THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION

Victoria BRANCH • E-NEWSLETTER

September 2026



Welcome from VIC Branch Chair

Greetings Order of Australia Association Ltd Victoria Branch members.

Congratulations to 2026 King's Birthday recipients who were Invested at one of the three services late August. Vic Branch committee was represented at each Investiture and we appreciated the opportunity to meet King's Birthday Order of Australia recipients and welcome those who have joined the Association.
Just a reminder that all the investiture ceremonies can be viewed on the Governors website at: Government House Investitures - YouTube

Online membership application link: www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/membership-application

Thank you to all members who attended the Vic Branch Mid-Year lunch held on Tuesday 28 July at the Stamford Plaza Melbourne. It was great to see so many members and recent recipients who have joined the Association this year. I thank Dr Peter Rogers AM Events Co-ordinator and team for an excellent event. Please refer to pages 4 to 8 for coverage of the Mid-Year lunch.

Our next Vic Branch event is the End of Year Dinner at the Stamford Plaza Melbourne on Thursday 26 November. Further details including booking arrangements are on the next page.

Vale Brian Stahl OAM: When I received my Honour in 2011, my wife Irene and I attended the then Mornington Peninsula Regional Group welcome for new recipients. From there we formed a firm friendship with Brian and his wife Bernice. Brian was a member of OAA for 22 years, a Vic Branch committee member 2013-2014 and a most active member of the Vic Regional Groups committee during his many years as Frankston Mornington Peninsula Regional Group Chair. I offer our condolences to Brian's family and thank the family for allowing me the opportunity to recite the OAA Ode at his service and say RIP Brian Stahl OAM after a life well lived.

Vale Richard Rozen OAM: Along with several other OAA members I recently attended the graveside service for Richard. Please read the tribute on page 13 from the South Central Suburbs Regional Group about one of their valued members Richard Rozen OAM.
More recently I offered congratulations from Vic Branch to his wife Rysia presented with a Life Governor Badge of the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia, by Governor General Her Excellency the Hon. Sam Mostyn AC.

Vale Christopher Lawton OAM: I thank Christopher's son for including the Ode at his father's funeral service. Thank you to Eastern Suburbs Regional Group member Kay Taranto OAM for accepting to recite the OAA Ode.
Copies of the OAA Ode and Guidelines for use are available under RESOURCES-Promotion Tools on the National website: https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/national/resources/

OAA VIC Branch Chair Fred Harrington OAM E: chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

THE
ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
ASSOCIATION LTD
VICTORIA BRANCH

End of Year Dinner

Invitation to Members, Recipients and Guests

Date: Thursday 26 November 2026 Time: 5.45 pm for a 6.30 pm sit-down

Venue: Stamford Plaza Melbourne 111 Little Collins Street, Melbourne

Guest Speaker - William Lye OAM KC

Honours' recipients: Honouring the System and its Traditions



William Lye OAM KC is the National Chair of the Order of Australia Association. Honoured in 2017, he went on to serve as a National Director of the OAA, and this year was elected its new National Chair.

A natural problem-solver, William has a range of initiatives in the pipeline to enhance this 50-year-old tradition of honouring Australians who achieve beyond the ordinary, with community always at the forefront.

He reminds us that each of our awards mark not an end point, but the start of a continuing journey.

'They can't be what they can't see'

Is oft-cited mantra – reminder of how vital it is to promote the ideals and values of citizenship to the next young Australians.

William will share what lies ahead for the Association and invite us to reflect on why each of us received our honour, and why we should all be looking for someone to nominate.

Cost $80 per person (incl. GST), for a two-course dinner; beverages at bar prices.

Bookings: **https://www.trybooking.com/DOBFB** Bookings close: 18 November 2026

We look forward to welcoming you



SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming Victoria Branch Events

End of Year Dinner invitation

Thursday 26 November 2026 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
Bookings https://www.trybooking.com/DOBFB

Paul Wheelton AM Inspiring Australians Oration

Friday 12 March 2027 mid-morning
The VIC Branch Annual General Meeting will follow the Oration
Further information will be included in the December 2026 e-Newsletter.

