

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

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

July 2026



NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION

Thursday 21 May 2026

Congratulations to our new recipients announced in the 2026 Australia Day Honours List:

Standing, left to right: Rex Liebelt OAM, Dr Jean Mekhael El Kfoury OAM, Margaret Mickan OAM, Apostolos (Paul) Gaganis OAM, Associate Professor Robert Joseph Bauze AM, Dr Leon Pitchon AM, Andrew Craig Fielke AM, Dr Lainie Lee Anderson OAM, Professor Neil Brenton Piller AM, Neville Bruce Bonney OAM, Geoffrey Colin Tattersall AM RFD, David John Jarman OAM, and Paul Eckert OAM (2001 Queen's Birthday Honours List)

Seated, left to right: Patrick Charles Bourke OAM, Reverend Dr Vernon John Cracknell OAM, Robert John Peet OAM, Patricia Anne Pledger OAM, Gerlinde Trappe OAM

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION LIMITED, South Australia Branch
To celebrate and promote outstanding Australian Citizenship

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, July 2026

This edition of our newsletter provides some reflections from recent SA Branch events.

In May we hosted a New Recipients' Reception, and I thank our guest speaker Vincent Ciccarello OAM, Director of Development and Philanthropy at Pembroke School. Then on 6 June we held a luncheon to celebrate the official King's Birthday, and we thank the Honourable Greg Crafter AO, a past Minister for Education and Minister for Local Government, for kindly agreeing to be our guest speaker.

Frank O'Neill OAM was guest speaker at our third Fellowship Luncheon for the year. Thanks Frank!

In national news, the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC has now been officially appointed National President, and Order of Australia Foundation Chair Dr Helen Nugent AC has confirmed the scholarship allocations for the 2027 National Conference. Six scholarships will be awarded overall and the Association will fund one of \$45,000 for a student studying Engineering and Technology at Adelaide University.

National Chair William Lye OAM KC said, *"This is a meaningful commitment by the Association and a fine expression of what the Foundation exists to do"*.

While we in the SA Branch are advancing our planning for the 2027 National Conference, the early planning for the 2028 Conference in Tasmania is underway.

For our 50th anniversary in 2030, we invite members to help research and collate the history of the Association in South Australia. If you would like to be involved, please feel free to contact me.

Finally, on behalf of all SA Branch members, I have sent a letter to congratulate everyone who received an award in the 2026 King's Birthday Honours and have advised them of an invitation to the next New Recipients' Reception following their forthcoming investiture at Government House.

Noel Hender OAM BEM
SA Branch Chair

SAVE THE DATE



SA BRANCH CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA Friday 18 December 2026

To celebrate the end of a successful year, we will hold our annual Christmas Morning Tea for members at the Goodwood Community Centre at 32/34 Rosa Street in Goodwood at 9.30 am for a 10 am start, finishing by 12 noon.

Dress is relaxed, and full-size medals may be worn.

Our Guest Speaker will be Jill Whittaker OAM, Mayor of Campbelltown. We will have the usual entertaining raffles, and Association merchandise will be available to purchase.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday 27 July: Closing date for nominations for the 2026 Student Citizenship Awards

Thursday 27 August: Honours recipients fellowship luncheon meeting with guest speaker

September/October: New Recipients' Reception (date to be confirmed)

Friday 25 September: Riverland and Mallee Regional Group luncheon meeting

Friday 9 October: Eyre Peninsula Regional Group luncheon meeting

Sunday 25 October: Yorke Peninsula Regional Group luncheon meeting

Thursday 29 October: Honours recipients fellowship luncheon meeting with guest speaker

Friday 6 November: Fleurieu Regional Group luncheon meeting

Friday 18 December: SA Branch Christmas Morning Tea

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch



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THE KING'S BIRTHDAY 2026 HONOURS LIST

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THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

The 703 recipients of awards in the General Division of the Order of Australia [all recipients \(name and citations\)](#) include:

- [5 appointments as Companions of the Order of Australia](#)
- [40 appointments as Officers of the Order of Australia](#)
- [183 appointments as Members of the Order of Australia](#); and
- [475 people awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia](#)

2026 King's Birthday Honours List

The 2026 King's Birthday Honours List, released on Monday 8 June, recognises and celebrates a total of 949 Australians – with awards in the General and Military Divisions of the Order of Australia, 149 meritorious service awards, and recognition for conspicuous service.

