

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

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

February 2026



**'CELEBRATION OF AUSTRALIA DAY'**  
**Saturday 17 January 2026**

*As our first event of the year, we held a successful 'Celebration of Australia Day' Luncheon at Jarmer's Kitchen in Bowden, with Professor Peter Høj AC, formerly Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Adelaide, as guest speaker (pictured with SA Branch Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM; image by Pamela Rajkowski OAM). Ian Pole OAM from Port Pirie kindly sent the image of his Pie Floater – a lamb shank pie with a lamb cutlet and green pea purée. He observed that it was quite an improvement from the old pie floaters that were available in Port Pirie in the sixties and seventies when he was doing overnight ambulance duties.*

**ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION LIMITED, South Australia Branch**

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

## The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch



### SA BRANCH NEWSLETTER, February 2026

We have begun the year by celebrating Australia Day, and we look forward to hosting Fellowship Lunches, our AGM, New Recipient Receptions, a celebration of the King's Birthday, and various other events.

This newsletter brings you some more images from our events late last year and from Student Citizenship Award presentations that our members have undertaken on our behalf at schools and colleges.

On behalf of all SA Branch members, I would like to congratulate everyone who has been announced in the 2026 Australia Day Honours List. We will be holding a New Recipients' Reception to welcome these recipients and honour their achievements. New recipients will be a guest of the SA Branch.

I look forward to seeing you at our Annual General Meeting next month if you are able to attend, and I encourage you to attend the 2026 Order of Australia Association National Conference in Brisbane.

Meanwhile, we are continuing to make preparations to host the 2027 National Conference in Adelaide. I am pleased to record that, at the December Board Meeting of the Order of Australia Association Limited, our selected theme of 'Recognising Achievement – Inspiring Tomorrow' was approved.

Our next major event is the King's Birthday Luncheon, with the Honourable Greg Crafter AO as guest speaker, a past Member for Norwood, Minister for Education and Minister for Local Government.

In some past issues, our Association's national magazine 'The Order' has carried paid adverts showcasing members' products and venues. Every such ad placed helps offset the cost of printing and distribution. Perhaps some of our members who run their own business may be interested in advertising? We have included further information in this and the March newsletters.

Tony Metcalf OAM  
SA Branch Chair

## IMPORTANT REMINDER



### 2026 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

16 – 19 April 2026

The 38th National Conference is being hosted by the Queensland Branch at Rydges South Bank Hotel in Brisbane, with the theme being:

“Bridge to the Future”

You can access the personalised online booking web page for delegates here:

<https://www.rydges.com/private-page/order-of-australia-association/>

View the conference program and secure your Conference Booking Here:

<https://events.humanitix.com/the-order-of-australia-association-national-conference-2026>

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Friday 6 February:** Government House Adelaide 'Lunch on the Lawns' (see notice in this newsletter)

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

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

**Saturday 14 March:** Annual General Meeting

**Friday 27 March:** Riverland and Mallee Regional Group luncheon meeting

**16-19 April 2026:** National Conference in Brisbane

**Thursday 30 April:** Honours recipients fellowship luncheon meeting with guest speaker

**Friday 1 May:** Fleurieu Regional Group luncheon

**Sunday 3 May:** Yorke Peninsula Regional Group luncheon meeting (note amended date)

**Monday 18 May:** New Recipients' Reception (proposed date, subject to confirmation)

## The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

### THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA The Military Division

When the Order of Australia was established in 1975, the Constitution of the Order contained provisions for it to consist of a Civil Division and a Military Division.

However, the former was retitled 'General Division' under Letters Patent dated 24 May 1976.

The riband of the Order of Australia is based on the livery colours of the Commonwealth of Australia Coat of Arms – gold and royal blue.

The riband is defined as moire Royal blue silk, 38 mm in width, with a central band 12 mm wide of scattered golden mimosa blossoms of various sizes. Each of these golden discs represents a single flower of mimosa ('Golden Wattle'), which is the emblem of the Order.

Appointments and awards within the Military Division are made by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister for Defence.

The ribbon of the Military Division is identical to that of the General Division – but with the addition of gold edge stripes, 1.5 mm in width.

Not only is the Military Division distinguished by a distinctive ribbon, but Australian Defence Force members have a unique method for wearing the service ribbon.

Due to the irregularity of the mimosa blossoms, dress regulations mandate that a particular portion of the ribbon is to be used when mounting it on a ribbon bar for wear in uniform.

In the early years of the Order's existence, military service ribbon bars were constructed using any portion of ribbon, in either manner of vertical orientation. Once dress regulations specified that a particular pattern was to be displayed, cutting that specific pattern from a length of ribbon left considerable wastage.

