



## Welcome from VIC Branch Chair

Greetings to all and welcome to this edition of The Order of Australia Association Ltd VIC Branch September 2025 E-Newsletter as we move into spring with longer days and all the blossoms now being seen.

Thank you to all who attended the Vic Branch Mid-Year lunch to ensure another successful was event provided by the Vic Branch committee. It was great to see the venue at capacity and have the opportunity for our new members to be recognised along with several King's Birthday Honours recipients who were in attendance.

I was fortunate to attend the Investitures for the 2025 Kings Birthday Honours recipients and meet many of the recipients particularly those who have already joined OAA. I trust all who attended enjoyed your special day at Government House and will now take the opportunity to proudly wear your lapel pin to acknowledge your Australian Honour.

Thank you to all members who have registered to attend the Vic Branch End of Year Dinner being held on Thursday 20th November at the Stamford Plaza Melbourne commencing at 6:00pm. If you have not already registered the details and booking arrangements are within this e-Newsletter

I am pleased to confirm Alan Brook OAM has now been co-opted onto the Vic Branch committee as Treasurer following the resignation of Luz Restrepo OAM. I thank Alan for accepting this role and I also thank Luz for her service while in the role of Treasurer.

In each edition of the e-Newsletter I have indicated my focus is on Membership Growth, Membership Retention and Membership Participation. In relation to Membership Growth, it is pleasing to see we have 90 new members so far this year. Membership Retention is the matter that needs further addressing as we have written off 33 unfinancial members up until the end of August. On a positive note, Membership Participation is improving with almost a full house at our recent Vic Branch Mid-Year lunch and increasing number of members attending their Regional Group events.

I look forward to meeting many of our members at our forthcoming end of year dinner.

Happy to receive questions or comments on any matters in the September 2025 E-Newsletter.

Fred Harrington OAM VIC Branch Chair M: 0417 116 304  
E: [chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)





## Invitation for OAA Members, Partners and Guests

Thursday 20 November at 6:00pm for 6:15pm

Stamford Plaza Melbourne

111 Little Collins Street Melbourne

### Dinner Speakers:

#### **Georgina Gubbins OAM**

Citation: For service to primary industry, and to the community.

An experienced non-Executive Director with a strategic future focus, Georgina's background is in rural and regional development, agriculture, health and education. Experience on volunteer sporting and education Committees with a strong commitment to Corporate Governance



Georgina thinks strategically, builds relationships, influences others and ensures tasks are executed. An inquiring mind helps see things from different perspectives, ask intelligent questions and develop innovative strategies and solutions. She has a realistic approach to business adopting technology to help profitability.

Georgina passion is in Agriculture, Health, Sport, Education and Rural/ Regional Australia. She has well established networks across these industries.

#### **Ayman Miazi**

2024 OAA Foundation scholarship recipient Ayman Miazi is undertaking a Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) at Monash University with a specialisation in Aerospace Engineering and will provide an update on his studies, his other university involvements and community activities.

**Book** by 5:00pm Thursday 13 November 2025 at <https://www.trybooking.com/DDWZZ>



**Cost:** \$70 per person GST included plus booking fee. 2 Course Dinner, cash bar for drinks

Note: Table seating list will be at the entrance. If you have preference for who you sit with, please indicate this when booking.

**Members note:** Order of Australia **Miniature** medal may be worn at the dinner.

Enquiries or assistance with booking contact Fred Harrington OAM - M: 0417 116 304



# SAVE THE DATE



## Upcoming VIC Branch Regional Group Events for 2025

### Loddon Campaspe

City of Greater Bendigo biennial reception for Order of Australia honours awardees will be held on **Wednesday 8 October** between 5pm and 6pm, official invitations have been sent to recipients. Loddon Campaspe Deputy Chair Dr Penny Davies AM and committee member Dawn Colbourne OAM will be representing the Order of Australia Association Loddon Campaspe Regional Group and Penny will present a short address and welcome the new Order of Australia recipients.

The Loddon Campaspe Regional Group committee expresses its sincere thanks to the City of Greater Bendigo Council for their thoughtfulness in holding this reception.

### North East & Goulburn Valley

Lunch on **Sunday 12 October** at Fowles Winery, Wine Shed Avenel commencing at 12.30pm  
Guest Speaker: Matt Harrop - Chief Winemaker.

There will be a Two Course Luncheon - \$69.00 per person GST included with a free wine tasting  
All members, recipients, family and friends are welcome.