The 703 recipients of awards in the General Division of the Order of Australia include:

- 5 appointments as a Companion of the Order (AC)
- 40 appointments as an Officer of the Order (AO)
- 183 appointments as a Member of the Order (AM)
- 475 people were awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

There were 34 recipients of awards in the Military Division of the Order of Australia:

- 3 appointments as an Officer of the Order
- 11 appointments as a Member of the Order
- 20 awards of the Medal of the Order of Australia

In addition, there were 63 distinguished and conspicuous awards to Defence personnel.

On behalf of all members of the SA Branch of the Order of Australia Association, Branch Chair Noel Hender OAM BEM congratulates everyone who has received an award in the 2026 King's Birthday Honours List.

Her Excellency and Mr Buntin will host Investiture Ceremonies at Government House in due course, where recipients will be formally invested with the insignia of their award. A representative of the SA Branch of the Order of Australia Association will attend each of these investiture ceremonies.

Soon after, the SA Branch will host a New Recipients' Reception to acknowledge your award – we hope you will be able to attend as our guest.

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA 2026 King's Birthday Honours List

Among the 703 recipients of awards in the General Division of the Order of Australia, there were 65 South Australian recipients.

These include:

- ⌘ 1 promotion to Companion of the Order (AC)
- ⌘ 5 appointments as an Officer of the Order (AO)
- ⌘ 16 appointments as a Member, and one promotion to Member of the Order (AM)
- ⌘ 42 people were awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), including four posthumous awards

There were also two awards in the Military Division to recipients who are resident in South Australia:

- ⌘ 1 promotion to Officer of the Order (AO)
- ⌘ 1 award of the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)



The Order of Australia is the most important and meaningful awards system in Australia. Each year, the Governor-General approves and announces awards to people for their outstanding service and achievement.

- More information is available at:
www.gg.gov.au

The system relies on nominations. People don't put their hand up to be recognised and they are not selected. They are nominated by peers and considered and recommended to the Governor-General by an independent Council.

A nomination can be made at any time.

- Nominations need to be made via the online portal:
<https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards/nominate-someone-award>

Users can log in, complete and submit nominations, and monitor the status of a nomination from submission to completion.

Nominations are then assessed by the independent Council for the Order of Australia – which includes members from each state and territory and community representatives.

Who do you think is worthy of an award?

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2026

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION 2026 NATIONAL CONFERENCE 16 – 19 April 2026

SA Branch Chair Noel Hender OAM BEM and Jill Hender led the delegation from South Australia to the 38th National Conference in Brisbane. Our 2027 Conference Convenor Tony Metcalf OAM and Cheryl also attended, promoting the Adelaide Conference.

The conference also provided an opportunity to welcome the incoming National Chair William Lye OAM KC. William was born in Penang, Malaysia and grew up in Kuala Lumpur. He is a barrister and nationally accredited mediator, one of His Majesty's Counsel, and an Adjunct Professor in law. William received the OAM, *"For service to the law, to business, and to the promotion of cultural diversity"* (AD17). In the same year, at the 2017 Lawyer's Weekly Australian Law Awards, he won the Barrister of the Year Award and the Excellence Award.

The new Deputy National Chair is David North OAM. Continuing in their roles are Graham Hyde OAM (General Secretary), Frank Crawley OAM (Treasurer) and Dot Haynes OAM (Membership Director).



SA Branch Chair Noel Hender OAM BEM and Mrs Jill Hender led the SA delegation to the 38th National Conference in Brisbane. Images by Vanessa Bertagnole.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT AND CHAIR Monday 18 May 2026

Members of the SA Branch Committee recently welcomed and congratulated both the incoming President of the Order of Australia Association, our former Governor the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, and the new National Chair barrister William Lye OAM KC. After his visit to SA William wrote: *"Adelaide reminded me of the strength that exists in our branches and the quality of the people who give their time so generously to this Association. The energy in that room at the Strathmore Hotel on Monday evening was real, and it is the same energy that drives everything we are working to build together"*.



The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION

Thursday 21 May 2026

In May we gathered at Payneham Library to acknowledge some of our most recent Order of Australia recipients. These included seventeen from the 2026 Australia Day Honours List, and also Mr Paul Eckert OAM formerly of Alice Springs, a recipient in the 2001 Queen's Birthday Honours List, who had not previously been acknowledged in this way.

