



Welcome from VIC Branch Chair

Greetings to all the Order of Australia Association Ltd Vic Branch members and 2026 Australia Day and King's Birthday Honours' recipients.

The Investiture ceremonies for 2026 Australia Day recipients were held over three days in early May. Vic Branch was represented at each of these ceremonies, and we appreciated the opportunity to meet the Australia Day Award recipients, welcome those who have joined the Association and promoted membership to many others. Just a reminder that all the Investiture ceremonies can be viewed on the Governors website at:

[Government House Investitures - YouTube](#)

I thank and again welcome the 57 Australia Day Honours recipients and the 12 recipients from previous years who have joined the Order of Australia Association in 2026.

Congratulations to the 169 Victorians who received their Australian Honour in this year's King's Birthday Honours list. I look forward to meeting you at your forthcoming Investiture or a Vic Branch event.

I again thank all Vic Branch members who were responsible for or assisted with the nomination of these King's Birthday Honours recipients. Again, I ask every member reading this newsletter to consider the following: *no-one, no matter who they are or what they have done, can be recognised unless they are nominated.*

Thank you to all members who have registered to attend the Vic Branch Mid-Year lunch being held on Tuesday 28 July at the Stamford Plaza Melbourne. If you have not already registered to attend the details and booking arrangements are on page 2 of this e-Newsletter. TryBooking link <https://www.trybooking.com/DLUUP>

I thank Dr Peter Rogers AM and his events team for their efforts to date in planning this event. If any member would like to join the events team and assist in the planning and implementation of the mid-year lunch or end of year dinner contact Peter at: peter.h.rogers@monash.edu

As a Melbourne Demon's supporter and a Victorian, I say Vale Neale Daniher AO. May he rest in peace knowing the significant contribution he has made to the fight against MND. Hopefully as we enjoyed the break over the King's Birthday weekend, we join with those at the Big Freeze at the MCG and reflected on the legacy he has left.

As previously mentioned, the areas of my focus for 2026 are: *Membership Growth, Membership Retention and Membership Participation*. It is great to see Regional Groups using these three areas of focus in their activities and reports to the Regional Groups Representatives' meetings.

Happy to receive questions or comments on any matter raised in this newsletter, particularly as how we progress these three points of focus of the Vic Branch committee. Please email me at: chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au





Annual Mid-Year Lunch

TUESDAY 28 JULY 2026 | 11.30 am – 2.00 pm
Arrive from 11.30 am to mingle and network

STAMFORD PLAZA MELBOURNE
111 Little Collins Street, Melbourne

HEAR
Keynote speaker Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmao AO reflect on her remarkable journey, 'From Resistance to a Life of Service'

CONNECT
With fellow members, Honours' recipients and their guests

SAVOUR
A two-course lunch starting at 12.30 pm (seating from 12.15 pm)

SIP
Beverages available from 11.30 am at bar prices

CELEBRATE
Alex Nair, 2022 OAA Foundation Scholarship recipient, as she shares her achievements

COST
\$80 per person, incl. GST



Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmao AO

Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmao's life has been marked by the most astonishing, cinematic twists and turns. From a quiet childhood in regional Victoria to clandestine work smuggling East Timorese men to safety, from falling in love with an imprisoned resistance fighter to becoming First Lady of Timor-Leste.

Founder of the Alola Foundation and Chair of the Xanana Gusmao Reading Room, which she established in 2000, Kirsty will both delight and move guests with her reflections on Timor-Leste, our closest neighbour.

Book: trybooking.com/DLUUP

Staying overnight? Discounted accommodation: tinyurl.com/3pd8uzw6 Promo code: **ORD2026**

BOOK NOW

Bookings close 5.00 pm, 20 July 2026

PROUDLY HOSTED AT





Victoria Branch Events

Thursday 26 November 5.45pm for 6.30pm sit down

Victoria Branch End of Year Dinner

Stamford Plaza Melbourne 111 Little Collins Street Melbourne

Easily accessible by regional and metropolitan transport

Speaker: William Lye OAM KC – Order of Australia Association National Chair

Cost: \$80 GST included for 2 course dinner, drinks at bar price

Victoria Branch Regional Group Events

Gippsland Regional Group

SPRING LUNCHEON: **Sunday 13 September** at 12 Noon for service at 12:30. Venue: Leongatha RSL at the corner of Smith Street and Michael Place, Leongatha.

Speaker: Ms Chelsea Allen, a recent recipient of an Order of Australia Association Foundation scholarship. Chelsea spoke at the Victorian Branch AGM in March, and her story was truly inspirational. Chelsea is a 'local' whose family comes from Leongatha and those who witnessed her presentation in Melbourne are quite excited to hear from her again in September.

Further details will be provided. Members and guests are all welcome to come along and enjoy the fellowship that is generated by these regional based activities. RSVP by Friday 4 September indicating attendance, order from the menu on arrival (and pay individually for your meal); drinks will be available at bar prices.

Western Suburbs Regional Group

Members, families and friends, are invited to our second Sunday lunch of the year on **Sunday 28 June** at 12.30 for 1.00 pm at Pelican's Landing, on the waterfront: 1 Syme Street, Williamstown

Cost: \$24 for lunch and one drink (GST incl.) Other drinks at bar price

Guest speaker, William Kininmoth: **The truth and the myths of climate change science**



Bio: William Kininmoth holds various qualifications. His work experience ranges various roles in the field of meteorology and Environment Protection in Australia and Saudi Arabia. He headed the National Climate Centre until his retirement in 1998.

Internationally, William provided consultation services to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) until 2007. William will provide an overview of his varied experiences and delve into the fascinating science of meteorology and environmental change.

