

The ORDER



THE NATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION

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Government House, Canberra, 26 September 2025 (L to R): Nazia Safdari; Jake Barnett; Isum Malawaraarachchi; Dr Helen Nugent AC, Chair of the Order of Australia Association Foundation; The Governor-General, Her Excellency the Hon. Sam Mostyn AC; Ockert Visser; Zeph Hardie; Miriam Grice.
Full story on pages 26-27.



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Governor-General of Australia

National President: The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO

Executive Directors

National Chair: MAJGEN Barry Nunn AO RFD ED (Retd)

Mobile: 0408 540 082

Email: natchair@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Deputy National Chair: Mr Willam Lye OAM KC

Mobile: 0412 535 898

Email: depnatchair@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

National Secretary: Mr Graham Hyde OAM

Mobile: 0419 736 571

Email: natsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

National Treasurer: Mr Frank Crawley OAM

Mobile: 0402 288 800

Email: nattreasurer@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

National Membership Director: Ms Dot Haynes OAM

Mobile: 0425 718 937

Email: natmbrdir@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Branch Nominated Directors

ACT: Mr Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM

Mobile: 0427 719 020

Email: direct@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

NSW: Mr David North OAM

Mobile: 0419 485 071

Email: dirnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

NT: Vacant

Email: dirnt@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

QLD: Ms Paula Penfold AM

Mobile: 0418 984 588

Email: dirqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

SA: Noel Hender OAM BEM

Mobile: 0409 672 882

Email: dirsas@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

TAS: Dr Rosemary Callingham AM

Mobile: 0427 445 718

Email: dirtas@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

VIC: Mr Grahame Leonard AM

Mobile: 0411 462 242

Email: dirvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

WA: Mr Clive Robartson AM

Mobile: 0419 048 556

Email: dirwa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

OAA National Office

The Order of Australia Association Limited,
Old Parliament House

18 King George Terrace, Parkes, ACT 2600

Tel: (02) 6273 0322

Overseas Regional Groups

United Kingdom/Europe

Chair: Dr Caroline Hoffman OAM

Tel: +44 793 902 8373

Email: uk-europe@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

North America

Chair: Mr Gregory Copley AM

Tel: +1 703 9094 167

Email: grcopley@aol.com

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www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Editor: Dr June Kane AM

Mobile: 0400 871 731

Publisher for the Board:

June Kane AM

Email: nateditor@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

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FROM HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE SAM MOSTYN AC

GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA



The last few months have seen many moments of celebration. In late September, we hosted a wonderful week of investiture ceremonies at Government House in Canberra. We welcomed more than 100 recipients of Australian honours and awards, as well as their families and friends, to celebrate our latest honourees. Similar sessions have been hosted in Government Houses around Australia. It is an immense privilege of my role as your Governor-General to meet so many remarkable Australians, and hear firsthand their stories of care, kindness, respect and generosity.

I also presided over two special and intimate investiture ceremonies at other locations, where the recipients could not join the formal events due to significant health issues.

Emeritus Professor Anthony Johns AM was a leading scholar in the fields of Islamic and Southeast Asian studies who pioneered the global establishment of Indonesian as a subject for academic instruction and analysis. I was honoured to join his family at The Canberra Hospital and invest him as a Member of the Order there. Sadly, he passed away in the weeks that followed, making his investiture all the more poignant.

His son told me that those moments will be cherished in Professor Johns' family.

At an investiture ceremony later in the week, recipient Dr David Bagnall OAM was invested for service to rowing, but his wife, Evelyn, could not join due to her significant physical challenges. I was pleased to travel to RSL LifeCare in Lyneham, where she now lives, so she could witness her husband receiving his medal. As Patron of RSL LifeCare, and as Chancellor of the Order of Australia, it was important and moving to invest Dr Bagnall with his OAM, surrounded by his family.

On the final day of ceremonies, we were delighted to welcome the six recipients of the Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship for 2025 to Government House. Sixty-six students have now received these scholarships. They are generous – with \$45,000 to cover tuition and student fees, living allowance, and other educational expenses. The students are most excited about being paired with a mentor who has been recognised in the Order of Australia – someone who is eminent in the awardee's chosen field of study – to guide them throughout their development and education.

The 2025 scholars are quite remarkable, embodying already so many of the values of our honours and awards system. Jake Barnett, Miriam Grice, Zeph Hardie, Nazia Safdari, Ockert Visser and Isum Malawaraarachchi all have aspirations to use their scholarships, and subsequent careers, to contribute to our community in profound ways.

The scholarship and mentorship facilitated by the Order will be transformative for these scholars. It was wonderful to be part of their journey. I commend the members of the Order who make this possible and thank you for your continued care for the next generation.



The Governor-General with Chair and members of the ACT Branch on Government House Open Day, 1 November 2025



FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

HON VICKI O'HALLORAN AO CVO



As I reflect on my life's journey to date, I am filled with gratitude for the two regions that have had the most profound impact on me: Tasmania, my hometown of Smithton where I grew up, and the Northern Territory, my now hometown of Darwin where I reside and where I have spent the majority of my career. Both places have left an indelible mark on my heart and soul, shaping me into the person I am today.

Growing up in Smithton, Tasmania, was a magical experience. The safe and nurturing environment allowed me to flourish, and I have countless fond memories of my childhood. The rugged beauty of our countryside and beaches, the closeknit community, Gibson Street and the simple carefree days of youth all contributed to a sense of wonder and awe that has stayed

with me throughout my life. I am forever grateful for the foundation that Tasmania provided, laying the groundwork for the person I was to become.

In contrast, the Northern Territory has been a place of professional growth and opportunity. Darwin, with its vibrant lifestyle, stunning natural beauty, the best sunsets and storms, and warm, welcoming community, has been a gift to me and my family. The NT has wrapped its arms firmly around me, providing a platform for me to pursue my passions and make a meaningful contribution to the community. The opportunities that have arisen have been numerous, and I have been fortunate to have had the chance to work alongside incredible people, serve Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Majesty King Charles III, and grow as a professional.

One of the most humbling and unexpected experiences of my life was being awarded an Order of Australia. This recognition was a testament to the opportunities that the NT has provided, and I am deeply grateful for the trust and support that the community has and continues to show me. It was a moment that reminded me of the power of community, the importance of perseverance, the value of hard work. Receiving an Order is most certainly life-changing. I ask you to keep that in mind and I encourage you to nominate fellow Australians so they too

can experience this acknowledgement and share it with family, friends and the broader community.

As I think back while writing about my journey today, I am reminded of the profound impact that both Tasmania and the Northern Territory have had on my life. They have both shaped me, inspired me and continue to provide me with encouragement and confidence to pursue my dreams. I will always be grateful for the experiences, the people and the opportunities that both regions have afforded me. To Tasmania, I thank you Smithton for the safe and magical childhood that you provided. The Northern Territory, I thank you, in particular Darwin, for the opportunities, the challenges, the warmth that you have and continue to show me. I am proud to call both places home and I look forward to continuing to contribute and learn more life lessons during the latter part of my career journey.

This is my last article for 2025; thank you to our National Chair, Board and Branches for their countless volunteer hours this year. You are all remarkable individuals.

There are only weeks left before my favourite time of year where the joy of Christmas unfolds in our household. I wish you all the very best over the summer months. Stay safe and spread kindness wherever you are.

Go well.

NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF THE ASSOCIATION

Members are invited to nominate for three positions on the Executive Committee of the National Board. A member of the Association is any member who is currently financial, in accordance with the Constitution (Clause 13.1).

The National Board includes five Executive Directors and a Branch Nominated Director from the Branch in each State and Territory. The Board determines the policies and strategic direction of the Association.

The Executive Committee (National Chair, Deputy National Chair, Treasurer, Membership Director and Secretary) are responsible for putting Board policy into action.

In April 2026, Barry Nunn AO RFD ED will have completed his third and final three-year term as National Chair. The Deputy National Chair William Lye OAM KC and Treasurer Frank Crawley OAM will have completed their term of appointment. Both officers are eligible for re-election.

Directors are appointed to the Board for a term of up to three years and may renominate for up to two succeeding terms.

In line with the OAA Constitution (Clause 43), the current term of the National Secretary (Graham Hyde OAM) ends in 2027, and the current term of the National Membership Director (Dot Haynes OAM) ends in 2029.

The Nomination Form is included in the 'G2 Board Charter', a link to which is at the end of this advice. It is to be completed by two members and the nominee.

Nominees are requested to provide a resume of no more than 400 words noting their skills and experience relevant to the responsibilities of the position.

Nominations are to be lodged with the Chair of the Nominations Committee on or before 5pm (AEDT) 27 February 2026 as follows:

Mr Clive Robartson AM

Chair Nominations Committee

Email: dirnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Mobile: 0419 485 071

Note: Nominees are advised to read 'Welcome and Information' which provides information on the organisational governance of the OAA and the 'G2 Board Charter' which includes a Position Description and Application Form for the three Executive Director positions. Both these documents are available from the Chair of the Nominations Committee and on the Association website at:

Welcome: <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Welcome-and-Information-from-National-Chair-current-June-2025-1.pdf>

G2-Board Charter: <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/G2-Board-Charter.pdf>

Intending nominees are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the statutory and legal requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC) and the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC): <https://www.acnc.gov.au/for-charities/manage-your-charity/governance-hub/governance-standards%20>

Those considering nominating for these positions are welcome to contact the National Chair, Barry Nunn, for additional background. Email: NatChair@theorderofaustralia.asn.au, mobile: 0408 540 082 (note - WA time).



