

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

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

April 2026



HONOURS RECIPIENTS FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON
Thursday 26 February 2026

Standing (left to right): Noel Hender OAM BEM (Deputy Chair); Jan Davis AM; Gary Schulz OAM and Nella Schulz; Jill Hender; Wonho Chong OAM and Jong-min Chong; John Ziesing OAM (Treasurer); Joe Thorp; Gillian Rogers OAM (hospitality); Brian Attwood; Henry Young OAM; Emeritus Professor Hilary Winchester AM; John Rowley OAM; Flavia de Pasquale OAM (coordinator); Toni Piller and Professor Neil Piller AM

Seated: Dr Aileen Connon AM, Dawn Thorp AO (Guest Speaker), Elaine Attwood AM; Wendy Chapman AM

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION LIMITED, South Australia Branch

PO Box 67, COLLINSWOOD SA 5085 || 0409 672 882 || chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

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

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch



SA BRANCH NEWSLETTER, April 2026

As the incoming Chair of the SA Branch, I would firstly like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation for the outstanding contribution to this Branch made by the outgoing Chair Tony Metcalf OAM and his wife Cheryl over the last six years of his leadership.

I would also like to reiterate Tony's words and express my thanks to those valued members who served on the Branch Committee during 2025-26, including those in co-opted and portfolio roles. Following the recent AGM, congratulations and welcome to those elected or re-elected to the Branch Committee for 2026-27.

I would like to remind you of the 2026 National Conference in Brisbane this month. Registrations are still open, so please join me and others from the SA Branch who will be attending. In particular, we will have an SA Conference table where those interested in attending the 2027 National Conference in Adelaide will be able to register their interest.

At this conference, the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO completes her successful term as National President. We are pleased to confirm her successor to be former SA Governor (and former SA Branch Patron and honorary life member), the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC.

Arising from the recent National Member Survey, the National Board has developed an implementation plan and budget allocation for 2026 focusing on: 'The Order' magazine; recruiting messages; Foundation Scholar participation; cooperation with the Menzies Leadership Foundation; hybrid conferencing; an integrated communications strategy; and a youth and schools program.

Please keep in mind our King's Birthday Luncheon on June 6, where our inspirational guest speaker will be the Honourable Greg Crafter AO, a past Minister for Education and Minister for Local Government.

Noel Hender OAM BEM
SA Branch Chair

INVITATION

NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION

Thursday 21 May 2026

Join us at Payneham Library to acknowledge Order of Australia recipients from the 2026 Australia Day Honours List and other recipients not previously acknowledged in this way.

The guest speaker will be Vincent Ciccarello OAM, Director of Development and Philanthropy at Pembroke School.

Full-size medals should be worn. Association merchandise will be available to purchase.

Please refer to the Reply Form attached, which is also available online: we would prefer that you register and pay via Humanitix if possible.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Thursday 21 May: New Recipients' Reception
([please note the change of date](#))

Saturday 6 June: King's Birthday Luncheon

Thursday 25 June: Honours recipients fellowship luncheon meeting with guest speaker

Thursday 27 August: Fellowship luncheon meeting

Monday 14 September: New Recipients' Reception

Friday 25 September: Riverland and Mallee Regional Group luncheon meeting

Friday 9 October: Eyre Peninsula Regional Group luncheon meeting

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2026

HONOURS RECIPIENTS FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Thursday 26 February 2026

The guest speaker at our first Fellowship luncheon for the year was 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). Our Club host was once again Bryce Saint OAM, now in his 100th year, and John Ziesing OAM was MC.

The next Fellowship Luncheon will be held on **Thursday 30 April**, with Karen Hayes AM (pictured right) speaking on the topic "Finding my Life's Purpose".

With over 30 years of governance experience, Karen describes herself as 'a dedicated advocate for inclusive leadership within community-oriented boards and organisations'.



Members of the Order of Australia and other honours recipients, partners and friends are invited to share in the fostering of fellowship during our luncheon meetings at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club in Hutt Street in Adelaide – which has recently been restored to its original heritage colour scheme.



To RSVP please contact:

Flavia de Pasquale OAM

0438 873 025

deflavia750@gmail.com

Pamela Rajkowski OAM

0400 810 196

pamraj@bigpond.com

Volunteer Position Available

We are looking for a volunteer to fill the role of **Curator/Historian** to support the SA Branch's 50-Year Anniversary.

