

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

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

August 2026



HONOURS RECIPIENTS FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Thursday 25 June 2026

Rear (left to right): Noel Hender OAM BEM (SA Branch Chair); David Milne OAM; John Rowley OAM; Jill Hender; Anne Bachmann OAM JP; Noel O'Brien OAM; Flavia de Pasquale OAM (coordinator); Andrew Chapman AM; John Ziesing OAM (MC); Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP

Standing: Wendy Chapman AM; Ann Ferguson OAM; Dr Joan Thomas and Professor Anthony Thomas AC; Dr Richard Willing OAM; Gillian Rogers OAM (hospitality); Lusia Guthrie AM; Jade Mortimer; Peter Dunn OAM and Shirley Dunn

Seated: Professor Max Brennan AO; Frank O'Neill OAM (Guest Speaker); Hedley Bachmann AM; Associate Professor Carolyn Palmer AM; Dawn Thorp AO

Not present: Don Clark OAM; Wonho Chong OAM and Jong-min Chong

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

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

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch



SA BRANCH NEWSLETTER, August 2026

From our busy 2026 Calendar, we have recently held our Australia Day New Recipients' Reception and King's Birthday Luncheon, as well as our April and June Honours Recipients Fellowship luncheons and our first round of regional group meetings.

We are looking forward to our upcoming events – including the next Fellowship luncheon in August, and our upcoming regional group luncheon meetings.

We will soon be holding our second New Recipients' Reception for the year, to acknowledge those announced in the 2026 King's Birthday Honours List and honour their achievements. New recipients will be a guest of the SA Branch. Our guest speaker will be Barbara Biggins OAM.

Our National Chairman has advised that our new National President the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC recently met with the national Executive Committee to give his vision for helping the Association advance its objectives. He is determined that we strengthen our communications with the Council for The Order of Australia, and that we do more to promote the Order to a wider audience and to a broader range of fields of contribution.

His conviction is that our Association continues to play a vital role in supporting the objectives of the Order, and that with the right support from the Council and the Governor-General's office, working collaboratively with the leadership of every branch and regional group, we will achieve a great deal more together.

Chairman William Lye OAM KC reported, *"It was inspiring to hear, and I know his enthusiasm will be felt right across the Association"*. We are delighted that the Honourable Hieu Van Le has agreed to speak at the 2027 National Conference in Adelaide and will have the opportunity to expand further on these matters. Keep the dates free: 14-16 May 2027.

Noel Hender OAM BEM
SA Branch Chair

REMINDER & UPDATE



FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON Thursday 27 August 2026

There is no change to the venue or date for the August Honours Recipients Fellowship Luncheon – to be held as scheduled at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club at 111 Hutt Street on Thursday 27 August.

But we do have a new Guest Speaker however: Ray Greig OAM KStJ JP, speaking on the topic *"How my professional career and volunteer learnings benefited the community of SA"*.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Friday 25 September: Riverland and Mallee Regional Group luncheon meeting

Friday 9 October: Eyre Peninsula Regional Group luncheon meeting

Monday 19 October: New Recipients' Reception (proposed date, tbc)

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: Christmas Morning Tea

Saturday 16 January 2027: SA Branch 'Celebration of Australia Day' luncheon

Thursday 25 February: Fellowship luncheon meeting

Friday 26 February: South East Regional Group annual luncheon meeting

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

Post-Nominals

In the majority of cases, the use of post-nominal letters to recognise members' achievements is a very simple process. There are some matters of protocol guidance which ensure consistency, so that recipients are acknowledged respectfully and in line with common national practice.

The Constitution of the Order of Australia, and the 'Designations and Insignia Ordinance', both give guidance on the use of post-nominal letters for the Order of Australia. These are contained in the handbook given to recipients with their insignia.

An alphabetical reference list to identify post-nominals may be found here:

<https://www.pmc.gov.au/honours-and-symbols/australian-honours-system/post-nominals>

As soon as an award within the Australian Honours System has been officially published, a recipient is entitled to use or have the appropriate post-nominals placed after their names on all occasions when the use of such letters is customary.

For example: a recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia may place the letters 'OAM' after their name.