This reception followed on from the official investitures at Government House earlier in the month. Over four days, Her Excellency the Governor presided over investiture ceremonies for recipients of awards in the Order of Australia and Australian Bravery Decorations, presenting each with the insignia of their award. Government House noted online:

The ceremonies recognised South Australians whose service and achievements have made significant contributions within South Australia, nationally, and internationally.

Recipients reflected a broad range of contributions, from Olympic sport and medical expertise to social policy, emergency services, Indigenous food innovation, children's literature, horticulture, Taekwondo development, and public speaking education.

We received an engaging presentation from our guest speaker, Vincent Ciccarello OAM, who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia, "For service to arts administration" (AD25).

We thank the City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters and Mayor Robert Bria for their ongoing support, and Vili's Family Bakery for again subsidising the cost of the refreshments.



For images refer here (CTRL + Click to follow link):

[NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION 1/2026](#)

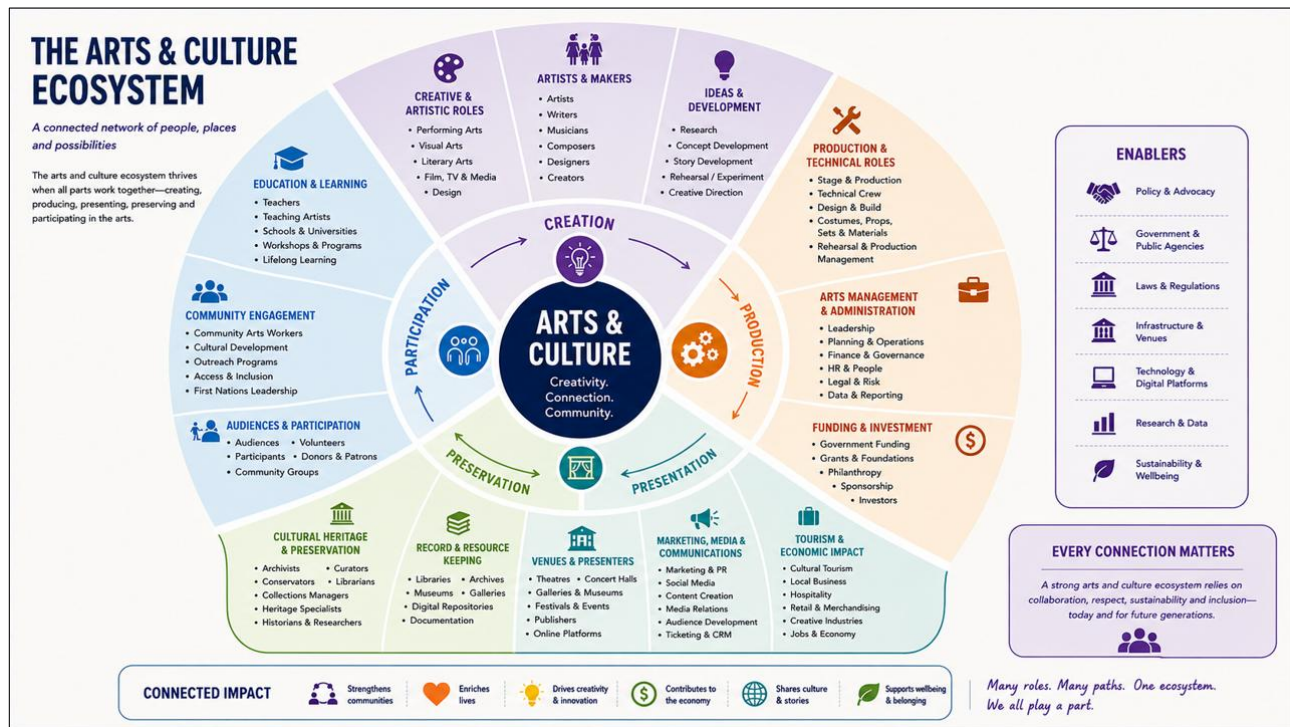


Mayor Robert Bria of the City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters with SA Branch Chair Mr Noel Hender OAM BEM



Our guest speaker Vincent Ciccarello OAM

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch



WHAT DOES A CAREER IN THE ARTS LOOK LIKE?