As we move towards 2030 – and the 50th anniversary of the SA Branch of the Order of Australia Association – the Branch Committee would like to establish the volunteer position of Branch Curator/ Historian.

This special role will involve researching and documenting the history of the SA Branch, reviewing early meeting minutes, photographs and other archival documents and digitising these records, compiling key historical milestones, events and member contributions into a cohesive narrative, and collaborating with the Branch Committee to present findings in a celebratory publication or display.

The memories, people and milestones of our Association deserve to be preserved and celebrated. You'll play a vital role in honouring the past while shaping how we reflect on it into the future.

Interested? Please contact the Branch Chair to express your interest or to learn more:

chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch



2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Saturday 14 March 2026

We held our 2025 Annual General Meeting (40th AGM) in the Victoria Room of the Edinburgh Hotel, preceded by a Morning Tea provided at no cost to members of the Association and their partners and guests.

We particularly appreciate the attendance of those who made the long journey in from regional areas.



For the election of office-bearers, Chair Tony Metcalf OAM referred to the report submitted by the Returning Officer, Mr Gary Byron AM.

The statutory position of Chair fell vacant at this AGM: just one valid nomination was received by the designated closing date, and Noel Hender OAM BEM was declared as elected to the position of Chair.

The statutory position of Secretary also fell vacant at this AGM: just one valid nomination was received, and John Phillips OAM was declared re-elected.

The Returning Officer advised that five vacancies existed on the Branch Committee. Valid nominations were received by the designated closing date from two current serving Committee members upon the expiration of their current 3-year term.

An additional two valid nominations were received.

On 10 February, the Branch Committee had determined these candidates to be suitable for appointment. Accordingly, Pamela Rajkowski OAM and Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP were announced as re-elected for a further term of 3 years.

Dr Neville Highett AM and Phillip Styles OAM were announced as elected to the Branch Committee, each for a term of 3 years.

STUDENT CITIZEN OF THE YEAR Callum McIntyre, Mount Gambier HS



Guest Speaker Callum McIntyre

After Morning Tea, we heard from our Guest Speaker the 2025 South Australian Student Citizen of the Year Callum McIntyre, who completed Year 12 at Mount Gambier High School last year.

In the 2025 Student Citizenship Awards, Callum was selected among the Top Ten, and in an award ceremony at Government House at the end of last year was announced as the 2025 South Australian Student Citizen of the Year.

Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia and SA Branch Patron, 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.

Callum was the inaugural recipient of this award, and he brought the trophy to be seen by our members who had been unable to attend last year's ceremony at Government House.

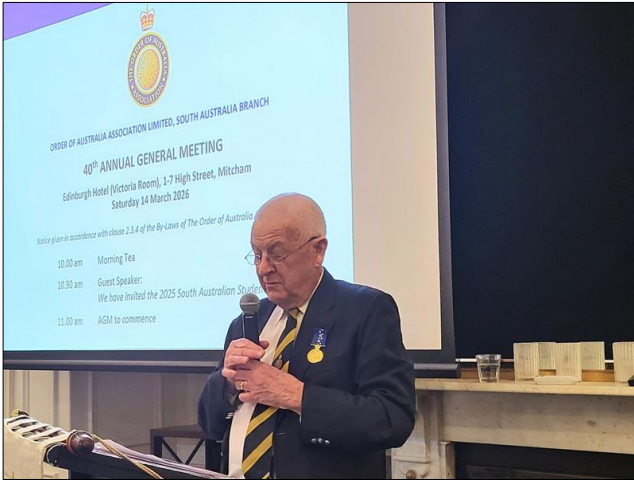
Callum's citation reads as follows:

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 SA Branch was pleased to host Callum and his mother Fiona for lunch, and to make a contribution towards their travel costs to come up to Adelaide.

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch



SA Branch Chair Tony Metcalf OAM opened proceedings for the 40th Annual General Meeting



Deputy Chair Noel Hender OAM BEM introduced the guest speaker Callum McIntyre



Callum McIntyre, our 2025 South Australian Student Citizen of the Year



We thank Mr Gary Byron AM for his services as Returning Officer

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

Chair's Report Tony Metcalf OAM

This last year, the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Order of Australia, has been very busy and successful.

