of my role. The weeks we open our doors to recipients and their families, to congratulate and thank them for the impact they have on our country, are always a joy for everyone at Government House. Taking time to speak with recipients and their families and seeing their joy and delight at their inclusion in The Order is always affirming. It is one of the great privileges of my role.

As Governor-General, I also welcome remarkable Australians into Government House and Admiralty House to host events or celebrate achievements. As we continue to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Australian Honours system, I have been meeting recipients from previous honours lists who continue to shape modern Australia in ways reflective of their past recognition. In recent months, we hosted an *Accelerating Women's Leadership* forum with Catherine Fox A.M, and a celebration of Professor John Pollaers O.A.M, Convenor of the University Chancellors Council.

In June, I had the great pleasure of announcing The King's Birthday 2025 Honours list. It was pleasing to see that this list is growing in numbers, with 581 people receiving recognition within the Order of Australia. Of those recipients, 32 per cent were recognised for service to the community, making it the largest category of

recognition within the list.

When I was sworn-in as Governor-General, I promised to put the values of care, kindness and respect at the core of my work. As the months have passed, I have met countless members of the Order of Australia who steadfastly live out these values. From community service, sport, industry, social welfare and research, community health, Indigenous and multicultural communities, and individuals and groups caring for our environment, our Honours system celebrates the very best of our country. As we begin preparations at Government House Canberra for our September investitures, I look forward to meeting more inspiring Australians.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION
VICKI O'HALLORAN, A.O, C.V.O

As the National President of the Order of Australia Association, I am continually inspired by the remarkable Australians I have the privilege to meet -- individuals whose contributions to our nation and communities are both profound and quietly powerful.

What strikes me most, time and again, is their humility. Whether they have broken ground in science, led significant community change, or served tirelessly in quiet corners of our country, they simply do what is right, driven by integrity, purpose and a deep commitment to others.

Integrity, I believe, lies at the heart of what it means to be an Australian of honour. It is more than just honesty -- it is the courage to act ethically when no one is watching, to stand by values in difficult times and to lead with authenticity. In today's world, these qualities are as essential as ever. Last week I ran into an accomplished Territorian, Bob Elix A.M, in the supermarket and we discussed the important values that shape Order of Australia recipients, and on the same day I had this same discussion with our National Chair, MAJGEN Barry Nunn A.O R.F.D E.D (Retd). Both of these impressive individuals embody the qualities of good citizenship born out of lifelong careers supporting diversity and community partnerships.

In the course of my duties as the Administrator of the Northern Territory (2017-2023), my husband Craig and I had the honour of hosting His Majesty King Charles III at Government House in Darwin and later being invited to meet with him at Highgrove. In conversation, His Majesty reflected on the enduring importance of service. Not always the scale of service but the spirit in which it is given. This has deeply resonated with me since then and I believe this is the ethos of the Order of Australia, where acts great and small, when offered in the spirit of service, shape and improve our communities.

As we continue to celebrate those who enrich our lives, let us be guided by the values that sustain our community: humility, service and above all, integrity.

Warm regards and go well.

**MESSAGE FROM THE O.A.A CHAIRMAN
MAJGEN BARRY NUNN A.O R.F.D E.D (Retd)**

Our Association is now well into the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Australian Honours system. Events have been hosted by the Governor-General, State Governors and Territory Administrators to mark this significant milestone. Invited members of the Order have had the opportunity to share their experiences with recipients of other awards within the Honours System.

During my attendance at some of these celebrations, I was honoured to speak about our Association. I took the opportunity not only to encourage new members to join, but also to challenge all holders of an award in the Honours system to lead by example—speaking out against intolerance or hatred directed at anyone within our diverse multicultural community. It is essential that we uphold the philosophy of a ‘fair go for all’.

Looking ahead, we can now turn our thoughts to the 50th anniversary of our Association in 2030. Work is underway, both nationally and within Branches, to collect and preserve the rich history of our organisation. I encourage members who hold historical records or memorabilia to share them with their Branch committee so this material can be included.

I congratulate the 581 worthy Australians recognised in the General Division and the 36 in the Military Division of the Order of Australia in the 2025 King’s Birthday Honours. While the number of awards is lower than in recent years, the extended delays in processing nominations have been acknowledged and are receiving attention from the Order Honours Secretariat.

Members have received the 2026 Member Survey. I strongly encourage everyone to take part by sharing views on the range of issues covered. The survey is anonymous, and individual names will not be linked to responses. Your feedback will help Branches better understand members’ needs and guide national planning.

Planning is now well underway for the 2026 National Conference, to be held in Brisbane from 16 to 19 April. The conference venue, Rydges Southbank, is ideally located to ensure delegates can enjoy both the conference programme and the many attractions Brisbane has to offer.

I look forward to a continuing active and engaging year for our Association in 2025, and I hope to meet many of you at our 2026 National Conference in Brisbane.

PASSING THE BATON

Dot Haynes O.A.M

The Board has appointed Dot Haynes O.A.M as National Membership Director following the retirement of Kathy Wooldridge O.A.M. Dot will take up the position in September 2025.

Dot has a background in local government and other community and non-government organisations in governance and operational roles, particularly focusing on successful community outcomes.

Dot sees her new role as encouraging and rewarding people who have received Honours for the many wide and varied reasons that see people go above and beyond in their endeavours, whether in work or as volunteers. Dot wants to showcase how important the things that to many seem little have helped and altered how our country is seen throughout the world. There are many ways to achieve change, and she is hoping to take the Board on a journey of more media presence and greater membership from the valuable people that have received these awards.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

S.A. CHAIR TONY METCALFE O.A.M's REPORT

Our members have attended various commemorative services and events, including our New Recipients' Reception, King's Birthday Luncheon, Fellowship luncheons and Regional Group luncheon meetings.

The next major celebration due is to mark the creation of the Order of Australia Association, which was soon followed by the establishment of the S.A Branch in 1980. We are starting to look ahead to marking our '50th birthday' in five years' time and are looking for a volunteer Branch Curator/ Historian to help us prepare for this event. Please contact me if you might have an interest in this role.

Nominations for the 2025 Student Citizenship Awards have closed, and our Student Citizenship Awards Assessment and Selection Panel has finished their deliberations. On behalf of all our members I would like to express my gratitude for those who have volunteered their time to join this panel and review the many nominations. Your unseen efforts are greatly appreciated.

On the topic of the Student Citizenship Awards programme, I would also like to express our gratitude to the Honourable Blair Boyer M.P, State Minister for Education, Training and Skills, for the first tranche of support to ensure the continuation of the practice of presenting a medallion to all awardees. We have received a grant of \$1,500, the first of three such donations covering the three-year period 2025 to 2027 inclusive.

I am also pleased to announce two further support initiatives – from Catholic Education S.A and from the Association of Independent Schools of S.A, who have each agreed to support the Association with collaborative funding of \$500 per year starting in 2028. We greatly appreciate this support!

Forthcoming S.A Branch activities:

Friday 26 September: Riverland and Mallee Regional Group luncheon meeting

Friday 10 October: Eyre Peninsula Regional Group luncheon meeting in Tumby Bay

Sunday 26 October: Yorke Peninsula Regional Group luncheon meeting

Thursday 30 October: Honours recipients fellowship luncheon

Friday 7 November: Fleurieu Regional Group luncheon meeting

Friday 12 December: SA Branch Christmas Morning Tea

EVENTS

COMMEMORATIONS

Four of our members attended a sunset wreath-laying service at the Air Force Memorial at Torrens Parade Ground to mark the 104th Anniversary of the formation of the Australian Air Force on 31 March 1921. The host for the ceremony was Group Captain Robert Black A.M R.F.D (Retd), Acting President of the Air Force Association (S.A Division), and he recited the Ode of Remembrance. Air Force Cadets formed the Catafalque Party and Honour Guard, and individual cadets fulfilled roles in laying a wreath, raising the Ensign and reciting the poem *High Flight* by Pilot Officer John Gillespie Magee Jr.