Vincent Ciccarello OAM

Vincent Ciccarello OAM 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. Most recently he has been Managing Director of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra (for nine years, 2014-22), Head of Philanthropy and Enterprise at the Art Gallery of South Australia, where he led the gallery's philanthropic, development, and membership programs, and is currently Director of Development and Philanthropy at Pembroke School.



The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch



Branch Committee members Phillip Styles OAM, Cathy Chong AM JP (Deputy Chair) and Pamela Rajkowski OAM showcased the Order of Australia and engaged with the public on the nomination process.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE OPEN DAY Sunday 24 May 2026

The Government House Open Day featured a series of displays to bring South Australia's history to life through people, places, and defining moments.

Outside the House in the grounds, visitors could view the statue of Queen Elizabeth II by our South Australian artist Robert Hannaford AM.

They could then step inside the Queen Elizabeth II Room, used by Her Late Majesty during the 1954 and 2002 Royal Visits.



The Order of Australia Association Limited

If you have received an award in the Order of Australia, you may wish to join the Association – please click here to apply for membership (Ctrl + Click to follow link):

[Membership Application - The Order of Australia Association](#)



The Order of Australia

Any person may nominate a person for the Order of Australia – please click here to access the online nomination portal (Ctrl + Click to follow link):

[Nominate someone for the Order of Australia | Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia](#)

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch



SA Branch Deputy Chair Cathy Chong AM was the host for our King's Birthday Luncheon



KING'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON **Saturday 6 June 2026**

The SA Branch hosted its annual luncheon celebrating the official King's Birthday at Casa D'Abruzzo Molise Club in Prospect.

The guest speaker was the Honourable Greg Crafte AO, a past Minister for Education and Minister for Local Government. He spoke on the topic: "The builders of strong sustainable communities".

Greg 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 was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia, *"For service to the Parliament of South Australia, to education policy in the areas of curriculum development and improved opportunities for teachers, and to the community through social welfare and youth organisations"* (AD09).

He subsequently served as National Catholic Education Commission chairman, and was appointed a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Gregory the Great (*Ordo Sancti Gregorii Magni*). Established on 1 September 1831, this is one of the five orders of knighthood of the Holy See.



The Honourable Greg Crafte AO spoke on the topic: "The builders of strong sustainable communities"

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch



SOVEREIGN OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

When the Order of Australia was established fifty years ago, on 14 February 1975, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia, became Sovereign of the Order.

In 1980, 1985 and 1996 Australia Post produced postage stamps to mark the Queen's Birthday, either bearing a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II wearing the insignia of Sovereign of the Order, or an image of the insignia itself.

In the commemorative stamp set released for the 2008 Queen's Birthday, the 50 cent domestic postage stamp featured Her Majesty wearing the shoulder badge of the Sovereign of the Order.

The \$2 international mail stamp featured the shoulder badge of the Sovereign mounted on the moiré Royal blue silk ribbon of the Order fashioned into a bow, as is the custom for female recipients (above; *images © Australia Post 18 April 2008, used with permission*).

A Maxicard postcard also released for the 2008 Queen's Birthday featured the \$2 international and 50 cent domestic postage stamp set showing the insignia of Sovereign of the Order of Australia (*image © Australia Post 18 April 2008, used with permission*).



KING CHARLES III

As heir apparent, when the Prince of Wales acceded to the throne of the United Kingdom on 8 September 2022, in Australia Prince Charles became titled, "King Charles the Third, by the Grace of God King of Australia and His other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth".

In this capacity, the King automatically became Sovereign of the Order of Australia.

This was an unusual circumstance, as he was already a recipient of the Order – the then Prince Charles, Prince of Wales had been appointed a Knight of the Order of Australia in 1981. According to the Constitution of the Order of Australia, it was prescribed that the appointment would have to be an honorary award because the Prince of Wales was not an Australian citizen. This matter was overcome through an amendment to the Constitution (Letters Patent dated 14 March 1981). Upon becoming Sovereign of the Order of Australia though, King Charles III ceased to be a Knight of the Order.

Australians first saw the King wearing the Sovereign insignia in the official Australian Royal Portraits of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, which were taken by Millie Pilkington in the White Drawing Room of Buckingham Palace in June 2024 in preparation for the forthcoming Royal Tour.

A two-stamp set was released on 28 October 2025 to celebrate the 77th Birthday of King Charles III, with designs highlighting his first visit to Australia as King in October 2024. This also marked the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Order of Australia and the Australian Honours System.