For more information or bookings, please contact [marg.attley@aussiebb.com.au](mailto:marg.attley@aussiebb.com.au)

### South West

Open Garden Day at 10.30am for an 11.00am start on **Sunday 16 November** at "Yamba"  
915 Glenthompson Rd Caramut.

There will be a garden walk with owner Helen Diprose speaking about the garden. Over lunch Judy Vanrenen OAM will speak on *My Botanical Journey - from country Victoria to a global botanical stage*. Details to follow.

Set on approximately three acres in Caramut, 'Yamba' is a passionate plant collector's garden on a working Western District farm, filled with a variety of perennials, grasses, trees, hedges, and bulbs. Owner Helen Diprose is a dedicated Open Gardens Victoria volunteer and talented flower arranger.

When her family moved to Yamba nearly 20 years ago, she discovered challenging rocky clay soil and no garden. Helen has spent many years enhancing drainage, improving the soil quality, and building raised beds to help the garden survive and thrive.

For more information please contact Georgina on email [maneroofarms94@gmail.com](mailto:maneroofarms94@gmail.com)

OAA Victoria Branch and Regional Group Events for 2025, please refer to website:  
<https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/vic/upcoming-events/>

SAVE  
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DATE

## Paul Wheelton AM Inspiring Australians Oration

**Friday 20 March 2026** at Angliss Conference Centre

commencing at 10.30am

The Oration will be delivered by Kathryn Fagg AC.

King's Birthday this year Kathryn Fagg (photo right) was elevated to Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) for eminent service to business governance, to the banking, finance and investment industry, to public administration, to the not-for-profit sector, and to women.

Chelsea Allen an OAA Foundation scholarship recipient donated by Paul Wheelton AM in 2023 will update members and guests.

Invitation to the Oration will be included in the December 2025 VIC Branch E-Newsletter

The OAA VIC Branch Annual General Meeting will follow the Oration.

For **2026** OAA Victoria Branch Regional Group Events and Annual General Meeting information, please refer to website:

<https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/vic/upcoming-events/>



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## Order of Australia Association national website

[www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au) provides national information regarding membership, merchandise, promotional tools, Governance, Branch news Australia wide and overseas and OAA Foundation.

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## 2026 National Conference



Refer to page 6 for further information regarding the national conference next April in Brisbane.

# News from the VIC Branch Regional Groups

## Loddon Campaspe Regional Group

### Vale Thomas Morland 'Tom' Glazebrook AM RFD ED

Tom Glazebrook AM passed away at Strath Haven on Saturday 30 August 2025. Tom was born in Rockhampton, Queensland in 1926, he moved to Victoria to attend Scotch College Melbourne, and then studied Civil Engineering at the predecessor to RMIT University, graduating in 1948 and receiving the Municipal Engineers prize from the Institution of Engineers Australia and the Kernot Medal for Dux of Engineering School from RMIT.

An engineer by profession, Tom graduated from the Bendigo School of Mines and went on to serve as Regional Director of the Country Roads Board, which later became the Road Traffic Authority. He also dedicated himself to numerous charities and community causes throughout his life.

He was a member of the Bendigo College of Advanced Education Council.

Tom was instrumental in the engineering work on the native area behind the IronBark Centre at the Bendigo campus of La Trobe University and many other projects in the Bendigo and wider community, including his major involvement in the building of the Echuca-Moama bridge.



In 1970, Mr Glazebrook became a member of the Rotary Club of Bendigo South, and was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow by the club in 1988. He worked tirelessly for youth programs in the club, and was integral in forming a scholarship for a Year 10-11 student at Girton Grammar School. This is named 'The Rotary Club of Bendigo South – Tom Glazebrook Scholarship' in honour of Mr Glazebrook and his work.

Tom Glazebrook was a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) recipient in 2001 for 'service to the community, particularly the Bendigo Chapter of Habitat for Humanity and to the engineering profession.'

Tom was a long-standing and cherished member of the Loddon Campaspe Regional Group of the Victorian Branch of the Order of Australia Association. He was very well-known within local government and engineering circles. Photo above of Tom Glazebrook AM from The Girton.

## Bursary to a Student at Rochester Secondary College

The Loddon-Campaspe Group of the Victorian Branch of the Order of Australia Association is presenting a student nominated at Rochester Secondary College with a \$500 bursary to assist with their VCE studies in 2026.