Several Branch members and Order of Australia recipients could be found around Adelaide on Anzac Day, as we marked the 110th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings. John Jarrett A.M joined the march with the Korea & South East Asia Forces Association contingent. Major Paul Rosenzweig O.A.M (Retd) carried the Sarawak Flag at the head of the Malaya & Borneo Veterans contingent in honour of the Australians and Iban trackers who died on operational service in defence of Sarawak during confrontation. Lieutenant-Colonel John Spencer O.A.M R.F.D (Retd) carried the U.N flag for the Peacekeepers Association.

Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Denny A.M B.M (Retd), R.S.L South Australia Ambassador, once again delivered the commentary for the march. Meanwhile Noel Hender O.A.M B.E.M was on duty with St John Ambulance.

On Saturday 31 May 2025, three Branch members attended a service of commemoration in the West Torrens War Memorial Gardens to mark the 75th Anniversary of the start of Australian involvement in the Malayan Emergency (on 31 May 1950). The S.A/N.T Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia honoured six of its members who are surviving veterans of

the Malayan Emergency (1948-1960), four of whom were in attendance on the day. Air Force Cadets from No 604 Squadron provided a ceremonial detachment in support of the ceremony.

KING'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

On the first Saturday of June, the S.A Branch held a luncheon at Casa D'Abruzzo Molise Club in Prospect to celebrate the official Birthday of His Majesty King Charles III, the fifth monarch of the House of Windsor and Sovereign Head of The Order of Australia.

Branch Chair Tony Metcalf O.A.M welcomed guests and gave the Acknowledgment of Country. Deputy Chair Noel Hender O.A.M B.E.M proposed the Loyal Toast to the King and introduced the National Anthem. Our guest speaker was Her Excellency the Hon. Frances Adamson A'C, Governor of South Australia and our Branch Patron.

We had a special birthday cake to mark the 50th anniversary of the Australian Honours system, in particular the Order of Australia, and we thank Her Excellency for 'cutting the cake' on this special occasion. We are very appreciative of Her Excellency attending our event, given how busy she was with multiple ceremonial events on the day. Her Excellency attended in the uniform of Honorary Air Commodore of No 24 (City of Adelaide) Squadron, and immediately following our event was Reviewing Officer for a King's Birthday Parade conducted by a tri-Service ceremonial contingent of Australian Defence Force Cadets.



Photo of Her Excellency the Hon Frances Adamson A.C cutting the cake with S.A Branch Chair Tony Metcalfe O.A.M and Member Secretary Greg Gordon O.A.M J.P.

WELCOMING NEW AWARDEES

In our first New Recipients' Reception for the year, held at Payneham Library, we acknowledged 11 new recipients announced in the Australia Day Honours List, and one who had been announced in an earlier Honours List.

We are grateful to the City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters and also Rosemary Milisits O.A.M from Vili's Family Bakery for their generous support and assistance. Rosemary and her late husband Vilmos (Vili) were each awarded an

O.A.M in the 2005 Queen's Birthday Honours List, *"for service to the food industry, and to the community through support for a range of charitable organisations"*.

Our guest speaker was Dr Barry Elsey O.A.M for his informative talk on the topic, *My O.A.M story in South Australian universities – from manual labourer to knowledge worker: supervising the P.h.Ds of industry leaders (present and emerging)*.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

NT Committee update

In view of Chair Alan James O.A.M'S health and family needs, committee member Marie-Louise Pearson O.A.M has been appointed Deputy Chair to assist with Branch affairs. The N.T Committee offers thanks as it farewells three of our long-standing committee members. David De Silva A.M, Wayne Kraft A.M and Annette (Floss) Roberts A.M have recently stood down. We hope to still enjoy their company at branch events. With the election of three new committee members at the last A.G.M, the committee remains in good hands.

EVENTS

A celebration of the Order's 50th Anniversary

On 24 June, it was the Territory's turn to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Order of Australia. The Administrator of the Northern Territory, Professor the Hon. Hugh Heggie A.O P.S.M, accompanied by Ms Ruth Jones, hosted a most enjoyable evening on the forecourt of N.T Government House with its lush tropical surrounds. Guests, including members of the Order of Australia Association as well as many other awardees and their partners, were addressed by the Administrator and MAJGEN Barry Nunn A.O R.F.D E.D (Retd), who came to Darwin specially for this special event.

FEATURED MEMBER

Jaya Srinivas O.A.M: Finding a calmer environment

Jaya Srinivas O.A.M has called the Territory home for more than 34 years. She received the Order of Australia Medal in 2018 for her extensive contribution to and leadership among the culturally and linguistically diverse communities right across the N.T. She is also the proud recipient of the Pride of Workmanship award from Rotary.

Jaya was born in South India but spent most of her young life in New Delhi. She graduated from Delhi University with Honours in Political Science and started work as a journalist. She and her husband and baby daughter then moved to Mumbai, but concerns about the pressures of life in that huge city led the young family to think about moving to a calmer environment. They thought, "What about Australia?". "Why not?" was the reply and so in 1990, armed with a Skilled Migration visa, Jaya and her husband moved to Sydney with \$500 to their name. The following year his work brought them to Darwin, where Jaya got a temporary clerical position in Royal Darwin Hospital.

Jaya's immediate early childhood education experience led her to embark on an Advanced Diploma in Early Childhood in 1992. She then gained a Master of Education at the Northern Territory (now Charles Darwin) University and followed this up with a year in the U.S specializing in the Montessori Education methodology. Back in Darwin, Jaya was invited for work experience at The Essington School and soon won a position teaching at the pre-school there. It was not surprising that, after a further qualification of Master of Business Administration, Jaya ultimately became Assistant Principal at Essington, where she became known for innovative approaches, and encouraging students to pursue individualised learning pathways.

After her retirement from Essington, Jaya became Advisor to the N.T Government on international education and multicultural affairs. She now holds a part-time position at the Alana Kaye College, a Registered Training Organisation catering particularly for international students, where she is delivering Diploma and Advanced Diploma courses in Leadership, Management and Business. We are privileged to have Jaya on our N.T O.A.A Committee.

QUEENSLAND

Chair Ronda Nix O.A.M's report

A most enjoyable gala black-tie dinner was held on 9 June in the presence of the Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency the Hon. Dr Jeannette Young A.C P.S.M to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of The Order of Australia and the King's Birthday. A large cake tree consisting of numerous miniature cakes representing awardees in the Order of Australia was cut in unison by Her Excellency the Governor, the Deputy Premier of Queensland, the Hon. Jarrod Bleijie M.P, the Lady Mayoress of Brisbane Nina Schrunner, and by yours truly as Branch Chair. It was truly a special and happy occasion thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

The 2025 King's Birthday recipients of course were announced on the same day as

the dinner. We are looking forward to meeting and congratulating the new recipients at their investiture ceremonies in early September and also to celebrating with them and their families and friends at a Welcome Dinner to be held in their honour on 11 September.