OAA Victoria Branch Regional Group Events for 2026

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

News from Regional Group

Gippsland Regional Group

ANZAC Day 2026 – Traralgon

A strong sense of reflection, respect and community pride defined this year's ANZAC Day services in Traralgon, as locals gathered to honour those who have served – and those who continue to serve our nation.

Following a Dawn Service at 6.00am, the community gathered again under clear skies and, at 11.00am the main service began with a flyover from the Royal Australian Air Force which impressed the large crowd that had assembled in the Kay Street Gardens.

It was a fitting start to a ceremony built on tradition and remembrance. The service was conducted by Gippsland Regional Group Chair Lieutenant Colonel Doug Caulfield OAM RFD (Retd) and the crowd was estimated to be around 2000 but considered to be more than in previous years and continues to increase year after year.

The guest speaker for the event was a local high school student who had recently trekked the Kokoda Trail and she spoke about the reality of the track – the steep climbs, the exhaustion and the need to rely on those around you. Through that she offered a simple but powerful reflection of mateship, not as something spoken about, but something lived.

It was a moment that resonated across the crowd; particularly in the way it connected younger generations to a story that can sometimes feel distant.



As the service continued, the laying of wreaths, hymns and prayers added to the atmosphere. The sounding of the Last Post brought the crowd to complete silence, which was followed by the Ode to the Fallen followed by a minute's silence, and, as the minute of silence came to an end, one of the most moving moments took place with the release of white doves. As the doves rose above the gathering, the symbolism was clear – peace, hope and new beginnings.

Music from the City of Traralgon Band, along with vocal performances, added to the tone of the morning, while the involvement of local youth, schools and community groups reinforced the importance of carrying the ANZAC spirit forward.

ANZAC Day continues to be a time where communities come together – to pause, to reflect and to remember.

Lest we forget

Photo: Courtesy of East Regional View (Local newspaper)

Gippsland Regional Group Treasurer Ian Ewart OAM OSTJ is flanked by the Regional Group's Secretary Alan Wilson OAM as they move forward to lay wreaths at the Traralgon Cenotaph.

Merchandise Shop

Online shopping: <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart/>

Celebrate - purchase OAA items for yourself, family, friends

As the weather becomes cooler, dress in OAA merchandise, or if you are travelling north there are also items for you.

Beanie \$18.00



Socks \$11.00



Cap \$21.00



Bucket Hat \$16.00



Matching scarf



Grey Knot Scarf \$25.00



Silk scarf \$52.00



Blue knit scarf \$26.00



Enquiries Barb 0413 008 571

This is a selection of the Items (from \$7.00 - \$52.00) that can be purchased online or via phone

All items in the OAA range can be purchased at

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart

Join the Association Social Media

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/order-of-australia-association

Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560448315014



The Order of Australia Association (OAA) website

<https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au>

This Home page provides access to National; eight Australian and two overseas Branches; Merchandise On-line Shop; Governance, RESOURCES-Promotional Tools, FAQ's, Membership, OAA Foundation and more



Barry Nunn AO

The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO, paid tribute to Association Chair Major General Barry Nunn AO RFD ED (Retd). At the 2026 national conference in Brisbane: "It is not every day you come across someone who can serve with distinction, lead with integrity and still manage to keep a sense of humour intact. But then again Major General Barry Nunn has never really been an 'every day' kind of person.



For nine years as National Chair of the Order of Australia Association, Barry has been a steady hand on the tiller – guiding, shaping, and strengthening the Association with quiet authority. Under his leadership, the Association hasn't just functioned, it has flourished. And somehow, he made it all look effortless... which we now realise was highly misleading.

Barry brought to the role not only a lifetime of service, but a deep respect for the values the Order represents: Recognition, Community and Contribution. It is fitting that his own service was recognised when he was invested as an Officer of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours in June 1998 – an honour that reflects the standards he has held ever since.

Barry understood that behind every medal is a story and behind every story is a person worth celebrating. He ensured those stories were honoured and that the Association remained a place of pride and connection.

And of course, Barry brought not just leadership, but humour. Meetings were always more productive – and far more enjoyable – when Barry was in the chair. He knew when to keep things moving, when to listen, and when a well-timed remark could lighten the moment.

Nine years is a long time to give to any role. Barry has given it generously, thoughtfully, and with unwavering commitment. His legacy is not only in what he has achieved but in the tone he has set: respect, congeniality and genuine care.

The above article and photo is from The Order of Australia Association LinkedIn page.

Profile: Professor Mark Rose AM

Professor Mark (Markham) Rose AM was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his significant services to indigenous tertiary education and community health in the King's Birthday Honours in 2025.

Professor Rose, a Gunditjmara man, has a mission: to ensure Aboriginal people are enabled to participate fully in education and community and to elevate indigenous knowledge to ensure that everyone understands the complete history of Australia. As an educator his extraordinary career has spanned decades. His contributions to education and community leadership are evident across all states in Australia, as well as internationally.

"Education is key to ensuring that everyone has a chance to fulfil their potential in life" – with this mantra Mark has worked steadily in developing a range of initiatives and programs. For six years, Mark held the Chancellor position at Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Education Darwin. There he developed a range of programs including Indigenous education engagement with Timor.

Amongst Mark's various senior academic positions, he took up the inaugural Pro-Vice Chancellor Indigenous Strategy and Innovation at Deakin University in 2020 where he continues his impactful work.



Mark has served at state and national level ministerial advisory committees. In 2003-2005 Mark co-chaired the Victorian Implementation Review of Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. A huge responsibility that has been critical to shaping conversations for Aboriginal and all Australians.

Mark has also been visionary in the field of leadership development for Aboriginal community members. After seeing the gap in this area, he led the development of the first Executive Indigenous Leaders Program – a credentialed, award winning initiative at UNSW that has now celebrated its 10th year anniversary.