This set included a Maxicard postcard with a \$4.35 international postage stamp bearing the official portrait of the King and Queen by Millie Pilkington projected onto the sails of the Sydney Opera House (*image © Australia Post 28 October 2025, used with permission*).



The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch



Paul Rosenzweig shared a display of commemorative stamps relating to the anniversary of the Australian Honours System and the insignia of the Sovereign of the Order of Australia, plus a replica set of the insignia of the Sovereign of the Order.

SOVEREIGN OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

Left: a replica jewelled neck badge of the Sovereign of the Order of Australia, 58 mm in diameter, as worn by King Charles III, King of Australia, comprising a large convex disc with a rich texture of beads and radiating lines.

Below: a 'fantasy' replica breast badge of the Sovereign of the Order, 80 mm in diameter, although such insignia does not exist in this form. The actual Sovereign's badge is skeletal in structure (comprising fine rays and small ball finals), does not have the central disc surrounded by silverwork, and the central blue enamelled disc is surmounted by the St Edward's Crown not the Tudor Crown of King Charles III.



For photographs, and additional information on the Order of Australia and the Association, click here:

[KING'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON, 6 June 2026](#)

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.

For the 2026 King's Birthday Luncheon, we invited six centenarian members of the SA Branch to attend as our guest. Our centenarian members are those aged over 100, or who are in their hundredth year in 2026. We received apologies from:

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)

We were pleased to be able to acknowledge four centenarian members on the day:

Eric Joseph Roughana AM: *"For significant service to the Mount Gambier region, particularly through roles with community organisations"* (AD19)

Eric is the Regional Convenor of our South East Regional Group

James Lindsay Potter OAM: *"For service to the community, particularly through the Salisbury and District Historical Society"* (QB03)

Bryce Wesley Saint OAM: *"for service to the community, particularly to children, through the Safety House Association of South Australia"* (AD98)

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



Eric Roughana AM was accompanied by his son Keith Roughana



James Potter OAM was accompanied by his daughter Kathryn Popovich



Henry Young OAM was accompanied by Gerry Prideaux

Note: Throughout our national membership, there are currently 32 members recorded as being aged 100 years or over. However during the membership application process, many have not provided their date or even year of birth, so this figure represents the best information currently available to us.

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

Our centenarian guests included Bryce Saint OAM, who served as Secretary in 2000-03 and Branch Chair in 2003-06.

Pictured with (left to right): Dr Ruth McGee; Cathy Chong AM JP (Deputy Chair); Pamela Rajkowski OAM (Chair, Events Sub-committee); Toni Cocchiaro OAM (Branch Nominated Director); and Flavia de Pasquale OAM (Convenor, Fellowship Group).



Frank O'Neill OAM was our guest speaker at the Fellowship Luncheon on Thursday 25 June, on the topic "Social/Affordable Housing and Overseas Education".



Wonho Chong OAM JP, pictured with Jong-Min Hong, will be our guest speaker next year at the Fellowship Luncheon on Thursday 26 August 2027.

Thank you to the management and staff of Casa D'Abruzzo Molise Club for your excellent support.

Pictured with (left to right): Greg Gordon OAM JP (Member Secretary SA); John Ziesing OAM (Treasurer) and Flavia de Pasquale OAM (Convenor, Fellowship Group).



The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

HONOURING MOUNTED CONSTABLE RICHARD WILLIAM SPICER (1850-1884)

Friday 29 May 2026

A ceremony was held recently at Farina in the far north, in the Lake Eyre Basin, to honour Mounted Constable Richard Spicer. Spicer was accidentally killed on 28 June 1884 during mounted target practice at Farina (originally known as 'Government Gums'), aged 34. MC Spicer is buried in Port Augusta Cemetery.

The SA Police Historical Society, supported by the Farina Restoration Group, arranged to install a steel silhouette and a memorial plaque telling the story of MC Spicer outside the old Farina Police Station. This memorial is not just in memory of MC Spicer, but honours all SA Police current and former who have dedicated their lives to serve the people of the outback, some of whom made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Assistant Commissioner Ian Parrott APM joined Farina Restoration Group Chairman Bill Brock and South Australian Police Historical Society President Bill Prior in acknowledging the importance of preserving SAPOL's history and honouring those who served. The Historical Address was given by Deputy Commissioner (ret'd) John White APM OAM of the SA Police Historical Society, who is also a member of the Order of Australia Association.