Since the King's Birthday, it has been "all hands on deck" to get the 2026 National Conference next year organised in record time. It will be held in Brisbane at Rydges South Bank Hotel and Conference Centre from 16 to 19 April. The short amount of lead time has placed considerable stress on all members of our Conference Committee, but I am pleased to report we are taking great strides and making good progress. We have secured some excellent speakers and events, and I am sure that BRIZ26 "A Bridge to the Future" will be a great conference. I encourage all members throughout Australia to join us in Brisbane for a wonderful event in April next year.

EVENTS

A 50th Anniversary celebration to remember

Some 157 guests attended and thoroughly enjoyed the Queensland Branch's Gala Black Tie Dinner celebrating the 50th anniversary of The Order of Australia and the King's Birthday, held at the Tattersall's Club in Brisbane on Monday 9 June 2025.

The occasion was made special by the presence of Her Excellency the Hon. Dr Jeanette Young A.C P.S.M, Governor of Queensland and her husband Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD, the Hon. Jarrod Bleijie M.P, Deputy Premier of Queensland, and Mrs Nina Schrunner, Lady Mayoress of Brisbane.

Her Excellency gave a sterling opening address and we were captivated by the informative address "A Golden Commemoration" delivered by our eminent guest speaker MAJGEN Professor John Pearn A.O G.C.St.J R.F.D.

The evening was capably compered by Mrs Dina Browne A.O and musical accompaniment was provided by four very talented student musicians forming themselves into the Western Suburbs String Quartet. The evening also incorporated the Loyal Toast and a Toast to The Order of Australia.

It was truly a night to remember and very befitting of the occasion

U.K-EUROPE GROUP

From Chair Dr Caroline Hoffman O.A.M

The OAA UK-Europe group is planning a Celebratory Dinner on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of The Order of Australia. This event will be held in central London on the evening of Thursday 16 October 2025. If you are interested in attending, please email uk-europe@theorderofaustralia.asn.au or call Dr Hoffman

on: +44 793 902 8373.

TASMANIA

Chair Alastair Douglas O.A.M.'S report

It is always an honour to represent the Association at Investiture ceremonies at Government House and meet the latest group of wonderful recipients. In September, 14 new Tasmanian King's Birthday awardees will receive their insignia, witnessed by prominent Tasmanian figures, family and friends. Between the morning and afternoon ceremonies, the Tasmania Branch again will hold a celebratory lunch for awardees, their family and friends, also giving the opportunity to meet members of the Association.

In June my wife Jenny and I enjoyed attending functions around the state. The North-West Region organised a member's lunch in Ulverstone at which several recent awardees were present. A fortnight later we attended the Northern Region's Solstice Lunch in Launceston. The Hon. Dr Frank Madill AM provided an interesting talk on the meaning, history, facts and myths surrounding the Solstice. The third event we attended was a morning tea in Hobart where Andy Spate A.M gave an interesting presentation about Australia's caves and karsts, their economic value, their World Heritage significance and the need for their preservation.

Her Excellency the Hon. Barbara Baker A.C, Governor of Tasmania, is inviting Association members and their partners to a reception at Government House at 6.00 pm on Monday 6 October 2025 to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Order of Australia. Further information will be circulated closer to the time about making bookings, but in the meantime can I suggest that you save the date.

The Hon. Sir Guy Green A.C K.B.E C.V.O, a former Governor of Tasmania and former National President of the Order of Australia Association, died in Hobart on 22 July 2025. Below is an abridged version of the eulogy about Sir Guys' incredible contribution to Australian society presented by David Rees, who worked with Sir Guy as his Judge's Associate in the early 1990s while Sir Guy was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Tasmania.

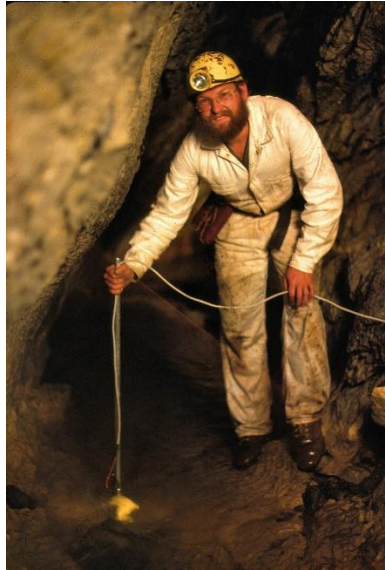


Photo of Andy Spate A.M

EVENTS

Winter Solstice luncheon

The Northern Region (Tas) celebrated the Winter Solstice with a luncheon where guest speaker Dr Frank Madill A.M explored the range of festivals, lantern parades and traditions around the world. He spoke about the burning of clocks, yuletide logs, snow effigies and the 3,000 swimmers in Hobart who gather before daylight wearing only a red bathing cap as they enter the freezing waters just after dawn.

FEATURED MEMBER

VALE: The Hon. Sir Guy Green A.C K.B.E C.V.O

“Every now and again a real Titan in society comes along” - David Rees

What follows was edited from the eulogy presented at Sir Guy’s funeral by David Rees who was Sir Guy Green’s Associate at the Supreme Court:

Sir Guy Stephen Montague Green was born in Launceston in 1937 and was educated at the Launceston Church Grammar School before moving to Hobart to study law at the University of Tasmania. In 1958 he was awarded the Alfred Houston Philosophy Scholarship before graduating with a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) degree in 1960. He was admitted as a legal practitioner in the Supreme Court of Tasmania on 29 February 1960 and moved back to Launceston where he practised as a solicitor at the firm Richie & Parker, Alfred Green & Company, becoming a partner in 1963.

Following a period of private legal practice, Sir Guy was appointed as a Magistrate in June 1971 and went on to be appointed Tasmania’s youngest ever Chief Justice on 30 October 1973 at just 36 years of age. Sir Guy retired as Chief Justice in 1995, just 29 days short of serving in that role for 22 years, the longest serving Chief Justice in the court’s history.

Sir Guy was appointed as the first Tasmanian-born Governor of Tasmania in

October 1995, a position he held until October 2003. As Governor, he was described as a man of 'grace and style', who had the common touch and who could speak in great depth to people of all backgrounds. He further consolidated the respect of Tasmanians following his compassionate handling of the 1996 Port Arthur Tragedy.

He was called upon to serve as Administrator of the Commonwealth of Australia on several occasions including between May and August 2003 before Major General Phillip Jeffrey took office as Governor-General.

From 2005 to 2022 Sir Guy was Tasmania's Honorary Antarctic Ambassador. He was a passionate champion of Antarctica and had a deep understanding of the role Australia and indeed Tasmania played in its scientific research and a commitment to protecting the Antarctic environment. He was also a passionate scholar of philosophy, mathematics and science.

Sir Guy was actively involved in numerous community organisations which included being Chancellor of the University of Tasmania, Chairman of Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Chairman of the Board of the Ten Days on the Island festival, Chancellor of the Australian Priory of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh Award and Chairman of the Churchill Memorial Trust

He was recognized for his service when he was made a Knight Commander of the British Empire in 1982, appointed Companion of the Order of Australia in 1994, appointed a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order during Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's visit to Tasmania in 2000, and was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2001.

A past President of the Order of Australia Association, Sir Guy was an active and ardent supporter of the Association, regularly attending O.A.A events.

David Rees summed up Sir Guy's qualities which were important to him and indeed all Tasmanians: "His respect for institutions, his genuine love of Tasmania, his overall philosophy to keep grounded and how his philosophy influenced others. What more can I say – every now and again a real Titan in society comes along, and all of us here were privileged to spend some time with this 'Titan', Sir Guy Stephen Montague Green".