Mark reflects on his various qualifications and certifications "five qualifications from five different universities including Harvard. However, my most profound learnings have come from sitting at the table with Aboriginal women at VAEAI (Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated)". Further, he acknowledges the pivotal and unique role VAEAI has played in supporting his own journey.

"Without education, Aboriginal people would continue to be thought of as just "factory fodder". Education ensures everyone can aspire and reach their full potential.

Mark is deeply conscious of policies that have ensured fair participation for all. Also, the importance of the National Apology – a turning point for Aboriginal Australians and the community more broadly.

Mark chuckles when asked what the Order of Australia honour means to him and replies in his defining humble style – "it's a message that the community has invested in my crazy ideas".

Profile: Professor Mark Rose AM continued

More seriously, he speaks of the deep sense of personal honour and how is keenly aware that the honour is shared amongst all those who have supported and contributed to the work. He is also reflective of how much the honour would mean to his parents who worked so hard to ensure their son through education, would be provided with a voice in the community. Looking towards the future? "My intention is to go out with my hair on fire! The work continues!"

Caption: Professor Mark Rose AM previous page (Photo supplied)

Meet: Dr. Kirsty Sword Gusmao AO speaker at the OAA VIC Branch Mid-Year Lunch on Tuesday 28 July 2026

In 2015 Kirsty Sword Gusmão was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for her distinguished service to Australia-East Timor relations through the development of mutual co-operation and understanding.

She was also awarded the Order of Timor – Leste in May 2016 for her significant contribution to Timor Leste's independence struggle and the well-being of its people. Her tireless efforts to generate support for women's rights continue to this day.

Kirsty Sword Gusmão AO was educated at the University of Melbourne and Monash University holding a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) and a Diploma of Education. She currently supports the Timor-Leste Ministry of Education on a range of initiatives aimed at enhancing inclusion at the early childhood and basic education levels.

Having established the Xanana Gusmão Reading Room in 2000 - which she continues to chair - at that time Dili's only public library and an important cultural hub and meeting place - the former First Lady of Timor-Leste founded the not-for-profit Alola Foundation, which strives to improve the lives of women and girls and which has been lauded for its work in the areas of education, advocacy, economic empowerment and maternal and child health.

From resistance to a life of service, Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmao's life has been marked by the most astonishing, cinematic twists and turns. From a quiet childhood in regional Victoria to clandestine work smuggling East Timorese men to safety, from falling in love with an imprisoned resistance fighter to First Lady of Timor-Leste. She now shares her time between Melbourne and Timor-Leste.

Kirsty Sword Gusmao AO is the speaker at the OAA VIC Branch Mid-Year Lunch on **Tuesday 28 July** 11.30am for time to mingle prior to sit down at 12.15pm. Venue is the Stamford Plaza Hotel 111 Little Collins Street Melbourne. Cost \$80.00 (incl GST)

TryBooking link <https://www.trybooking.com/DLUUP>



Order of Australia Investiture Ceremonies



May 2026, the Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC hosted three investiture ceremonies for recipients of awards in the Order of Australia in the 2026 Australia Day honours.

The Order of Australia is the preeminent means of recognising outstanding achievement and contribution in the Australian honours system.

The awards recognise Australians who have made a significant difference to their community, their country or at an international level.

Emeritus Professor Colin Chapman AM

This award celebrates a long history of academic leadership and research first as Dean of Victorian College of Pharmacy leading to its amalgamation with Monash University.

He was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (which was then still the Victorian College of Pharmacy) in 1991, a role he held until 2006. It was a pivotal time, with Colin overseeing the College's merger with Monash University and laying the groundwork for the modern pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences faculty that operates today.

"It was an amazing decade or more when the College merged with Monash and blended into the Monash culture," Colin says. "The Monash Vice Chancellor, Mal Logan, welcomed us and gave us a great opportunity. He basically said, 'we'll give you Faculty status, just get on with it', which was perfect."

"It was about integrating into Monash and making the most of it, and we made use of every opportunity that came our way," he says.

Colin navigated one of the most notable and historic achievements in the Faculty's history: the merger of the College with Monash University and ensured it retained its own identity.

Emeritus Professor Colin Chapman AM continued

Prof Colin Chapman AM was the driving force behind several transformative initiatives including the extension of the Bachelor of Pharmacy from three to four years, the introduction of several new degrees, developing and implementing a range of initiatives to attract and retain health professionals in rural communities, and laying the groundwork and planning for the purchase of a new building, which eventually became home to the now world-renowned MIPS in Parkville.

The Faculty is the oldest school of Pharmacy in Australia. It is now internationally regarded for its



research in drug target biology and discovery, including the discovery and development of the world's first anti influenza drug "*Relenza*".

Monash University Pharmacy and Pharmacology was rated No2 in the world by the 2026 QS World University Rankings by Subject, following Harvard University at No1. The university has consistently maintained top-three position globally for eight consecutive years.

Emeritus Professor Colin Chapman is a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to pharmacy and pharmaceutical science research, education and practice. He is a member of the VIC

Branch Loddon Campaspe Regional Group.

OAA VIC Branch Events Co-ordinator Dr Peter Rogers AM represented the Branch at the first Investiture last month.

Photo of Colin Chapman AM courtesy of Loddon Herald

Janette Kendall AM

Janette Kendell was recognised in the 2026 Australia Day Honours for significant contributions to business, to the arts, to the marketing sector, and to the community.

During her career Janette Kendall AM has been in the senior management teams of numerous companies including, Galaxy Entertainment Group in China, Executive General Manager of Marketing at Crown Resorts, General Manager and Divisional Manager role at Pacific Brands, Executive Director of Clemenger BBDO.