I have put together a list in my printed report, setting out the Branch and Regional events and Speakers which the committee and regions have organised during 2025, which I have attended where possible

My particular thanks go to our Events Sub-committee and regional convenors for their help, and a special thanks to our speakers, most of whom are members of the Branch.

Our Christmas Morning Tea and our New Recipient functions are held with generous support from the Norwood, Payneham and St Peters Council and Villi's Family Bakery. Our regular committee meetings are also held with kind support from the NPSP Council.

As a result of the enthusiastic organisation of our regional co-ordinator, Mr Ken Coventry OAM, we now have regular gatherings of members in regional areas of Riverland and Mallee, Yorke Peninsula, South East, Fleurieu Peninsula, and Eyre Peninsula. We still have plans to set up a regional gathering in the Mid-north.

This year SA hosted 91 new recipients for all categories of the Order of Australia, which was still well down on our pre-Covid number of about 130.

We have organised, in consultation with Her Excellency the Governor, a membership promotional brochure, now included in the award pack that all recipients receive at their investiture. We think that this will encourage new recipients to join the SA Branch of the Association.

We continue to support the Adelaide Eisteddfod, Section C003 – Schools Years 8 to 12 Small Choirs, with a donation to cover the prize money of \$300. We have also elected to be a Friend of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award to assist disadvantaged students taking part.

Our Student Citizenship Award program for 2025 was again very successful, with 47 nominations from 33 schools.

This year the Minister again attended the final presentations and we have now officially received, through his department, financial assistance in maintaining the program. An agreement to support the medallion presentation with a grant of \$1,500 per annum for three years was signed in 2024.

This enables us to provide an engraved medallion in addition to the framed certificate that all nominees receive for 2025, 2026 and 2027.

We also have established an agreement with the private and religious school authorities to complement the Government contribution to the extent of \$500 each per annum for successive years.

I again congratulate all the students who were nominated in 2025, and particularly those chosen by our assessment panel to receive a "Top 10" award at Government House.

Following the death of one of our oldest members, Keith ('Chook') Fowler, in late 2023, we had discussions with his family about recognising Chook's contribution to future awards. This resulted in a donation of \$5,000 to a Branch term deposit to provide income to cover the ongoing cost of the Student Citizen of the Year trophy, which has been named "The Keith (Chook) Fowler OAM Award" to acknowledge the generous donation. We were pleased that his son and grandson could be with us at Government House for the 2025 presentation.

Thanks also to those branch members of the assessment panel for their time and effort.

In May 2025, Noel and I and our wives attended the National Conference and AGM in Sydney. This year (2026) the National Conference and AGM will be held in Brisbane from 16 to 19 April. It is still not too late for you to register and attend. Next year (2027), the National Conference and AGM will be held here, in Adelaide, and I urge as many of our branch members as possible to try and attend, from 13 to 16 May at the Intercontinental Hotel.

I would like to remind anyone still receiving our newsletter by post that all Branch and Association transactions are now being conducted almost solely via email and our website. Reply Forms for our activities may be found on the SA Branch section of the national website. If you are receiving our newsletter by post, could you please consider providing the SA Branch Member Secretary with an email address that we can use, which saves us money on printing and postage.

On behalf of the Branch and personally, I again thank all of our committee members and regional group convenors for the work that they have done for the association during the last year, and in particular Mr Ken Coventry OAM, our co-opted Regional Group Co-ordinator, for the time he has put in assisting our regional groups.

I also record my thanks to other member volunteers and partners of our committee members who have assisted or taken part at our functions over the year.



The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

BRANCH CHAIR Noel Hender OAM BEM

Under our Constitution, election as a Director is for a term of 3 years, with a maximum of three consecutive terms, and the by-laws make this same provision applicable to members of Branch Committees.

Accordingly, at this AGM Branch Chair Tony Metcalf OAM retired from his elected role, having completed six years as Branch Chair and with immediate past service as Branch Treasurer. The Branch Committee extends on behalf of all members its gratitude to Tony for his dedication to the Branch in these roles.

Tony has advised that he will continue to serve as a co-opted member (non-voting member), in the role of 'Conference Convenor' to co-ordinate the organisation of the 2027 Order of Australia Association National Conference which will be hosted by the SA Branch.