VICTORIA

Chair Fred Harrington O.A.M's report

I begin by offering my congratulations to the 165 Victorians who were part of the 2025 King's Birthday Honours List. I note that none of these recipients would have received their honour without someone submitting a nomination for them. To all who have been part of nominating this year's recipients I say, "thank you".

It was great to see the high level of support for our recent Vic Branch mid-year

lunch with guest speaker Dr Jenny Gowan A.M speaking on the topic: *Safe Use of Medicines*. The lunch also provided the opportunity for members who had joined the Order of Australia Association in 2025 to be acknowledged and provided with a gift, together with several other King's Birthday honours recipients in attendance.

It is good to see many of our Regional Groups, either themselves, or in conjunction with their local Council, holding functions to acknowledge and welcome this year's honours recipients to their Groups. I thank each of them for undertaking these events and helping grow our Association.

Our next function is the end of year dinner on Thursday 20 November at 6:00pm at the Stamford Plaza Melbourne Hotel, 111 Little Collins Street, with guest speaker Georgina Gubbins O.A.M. 2024 O.A.A Foundation scholarship recipient Ayman Miazzi will update members and guests on his career to date. Bookings are open and can be made through Try Booking.

September is the month of the Victorian Investitures so, in closing, I offer my congratulations and best wishes to all 2025 King's Birthday Honours recipients for their special day with family and friends at Government House.

EVENT

Mid-year lunch beats the wintery chill

On a chilly winter's day in Melbourne, more than 100 O.A.A VIC Branch members and guests turned out at the Stamford Plaza Melbourne Hotel to enjoy a mid-year lunch and listen to Dr Jenny Gowan A.M speak on the topic of medicine management. They were also there to celebrate new members of the Association and reconnect with OAA friends. Dr. McGowan provided insights into the importance of ensuring that medications are managed for both compatibility and effectiveness, and certainly, to avoid any unwanted side effects.

Jenny has an admirable track record as a practising pharmacist and is an accredited consultant pharmacist. Her company focuses on medication reviews in the home and in aged care facilities. She spoke about the danger of being prescribed medicines without the opportunity to carefully consider previously prescribed medications, sometimes further complicated by the intake of supplements. One anecdote that did make the audience stop and think related to one of her clients who had been prescribed 52 daily medicines.

Questions to ask your doctor, interactions of medications, safety issues in crushing medicines were key themes of her very illuminating presentation. Jenny also spoke about generic medication, stressing the importance of checking that levels of active ingredients are the same as the originally prescribed medication.

She advised on the importance of also checking the compatibility of using supplements or herbal medicines in case of unintended consequences. Safe use of medicines also encompasses the frequency, longevity of use, timing of taking medications (morning, afternoon, evening etc.) and the actual method of taking medications. Further, the way medicines interact with, for instance, alcohol which may increase drowsiness. Some medicines such as pain relievers and those used for blood pressure reduction and Parkinson's may also increase drowsiness and increase the risk of falls. Jenny's salient advice was to ensure that a review of medications by a trusted doctor was part of a periodic consultation process.

Fifteen new recipients were acknowledged at the lunch, 12 of whom had already joined the Association. Their respective work over many years was outlined briefly by the M.C. Their remarkable contributions certainly provided inspiration to all attendees, demonstrating excellence in international, nation and state community contributions.

The warmth of the event was perfect to ward off the winter chills. The afternoon came to a close with M.C Dr Teresa De Fazio O.A.M reminding the guests about the upcoming end-of-year dinner scheduled for Thursday 20 November at the Stamford Plaza Melbourne Hotel. Another excellent event to look forward to.

FEATURED MEMBERS

BARRY CAPUANO O.A.M – A SMART WINGMAN

Barry Capuano O.A.M was honoured in the 2025 King's Birthday list *for service to Australian Rules football*, almost immediately joined the Order of Australia Association, and is an active member of the Western Suburbs Regional Group. He says he looks forward to meeting up with other Order recipients and finding out how they received their awards.

Barry has been described as "a smart wingman who never stopped trying. Speed was his main asset and he could deliver magnificent kicks on the run". He was recruited into the Essendon Football Club Thirds from North Essendon Methodists and won Best First Year Player award in 1958. He was selected in the League Combined Second 18 team the following year. He performed brilliantly and was elevated to the Seniors.

Barry was one of the best players on the wing in Essendon's 1962 A.F.L Premiership win but a knee injury cost him a place in the 1965 premiership team.

He was selected for the State side in 1963 and also won Essendon's award for Best Player under 21 in 1961 and the Most Consistent Player award in 1963.

When he left Essendon, Barry became captain-coach of Mitcham in 1967 and 1968 and then captained Eltham in 1969 and 1970 to two Diamond Valley League

premierships.

Barry's service to Australian Rules continued in managerial and directorial roles: he was on the Essendon committee from 1974 to 1976 and was the Club's general manager from 1981 to 1988. In between he coached Stawell in 1978 and 1979. He has been a key member of the Essendon Football Club Past Players and Officials Association, serving as President from 2015 to 2021. He was elevated to a Legend of the Hall of Fame in June 2023.

Barry was awarded the Australian Sports Medal in 2000, so he is clearly not short of awards and accolades! He says, though, that the O.A.M "is without doubt the most prestigious award I have ever received, although each award is very special, as you do not seek awards when doing things you enjoy doing".

Barry also singles out the A.F.L Life Membership award as an extremely special award to receive, but says it is difficult to consider which award is the most important to him, as all awards mean something different. He remembers that, at the time, being a member of the 1962 Premiership team was his proudest award. Apart from the O.A.M, Barry is extremely proud to have been inducted as a Legend of the Essendon Football Club Hall of Fame and having a room named after him at Windy Hill, the E.F.C's traditional home.

Coincidentally, when the Western Suburbs Regional Group organised a reception for new 2025 awardees in August, the event was held in the 'Barry Capuano Room' at Windy Hill, the first time the group has met in a room named after one of its members!

Barry retired completely in 2019 and until 2024 was involved as Secretary of the Owners Corporation Committee where he lives. He joined the Aberfeldie Men's Shed in 2023 and says he has greatly enjoyed making many pieces of furniture and toys, mainly for his family.

Barry and wife Anna have two daughters, Leah and Julia, Leah producing two beautiful daughters Shae and Meg, and Julia producing two great sons, Joshua and Dylan. They recently became great grandparents when granddaughter Shae produced a fantastic little girl called Sunny.

Barry says, "I am greatly proud of my O.A.M and hopefully can continue to have some influence on those who nominated me for this prestigious award".

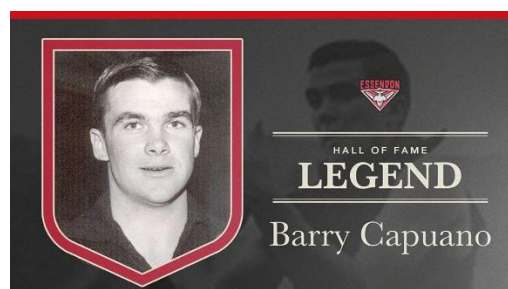


Photo of Bary Capuano O.A.M in his playing days

SPOTLIGHT ON LONG-SERVING MEMBER, BARBARA THOMAS O.A.M

Barbara Thomas O.A.M received her award in 2010 *for service to the community and through volunteer roles with the Cancer Council Victoria*. Her active contribution to the Victoria Branch O.A.A has been significant over the years.

While working in Melbourne as a Medical Scientist, Barbara was active in her professional associations, taking on various leadership roles. She was also involved in the independent school she had attended, leading her to be a member of the Board for 17 years including seven and a half years as Chair.