The Principal—Mr. Matthew Koutroubas—has accepted our bursary offer on behalf of the College and the award will be presented in mid-December at a College function.

The selection criteria are straightforward:

- The Principal will make the nomination after a selection process at the College,
- The student will be undertaking VCE studies in 2026,
- The student will demonstrate citizenship/community activity within the College/community.



16th – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026



Venue – Rydges South Bank Hotel & Conference  
South Brisbane

**Accommodation Reservations now open**

April is a great time to enjoy a Brisbane Autumn at the fabulous South Bank

2026 ORATION



Major General Emeritus Professor John Pearn AO, AM, GCStJ, RFD – globally renowned scientist, philosopher, orator and widely published author

KEYNOTE PRESENTERS



Shelley Reys AO is the Chair of the Council for the Order of Australia. Partner of KPMG, a member of Chief Executive Women (CEW).



Andrew N. Liveris AO is a distinguished business leader in the chemical industry. He is President, Brisbane 2032 Olympic Organizing Committee



Rooftop Restaurant Rydges



Service at Anzac Square



Organ Recital St John's

**Conference Booking Details Out Soon**



## Social Media

The Order of Australia Association invites members to join us on Social Media.

LinkedIn and Facebook are the first two platforms being used for member and event news; please refer to the links below.

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/order-of-australia-association](http://www.linkedin.com/company/order-of-australia-association)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560448315014](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560448315014)



## OAA Merchandise Shop Online

**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](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart)



## New National Membership Director

We thank Kathy Wooldridge OAM for her hard work during the past three years as the National Membership Director.

Kathy has worked with the Branches ensuring they have access to the promotional tools to convert Order of Australia recipients to members of the Association and at the same time encouraging Branches to follow up unfinancial members.

At the 2025 national conference in Sydney, Kathy set up a discussion booth promoting the history of the Order of Australia 50 year anniversary and the Association 45 year anniversary plus Social Media. The two current links are noted above on this page.

This month Dot Haynes OAM will take up the three year term as National Membership Director.

Dot is a 2023 Medal of the Order of Australia recipient for service to the community of Doncaster. Community commitments include Manningham City Council Councillor 2012-2020. Manningham Interfaith Network Former President and Treasurer, and current Secretary Doncaster Branch Returned and Services League of Australia.

Dot's focus is successful community outcomes.



## Victoria Branch Mid-Year Lunch

In excess of 100 VIC Branch members, recipients and guests attended the OAA VIC Branch Mid-Year Lunch at the Stamford Plaza Melbourne in Little Collins Street; this venue is easily accessible by public transport for rural, regional and metropolitan members.

Emcee Dr Teresa De Fazio OAM welcomed everyone and introduced Dr Jenny Gowan AM who spoke on the topic of medicine management providing insights into the importance of ensuring medications are managed for both compatibility and effectiveness, and certainly, to avoid any unwanted side effects.

Jenny noted there are some important questions to ask your doctor and also spoke about generic medication advising to ensure that levels of active ingredients are the same as the originally prescribed medication.

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 the 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.

Twelve new Order of Australia recipients from Australia Day and King's Birthday who have joined the Association were acknowledged at the lunch and presented with a thank you gift from the OAA Victoria Branch.

The citations were read as each member came forward. The contribution to service is diverse including significant service to local government; psychiatry as a clinician, academic and in executive roles; charitable organisations; sustainable housing and the environment; community of Melbourne, Yea, Victoria, Wyndham and the Chinese community; visual and performing arts and philanthropy.

Recipients who join the Association before the middle of November 2025 will be presented with a thank you gift at our End of Year Dinner on Thursday 20 November at the Stamford Plaza Melbourne.

See page 2 for the invitation and booking details.

Photo: Some of the 2025 recipients of Kings Birthday Honours & Awards at the Mid-Year Lunch who have joined the Association.



# Young people celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Australian Honours System

## ***My Awesome Australian***

All portraits selected for the online exhibition will be displayed on the **National Portrait Gallery website from October 2025**. Portraits will not be physically displayed at the Gallery.



Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Australian honours system with the National Portrait Gallery and the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General.

The Australian honours system has been recognising outstanding Australians for 50 years! To celebrate the anniversary, school students from across the country were invited to create a portrait of someone in their community who they think deserves to be recognised.

Selected portraits will form part of an online exhibition that will be officially launched by Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and all participating students will be invited to the virtual opening with the Governor-General during National Children's Week in October.