Janette holds a number of Non-Executive Director appointments, including Bega Ltd, Tabcorp, Vicinity Centres, and Visit Victoria. Further, she is a Fellow of the Australia Institute of Company Directors (FAICD), Fellow of Monash University, and a member of Chief Executive Women (CEW).

Janette is also involved as an Advisory Committee Member of Youth Activating Youth (YAY), an organisation which develops and implements programs to engage disadvantaged multicultural Australians youth.

Janette Kendall AM continued

Janette has “worked her way through the ranks”, studying part-time for nine years first at RMIT with a focus on public relations. She then went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Business in Marketing at Monash University.

Janette’s extensive leadership experience and industry breadth position ensure she is regarded as a valuable contributor to organisations navigating change, innovation and growth.

Janette Kendall AM is a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to business, to the arts, to the marketing sector, and to the community.

OAA VIC Branch Deputy Chair Trevor Clark OAM represented the Branch at the second Investiture last month.

Photo: Janette Kendall AM at Government House Investiture.

Supplied by Trevor Clark



Order of Australia Nominations via the online Portal

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

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 receive an email generated by the portal, seeking their comments. Nominators will not have access to the comments provided by referees.

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

Further information and guidance is available on the Office of the OFFICIAL SECRETARY to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL website:

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

If you need help to complete your nomination form, call (02) 6283 3604 (business hours) or email honours@gg.gov.au.



Reflections on 2026 National Conference in Brisbane

The National Conference again proved to be a successful event, drawing members across Australia. A collection of reflections, in their own words, from some OAA Victoria Branch members are provided below.

Reflections: William Lye OAM KC

There is a moment at every national conference when the formal programme pauses, and the room fills with conversation. For me, that was the heart of the Bridge to the Future conference in Brisbane this April. Between sessions at Rydges South Bank, over coffee and at the conference dinner, I found myself talking with members from every State and Territory. One brief exchange about how a regional group keeps new recipients engaged has stayed with me, because it captured our shared purpose in a single, practical idea. Those conversations, often with people I had only known as a name on an agenda, reminded me why the Association exists.

The Queensland Branch, led by Ronda Nix OAM and her committee, deserves great credit. The welcome was warm, and the speakers were thoughtful. We also experienced the care taken over every part of the programme that gave our members much food for the soul. It certainly did not feel like an event that simply ran well but one built by people who love the Association and wanted every delegate to feel at home.

Brisbane also carried personal significance. During the conference I was honoured to be elected National Chair. I am conscious of the strong foundation laid by my long serving predecessor, Major General Barry Nunn AO RFD ED (Retd), and grateful for the support of so many Victorian members in the room and beyond. The role belongs to the whole membership, and the conversations I had in Brisbane will shape how I approach it. First, planning for tomorrow's leaders by identifying and mentoring members already leaning in. Secondly, breathing life into our Strategic Plan so that each branch owns it on the ground. Thirdly, lifting the profile and impact of The Order and of the Association in the wider community.

What stays with me most is the generosity of spirit among our members. We are all volunteers, drawn together by a belief in service. Brisbane renewed that belief for me in a very practical way, and I left with new friendships, a notebook full of ideas, and a clearer sense of where we might go next. I look forward to continuing those conversations in Adelaide in 2027

Reflections: Wayne Myers OAM

I enjoy attending the National Conference not just to catch up with friends and to hear about the Association's work but also for the wonderful guest speakers arranged. This year the standard was again exceptional.



Reflections: Wayne Myers OAM continued

I was particularly impressed by Professor Zarnie Lwin OAM's presentation on "Building Collaboration in Oncology". Professor Lwin is from the University of Queensland but is also Deputy Director of Medical Oncology at Metro North Cancer Care, amongst many other roles. Her particular cancer interest is in lung and brain cancers. Zarnie has used her skills in treating patients but also looks at how that can also benefit others. Education has become an important facet of her work in helping patients and the community understands how current technologies and medicines can improve their lives. Education also includes for her mentoring junior doctors, not just in Australia, in treatment practices. She is committed to global education and mentorship.

Some of her treatment recognition has been for culturally and linguistically diverse communities and she spoke of her relationship with one patient in particular with little English that she was able to calm his anxiety through a concerned approach and to help him understand was taking place with the cancer and his treatment – a difficult task for a very busy doctor but she saw it as important.

Zarnie explained how she, and the profession, was using artificial intelligence to help their work and their collaboration with other cancer fields. It was a fantastic presentation and one could see why she was awarded a Medal of the order of Australia in 2024.

Zarnie said her success was due to her parents' preparedness to allow her to be educated when this was unusual for girls of her community.

Photo previous page: Barwon Regional Group participants at the national conference with outgoing National Chair, Barry Nunn AO, Wayne Myers OAM, Robert Charles OAM, Pete Johnston OAM and Anne Brackley OAM

Reflections: Dot Haynes OAM

As the National Membership Director, achieving this position at the end of September 2025, it has been a "baptism of fire" initiation. With the Survey being the focus at the meetings. It was refreshing at the beginning of 2026 to see the focus shift to the Annual Conference in Brisbane. As with all great organisations this had been well in hand by the Brisbane committee.

Upon arriving downstairs on the Thursday morning, I was greeted by an enthusiastic group of volunteers. Meeting all these people for the first time and feeling so welcomed, gave me great joy. Each person gave me a reassurance, as I had all my questions answered. This was my first Annual conference, being able to stand with like-minded individuals with the same goal as me was different than professional or government conferences. Each person's purpose was to show the powerful care of connecting for the greater good of all as an outstanding citizen of this great nation.



