

The Newsletter of the Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch

Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia

October 2025



NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION Monday 22 September 2025

Congratulations to our new recipients announced in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours List, and one from the 2025 Australia Day Honours List:

Standing, rear (left to right): Robert Peter George AM, John Charlton Rowley OAM, Richard Murray Johnson OAM, Thomas Gerard Ganley OAM, Edward John Wilmot OAM, Dr Bernard James Whimpress OAM, Alan Douglas Bartram OAM, Leslie Desmond Hampel OAM, Dr Peter Robert Rischbieth AM, Robert Bruce Williamson OAM, Ian Gilbert Pole OAM, Henry Samuel Young OAM, Captain David Andrew West OAM RANR.

Standing, front: Emeritus Professor Roger William Byard AC PSM, Reverend Father Allan James Winter OAM, Wonho Chong OAM, Emily Korir OAM, Dr Satish Gupta OAM, Lynette Dawn Pole OAM, Carolyn Edith Grantskalns OAM, Dr George Zillante AM.

Seated: Lusia Halina Guthrie AM, Sister Mary Frances Ryan OAM RSJ, Glenda Sherwin-Lane OAM, Patricia Anne Marsh OAM (AD25).

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION, South Australia Branch

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<https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/sa/about-us/>

The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch



SA BRANCH NEWSLETTER, October 2025

In this newsletter we report on some of the commemorative services and events which were attended by several of our members, and also our second New Recipients' Reception for the year, where we celebrated quite a number of recipients who have recently received an award of the Order of Australia.

I would like to express my thanks to the Mayor of the City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters and Vili's Family Bakery for their ongoing generous support of our New Recipients' Receptions.

If you haven't yet booked a seat at our Christmas Morning Tea, I encourage you to join us on this day.

The Christmas Morning Tea is our way of wrapping up the year in a festive way and thanking our members for their ongoing support. We will have an interesting guest speaker, refreshments and raffles – and of course the event is free to members and partners/carers. To assist with catering please respond using the Reply Form included with this newsletter.

There is information in this newsletter about the 'Lunch on the Lawns' events at Government House, and the Garden Tours on the same days. Note that both are free – but bookings are required for the Garden Tours.

In addition, Government House will be holding its Open Day as part of South Australia's Nature Festival, on Sunday 12 October from 10 am until 2 pm.

If you haven't already done so, I recommend you take this opportunity to explore the residence of the Governor of South Australia and meet the Governor. The SA Branch will have committee members stationed near the medals display to explain the nature of the Order of Australia to members of the public, and to promote the Order of Australia Association to recipients of the Order.

Tony Metcalf OAM
SA Branch Chair

INVITATION



SA BRANCH CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA Friday 12 December 2025

This year's annual Christmas Morning Tea will be held at the Goodwood Community Centre, 32/34 Rosa Street, Goodwood, at 9.30 am for a 10 am start.

There is no cost for members and guests. Full-size medals should be worn. Our guest speaker will be Deborah De Williams AM, on the topic "Faithful Success".

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday 3 October: Government House 'Lunch on the Lawns', 12 noon to 2 pm (free event)

Friday 10 October: Eyre Peninsula Regional Group self-funded luncheon meeting

Sunday 26 October: Yorke Peninsula Regional Group self-funded luncheon meeting in Ardrossan

Thursday 30 October: Honours recipients fellowship self-funded luncheon meeting with guest speaker

Friday 7 November: Fleurieu Regional Group self-funded luncheon meeting

Friday 7 November: 'Lunch on the Lawns'

Friday 5 December: 'Lunch on the Lawns'

Friday 12 December: SA Branch Christmas Morning Tea, Goodwood Community Centre

Saturday 17 January 2026: 'Celebration of Australia Day' luncheon at Jarmer's Kitchen in Prospect

Thursday 26 February: Honours recipients fellowship luncheon meeting with guest speaker

Friday 27 February: South East Regional Group self-funded luncheon meeting

Saturday 14 March: Annual General Meeting

The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch

VIETNAM VETERANS COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

Monday 18 August 2025

The Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Service was held at the Vietnam War Memorial at Torrens Parade Ground on Monday 18 August, with several SA Branch members and other Order of Australia recipients amongst the veterans who attended.