To avoid such wastage, special ribbon was produced with the required pattern repeating with gaps and marker thread, to ensure that exactly the correct pattern was used to prepare the service ribbon bar.

Displaying the specified pattern ensures uniformity in the appearance of military ribbon bars.

#### CONSTITUTION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

##### The Order of Australia

1. (1) The Order of Australia (hereinafter called 'the Order') shall consist of a Civil Division and a Military Division.

(2) A person appointed to the Order shall be appointed in the Civil Division or in the Military Division.

*An extract from the 'Australia Government Gazette' S28 of 17 February 1975 in which the Constitution of the Order establishes the Civil and Military Divisions of the Order of Australia.*



*The ribbon on the left is 38 mm in width, to denote an appointment to the Order in the Military Division.*

*The ribbon on the right is 32 mm in width, to denote the award of the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Military Division.*

*These lengths of ribbon have been especially created for making military service ribbon bars, to ensure that exactly the correct pattern is used, in the correct vertical orientation. Special ribbons such as these should never be used for mounting the full-size insignia.*

## Ribbons of the Military Division

This article on the ribbons of the Military Division of the Order of Australia worn by members of the Australian Defence Force was published in the September 2025 issue of the *Journal of the Orders and Medals Research Society*.

# Journal of the Orders & Medals Research Society



### Contents include:

The Battle of Tofrek, 22 March 1885 - a soldiers' battle in which the discipline of individual soldiers averted another 'Isandlwana'	144
The 'AFGHANISTAN N.W.F. 1919' clasp to the IGSM 1908-35 as awarded to the Machine Gun Corps: Part 3 'Rollers' and 'Momagus'	148
The tales of two Stars	153
8085 WO1 Charles Mowbray Gales, MM	158
Military General Service (MGS) Medal Fort Detroit - a volunteer's story	161
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The Richard Fitzgerald Victoria Cross	167
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John Chatterton: whose medal ?	177

### Ribbons unravelled: The Military Division of the Order of Australia

by Paul A. Rosenzweig, OAM, South Australia

This set of ribbons was at one time worn by Commodore Eric Eugene Johnston, AM, OBE, RAN (1933-97), a senior Royal Australian Navy officer. His extensive career included service off the Malay Peninsula during the confrontation in 1964 - 65 and three deployments to South Vietnam in 1963 - 66 (HMAS *Melbourne*), as well as service with the US 7th Fleet in the waters off South Vietnam in 1969 - 70 (HMAS *Vendetta*).<sup>1</sup>



Member of the Order of Australia in the Military Division (AM); Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the Military Division (OBE); General Service Medal 1962-2007 with clasp 'MALAY PENINSULA'; Vietnam Medal; National Medal; South Vietnam Campaign Medal

These ribbons were worn between July 1977, when he was awarded the National Medal for 15 years' service in the Australian Defence Force, and 1981 when he was appointed a Commander Brother in the Order of St John. The second ribbon is instantly recognisable as the OBE in the Military Division; Johnston was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1970 'in recognition of distinguished services in Vietnam'.<sup>2</sup> The first, however, denotes a Member of the Order of Australia (AM), an appointment Johnston received on 17 June 1975.

The Order of Australia was established by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia, on the advice of the Prime Minister of Australia, by Letters Patent dated 14 February 1975.<sup>3</sup>

In 2025, therefore, Australia marks the 50th anniversary of the creation of the only order of chivalry within the Australian Honours System.

Various aspects of the order are defined by the Constitution of the Order of Australia and the Insignia Ordinance. The riband of the order is defined as Royal blue silk moiré, 38mm in width, with a central band 12mm wide of golden mimosa blossoms of various sizes, scattered in an irregular pattern. Each of these discs represents a single flower of mimosa ('Golden Wattle'), which is the emblem of the order.

The Medal of the Order is worn suspended from a similar ribbon, 32mm in width, with the same pattern of scattered golden mimosa blossoms in proportion.

Miniature medals are all worn suspended from a similar ribbon, 16mm in width.

The ribbon of the Military Division of the Order of Australia has two features of significance, the first of which being that it bears gold edge stripes. When the order was established, it was created with a Civil Division and a Military Division (the former was retitled 'General Division' under Letters Patent dated 24 May 1976). Not only does the Military Division have a distinctive ribbon, but members of the Australian Defence Force also have a unique method for wearing the ribbon. The Insignia Ordinance describes the ribbon of the Order in the Military Division as having an additional gold band 1.5mm wide on each edge, and the bands on this ribbon show it was an award in the Military Division.