After taking long service leave in 2003 and moving back to Wangaratta where she was born, Barbara became involved in the Cancer Council Wangaratta Volunteer Group (C.C.V) and the CCV's Wangaratta Relay For Life. For 16 years she served on the Board of Cathedral College, Wangaratta, and in various roles at Wangaratta Golf Club of which she is currently the Women's Captain. She is an active member of the Probus Club of Appin Park and runs a book club.

Barbara has been the Group leader of the C.C.V Group since 2006. The group is involved in event fundraising and raising awareness of the support service offered by C.C.V. She says it has been a wonderful experience being involved with such a committed group of people and volunteering for an organisation that is so worthy.

As well as her Cancer Council volunteer role, Barbara is currently actively involved in women's golf and in particular in attracting more women into golf.

She says, "Contributing is incredibly important. Living in a regional area it is vital that people help each other in as many ways as possible. Volunteering through groups is extremely rewarding and is a win-win for everyone".

Barbara has spent many years contributing to the O.A.A and says, "It has been a great joy to be part of the O.A.A and meet so many wonderful people who have all helped to make this country a better place. I have marvelled at how much these special people have contributed".

Barbara is not the only one in the family to receive an honour. Her father received an O.A.M in 1982 and joined the Association. Barbara explains that watching her parents attending many functions both in Melbourne and in the Northeast Goulburn Valley inspired her to also become an active member when she received her award.

She recalls her inspiring parents, "My father was such a wonderful man and, along with my mother, was a great role model. Although my father passed away in 2006, he is still remembered fondly in our local community and has left a great legacy".



Photo of Barb Thomas O.A.M

SPECIAL FEATURE

A HEARTFELT TRIBUTE THAT ECHOES FAR BEYOND THE MUSIC

The City of Traralgon Band has returned from an extraordinary Tour of Remembrance across Europe, a journey that honoured the Gippsland region's deep connections to those who served in World War I.

Established in 1881, the Band has long been a pillar of community and commemoration, its legacy stretching back to performances at the Traralgon Railway Station as troops departed for and returned from war.

This year the tour took members across the U.K, Belgium, France and Denmark, performing at key historic and memorial sites that hold profound meaning for Australians.

The Band began in Yorkshire, a region that has itself transitioned from a coal-dependent past. There, they participated in the renowned Whit Friday Brass Band competitions, securing accolades including Best Tuba Section, Best Overseas Band and runner-up in the Second Section Band category.

In London, concerts at the Royal Hospital in Chelsea and Greenwich further underscored the Band's musical excellence before they travelled to the battlefields of Northern France. Performing across Flanders Fields and the Western Front—including Messines, Hill 60, Polygon Wood, Fromelles, V.C Corner, Pozieres and Villers-Bretonneux—the Band paid tribute at the very sites where Australian lives were lost and remembered. They also performed at the new Sir John Monash Centre, in Fouilloy, Somme, in France, deepening their connection to Australia's war legacy.

A most moving moment came at the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres, Belgium, where the names of 55,000 Commonwealth soldiers without known graves are engraved and the band performed for the Last Post ceremony. So impressed were the event organisers by the Band's performance that they have extended an

invitation for the group to return in three years for the memorial's centenary commemorations.

The Band also joined the Amiens Brass Band for a packed joint concert in Villers-Bretonneux, attended by local civic leaders.

Throughout the tour, the Band was accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Doug Caulfield O.A.M R.F.D (Retd), who conducted all the Last Post services. Latrobe City Mayor, Councillor Dale Harriman, also accompanied the group on the tour. Their presence lent further official significance to the trip, and the Band was frequently praised for the respect and honour displayed during each ceremony.

The final stages of the journey took the Band to Rouen, Normandy, and then to Copenhagen, Denmark. There, they performed a memorial service at the military barracks at Kastellet Fortress, beside the Royal Palace, with Australian Ambassador Ms Kerin Ayyalaraju in attendance. They marched in to "Waltzing Matilda," a powerful symbol of national pride and remembrance. At the Ambassador's invitation, the Band closed the tour with a spirited concert for Embassy staff at her official residence — an uplifting end to a journey marked by reverence, emotion and cultural exchange. More than a tour, this was a heartfelt tribute—one that echoes far beyond the music, into the shared memory and gratitude of a nation.



Photo of the band with Australian Ambassador Ms Kerin Ayyalarasju

By far the most moving aspect of this tour of remembrance is the story of the 'lost bugle'. In 1983 a tourist from Queensland was visiting Norfolk, England, when an unusual object caught his eye in a local antique store. It was a brass bugle bearing the rising sun badge of the Australian army. A crown and the word Australia were emblazoned across the top of the instrument with the name 'Eyre' on top of the bell section.

Intrigued, Mr Wilkes purchased the bugle for 75 pounds and brought it home to Australia where he began researching its origins. He was able to connect it to a First World War soldier, Private George Eyre, attached to the 10th Battalion, who was killed in action in France in 1917. The only information he could find on Private Eyre was that he was born in Buln Buln, a small village just north of Warragul in Gippsland, Victoria. Recognising the historical significance of the instrument, Mr

Wilkes presented the bugle to a grateful Warragul RSL, who reimbursed him the equivalent of the 75 pounds he had paid.

Little is known about Private George Eyre. His military records show that he was born and went to school in Buln Buln in 1881 and enlisted in the Australian Infantry Forces on 18 January 1916 aged 34 years seven months, one of seven children born to James and Sarah Eyre.

The only known photo of Private Eyre was taken just before his unit departed for Europe on 25 March 1916. In that photograph, he is seated in the front row, clutching the bugle on which he was to play the Last Post as the company bugler in the far-off trenches of northern France.

Sadly, the only other information on Private Eyre's military records are the words "Killed in Action 8 April 1917" and his place of burial as Moeuvres Communal Cemetery Extension, France.

The 10th battalion were engaged in an attack at nearby Louverval on 8 April 1917 and it is likely that Private Eyres lost his life during this engagement. What became of his beloved bugle over the next 66 years, and how it came to be in an antique store in Norfolk in 1983, is unknown. What is clear is Private Eyres' skill as a blacksmith, engraving his own name and Australian emblems on the instrument. It was ultimately these inscriptions which made tracing the bugle's origins possible and saw it traced back to Warragul R.S.L.

The bugle is not only part of the Warragul R.S.L collection but also used every Anzac Day and Remembrance Day in memory of soldiers like Private Eyre who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

"It is treasured by the Warragul R.S.L," said Lynn Mizen, the President of the Warragul R.S.L. "I can think of no better way to commemorate the veterans of this area than by sounding the Last Post on the very bugle used in the trenches of France."

Warragul resident Sarah Lucas had seen the bugle played on Anzac Day and was aware of the bugle's connections to the First World War. Sarah and her husband Anthony Lucas, both members of the Warragul Municipal band, were offered the opportunity to join the City of Traralgon Band on a tour of European battlefields, honouring fallen soldiers through music. Remembering the bugle, Sarah did some research and traced Private George Eyre to the Moeuvres Community Cemetery Extension in France.

Sarah approached Lynn Mizen, of the Warragul R.S.L sub-branch and asked if the bugle could be taken on the tour in honour of Private George Eyre. Both Warragul RSL sub-branch and the City of Traralgon Band enthusiastically embraced the idea, and the tour schedule was changed to incorporate a visit to Private George Eyres' gravesite.