This commemoration honoured the service of all Australian, New Zealand and Republic of Vietnam Service personnel who fought in the Vietnam War, and particularly the 523 Australians, 37 New Zealanders and as many as 300,000 Service personnel from the Republic of Vietnam who lost their lives. Photographer Luke Scott (Adelaide Military Commemoration Photos), who provided a photographic record of the ceremony, said, "The service paid tribute to the courage, service, and sacrifice of all who served, and honoured the memory of those who did not return".



South Australian anaesthetist and Thai cave rescue hero Dr Richard 'Harry' Harris SC OAM was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of South Australia on 25 January 2024.

On this occasion His Excellency Dr Harris attended in his capacity as Deputy of the Governor of South Australia. Image by Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP.



Images by Luke Scott, Adelaide Military Commemoration Photos



The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch

MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS DAY COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

Friday 29 August 2025

At commemorative services both in Adelaide and in Kuching, members of the South Australia & Northern Territory Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc solemnly repeat the promise to remember the fallen.

This year's Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service of commemoration was held in the City of West Torrens Hamra Library Auditorium, to mark the 65th anniversary of the End of the Malayan Emergency, the 63rd anniversary of the suppression of the Brunei Revolt, and the 59th anniversary of the end of Confrontation.

A ceremonial detachment of Air Force Cadets was again provided by No 604 Squadron (Hampstead Barracks). The members of the Catafalque Party carried innocuous .303-inch SMLE rifles representative of the era of the Malayan wars.

The veterans and dignitaries present spoke of the professionalism of the Air Force Cadets and their commitment to honouring service and sacrifice.

The guest of honour was His Excellency Dr Richard Harris SC OAM, the Lieutenant Governor of South Australia, who attended on this occasion as the Governor's Deputy.

Dr 'Harry' Harris is a South Australian anaesthetist, best known for having played a crucial role in the rescue of twelve Thai children and their soccer coach in the Tham Luang cave system in northern Thailand.

Dr Harris was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) on 24 July 2018, "For service to the international community through specialist response roles during the Tham Luang cave rescue in Thailand in 2018".

He was also awarded the Star of Courage (SC) which is awarded for 'acts of conspicuous courage in circumstances of great peril'.

On 7 September 2018, the King of Thailand appointed Dr Harris a Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Admirable Order of the Direkgunabhorn.



The Governor's Deputy, Dr Richard Harris SC OAM



Repatriation Commissioner Mr Kahlil Fegan DSC AM and Deputy Commissioner SA Ms Jenn Buckler, Department of Veterans' Affairs, placed tributes in memory of the fallen and to acknowledge the service of all Service veterans.

Brigadier Fegan was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia, "For exceptional service in the Australian Army as Chief of Staff Army Headquarters and Commander 3rd Brigade" (AD23).



Group Captain Robert Black AM RFD (retired) was among the guests, pictured above (left) with Senator Andrew McLachlan CSC, Senator for South Australia, and Legatee Keith Bleechmore, Legacy Past President, representing the Legacy Club of SA & Broken Hill Inc.

Images courtesy of Luke Scott, Adelaide Military Commemoration Photos

The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch



Lieutenant-Colonel John Spencer OAM RFD (ret'd), represented the National Service Association (SA).



His Excellency Dr Richard Harris SC OAM, the Governor's Deputy, with the venue host His Worship Michael Coxon, Mayor of the City of West Torrens, and SA/NT Branch NMBVAA State President Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM (ret'd).

80th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF SARAWAK

Thursday 11 September 2025

A number of events were held in Sarawak, Malaysia in September relating to the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Sarawak from Japanese occupation by troops of the 9th Australian Division, AIF in 1945.

These ceremonies also honoured the service of Brigadier Tom Eastick DSO ED from South Australia, who was Commander Kuching Force at the end of World War 2, and Military Governor of Sarawak from 10 September until December 1945, when the territory returned to local civilian rule. He was subsequently Sir Thomas Charles Eastick Kt CMG DSO ED JP.

A considerable number of Eastick family members attended these events in Kuching, including multiple descendants of Sir Tom's eldest son Dr Bruce Charles Eastick AM – a member of the SA Branch, turning 98 this month – who was Mayor of Gawler (1968-72 and 1993-00), MHA for Light (1970-93), South Australian Leader of the Opposition (1972-75) and Speaker of the South Australian House of Assembly (1979-82).

Dr Bruce Eastick was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia, "In recognition of service to the South Australian Parliament, local government and the community" (AD96).