FROM THE OAA NATIONAL CHAIR

MAJGEN BARRY NUNN AO RFD ED (Retd)



We are approaching the end of another successful year for our Association. It is pleasing to look back over 2025 and see an increase in awards in the Order of Australia, the recruiting of a satisfying number of awardees to our ranks, our participation in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Australian honours system and the completion of our first national member survey. Members are congratulated on their contribution to another good year.

The Honours Secretariat has modified the Order nomination process, as explained below. This is anticipated to reduce the time between nomination and award.

Our Australia has changed considerably in this first 50 years of the honours system. It is easy to recall with nostalgia how much simpler life was 'back in the day' in 1975. We are however very fortunate to live in the Australia of today, with a lifestyle that is the envy of all. Not so appealing is the emergence of hate speech, intolerance and violence towards others. Australia has long been the home of the 'fair go', where the individual is accepted for his or her contribution to the community irrespective of background. All of us holding an award in the Order of Australia are seen as community leaders and have an ongoing duty to show tolerance and respect to differing views and to speak out against un-Australian activity.

The OAA National Member Survey has exceeded our expectations both in the number of responses and the breadth of ideas. On page 10 of the magazine you will find a report on progress with putting these ideas into plans for action. Success with this will depend on all of us accepting and enthusiastically supporting some changes in the way we do business. This will require Branch and Regional committees that are prepared to try new approaches while keeping the 'tried and true'.

Branches will be holding their annual general meetings in first quarter of 2026. I encourage members who have the time, energy and experience to nominate for committee positions and participate in an exciting change process.

Preparations for the 2026 National Conference in Brisbane from 16 to 19 April are now well under way and are reported later in this issue. My term as Chair of the National Board will come to an end following the National AGM on 18 April. I have enjoyed my nine years as your National Chair, seeing the pleasing development of our Association over that period, working with colleagues who are prepared to volunteer for sometimes demanding tasks, and Margaret and I making lasting friendships throughout the Association. I will miss not being directly involved in the delivery of the results of our survey.

I thank our President, fellow members of the National Board, Branch and Regional committees and all members for the team effort that has resulted in another very successful year. I hope that you and your family enjoy the coming Festive Season and a rewarding 2026.

CHANGES TO HOW TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR AN AWARD

On 31 October 2025, the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat implemented changes to the way nominations for the Order of Australia are submitted. These changes have been designed to increase efficiency.

Nominating someone for recognition in the Order of Australia has always required the provision of referees. The revised nomination form requires the nominator to include the name and email address of three referees who can comment on the nomination they have prepared.

Referees will then automatically receive an email generated by the portal, seeking their comments. Nominators will not have access to the comments provided by referees. Only after all three referees have responded to this request will the nominator be able to submit their nomination.

The nominator will be alerted by email when each referee has responded and, once all referees have responded, the nominator will need to log back into the portal to submit their nomination.

These changes apply to all new nominations and those that have not yet been submitted.

Further information and guidance are available on the website.

Please visit <https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards/order-australia>.

Check out our website www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au



THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION MERCHANDISE

Tote Bag **\$12.00**



Tie **\$30.00**



Bucket Hat **\$16.00**

Cuff Links **\$35.00**



Document Bag **\$37.00**



Pen in gift box **\$7.00**

Socks **\$11.00**



Umbrella **\$30.00**



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Lapel pin **\$15.00**

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Pack of 5 Cards **\$10.00**

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Enquiries Barb 0413 008 571

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





CHAIR'S REPORT

Tony Metcalf OAM
Branch Chair
chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

In recent months, several of our members have attended commemorative services and events, and our Branch committee members have supported the Government House Open Day, strategically stationed near the medals display to explain the nature of the Order of Australia to

members of the public, and to promote the Association to recipients of awards.

We have held our second New Recipients' Reception for the year; Regional Groups have met for their luncheon events; and we had interesting speakers at our honours recipients fellowship luncheons. At each of our events, we have paused to reflect on the day 50 years ago that the Order of Australia was instituted by Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

South Australia has agreed to host the 2027 National Conference in Adelaide from Thursday 13 to Sunday 16 May 2027, with the Annual General Meeting and Members' Forum being held on Saturday 15 May. A preliminary planning committee has been established to begin working on the event. We look forward to welcoming you to Adelaide in 2027!

On behalf of the Branch committee and members of the SA Branch, I wish you all a relaxing holiday break and a joyful Christmas, and we send you our best wishes for the new year.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRANCH

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Chair
Tony Metcalf OAM

Deputy Chair
Noel Hender OAM BEM

Secretary
John Phillips OAM

Treasurer
John Ziesing OAM

Member Secretary SA
Greg Gordon OAM JP

Student Citizenship Awards Convener
Noel Hender OAM BEM

Regional Groups Coordinator
Ken Coventry OAM JP (co-opted)

Merchandise Officer
Cathy Chong AM JP

Editor/Webmaster
Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP

Other Committee Members
Deborah De Williams AM
Don Clark OAM
Toni Cocchiaro OAM
Flavia de Pasquale OAM
Pamela Rajkowski OAM

Branch Nominated Director
Noel Hender OAM BEM

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

FORTHCOMING SA BRANCH EVENTS

Friday 12 December: SA Branch Christmas Morning Tea

Saturday 17 January: 'Celebration of Australia Day' luncheon

Thursday 26 February: Honours recipients fellowship luncheon

Friday 27 February: South East Regional Group luncheon meeting, Penola

Saturday 14 March: Annual General Meeting

EVENTS

STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS 2025

The Student Citizenship Awards programme is conducted annually as the flagship programme of the SA Branch. Awards Convener Noel Hender OAM BEM advises that in 2025 there were 47



Ingrid Heinrich receives her Student Citizenship Awards 'Highly Commended' certificate and medallion at the Adelaide High School Senior Years Speech Assembly on 23 October

submissions received for consideration, from 33 schools and colleges. The Top Ten students for 2025 have been identified for presentation to Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia and Patron of the SA Branch, at a special reception at Government House where they will receive a 'With Distinction' award. Her Excellency will then announce the 2025 Student Citizen of the Year, recipient of the Keith 'Chook' Fowler OAM Award.

Senior students are nominated by their schools and assessed against four criteria: leadership, contributions to the school and/or community, contributions to the environment and/or community development, and pride in Australian citizenship.

The SA Branch is continuing the tradition of presenting all award recipients with a special medallion. From 2025 for three years, these medallions are being provided through the generous support of the Government of South Australia.

In addition to the Top Ten, a further 37 students will receive a certificate and medallion, 19 of these were rated as 'Highly Commended'. The balance of the certificates and medallions will be presented by members of the Association to the successful students at school assemblies in Term 4.



COMMEMORATIONS

Branch members have attended a number of commemorative events recently. On Monday 18 August, the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Service was held at the Vietnam War Memorial at Torrens Parade Ground to honour the service of all Australian, New Zealand and Republic of Vietnam service personnel who fought in the Vietnam War, and particularly those who lost their lives.

The principal guests were the Governor's Deputy, His Excellency Dr Richard Harris SC OAM, and Mrs Fiona Harris. Dr Harris received the Star of Courage on 24 July 2018 for 'acts of conspicuous courage in circumstances of great peril' while playing a crucial role in the rescue of 12 Thai children and their soccer coach from a cave system in northern Thailand. He also received the OAM, for service to the international community through specialist response roles during the Tham Luang cave rescue in Thailand in 2018. 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. Dr Harris was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of South Australia on 25 January 2024.

Dr Harris was also the principal guest at the 2025 Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day Commemorative Service held on 29 August by the SA & NT Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc. This service marked 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.

Several 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 II, and Military Governor of Sarawak from 10 September until December 1945, when the territory returned to local civilian rule. He was subsequently knighted. A considerable number of Eastick family members attended these events in Kuching, including descendants of Sir Tom's eldest son Dr Bruce Charles Eastick AM, a member of the SA Branch, who was Mayor of Gawler (1968-72 and 1993-2000), 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 made a Member of the



Datuk Dr Philip Ting PGBK AM



Dato Lim Kian Hock PSBS JBK OAM

Order of Australia, in recognition of service to the South Australian Parliament, local government and the community (AD96).

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

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, 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. Dato Lim was awarded an OAM (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. 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'.



The Governor's Deputy His Excellency Dr Richard Harris SC OAM and Mrs Fiona Harris on Vietnam Veterans Day

NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION

In our second New Recipients' Reception for the year, on Monday 22 September, the SA Branch acknowledged 24 new recipients announced in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours List along with one promotion within the Order, and one recipient who had been announced in the 2025 Australia Day Honours List.

The guest speaker was Associate Professor John Svigos AM MBBS, on the topic, "Bali beckons me and you!". Professor Svigos is a distinguished obstetrician and gynaecologist with more than five decades of clinical, academic and international experience, with a special interest in maternal foetal medicine, reproductive medicine and global women's health. 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 son of a World War II veteran, during his earlier life John also served the nation as a national serviceman in 1971-72, attaining the rank of Captain in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps. He was awarded the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal (introduced in 2001), and the Australian Defence Medal (2006).