Australian school students and home-school students aged 4-18 years had the opportunity to create portraits to share the faces and stories of people from their community. Portraits were created in any of the following mediums: painting, drawing, sculpture or textile.

All students entering were encouraged to include a short statement of 100 words or less telling us why the person in their portrait is special, and what award (real or fictional) they would give them if they had the chance.

Picture on the right from National Portrait Gallery website



The online exhibition will launch at [National Portrait Gallery](https://www.nationalportraitgallery.gov.au) 18-26 October 2025 in National Children's Week



# 50 Years of the Australian Honours System

## Royal Australian Mint Canberra

Denison Street, Deakin ACT

### Exhibition is open until 15 Feb 2026

The Australian honours system recognises the outstanding service and contributions of Australians making a difference. To those who dedicate themselves to improving local communities, demonstrating courage and bravery, and serving in response to nationally significant emergencies.



See rare coins, medals and medallions from the National Coin Collection, including the 1879 International Exhibition Sydney Medallion and Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II 50c Silver Proof Coin. Displays from the Government House include the Cross of Valour and 80th Anniversary of Armistice Remembrance Medal.

The Governor-General was proud to launch Reflection: 50 years of the Australian honours system at the Royal Australian Mint with their Acting CEO Emily Martin and the Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP. The exhibition is the result of collaboration between the Mint and the Honours and Awards Secretariat at Government House.



"From those first awards until now, our honours system has reflected our prized Australian values of selflessness, ingenuity and discovery, commitment to service, and compassion, both in good times and times of crisis and distress.

"I am proud to congratulate the imagination, commitment and insight of all involved in the realisation of this exhibition."

The exhibition is open to the public and a special uncirculated commemorative coin, honouring the original designs by Stuart Devlin AO, is available to purchase.

**Stuart Devlin AO** born in Geelong in 1931 was an internationally renowned metalworker and designer. He began studying art at the Gordon Institute of Technology before obtaining a post at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology where he studied gold and silversmithing. He moved on scholarship to London in 1958 to study at the Royal College of Arts; he returned briefly to Melbourne in 1964 to teach.

After designing the Australia decimal coins, he returned to London in 1965 to open a workshop. In 1965 and 1969 he designed the Order of Australia medals, in 1982 a series of Defence Force Service Awards, and in 2000 the Sydney Olympics and Paralympics medals and coin series.

In 1980 Stuart was appointed Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's official Goldsmith and Jeweller. 1988 he was awarded an Order of Australia and Honorary Doctorate at RMIT in 2000. He was commissioned internationally for many significant metal pieces and designed the coinage for 36 nations.



# Order of Australia Investitures – September 2025

This year we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Order of Australia Honours system, which was established in 1975 to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of Australians in diverse and wide-ranging fields. Awards include the Emergency Services Medal, Australian Sports Medal, Bravery Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Nursing Service Cross, Order of Australia Medal, and many more.



While some award recipients are household names, the vast majority are unsung heroes. The common characteristics shared by recipients are their selflessness and their tireless commitment to work in their chosen fields, where they have gone above and beyond to achieve positive changes and improvements for the community.

Tuesday 9 and Wednesday 10 September the Governor of Victoria Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC hosted investiture ceremonies for Victorian recipients of the 2025 King's Birthday Order of Australia Honours and Awards. The Order of Australia Association VIC Branch thanks the recipients who have joined the Association.

## Christopher May OAM

Christopher May is deeply honoured to be awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours for service to veteran welfare, and to the community and recently invested into the Order on Tuesday 9 September at Government House in Melbourne. Much of his life has been spent in service—"first with the Australian Defence Force, where I served 18 years in the Regular Army and Army Reserves, finishing as a Sergeant. During this time, I was wounded in action on operations, an experience that shaped my resilience and strengthened my commitment to service. Today, I continue this journey as a Leading Firefighter with Fire Rescue Victoria."



Service has always extended beyond the workplace. Christopher is a Director of the 000 Foundation, a charity supporting emergency services personnel and their families, and plays a major role in the Melbourne Firefighter Stair Climb. In 2025, the climb raised over \$1.2 million for charities across Australia—a milestone we are all very proud of.

He is a volunteer with the Country Fire Authority as a firefighter and instructor, and with the State Emergency Service as a Road Rescue Operator. Supporting the veteran community remains close to his heart;

## Christopher May OAM continued

helping establish "Young Veterans" and continue to contribute to RSL clubs and initiatives that bridge generations.