The Order of Australia Association encourages recipients of Australian honours to use their post-nominals at any appropriate time, and we encourage organisations to acknowledge them appropriately. The widely accepted practice across national bodies, councils and professional organisations is:

- ✧ Use post-nominals in all formal or official contexts, including printed reports, award citations, named trophies, event programs, PowerPoint presentations, and formal meeting acknowledgements.
- ✧ Use is optional in informal or social contexts, such as routine emails or casual newsletters.
- ✧ The hierarchy for using multiple post-nominals follows an order of precedence: honours and decorations, academic qualifications, professional qualifications, fellowships and memberships.

It is standard practice that post-nominals are placed immediately after a person's name upon the first mention in a body of text, and not used thereafter. But if that person is again mentioned elsewhere within a document such as a newsletter, within a different context, the post-nominals may again be used on first mention.

Promotions within the Order of Australia

Within Orders of chivalry (including the Order of Australia), the highest grade received within the same Division is the only insignia worn and the only post-nominal used.

For example, Mr John Citizen who has received the OAM in the General Division, and is subsequently promoted to Member of the Order within the *same* Division, will be addressed as Mr John Citizen AM. The insignia of the OAM may no longer be worn.

// to be continued

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch



NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION

Thursday 21 May 2026

Our Merchandise Officer Cathy Chong AM JP always has a wide selection of Order of Australia Association merchandise available at each of our events

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

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



MERCHANDISE

Members of the Order of Australia Association may purchase Association-branded merchandise. You may order via the national website (postage costs will be incurred) using the QR Code above or this link:

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart



ASSOCIATION NAME BADGE

Members may wish to obtain an Association name badge using the Order Form found on our website – which you may access via the QR Code above or this link (CTRL + Click to follow link):

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



ASSOCIATION LAPEL BADGE

You may also purchase a lapel badge to denote membership of the Order of Australia Association (see image above) from our Merchandise Officer or via the national website. This badge shows that you are a financial member of the Association.

This is *not* the official lapel pin which all Order of Australia recipients receive with the medal pack at their Investiture, and may wear at any time.



The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2026



FRANK O'NEILL OAM FAICD

Thursday 25 June 2026

Our Club host for our June Fellowship Luncheon at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club was Bryce Saint OAM, in his 100th year, and the MC was the SA Branch Treasurer John Ziesing OAM.

We thank Frank O'Neill OAM for speaking on the topic "Social/Affordable Housing and Overseas Education".

Frank is a graduate of Queen's University in Belfast, Ireland and an alumnus of the Melbourne Business School. He was admitted as a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors on 27 April 2015.

Frank has had a career spanning some three decades in senior management positions with The University of Melbourne as Director of Human Resources, and with the University of Adelaide where he was University Registrar (Chief Operations Manager) for 16 years.

He has been an Adjunct Professor at Charles Sturt University, and has held Visiting Fellowships at the College of William and Mary in the USA and at the University of Bath in the UK. Frank was a Founding Director and Chair of Unity Housing; Foundation Director of the Anti-Cancer Foundation; and was a Rotarian for more than 20 years including terms as President and as Team Leader on four Rotary District Boards. He is a Paul Harris Fellow with four sapphires. In 2024, Frank was awarded the OAM, "*For service to the community through a range of organisations*" (AD24).

ANNE BACHMANN OAM JP 'Memories of Landunna'

Among the guests at our June Fellowship Luncheon were SA Branch members Hedley Bachmann AM and Anne Bachmann OAM JP.

Visiting the Naval, Military and Air Force Club premises always has a special significance for Anne.

The property at 111 Hutt Street has variously been known as 'Landunna' and 'Ulysses' during its 150 year history, being acquired by the NMAF Club in 1956.

Town Acre 361, at the corner of Hutt and Wakefield Streets, was purchased in July 1872 by John Rounsevell (1836-1902) – a pastoralist, contractor, Member of Adelaide City Council, and Member of Parliament.

He commissioned the construction of a 20-room house, which used material from the Glen Osmond and Mitcham quarries, and was completed in early 1873. Rounsevell named the property 'Landunna', after the family's hometown in Cornwall.



The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

Inside the front doors of the NMAF Club today is a large framed photograph of 'Landunna' – where John Rounsevell lived until his death on 15 May 1902.

Rounsevell can be seen on the verandah with his wife Elizabeth Jane Coombs (1856-1886), and her younger sister Sarah. Elizabeth and Sarah were siblings of Robert John Coombs JP – aunts of Anne Bachmann's grandmother Hilda Coombs.