Since 2000 John has been a Visiting Professor (obstetrics and gynaecology) and Visiting Professor (foeto-maternal medicine) at Professor Ngoerah (Sanglah) Hospital in Denpasar, Bali. He has published more than 150 papers in refereed journals and scientific meeting proceedings, and is an author of eight chapters in four editions of the text book *High risk obstetrics – Management options*. He has also been an external examiner with the Indonesian College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology since 2004,



Associate Professor John Svigos AM MBBS DRCOG MRCOG CBioEth FAGO FRCOG FRACOG FRANZCOG

and an Editorial Board Member of the Bali Medical Journal since 2012. Since 2007, he has maintained a professional and personal family commitment to Balinese children in crisis at Anak Anak Bali Kids in Badung Regency.



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

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEONS

For the Fellowship Luncheon held at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club on Thursday 28 August, the guest speaker was Professor Jennifer McKay AM, speaking on the topic, "Elements of modern water and environmental law". SINCE 2000, Professor McKay has been Professor of Business Law at the University of South Australia - Justice, however she describes herself as a mother of two, house renovator, gardener, dog breeder and singer. She has a passion for protecting the environment and defending human rights. In 2020, she received the Premier's Medal for Leadership and Water Sustainability as the Water Professional of the Year (sponsored by the Department for Environment and Water). She was made a Member of the Order of Australia, *for significant service to the law, and to the legal profession (KB23).*

The speaker on Thursday 30 October was 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).* Gillian has researched local people of note

in the Glenelg area and the history of Jimmy Melrose Park on the South Esplanade at Glenelg Foreshore, in front of the Stamford Grand, named in honour of Charles James ('Jimmy') Melrose (1913-1936). Gillian likes to take groups of people for a walk along the Esplanade, linking the facts and talking about the buildings, mosaics, bollards and shelters, and telling the story of this remarkable young Glenelg man, Jimmy

Melrose, known in the media of the day as 'The Golden Phoenix'.

The group photo shows the attendees standing in front of an impressive Remembrance Embroidery displayed at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club, which was commissioned in 1995 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the end of World War II. It was produced by the Embroiderers' Guild of South Australia.



The Fellowship Luncheon group on 30 October; guest speaker Gillian Rogers OAM (standing, first on the left)



NATIONAL SURVEY: FROM IDEAS TO PLANS FOR ACTION

Member responses to the recently conducted national survey far exceeded expectations, both in the number of replies and the value of the several hundred responses to the questions seeking commentary. In total, 1,742 members responded, providing several thousand text comments.

Member Views

It is all too easy to manage an organisation such as ours assuming we know what members want. Many of you have identified real barriers to your full participation in the activities of the Association including cost, geographic isolation and technology awareness. You have expressed the view that we need to demonstrate clearly our focus on our goal of 'celebrating and promoting outstanding Australian citizenship' and take it to the wider community.

Our Response

The OAA National Strategy 2024-26 is at present under review. Your survey responses provide timely input to this work and offer some concrete proposals for achieving, and in some cases modifying our strategic goals.

Work has now begun, both nationally and in Branches, to transform your ideas and suggestions into actions. Nationally we are concentrating our efforts over the next 18 months on four 'themes' that are interlinked:

Citizenship promotion – expanding youth leadership programmes, launching public awareness campaigns about the honours system, and creating pathways for members to actively promote citizenship.

Better communication – both within the Association and in communities. We will be addressing your feedback on The Order magazine, focusing on members' stories and their work with communities, and seeking wider distribution. We will be updating the Association website and establishing social media as a valuable resource.

Effectiveness of our organisation – addressing the problems you identified with costs of participation and seeking ways to make our activities more accessible to those in remote areas. We need to better describe the way the organisation works and to encourage your participation.

Membership – widening our recruitment message from social benefits to citizenship promotion, attracting new and retaining existing members who are motivated by our purpose. Cost and accessibility of activities to all is important.

Measuring Progress

The teams working on the planned changes will be establishing measurable action plans that will be made available, and on which progress will be reported to you by eNews, The Order and Branch reports.

Your Role

The changes that are being considered should benefit our Association, enhance its active involvement with the community and make it more attractive to both new awardees and those who might otherwise leave us. This will require your involvement by participating in events, continuing to bring forward ideas and joining teams where you believe you can contribute.

Together, our 8,200 members represent an extraordinary resource, spanning every profession and community sector. By putting aside our natural modesty and sharing what we know, we can inspire the next generation and demonstrate what outstanding citizenship truly means.

Barry Nunn AO
National Chair

David North OAM
Board Marketing Committee Chair



CHAIR'S REPORT

Ronda Nix OAM
Branch Chair
chairqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

It has been a busy two months for the Queensland Branch committee since my last report. By the time you read this I expect that online registration for the 2026 National Conference will be available on the Association website. Accommodation at the Conference Venue, Rydges South Bank Hotel, is already available online. I am particularly

thrilled about the speakers we have engaged for the Conference. They are from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds and professions reflecting not only the current makeup of the population of Queensland, but the increasing multicultural nature of Order of Australia awardees.

From 9 to 11 September, investiture ceremonies for the King's Birthday awardees were held at Government House, followed by a Welcome Dinner for the new recipients and their families. A private investiture ceremony for world renowned film and stage costume designer Catherine Martin AC was held at Government House on 12 September attended by her family and friends. Irene Cayas OAM represented the Qld Branch Committee.

Our Annual Secondary School Awards presentations were held in the presence of Her Excellency the Hon. Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland, at Parliament House on 19 September. Students travelled from schools across the state to receive their awards. Our Awards Coordinator, Geoffery Cowles OAM, flew to Cairns on 24 October to deputise for me at a function to recognise Far North Queensland recipients in the King's Birthday honours. While in Cairns he presented a Secondary Schools Award to a Cairns High student who could not attend the presentations at Parliament House.

I could not be in Cairns because I was representing The Order of Australia Association at a highly significant ceremony at The University of Queensland. The beautiful sandstone Great Court at the University is adorned by sculptures of significant people connected with the history of Queensland and the University. One last space out of a total of 50 remained vacant for many years. The honour was finally given to Dr Margaret Valadian AC MBE, the first Aboriginal woman to graduate from an Australian University back in 1966. It was unveiled on Friday 24 October 2025 in the presence of family members. The carving is the work of Dr Rhyl Hinwood AM, who has been the official sculptor for the University since 1976. Dr Hinwood has designed and produced more than 700 commissioned public artworks in her career. At the 2026 National Conference, Dr Hinwood will speak on the significance of the art in the Great Court. Members and partners who select this option will be able to tour the sculptures of the UQ Great Court.

I encourage all members throughout Australia to join us in Brisbane for the Order of Australia National Conference, a very special event, from 16 to 19 April next year.

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron
Her Excellency the Hon. Dr Jeanette Young AC PSM Governor of Queensland

Chair
Ronda Nix OAM
Mobile: 0409 615 514

Deputy Chair
Dr Mick Davis AM ASM
Mobile: 0411 554 955

Membership Officer/Secretary
Robyn Porter OAM
Mobile: 0407 223 600

Treasurer
Dr Dennis Young AM
Mobile: 0411 631 3444

Board Nominated Director
Paula Penfold AM
Mobile: 0418 984 588

Committee Members
Qld Branch Editor - The Order
Kate Copeland AM

Protocol Officer
Graham Hyde OAM

Regional Groups Coordinator
Darryl Secombe OAM

Awards & Metro Events Coordinator
Geoffrey Cowles OAM

Merchandise Officer
Kelvin Brown OAM

Multicultural & Diversity Officer
Irene Cayas OAM

Humanitix Officer
Jenny Gregory OAM

All correspondence to:
Robyn Porter, Secretary
secqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au



38th National Conference
The Order of Australia Association
Brisbane 2026

BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

16 – 19 April 2026, Rydges South Bank Hotel & Conference Venue.



EVENTS

CELEBRATING QUEENSLAND'S BEST FROM THE 2025 KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

On Thursday 11 September, the Queensland Branch hosted a Welcome Celebratory Dinner in the Blue Pacific Ballroom at Kedron Wavell Services Club, Chermside, to welcome a dynamic dozen: 12 of the best from the 2025 King's Birthday award recipients.

While the number of award recipients being welcomed may have been low in quantity, their presence did not lack in quality. We were introduced to some simply wonderful, inspiring examples of why these honours are so important to the nation and to the communities that these fine people serve and represent.

A satisfying 135 guests attended including an outstanding member response of 31 members attending.



Back rows standing (L-R): Greg Rollason OAM – for service to the community of Moreton Bay; Dr John Healy AM – for significant service to medicine as a practitioner and researcher; Shirley Russell AM – for significant service to rugby union as a player, coach and volunteer; Dr Karin Walduck OAM – for service to community hockey; Warrant Officer Tony Croft OAM – for meritorious service in support of Australian Army Aviation; Professor Lewis Perrin OAM – for service to gynaecological oncology; Associate Professor David Rimmer OAM – for service to rural and remote medicine; Farouk Adam OAM – for service to the Muslim community of Queensland; Naomichi Hirano OAM – for service to the Japanese community of Queensland; Robert Craig OAM – for service to the communities of Queensland.

Front row seated (L-R): Rose Nairn OAM – for service to the communities of Canberra and Batemans Bay; Ronda L Nix OAM, Queensland Branch Chair; Lorna Heaslop OAM – for service to medicine, and to the community.

THE GOVERNOR OF QUEENSLAND ATTENDS HER FIRST SECONDARY SCHOOLS CITIZENSHIP AWARDS PRESENTATION

Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, the Governor of Queensland, presented the Queensland Branch's Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards in the Undumbi Room at Parliament House, Brisbane on Friday 19 September 2025.