Over the following few days there was much to do, many to meet and some time to take in some entertainment. At the very end it was great to see that the "Bridge to the Future" theme continued with the Mayor of Brisbane lighting up the

Reflections: Dot Haynes OAM continued

Southbank Bridge with the colors of our logo - Blue and Gold. (See photo previous page). Taking a walk late on Saturday night after the formal dinner gave me time to reflect, debrief myself as I took photos of the bridge and midnight fell.

It was time to go home and help to continue to great work within The Order of Australia Association for generations to come. I look forward to the 50th Anniversary in 2030. 2027 is in Adelaide and the theme is "Recognising Achievement, Inspiring Tomorrow".

Reflections: Meg Davoren Honey OAM

We enjoyed a beautiful reception at Government House and welcome by Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM on our first night.



On the first day we had a Welcome to Country by Tribal Experiences Brisbane and official opening by The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AC CVO.

Appearing by video the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, The Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC spoke warmly of our work and of building bridges to the future.

Our speakers were exceptional all holding the audience's attention and making such a difference to our society.

At the Gala dinner we had the privilege of hearing from our six OAA Foundation Scholarship Recipients speak on their future and plans, quite amazing young people.

On our final day we were bussed to ANZAC Square for a service and wreath laying with the Navy band playing on the lawns.

Our farewell luncheon was held on the top floor of the Rydges Hotel with stunning views over the river. Thank you Brisbane for a most successful conference.

Photo: Welcome to Country from By Tribal Experience

Reflections: Grahame Leonard AM

One of the many highlights of the most successful Order of Australia Association 38th National Conference held in Brisbane was the presentation of the prestigious OAA Foundation Scholarships. This year five of the six awardees were present and each made an impressive presentation confirming their potential to make a significant contribution to 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 and have already given back to the community.

Reflections: Grahame Leonard AM continued

Each recipient receives \$45,000 over 2 years. The scholarship is also highly regarded by the universities with whom the Foundation consults. Each recipient is provided with a mentor, usually a member of the Order of Australia Association and is selected because of their standing in the recipient's chosen field of study.

Isum Malawaraarachchi of Sinhalese heritage who is undertaking a Bachelor of Medical Studies at Bond University Isum has earned straight High Distinctions and for three terms placed on the Vice-Chancellor's list for academic excellence. The financial pressures facing his immigrant family led him to work to strive for equal opportunity in medicine. He also works at Contour MedPrep focusing on changing the landscape of education for aspiring medical students. In 2025 he organised logistics which provided over 3,000 students from across Australia with complimentary access to medical entry advice and preparation.

His mentor is Associate Professor Anthony Holley AM, a leader in emergency medicine. His many postings include Principal Consultant Trauma to the ADF Surgeon General and Senior Staff Intensivist at Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

Reflections from Beverly Pinder OAM

Amidst an audience of 200 members and their guests, at Brisbane's Rydges Hotel in South Bank, the Queensland Chapter of the OAA staged its glittering Annual Conference dinner acknowledging six recipients of the OAA Foundation's Scholarship Program.

Former Victoria Branch Chair, Paul Wheelton AM and current Vic Branch Committee member, Beverly Pinder OAM were guests along with other Victoria Chapter members including: Susan Riley OAM, Meg Wilson OAM, Helen Parker OAM, National Membership Director Dot Haynes OAM and Christina Despoteris OAM, among others.

Honouring the legacy of the late and highly respected Angela Wheelton OAM with co-scholarship donor Beverly Pinder OAM, recipient Zeph Hardie is the epitome of youth and endeavour of the successful OAA Foundation Scholarship Program introduced in 2004.

Zeph's studies see him specialising in computer and software systems while undertaking a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) at the Queensland University of Technology. He aspires to branch into neuromorphic computer research (where chips and sensors reflect the structure and function of the human brain).

Grateful for the financial support provided by Beverly and the late Angela Wheelton, Zeph said that: '...it has been a great relief and comfort providing stability, allowing me to focus more on my studies, investing in myself and pushing deeper to better understand and apply my knowledge.'

Zeph, who cites his Christian faith as one of his many attributes, continued: "The scholarship has allowed me to reduce both the number of jobs and hours I needed to work to support myself



Reflections from Beverly Pinder OAM continued

through university and instead invest that time into my community, further involving myself and allowing more opportunities to volunteer and help others.

"It also opened up the possibility of further higher education and study, previously unavailable given my financial position."

Acknowledging his mentor, Zeph said: "Professor Michael Milford is a world-leading researcher in the field of neuromorphic computing who has enabled me to become involved in a variety of leading robotics research."

Professor Milford conducts interdisciplinary research at the boundary between robotics, neuroscience and computer vision and is the Joint Director of QUT's Centre for Robotics Focussed on making a larger impact beyond his own community, the scholarship has enriched Zeph's life imbuing him with confidence to experiment and investigate new ideas that would never have been possible.

Improved networking skills coupled with several leadership opportunities sees Zeph not only thriving as a young leader and taking others along with him, he also spends time mentoring and guiding younger peers who have embarked on their professional journeys.

A word of gratitude from Zeph: "This scholarship has truly been a life-changing opportunity, and I look forward to seeing where it takes me in the future."

Both Paul and Beverley believe that the path ahead for this young achiever is one that is peppered with endless possibilities and tremendous success.

Paul said: "Angela would be delighted with Zeph's attitude and commitments to study and of course his faith and community."

Echoing these comments Beverley added: "Zeph's academic achievements are highly commendable but his commitment to faith and helping younger peers along their journey, make him an exemplar of the highest accord."

The Order of Australia Association Foundation

The OAA Foundation annually awards Scholarships to outstanding young Australians in their second year of tertiary study.

To date 66 scholarships have been awarded Australia wide.