Anne Bachmann OAM JP was the guest speaker at our 2023 Christmas Morning Tea, on the topic *"Making our courts and prisons kinder"*. Anne has served as a volunteer at the Adelaide Women's Prison since 1987. She has held roles on the Correctional Services Advisory Council and as Special Advisor to the Adelaide Women's Prison, and has been a Justice of the Peace, Justice of the Quorum, and President for two terms of the Royal Association of Justices of South Australia. She received the OAM in 2006: *"For service to the community through support for the role and education of Justices of the Peace"* (AD06).

Anne is the great-granddaughter of the Honourable Sir John Bice KCMG MLC JP (1853-1923) and Elizabeth, née Trewenack (1853-1922).



Sir John's only son, Anne's grandfather, was the Honourable John Leonard Sandoe Bice MLC JP (1884-1967), who married Miss Hilda Lilian Coombs (1888-1970) on 20 November 1916. Anne's mother, Betty Constance Bice, married Sydney Lawrence Arthur Badenoch (1917-1995) in 1941. Hilda Coombs was the fourth child of Robert John Coombs JP (1853-1913). Robert Coombs was a wool-broker and auctioneer; he was a Justice of the Peace from 1887, sat on the Bench at St Peters for many years, and was Mayor of St Peters in 1896-98.

John Rounsevell's first wife Emma Hart had died in 1876, soon after the completion of 'Landunna', and his second wife Elisa Hart (Emma's sister) died in 1881. Rounsevell married Elizabeth Jane Coombs (1856-1886) on 3 December 1881, but she died just five years later of typhoid fever. Rounsevell then married Elizabeth's younger sister Sarah Coombs.

For Anne, returning to 'Landunna' gives her a chance to reflect on this historic image of John Rounsevell with Elizabeth and Sarah Coombs – sisters of Robert John Coombs JP and aunts of Anne's grandmother Hilda Coombs.



The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch



JUNE FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON Thursday 25 June 2026

Among our luncheon guests on 25 June was Wonho Chong OAM, marking the commencement of the Korean War 76 years earlier – on 25 June 1950 when North Korea's Korean People's Army (KPA) launched an invasion of the south.

In the field of Hokushin Shinoh Ryu Heiho Iaido Traditional Japanese Swordsmanship, Wonho Chong is a Master Suseki-Shihan, former Kaicho (President) of the Iaido Federation of Australia and New Zealand, and a Shihan Goho (Teacher) since 1976.

He was Founder and President of the Korea-Australia Friendship Association Incorporated since 2009.

Among his awards he has received the National Hero Medal of South Korea (2016). Wonho Chong received the OAM last year, *"For service to martial arts, and to the Korean community"* (KB25).



“HERO OF THE NATION” MEDAL

On 24 July 2013, Prime Ministerial Decree #1029 established the “Hero of the Nation” Medal. This decree stated that the medal shall be awarded to veterans who participated in the 6.25 War (this refers to 25 June 1950, the day that the Korean War started).

The decree also stated that the awarding of the medal was to be tied to the 60-year commemoration of the armistice that ended the Korean War.

Park Hee-mo, President of the Korean War Veterans' Association, received the first “Hero of the Nation” Medal on 27 July 2013 from the South Korean President and the Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs.

Some 180,000 veterans who were still alive received the award.

The medal is awarded by the Director of the National Veterans Affairs Department, and may only be worn by the original recipient.

On the obverse of the medal at the top is a Mugunghwa flower, the national flower of Korea. At the bottom is a taeguk symbol.

In the centre of the medal there are two white doves, symbolising peace, flying over a map of the Korean peninsula. Above the map is the inscription ‘Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Armistice’. In the circular border surrounding it, there are the words ‘Freedom’, ‘Peace’, ‘National Defense’ and ‘Hero.’

On the reverse of the medal there is a three-line inscription:

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

6.25 COMMEMORATION OF THE
60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAR

HERO OF THE NATION

The medals are manufactured by the Korean Minting, Security Printing & ID Card Operating Corporation (KOMSCO).

Korea has a unique feature to their veteran status requirements: eligible veterans do not have to be a former member of the military or police forces during the war, but contributed to the war effort.