A record 162 guests including students and their families, school representatives and Association members attended.

Her Excellency took great pleasure in presenting the awards and was captivated by the inspiring student citations that were read out, as well as the students' acceptance speeches. Twelve students from across the state received this prestigious award in recognition of their selfless community service in helping and supporting others and promoting true Australian citizenship. This was Her Excellency's first presentation for these awards in her tenure as Governor of Queensland.

Musical accompaniment with a difference was provided by the Lourdes Hill College's Vocal Group, 'The Diamonds'. What absolutely delightful harmonious voices!

The awards began in 1999 and since that time 317 outstanding students from 137 secondary schools have had the privilege of receiving this award.



Back Row (L-R): Grace Hemmings (St Ursula's College-Yeppoon), Joshua Golato (Assisi Catholic College), Ava Hetherington (Toooloa State High School), Ethan Cavanagh (Ignatius Park College), Amayah Hague (Ingham State High School), Rocco Harder (Ipswich State High School). Front Row (L-R): Ruby Zsadyony (Maroochydore State High School), Eve Reimers (St Ursula's College - Toowoomba), Her Excellency the Hon. Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland, Sharnicqua Morsh-Ivey (Mitchelton State High School), Anastasia Jordan Wright (Holland Park State High School), Emilie Cresswell (Lourdes Hill College), Ronda Nix OAM, Queensland Branch Chair. Absent: Sydney Richter (Cairns State High School)



CHAIR'S REPORT

Alastair Douglas OAM
Branch Chair
chairtas@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

A reception hosted by Her Excellency, the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania, was held in early October to celebrate the 50 years since the establishment of the Order of Australia. Her Excellency spoke of the importance of Australia's system of honours and noted that nominations have significant value because they can be made by any Australian citizen. More than 100 Association members and guests registered to attend what was a most pleasant event. We thank Her Excellency for her generosity in holding the reception for our Association.

The three Regional Groups continue with a variety of events for members, winding up what has been quite a busy year, culminating in Christmas lunches and afternoon teas. Speakers have covered a wide range of topics with all being well received by members. The Southern Region members had a most informative visit to the Maritime Museum of Tasmania. We were pleased to have the company of former National Membership Director Kathy Wooldridge OAM and her husband Peter from Queensland with us for the tour and lunch afterwards.

TASMANIAN BRANCH

OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron
Her Excellency The Hon. Barbara Baker AC
Governor of Tasmania

Branch Chair
Mr Alastair Douglas OAM
Mobile: 0418 127 897

Hon Secretary
Mrs Beatrice Lawrence OAM

Hon Treasurer
Mr Ron Blake OAM

Branch Nominated Director
Dr Rosemary Callingham AM

Membership Officer
Mr Barry Easter OAM

Branch Committee
Mr Neville Bingham AFSM OAM
Mrs Belinda Hazell OAM
Dr Nicholas Chantler AM
Mr Tony Coen OAM
Dr George Merridew AM
Mrs Maureen Oates OAM
Mrs Vicki Purnell OAM

EVENTS

AROUND THE REGIONS

North West Region Luncheon

Thirty-nine members and guests from the North West Regional Group attended a most enjoyable luncheon at the Greenhouse Restaurant, the on-campus training restaurant located at Hellyer College in Burnie on the North West Coast. Events such as these provide students with valuable industry standard training and it was an opportunity for our members to interact with some of our younger, talented community members. Although a little early due to the timetable constraints at Hellyer College in October, we celebrated the Seniors Week theme of 'Connecting Generations through Food'.



Southern Region visit to the Maritime Museum of Tasmania



North West Region members and guests enjoying lunch at the Greenhouse Restaurant at Hellyer College in September



Two Hellyer College students bookend (L-R) Shane Cleaver (Principal), Mavis Rowlands OAM and Dr Mary Kille AM



FEATURED MEMBER

SUSAN HAWICK AM



Susan Hawick AM

“That stiffened my spine, but I did the very best I could”.

Susan Hawick AM began her career as an educator in 1963 at Liverpool Girls School in the western suburbs of Sydney. The student population was mostly drawn from immigrant and low socioeconomic families and at the time the school counsellor was not considered to be a vital part of the school and was rarely asked to visit. As a result, Susan’s passion for psychology-based counselling services was ignited and in 1968 she trained as a school counsellor.

Her first appointment was to the far west of New South Wales and what a challenge it was having 45 schools to support over a large area! Susan was the first woman to do that job, and the locals said, “She won’t last. As soon as her car breaks down at the back of Bourke she’ll burst into tears and fly back to the city!” However, Susan was a determined lady and says, “That stiffened my spine, but I did the very best I could”.

One experience made Susan an outspoken advocate. Together with a local GP, she decided that a day programme for young people with disabilities was much needed in the community. An advertisement was placed in the local paper and parents came from across the district requesting that their child be enrolled. Before this, some young adults with moderate intellectual disability had never left their homes. Today we know that, with early intervention, many disabilities are manageable and happy productive lives for all the family are possible.

As educators, Susan and her colleagues had no training to work with Indigenous populations, and consequently a group of principals and counsellors formed a group to upskill themselves. It was a steep learning curve.

On her return to Sydney, Susan had various appointments including school counsellor, district guidance officer and assistant regional director/student services. Along with her colleagues, she helped develop a professional organisation to provide training and support for counsellors. Initially state-based, the organisation evolved into a national body, the Australian Guidance and Counselling Association (AGCA), with Susan serving on committees at both state and national levels at various times. She was National President of the AGCA from 2001 to 2003. Today the national organisation is called ASPECT, reflecting the significant role of psychology in school counselling. Susan also joined the International Association for Counselling and the International School Psychologists Association, and was an active participant.

Susan was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List of 2013 *for significant service to education, particularly through the school counselling profession.*

When she was a ‘young’ 80 years old, Susan relocated to Launceston in Tasmania where she is enjoying Launceston life with new friends and acquaintances.



CHAIR'S REPORT

Fred Harrington OAM
Branch Chair
chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

I was pleased to have the opportunity to attend the two investiture services for King's Birthday Honours recipients conducted in September by the Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardener AC. Over the two investitures, 170 recipients were acknowledged and received their medals. Investitures are always enjoyable days and provide the opportunity to meet new recipients.

Our Vic Branch End of Year Dinner was held on Thursday 20 November at the Stamford Plaza Melbourne and was well attended by members and guests, Guest speakers were Georgina Gubbin OAM and OAA Foundation Scholarship recipient Ayman Miaizi.

The next Vic Branch event is the *Paul Wheelton AM Inspiring Australians Oration* being held on Friday 20 March 2026 at Angliss Conference Centre in Melbourne CBD. Kathryn Fagg AC will deliver the Oration. In addition, OAA Foundation Scholarship recipient Chelsea Allen will provide an update on her journey following receipt of her Foundation scholarship. At the conclusion of the Oration refreshments will be served and the Vic Branch Annual General Meeting will be held. Full details will be provided closer to the event.

The Vic Branch and Regional Groups have started planning and setting dates for events in 2026. Please ensure you keep up to date with all Victorian events through the website www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/vic/upcoming-events/.

As our year draws to a close, I thank the Vic Branch committee and all Regional Group committees for their support and particularly as they ensured our members were provided with a wide range of events and activities throughout 2025.

On behalf of the Vic Branch committee, I offer our best wishes to all members and their families and loved ones for a joyful and relaxing festive season over Christmas and New Year. Please stay safe. We look forward to catching up with you in 2026.

VICTORIA BRANCH

OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

The Governor of Victoria,
Her Excellency Professor the
Hon. Margaret Gardener AC

Chair

Fred Harrington OAM
chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au
Mobile: 0417 116 304

Deputy Chair

Trevor Clark OAM

Secretary

Jill Page OAM

Treasurer

Alan Brook OAM

Branch Nominated Director

Grahame Leonard AM

Editor VIC contribution to The Order

Dr Teresa De Fazio OAM
victheordermag@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Membership Secretary

Fred Harrington OAM
oaavicmbrsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Regional Groups Coordinator

Barb Brook OAM
vicrgcoord@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Committee

Dr Helene Bender AM
Connie Boglis OAM
Beverly Pinder OAM

FORTHCOMING VIC BRANCH EVENTS



Paul Wheelton AM

**Paul Wheelton AM Inspiring
Australians Oration**
Friday 20 March 2026 at 10.30am,
Angliss Conference Centre

The Oration will be delivered by Kathryn Fagg AC. Kathryn was elevated from Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) to Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in June 2025 *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, recipient of an OAA Foundation Scholarship donated by Paul Wheelton AM will provide an update of her achievements after receiving her Scholarship. Light refreshments will be served following the Oration.

The **Victorian Branch Annual General Meeting** will follow at 12.30pm. Formal Notice of the AGM and accompanying documentation will be forwarded to financial members in early 2026.

2026 Victoria Branch and Regional Group events including Annual General Meetings are on the VIC Branch website page <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/vic/upcoming-events/>.

Check out our website www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au



FEATURED MEMBERS

JOHN THOMAS ROBINSON OAM: A DEDICATED COMMUNITY MEMBER



John Robinson in a Blackhawk helicopter

The awarding of the Order of Australia medal in 2025 to John Robinson OAM is an acknowledgement of service to the community of Victoria.

Among John's various roles are his work as Founding Honorary Chairman, WestVic Helicopter Rescue Service (now HEMS 4 - Warrnambool, Victorian Ambulance Service), 1996-2008 and Founder and Leader, District 5 Aviation Unit, Country Fire Authority, 2011-2014.