In December 1973, the wearer of this set of ribbons was appointed Naval Officer Commanding North Australia Area. This meant that Captain Eric Johnston, OBE – as he was then – was based at Naval Headquarters in Darwin, the capital of the Northern Territory. However, after Cyclone Tracy struck Darwin on Christmas Eve 1974, Johnston was trapped under the rubble of Naval HQ. Having survived this experience, he led the clean-up programme known as Operation 'Navy Help Darwin', for which he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the Military Division in the Australian 1975 Queen's Birthday Honours.<sup>4</sup>

The second distinctive feature of the ribbon shown is the pattern of the mimosa blossoms. These blossoms appear on the riband of the order in an irregular, but repeating, pattern. In the early years of the order's existence, military service ribbons were constructed using any portion of ribbon, in any manner of vertical orientation. This problem was solved when dress regulations within the three services of the Australian Defence Force came to mandate that a particular portion of the ribbon was to be used, when mounting it on a ribbon bar for wear in uniform, to create a standard pattern. Cutting that specific piece of pattern from a length of ribbon, however, left considerable wastage. To avoid such wastage, special ribbon was produced that repeated the required pattern, with gaps and marker thread, to ensure



The special lengths of ribbon representing The Military Division of the Order of Australia, 38mm wide (on left) and the medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), 32mm wide (on right)

that exactly the correct pattern was used to prepare the service ribbon bar. As a result, uniformity in the appearance of this order on military ribbon bars was ensured.

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> See Rosenzweig, P.A. (2022) 'Johnston, Eric Eugene (1933-1997)', Australian Dictionary of Biography (online), National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, 16 May 2022: <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/johnston-eric-eugene-32121>

<sup>2</sup> The London Gazette No 45188 dated 8 September 1970, p 9893 ('To be dated 3 September 1970', Commonwealth of Australia Gazette No G74 of 3 September 1970, p 3975)

<sup>3</sup> Australian Government Gazette No S28 dated 17 February 1975, p 1

<sup>4</sup> Australian Government Gazette No S113 of 17 June 1975, p 2

## STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS 2025

### STUDENT CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2025

Monday 1 December 2025

In an award ceremony held at Government House, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia and SA Branch Patron, presented Callum McIntyre-Gregory, a year 12 student from Mount Gambier High School, with a special trophy in recognition of his outstanding achievement – the Keith 'Chook' Fowler OAM Award for the Student Citizen of the Year. Callum is the inaugural recipient of this award.



*Her Excellency presented Callum with a special trophy in recognition of his outstanding achievement – the Keith 'Chook' Fowler OAM Award for the Student Citizen of the Year. Pictured with Adjunct Professor Rob Fowler, son of the late 'Chook' Fowler, and Chook's grandson Andrew.*

**STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS**  
THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION LIMITED (SA BRANCH)

to celebrate and promote outstanding Australian citizenship

Recognising senior secondary students for outstanding achievement and service for their schools and communities

Embodiment of the values of service, leadership, and community engagement.

For more information go to  
[www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/SA/school-awards](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/SA/school-awards)

#### THE KEITH 'CHOOK' FOWLER OAM AWARD

for the South Australian Student Citizen of the Year

Keith 'Chook' Fowler OAM (1920-2023) was respected and admired for his resilience throughout his life.

As a young man, he fought for Australia in World War 2, and spent three and a half years as a Japanese prisoner of war in Thailand and Burma.

He lived to 103 years of age, and was one of the last surviving POWs in this country.

He remained an active and engaged citizen until late in his life, when he made a gift to the Order of Australia Association to support the award of medallions for the South Australian Student Citizenship Awards.

The annual South Australian Student Citizen of the Year Award is named in his honour.

The Keith 'Chook' Fowler OAM Award celebrates young leaders who embody citizenship and service. Callum's achievement highlights the strength of youth leadership in regional South Australia and the transformative impact of student voice. We congratulate Callum on this wonderful achievement.

### Callum McIntyre-Gregory

Mount Gambier High School

*Respected as School Captain, Callum is a standout leader of the Student Representative Council and founder of a regional student advisory network linking schools across southeast South Australia. He also volunteers as a coach, referee and mentor, supporting students of all backgrounds. Callum has championed several equity initiatives, including creating the regional Student Cultural Advisory Group, giving culturally and linguistically diverse students a platform to share experiences and shape school culture.*

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

STUDENT CITIZEN OF THE YEAR  
ROLL OF HONOUR



2025

*Callum McIntyre-Gregory, Mount Gambier High School*



2024

*Amy Wallace, Scotch College*



2023

*Thomas Oxford, Parafield Gardens High School*



2022

*Callum Barrott-Walsh, Cardijn College  
and Jordan Norman, Urrbrae Agricultural High School*



2021

*Georgia Kehagias, Immanuel College*



2020

*Charlotte Mauviel, Temple Christian College (Mile End)*



2019

*William Gillett, Loxton High School*



2018

*Austin Lovell, Christian Brothers College*

STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS 2025



Callum McIntyre-Gregory from Mount Gambier High School, pictured with his mother Fiona McIntyre, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia and SA Branch Patron, and Ross Parkinson OAM OSTJ of the Lions Club of Mount Gambier (QB16).