The Last Post service for Private Eyre was held on 18 June 2025 and the honour of performing the Last Post by the gravesite was given to the City of Traralgon Band's

19-year-old bugler, Lachlan Wilson. "I am honoured to be given the opportunity to sound the Last Post on the very bugle played and engraved by a First World veteran from my region," Lachlan said. "I feel as if I have a personal connection with the man and that by playing at his grave, we are letting him know his sacrifice has not been forgotten."

Story by Doug Caulfield O.A.M R.F.D (Retd), Victoria Branch

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Chair Judy Hogben A.M's report

The winter months in Western Australia have seen some wonderful celebrations of our history and diversity.

In June, the Branch's Annual Evensong at St George's Cathedral, Perth, was a special one to mark the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of the Australian Honours system. The Governor, His Excellency the Hon. Chris Dawson A.C, A.P.M attended, with The Right Reverend Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy delivering the sermon. The service was followed with fellowship and refreshments and was a special night for the many who attended.

June was the month for celebrating anniversaries – 50 years of the Honours system and 45 of our Association, with His Excellency the Hon. Chris Dawson A.C A.P.M holding a reception in the Government House Ballroom on 26 June. Members of the O.A.A, Australian Bravery Association and current and long-standing recipients of the 'Australia medal' were invited. The evening was the setting for some remarkable personal stories of achievement, bravery and commitment to community.

To celebrate NAIDOC Week in July, the Branch, members and guests were privileged to be invited to a private tour of *Once Known*, a Carrolup Centre for Truth-telling exhibition presented by the John Curtin Gallery at the Old Perth Boys' School.

This was a rare opportunity to see reproductions of the extraordinary artworks (mostly landscapes) created by Aboriginal children forcibly taken from their families and detained at the Carrolup Native Settlement in the 1940s. Lost overseas for more than 50 years, these artworks were rediscovered in New York and returned home to Noongar Boodja, Perth, in 2013. They now stand as a testament to the resilience, creativity and enduring connection to Country of the Stolen Generations, and the visit was a wonderful way to celebrate NAIDOC week.

Also in June, The Peel Region held a wonderful luncheon and get-together at the Peel Country Club, with Guest speaker Professor Kingsley Dixon A.O F.T.S.E. A key theme of Professor Dixon's talk was the need for us to take better care of our surroundings and become more aware and respectful of the land we live in.

The coming months in Perth will see our annual dinner at the Royal Perth Golf Club in September, and a Sundowner in October with speaker Professor Kingsley Dixon A.O F.T.S.E.



Photo of the group hearing about 'Once Known'

EVENTS

Ecumenical Choral Evensong

At 5pm on Sunday 15 June, the Dean and St George's Cathedral staff and congregation once again welcomed members of the Order of Australia Association, this time to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Australian Honours system. We were delighted that the Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency the Hon. Chris Dawson A.C A.P.M was able to join us. He read the first lesson and later in the service invited members of the Order to "join him in re-dedicating themselves to the service of this country and its people, remembering their calling and their obligations as members of the Order of Australia".

The Most Reverend Kay Goldsworthy A.O D.D, Archbishop of Perth, gave the sermon. In it she spoke of service – self-giving, self-offering and self-emptying. Service is for the common good. "As followers of Jesus and St Paul," she said, "we experience love, and we live it. Every act of service matters, rooted in love, not just in duty".

The cathedral's choristers with Dr Joseph Nolan and Stewart Smith on the organ were uplifting. Supper afterwards supplied by the cathedral complemented a wonderful evening.

The Governor of Western Australia's reception

On 26 June, His Excellency the Hon. Chris Dawson A.C A.P.M held a reception in the Government House Ballroom to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Australian Honours System. Members of the Order of Australia Association,

Australian Bravery Association and recipients of the 'Australia medal' were invited. The Governor's Official Secretary, Eugene Ashe, welcomed the guests and Auntie Trish gave a welcome to Noongar Country.

The Governor spoke about a visitor, Sir Gilbert Parker, who gave a disparaging report of the 'colony' he visited at the end of the 19th century. Despite this, Western Australia has produced wonderful, inspiring, yet humble members of the community. He mentioned a crew member of Australia II, a police officer who risked his life to save many others in the Bali Bombing rescue efforts, and nominations that come from across the community.

The Governor also commented on the amazing stories of those who had been awarded the Bravery Awards.

MAJGEN Barry Nunn A.O R.F.D E.D (Retd), Chair of the Order of Australia Association, spoke of the O.A.A celebrating 45 years since establishment with 8,000 members ranging in age from 24 to 104. He was followed by the W.A Chair, Judy Hogben A.M, who mentioned that members come from many walks of life. Mark Mackin, Western Australian President of the Australian Bravery Association, shared a story of the incident for which he was awarded a Commendation for Brave Conduct. After the formal proceedings, guests mingled and shared wonderful stories.

FEATURED MEMBER

Connection to community and service -- Judy Hogben A.M

Judy, who is Chair of the Western Australia Branch, was born in Subiaco, W.A, where she was educated locally including the University of Western Australia where she received her professional qualification in psychology.

Her family's ethos of volunteering and community work, along with her early work experience in social housing, helped shape Judy's strong connection to community and the human services sectors. "Working with individuals, families and communities to assist them and to strengthen local communities has always been important to me and has influenced where and how I work and volunteer," Judy says.

When her children were young and she was taking time out from the paid workforce, Judy was actively engaged in her local community, founding a local Toy Library and being strongly involved in the local learning centre.

A significant part of Judy's work life has been in the policy and service areas of seniors, child protection and disability services. While working in the Department of Child Protection/Community Development, she took on a variety of roles, including Executive Director, Office of Seniors Interests and Volunteering; Executive Director Statewide Services, Department of Child Protection; A/Director General of Department of Child Protection. One of the highlights for Judy was

being a member of the Australian delegation (as an advisor) to the U.N's Second World Assembly on Ageing. "It was such an honour to be part of this team who could advocate for and promote the issues, concerns and future policy areas and ways to improve the lives of Australia's current and future seniors," Judy says. Being responsible for a statewide team in child protection gave Judy some of the most challenging but also most rewarding times of her career. She says, "I have the greatest respect for people who work in the area of child protection as everyday they are faced with decisions that can have a life-time impact on people's lives".

After leaving state government, Judy worked in the disability services area, firstly as CEO of the Centre for Cerebral Palsy (now Ability W.A) and then as the inaugural Chair of the W.A National Insurance Scheme Appeals Panel. For her innovative work at Ability Centre, Judy was awarded the Telstra Business Innovation Award, Western Australia, 2014.

Apart from her work in the Order of Australia Association, Judy continues to be actively involved in community, being a consumer representative and member of the Architects Board of W.A, a member, Red Cross's Lady Lawley Management Committee, and as President of Maylands Tennis Club.

A.C.T

Chair Andrew Phelan A.M's report

I warmly congratulate all the recipients of honours and awards announced in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours List, in particular the recipients from the A.C.T and region. It was a great privilege to be able to write to 49 local recipients to congratulate them, invite them to our New Recipients' Reception at the Royal Canberra Golf Club on 1 October 2025 and suggest that they join our Association. I am very pleased with the response so far.

Our King's Birthday Luncheon at the Royal Canberra Golf Club was very successful, and I thank Professor Steve Robson for his engaging, informative and helpful comments on contemporary public health issues in conversation with Committee member David Templeman A.M.

On 20 August, we held our A.C.T Student Citizenship Awards evening and were delighted that the Governor-General accepted our invitation to address the event and make the awards, highlighting yet again the importance of this initiative in furthering the Association's goal of encouraging young Australians in service to the nation and thereby 'celebrating and promoting outstanding Australian citizenship'.