The awardees have demonstrated superior academic performance; have made significant contributions to their community and benefit from the generous funding provided by the Scholarship as well as from the mentorship

Donations may be made to:

Name of Account: The Order of Australia Association Foundation Ltd Gift Account

BSB No: 013006 **Account No:** 314735771

Please advise details of EFT transfers by email to: sec@oaafoundation.com.au

Donations through the Foundation attract DGR tax deductibility.

King's Birthday Honours List

The 2026 Order of Australia King's Birthday awards recognise the countless hours of commitment many have given to their community from many different sectors and walks of life.

Professor Michael Berk AO

One of Australia's most distinguished mental health researchers, Professor Michael Berk has been appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for transforming the way the world understands and treats mental health. He has helped shape the understanding and treatment of mental illness through an extraordinary body of research, clinical leadership, and education.

Since 2011, Michael has served as the Alfred Deakin Professor of Psychiatry and Alfred Deakin Chair of Psychiatry at Deakin University, Barwon Health and The Geelong Clinic.

He has also held numerous honorary positions at leading universities and research institutes and founder of the Mental Health Australia General Clinical Trial Network.



Professor Berk has led research into innovative therapies for psychiatric disorders, including bipolar disorder, depression, and psychosis, as well as exploring the links between physical and mental health.

With more than 1,600 published papers, Michael ranks among the world's most

influential researchers, earning a place on Clarivate Analytics' Highly Cited Researchers list from 2015 to 2023.

Michael's Order of Australia citation is for distinguished service to epidemiology, to preventative medicine, to mental health, and to tertiary education.

Photo of Professor Michael Berk AO courtesy of Deakin University

Pam Davis OAM

For nearly 60 years Pam has quietly dedicated herself to serving others, becoming one of Drysdale's most respected and well-known community volunteers.

In 1967 Pam joined the Drysdale Ladies Auxiliary of the Returned and Services League and has since held numerous leadership roles, including President, Assistant Secretary and Secretary which she currently holds.

Her commitment to veterans and their families continues today through her role as Welfare and Appeals Officer at the Drysdale RSL Sub-Branch and her participation in annual Anzac Day services.

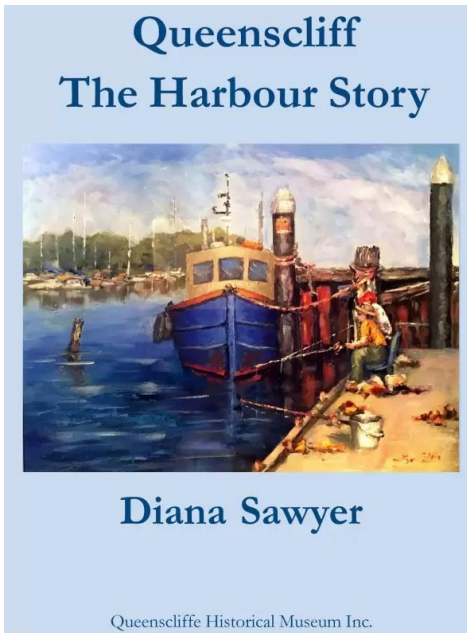
Pam is a Foundation and Life member of the Drysdale Football and Netball Club and has volunteered with Meals on Wheels, the Drysdale Health Care Auxiliary and the Uncle Bobs Club Bellarine Branch.



Pam's Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) citation is service to the community of Drysdale.

Diana Sawyer OAM

For more than 15 years, Diana Sawyer has volunteered as a researcher and contributor at the Queenscliff Historical Museum, helping to preserve and promote the region's rich history. She has authored and co-authored numerous publications documenting the stories, landmarks and heritage of Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale.



Diana has also made a significant contribution to the Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens, serving as a volunteer guide since 2007 and helping educate visitors about one of Victoria's most important botanical collections.

Earlier in her career, she was a leading advocate for epilepsy awareness and education with the Epilepsy Foundation of Victoria. Diana co-ordinates training programs, public awareness campaigns, and educational initiatives that improved understanding of and support for people living with epilepsy. She also authored several books on epilepsy.

Other community involvement included reaching, church leadership, youth programs and volunteer support roles across Victoria.

Diana's Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) citation is for service to the communities of Barwon South West.

Members in the community

Pauline Rockman OAM

The Melbourne Holocaust Museum (MHM) is a memorial for hope and healing, and as custodians of truth, we're committed to honouring the lives of survivors – and the memory of the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust. The MHM is the largest institution in Australia solely dedicated to Holocaust education, research and remembrance. Founded by Holocaust survivors in 1984, we house more than 1,300 survivor testimonies and 12,000 artefacts. Since opening our doors, we have educated more than 800,000 students – sharing memories, truths, and most importantly, hope, to inspire the next generation.

After World War II, many Holocaust survivors made their way to Australia to rebuild their lives. All they wanted to do was to leave the past behind. The events of the Holocaust were deeply traumatic and too difficult to talk about.

In 1984, a group of Holocaust survivors in Melbourne came together to start a Holocaust museum and research centre. They dedicated it to the memory of the six million Jews who were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators between 1933 and 1945.

Following a generous donation from the late Mina Fink (in memory of her late husband, Leo Fink), an old double-storey building at 13 Selwyn Street Elsternwick was secured. And in March 1984, the Melbourne Holocaust Museum opened its doors.



During the early days, the MHM was run entirely by volunteers and Holocaust survivors. Armed with passion and dedication, they set about collecting and preserving experiences of the Holocaust the best they could. Their commitment was so strong that many retrained to become educators, archivists, librarians and curators, with guidance from experts in these fields. Many Holocaust survivors began to contribute their personal collections of photos, documents and objects. But beyond that, they

trusted the MHM with their own life experiences. And told their survivor testimonies with unbelievable transparency, courage and resilience.