Amy Wallace from Scotch College was represented by her younger sister Ella – pictured at Government House with her mother and SA Branch member Tony Routley AM.



Top 10 students Laylah Wilson and Tan Tran from Cardijn College with their 'With Distinction' plaques at Government House on Monday 1 December 2025.

## STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS 2025

### JACOB THORNHILL Lucindale Area School

Ms Erika Vickery OAM recently presented a Student Citizenship Award certificate and medallion to Jacob Thornhill at the Lucindale Area School Presentation Night. Erika noted: *“Jacob was a very impressive young leader at his school and community”*.

Erika has been Mayor of Naracoorte-Lucindale Council since 2010. She is also President of the Limestone Coast Local Government Association, Chair of the SA Regional Organisation of Councils, and a Board Member of the Local Government Association SA, Regional Development Australia Limestone Coast, and Country Arts SA. She was awarded the OAM, “For service to local government, and to the community of Naracoorte” (QB17).

Jacob’s citation reads as follows:

*As School Captain and student representative on the Governing Council, Jacob has led and represented his peers with integrity and purpose, not only at the school level but also within the wider community.*

*Through his leadership, he has advocated for equity and inclusion for all students and has actively fundraised to support community groups for people living with disabilities and mental health conditions.*

*Also, Jacob has worked collaboratively with leaders from other country schools to improve resources especially for rural students who often face greater disadvantage.*



### RAMZIA ASHORI and SHAMSIA IKHLASI Thebarton Senior College

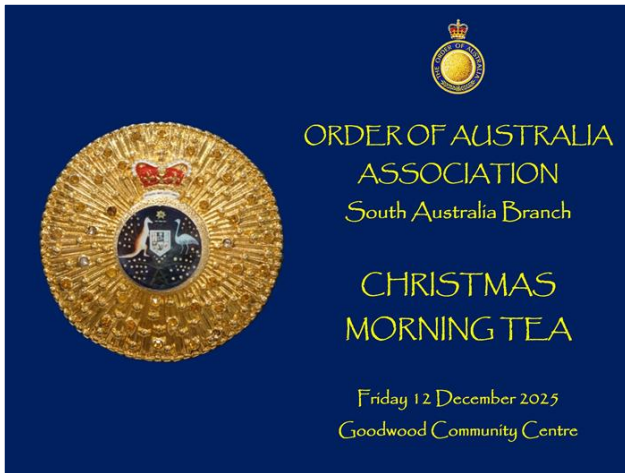
Awards Convenor Noel Hender OAM BEM recently presented Student Citizenship Award certificates and medallions at the Thebarton Senior College Awards Ceremony.

Ramzia was listed in the Top Ten, and first received her ‘With Distinction’ award from Her Excellency the Governor at Government House (pictured right with Noel Hender OAM BEM).

Shamsia exemplifies the spirit of citizenship through her school activities and beyond the school gate. She received a ‘Highly Commended’ award in recognition of her leadership achievements, embracing inclusion and collective care through engaging student voice. She created a Cultural & Identity Festival which has enriched school culture, bringing a connection with students and community.



## The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch



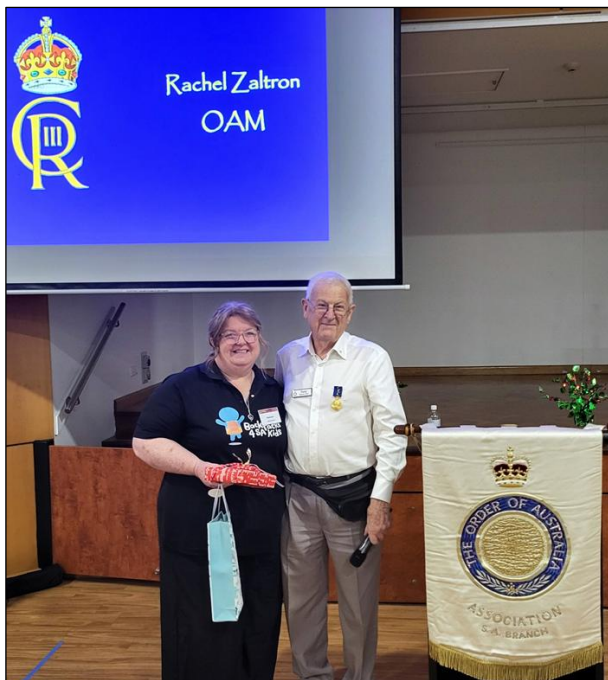
### CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA Friday 12 December 2025

We held our annual SA Branch Christmas Morning Tea for members and guests at the Goodwood Community Centre, with Rachel Zaltron OAM, CEO of "Back Packs 4 SA kids" as Guest Speaker. Rachel received the OAM, "For service to children and young people" (QB20).