In Korea, June is ‘Patriots and Veterans Month’.

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2026

RAY GREIG OAM KStJ JP AFIEA MAICD

Thursday 27 August 2026

Our next Honours Recipients Fellowship Luncheon will be held at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club on **Thursday 27 August**.

Our Guest Speaker will be former St John Ambulance Commissioner Ray Greig OAM KStJ JP, speaking on the topic *"How my professional career and volunteer learnings benefited the community of SA, including an overview of St John Ambulance in Australia from beginning to today"*.

With 43 years in the Public Service employed by SA Water, volunteering for 53 years for St John Ambulance SA and 22 years as a Justice of the Peace, Ray has applied all of the information and skills learned from his career and volunteering, particularly within St John Ambulance where he was the Commissioner and a Board Director.

Ray was awarded the Centenary Medal (with effect from 1 January 2001), *"For long and voluntary service through St John"*.

He was subsequently awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia, *"For service to the community through St John Ambulance Australia"* (AD10).

He was admitted to the Most Venerable Order of St John in 1984 at the grade of Serving Brother (SBStJ). He was promoted to Officer (OStJ) in 1989, and then Commander (CStJ) in 2001. In 2008, he was promoted to the grade of Knight of Grace of the Order of St John (KStJ).

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.

To RSVP please contact:

Flavia de Pasquale OAM
0438 873 025

deflavia750@gmail.com

Pamela Rajkowski OAM
0400 810 196

pamraj@bigpond.com

SAVE THE DATES

Thursday 29 October 2026

2027 Luncheon Program

Thursday 25 February

Thursday 29 April

Thursday 24 June

Thursday 26 August

Thursday 28 October



This group of Order of Australia recipients received awards from Mr Mark Groote, CEO of St John Ambulance SA in a presentation ceremony held on Monday 7 December 2020. Mr Ray Greig (right) was presented with the Ultra-Long Service Medal in recognition of 50 years' service with St John Ambulance.

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

Ray Greig OAM KStJ JP AFIEA MAICD

Ray joined the St John Ambulance Brigade in 1969 and rose to be a Divisional Officer (1977-81), Superintendent (1981-88), District (State) Officer (1988-00) and State Superintendent (2002-08). Ray was Commissioner of St John Ambulance from 2008 to 2014.

As a Corps Staff Officer with St John Ambulance, on 15 May 1986 Ray was awarded the National Medal for 15 years' long service, and more recently has received the National Emergency Service Medal.

On St John Ambulance SA Awards Day 2017, Ray received the 4th Gilt Bar to the Service Medal of the Order of St John, denoting a total of 47 years of service. Then, on Monday 7 December 2020, Ray was presented with the newly-instituted Ultra-Long Service Medal in recognition of 50 years' service with St John Ambulance.

Ray holds a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. He is an Associate Fellow of the Institution of Engineers Australia, a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and a Member of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services Emergency.

Ray has been a Justice of the Peace for SA since 2004, and from 2008 served as a volunteer Special Justice of the Peace in the Adelaide Magistrates Court.

SAVE THE DATE

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JOHN SVIGOS
AM MBBS DRCOG CBioEth
Thursday 29 October 2026**

For our final Fellowship Luncheon for the year, Associate Professor John Svigos AM will speak on the topic: *"The first recorded successful caesarean section in the Southern Hemisphere with an intriguing twist"*.

John Svigos has had a well-documented career as a distinguished obstetrician and gynaecologist, with a special interest in Reproductive Medicine and Maternal Fetal Medicine.

He is the son of George John Svigos from East Brunswick in Melbourne, who was born on Rhodes Island in Greece on 23 October 1923. George and his brother Anthony both served in the RAAF during WW2.

John himself also served the nation, as a conscripted National Serviceman in 1971-72. He joined the January 1971 intake at Puckapunyal, and completed his training at the School of Army Health in Healesville, attaining the rank of Captain in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps (RAAMC). For this service he was subsequently awarded the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal (introduced in 2001), and the Australian Defence Medal (2006).

He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia, *"For service to medicine, particularly in the field of obstetrics and perinatology, through executive roles with national and international professional organisations, and to medical education"* (QB10).