He is looking forward to meeting fellow members of the Association, learning from their journeys, and contributing to our shared commitment to service in whatever way he can.

Christopher May OAM is a member of the OAA Victoria Branch Northern Central Suburbs Regional Group. Photo page 10 Christopher May OAM with Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC at Government House Melbourne.

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## Maria Dowling OAM and John Dowling OAM

Maria Dowling and John Dowling received their Medal of the Order of Australia at Government House Melbourne on Tuesday 9 September 2025.

They were awarded the great honour of the OAM's for volunteer work with the St Vincent de Paul Society in Victoria. They accepted the 2025 King's Birthday Award on behalf of the Society as there are many Vincentians who do great work for those in the community that need the assistance provided by the Society.

Their volunteer work includes visiting people in Camberwell East and South Melbourne.

The Society provides food vouchers and vouchers for clothing for the people we help as well as providing important friendship in the community.

Donations of food are also provided for the Soup Vans that goes out nightly feeding the hungry in the community; Maria and John have assisted with the Vinnies Soup Vans for many years. The Society also has Food Banks/ Pantries available throughout the State.

Maria and John have been volunteers at the Vinnies Hawthorn Retail store since 2011.

Maria and John Dowling are also regular donors to St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria, and are involved with Matthew's Offering, a program that supports rural families of patients who have to travel to Melbourne for medical treatment.

John's additional service to the community includes being a member of Surrey Hills Men's Probus Club, a former St John Ambulance Brigade volunteer and former WorkCover Officer, Shop Distributive and Allied Employees Association.

Maria Dowling OAM and John Dowling OAM are Eastern Suburbs Regional Group VIC Branch members.



Photo above: Maria Dowling OAM and John Dowling OAM at their investiture at Government House Melbourne

## Dianne Blood AO

In the 2025 King's Birthday Honours list Governor-General Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC announced the honours and awards recognise the remarkable impact and contributions of Australian citizens.

This year's recipients come from diverse fields and areas of expertise – brought together by the commonality of unwavering service to their community.

Among those named in the 2025 Kings Birthday Honours list were several engineers including Victorian engineer and designer Dianne Blood recognised with an Officer of the Order of Australia - AO for distinguished service to mechanical engineering through innovation and robotic design and to diversity and inclusion.

The Mallacoota unit of the State Emergency Service (SES) thanked Dianne for her work noting "Dianne generously lends her engineering and other expertise to community organisations including our unit," it wrote on social media.

Dianne Blood, aged 92, thought it was a prank phone call when she received the news of her AO. "I'm still trying to come to terms with it," she said.



"I've loved engineering, every minute of it. It comes with so many challenges, but it's a wonderful career to have had."

Dianne has led a wonderfully interesting life and has always had her finger on the pulse of innovation. "I was always a very free thinker," she said.

"I've been around. I was invited by the US army to design for them, I've designed projects for BHP, CSR, Bundaberg Sugar, BP, have done projects in South-East Asia."

Dianne excelled in Physics and Mathematics at school, and although awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship to attend university, she needed an income. She began working as a draftsman, which took her to California and ultimately led to a succession of world first food processing designs. Over a remarkable career, Dianne has created more than 2,000 successful designs and 40 international patents. Her work spans areas as diverse as food canning, sheep shearing, deep-sea oil drilling, vehicle suspension, robotics, and geo-mechanical research.

In 2023, Dianne received Engineers Australia's highest award, the Peter Nicol Russell Memorial Medal. She was also awarded Australia's most prestigious mechanical engineering award, the AGM Michelle Medal in 2010, for her outstanding contribution to mechanical engineering and her "demonstration of a balance of ingenuity and a range of theoretical knowledge and application".

Beyond her technical achievements, Dianne is deeply committed to mentoring the next generation of engineers and inventors. Among those has been Marita Cheng AM, who was named one of the World's Top 50 Women in Tech by Forbes in 2018 and 2012 Young Australian of the Year.

In 2014 Dianne Blood was an inductee in the Victorian Honour Roll of Women.

## Dianne Blood AO continued

"Even into her 90s, Dianne continues to keep her mind and body active in the engineering space, creating and making her own self levelling chassis disability scooter with stable wheel articulation."