We thank Rosemary Milisits OAM and Vili's Family Bakery for very generously donating the refreshments, allowing us to provide a Christmas Morning Tea at no cost to our members: <https://www.vilis.com/>

For photographs and Branch information click here (CTL + Click to follow the link):

### [2025 CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA](#)



#### RACHEL ZALTRON OAM

Our guest speaker was Rachel Zaltron OAM, the Founder and General Manager of Backpacks 4 SA Kids (since 2012). Rachel received the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2020 Queen's Birthday Honours List: "For service to children and young people".



# The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch



*We were joined on the day by the Honourable Jing Lee MLC.*



**GARDEN TOURS**  
10:45AM - 11:45AM  
FREE ENTRY  
BOOKINGS REQUIRED



SEPTEMBER 5 OCTOBER 3	NOVEMBER 7 DECEMBER 5	JANUARY 9 FEBRUARY 6	MARCH 6 APRIL 10	MAY 1
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**LUNCH ON THE LAWNS**  
12PM - 2PM • FREE ENTRY  
BYO PICNIC



GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
ADELAIDE

## The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

### 'CELEBRATION OF AUSTRALIA DAY' Saturday 17 January 2026

We held our annual 'Celebration of Australia Day' Luncheon at Jarmer's Kitchen in Bowden with a special 3-course Australia-themed meal.

We were privileged to have as guest speaker Professor Peter Høj AC, who has worked in Denmark and Australia as a researcher, and has published multiple scientific articles.

He was a professor of viticulture at the University of Adelaide and later managing director of the Australian Wine Research Institute, and has been Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Adelaide.

Professor Høj was made a Companion of the Order of Australia, "*For eminent service to higher education and to science, particularly to the commercialisation of research, and to policy development and reform*" (AD19).

Earlier, he had received the Centenary Medal in 2001, "*For service to Australian society through wine research and science*".



Left to right: Frank O'Neill OAM (retired registrar of the University of Adelaide, 1981-1997), Professor Peter Høj AC (guest speaker) and SA Branch Committee member Antonietta (Toni) Cocchiario OAM.

Image by Pamela Rajkowski OAM



Left to right: Queen Elizabeth Hospital retired incidental reunion: Sister Jillian Hender (RN/midwife), Dr John Turnbull AM (referring GP) and Dr Aileen Connon AM (Honorary Specialist).

Image by Pamela Rajkowski OAM

## The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

### JUDITH LEESON AM Companion of Flinders University

SA Branch member Judith Leeson AM has been recognised by Flinders University as a Companion of the University for her work as an advocate for the quality care of our older citizens.

Judith was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia, *“For service to the community, particularly through support for people seeking opportunity for life long learning and career development”* (AD05).

She has continued to serve the community in many ways, not least of which is her ongoing service as a member of the Order of Australia Association SA Branch Selection and Assessment Panel for our Student Citizenship Awards program.

Seldom awarded, Flinders University honorary awards are presented to distinguished members of the community, whose extraordinary leadership has changed lives.

At recent graduation ceremonies, Flinders University recognised the outstanding contributions of three esteemed South Australians, bestowing them with honorary awards for their significant service to the community.

South Australian Police Commissioner Grant Stevens APM and Stella Braund, a champion for mental health and passionate voice for the prevention of family violence and sexual assault, were each awarded a Doctor of the University *honoris causa*.

Our own Judith Leeson AM, an advocate for transforming aged care, was also recognised for her service to the university and the community with the honorary award of Companion of the University.

Flinders University Chancellor John Hood FAICD said recipients of honorary awards come from all walks of life and have made their mark through extraordinary community impact: *“Our distinguished recipients have been chosen for their steadfast commitment to serving the community and for exemplifying the values of courage, innovation, integrity and excellence that define our institution. We are delighted to acknowledge their remarkable contributions, which span many decades and continue to have an enduring impact”*.

Judith Leeson AM has devoted 70 years to early childhood education, disability services, and career development for disadvantaged groups.

As a Caring Futures Institute Ambassador at Flinders, she has provided vital consumer-focused advice on ageing, aged care, and palliative care, shaping programmes to meet community needs. Judith has also played a key role in Aged Care Research and Industry Innovation Australia (ARIIA), a \$34M initiative transforming aged care nationwide, serving as a board member, committee contributor, and grant reviewer.