Eastick Legacy

At the Astana Negeri Sarawak (the official residence of the Governor of Sarawak) Michael Eastick and descendants of Sir Thomas Eastick display the original Sarawak flag which had flown over the Astana during the period of Australian military administration in 1945 under Brigadier Thomas Eastick DSO ED. This historic flag was then presented to the Governor of Sarawak.



The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch

80th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF SARAWAK

On Tuesday 9 September, Eastick family members visited the Astana Negeri Sarawak to pay a call on Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak (His Excellency the Governor) Tun Pehin Sri Dr Wan Junaidi Jaafar and Her Excellency Toh Puan Datuk Patinggi Fauziah Mohd Sanusi. Michael Eastick, a grandson of Sir Thomas Eastick, presented an original “1945 Japanese Surrender” document to the Governor of Sarawak.

The first major event was an inauguration ceremony of the Sarawak Liberation Monument at Pending Point in Kuching, commemorating the surrender of Japanese General Hiyoe Yamamura to Brigadier Eastick aboard HMAS *Kapunda* on 11 September 1945, ending Operation ‘Oboe Six’. The ceremony also featured a handover of a replica Instrument of Surrender from Michael Eastick, a grandson of Sir Thomas.

In the early afternoon, a re-enactment of the surrender was carried out: the Bathurst-class corvette HMAS *Kapunda* was represented by the Cape-class patrol boat HMAS *Cape Schanck*. Brigadier Eastick’s grandson Michael stood alongside his family including Lieutenant Morgan Eastick, now serving with the Australian Rifle Company at Butterworth.

In the afternoon, a solemn ceremony marked the liberation of Batu Lintang Prisoner-of-War and Internment Camp: the timely liberation of the camp by Eastick’s forces prevented the murder of over 2,000 men, women and children.

All Australians who attended greatly appreciated the support, friendship and hospitality of Datuk Dr Philip Ting PGBK AM, the Australian Honorary Consul to Sarawak – who is in fact Australia’s longest serving honorary consul.

The ceremonies were planned and coordinated by Dato Lim Kian Hock PSBS JBK OAM, former Sarawak Tourism Federation Heritage Advisor and former Chair of the Sarawak Tourism Federation’s History and Heritage Development Committee. For decades, Dato Lim has dedicated himself to commemorating the service of the Australian Armed Forces, and those who served alongside them, in Sarawak and Borneo between 1942 and 1945, and paying homage to all the Allied Prisoners of War and the Australian Army liberators who entered Sarawak during the occupation to finally bring freedom to the local people.

Sarawak Club

A dinner was held at the Sarawak Club on 10 September to honour Sir Thomas Eastick, hosted by the President of the Federation of Chinese Associations of Sarawak, Dato Richard Wee Liang Chiat PSBS KMN PBK. It recalled a dinner 80 years earlier hosted by the Chinese Community of Sarawak on 10 October 1945 for Brigadier Tom Eastick and officers of the Australian Forces and the British Borneo Civil Affairs Unit. A feature of the event was a replica card bearing the signature of Brigadier Tom Eastick DSO ED.



Surrender Re-enactment

The re-enactment of the surrender of Japanese forces on 11 September 1945 was carried out aboard HMAS Cape Schanck. Brigadier Thomas Eastick was represented by his grandson Michael and great-grandson Lieutenant Morgan Eastick. Also present were the Australian Honorary Consul to Sarawak Datuk Dr Philip Ting AM (left) and former Sarawak Tourism Federation Heritage Advisor Dato Lim Kian Hock OAM (right).