Our mission was clear: to honour all Holocaust victims, support survivors and their descendants, and inspire the next generation. We wanted to raise awareness and inspire action against discrimination. To achieve that, we created education programs that aimed to foster understanding and combat antisemitism, racism and prejudice in the community.

The MHM quickly began to attract streams of students and visitors of all ages, keen to learn about the Holocaust directly from survivors who lived through the horrors. To meet the growing demand, the MHM was remodelled in 1990 and the Smorgon Family Auditorium was built. This doubled the museum's size and provided larger facilities for programs and seminars. With the community's support, we made further extensions in 1999. Our Hadassa and Szymon Rosenbaum Research Centre was opened by the then Governor-General of Australia, Sir William Deane.

Pauline Rockman OAM continued

Visitations from schools continued to increase. And by 2016, we were receiving about 23,000 students per year. To ensure the ongoing sustainability of our programs, we built the Judy and Leon Goldman Learning Centre as an adjunct to the museum in 2019. And, after exploring other expansion options, we decided it was time to rebuild the entire museum. Thanks to the support of our wonderful community, as well as the Federal and State Governments, we embarked on a redevelopment of our site which was completed in early 2023.

Today, the Melbourne Holocaust Museum continues to deliver a dynamic and impactful program of education, remembrance and community engagement. We offer curriculum-aligned education programs for primary and secondary students, many of which include the powerful opportunity to hear directly from Holocaust survivors or their descendants. Our permanent and temporary exhibitions present personal stories through artefacts, multimedia installations and testimonies. We also host public events, professional learning for teachers, digital learning resources, and community programs that encourage critical thinking about prejudice, human rights and social responsibility. Through these initiatives, we remain committed to ensuring the lessons of the Holocaust are accessible, relevant and transformative for all generations.

Everyone is warmly invited you to visit the Melbourne Holocaust Museum in Elsternwick and experience these important stories for yourself. The museum is open to the public Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri & Sun: 10am-4pm. To plan your visit, simply check opening hours and book tickets online via our website. Upon arrival, staff and volunteers will guide you through the exhibitions. Whether you come individually, with family, or as part of a group, your visit will be a meaningful opportunity to learn, reflect, and connect.

Pauline Rockman OAM is a Life Governor and Past President of the Melbourne Holocaust Museum. She is a 2010 Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the community, particularly through the Jewish Holocaust Centre.

Kitty Chiller AM OLY

The Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) awarded Life Membership to Kitty Chiller AM OLY last month in recognition of her outstanding

contribution to the Olympic Movement and sport.

AOC President Ian Chesterman acknowledged Chiller's lifelong dedication to the Olympic Movement and sports administration in Australia and internationally.

"Kitty's contribution to the Olympic Movement and sports system has been exceptional and enduring," said Mr Chesterman.

"Her achievements as an athlete and accomplishments in leadership roles have spanned a career across four decades and earned her wide respect in Australia and globally.



Kitty Chiller AM OLY continued

“As an Olympian, sports administrator, Chef de Mission and AOC executive member Kitty’s influence has been extensive. Life Membership is a fitting recognition for the role she has played in shaping the strategic direction of Olympic sport, international sport governance and athlete development.

“Kitty has led with commitment and courage through her Australian Olympic Team leadership positions including as Deputy Chef de Mission at the London 2012 Olympic Games and as Chef de Mission at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, the first woman to hold that position,” said Mr Chesterman.

Chiller is one of only a handful of people globally to serve on two International Federation Executive Boards, currently sitting as the first ever female First Vice President of the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM) since 2026 and as an Executive Committee member of the Gymnastics International Federation (FIG) for a second term since 2025.

Chiller’s service to sport has been recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) including receiving the IOC Women and Sport Award for Oceania in 2020 for her work promoting gender equality in sport and was appointed a member of the IOC Athlete’s Entourage Commission from 2017 – 2023.

Chiller has served on the AOC Executive since 2013 and currently Chairs the ONOC and International Federations Engagement Committee and the Legacy and Impact Committee, as well as sitting on the Corporate Governance Committee.

Chiller competed at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games in modern pentathlon, the first time the event appeared on the Olympic program for women.

Following her retirement from competitive sport, Chiller moved into sports administration.

Chiller has held senior executive positions on the Local Organising Committees for the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games and Doha 2006 Asian Games.

Kitty is currently President of the Oceania Gymnastics Union (since 2025), her second term in this position (first elected President 2018 – 2023).

Chiller was inducted into the UIPM Hall of Fame in 2023, awarded the Silver Award of Distinction from the FIG in 2023 and appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2019 for her contribution as both an athlete and administrator.

Media release and photo (on previous page) from Australian Olympic Committee emailed to OAA VIC Branch from Kitty Chiller AM OLY



Dr Joanna (Jo) Newton OAM

Jo joined Agriculture Victoria as part of the Computational Biology Group in 2015. At the time moving from sheep and into the dairy industry felt like a leap of faith. But it was driven by a desire to do science that genuinely makes a difference for farmers.

For 10+ years with Agriculture Victoria, her work focused on the research–industry interface: developing approaches to demonstrate the value and impact of genetic, genomic and herd improvement for Australian dairy farmers.

I'm proud of the work I contributed to during that time. For me, one of the most rewarding parts is hearing farmers still say, nearly a decade later: "ImProving Herds changed my thinking about genetics."

Creating impact like this is a credit to the organisations involved, including DataGene Limited, Dairy Australia Australia and Gardiner

Foundation and to the wonderful colleagues, mentors, friends & farmers I've had the privilege to work alongside. (Far too many to name)

This month, Jo has taken another leap. This time moving to New Zealand to begin a newly created role with DairyNZ /NZAEEL as Genetics Science Lead.