We welcome Noel Hender OAM BEM as the incoming Branch Chair.

Noel first joined the SA Branch Committee in 2018 filling a casual vacancy; he was elected in February 2020 and re-elected in February 2023. He has served as Convenor of the Student Citizenship Awards since 2018. He filled a casual vacancy as Branch Nominated Director in November 2023, and was elected to the position in February 2024.



SA BRANCH COMMITTEE 2026-2027

Congratulations to John Phillips OAM who has been re-elected to the statutory appointment of Secretary. John joined the SA Branch Committee in 2018 filling a casual vacancy, filled a casual vacancy as Secretary from 2022, and was elected in February 2023.

Congratulations also to the following current members of the Branch Committee who have been re-elected for a further term of 3 years:

Pamela Rajkowski OAM: *joined the SA Branch Committee in 2018 filling a casual vacancy, and was first elected in February 2020. Continues to serve as Convenor of the Events Sub-Committee.*

Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP: *joined the SA Branch Committee in 2018 filling a casual vacancy, and was first elected in February 2020. Continues to serve as Editor and Webmaster.*

Congratulations also to the following members who have been elected as members of the SA Branch Committee for a 3-year term:

Dr Neville Highett AM: *Appointed a Member of the Order of Australia, "For significant service to education in South Australia, and to the community" (KB23).*

Neville has agreed to assume the role of Convenor of the Student Citizenship Awards.

Phillip Styles OAM: *Awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia, "For service to tourism in South Australia, and to the community" (KB24).*



AGM documents are available for review on the SA Branch page of the Order of Australia Association website under 'Events'.

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

[40th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING](#)

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch



THE AUSTRALIAN HONOURS SYSTEM 1975-2025

Throughout 2025, we commemorated the 50th anniversary of the institution of the Australian Honours System on 14 February 1975. At the AGM, Paul Rosenzweig OAM provided an interesting display of stamps and coins which had been released to mark the 50th anniversary of the institution of the Australian Honours System.

This included 2025 six-coin coloured year sets (uncirculated and proof) released by the Royal Australian Mint on 1 May 2025.

The sets include a coloured 50 cent coin based on Stuart Devlin's iconic Order of Australia medal, featuring three ribbons representing the three categories of the original awards of the Australian Honours System – the Order of Australia, the Australian Bravery Decorations, and the National Medal.

Each of the coins bears on the obverse the effigy of His Majesty King Charles III, King of Australia and Sovereign of the Order of Australia.

The \$1.50 stamps also display the three categories of the original awards of the Australian Honours System.

This First Day of Issue Postcard was released on 11 February 2025 to mark the 50th anniversary of the institution of the Australian Honours System. It includes a single \$1.50 stamp representing the Order of Australia.



Regional Group Events

South East Regional Group. Convenor Eric Roughana AM reports that the group held its annual luncheon at the Mount Gambier RSL on Friday 27 February.

The guest speaker was Laurie Dacy, speaking on AI.

Laurie has had 50+ years working as a writer and creative director in marketing communications, mainly in Melbourne. In the early 1980s he was an early adopter of computers as office tools, and from the mid-1980s he consulted in marketing and media for a wide range of businesses. By the 1990s, he had graduated to computer graphics.

He is now retired, living on two acres at Glencoe, northwest of Mount Gambier.

Ross Parkinson OAM introduced Laurie, and Branch Chair Tony Metcalf OAM proposed the vote of thanks.

Riverland and Mallee Regional Group. Convenor Tim Grieger OAM JP advises that the Riverland and Mallee Group held a lunchtime gathering at the Waikerie Hotel on 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. Convenor Eric Roughana AM advises 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.



Branch Chair Tony Metcalf OAM, guest speaker Laurie Dacy and Convenor Eric Roughana AM at the South East Regional Group annual luncheon on Friday 27 February.

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION

Thursday 21 May 2026

The SA Branch will host a New Recipients' Reception at Payneham Library in Felixstow to acknowledge Order of Australia recipients from the 2026 Australia Day Honours List and other recipients not previously acknowledged in this way. There is no cost for new recipients, who are guests of the SA Branch. Please note the change of date.