Images courtesy of the SA Police Historical Society; used with permission.



Chief Inspector (ret'd) Peter Graham OAM, President of the SA Retired Police Officers Association: awarded the OAM, "For service to the community through historical and service organisations" (AD13).



Former Sergeant Max Slee OAM JP (left), a foundation member of the SA Police Historical Society: awarded the OAM, "For service to the community, particularly history preservation organisations" (KB24).



Officer Commanding Far North Region Superintendent Paul Isherwood pays his respects



Susan, Steve and Bob – a comparison of remote policing uniforms from the 1850s to the present time

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2026

SQUADRON LEADER MIKE TURTON AM (ret'd)

Thursday 27 August 2026

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

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

We encourage you to wear your full-size medals.

The next Fellowship Luncheon will be held on **Thursday 27 August**, with Mike Turton AM speaking on the topic *"Israel and Gulf War I: our life before, during and after"*.

Mike was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the Military Division, *"For service to the Royal Australian Air Force as Resident Project Manager Israel for the P-3C Electronic Support Measures Project"* (AD93).

Mike was born in Salisbury, Rhodesia, and migrated with his family to Australia in 1961. He enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 4 June 1974 at the age of 19 as an Air Electronics Officer.

He served with No 10 Squadron based at RAAF Garbutt in Townsville, flying on SP-2H Neptune anti-submarine aircraft. In 1977, 10 Squadron moved to RAAF Edinburgh where Mike converted to the P-3B Orion aircraft.

In 1983, Mike was given an exchange posting to VP 405 Squadron, a Long-Range Patrol Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Force, based in Greenwood in Nova Scotia. This was at the height of the Cold War – his main role as crew mission commander was tracking Russian nuclear ballistic missile submarines in the North Atlantic.

In 1988, Mike was selected to inform the operational specification for, and guide the development of, a new state of the art Electronic Warfare system to be built in Israel and fitted to the P-3C Orion fleet of aircraft.

The following year, Mike and his wife Deb, and children Luke and Katey, moved to live just north of Tel Aviv while Mike worked down south at Elta in Ashdod, not far from Gaza.

The start of the first Gulf War on 24 February 1991 brought uncertainty to the Middle East, and to Mike and his family.

They were evacuated back to Australia for a brief period during the height of the conflict, but returned to complete the project. They returned to Adelaide in 1992, where Mike steered the project through final acceptance and into operational service.

Mike retired from the RAAF in July 1994 after 20 years of service. Mike and Deb still live in Adelaide, and are now grandparents to four grandchildren.



2026 Luncheon Program

Thursday 29 October
Associate Professor John Svigos AM
"The first recorded successful caesarean section in the Southern Hemisphere with an intriguing twist"

2027 Luncheon Program

Thursday 25 February
Thursday 29 April
Thursday 24 June
Thursday 26 August
Thursday 28 October

To RSVP please contact:

Flavia de Pasquale OAM
0438 873 025
deflavia750@gmail.com

Pamela Rajkowski OAM
0400 810 196
pamraj@bigpond.com



The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

ASSOCIATION BROCHURES

It is pleasing to note that stock of our official Order of Australia Association Brochures is now depleted, and we have ordered more.

Government House Adelaide kindly allows the SA Branch to include an OAA brochure in each new recipient pack on the day of their investiture, and we make them available at all of our events – please be sure to take one or two! The brochure contains important information on the grades of the Order of Australia and the nomination process.

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

The Order of Australia recognises Australians who have demonstrated outstanding service or exceptional achievement.

Recipients come from right across Australia and from all walks of life.

There are four levels of award. The Order of Australia also has a Military Division (awards in this division are recommended to the Governor-General by the Minister for Defence).

Anyone (individuals or groups) can nominate a member of the community for an award in the Order of Australia.

Do you know someone who goes the extra mile in your community, an outstanding citizen in their chosen field or vocation who deserves recognition?

Once a nomination has been submitted, the Australian Honours Secretariat at Government House in Canberra conducts further research.

Awards are publicly announced on Australia Day (26 January) and the King's Birthday public holiday (June).

Nominating someone is a chance to recognise a peer for their hard-work, service and dedication. It is an opportunity to celebrate those inspiring people who make our nation what it is.