Upcoming Victoria Branch Regional Group Events

Central Highlands Wimmera Regional Group

Sunday 18 October - Luncheon at the Horsham RSL

Gippsland Regional Group

Friday 23 October - The Annual Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnet Oration and dinner – Traralgon

North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley Regional Group

The North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley Regional Group will be holding their next luncheon on **Sunday 11 October** at the McGuires function room at the Sherborne Terrace Hotel Wyndham Street Shepparton at 12.30pm.
The Sherborne Terrace Hotel has offered all our luncheon guests a 10 percent discount off their accommodation if they wish to stay overnight and the venue is easily accessible with lots of parking available.

Guest speaker is Ms Colleen Furlanetto OAM. Colleen was instrumental with the recovery program for the Longwood and Ruffy bushfires.
All members, guests and friends are welcome and the cost of the two course luncheon is $60 GST inclusive per person. RSVP by Friday 2 October 2026
Please book through the TryBooking link below https://www.trybooking.com/DPPXD

Annual General Meeting and Lunch - 2027 North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley Regional Group AGM and lunch on Sunday 21 February at the Endeavour Room, Club Mulwala
Guest Speaker is Mr Fred Douglas who is an over 75's Men's Slalom World Champion.

Upcoming Victoria Branch Regional Group Events continued

South Central Suburbs Regional Group

The final 2026 event for the South Central Suburbs Regional Group is their End-of-Year Dinner scheduled for Thursday12 November at 6.00pm in the Starlight Room of the Bridge Hotel, 1-4 Nepean Highway Mordialloc.

Guest speaker Colin Neave AM will share 'Reflections on an Ombudsman's Career', discussing his role as an Ombudsman and the help received from those with whom he has worked closely during a working career spanning over 67 years.

Colin served in his career as a Solicitor in private practice, Company Secretary of a listed Public Company and as the Commonwealth Government and Finance Ombudsman. He has also had roles as a public servant in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.

The cost per person is $55 GST inclusive which includes a welcome drink, main course, dessert, tea/coffee and guest speaker.

If interested to attend please email SCSRG Secretary Graeme Woolacott by Thursday 5 November on woolyg@bigpond.com

OAA Victoria Branch & Regional Group Events for 2026 and 2027

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

Victoria Branch Events Report

Mid-Year Lunch for Association Members and Recipients

Under the guidance of the recently elected VIC Branch Events Co-ordinator Dr Peter Rodgers AM the VIC Branch hosted a booked out Mid-Year lunch at the Stamford Plaza Melbourne in July 2026.

Peter acknowldged the suppoort he received from VIC Branch committee members:
Fred Harrington OAM VIC Branch Chair; Barb Brook OAM with TryBooking and Merchandise; Beverley Pinder OAM with event logistics and Helene Bender AM with table alloactions and as Event MC.

There were three speakers at the Mid-Year Lunch,The Order of Australia Association National Chair William Lye OAM KC, 2022 Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship recipient Alex Nair and Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmão AO.



William Lye OAM KC – National Chair

William welcomed Association members and Order of Australia recipients and thanked everyone for making a difference and for their contribution in local, national or international communities.

William will return to the Stamford Plaza Melbourne on Thursday 26 November as the speaker at the OAA VIC Branch End of Year Dinner.

Members, recipients and guests will also have the opportunity to hear from an OAA Foundation Scholarship recipient regarding their journey since receiving the scholarship. Bookings are now open at TryBooking: https://www.trybooking.com/DOBFB for the End of Year Dinner.

Alex Nair – 2022 Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship Recipient

Alex's scholarship at RMIT University was funded through contributions from Victoria Branch reserves, several Regional Groups and individual members allowing her to focus on completing a Bachelor of Applied Science (Medical Radiography) and to liaise and work with Dr David Ball AO her mentor regarding her fourth year project which greatly assisted in being able to complete her studies to a high standard.

Fast forward to the present, Alex completed her Certificate IV in Training and Assessment through RMIT last year, which has already greatly helped her in being able to direct and give well-structured constructive feedback to students completing their University placements at her clinical sites.
Alex recently completed her Graduate Certificate in X-Ray Image Interpretation through Monash University, which has enabled her to better her practice in trauma imaging specifically as she is mainly rostered to work in ED which has already involved many, many solo night shifts this year.