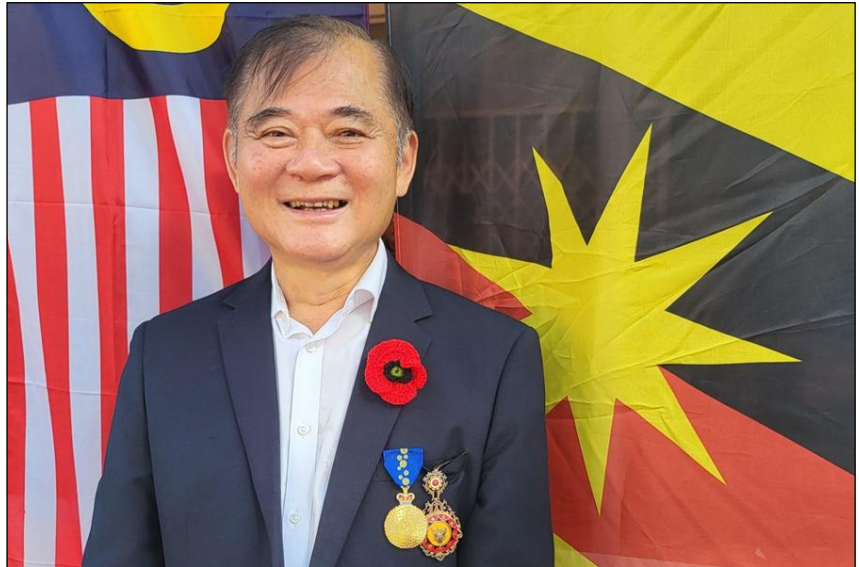


The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch

Datuk Dr Philip Ting PGBK AM

Datuk Philip Ting was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (Honorary) on 1 July 2010, "For service to the Australian Government as the Honorary Consul of Australia – Kuching, in Sarawak, Malaysia".

Datuk Philip is a Commander of the Order of the Star of the Sarawak Hornbill (Panglima Gemilang Bintang Kenyalang, PGBK), an appointment that carries the title 'Datuk'.



Images by Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP



Dato Lim Kian Hock PSBS JBK OAM

Former Sarawak Tourism Federation Heritage Advisor Dato Lim Kian Hock was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (Honorary) on 1 September 2021, "For service to Australia-Malaysia relations, particularly to commemorating the role played by Australians in Sarawak, Malaysia, during World War II".

Dato Lim is a Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of Sarawak (Panglima Setia Bintang Sarawak, PSBS), an appointment that carries the title 'Dato'.



Sir Thomas Eastick Kt CMG DSO ED JP

Michael Eastick wore the original medals of his grandfather when he placed tributes in his memory.

Earlier, when Eastick family members visited the Astana Negeri Sarawak to pay a call on TYT Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak (His Excellency the Governor) Tun Pehin Sri Dr Wan Junaidi Jaafar and Her Excellency Toh Puan, Michael displayed the insignia of Companion of the Star of Sarawak which had been awarded to Brigadier Eastick in 1946.

The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch



NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION Monday 22 September 2025

In our second New Recipients' Reception for the year, held at Payneham Library, we acknowledged 24 new recipients announced in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours List, which includes one promotion within the Order, and one recipient who was announced in the 2025 Australia Day Honours List.

We thank Mayor Robert Bria of the City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters for his ongoing support.



We also thank Rosemary Milisits OAM from Vili's Family Bakery for their generous support and assistance. Rosemary and her late husband Vilmos (Vili) were each awarded an OAM 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"*.

<https://www.vilis.com/>

For photographs and additional information on the Order of Australia and the Association, click here:

[New Recipients' Reception, September 2025](#)



Associate Professor John Svigos AM

Our guest speaker at the New Recipients' Reception was Associate Professor John Svigos AM MBBS DRCOG MRCOG CBioEth FAGO FRCOG FRACOG FRANZCOG, on the topic, "Bali beckons me and you!".

Professor Svigos is a distinguished obstetrician and gynaecologist with over five decades of clinical, academic and international experience.

He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia, *"For service to medicine, particularly in the field of obstetrics and perinatology, through executive roles with national and international professional organisations, and to medical education"* (QB10).



The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch

COMPANION of the Order of Australia

Emeritus Professor Roger
William Byard AC PSM

*“For eminent service to medicine,
to forensic pathology,
to tertiary education as an
academic and researcher,
and to the community”*

Professor Byard was previously
appointed an Officer of the Order
of Australia in the Australia Day
2013 Honours List



MEMBER of the Order of Australia

Robert Peter George AM

*“For significant service to medicine as a diagnostic
radiographer”*



MEMBER of the Order of Australia

Lusia Halina Guthrie AM

*“For significant service to the pharmaceutical
and medical technology sectors”*



MEMBER of the Order of Australia

Dr Peter Robert Rischbieth AM

*“For significant service to rural health
as a medical practitioner”*



MEMBER of the Order of Australia

Dr George Zillante AM

*“For significant service to architectural tertiary
education, and to construction and building surveying”*

The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch



MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Patricia Anne Marsh OAM
*“For service to the community,
particularly women and youth”*
Australia Day 2025 Honours List



MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Alan Douglas Bartram OAM
*“For service to the opal mining industry,
and to the community”*



MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Wonho Chong OAM
*“For service to martial arts,
and to the Korean community”*



MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Thomas Gerard Ganley OAM
“For service to the aviation industry”



MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Carolyn Edith Grantskalns OAM
“For service to the education sector”



MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Dr Satish Gupta OAM
“For service to the community of South Australia”

The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch



MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Leslie Desmond Hampel OAM
“For service to the community of Nuriootpa”



MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Richard Murray Johnson OAM
“For service to the community of Adelaide”



MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Emily Korir OAM
*“For service to people with a disability,
and to multicultural communities”*



MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Ian Gilbert Pole OAM
*“For service to the community through
emergency response organisations”*



MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Lynette Dawn Pole OAM
*“For service to the community through
emergency response organisations”*



MEDAL of the Order of Australia
John Charlton Rowley OAM
*“For service to the Liberal Party,
and the community of South Australia”*

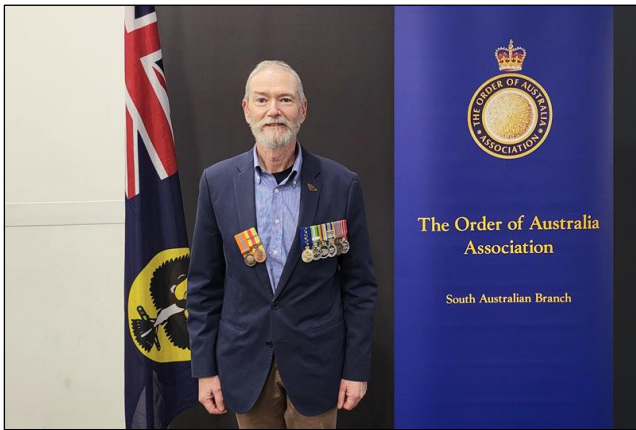
The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch



MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Sister Mary Frances Ryan OAM RSJ
*“For service to the
Catholic Church of Australia”*



MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Glenda Sherwin-Lane OAM
*“For service to the
community of South Australia”*



MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Captain David Andrew West OAM RANR
*“For service to
mental health nursing”*



MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Dr Bernard James Whimpress OAM
*“For services to literature
as sportswriter and author”*



MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Robert Bruce Williamson OAM
“For service to engineering”



MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Edward John Wilmot OAM
*“For service to youth through Scouts,
and to the community”*

The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch



MEDAL of the Order of Australia

Reverend Father Allan James Winter OAM

*“For service to the Catholic Church,
and to the community”*



MEDAL of the Order of Australia

Henry Samuel Young OAM

*“For service to veterans,
and to tennis”*



As well as acknowledging our new recipients, this reception was also an opportunity for us to mark the 50-year anniversary of the institution of the Australian Honours System – and in particular, the Order of Australia.

This logo (left) has been created by the Office of the Governor-General to commemorate the 50th Anniversary.

The Governor-General is Chancellor of the Order of Australia.

The design incorporates the primary ribbon colours of the Order of Australia, the Star of Courage (representing the Australian Bravery Decorations) and the National Medal, which were all instituted in 1975.

During this half-century, more than one million Australians have received an award in the Order of Australia, or been recognised for their courage, merit and service through other national awards.



Volunteer Position Available

A reminder that we are looking for a volunteer to fill the role of **Curator/Historian** to support the SA Branch's 50-Year Anniversary. Please contact Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM to express your interest or to learn more:

chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch



HIS MAJESTY CHARLES THE THIRD

by the Grace of God, King of Australia and His other Realms and Territories,
Head of the Commonwealth

Sovereign of the Order of Australia

Upon his accession to the throne of the United Kingdom and fourteen other Commonwealth realms on 8 September 2022, as King of Australia Charles III became Sovereign of the Order of Australia.

On 19 October 2024, during the Royal Visit to Australia, King Charles III was appointed by the Governor-General of Australia to the honorary ranks of Admiral of the Fleet of the Royal Australian Navy, Field Marshal of the Australian Army and Marshal of the Royal Australian Air Force.

The Royal Australian Navy, Australian Army and Royal Australian Air Force have announced the introduction of new crests, which came into effect on 1 August 2025. The primary change is the adoption of the Tudor Crown of His Majesty King Charles III, in place of the St Edward's Crown used by Queen Elizabeth II.

Concurrent with the roll-out of the new crests, all insignia bearing the St Edward's Crown remain valid. Uniform items such as hat badges, rank insignia and buttons will not be replaced until the current stock items are exhausted – these include hat badges (see below), buttons and some rank insignia.