We thank Mayor Robert Bria of the City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters for his ongoing support, and Vili's Family Bakery for again subsidising the cost of the refreshments: <https://www.vilis.com/>



Vincent Ciccarello OAM

The guest speaker will be Vincent Ciccarello OAM, Director of Development and Philanthropy at Pembroke School in Adelaide, on the topic "What does a career in the Arts look like?".

Vincent is an Adelaide-based arts leader and philanthropy director, with more than three decades of experience across classical music, journalism and philanthropy.

Vincent holds a Bachelor of Music (Honours) in Musicology from the University of Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium of Music. His early career took him into arts administration, including a role as Orchestra Resources Manager at the Queensland Symphony Orchestra.



Vincent Ciccarello OAM

He then moved into artist management, heading opera and classical music at Performers Management before founding and running Fanfare Artist Management from 1994 to 2004, representing classical and music theatre artists across Australia and New Zealand.

He later transitioned into journalism, writing for the 'Independent Weekly' in Adelaide, and holding editorial roles at the University of South Australia and Flinders University. He went on to serve as Managing Director of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra for nine years (2014-22). Following that role, he was appointed Head of Philanthropy and Enterprise at the Art Gallery of South Australia (AGSA), where he led the gallery's philanthropic, development, and membership programs.

Vincent was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia, "For service to arts administration" (AD25).

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



Cap
\$21.00



Pen
\$7.00



Card (pk of 5)
\$10.00



Keyring
\$12.00



Tote Bag
\$12.00



Bucket Hat
\$16.00

INVITATION



KING'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON Saturday 6 June 2026

Please join us at a luncheon celebrating the King's Birthday at Casa D'Abruzzo Molise Club at 86 Churchill Road in Prospect. As usual, full-size medals may be worn, and Association merchandise will be available to purchase.

The guest speaker will be the Honourable Greg Crafter AO.

Greg Crafter was Member for Norwood from 10 March until 18 September 1979, and again from 16 February 1980 until 11 December 1993. He held ministerial appointments under Premiers John Bannon and Lynn Arnold, including Education (1985-92), Housing, Urban Development & Local Government Relations (1992-93), Aboriginal Affairs (1982-89) and Community Welfare (1982-85).

He subsequently served as National Catholic Education Commission chairman, and was appointed a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Gregory the Great (GCSG).

A Reply Form is included with this newsletter, and is also available online:

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



Through his personal affiliations with twenty Army regiments and formations, in June 2012 King Charles III was awarded the honorary rank of Field Marshal. He also wears the insignia of a Personal Aide-de-Camp to the late Queen Elizabeth II (appointed 6 December 1973): Personal ADCs continue to wear the royal cypher even after relinquishing the appointment.

GARDEN TOURS

10:45AM - 11:45AM
FREE ENTRY
BOOKINGS REQUIRED



SEPTEMBER 5	NOVEMBER 7	JANUARY 9	MARCH 6	MAY 1
OCTOBER 3	DECEMBER 5	FEBRUARY 6	APRIL 10	

LUNCH ON THE LAWNS

12PM - 2PM • FREE ENTRY
BYO PICNIC





The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch



NEW MEMBERS

The Chair, Branch Committee members and members welcome the following new members of the Order of Australia Association, SA Branch:

Andrew Lincoln Chapman AM

Douglas Harry Ahola OAM

Patrick Charles Bourke OAM

Dr William Douglas Gransbury OAM

Harold George Long OAM

Christine Shirley Williams OAM

POSTHUMOUS RECIPIENTS 2026 Australia Day Honours List

We acknowledge with respect the following posthumous recipients announced this year:

The late Walter Hughes Duncan OAM
of Clare: *“For service to horticulture”*

The late Reginald Timothy Nolan OAM
“For service to horse racing”

VALE

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

Sister Deidre Jordan AC MBE
18 September 1926 - 10 January 2026, aged 99



MERCHANDISE

Members of the Order of Australia Association may purchase Association-branded merchandise.

Our Merchandise Officer will have a range of items available at events to purchase. Alternately, you can order direct via the national website (postage costs will be incurred) – refer to the QR Code above or this link:

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart

ASSOCIATION LAPEL BADGE

You may purchase a lapel badge to denote membership of the Order of Australia Association (see image right) from our Merchandise Officer or via the national website.