Alex already has her sights set on completing a Master of Advanced Health Care Practice specialising in Radiography through Monash University as soon as she is eligible at the start of next year with a Graduate Certificate in Mammography to follow.

Alex said she will be forever grateful to be an Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship Recipient; it allowed her to fulfil 16 year old Alex's dream of becoming a radiographer and an RMIT graduate. It has allowed her to serve her community by allowing her to be part of a workforce that provides important imaging services to a continuously expanding rural community.

Photo: *Alex Nail and mentor Dr David Ball AO*



THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

The **OAA Foundation** annually awards life changing Scholarships to outstanding young Australians in their second year of tertiary study. To date 72 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

OAA Foundation 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

Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmão AO

From Resistance to a Life of Service (In her own words)

From a quiet childhood in regional Victoria to clandestine work assisting East Timorese men to safety, from falling in love with an imprisoned resistance leader to becoming First Lady of Timor-Leste, Kirsty's life has been marked by extraordinary experiences and achievements.

I was given a front-row seat to the birth of a nation, a marriage and a family built inside that story, and a community of Timorese friends, colleagues and, frankly, teachers who have shaped who I am far more than I have shaped Timor-Leste. So if today's address sounds, at times, like an act of gratitude rather than a recitation of good works, that is entirely intentional.

Kirsty said "I have always believed that this wartime history is the true foundation stone of the Australia–Timor-Leste relationship. Everything that has followed, including my own involvement, sits on top of it. It is why, when Australians ask me why on earth this small half-island nation of barely one and a half million people should matter so much to a country of our size and wealth, I always come back to those mountains in 1942, and to the ordinary Timorese families who chose, at enormous risk to themselves, to help strangers who had washed up on their shore. We are, in a very real sense, still living out the consequences of that choice."

My own path into this story began, improbably, with a language class.



In the 1970s and into the 1980s, I studied Indonesian, first in Bendigo and then at Melbourne University. Indonesian was a living, growing subject in our schools and universities, part of a genuine national project to understand and engage with our region rather than simply trade with it. It was through that language, and the doors it opened, that I first travelled to Indonesia, and it was through Indonesian, remarkably, that I first came to understand what was happening in East Timor under occupation, because that was often the only language in which reliable information could be gathered and shared.

Photo: *Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmão AO at the OAA 2026 Mid-Year Lunch*

Learning that language changed the entire course of my life. It led me into solidarity work and, eventually, into a marriage to a resistance leader named Xanana Gusmão, whom I first came to know through years of clandestine correspondence and advocacy while he was a political prisoner. It led me, ultimately, to Dili, to a newly independent nation, and to nearly three decades of a life I could never have planned or predicted.

Those years of activism were not glamorous. They were letters written carefully to avoid intercept; film smuggled out to be shown to skeptical journalists and politicians, meetings in church halls and university common rooms trying to convince an often indifferent Australian public that a small island to our north mattered to us.

I raise this personal history not simply out of nostalgia, but because I think it says something troubling about where we are today. The Australia that produced a generation of diplomats, aid workers, journalists, and, yes, activists like me who could speak Indonesian and understand our region, is not the Australia of today. In 1992, twenty-two Australian universities taught Indonesian.

By 2022, that number had fallen to twelve. Enrolments nationally have collapsed by well over half since their peak, and the drop-off is even starker in our schools: of the many thousands of children who begin learning Indonesian in primary school, only a few hundred are still studying it by the end of Year 12.

Timor-Leste still faces very real structural challenges: an economy still heavily dependent on dwindling petroleum revenue, a young population that will need jobs and opportunities that do not yet exist in sufficient numbers, ongoing vulnerability to climate shocks, flooding and landslides chief among them, and health and education systems that, for all their progress, remain fragile and dependent on external partnership. Non-communicable diseases are rising alongside the country's genuine successes against infectious disease, and there is unfinished work in strengthening the institutions of a still very young democracy.