This is the current pattern hat badge worn by officers of the RAAF, officers of the Australian Air Force Cadets, and Cadet Under Officers in the AAFC, with the St Edward's Crown or "Queen's Crown" of Queen Elizabeth II.



This is the new pattern bullion embroidered hat badge for RAAF and AAFC officers and Cadet Under Officers, bearing the Tudor Crown or "King's Crown" adopted by King Charles III.

The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2025

HONOURS RECIPIENTS FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON Thursday 30 October 2025

Members of the Order of Australia, honours recipients, partners and friends are invited to share in the fostering of fellowship in an informal setting during our regular luncheon meetings at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club at 111 Hutt Street.

Guests should arrive at 12 noon. Lunch commences at 12.30 pm, the guest speaker begins at 1.15, and the event will conclude by 2 pm.

A dress code applies at the NMAF Club: smart day wear for ladies, and long trousers and jacket for men. To RSVP please contact:

Flavia de Pasquale OAM
0438 873 025
deflavia750@gmail.com

Pamela Rajkowski OAM
0400 810 196
pamraj@bigpond.com

Save the Dates

The next honours recipients fellowship luncheon will be held at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club on **Thursday 30 October**.

The speaker will be former SA Branch Committee member Gillian Rogers OAM on the topic "The history and life of Jimmy Melrose". Gill was awarded the OAM, "For service to youth with intellectual disabilities, particularly through the Get Together Club" (AD94).

Please pencil in the following dates for 2026:

Thursday 26 February
Thursday 30 April
Thursday 25 June
Thursday 27 August
Thursday 29 October



Conclusions

The future of water and environmental law in Australia must be **interdisciplinary, inclusive, and innovative**. It must draw from **comparative legal systems**, engage with **community narratives**, and be grounded in **scientific and cultural knowledge and respect human rights**.

Only then can we craft laws that not only regulate but inspire—a jigsaw of legal instruments that, when assembled thoughtfully, form a coherent and just framework for sustainable water and environmental law and governance.

Our August guest speaker was Professor Jennifer McKay AM, Professor of Business Law at the University of South Australia-Justice and Society, speaking on the topic, "Elements of modern water and environmental law".



The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch

Regional Group News

Riverland and Mallee Regional Group. Regional Convenor Tim Grieger OAM JP advises that the group held its meeting at the Loxton Club on Friday 26 September, comprising member presentations.

Eyre Peninsula Regional Group. Regional Convenor Wendy Holman OAM advises that the next gathering will be held at Tumby Bay Uniting Church at 12 noon on Friday 10 October.

Yorke Peninsula Regional Group. Regional Convenor Elaine Bussenschutt OAM advises that the next scheduled luncheon meeting will be at the Ardrossan Hotel/Motel on Sunday 26 October at 12.30 pm.

Fleurieu Regional Group. John Hutchinson OAM advises that the next meeting will be held at the Middleton Tavern on Friday 7 November, with guest speaker Marjory Keeble OAM.

South East Regional Group. Regional Convenor Eric Roughana AM advises that the next luncheon will be held in Penola on Friday 27 February 2026.

Note: all proposed dates are subject to change by the respective groups should circumstances deem it necessary.

Photography. Photographs may be taken and may be used in various publications including this newsletter and the national magazine. If you do not wish your photograph to be taken, please notify the organisers that you wish to opt out.



VALE

The Chair, Branch Committee members and members of the SA Branch offer our condolences on the passing of the following South Australia Branch members and past members of the Order of Australia Association:

Sir Eric James Neal Kt AC CVO

Richard Thomas Collins AM

Emeritus Professor Elinor Ruth Grant AM

Desmond Percival Smith AM ISO

Margaret Raemon Atkinson OAM

David Rattray OAM

Dr Reuben John ('Rip') van Velsen OAM

Patrick Darcy Walden OAM

MERCHANDISE

Members of the Order of Australia Association may purchase Association-branded merchandise. Our Merchandise Officer will have a range of items available at events to purchase. Alternately, you can order direct via the national website (postage costs will be incurred) – refer to the QR Code or link below:

Enjoy Spring shopping at the OAA Merchandise Shop including

New tote bag



\$12.00

Silk scarf



\$52.00

Cuff Links



\$35.00

Cap



\$21.00

Enquiries Barb 0413 008 571

All items in the OAA range can be purchased at
www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart



The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch



Statement from Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia

Rod and I were saddened to learn of the passing of Sir Eric Neal AC CVO KtStJ FTSE and extend our heartfelt condolences to his family.