John has always drawn on lessons from his experiences as a member of Victoria Police (including Police Inspector, Warrnambool), flying planes in the Royal Airforce, and growing up on a farm in Horsham. These have shaped his unwavering commitment to community and his ability to cut through bureaucratic red tape to get things done for the community.

He recalls that, one night, he woke up at 4.30am thinking of the bushfire situation in Mallacoota. His concern focused on the elderly, young, people with disabilities and others overcome by fear who would find it difficult to access evacuation arrangements in a timely way. He knew aviation had a role to play and by 6.30am he had written up his plan and submitted it early that morning to critical incident control. What followed was a flurry of activity as he assembled his former networks in offshore gas supply entities, RAF and volunteers to take helicopters and planes into the beachside town ready to move in as soon as the heavy smoke cleared.

John remembers being flown by police helicopter to Mallacoota and looking across the landscape identifying and reporting fires from Bairnsdale to Mallacoota, "There was one long line of fires which, it was clear, was forming into one hellish fire. I have never seen anything like it – and hope never to again," he says.

John's community contributions span many roles, formal and informal. He was a member of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services; Board Member, Brophy Family and Youth Services, 2005-2014; Member, Community Advisory Committee, 2002-2009 and

Life Member; Board Member, Southern Way Direct Care Service, 2010-2012; Founder and Honorary Chairman, Australian Bravery Foundation since 2011; Founding Member, Bravery Institute of Australia, since 2014; and, Past National President, Australian Bravery Association, 2005-2010. John has certainly gone above and beyond over decades to make a difference in numerous sectors and communities.

John's ability to understand the nature of people and establish impactful community interventions led him to be a Founding Member of the Koori Court in Victoria in 2000. He was initiated as an 'Uncle' in the Kirrae Wurrung community, since 2005. As a proud Gunditjmara man, John understands the significance of this important recognition.

Uncle John realised that the justice system was failing young Aboriginal people. He and his wife embarked on research into models for Indigenous communities in South Australia and globally. He became the advocate for establishing a Koori Court system in Victoria, pounding on government doors to ensure it happened. The first Koori Court was set up in Shepparton. The Koori Court sits within a traditional court but incorporates Elders and community members as part of process. It focuses on cultural factors to inform sentencing. In its first year, recidivism fell by 44%.

Uncle John is particularly concerned that young people, from all backgrounds, should be provided with the guidance and support they need, as can be seen through his community service roles.

Uncle John has been a recipient of various awards in recognition of his commitment to service, for instance, the Bravery Medal, 1998, 'for participating in the removal of four aircraft at an air show, after a bomb threat'; the National Police Service Medal and VicPol Ethical and Diligent Service Medal (35 year clasp); and the CFA Service Award Medal (35 year clasp).

When asked about his motivation for his long commitment to community service, he explains simply that that is how he was brought up. He grew up in Horsham and there he was part of a collective effort. "When one farmer had a heart attack during harvest season, we all got together and took care of his harvest," he says. "The women ensured the family had food and were taken care of. That is how it was".

John's service to the CFA has also spanned decades. He went out to his first fire with the local CFA as a 13 year-old. His job was to cut wire fencing so that the sheep could escape the approaching flames of an out-of-control fire.

At 16, John formally joined the CFA which led to a 39 year-long commitment. He soon realised that the CFA did not have an aviation 'brigade' so he drew on his experiences to address this gap. "The farmers were good at handling the equipment. They knew how to use pumps, so training was fairly easy".

John is proud and pleased to have been awarded the OAM. He insists, however, that it belongs to all that have contributed alongside him. He says, "life is a team effort". Particularly special to that team effort is his wife, Sue Alt OAM, a 2018 Australia Day recipient *for service to the community through voluntary roles*. As a team they have worked together, often in the same organisation, focused on the same causes.

Today they have 'retired' to their small farm outside Warrnambool which "seems to attract rescue animals", but they remain active members of the community.

JUNE KANE AM: IN MY LIVERPOOL HOME



Liverpool University Vice-Chancellor Professor Tim Jones presents the Alumni Award 2025 to June Kane AM

Professor June Kane AM is a member of the Victoria Branch, Chair of the Western Suburbs Regional Group, National Editor of *The Order* magazine and known globally for her work to combat Modern Slavery. Since September 2025, she is also a recipient of the University of Liverpool (UK)'s Alumni Award 2025.

The letter advising June of her nomination cites “the impact, dedication and inspiration [June has] shown since graduating,” and says the University is “proud to celebrate her achievements”.

June says it’s always a magical experience to return to Liverpool but that going there for the award presentation in September was particularly special. She points out that she became a teenager the year that the Beatles’ *Love Me Do* was released, so Liverpool has provided the “soundtrack of her life”. The ceremony took place in the Victoria Museum and Gallery, which the undergraduate June

knew as the ‘Vicki Building’ and where she waited patiently every semester for exam results to be pinned on the boards in the main hall. The Vicki Building was the first building specially built for the fledgling university in Liverpool and its gothic red brick façade gave us the phrase “redbrick university”.

June graduated from Liverpool with a First Class degree in Modern Languages and then earned a doctorate in sixteenth century French poetry before completing postgraduate studies in communications. Her first job was as a Tutor in the French Department but, when the British economy slumped in the late seventies, she and her late husband Dr Danny Kane left for teaching posts in the Middle East, then the US and then Singapore. There June left academic life and trained as a broadcast journalist. When Danny and June moved to Australia, June first worked producing the news and 7.30 Report for the ABC before returning briefly to the university to teach broadcast journalism.

After a brief stint in the corporate world as a communications specialist and publications manager, June moved to Geneva, Switzerland, to join the International Red Cross as Director of Information. She was poached by the United Nations 18 months later and took on the role of Spokesperson on Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children. Over the years, as the issues she worked with moved up the international political agenda, she added expertise in human trafficking, child labour, forced labour and labour exploitation to her portfolio. These subjects, taken together, are now commonly known as Modern Slavery. You can read all about June’s work and download many of her publications free at www.kaneinternational.com.au.

June was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2007 for her work in child protection and joined the Association that same year.

June is now 15 years past the official UN retirement age but still works regularly for the International Labour Organization, researching slavery, designing programmes, training staff and writing books and reports. She has published 46 books and studies and is now, finally, working on her autobiography. This may be put on the back burner in 2026, when June embarks on a Master’s Degree at Liverpool University. The course title? The Beatles, Heritage and Culture.





CHAIR'S REPORT

Dr Caroline Hoffman OAM
Branch Chair
uk-europe@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Celebrating 50 years of the Order of Australia in London, UK

UK/Europe group members of the OAA and their guests gathered on a mild autumn evening in a private dining room in Belgravia, London, on 16 October 2025 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Order of Australia.

It was a joyful occasion with members and their guests coming from as far afield as France, Monaco, Luxembourg as well as different parts of the UK. It was a pleasure to see not only members who have been involved in the OAA for several decades but also new members of the Association attending an event for the first time.

The Chair, Dr Caroline Hoffman OAM, welcomed guests on this special occasion, reminding them of the origins of the Order of Australia 50 years ago under the Royal Patronage of the Late Queen Elizabeth II. She read a message of good wishes sent by the current Patron, King Charles III. This was followed by a Toast to HM The King and then to The Order of Australia.

During an excellent dinner, lively discussions took place recalling what the group has achieved over many years and how it has more recently widened its activities beyond London and the UK to France, where two events have been held in Paris in the last 18 months. The wonderful members who are no longer with us were also remembered.



(L-R): Dr Margaret Humphreys CBE AO, James Hogan AO, Dr Caroline Hoffman OAM, Richard York OAM, Heather Hogan, David Milligan OAM, Kathleen Smalley, Anna Stanley, Penelope Thwaites AM, Veronica Comyn AM, Ben Rahilly OAM, William Smalley



(L-R): David Milligan OAM, Kathleen Smalley, William Smalley, Anna Stanley, Dr Margaret Humphreys CBE AO, Dr Caroline Hoffman OAM, Veronica Comyn AM, Penelope Thwaites AM, Richard York OAM, Heather Hogan, James Hogan AO



CHAIR'S REPORT

Judy Hogben AM
Branch Chair
chairwa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

The end of winter and the start of spring always heralds a time for refreshment and a reset – the opportunity for both reflection and to incorporate this into the planning for the new year; and so it has been in the WA Branch of the Order of Australia Association. The analysis of the national survey and the need to develop the business

plan and budget for the forthcoming year provided the ideal backdrop to this reflection and development of future Branch directions.

There is no doubt that events such as our annual dinner are highly successful. The combination of socialising, keynote speaker, good food and a great venue combine to produce a much-anticipated evening in our calendar of events. This year's keynote speaker was the State's Governor, His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM who gave a fascinating talk, including personal insights and the importance of ongoing commitment to service. Both the survey and verbal feedback reinforce the importance of including some more formal social events such as the annual dinner.

The importance of regional events and the connections that they enable was also highlighted at the recent South West organised lunch at Busselton. More than 70 people attended the lunch at the newly finished Hilton. The atmosphere of warmth and friendship was evident to all. Regional events are often hard for the volunteers to put together, and the WA Branch's business plan highlights that ongoing support is planned.

The analysis of the 2025 national survey showed that a diverse range of events and offerings would be most welcomed. Along these lines the WA Branch held its first Sundowner, featuring Professor Kingsley Dixon AO FTSE as keynote speaker. It was a wonderful success and more sundowners and events at varying times of the day will be organised.