But I want to be equally honest about the opportunities, because I think we sometimes let the challenges crowd out the genuine promise of this relationship.

Timor-Leste has one of the most youthful populations in our region, a huge potential dividend if that generation is well educated and well employed. It has a remarkably stable, functioning democracy in a region where that is not something to be taken for granted, having now navigated several peaceful transfers of power since independence. It has extraordinary natural beauty, a growing tourism sector, and an increasingly confident diplomatic voice, including its accession to ASEAN, which opens up new economic and strategic pathways. And it has something Australia can genuinely offer real, practical help with: expertise in agriculture, in vocational training, in health systems, in public administration, all areas where the relationships so many of you have already built can be deepened rather than started from scratch.

I am also conscious that the next twenty-five years will unfold in a very different regional environment to the last twenty-five. Timor-Leste sits at a genuine strategic crossroads, courted by larger powers with their own interests in the relationship, and Australia can no longer assume that history and proximity alone will guarantee it remains Timor-Leste's partner of choice.
Photo: *Timor Leste Timber houses Roger King (Pixabay)*

Thank you and recognition



After Kirsty was thanked and presented with her gift Vic Branch Chair, Fred Harrington OAM recognised and thanked 20 Order of Australia recipients who joined the Association this year, each were each presented with a gift. There was a special note of the diversity of achievements, services and recognition: Distinguished service to psychiatry, to advancing best practice in perinatal mental health, and to mental health, education. Significant service to superannuation sector, and to corporate governance. Significant service to the community through a range of organisations: Significant service to mental health, to family therapy, and to people with disability. Significant service

to social justice, and to environmental conservation and sustainability. Significant service to women's health as a clinician and academic. Significant service to community health through governance and board roles. Service to the community through emergency response organisations. Service to the community of the Inner South and Port Melbourne area through health care and legal services organisations. Service to equine welfare. Service to community history Victoria. Service to rugby union and to the community. Service to the Chinese community of Melbourne, and to women. Service to business education, and to international trade. Service to rowing.

OFFICE *of the*
OFFICIAL SECRETARY *to the*
GOVERNOR-GENERAL

On 23 June 2026 the Governor-General acknowledged the passing of former President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste extending her deepest condolences to the Timorese people, following the passing of H.E. Dr Francisco Guterres Lú-Olo, former President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

Dr Guterres devoted his life to the service of his country. He was a leading figure in Timor-Leste's struggle for self-determination and made a significant contribution to the building of his nation following the restoration of independence.

During his Presidency from 2017 to 2022, he provided leadership at an important moment in Timor-Leste's national development.
He also made important contributions to Timor-Leste's relationship with Australia, including by supporting connections between the veterans' communities of our two countries.
His role in Timor-Leste's national story will be remembered with deep respect by generations of Timorese people.

On behalf of all Australians, the Governor-General conveys her sincere condolences to his family and loved ones, and to the people of Timor-Leste, as they mourn the loss of a respected national leader.

OAA VIC Branch Cartier Exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria

Sparkle, dazzle and shimmer!
The Cartier Exhibition provided an opportunity for the Order of Australia Association VIC Branch members and their guests in conjunction with Rotary Club of Melbourne to get up close to jewels and jewellery that were simply breathtaking in their artistry.
The event took place after dark on Friday 28 August.

The members and their guests were given an opportunity to listen to a fascinating recount of the story of the Cartier family who founded their luxury line of French jewellery and watches in 1847 with a lecture before the viewing of the exhibition itself.

OAA VIC Branch Cartier Exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria

The Cartier Empire all started with Louis-Francois Cartier, the father who took over his master's workshop with a vision to create something very special. Louis, joined later by his sons Pierre and Jacques, created iconic designs for a range of famous and, perhaps even infamous, people till 1964 when the family company was sold to Richemont.



Cartier is regarded as a highly prestigious manufacturer who became known as the jeweller of kings. Their clientele included King Edward VII of England who ordered 27 tiaras. Royalty from Spain, Portugal, Russia and India also took up the opportunity to commission creative pieces.