NOMINATIONS

Any Australian who goes above and beyond and has made a significant impact in their community can be recognised in the Order of Australia. Recipients come from all over the country and while some are well known, the vast majority are unsung heroes.

Anyone can nominate. A nomination does not have to be perfect – it is a starting point for the Honours and Awards Secretariat to research. Ultimately it is the impact the nominee has had (not how well you fill in a nomination form) that the nomination is considered by the Independent Council of the Order of Australia.

Nominees must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident and alive at the time of nomination. Consider our wonderfully diverse and inclusive community when nominating.

You can nominate someone by accessing the online form at:

www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards

Please Note: Nominations are confidential. It is preferable that the nominee not be made aware of this nomination.

GRADES OF AWARD WITHIN THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

Individuals are appointed a **Companion of the Order of Australia (AC)** for eminent achievement and merit of the highest degree in service to Australia or to humanity at large.

Individuals are appointed an **Officer of the Order of Australia (AO)** for distinguished service of a high degree to Australia or to humanity at large.

Individuals are appointed a **Member of the Order of Australia (AM)** for service in a particular locality or field of activity or to a particular group.

The **Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)** is awarded for service worthy of particular recognition.

The Order of Australia also has a Military Division (awards in this division are recommended to the Governor-General by the Minister for Defence).



The Order of Australia Association

148 likes • 257 followers
Celebrating and promoting outstanding Australian citizenship!
■ Nonprofit organization

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Order of Australia Association now has an official Facebook page, where you can keep up to date with the activities and personalities of the Association. You can find the page here (Ctrl + Click to follow the link):

[The Order of Australia Association](#)



Regional Group Events

2027

Riverland and Mallee Regional Group. Convenor Tim Grieger OAM JP advises that the next meeting will be on Friday 25 September.

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

Yorke Peninsula Regional Group. Convenor Elaine Bussenschutt OAM advises that the next luncheon meeting will be on Sunday 25 October.

Fleurieu Regional Group. Convenor John Hutchinson OAM advises that the next luncheon meeting will be on Friday 6 November.

South East Regional Group. The 2027 annual luncheon will be held at the Chardonnay Lodge in Penola on Friday 26 February 2027.

Riverland and Mallee Regional Group. The first meeting of 2027 will be on Friday 26 March.

Yorke Peninsula Regional Group. The first meeting of 2027 will be on Sunday 2 May to avoid Anzac Day.

Fleurieu Regional Group. The first meeting of 2027 will be on Friday 7 May.

***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.*



A REFLECTION ON ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

William Lye OAM KC | National Chair

I want to share the latest membership data alongside a broader reflection on where we stand as an Association.

Since The Order of Australia was established in 1975, there have been over 48,000 recipients. Since the Association's own establishment in 1980, we have welcomed over 23,000 members. Today, our current membership stands at 8,019.

Every new member counts. New members joining and members lost each year tend to broadly even out, but the annual net membership change has been uneven over time, with a decline evident in recent years.

We cannot afford to be passive about this. The work of encouraging new recipients of The Order to join the Association must be a concerted and sustained effort across every Branch.

I want to say something about why this matters. Joining the Association is not about what benefits a recipient can obtain. It is about how recipients can use their recognition to promote the values of good Australian citizenship. Our members are exemplars of the very best of Australian society. They are living proof of what service, dedication, and contribution look like in practice.

That is precisely why their ongoing involvement in our Association is so important, and why we must continue to promote the Order of Australia across all sectors of our diverse community.

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:

John Alan Geddie OAM

Peter Richard Smith OAM

NEW MEMBERS

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

Dennis Oldenhove OAM

Patricia Anne Pledger OAM

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch



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

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2027

The South Australia Branch will host the 39th Order of Australia Association National Conference in May 2027. The theme approved by the national Board is: “Recognising Achievement, Inspiring Tomorrow”.

Details are progressively being added to the Home page of the OAA National website, which can be found here:

<https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/>

The link to “important information for delegates” takes you to a page which features the promotional video clip and commentary from our current Governor, and our new Association National President the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, the 35th Governor of South Australia and former Patron and honorary life member of the SA Branch (2014–21).

If you are interested in providing support through sponsorship, please contact the Conference Convenor Mr Tony Metcalf OAM via email: ConfConvene2027@theorderofaustralia.asn.au



At the Honours Recipients Fellowship Luncheon at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club on Thursday 30 April 2026, guests were shown the promotional video for the 2027 Conference.