I have had the pleasure of meeting Sir Eric on many occasions and benefiting from his wisdom and experience.

I met him most recently when I visited him at his home in June to congratulate him on the occasion of his 101st birthday.

I found him, as ever, an attentive host, engaged with current affairs, and a model of courtesy, dignity, and good humour.

Among the changes that Sir Eric brought to Government House which have been continued and developed by his successors are, in particular, the Governors' Leadership Awards and, together with his beloved wife the late Lady Neal, a tradition of greater openness of the house and grounds to the South Australian public.

In Adelaide and during my travels across the state, South Australians have often recalled Sir Eric's time in office with fondness, respect, and admiration.

Rod and I look forward to joining others in paying our respects to Sir Eric and his remarkable life at his state funeral.

*Statement by Her Excellency the Governor
(courtesy of Government House)*

VALE

Sir Eric Neal Kt AC CVO (1924-2025)

The Honourable Sir Eric Neal Kt AC CVO passed away on 2 September 2025, aged 101 years of age.

He was appointed a Knight Bachelor on 12 June 1982, *"For services to industry"*.

The title of 'Knight Bachelor' signifies that the recipient has been knighted by the monarch, but has not been inducted as a member of one of the organised orders of chivalry.

The designation "Bachelor" conveys the concept of 'junior in rank' to the ancient Orders of chivalry.

The award grants the prefix 'Sir', but carries no actual post-nominals. By convention, the letters 'Kt' are often used to indicate that nature of the knighthood.

In the 1988 Australia Day Honours List, Sir Eric Neal was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC), *"For service to Commerce and to the Community"*.

In 1992 Sir Eric was awarded the United States Department of Defence Medal for Distinguished Public Service for his contribution in Chairing the Council that organised Australian events commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea.

Among many other career highlights, Sir Eric was the 32nd Governor of South Australia – holding that office from 22 July 1996 to 3 November 2001.

As Deputy Prior of the Order of St John in South Australia, Sir Eric was admitted to the Order of St John in 1996 as a Knight of Grace (KStJ). At the same time, Lady Neal was admitted to the Order as a Dame of Grace (DStJ).

Sir Eric was National Chair of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award–Australia (1984-92). He was appointed a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO) on 13 June 1992 for his service as Chairman.

He was an International Trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award (1987-97), and he and Lady Joan Neal AM were World Fellows of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association.

As South Australian Governor from 1996 to 2001, Sir Eric was Patron of the Award.

Sir Eric was awarded the Centenary Medal (Prescribed List) with effect from 1 January 2001.

At Government House on 17 June this year, Sir Eric was appointed a Life Patron of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award–Australia.

He was just the second Australian to receive this honour.

Lest we Forget



Our SA Branch Member Secretary Mr Greg Gordon was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia, "For service to the pipe band movement as an administrator and tutor" (AD00). He received the insignia from Sir Eric Neal in an investiture at Government House in April 2000.

The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch

FRIEND OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Our Association Purpose Statement is:

*To celebrate and promote
outstanding Australian citizenship*

In accordance with this Purpose, and our Branch aim of supporting opportunities to contribute to the Australian community, the Branch has subscribed as a *Friend of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award*.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a global framework for non-formal education, founded by the late Prince Philip in 1956 – and in Australia in 1959. The Award inspires young Australians to undertake voluntary service, skills and physical recreation activities and adventurous journeys to qualify for the Bronze, Silver or Gold Award. Each level is progressively more challenging.

At this time we have made a small donation, which will help one disadvantaged young South Australian to participate in the Award where they might not otherwise have the opportunity.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE OPEN DAY Sunday 12 October 2025

Government House will be holding an Open Day on Sunday 12 October, from 10 am until 2 pm, as part of South Australia's Nature Festival.

Open Days are held twice a year at Government House and are an opportunity for members of the public to explore the residence of the Governor of South Australia, tour through the gardens and meet the Governor.

Come explore the beautiful house and gardens, enjoy family-friendly activities, and celebrate our connection to nature in the heart of the city.

Admission is free and all are welcome. No booking required.



The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch

GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Lunch on the Lawns



As the weather warms up, Her Excellency and Mr Rod Bunten have again offered an invitation to come to Government House to experience the gardens.