We have other outstanding events planned for later in the year. Branch member Professor Mark Howden AC has been confirmed as the guest speaker for the

O.A.A.N.U Lecture to be held in October. Professor Howden is the Director, A.N.U Institute for Climate, Energy and Disaster Solutions and he shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with other Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change participants and former U.S Vice-President Al Gore. He was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours *for eminent service to environmental science, to the global response on climate change and adaptation, to agriculture, and to tertiary education*. In November, Chief of Defence Force Admiral David Johnston A.C R.A.N will deliver the O.A.A.A.D.F Oration. Admiral Johnston was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours *for eminent service to the Australian Defence Force through strategic stewardship and capability integration*.

Warm Regards

EVENTS

MAY RECEPTION FOR NEW AWARDEES

Sixty Branch members and guests gathered at the Royal Canberra Golf Club on 21 May to welcome six new recipients of Honours in the 2025 Australia Day awards. This followed their investiture at Government House in April. We have nine new members from the Australia Day awards. The Branch welcomes the contribution made by the A.C.T Government towards facilitating the welcome event.

KINGS BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

On 1 June 55 members and guests enjoyed our King's Birthday Luncheon at the Royal Canberra Golf Club, where Professor Steve Robson, in conversation with Committee member David Templeman A.M, made engaging, informative and helpful comments on contemporary public health issues in Australia, and followed with a Q & A session with the guests. Steve was President of the Australian Medical Association from 2022 to 2024. He has been practicing medicine for 35 years and currently works with the National Health and Medical Research Council. He is also Chief Medical Officer for Avant Mutual and is passionate about equitable access to healthcare, the economics of preventative care, and the mental health and wellbeing of doctors.

FEATURED MEMBER

A diplomatic musician – Fred Smith O.A.M

In the 2025 Kings Birthday Honours, Fred Smith was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia *for service to music and foreign affairs*, a combination a former Australian Ambassador described as “improbable”.

It has been an unusual trajectory for this softly spoken troubadour. In 1996 he

completed an Economics Law degree and joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It was around that time he also began writing songs that ranged from folk ballad to rock 'n' roll to polka.

In 2001 Fred returned from work on peacekeeping operations in Bougainville and the Solomon Islands to record *Bagarap Empires*. The album won the 2002 N.F.S.A National Folk Recording Award and blended personal, political and historical narratives in a way that characterised much of his subsequent travelogue recordings.

In 2009 he was the first Australian diplomat to be sent to work as a political officer alongside Australian soldiers in Uruzgan province, southern Afghanistan, and was the last to leave in 2013. While there he wrote songs and conducted regular concerts performing with Australian, U.S and Dutch soldiers and Afghan interpreters.

Returning to Australia, Smith released these songs on the album *Dust of Uruzgan*. The album received very good reviews and the title track was covered by Lee Kernaghan on his top-selling *Spirit of the Anzacs* album.

The lyrics to his song *A Sappers' Lullaby* were engraved in marble at the Australian plot in the centuries old central cemetery in Kabul. In 2013 Fred was the subject of an ABC Australian Story feature of the same name for his work as musician and storyteller of Australia's offshore stabilisation interventions.

Smith's memoir *The Dust of Uruzgan* was published in 2016 and described by Channel 10 Political Editor Hugh Riminton as, "as convincing a picture as we will ever have of the tragedy, hope, oddness and courage of Australia's Uruzgan enterprise...an astonishingly vibrant piece of reportage from the heart of our longest war".

In 2020, Fred went back to Afghanistan to work as front of house for Australia's humanitarian programme at the Embassy. When Kabul fell under Taliban control, he worked from Kabul International Airport on Australia's mission to evacuate passport and visa holders. On returning to Australia he wrote another memoir, *The Sparrows of Kabul*.

In 2022, he blended his accounts of the evacuation with songs from *Dust of Uruzgan* into a stage show called *Sparrows of Kabul*. It toured extensively and was described as a "a beautiful retelling of Australia's Afghanistan experience".

Fred says, "offering a balanced and relatable account of our involvement in Afghanistan has been a fixation and a folly which I've pursued. It felt like an important story and one I was uniquely placed to tell. Whatever you think of the war in Afghanistan, it matters that we understand the experiences of our soldiers over there, so they don't walk the land as strangers in a way that a generation of Vietnam veterans did".

Fred's body of work on Afghanistan was recognised in 2022 when he was named Folk Alliance Australia Solo Artist of the Year and was named A.C.T Artist of the

Year in 2023.

Commenting on being awarded an O.A.M, he said, “It’s a nice thing to be recognised in this way. It confers some dignity on what has felt most of the time like a scrappy and unconventional existence”.

In August 2025 Fred performed the final incarnation of his Afghanistan stage show called *Unforgotten: Songs of Australians at War* in Sydney and Wollongong. This show combined the iconic war ballads of John Schumann, Eric Bogle and Henry Lawson with Fred’s Afghanistan material in a chronological song cycle that goes some way to humanising and explaining the arc of Australia’s involvement in alliance wars.

Details of these and other Fred Smith performances can be found on Fred’s website at www.fredsmith.com.au.



Photo of Fred Smith O.A.M

NEW SOUTH WALES

Chair Dr John Gullotta A.M’s report

In the aftermath of our very successful Sydney National Conference, SYD25, the N.S.W Branch’s work continues. We recently held a very successful private tour of The Archibald exhibition as well as attending the Australia Day Investiture ceremonies at Government House Sydney.

Several of our Regional Groups have been very active in arranging local functions which are generally well attended. For groups that need some extra help, we will be arranging meetings in our major regional hubs to assist them, as it is my aim as N.S.W Chair to visit as many Regional Groups as I can.

The no-cost member forums to enable some events to be affordable and accessible to all our members should be launched by the end of the year.

This year we are holding a combined luncheon for both Australia Day 2025 and Kings Birthday 2025 New Recipients at N.S.W Parliament House on Friday 19

September 2025. This is a great opportunity for new recipients to celebrate with their guests and family and meet fellow new recipients with great networking and camaraderie.

On 22 July 2025 the N.S.W Branch celebrated 45 years and we will arrange a special celebration to commemorate this milestone in conjunction with our Christmas event.

I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

19 September: Australia Day 2025 and Kings Birthday 2025 New Recipients Combined Luncheon at N.S.W Parliament House

26 October: Paddington Art Prize Viewing and Opera

EVENTS

Australia Day 2025 Investitures at Government House Sydney

In May representatives of the Branch Committee attended the Investitures at Government House to meet the A.D.25 new recipients and promote our Association.

The Archibald Exhibition in private

On Saturday 24 May, a group of 60 O.A.A members, family and friends gathered at the Art Gallery of N.S.W for a private tour of the Archibald Exhibition. We were fortunate to be given access to the Art Gallery early in the morning before it was open to the public. This allowed us to view the artworks without the crowds.

Nobody was disappointed with our tour. We were treated to interesting examples from each of the Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Exhibitions. We were given delightful background stories to each of these by our experienced guides, which helped to make this such an amazing experience.

Our tour lasted just over an hour, after which we could wander and look at the exhibitions a will. Many of the group then stayed for a catch-up over coffee in the Art Gallery café.

Many attendees stayed to view the Young Archies exhibition at their leisure. The talent displayed by young artists chosen for the exhibit was very impressive. There are certainly some artists there to watch out for in future years.

This event is proving to be one of our most popular. It sold out in one day. We will definitely be organising another tour next year.