Captain John Svigos, on an exercise south of Darwin

STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS 2026



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 (CTL + Click to follow the link):

[The Order of Australia Association](#)

One of our early posts announced Dr Neville Highett AM as the incoming Convenor of the Student Citizenship Awards, the flagship program of the SA Branch.

Nominations in the Student Citizenship Awards closed on Monday 27 July. The Assessment and Selection Panel will hold a review meeting on Tuesday 11 August to rank the nominees.



THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

Did you know? Any person may nominate a person for the Order of Australia

The Australian Honours 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.

Any person may nominate a person for the Order of Australia at any time. 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](#)

STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS 2026

GOVERNOR OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA Civics and Citizenship Priority Luncheon

Government House Adelaide recently reported, "Encouraging active citizenship and supporting the next generation of South Australian leaders is a significant part of the Governor's role. Through initiatives including the Governor's School Visit Program, the Governor's Civics Awards for Schools and other student achievement awards, Her Excellency promotes civic participation, leadership and community engagement".

Her Excellency and Mr Bunten recently brought together educators, advocates, community leaders and young South Australians for a Civics and Citizenship Priority Luncheon to explore how civic participation and democratic understanding can be strengthened.

Among those contributing to the discussion was Callum McIntyre from Mount Gambier, the inaugural recipient of the SA Branch's Keith 'Chook' Fowler OAM Award for the South Australian Student Citizen of the Year (2025).

The luncheon formed part of a broader series hosted by the Governor across Her Excellency's six priority areas: leadership; civics and citizenship; international engagement; gender equality; support for Reconciliation; and business, bringing together people and organisations to foster collaboration and deepen understanding of issues of importance to South Australia.



SPECIAL PROJECT GRANT

The SA Branch has been successful in receiving a MaC Special Project grant from the SA History Trust. This grant has been approved to enable an approved contractor to be engaged to develop governance guidelines, conduct an audit of the collection, and to conduct a significance assessment. This project will support preparations for the SA Branch's 50-Year Anniversary.

We are still looking for a volunteer to fill the role of **Curator/Historian**, to research and assist the contractor with the project. 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



NEW MEMBERS

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

Professor Jozef Gecz AO

Gavin Horace Dunn AM

Joan Margaret Lyons AM

Diana Helen McLaurin AM

Raymond Lewis Tanner AM

Dr Andrew Leonard van Essen AM

Dr Susan Barker OAM

Ethel May (Toni) Batten OAM

Neville Bruce Bonney OAM

Stuart John Connew OAM

Theodoor De Lyster OAM

Robert Alexander (Bert) Haslam OAM

Silvio Iadarola OAM

Lieutenant-Colonel
Stefan Franz Landherr OAM RFD (ret'd)

Stefano Marafiote OAM

Mr David George Milne OAM

William Barry Marsh OAM

Kevin Martin Tannebring OAM

Dr Christopher Johnson Verco OAM RFD

Carmine Zollo OAM



PROMOTION

On behalf of all members, the Chair acknowledges and congratulates the following promotion of an existing SA Branch member in the Order of Australia:

Natasha Jessica Stott Despoja AC
*promotion from Officer to Companion
in the General Division*

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

If you have received an award in the Order of Australia, you may wish to join the Order of Australia Association. Refer to our website for further information.

Please click here to apply for membership
(Ctrl + Click to follow the link):

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

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Regional Group Events

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.

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

HONOURING MOUNTED CONSTABLE RICHARD WILLIAM SPICER (1850-1884)

Farina, Friday 29 May 2026

Among those who honoured Mounted Constable Richard Spicer in Farina in the Far North recently were some members of the SA Branch of the Order of Australia Association. Many thanks to SAPOL, Farina Restoration Group, and the South Australian Police Historical Society who have made the effort to acknowledge the importance of preserving SAPOL's history and honouring those who served.

Chief Inspector (ret'd) Peter Graham OAM, President of the SA Retired Police Officers Association, gave the poetic tribute; he received the OAM, *"For service to the community through historical and service organisations"* (AD13).

Former SAPOL Sergeant Max Slee OAM JP was in attendance. Max is a foundation member of the Police Historical Society and author of a number of reference books including SA Police Firearms; Henry Inman the First SA Police Commander; and a History of SA's first police officers 1836-1838. In addition, he has published books on the History of Canowie Sheep Station; the SA Explorer John Hill; and many more. Max was awarded the OAM, *"For service to the community, particularly history preservation organisations"* (KB24).