Dianne's reflection on being an Order of Australia recipient - What was so incredibly exciting about this honour was that it fulfilled a commitment to our mother, widowed in August 1940 when our father was flying to a war cabinet meeting in Canberra and later pleading for financial help from Prime Minister Menzies, was reported to have been told that she was a strong young woman and could work while sending her 7 year old twins to a public school. She apparently retorted that she had had a higher aim for her children and today my brother has an extremely well deserved OAM for his life devoted to disability with his sister left wondering how she deserved an AO.

Dianne Blood AO is a Gippsland Regional Group VIC Branch member.

Photo on previous page: Dianne Blood AO with her twin brother Hugh Elford OAM a 2005 recipient for service to people with disabilities through a range of employment, accommodation and advocacy organisations.

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### Let's ensure the Order of Australia reflects who we are as a nation

By nominating, we can all play a role in ensuring that the contributions from people across our diverse Australian community are represented. Every Australian should be able to see themselves in the Order.

Anyone can nominate someone for an Order of Australia – at any time. There is no deadline. And, you don't need to know every detail about the person you nominate. Every nominee is researched independently and considered on their merits.

To complete a nomination, you need to provide:

1. The full name and contact details of the person you are nominating
2. Your full name and contact details
3. An outline of how your nominee's contribution
4. The names and contact details of up to four referees.

Visit [www.gg.gov.au](http://www.gg.gov.au) today to nominate someone you know who makes a difference.

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# Members making a difference in the community

## Elizabeth Drozd OAM

Time flies; it is just over a year since Elizabeth Drozd OAM completed full-time permanent employment as the CEO of the Australian Multicultural Community Services. Since then she has travelled extensively, pursued her life-long learning interests and allocated a very generous amount of time to a wide variety of health and wellness activities. It has been an amazing 12 months.

At the 2023 national conference in Geelong, Elizabeth was the speaker at our Sunday Jazz Brunch talking about diverse communities. Elizabeth arrived in Australia 42 years ago as a Special Humanitarian Entrant and has devoted the last 32 years to the betterment of culturally and linguistically diverse communities. She completed a B.A. in Multicultural Studies, Masters in Social Sciences.



Elizabeth is now allocating time to community work including the Rotary Club of Footscray, of which she became the President a couple of months ago.

She is looking forward to making a difference globally through Rotary International aid projects, commencing with a trip to Sri Lanka and Nepal.

Elizabeth Drozd OAM is a member of the VIC Branch Western Suburbs Regional Group.

Photo: Dr Bob Newman after passing on the presidential chain to Elizabeth Drozd OAM in the presence of the Mayor of City of Maribyrnong on the left.

## Paul Wheelton AM

Paul Wheelton AM has been honoured with the Tony Charlton AM Community Service Award for 2025 by the Police Association Victoria.

Named after the late broadcasting icon Tony Charlton AM, this prestigious accolade recognises outstanding service and unwavering commitment to community safety and welfare. Paul's decades-long leadership exemplifies this dedication to the wider community.

A Member of the Order of Australia (AM) recipient recognising his significant service to a range of charitable organisations in Victoria through governance, fundraising and philanthropic contributions. He was elevated in 2017 from a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) recipient in 2009 for service to children and youth through a range of charitable organisations.



## Paul Wheelton AM continued

Chair of the Wheelton Group and long-time supporter of numerous not-for-profits, including Life Education Victoria, Guide Dogs Victoria (as current Campaign Chair for their \$23 million capital campaign), Blue Ribbon Day, and the Bali Children Foundation, which educates over 8,000 disadvantaged Balinese children

Patron of Life Education Victoria, Paul advocates passionately for preventative health and wellbeing education across Victoria.

From Brisbane to Bali, Paul has channeled his business success into community impact, generously directing at least 20% of Wheelton Group's annual earnings to charitable causes. This recognition from the Police Association Victoria underscores the strength of his legacy in community service.



At Paul's side for many years was his wife Angela Wheelton OAM who was also dedicated to making a difference in the not-for-profit section. Angela supported causes across health, education and for women and children. Sadly Angela passed away peacefully on 21 August 2025 aged 66 years, our condolences to Paul and the extended family. Her generosity will live on.

Paul's unwavering leadership continues to inspire us all.

Photo above: Paul Wheelton AM

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## Ken Mansfield OAM

On the back of Father's Day, Lisa Cunningham thought it was good timing to share some wonderful news about her Dad Ken Mansfield OAM a member of the VIC Branch Barwon Regional Group.