The Police Patron's Cadets' Lunch for patrons will be held on 14 November. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Police Patron's Scheme which is a signatory programme for the WA Branch and, while the lunch is restricted to patrons, it will be a fitting way to celebrate the cadets' achievements, the contribution of patrons and the ongoing value of the scheme. Christmas Dinner will close off the Branch's activities for 2025.

WA BRANCH

OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair

Judy Hogben AM

Secretary

Margaret Lobo AM

Treasurer

Michael Lee OAM

WA Nominated Board Director

Clive Robartson AM

Membership Secretary

Lorraine Hammond AM

WA contribution to The Order editor

Jackie Scurlock OAM

Committee Members

Ronald Louis OAM JP

Brad Norman AM

Rebecca Tolstoy AM

Claire Brittain AM

Events Coordinator – Co-opted

Member

Bettine Heathcote AM

Coordinator of the Police Patron

Scheme

Michael Bleus OAM

EVENTS

KING'S BIRTHDAY AWARDEES' RECEPTION

The City of Canning made us very welcome when they hosted the 2025 King's Birthday Honours Reception on a beautiful winter evening. Judy Hogben AM, Chair of the WA Branch, welcomed all the dignitaries and especially the new recipients and their guests. The Mayor, Patrick Hall, also welcomed everyone, including the Mayor of Gosnells, Teresa Lynes, Deputy Mayor and Councillors. He pointed out the importance of voluntary work in the community and how "Life lived for others is worthwhile." Fourteen new Recipients attended; the ages ranged from the youngest, Scott Guerini OAM, age 19 years, and the oldest, Marjorie Jessie Baker, age 95! Those present came from near and far, locally and from around the state. (a local from Gosnells, and country: Esperance and Woodanilling). Their citations were varied and comprehensive in so many different fields of endeavour. All had gone above and beyond what is expected. MAJGEN Barry Nunn AO RFD ED (Retd), National Chair, congratulated the recipients and noted that these awards are a team effort and he thanked and congratulated the "ground crew, family, friends and

co-workers." Barry recommended joining the Order of Australia Association, which will be 50 years old in five years' time and has more than 8,000 Members. A delicious supper was served after the formalities.



New King's Birthday recipients in the Order of Australia

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUSTRALIA HONOURS SYSTEM DINNER

The West Australia Branch of the Order of Australia Association held its Annual Dinner at the Royal Perth Golf Club on 9 September. This was such a special occasion, with 130 attendees in formal wear. The Club did us proud with great support: a delicious meal with table decorations of yellow and blue flowers and sorting out a problem when something unexpected happens.

The Honoured Guest was the Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM. He walked in to a Trumpet Voluntary by three musicians, organised by Margaret Pride OAM.

The Governor, the 34th Governor of WA, whose ancestors arrived in the Swan River colony in 1830, gave the after-dinner speech. In it he acknowledged he had been busy handing out Order of Australia and Bravery awards at Government House over the previous two days. He was again impressed by the sincere humility of those who receive the awards and the egalitarian life in WA.

In June 1975, when the awards were first awarded, there were three West Australians. One was Professor Byron Kakulas, who trained in Medicine in Adelaide. Back in Perth he decided to take up neurology at Royal Perth Hospital. The professor of pathology Rolf Ten Seldam brought in a quokka with a neurological problem. Prof Kakulas discovered it was a muscular weakness due to Vitamin E deficiency. Vitamin E tablets regenerated the wasted muscle. Prof Kakulas continued to investigate muscular disorders and neuropathies for the rest of his medical life, and this is continued at the Perron Institute. The Governor spoke of businessmen able to turn around insolvent youth centres, the importance of the Australian way of life, and of people who are givers, not takers of life. He said we have such a special country that we need to support what Australia stands for. We need to be better informed, and more motivated in our commitment to public service.

The evening ended with the three trumpeters - Jenny Coleman, Evan Cromie and Zoe McGivern - playing Benjamin Britten's Fanfare for St Edmundsbury for three trumpets.



The Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM, and Judy Hogben AM



Trumpeters Jenny Coleman, Evan Cromie and Zoe McGivern

FEATURED MEMBER

SCOTT GUERINI OAM: “DID YOU KNOW, YOU CAN CHANGE THE WORLD”



Scott Guerini OAM

Scott Guerini is only 19 years old. His citation reads, *for service to the community through charitable organisations.*

'Scott's Great Walk for Telethon' was founded in 2010 when Scott was just four years old.

A lesson at kindergarten in Southern Cross triggered his wish to raise money for babies and sick children. He started walking from the family farm to the nearest town 25 km away. In those days, he would sit at a table in the town asking passers-by to sponsor him. For three years, Scott walked 25 km and then progressed to annual marathons of 42+ km, treadmill challenges of 50km (2017 – 2025) and in 2016 completed the 82km Berg Lake Trail in the Canadian Rockies. Through these amazing feats, Scott raises money for his Telethon, now using posts on social media and online donations.

Scott has been a motivational speaker since 2015, a podcaster and an author. In 2017, he wrote a book entitled: *Did you know, you can change the world.*

Living in the country has not been easy for Scott. He has a younger brother with autism. The family bought a house in Alkimos, that was only just developing as a northern township, 43 km from the city of Perth. At the age of seven, Scott attended a nearby school, and his brother was able to access the specialist therapy unavailable locally in Southern Cross, 401km east of Alkimos.

The family would be together for school holidays only, with father managing the family farm.

At present Scott is in his second year at Edith Cowan University, where he is studying cyber security online. He works part-time on the family farm, with frequent visits to Perth.



CHAIR'S REPORT

Andrew Phelan AM
Branch Chair
chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

On 20 August, we held our annual Student Citizenship Awards evening, and I had the great privilege of hosting Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia and Patron of the Order of Australia Association, who addressed the evening and presented awards to an exceptional group of Canberra students. The evening celebrated young people who embody the values of citizenship, service and leadership through fundraising, volunteering, music, coaching, tutoring and developing programmes that enrich the lives of others. The evening highlighted the positive impact young Canberrans are making in our community, with the strong support of their families, schools and education sectors.

Our Spring New Recipient Reception on 1 October was a wonderful celebration of outstanding Australian citizenship by 16 new recipients from the 2025 King's Birthday list and another from the 2025 Australia Day list, along with their families, members and guests. It was particularly pleasing to see several new recipients join our Association as members.

On 22 October, Emeritus Professor Mark Howden AC gave the 2025 Australian National University Order of Australia Lecture on the topic, 'Go hard or go slow on climate change? What's in the national interest?' His presentation was not only timely and thought-provoking but also deeply grounded in decades of scientific rigour, policy engagement and public service, offering a much-needed lens through which to understand the complex and often polarised public discourse surrounding Australia's climate trajectory.

We have several important events over November: the Branch Committee staffed a stall at the Government House Open Day on 1 November; Chief of Defence Force, Admiral David Johnston AC RAN will deliver the OAA-Australian Defence Force Oration at Russell on 25 November, addressing our national defence strategy, transformation of capabilities and defence culture; and finally we will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Australian honours and awards system with a lunch on Thursday 27 November, at which our Branch Patron, Dr Sue Packer AO, will speak.

Once again, I thank all the members of the ACT Branch committee for their great voluntary work in organising Branch events and administering the Branch's affairs.

ACT BRANCH

OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Patron**
Dr Suzanne Packer AO
- Branch Nominated Director**
Michael Crane DSC and Bar, AM
- Chair**
Andrew Phelan AM
chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au
Mobile: 0417 267 609
- Secretary**
Robert Altamore OAM
- Treasurer**
Phil Morrall AM CSC
- Committee Members**
Lynne Duckham OAM
Mainul Haque OAM
Greg Hood AO
Dr Joseph Johnson CSC, OAM, AAM
Prof Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt AO
Julie Long OAM
David Templeman AM
Desmond Woods OAM

FORTHCOMING ACT BRANCH EVENTS

- 25 November 2025:** ADF Oration with Chief of Defence Force, Admiral David Johnston AC RAN.
- 27 November 2025:** 50th Anniversary of Honours & Awards - Celebratory Lunch.
- 4 December 2025:** End of Year Celebration and Picnic.

EVENTS

OCTOBER RECEPTION FOR KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS RECIPIENTS

At the Royal Canberra Golf Club on 1 October, the Branch hosted a reception for King's Birthday honours recipients at one of our



(L-R): Helen Dalley Fisher AM, Fred Smith OAM, Dr Elizabeth Dalman AM, CDRE Anthony Klenthis AM CSC RAN, David Cocking OAM, Thomas Rogers AO, Andrew Phelan AM, Neville Tomkins AM, Colin Greef OAM

best attended receptions with nearly 100 members and guests attending to honour and congratulate the 17 new awardees. The Branch expressed appreciation for the support provided by the ACT Government for this event.



(L-R): Christine Faulks AM, BRIG Peter Evans OAM (Retd), RADM Rachel Durbin AM CSC RAN, The Reverend Mary Farmer OAM, David Luck OAM, Dr Rolf Oberprieler AM, Edward Chapman OAM, Nigel Webster OAM, Harry Hoang OAM, Andrew Phelan AM



ACT STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

Some 130 members, friends, school children and their families and school officials celebrated the outstanding community service of winners in our 2025 ACT Student Citizenship Awards at the Royal Canberra Golf Club on 20 August. We were privileged to have Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia and Patron of the Order of Australia Association, present the awards to the students.