*“As Australia’s population continues to age and the focus on enhancing quality of life grows, Judith Leeson AM has been recognised for generously contributing her time and expertise to strengthening the aged care workforce and improving the lives of older Australians and their families. Her lifelong commitment exemplifies Flinders University’s values”*, said Chancellor Hood.

This award is rarely bestowed: Judith received it at the Flinders University College of Nursing and Health Science graduation ceremony, where she gave the address to the graduating students.

As well as being a member of our SCA Selection and Assessment Panel continuously since 2018, Judith previously served a term as a member of the SA Branch Committee in 2017-19.



*Award information and image courtesy of Flinders University*

## The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch



### VALE

The Chairman, Branch Committee members and members of the SA Branch offer our condolences on the passing of the following SA Branch members:

Air Commodore Roger Capps AM RFD

Dianne Marie Burge (née Bowering) OAM

### **Air Commodore Roger Alan Capps AM RFD (1944-2026)**

SA Branch member Dr Roger Capps passed away in Adelaide on 12 January 2026, aged 81.

Roger was born in Adelaide on 8 November 1944, the son of Charles James Capps who created and designed the Capps Medal, awarded to the 'best and fairest' player in the South Australian Baseball League. After Jim Capps died in January 1985, from the 1981/82 season the medal was presented by Dr Roger Capps.

Roger graduated from the University of Adelaide in 1968 with a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery degree. He was subsequently appointed Fellow of the Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (1975) and Fellow of the Australia and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (1992), and held a Diploma of Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine.

Roger became a consultant anaesthetist at the Royal Adelaide Hospital in 1976. At that time, he joined the Royal Australian Air Force Specialist Reserve, serving until 2009. This included operational service during the First Gulf War and in Rwanda, East Timor (five tours), Bougainville, Banda Aceh and at RAAF Base Butterworth in Malaysia.

Roger was well-known in South Australia as a senior anaesthetist and as the Principal Reserve Medical Officer from 1996.

He served as an anaesthetist with the United Nations Temporary Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), based at various times in Dili and at Maliana, southwest of Dili near the border.

On one deployment he was the Acting Commanding Officer at the United Nations Military Hospital in Dili.

In 2000, he was promoted to Air Commodore to serve as Deputy Surgeon General of the Australian Defence Force.

Separately to his part-time military service, he worked in more than 22 Australian F1 races as the resuscitation doctor in the main chase vehicle. He was later the Chief Medical Officer for Clipsal in Adelaide.

Roger noted that his career highlight was being selected as a RAAF aeromedical consultant to accompany the remaining original World War I veterans on their 75th anniversary trip to Gallipoli in 1990. He was similarly selected to accompany them to the Western Front fields in France and Belgium in 1993.

As a Group Captain (RAAF Specialist Reserve), Roger Capps was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the Military Division, "*For exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force as a Consultant in Anaesthetics and Resuscitation, and as the Principal Reserve Medical Officer (SA and NT)*" (QB00).

He was awarded the Centenary Medal for service to motorsport and hyperbaric medicine.

Roger was also a Knight of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller (SA Priory).

His final honour came with the awarding of a Chief of Air Force Commendation in Sydney in 2010.



*Air Commodore Roger Capps AM RFD (ret'd) at the 2023 Battle of Britain Commemorative Service (courtesy of Luke Scott Adelaide Military Commemoration Photos).*

## The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

### FRIEND OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Our Association Purpose Statement, as per the national Constitution approved on 17 December 2020, is:

*To celebrate and promote  
outstanding Australian citizenship*

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

At the November Fellowship meeting, participants kindly made donations to go towards our Friend subscription, so that we may offer greater assistance to disadvantaged young South Australians who wish to participate in the Award where they might not otherwise have the opportunity.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a global framework for non-formal education, founded by the late Prince Philip in 1956 – and in Australia in 1959.

The Award inspires over 50,000 young Australians each year to undertake Voluntary Service, Skills and Physical Recreation activities and an Adventurous Journey over a minimum length of time to qualify for the Bronze, Silver or Gold Award. Each level is progressively more challenging.

The SA Branch received the following message from the National Award Office:

What a lovely email to open and read, please pass on our thanks to the members who made the donation – very kind.

Our National Chair, Tom Mould AO, has asked that the attached speech be shared with all of our supporters. It was delivered by a young Gold Recipient at last month's Duke of Ed Forum in Lagos, and it powerfully affirms the impact the Duke of Ed has on the lives of so many young people. I encourage you to take a few minutes to read her words and to share them with anyone you feel would appreciate the inspiration.