The popular Government House 'Lunch on the Lawns' events will run until May 2026.

You can bring a picnic lunch, spread out a rug or unfold a camping chair, and enjoy the surroundings while listening to a community band or orchestra.

Just come through the main gates and choose your picnic spot.

The upcoming free events will be on 3 October, 7 November and 5 December, from 12 noon to 2 pm.

The proposed dates for the free 'Lunch on the Lawns' events in 2026 are 9 January, 6 February, 6 March, 10 April and 1 May 2026.

'Lunch on the Lawns' is part of Her Excellency's and Mr Bunten's aim to make Government House a place where more South Australians feel welcome and are able to visit.

On the same days, Garden Tours are offered between 10.45 and 11.45 am. These are free – but bookings are required.

For more information, please refer to the QR codes below or contact: governors.office@sa.gov.au.

GARDEN TOURS

10:45AM - 11:45AM

FREE ENTRY

BOOKINGS
REQUIRED



SEPTEMBER 5
OCTOBER 3

NOVEMBER 7
DECEMBER 5

JANUARY 9
FEBRUARY 6

MARCH 6
APRIL 10

MAY 1

LUNCH ON THE LAWN

12PM - 2PM • FREE ENTRY
BYO PICNIC



The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch



For more information visit our website: <https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/sa/about-us/>



Contributions

Contributions for this newsletter or *The Order* may be submitted to the SA Branch Editor:

Major Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP (ret'd)
c/- chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Photography

Please note that photographs may be taken at our events, and may be used online and in publications including this newsletter and the national magazine, *The Order*. If you do not wish your photograph to be taken, please notify the organisers that you wish to opt out.



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Notifications

Please notify the Member Secretary SA of any changes in your personal contact details, or if you are able to receive this newsletter via email:

oaasambrsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Regional Group Contacts

Regional Groups

Coordinator: Ken Coventry OAM JP
kencoam08@gmail.com

Eyre Peninsula Regional Group

Meets annually on the second Friday in October, rotating through locations throughout the Region
Regional Convenor: Mrs Wendy Holman OAM
0439 870 066 || wendy.holman@bigpond.com

Fleurieu Regional Group

Meets on the first Friday in May and November
Regional Convenor: John Hutchinson OAM
0427 525 670 || johnhutc@bigpond.com

Riverland and Mallee Regional Group

Holds luncheon meetings twice a year, typically on the last Friday in March and September
Regional Convenor: Mr Tim Grieger OAM JP
0409 099 122 || tgrieger@riverland.net.au

South East Regional Group

Meets in Mount Gambier biannually, and at an alternative regional location in the alternate years
Regional Convenor: Mr Eric Roughana AM
0408 817 260 || roseric1@bigpond.com

Yorke Peninsula Regional Group

Holds luncheon meetings twice a year
Regional Convenor: Elaine Bussenschutt OAM
0417 806 839 || elaine@yp-connect.net



2025 CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA


REPLY FORM – SA BRANCH CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA, Friday 12 December 2025 – at the Goodwood Community Centre, at 9.30 am for a 10 am start, finishing at 12 noon. There is no cost for members and guests. Full-size medals should be worn.

We will have the usual entertaining raffles, and Order of Australia Association merchandise will be available to purchase.


The guest speaker will be Deborah De Williams AM, on the topic “Faithful Success”.

Please RSVP not later than **Sunday 30 November 2025**



 Register online using Humanitix (preferred) using the link below:
<https://events.humanitix.com/sa-branch-2025-christmas-morning-tea>

 Alternately, forward this Reply Form via email: oaasa.events@gcgordon.id.au

 If necessary, forward this Reply Form to:
SA Branch Events Sub-committee, PO Box 1065, CLEARVIEW SA 5085

Name: [please print] [post-nominals]

Preferred name: Phone Contact:

Email or Address:

Dietary requirements [if any]

I will be accompanied by (additional guests are very welcome: *please advise names using the email address above*):

Guest 1: [post-nominals]

Guest 2: [post-nominals]

Guest 3: [post-nominals]

Refund policy – No refund is possible after 24 hours before the start time of the event



Photography – Please note that photographs will be taken and may be used in various publications including this newsletter and the national magazine, *The Order*. If you do not wish your photograph to be taken, please notify the organisers that you wish to opt out.

We hope you can join us for this significant event!