The Branch extends thanks to the Student Citizenship Awards judging panel: Julie Long OAM, Dr Joseph Johnson CSC OAM AAM, and Professor Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt AO.

Her Excellency presented 19 citizenship awards to students ranging from year 3 to year 12. These included medallions, Highly Commended awards, Commended Awards and Group Awards.

Diya Sreesan, Year 12, St Clare's College 2025, was honoured with the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia Medallion Award



Student Citizenship Award winners with Her Excellency the Governor-General and Branch Committee members. Photo courtesy the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General. Diya Sreesan is third from right in the front row.

for Exceptional Citizenship, Leadership and Achievement.

Diya is a dedicated leader known for her empathy and commitment to social justice. She organised the World's Greatest Shave at St Clare's, raising \$20,000 for blood cancer support, and started the

Walk for Life to promote organ donation awareness among students. As a college tour guide and school representative, she advocates for learning and service. Diya's strong communication skills and active involvement in school events inspire others and exemplify positive leadership.

FEATURED MEMBER

FOCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE: PROFESSOR MARK HOWDEN AC



Professor Mark Howden AC.
Photo courtesy ANU.

Branch member Emeritus Professor Mark Howden AC FAA FTSE is a Vice Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and was until recently the Director of the Australian National University Institute for Climate, Energy and Disaster Solutions and Chair of the ACT Climate Change Council.

Professor Howden contributes to several other major national and international science and policy advisory bodies. He has worked on

climate variability, climate change, innovation and adoption issues for almost 40 years in partnership with many industry, community and policy groups via both research and science-policy roles, and is a high-profile public communicator.

Mark helped develop the national and international greenhouse gas inventories that are a fundamental part of the Paris Agreement and pioneered sustainable ways to reduce emissions.

He has been a major contributor to the IPCC since 1991, with a record number of roles across all four dimensions of the IPCC: climate science, impacts and adaptation, mitigation and greenhouse gas inventories, sharing the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with other IPCC contributors and former US Vice-President Al Gore.

Professor Howden was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in the 2025 King's Birthday list, *for eminent service to environmental science, to the global response on climate change and adaptation, to agriculture, and to tertiary education.*

On 22 October 2025, Professor Howden was the guest speaker at the annual OAA-ANU Lecture on the subject "Go hard or go slow on climate change? What's in the national interest?" and he discussed the issues in the Australian transition to renewable energy, from the political discourse on trajectories of greenhouse gas emissions to the overall picture of the benefits of adaptation options. His presentation addressed the overall costs and benefits of climate action vs inaction. The lecture can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/m8xVumKUjFk>.



CHAIR'S REPORT

Dr John Gullotta AM
Branch Chair
chairnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

It has been a very busy time for the Branch over the past few months. We attended the King's Birthday 2025 investitures at Government House Sydney. It was heart-warming and very moving to see awardees from all walks of life in a myriad of diversity and different professions, being acknowledged for many decades of hard work serving our community. The citations were a testament to

their dedication in promoting Australian citizenship in all fields. On behalf of the NSW Branch committee, I would like to congratulate all new KB25 awardees, and I hope you join the Association and become involved in our events and activities.

On 22 August 2025, we held our Annual Youth Community Service Awards Presentation Ceremony at Government House Sydney. Our Patron and NSW Governor, Her Excellency Margaret Beazley AC KC, hosted the awards and acknowledged the contribution of 25 NSW high school children, and presented them with a special certificate and trophy.

This year we held a combined luncheon for both Australia Day 2025 and Kings Birthday 2025 new recipients at NSW Parliament House on Friday 19 September 2025, with 150 attendees. This was a great opportunity for new recipients to celebrate with their guests and family and meet fellow new recipients with great networking and camaraderie!

On 26 October 2025, we held a special Art and Opera event in conjunction with the Paddington Art Prize. My thanks to Marlene Antico OAM, Founder of the Paddington Art Prize, for her support and generosity.

It is pleasing to see that our membership is slowly increasing. There has been increased diversity in our new recipients as well as a close match now in gender. It is pleasing that our Governor-General has recently streamlined the nominations process which should shorten the time from nomination to award and hopefully decrease the number of posthumous awards given to family members which is very sad to witness.

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 shall be arranging meetings in our major regional hubs to assist them, as it is my aim as NSW 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 in 2026.

On 22 July 2025, the NSW Branch celebrated 45 years, and we have arranged a special celebratory Long Lunch on 6 December 2025 to commemorate this milestone in conjunction with our Christmas event. I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events.

On behalf of the Branch committee and members of the NSW Branch, I wish you all a Joyful and Merry Christmas, and we send our best wishes for the new year.

NSW BRANCH

OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

Her Excellency The Honourable
Margaret Beazley AC KC

Chair

Dr John Gullotta AM
Mobile: 0418 233 069
Email: chairnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Deputy Chair

Ms Martha Jabour OAM
Mobile: 0417 442 287

Honorary Secretary

Mrs Dianne North OAM
Mobile: 0429 774 363
Email: dianne_north@bigpond.com

Honorary Treasurer

Mrs Louise Paisley OAM
Mobile: 0414 597 323

Branch Nominated Director and Regional Coordinator

Mr David North OAM
Mobile: 0419 485 071
Email: dirnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Branch Membership Officer

Dr Geoffrey Glassock AM

Youth Community Service Award Coordinator

Dr Frank Kelleher OAM

Committee Members

Mr Romano Di Donato OAM
Adj. Prof Sophie Scott OAM
Mr Gary Smith AM
Mrs Trish Wetton OAM
David Stuart-Watt AM

The Order of Australia Association NSW Branch Postal Address

PO Box 561
Parramatta NSW 2124

FORTHCOMING NSW BRANCH EVENTS

6 December 2025: OAA NSW 45 year Anniversary Long Lunch in the Heritage Atrium, Hyatt Regency Sydney.
Bookings via: <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/M7P6G>

26 January 2026: Australia Day Cruise Luncheon aboard MV Captain Cook III.
Bookings via: <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/9373E>

Check out our website www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au



EVENTS

KING'S BIRTHDAY 2025 INVESTITURES AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE SYDNEY

In September, representatives of the Branch committee attended the investitures at Government House to meet the KB25 new recipients and promote our Association. A photo pictorial follows.



Dr Michael Steiner AM with his sons and Dr John Gullotta AM - for significant service to medicine in the field of ophthalmology as a surgeon, and to professional associations.



Mr John McCarthy AM and his family with Ms Martha Jabour OAM and Dr John Gullotta AM - for significant service to the Catholic Church in Australia, to the law, and to sports administration.



Ms Noemie Fox OAM and her family - for service to sport as a gold medallist at the Paris Olympic Games 2024.



Marjorie Cameron OAM with her son and granddaughter. Marjorie is 100 years old and received her award - for service to the community of Port Macquarie.



Mr Bruce Gordon AO and his family - for distinguished service to the media and television industries, and as a benefactor for sports and the arts.



Vidyasagan Haran Ramachandran OAM (in blue jacket) with his family - for service to the community through a range of organisations.

2025 YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

On 22 August 2025 we held our Annual Youth Community Service Awards Presentation Ceremony at Government House Sydney. Our Patron and NSW Governor, Her Excellency Margaret Beazley AC KC, hosted the awards and acknowledged the contribution of 26 NSW Year 11 and 12 high school children and presented them with a special certificate

and trophy. Our special thanks go to our Convenor, Dr Frank Kelleher OAM, for successfully organising and guiding these awards over the past nine years. The NSW Branch is committed to promoting and recognising the inspirational achievements and exceptional community service of our young people and will continue to hold these awards annually. The citations are certainly a true inspiration to us all.

The OAA Youth Community Service

Award is conducted annually by the NSW Branch and recognises community service by individual students that would not normally be recognised by their school systems, which usually reward academic, sporting and leadership achievements. It recognises the significant service performed by students beyond their school boundaries in the wider community. This is in the areas of Campaigning and Fundraising, Mentoring and Volunteering.



Student awardees with the Governor and NSW Branch committee members at Government House Sydney

2025 NEW RECIPIENTS LUNCHEON AT NSW PARLIAMENT HOUSE

This year we held a combined luncheon for both Australia Day 2025 and Kings Birthday 2025 new recipients at NSW Parliament House on Friday 19 September, with 150 attendees including 67 new recipients. This was a great opportunity for new recipients to celebrate with their guests and family and meet fellow new recipients with great networking and camaraderie.

In his opening address, NSW Chair Dr

John Gullotta AM said, “This event is an opportunity for our Association to celebrate your great achievements. Every year I am truly amazed by the extremely high calibre of recipients that are honoured and all of you here today are certainly no exception. You come from all walks of life, a myriad of professions and of course the quiet achievers working away in your local communities especially in rural and remote parts of NSW.

All of you have a unique and special story that you should be very proud of and that we acknowledge and honour here today. As you all know, membership is the

lifeblood of any organization. So if you are not a member of the Association, please join so you can help us “to celebrate and promote outstanding citizenship.”

Stephanie Di Pasqua MP, member for Drummoyne and temporary speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly, was our parliamentary host and Sally Loane AM, Chair Destination NSW and Ignition Advice and 2025 new recipient was our guest speaker. John McCarthy AM KC, esteemed Barrister, former Australian Ambassador to the Holy See and a 2025 new recipient said Grace.