Kind regards,

Jo Bush  
Sponsorship & Ambassador Manager

The National Chair of the Award Tom Mould was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia, "*For distinguished service to youth, particularly through charitable awards programs, and to public administration and education*" (AD19).



*Our Award Friend certificate, signed  
by the National Chair, Mr Tom Mould AO*

Your Royal Highness, Excellencies  
E káale o. Daalu. Sanu Ku de Zuwa Ozokan  
Good evening

From the warmth of Abuja to the heart of this global room, I greet you not just as a young woman from Nigeria, but as the first Nigerian International Youth Representative, and the first Nigerian woman to ever hold this role.

I stand here not as a symbol, but as a story. Not as a perfect example, but as proof. Proof that when young people rise, even when the odds are stacked against them, the world rises with them.

Because before I became the girl standing on this stage, I was just a Nigerian girl trying to dream in a world that rarely gives girls permission to.

A girl who picked up her first laptop at 11:45 p.m., learning how to code on Code.org so she could teach other girls by sunrise. A girl who still had to wake up by 5 am to beat the traffic because purpose does not excuse you from reality, but it does teach you how to rewrite it. Where I come from, the air is thick with strength but so are the expectations. Young people are taught to shrink, to fit, to endure. We grow up learning early that survival is the first curriculum.

So when I first heard about the Award during a school orientation, I didn't know what to expect.

But I was looking for something more than a certificate.

I was searching for that kind of wisdom. The kind that doesn't just prepare you to win... but teaches you how to rebuild when life falls apart.

## The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

As a Nigerian girl, choosing to complete the Award wasn't easy. Community service wasn't just a section of my journey. It was the lifeline I clung to while raising other girls with me.

During my first Adventurous Journey, I was placed into a group far from my friends, far from my comfort zone. I was exhausted, overwhelmed, and ready to give up. But then a girl I didn't know reached out, held my hand, and said: "I know you can do it." It wasn't dramatic. It wasn't rehearsed. But it was real. And that moment lit a fire in me.

That is Critical Mass. From nuclear physics, yes but here, it means the smallest act of courage or kindness that sets off a chain reaction of leadership. I climbed that hill. And when I reached the top, I didn't search for my friends first I celebrated with the girls who pulled me through. Then I turned back and helped others climb. That moment taught me three things:

1. Leadership isn't about being in front, it's about being present
2. Community isn't convenience, it's commitment
3. The real journey isn't upward, it's outward

The Award gave me structure. Nigeria gave me fire.

When you combine the two, something powerful happens. You don't just build competence you build conviction. That conviction carried me last month to the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, where I was named among the Top 10 innovators out of 400+ across Africa.

Not because I had the most resources but because I had the strongest roots. Roots the Award helped me grow. Roots that held me when the world tried to shrink me.

Today, I lead AfroTechXcel, where we have trained over 850 girls and women in AI and digital skills. We are not just teaching tech. We are rewriting the narrative for African girls in STEM. And it all began because, during my Award, I chose SDG 4: Quality Education as my service area.

I didn't have Wi-Fi, so I used free night data. I didn't have mentors, so I became one. I didn't have all the answers but I had the Award... and the Award had me.

Access to education should never be a privilege. It should be a birthright. So every Nigerian youth should have the opportunity to access the award and every young person globally no matter where they come from or economic status.

What do I want for young people in Nigeria? A world where girls aren't told "you are too much," but instead asked: "What do you need to go further?"

A country where we don't shrink to survive we expand to lead. A Nigeria where resilience isn't a survival tactic but a launchpad. Because we, the youth, are not fragile. We are fierce. We are capable. And we are ready. Today I honour the Award.

I honor my award leaders. I honour my country. I honour my scars, my sacrifices, and my story. And I honour the quiet, steady, scarred strength of every young person who chooses to rise anyway. Just as the Yoruba say: "Ile ọba tó jó, ẹwà ló bù sí."

Even when the palace burns, it rises more beautiful. We are the palace. We are the fire. And still, we rise beautifully.

I am world ready.

Are you?

### Gift Giving for Friends, Family and Yourself at the OAA Merchandise Shop items available include

New tote bag



\$12.00

Ties



\$30.00

Apron



\$30.00

Bucket Hat



\$16.00

Cooler Bag



\$20.00

Enquiries Barb 0413 008 571

All items in the OAA range can be purchased at  
[www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart)



## Regional Group Dates ~ 2026

**South East Regional Group.** Convenor Eric Roughana AM advises that the 2026 annual luncheon will be held at the Mount Gambier RSL in Sturt Street on Friday 27 February at 11.15 am for 12 noon. The guest speaker will be Laurie Dacy on AI.