She excited for the opportunity to work at the intersection of science, industry and on-farm impact and help shape the future of genetic improvement for New Zealand dairy.

Jo Newton OAM is a 2020 Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to agriculture through scientific research. She is also a member of the OAA Social Media Administration Team.

Fred Alale AM

Fred said he was "honoured to receive the 2026 Amari Icon Award at the Amari Gala in Melbourne last month.

The Amari Icon Award recognises African Australians who demonstrate leadership, impact and excellence in community. To receive this honour from the African Australian communities means a great deal.

Thank you to my wife, Claire. Your support, encouragement and belief make everything I do possible. It was also special to share this moment with my daughter as she steps into adulthood. I want my ceiling to be my children's floor.



Fred Alale AM continued

I'm honoured to follow in the footsteps of the previous Amari Icons, Selba Gondoza Luka OAM and Zione Walker-Nthenda. Zione presented the award and continues to be a mentor and close



friend. For me, success is not about how far I go or what doors open. It is about how many people I bring through those doors with me.

Thank you to my family, friends, the African Music and Cultural Festival (AMCF), Africa Day Australia, The National Theatre, and the many communities and organisations I'm privileged to serve. I'm grateful to the AMARI Foundation for this recognition."

Words above and photo from Fred Alale AM

The awards highlight contributions across a wide range of fields, including creative arts, business, STEM, sports, and community initiatives, aiming to uplift and empower the African Diaspora in Australia while promoting visibility and recognition of their achievements

Gary Lee OAM

What an incredible honour to have been invited to be part of the 125th anniversary of Australia's Federal Parliament on 9 May 2026. This date commemorates the inaugural sitting held in 1901 at the Royal Exhibition Building in Melbourne, marking the beginning of a parliamentary journey that has shaped the governance and identity of Australia.

Being part of this milestone not only acknowledges the achievements of the past but also reinforces our commitment to the democratic values that continue to guide our future.

The official commemoration gathered federal, state, and community leaders including the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan and the Governor-

General of Australia The Honourable MS Sam Mostyn AC who shared a congratulatory personal message from King Charles III.

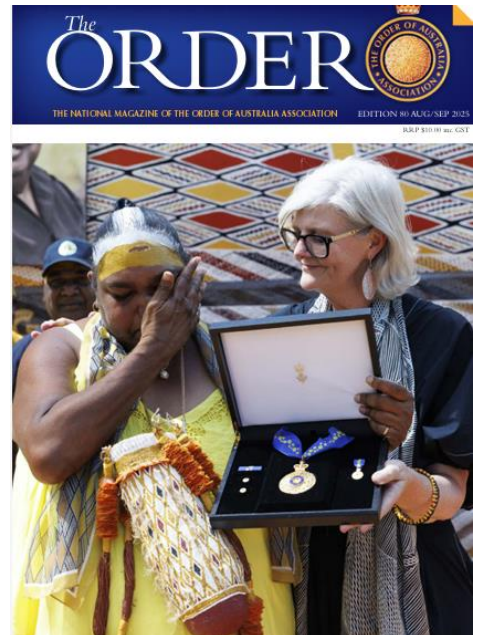


It is a remarkable honour to be part of history. We participated in the Official Commemorative Photograph, which serves as a modern counterpart to the historical images captured by Charles Nuttall in 1901. This significant photograph was snapped by Gunggari woman Tiffany Garvie and will be included in the State Collection, preserving this moment for future generations.

Thank you Lynley Crosswell and the Museums Victoria Board for the invitation to be part of history. So good to have connected with so many amazing friends, community leaders and former colleagues (too many to mention). [Photo](#) and words from LinkedIn

Receive an e-copy of **The Order** national magazine

Approximately 4,500 OAA members receive an e-copy of *The Order* national magazine making it easy to forward to family, friends and acquaintances including non-member recipients.



With a focus on the environment and reducing plastic wrap and printing, members are encouraged to opt for an e-copy of the quarterly national magazine.

This approach will also reduce the cost of printing, plastic wrap and postage.

If interested in making a change please email The Order of Australia Association National Membership Officer (Heather) oaanatmbrofficer@theorderofaustralia.asn.au asking to be transferred to the e-copy national distribution database.

Thank you in advance for making a difference.

Which medal to wear when?



Day Functions

The full-size insignia (Main Piece) is generally worn at day functions where decorations have been prescribed by the event, for example OAA Events or Anzac Day

Evening Functions

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

Every day Wear

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

Order of Australia Investiture Lapel pin and Medals

For **additional** Order of Australia lapel pins or medals received at your Investiture or for **replacements** please contact the Honours Secretarial.

Tel: 02 6283 3533 E: honours@gg.gov.au



Reminder: The Order of Australia Association (OAA) Lapel Badge with **magnetic** fitting is not the Order of Australia (OA) lapel pin recipients receive with the medal pack



This lapel badge can be purchased from the Merchandise Shop

<https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart/>

OAA VIC Branch Regional Group Chairs – current June 2026

Barwon	Wayne Myers OAM
Central Highlands Wimmera	John Burt OAM
Eastern Suburbs	Geoffrey Grinton OAM
Frankston Mornington Peninsula	Helen Parker OAM
Gippsland	Doug Caulfield OAM RFD
Loddon-Campaspe	Marion Rivers AM
Mallee	VIC Branch committee
Melbourne Central	Trevor Clark OAM
North Central Suburbs	Fred Harrington OAM
NE & Goulburn Valley	Mary-Lou Davis OAM
South Central Suburbs	Felicity Frederico OAM
South West Vic	Georgina Gubbins OAM
Western Suburbs	Faye Berryman AM and Justijana Katerinskaja OAM