The Historical Address was given by Deputy Commissioner (ret'd) John White APM OAM, also a foundation member of the Police Historical Society, who was awarded the OAM, *"For service to community history"* (QB19). John is the author of three books: *"More than Just Bricks and Mortar"*, a history of police stations in SA (1838-2018) and the Northern Territory (1870-11); *"Police on the Move, Horses to Horsepower"*, a history SA Police Transport 1838-11, and *"Uniforms for the Times – Badges and Uniforms of the South Australia Police 1838-2010"*. Superintendent White was awarded the Australian Police Medal in the 1994 Queen's Birthday Honours List.



Deputy Commissioner (ret'd) John White APM OAM



Max Slee OAM was acknowledged at our New Recipients' Reception on Monday 12 May 2025.



Susan and Steve – a comparison of SAPOL remote policing uniforms from the 1850s to the present time. Images courtesy of the SA Police Historical Society; used with permission.

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Patron of The Order of Australia Association

This year, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Australian honours system.

In its half century, almost 50,000 Australians have received an appointment in the Order of Australia.

We all know these people. We live and work with them every day.



Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC

Collectively, they represent our national story. Individually they are unfailingly inspirational.

To learn their stories is to be reminded that care, kindness, respect, and contribution to communities across the country, are what matter most to all Australians, in every sphere of life. In many cases, these are the unsung heroes whose lives of care for others across the country epitomise a core Australian value.

I encourage all Australians to nominate people for recognition – the honours belong to all of us, and we all have a role to play to ensure that selfless, hardworking, and extraordinary Australians are recognised.



Consider our wonderfully diverse and inclusive community when nominating.

Go ahead! Nominate someone today!

Further information:

It's An Honour: Dept. of Prime Minister & Cabinet www.pmc.gov.au/government/its-honour

Australian Honours and Awards www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards

The Order Of Australia Association www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au



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THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION LTD

SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRANCH

chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

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

2027 National Conference

ConfReg2027@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

It is important to note The Order of Australia Association Ltd is not involved with the selection process of Honours awarded.

Current as at June 2025

INTRODUCING THE

Order of Australia

*“Recognising **outstanding service and exceptional achievement** of citizens in our communities.”*



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!

A REFLECTION ON OUR ASSOCIATION BROCHURES

William Lye OAM KC | National Chair

Our OAA brochures, which are included in each awardee's package at investiture ceremonies, are running low.

This is a cause for quiet satisfaction. It means we have distributed close to 10,000 copies, placing information about the Association directly into the hands of new recipients at one of the most significant moments of their lives. We will be replenishing our stock shortly.

But the brochure numbers also prompt a broader reflection. As of 15 May 2026, the Association has 8,014 members. Our largest contingents are in New South Wales at 28.09% and Victoria at 25.74%, followed by Queensland at 14.52%, South Australia at 9.58%, Western Australia at 9.22%, the ACT at 6.71%, Tasmania at 3.42%, and the Northern Territory at 1.72%. Our overseas membership includes members in the UK at 0.36%, the United States at 0.34%, and other overseas locations at 0.27%.

Within that membership, 32 members are aged 100 years or over. Our oldest member is 104 years old. Our youngest is 25. Our median member age is 79. Ten of our members have been with the Association for 46 years, and 33 have been members for more than 40 years.

These are people of remarkable loyalty and dedication. I note that many members have not provided their year of birth, so these figures represent the best information available to us currently.

What these numbers tell us is that we are doing much of the right things to promote The Order and welcome new recipients into our community. But they also remind us that we must work harder. The gap between the number of Order of Australia recipients and the number who go on to join the Association remains significant. Every investiture is an opportunity. Every brochure is an invitation. We must make the most of both.

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch



VALE

The SA Branch Chair Noel Hender OAM BEM, Branch Committee members and members of the SA Branch offer our condolences on the passing of the following South Australia Branch members and past members:

Mrs Cicely Marion Joyce Bungey AM

John Jarrett AM

Robert John Mayo AM

Robert Neville Alderslade OAM

Robyn Joy Pearson-Robertson OAM

VALE

We offer our condolences on the passing of the following centenarian, aged 102:

Howard Hendrick DFC OAM Ld'H(Fr)

Howard Hendrick was born on 2 October 1923, the son of a soldier settler.