Photo of the group on the steps of the Art Gallery of N.S.W

AROUND THE REGIONS

O.A.A N.S.W Illawarra high tea

The Illawarra Region's O.A.A High Tea at Warilla Bowling Club on 18 July 2025 was a celebration of community and achievement. Hosted by MC Phil Thompson O.A.M, the event honoured the Region's King's Birthday awardees 2025. Special guests included Dr John Gullotta A.M, Chair of the Order of Australia Association N.S.W Branch.

Far South Coast Convenor Jan Phillips A.M and Shoalhaven Convenor Rod Gibb O.A.M also attended. The Far South Coast region stretches from Batemans Bay to the Victorian border, encompassing towns like Bega, Merimbula and Narooma. Among the most cherished attendees were three of the Illawarra region's oldest members: Val Fell O.A.M, Audrey Rhodes O.A.M and Tom Rhodes O.A.M. Audrey delivered the Grace.

The event celebrated three King's Birthday awardees from Illawarra and two from Shoalhaven, highlighting both regions' rich tapestry of service. From the Illawarra were Professor Sandra Wills O.A.M who was recognised *for work in tertiary education*, Brian Jackson O.A.M, who was recognised *for service to youth, particularly through scouting*, and Vincent Crawley O.A.M who was recognised *for service to the community of Wollongong*. From the Shoalhaven were Raymond Strong O.A.M who was recognised *for service to the community of the Shoalhaven*, and Dorothy Joan Crabb O.A.M who was recognised *for service to speleology, the scientific study of caves, and to the community*. A raffle added to the excitement, with every member contributing a prize. The room buzzed with camaraderie and shared purpose.

It was a heart-warming time of recognition, camaraderie and shared pride in community service.

O.A.A N.S.W Hunter region morning tea

On 2 August, more than 120 members, families, and friends of the Association gathered to celebrate the King's Birthday Honours recipients in the Hunter Region. The event began with a warm welcome and Acknowledgement of Country by M.C Gerry Collins, followed by a delightful morning tea.

A touching rendition of the National Anthem was led by Val Harvey-Hamilton O.A.M, proving that spirit and pride know no age.

Dr John Gullotta A.M gave a warm welcome to the new recipients on behalf of the Branch, thanked the attendees of the National Conference in Sydney, with special recognition for volunteer Maree Gleeson O.A.M. He outlined the N.S.W Branch activities and spoke on the importance of our Regional Groups with Hunter being our largest.

Guest speaker Wing Commander Cameron Douglas A.M delivered an insightful presentation on the evolution of air and missile defence including the development of radar and defence technologies; threats from ballistic missiles, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (U.A.Vs), and hypersonic weapons; historical milestones such as the beginning of air power in 1914, German V1 and V2 rockets (1944), nuclear arms (1945), and Mutually Assured Destruction Triad (1960). He noted that, despite numerous treaties since 1967, the largest recorded attack was in 2024.

Cameron was made a Member of the Order on Australia Day 2025 *for exceptional service delivering advanced integrated air and missile defence capabilities for Australia and the US*. He was presented with a wattle shrub by Convenor Maree Gleeson O.A.M as a gesture of appreciation.

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION

The Foundation's work continues

The 2024 Scholarship awardees have sent positive reports on their activities since they were presented with their awards at SYD25 earlier this year. They say the impact of the Scholarship has been life-changing. They have: maintained their high academic performance, enhanced their community activities, engaged constructively with their mentors, and are benefiting from reduced financial stress.

Meantime, the Foundation Board continues its activities in three key areas:

Awarding Scholarships for 2025

The Foundation Board has decided to award six scholarships in 2025. Given that the 2026 Order of Australia Association Conference and dinner will be held in Brisbane, and having considered the wishes of donors, four scholarships will go to universities based in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast, with the other two being made available to the University of Western Australia. Only two of the previously awarded 60 scholarships had gone to students from Queensland universities (both

to the University of Queensland).

The assessment process for the award of these six scholarships is well under way with applications being received from students from the following universities and disciplines:

- **Queensland University of Technology in Robotics:** Donated by Ms Beverley Pinder O.A.M and Mrs Angela Wheelton O.A.M.
- **University of Queensland in Arts/Law:** Donated by the Order of Australia Association Foundation, following a significant anonymous donation received by the Foundation during the 2025 financial year.
- **University of Queensland in Allied Health and Psychology:** Donated by the Order of Australia Association. We thank the Association for their ongoing support of the Scholarship programme.
- **Bond University in Medical Science:** Donated by Dr Helen Nugent A.C, reflecting not just her role on the Board of the Foundation, but also her being a previous Chancellor of Bond University.
- **University of Western Australia in Science: Information Technology and Engineering:** Donated by The McCusker Charitable Foundation. We acknowledge and thank the Hon. Malcolm McCusker A.C C.V.O K.C and Mrs Tonya McCusker A.M on behalf of The McCusker Charitable Foundation for their ongoing support of our activities.
- **University of Western Australia in Earth and Marine Sciences, Geology and Geophysics:** Donated by The Goodeve Foundation. We recognize Mr Stephen Munday for The Goodeve Foundation's continued support.

Increasing Donor Support

The Foundation Board is delighted to announce that at the end of the 2024-25 financial year, it achieved its target of having a corpus of \$5 million. We are extremely thankful to the donors who helped us realize this objective. This represents a doubling of our net assets over the past three years. The Board has now re-set its target to be \$10 million, with a view to a future stretch target.

We have a simple objective: growing our corpus to help more young Australians fulfil their ambitions for the benefit of Australia. Over the past three years, as we interviewed so many talented students, we have been struck not just by the raw talent and degree of social commitment of our applicants, but also by the extent of financial stress being experienced by university students, almost regardless of their background.

The commitment of the Foundation Board is to be worthy guardians of our donors' trust, implicit in our ability to continue to deliver a Scholarship Scheme that has a reputation as the most highly regarded undergraduate scholarship programme offered in Australia. The Governor-General's support has reinforced the Scholarship's prestige.

Engaging with Alumni

With 60 scholarships having previously been awarded, we are now of a size where we can meaningfully engage with past scholarship recipients.

To that end, we have sought to reconnect with past winners, a task in which members of the Foundation Board have engaged for some time. More recently, a fresh impetus has been given to this activity through the generous efforts of Mr Glenn Smith, who was the recipient of a scholarship kindly donated in 2007 by former Foundation Board member, Mr Ross Adler A.C. Glenn also benefited from Ross's wisdom as a mentor.

Glenn is joined in this endeavour by Ms Emily Blyth, the former Australian Head of the global Strategy and Communications' giant, Teneo. Emily's unparalleled experience in engagement services will greatly assist the Foundation. We are indebted to her and Glenn for their *pro bono* services.

They are working with the Foundation Board to develop an alumni strategy, through which we hope to take to a whole new level what it means to be an alumnus of the Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship programme.

In Summary

We aim to make all awardees in the Order of Australia proud of the work of the Foundation. In this way, the Foundation strives to bring even greater credit to Australia and what it means to have received an award within the Order of Australia.

Vale Ross Adler A.C

It is with great sadness that the Board of the Foundation acknowledges the death of Mr Ross Adler A.C. Ross made an extraordinary contribution to the Foundation. He was not only a director for 20 years from 2003 to 2023 where his wise counsel was greatly valued, but he was also an inspirational donor and mentor who supported the aspirations of high talent Australian youth. Our thoughts are with Fiona and the Adler family at this difficult time. Ross will be greatly missed by all his colleagues on the Foundation Board.

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