The Duke of Windsor commissioned jewellery for Wallis Simpson, including, a "Draperie" necklace, a three-dimensional "panther", and a "Flamingo" brooch which was on display at the Gallery. The brooch has a little cabochon sapphire on the end of the beak attesting to the fine mastery and detail.

Photo: *The Patalia Necklace, ordered by the Maharaja of Patiala, Bhupinder Singh*

The Patalia Necklace, ordered by the Maharaja of Patiala, Bhupinder Singh is also part of the NGV exhibition and drew much comment for its exquisite craftsmanship. This ceremonial piece features the world's seventh largest diamond at the time a 234.64 carat De Beers yellow diamond. Further, containing 2930 diamonds in total, Burmese rubies and five cascading platinum chains.

The Crocodile Necklace commissioned by Mexican actress, Marlie Felixy certainly caused a stir amongst the NGV audience. Composed of thousands of emeralds and yellow diamonds. The actress apparently brought in a real baby crocodile for the Cartier designers to use as inspiration. She wanted Cartier's jewelers to replicate the crocodile's features as accurately as possible – whilst not something those conservationists would condone; it is a story that illustrates the hedonism behind the extravagant commissions.

Elizabeth Taylor, Brigette Bardot and Gloria Swanson were also regular customers. Michael Douglas famously wore the gold "Santos" watch in the file Wall Street. Another famous watch, the Crash watch broke all conventions at the time. Its fascinating design is said to have been inspired by a Cartier watch broken in a car accident. Each piece holds a story.

The Cartier Exhibition provided OAA members with a rare opportunity to view many of the famous pieces, including the signature panther jewellery pieces which symbolize the Cartier brand. A memorable event.



A: Flamingo brooch commissioned for the Duchess of Windsor. B: The Crocodile Necklace commissioned by Mexican actress, Marlie Felix. C: The Cartier Crash watch D: The panther brooch with a 152.35-carat Kashmir sapphire cabochon distinguishes this piece purchased by the Duke of Windsor for his wife.

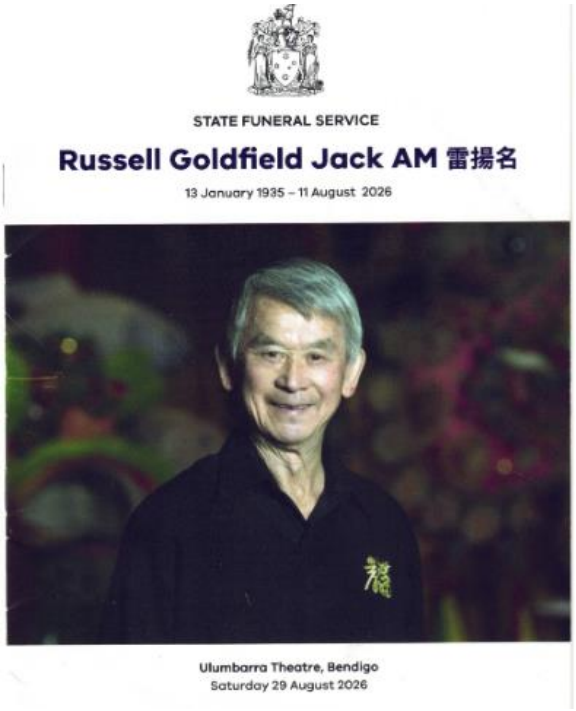
Photos *taken by: Dr. Teresa De Fazio OAM*

News from Regional Groups

Loddon Campaspe Regional Group

State Funeral Service: Russell Goldfield Jack AM

The Order of Australia Association Loddon Campaspe Regional Group member **Russell Jack AM**, who died on Tuesday 11 August 2026, was honoured with a State Funeral at the Ulumbarra Theatre in Bendigo on Saturday 29 August.



A second-generation Hong Kong Chinese and Chinese Australian and founder, together with his late wife Joan, of Bendigo's Golden Dragon Museum, Russell was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1993 for service to the preservation of Bendigo's Chinese heritage and culture.