**Riverland and Mallee Regional Group.** Convenor Tim Grieger OAM JP advises that the next meeting of the Riverland and Mallee Group is scheduled for the last Friday in March – 27 March.

**Fleurieu Regional Group.** Convenor John Hutchinson OAM advises that the next meeting will be on the first Friday in May – Friday 1 May.

**Yorke Peninsula Regional Group.** Convenor Elaine Bussenschutt OAM advises that the next meeting will be held on Sunday 3 May (to avoid the Anzac Day weekend).

**Eyre Peninsula Regional Group.** Convenor Wendy Holman OAM advises that the next meeting is proposed for the second Friday in October – Friday 9 October.

**South East Regional Group.** It is proposed that the 2027 annual luncheon will be held at the Chardonnay Lodge in Penola on Friday 26 February 2027.

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

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

### CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA Friday 12 December 2025

*Pictured at the annual Branch Christmas Morning Tea – Regional Groups Coordinator Ken Coventry OAM JP with Convenor Elaine Bussenschutt OAM (Yorke Peninsula Regional Group) and Garry Pamment.*



## FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2026

### HONOURS RECIPIENTS FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEONS

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

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

The next honours recipients fellowship luncheon will be held at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club on **Thursday 26 February 2026**.

The speaker will be Dawn Thorp AO on the topic "It's in the Blood - the Stem Cell Story". Dawn was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia, "For distinguished service to nursing, and to medicine, in the field of haematology, as an expert clinician and mentor" (AD19).

### *Save the Dates*

Thursday 30 April

Thursday 25 June

Thursday 27 August

Thursday 29 October

To RSVP please contact:

Flavia de Pasquale OAM

0438 873 025

[deflavia750@gmail.com](mailto:deflavia750@gmail.com)

Pamela Rajkowski OAM

0400 810 196

[pamraj@bigpond.com](mailto:pamraj@bigpond.com)

# The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch



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



## Contributions

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

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

## Photography

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

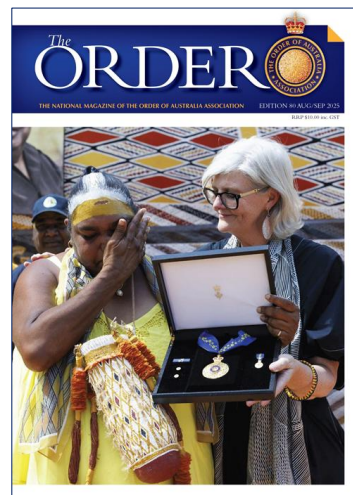
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## Notifications

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

[oaasambrsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:oaasambrsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)



## ADVERTISING IN 'THE ORDER'

*'The Order'* is the national magazine of the Order of Australia Association – it is distributed in hard or e-copy to more than 8,500 members in Australia and overseas, and is also available on the OAA website:

<https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/national/the-order/>

Members who run their own businesses or have products or services suitable for OAA members may wish to advertise in the magazine. Advertisers may purchase a half- or full-page (A4), per quarterly issue or across the four issues.

All advertising must accord with the objectives and values of the Association. Specifically, it should not be politically or socially partisan, and issues of significant community debate would not be sanctioned.

Questions can be directed to the National Editor of 'The Order' at:

[nateditor@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:nateditor@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)



## 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

**REPLY FORM – SA BRANCH 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (40th AGM) AND LUNCHEON, Saturday 14 March 2026** – in the Victoria Room of the Edinburgh Hotel, 1-7 High Street, Mitcham. All financial members of the Association and their partners and guests are welcome. There is no cost for members and guests. Full-size medals should be worn. Association merchandise will be available to purchase.




Commencing with Morning Tea at 10 am; Guest Speaker at 11.30 am.


We have invited the 2025 South Australian Student Citizen of the Year to be guest speaker.

The AGM will start at 11 am, and conclude by 11.45 am. Lunch will follow, at your own expense.

Please notify apologies to the Secretary: [john@thinkenvironment.com.au](mailto:john@thinkenvironment.com.au)

**Please register or forward this reply form by Wednesday 4 March 2026:**

 **Preferred:** register online using Humanitix – just click on the link below, or copy it into your browser:  
<https://events.humanitix.com/sa-branch-2025-agm-and-lunch>

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

Name: [please print] ..... [post-nominals] .....

Preferred name: ..... Phone Contact: .....

Email: .....

Dietary requirements [if any] .....

I will be accompanied by (please include post-nominals if applicable):

Guest 1: ..... [post-nominals] .....

Guest 2: ..... [post-nominals] .....

Guest 3: ..... [post-nominals] .....

Guest 4: ..... [post-nominals] .....

We will remain for lunch: YES  NO  Total for lunch: .....

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

*We hope you can join us for this significant event!*