Attendees at the New Recipients Luncheon at NSW Parliament House

KING’S BIRTHDAY AWARDS CELEBRATION FAR SOUTH COAST

On Wednesday 20 August, the Bega CWA Hall came alive as 20 community members gathered to celebrate the achievements of the region’s King’s Birthday Honours recipients. The event was a heartfelt tribute to service, dedication and the quiet impact of extraordinary individuals.

Master of Ceremonies Peter Atkinson OAM, accompanied by his wife Mary—both respected former veterinary surgeons in the Bega area—welcomed attendees. Special recognition was given to David North OAM, NSW Regional Coordinator, and Dianne North OAM, NSW Secretary, representing the Order of Australia Association.

Guests were treated to a sumptuous afternoon tea, prepared by the ladies of the CWA, featuring a delightful spread of hot and cold treats that added a touch of homely elegance to the occasion.

Jan Phillips AM, Far South Coast convenor, gave an update on regional activities, reinforcing the strength and spirit of the local OAA community.

A loyal toast was proposed with a glass of champagne, led by David North OAM, marking a moment of unity and national pride.

Dr Henry Gardiner OAM was the sole new recipient in attendance. He was celebrated for his significant service to

education and community organisations, including decades of leadership in Rotary, where he served as District Governor (1995-96). His contributions to St John’s Anglican Church, Wagga Wagga, and his role in establishing the Wagga Wagga Historical Museum were also highlighted. Henry’s career in education saw him serve as Principal at colleges in Goulburn, Wagga Wagga and Albury.

The late Randall Clinch OAM was remembered with deep respect for his pioneering work in mental health and wellbeing. His career spanned roles in education departments across Australia, and he advised organisations such as Northern Territory Correctional Services, Jobs Statewide, and the ACT Youth Justice Services. Randall was a passionate trainer

and coach for the Attitude Programme and Job Seekers, and authored influential books including *Attitude By Choice* and *Secret Kids’ Business*. His story was featured on *Australian Story* in 2000.

Though unable to attend, Colin Butt OAM of Moruya Heads was acknowledged for his tireless service to the Eurobodalla Shire. He coordinated the Snowy Hydro South Care Rescue Helicopter, raised awareness and funds for the cause, and volunteered in diverse roles, from dressing as a clown to brighten lives, to supporting Archies Lunches for the Elderly, and driving for Community Care Transport. He also co-founded Rural Drought Relief for Women and Children, demonstrating his deep commitment to rural resilience.



Far South Coast members and guests

2025 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES: AN EXTRAORDINARY COHORT

On 26 September 2025, Her Excellency the Governor-General graciously and generously hosted the six 2025 Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship winners at Government House, Canberra. After attending by invitation the morning investiture for the Order of Australia, the awardees engaged with Her Excellency at a Round Table Conference, before being honoured with a guided tour of Government House. The day provided them with a lifetime of memories.

While Her Excellency recognized and applauded the distinctive academic and community contribution of each awardee, she insightfully identified common themes that underpinned their success to date and their vision for the future:

Their aspiration to make a difference to Australia's future in non-traditional and traditional areas shone through.

Jake Barnett, undertaking a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) with a major in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Western Australia, is committed to tackling the big problem of renewables, potentially

exploring the possibility of wave energy.

Zeph Hardie, specializing in computer and software systems while undertaking a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) at the Queensland University of Technology, aspires to branch into neuromorphic computer research (where chips and sensors reflect the structure and function of the human brain).

Ockert Visser, in his second year of a Bachelor of Advanced Computer Science (Honours) at the University of Western Australia, wants to pursue a career in Quantum Computing.

Nazia Safdari, who is undertaking a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and a Bachelor of Business Management at the University of Queensland, wants to give back to disadvantaged and underrepresented communities by becoming a human rights lawyer, possibly becoming a Protection Officer with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Miriam Grice, who is undertaking a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy

(Honours) at the University of Queensland, is committed to making a major difference to improve mental health services in rural and regional Australia.

And Isum Malawaraarachchi wants to work in Emergency Medicine after he completes his Bachelor of Medical Studies at Bond University.

They identified the key role played by their family in shaping who they are and their vision for the future.

For instance, Isum is determined to live a life with purpose in emergency medicine after witnessing the commitment of a doctor who went out of his way to treat his mother when she was ill. Nazia's human rights commitment was driven by her family's experience fleeing from Afghanistan and then Pakistan because they were Hazaras. Miriam's commitment to regional mental health has been influenced by her observations of suicide arising from the geographic reach of her father's ministry in Inverell, Geraldton and Rockhampton, as well as by her deep and abiding Christian faith.



Jake Barnett



Zeph Hardie



Ockert Visser

Their academic excellence was recognized with the award.

Each awardee has achieved superior academic results and a Grade Point Average of well above 6 out of 7. This includes Isum’s achieving straight high distinctions and being placed each semester on the Vice Chancellor’s list for Academic Excellence, and Jake’s receiving straight high distinctions in all but one subject in his degree.

Their superior leadership and their community commitment was acknowledged with the award.

For example, Miriam, Isum and Ockert have all been school captains in various guises. Jake has given back to the community as a volunteer to the WA Rogaining Association, while he has shown dedication to music through his involvement with endeavours as diverse as ensembles involving gamelon, the saron and as the bass player in a band. Miriam has been awarded an Australian Olympic Change Maker Award for exceptional leadership and an outstanding contribution to regional sport, especially female-focused cricket

programmes in Central Queensland. Zeph is an accomplished swimmer, musician and an active member of the QUT Robotics team. Isum was a member of his school’s first eight rowing crew, became a football referee in Victoria, officiating as part of the referee academy, and has raised funds for the Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal. He has also been active in helping aspiring students prepare to gain access to medicine. Nazia volunteers at her local mosque and has been assisting recently arrived families navigate the intricacies of integrating into their new life. Ockert volunteers as a rugby union referee and has been actively involved with surf lifesaving.

Each awardee expressed their profound gratitude to the Scholarship donors.

Jake’s scholarship was awarded by the Goodeve Foundation, Miriam’s by the Order of Australia Association, Zeph’s by the late and hugely respected Mrs Angela Wheelton OAM DSJ and Ms Beverley Pinder OAM, Isum’s by Dr Helen Nugent AC, Chair of the Order of Australia Association Foundation and former

Chancellor of Bond University, Nazia’s by the Order of Australia Association Foundation from its endowment, reflecting a previous significant anonymous donation, and Ockert’s by the McCusker Charitable Foundation.

In turn, each awardee looks forward to the financial and other benefits provided by the Scholarship.

Each Scholarship is worth \$45,000, paid in equal instalments over two years. The first instalment has been made. This will go some way to alleviating the financial pressures facing each awardee. In turn, the Foundation is in the process of identifying a mentor who will be able to help each awardee with their career ambition. Their mentors will be announced soon.

This cohort of six worthy participants brings to 66 the number of Scholarships that the Foundation has awarded. The Governor-General will present this year’s Scholars with their certificates at the Annual Dinner of the Order of Australia Association in Brisbane on 18 April 2026.



Nazia Safdari



Miriam Grice



Isum Malawaraarachchi



THE FOUNDATION'S WORK CONTINUES



THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION LTD

ABN 89 109 314 142

WILL YOU HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

As an awardee of the Order of Australia, you have made a distinctive contribution to Australia. The Board of the Order of Australia Association Foundation asks you to consider making a further contribution to Australia by supporting its Scholarship programme.

It represents an investment in Australia's future

The Scholarship programme aims to identify full-time students in their second year of university who are exceptional in their field of study, who have given back to the community, and who can benefit from the financial support provided by the Scholarship. It is hoped these students have the potential to become future awardees of the Order of Australia.

It is life-changing for the recipient

The recipient receives \$45,000 paid over two years. For the students selected, the value of the Scholarship is life changing.

In addition, the recipient receives a mentorship from a member of the Order of Australia in the student's area of expertise and career ambition. Winners have described this as having a benefit beyond money.

It is prestigious

The scholarship is highly regarded not just by the recipients, but also by the universities with whom we work. That prestige is enhanced by the presentation of the Scholarship awards by the Governor-General or her delegate at the Annual Dinner of the Order of Australia Association. To date, 66 Scholarships have been awarded.

It is well governed

The Board of the Foundation maintains the highest standards of governance in relation to the awards, at the same time as keeping costs to a minimum.

It is tax deductible

Any donation made to the Scholarship programme of the Foundation is tax deductible. We have a rigorous programme of acknowledging your donation and providing a receipt to enable you to claim your tax deduction.

By making a donation, you will make a real difference.

You can help by making a donation to the Order of Australia Association Foundation, no matter how large or small.

HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

Members can donate directly to the Foundation. Alternatively, members can donate to an Association National Scholarship Programme which allows Branches and individual members to contribute to a consolidated account which, when it reaches the Scholarship funding level (currently \$50,000), will allow the award of an Association Scholarship.

Donations made directly and indirectly attract DGR tax deductibility.

Donations may be made either by Credit Card or Electronic Payment:

Credit Card: Please go to the Foundation Website: www.oaafoundation.org.au

Electronic Payment:

Name of Account: The Order of Australia Association Foundation Ltd Gift Account
BSB No: 013 006
Account No: 314 735 771

So we can provide a Tax Receipt, please advise name for Tax Receipt and details of method of payment to: sec@oaafoundation.com.au

For further information, please contact:

Chair, Order of Australia Association Foundation
Telephone: (02) 8232 8508 or (02) 6273 5995
Website: www.oaafoundation.org.au