Please note though: this is *not* the official lapel pin which Order of Australia recipients receive with the medal pack at their Investiture.



ASSOCIATION NAME BADGE

Members may wish to obtain an Association name badge using the Order Form found on our website:

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



The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

MAJOR NORMAN GLYN FORD OAM (retired)

We welcome one of our newest members, Norman Ford, who was awarded the OAM, "For service to the community" (AD13). His award was announced in the media:

Payneham man Norman Ford awarded Order of Australia Medal

Messenger East: A Payneham man, who has devoted the past 31 years to helping young people, has been recognised in the Australia Day Honours List.

Norman Ford, from Skewen in County Glamorganshire in Wales was a student at Aylesbury Grammar School during the war years, and gained an Oxford & Cambridge Higher School Certificate in Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics and Physics.

He started his career as an X-Ray engineer, but in March 1947 joined the British Army. He graduated from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in Berkshire (with the Mathematics Prize), and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on 22 December 1948, allotted to the Royal Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Second Lieutenant Norman Ford REME married Hazel May Westo at St John's Church, Harrow on 1 April 1950, and last year they celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary.

His military service included operational duty with the British Army on the Rhine (BAOR) in Germany with the 2nd Division Signals Regiment in 1953-56, and again in 1958-60 with Headquarters 2nd Division.

He brought his family to South Australia on the *Stratheden* in 1960, where he commanded 16 Joint Services Trials Unit Workshop at Weapons Research Establishment at Salisbury and Woomera, and he was promoted to Major on 22 December 1961.

He retired from the British Army in 1968 and remained in SA, working with the Engineering & Water Supply Department. His final role was Assistant Director, Industrial Safety & Regional Services Division, SA Department of Labour.

On 28 May 1987, His Excellency the Governor in Council made various appointments to the South Australian Occupational Health and Safety Commission. including Hedley Raymond Bachmann FASA CPA (now AM and an SA Branch member) – with Norman Glyn Ford CEng BSc(Eng) as his Deputy.

His OAM citation in 2013 reflected that Norman Ford had devoted the past 31 years to helping young people at home and abroad. It was noted that he had joined the Burnside branch of Kiwanis International in 1982, and had served as president, district governor and advocate for children with intellectual disabilities.

He was recorded as saying that a global project which ran from 1984 to 1997, to eliminate brain damage from iodine deficiency in children, was his greatest achievement with the group.



FORD—WESTO

Lt. Norman Glyn Ford, R.E.M.E., son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Ford of Lower Broadmoor, Crowthorne, married Miss Hazel May Westo, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Westo, of Brampton Grove, Kenton, Middlesex, at St. John's Church, Harrow

'The Tatler and Bystander' from London recorded details of the wedding of Norman and Hazel Ford in its issue dated Wednesday 26 April 1950.



Norman and Hazel Ford, both aged 96, celebrated their great-grandson's 12th birthday in Adelaide in February this year.

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

VALE

Clifford George Wright OAM CSTJ JP (1936-2026)

A long-serving St John Ambulance volunteer well known to many of our members, Cliff Wright passed away in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on Saturday 14 February 2026 after a short illness, aged 90.

Cliff was an Emergency Ambulance Transport Officer (1953-93) and a volunteer with St John Ambulance (SA) from 1952. He was Divisional Superintendent of Adelaide Motor Cycle Division (1976-85), Corps Staff Officer (1985-96), District Staff Officer (1996-00) and State Staff Officer from 2000.

He was a Justice of the Peace for SA for more than four decades, and was a member of the St John Ambulance Historical Society of SA from 1998 (Deputy Chairman from December 2007 to December 2020).

Cliff was admitted to the Order of St John in 1980 at the grade of Serving Brother (SBStJ). He was promoted to Officer Brother (OStJ) in 1988, and Commander (CStJ) in 2003.

On Sunday 10 January 2021, Cliff received the Ultra-Long Service Medal of the Order of St John and two Service Bars, representing a total of 60 years' volunteer service with St John Ambulance SA.

As a 19 year old in 1955, Cliff had joined the National Service Intake of 16 August 1955 under the *National Service Act 1951* and underwent training with the 16th National Service Training Battalion at Woodside. He subsequently received the Australian Defence Medal, and the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal.

Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum
Lest we Forget



Cliff Wright with the historic 1949 BSA Motorcycle and Side-car outfit, previously operated by St John Ambulance in South Australia.



In 2021, Cliff received the Ultra-Long Service Medal of the Order of St John and two Service Bars for 60 years' service.

ADVERTISER.COM.AU MONDAY JUNE 9 2014

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS 11 +

Service to community as St John volunteer for 61 years

CLIFFORD WRIGHT OAM

THOMAS CONLIN

CLIFFORD Wright has spent most of his life helping other people, from administering first aid and delivering babies, to reviving a speedway motorcycle rider.

The St John Ambulance Australia volunteer of 61 years was recognised in today's

Queen's Birthday Honours for services to the community.

Mr Wright, 78, of Croydon Park, said he was astounded to receive an Order of Australia Medal after being nominated by his daughter Sharyn Burnside.

Since joining St John as a 16-year-old in 1952, Mr Wright has worked on many motorcycle racing events as well as the Tour Down Under, the Australian Masters

Games and the Adelaide international equestrian three-day event.

"I think I've delivered about seven babies," he said.

"And in 1974, I was in charge of the first aid at the Adelaide International Raceway.

"Denny McCormack, who was the top Australian rider at the time, came off his bike and hit the wall.

"I checked his pulse and

there was nothing there so we started working on him and we finally got him going."

Mr Wright joined St John after attending motorcycle events with his father, who had been a St John member since the 1930s.

Mr Wright also spent 30 years helping in his local Neighbourhood Watch, has volunteered with amateur football clubs since 1959 and helped migrants as a Justice of

the Peace for 46 years. "The biggest thing is, if somebody wants a hand to do something, you just say 'OK, I'll give you a hand'," he said.

"The most important thing is I wouldn't have been able to do any of this without my wife Elaine."

Mr Wright will give up active service with St John at the end of this month but will remain part of the group's historical society.



HELPER: Clifford Wright

Cliff was awarded the OAM, "For service to the community of South Australia" (QB14).

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

CENTENARIANS

Following the accension of King Charles III, the SA Branch instituted a practice of inviting our centenarian members to the King's Birthday Luncheon as our guests.

Our first such special guest in 2023 was Keith 'Chook' Fowler OAM (1920-2023), then aged 102, He had been awarded the OAM, "*For service to veterans and their families*" (AD23). Chook passed away in Adelaide on 30 November 2023, aged 103.

Our special guest in 2024 was Joan Durdin AM (1922-2025), aged 102. She had been appointed a Member of the Order, "*For service to nursing education*" (QB85). Joan passed away in Adelaide on 12 February 2025, aged 102.

We sadly report the passing of two further centenarian members:

Dr John Stark Skipper AM MBBS FRCOG FRACOG (1921-2025): "*For significant service to medicine in the field of gynaecology as an advocate of women's health and the early detection of cervical cancer*" (QB16).

John Skipper was World War 2 veteran, and served as a Captain in 1945 and with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan in 1946-47. Dr Skipper passed away in Adelaide on 4 October 2025, aged 103.

Shirley Joyce Sampson OAM JP (née Porter, 1925-2025): "*For service to the community through a range of organisations*" (AD14).

Born in Port Pirie, Shirley Sampson passed away in Adelaide on 26 October 2025, aged 100.

We acknowledge our centenarian members of the SA Branch who have been invited to attend the 2026 King's Birthday Luncheon as our guest:

Dr Robert Hecker AO MBBS MD FRCP FRACP, aged 100: "*For service to the community through a range of service, cultural, social welfare and sporting organisations, and to medicine, particularly in the field of gastroenterology*" (AD03)

Lorraine Tuckwell OAM, aged 100: "*For service to the community*" (AD85)

Henry Samuel Calhoun Young OAM, aged 102: "*For service to veterans, and to tennis*" (KB25)



2023 King's Birthday Luncheon: Keith 'Chook' Fowler OAM



2024 King's Birthday Luncheon: Joan Durdin AM FRCNA



New Recipients' Reception, Monday 22 September 2025:
Henry Samuel Calhoun Young OAM

We also acknowledge, and have invited as our guest, the following Branch members who are in their 100th year:

Eric Joseph Roughana AM (AD19): 4 November 2026

James Lindsay Potter OAM (QB03): 12 July 2026

Bryce Wesley Saint OAM (AD98): 24 November 2026

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch



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



Correspondence

Please note the new address for all correspondence, including contributions for this newsletter:

✉ PO Box 67, COLLINSWOOD SA 5085

📧 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.