He was a Bomber Command veteran, a World War 2 Air Force pilot who completed 31 operational missions over Europe with No 460 Squadron, RAAF.

As a Flying Officer, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) for bravery on 22 May 1945: *"FLGOFF Hendrick has completed numerous operations against the enemy in the course of which he has invariably displayed the utmost fortitude, courage and devotion to duty"*.

He was subsequently awarded the French *Légion d'honneur*.

In 2016, Howard was named as Loxton's Citizen of the Year, and in 2019 he was awarded the OAM, *"For service to the community of Loxton"* (AD19).

Howard attended some events hosted by our Riverland and Mallee Regional Group when they were holding afternoon tea at the Loxton RSL. Due to the distances to travel to different venues, a number of the Riverland Group members and guests cannot always attend all functions.



The Loxton community honoured 101 year old Howard Hendrick by naming 'Howard Hendrick Way' behind the Loxton Cross of Sacrifice in his honour – pictured here with the Loxton Waikerie Council Mayor Trevor Norton.



Howard Hendrick DFC OAM, pictured after the 2025 Bomber Command service. Image by Mr Gary Petts.

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

ADVANCE NOTICE

NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION

Please join us in October (date tbc) to acknowledge the newest Order of Australia recipients from the 2026 King's Birthday Honours List.

Our guest speaker will be Barbara Biggins OAM.

Barbara will be speaking on the topic, *"From Big Tobacco to Big Tech: children, challenges and campaigns"*.

Barbara has been a longtime advocate for children's rights to quality media, and for healthy use of screens. She has extensive experience and expertise as an advocate for the provision of quality age-appropriate experiences for children.

She recently retired as Honorary CEO of the Australian Council on Children and the Media, one of several leadership positions she held for over 50 years.

Barbara also served as Convenor of the Classification Review Board, Chair of the ABC's Advisory Council, and on the Children's Program Committee (Australian Broadcasting Tribunal).



Barbara was awarded the OAM, "In recognition of service to the arts, particularly through the SA Council for Children's Films and Television" (QB86).

Her ongoing work has received recognition with her selection as South Australia's Senior Australian of the Year in 2004, and the award of a Winston Churchill Trust Recognition Award in 2023.

SAVE THE DATE

SA BRANCH CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA

Friday 18 December 2026

Our annual Christmas Morning Tea will be held at the Goodwood Community Centre in Rosa Street. There is no cost for members and guests.

The guest speaker will be Jill Whittaker OAM, the current Mayor of Campbelltown, on the topic *"Local government in focus; navigating community dynamics in the 21st century"*.

Jill Whittaker OAM Campbelltown Mayor is pictured here at Government House, Canberra. Jill, along with other South Australian members of the Australian Local Government Women's Association, recently met with their Patron, her Excellency the Governor-General the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC in Canberra – celebrating 75 years of Australian Local Government Women's Association.

The Governor-General's message to the group of local government representatives was that society is stronger when we are unified but not uniform – that diversity creates strength.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2027

The SA Branch will host the 39th Order of Australia Association National Conference in May 2027. 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



The screenshot shows the website of The Order of Australia Association Ltd. The header includes the association's logo, name, and a tagline: "To celebrate and promote outstanding Australian Citizenship". Navigation links for Home, About Us, FAQ's, ENews, Foundation, and Contact Us are present, along with an ADMINISTRATION button and social media icons. The main banner features the text "National Conference" in large white letters, with "Adelaide 13 – 16 May 2027" below it. To the right, it says "RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT, INSPIRING TOMORROW". Two red buttons are visible: "Click here for important information for delegates attending" and "Click here to view our valued Conference sponsors and supporters (Content Pending)". The background of the banner shows red Sturt's Desert Pea flowers.



Participants may wish to enjoy some of the attractions South Australia has to offer – this is the iconic Sturt's Desert Pea, pictured at Copley in the Far North, gateway to the Flinders Ranges. When driving long distances across our beautiful state, SAPOL recommends you share the driving and stop for at least 15 minutes every 2 hours to prevent fatigue, comply with speed restrictions and the 0.05% blood alcohol limit, and avoid mobile phone distractions.

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.



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Notifications

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

📧 oaasambrsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

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