Earlier this year famous Geelong's born artist RONE put a call out for people that would be interested in having their portrait included in a large scale mural on a Public Building.

Lisa was thrilled when she received the phone call from Tyrone confirming they had selected her Dad.

Turns out the Public Building is the new Nyaal Banyul Geelong Convention and Event Centre currently under construction by Built.

The Nyaal Banyul Geelong Convention and Event Centre is shaping up to be a transformative project for the city's waterfront. Bringing together convention and exhibition spaces with a hotel, retail, and a public plaza, it has the potential to become both a regional landmark and a catalyst for future investment.

A photoshoot was organised and then the work began. Tyrone was so kind to contact Lisa to let her know he was working on Ken's portrait if they wanted to come down and take a look.



## Ken Mansfield OAM continued

The Geelong Advertiser also did a story which outlined Ken's important community works in Geelong.

"It's so very special that RONE has painted Dads portrait along with 13 other Geelong people aging from toddler to 95." The mural can be viewed on the rear of the fabulous building designed by Woods Bagot and the Plenary Group.

In 2023 Ken was a Medal of the Order of Australia recipient for service to the community of Geelong, his wife Sheila was also a recipient the same year.



Impression of Nyaal Banyul Geelong Convention & Event Centre scheduled for completion 2026.



Rone's mural of Ken Mansfield OAM being painted on the wall.

## Reynold Gilson OAM

Melbourne businessman Reynold Gilson OAM has led the Advent Brass Band since 1987, following in the footsteps of his father, Bruce Gilson, and grandfather, William Gilson, who founded the band in 1925 with a view to fostering loyalty and musical purpose among the young people within the Victorian Conference.

Remarkably, 100 years later, Reynold has maintained the original purpose of the band, a community achievement recognised by the Federal Government of Australia.

Under Reynold's baton, the Advent Brass Band has performed in many parts of Australia and has won competitions at the highest levels.

On Sunday 14 September 2025 the Advent Brass Band lite up Hamer Hall in Melbourne with a centenary Celebration Charity Concert – a feel-good, high-energy musical journey spanning 100 years of history.

The milestone event was a powerhouse lineup, including legendary jazz virtuoso James Morrison, centenarian pianist Romney King, and vocalists Helena McKee, Walter Saluni and Tim Jaques. One member who performed at centenary concert earlier this month, Rodney King is 100 and has been a member of the band for 80 years.



## Reynold Gilson OAM continued

Reynold Gilson OAM is a 2020 Australia Day Medal of the Order of Australia recipient and a member of the Eastern Suburbs Regional Group of the VIC Branch. His citation is for service to music through brass bands.



Photo: Advent Brass Band

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## Meg Davoren-Honey OAM

Meg Davoren-Honey OAM has a free exhibition at Chapel Off Chapel, a powerful portrait series honouring the strength, resilience and spirit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

Dates: Wednesday 8 - Wednesday 15 October. Times Monday to Friday, 12pm – 4pm

Venue: Chapel Off Chapel. 12 Little Chapel Street Prahran. Ticket prices FREE

### Statement from artist Meg Davoren-Honey OAM

In 2004, my first trip to Darwin opened my eyes to a world I had not known. There I met my first sitter, Hopie, a happy young woman from the long grass. She spoke with warmth about bush life and the journeys it had taken her on: stories of strength, joy and hardship. That moment planted the seed for this exhibition – a tribute to the courage, patience and quiet resilience of people whose lives often go unseen. Their stories are sometimes triumphant, sometimes tragic, but always deeply human.



On that same journey, I connected with other artists in Darwin and travelled to the Tiwi Islands, where their stories stayed with me. Returning to Melbourne, I felt an overwhelming desire to paint a wide spectrum of Indigenous women – their spirit, their experiences, and their grace.

With support from Bindi Cole, an award-winning photographer, she introduced me to her father, Bryon Powell, at the Dandenong Indigenous Centre. Through him, I met Indigenous



# A toast to the Order of Australia Association by a 45 year member, Dr. Gavan Oakley AM

2025 we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Australian honours system and the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Order of Australia Association.

Dr Gavan Oakley AM has been a member of the Order of Australia for 45 years. Now, at 91 years old, he feels the Association is as relevant now as it was when first established.