Copyright of the contents of this newsletter is vested in the Order of Australia Association Ltd, ABN 40 008612 664. Owners of photographs and original contributions retain copyright of their own material.

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:

📧 oaasambsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Regional Group Contacts

Regional Groups

Coordinator: Ken Coventry OAM JP
kencoam08@gmail.com

Eyre Peninsula Regional Group

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

Fleurieu Regional Group

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

Riverland and Mallee Regional Group

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

South East Regional Group

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

Yorke Peninsula Regional Group

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



NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION

REPLY FORM – SA BRANCH NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION, Thursday 21 May 2026 – at Payneham Library, 2 Turner Street, Felixstow (off OG Road), at 5.30 for 6 pm, finishing before 8 pm, to acknowledge recipients from the 2026 Australia Day Honours List. The cost is \$35 per head for Order of Australia Association members and their partner/guest, \$15 for children under 18. No cost for new recipients who are guests of the SA Branch.

The guest speaker will be Vincent Ciccarello OAM, Director of Development and Philanthropy at Pembroke School, on the topic "What does a career in the Arts look like?".

Full-size medals should be worn. Association merchandise will be available to purchase.

Please forward this reply form and payment, to be received not later than Monday 11 May 2026



Register online using Humanitix (preferred) using the link below:

<https://events.humanitix.com/sa-branch-ad26-new-recipients-reception>



Alternately, pay online via EFT, using the code "NRR + your surname"

Account Name – 'Order of Australia Association' // BSB 105-900 // Account no 147028640 (Bank SA)

Scan and send this form to: oaasa.events@gcgordon.id.au



If necessary, forward this Reply Form to:

SA Branch Events Sub-committee (note the new address): PO Box 67, COLLINSWOOD SA 5085

Please note that we would prefer not to receive cheques and money orders

Name: [please print] [post-nominals]

Preferred name: Phone Contact:

Email or Address:

Dietary requirements [if any]

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

Guest 1: [post-nominals]

Guest 2: [post-nominals]

New Recipient (guest of the SA Branch): people (no cost)

Payment enclosed (members, partners, guests): for people (\$35 per person)

Payment enclosed (children): for people (\$15 per child)

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

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

We hope you can join us for this significant event!



2026 KING'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON



REPLY FORM – SA BRANCH 2026 KING'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON, Saturday 6 June 2026 – to celebrate the official observance of the birthday of His Majesty King Charles III, King of Australia and Sovereign of the Order of Australia. The guest speaker will be the Honourable Greg Crafter AO.

The venue is Casa D'Abruzzo Molise Club, 86 Churchill Road, Prospect; 12 noon for a prompt 12.30 start, ending by 3 pm. Full-size medals should be worn. Association merchandise will be available to purchase.

The cost is \$80 for Order of Australia Association members and their spouse/partner, and \$85 for all non-members and friends, for a 3-course meal (main course alternate drop); cash bar. Child's menu available (pay on the day at the bar).

Please forward this reply form and payment, to be received not later than **Monday 18 May 2026**



Register online using Humanitix (preferred) using the link below:

<https://events.humanitix.com/sa-branch-2026-king-s-birthday-celebration>



Alternately, pay online via EFT, using the code "KBL + your surname"

Account Name – 'Order of Australia Association' || BSB 105-900 || Account no 147028640 (Bank SA)

Scan and send this form to: oaasa.events@gcgordon.id.au



If necessary, forward this Reply Form to:

SA Branch Events Sub-committee (note the new address): PO Box 67, COLLINSWOOD SA 5085

Please note that we would prefer not to receive cheques and money orders

Name: [please print] [post-nominals]

Preferred name: Phone Contact:

Email or Address:

Dietary requirements [if any]

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

Guest 1: [post-nominals]

Guest 2: [post-nominals]

Payment enclosed (OAA member & spouse/partner): for people (\$80 per person)

Payment enclosed (non-members and friends): for people (\$85 per person)

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

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

We hope you can join us for this significant event!