Gavan has enjoyed the many events, new friendships and interesting learnings as a result of being a member. He has enjoyed presentations organised by local regional organisation, Victoria Branch and the Association nationally. He describes how these have contributed, not only to developing his own knowledge, but also to gaining a sense of the complex, varied and depth of community contributions of so many who make up the OAA Victoria Branch community.

He feels a sense of community, coming together to share and learn, and keeping an open mind are important attributes for Association members.

He reflects on the humility of those he has nominated for the honour. He relates how they do not feel that they deserve the acknowledgement. Instead, nominees are often satisfied just to contribute in some way to community improvement. However, he notes that the medals are always worn with pride, and it is always such a special feeling for all who attend Government House for the occasion of being presented with the medal.

Gavan was a Queen's Birthday 1979 Honours recipient in 1979 for his service to Local Government. He then was awarded a Centenary Medal 2001 for services to the government's fluoridation policy and wine industry.

His view is that it is important to make a contribution to community – and that sometimes this



means being innovative and hard working. His contribution as a dentist to the establishment of a fluoridation policy was grounded in his practice. In particular, he was concerned by the level of tooth decay in young children.

The Nunawading Community Garden opened in 1977 was the brainchild of former Nunawading councillor, Dr Gavan Oakley, who drew his inspiration from the popular garden allotment scheme that had flourished in the United Kingdom for 100 years.

As for his contribution to the wine industry, this has been a long-time passion. Gavan still lives in the Yarra Valley surrounded by his beloved vines. He started the 4-hectare winery with his wife Tricia in 1996. His particular focus was on pinot noir, shiraz and cabernet sauvignon. Through a cooperative he has been enjoying chardonnay and a few other varieties. With a glass of chardonnay in his hand, he is happy to toast to another 50 years of the Order of Australia Association!



# Which medal to wear when?



## Day Functions

The full-size insignia (Main Piece) is generally worn at day functions where decorations have been prescribed by the event, for example Anzac Day, Remembrance Day ceremonies or special services such as a State Funeral, Memorial or Thanksgiving Service.

## Evening Functions

At events such as evening receptions and dinners where decorations have been prescribed, the miniature insignia is generally worn. The main exception to this is Neck Decorations (AC and AO), which are worn in full-size.

## Every day Wear

A lapel pin may be worn on civilian clothes at any time. Only one badge should be worn at a given time and not when other insignia pieces are worn.

## Additional lapel pins and medals

For **additional** Order of Australia lapel pins or medals received at your Investiture, please contact Honours Secretarial via phone or email. Tel: 02 6283 3533 E: [honours@gg.gov.au](mailto:honours@gg.gov.au)

## Repairs

If your Order of Australia lapel pin or medals needs to be **repaired** please contact:  
Andrew Cohen, Solomon Brothers  
466 Spencer Street, West Melbourne  
Telephone: 93266822

## Extend an invitation

At times our paths cross with other Order of Australia recipients who have not joined the Order of Australia Association for various reasons.

Perhaps the time is now right to have the conversation and invite them to join.

This year the OAA VIC Branch has welcomed new members from recipients of 2018, 2019, 2022 and 2024 in addition to 2025 Australia Day recipients.

If you know Order of Australia recipients who have not joined the Association please offer them a copy of this E-Newsletter and advise them of the online membership application link

- [www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/membership-application](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/membership-application)

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Working together we are able to build our future

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## OAA VIC Branch Regional Group Chairs

Barwon	Wayne Myers OAM
Central Highlands Wimmera	John Burt OAM
Eastern Suburbs	Geoffrey Grinton OAM
Frankston Mornington Peninsula	Heather Barton AM
Gippsland	Doug Caulfield OAM RFD
Loddon-Campaspe	Alex Stoneman OAM
Mallee	VIC Branch committee
Melbourne Central	Trevor Clark OAM
North Central Suburbs	Fred Harrington OAM
NE & Goulburn Valley	Mary-Lou Davis OAM
South Central Suburbs	Felicity Frederico OAM
South West Vic	Georgina Gubbins OAM
Western Suburbs	June Kane AM

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The Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch appreciates the ongoing support we receive from our members attending events, buying merchandise and renewing their membership. Thank you!

MEDALS ARE MADE OF A RANGE OF DIFFERENT MATERIALS, INCLUDING GOLD, SILVER, COPPER, NICKEL-SILVER, COPPER-NICKEL, BRONZE, CUPRONICKEL, STERLING SILVER AND GILDED SILVER.