Photo: *Funerals Australia; image used with family permission*

He was Victorian Senior Citizen of the Year in 1998, and in 2008 received a Victorian Award for Excellence and Multicultural Affairs in recognition of his outstanding work in the protection of Bendigo's Chinese heritage, including the Bendigo Easter Fair Chinese dragon, and the preservation of Chinese culture.

The State Funeral Service began with a Welcome to Country on the theatre forecourt. A capacity crowd filled the venue, paying their respects to one of Bendigo's most well-known citizens. Speakers who included former Premier of Victoria Hon Jacinta Allan MP, on behalf of the people of Victoria; Dr Daniel Beck, who summed up Russell's early years; and Richard Louey, relating connections with the Chinese community throughout Australia.

Doug Lougoon spoke on behalf of the Bendigo Chinese Association. Russell Jack's daughter Anita and her children Stellina and Amelita delivered the family tribute.

Photographic reflections were shared during the service, which culminated in a bilingual Australian/Cantonese cappella rendition of a farewell poem, The Pomelo Tree by composer Fay White and Lai Fong Low.

Mr Michael Anderson was Master of Ceremonies for the service, which was arranged by William Farmer Funeral Directors, Bendigo.



As a mark of respect for Russell Jack's life and legacy, before moving to the theatre, a private service was held during which the funeral party processed throughout the Chinese precinct for a traditional family altar blessing in the Golden Dragon Museum, Elders' Room, followed by tributes to each of the three Chinese dragons.

The cortège was accompanied by a white mourning lion, which had been gifted to Russell by Hong Kong master craftsman and traditional dragon maker Hui Ka Hung, a member of the family involved with the making of Bendigo's ceremonial processional dragon, Dai Gum Loong. The lion had been awakened by Russell's daughter Anita and close

family members immediately following his death and watched over him in the days that followed.

At the conclusion of the State Funeral Service, which was live-streamed and recorded on state government websites, the cortège moved to the Bendigo Lawn Cemetery.

Here the white mourning lion carriers enacted ceremonial movements, accompanied by drums and cymbals as a sign of respect to Russell. The public were invited to join the Jack family to witness this final mourning service, where elements of Cantonese funeral rites were enacted. These traditional ceremonies included offerings of joss as mourners paid homage to the family, culminating in the ceremonial burning of traditional paper gift tokens, together with the white mourning lion and ceremonial regalia. The ashes from this pyre were interred with Russell. At the conclusion of the service, as is customary following a Cantonese funeral, attendees were offered symbolic gifts of a coin to ward off bad luck and individually wrapped sweets to eat, a ritual said to take away the bitter taste of death.

Russell Goldfield Jack AM was an outstanding advocate for Chinese Australian culture and a respected Bendigonian.

Photo: On previous page - The White Mourning Lion watches over Russell Jack AM (Felicity Jack)

Melbourne Central Regional Group

"Young people and the Role of Technology" was the focus of Dr Michael Carr-Gregg AO's presentation to the OAA Melbourne Central Regional Group in June at the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club, Hawthorn.

In a location juxta positioned between Scotch College and St Kevin's - one could believe that the venue was ideally suited - as the author of 19 books and the founder of children's cancer network CanTeen talked about what has been a significant public failure, because governments have not addressed the issue of teenagers being exposed to online gambling and its promotion in general.

Dr Carr-Gregg emphasised it is not about banning the Melbourne Cup sweep - the problem is not about gambling itself but the harmful impacts of gambling imagery being forced upon our children as a result of lucrative deals being done between advertisers and governments. "Online wagering is not a harmless hobby. It is a product, engineered with precision, to exploit specific vulnerabilities in the adolescent brain.

"And we all know the teenage prefrontal cortex, the part responsible for weighing consequences and resisting impulse does not finish developing until the mid-twenties," he said.

In an impassioned delivery he talked about the impact of one in three 17-year-olds having gambled in the past 12 months!

And, with gambling embedded in sport as well as everyday life, Dr Carr Gregg states in his paper, *Betting against our youth — the house always wins* (*LinkedIn 8 May 2026*), the consequences are not abstract. We are talking about depression, destroyed finances, broken relationships and, yes, suicide.

Dr Carr-Gregg cited the sad tale of a 19-year-old apprentice who had 'absorbed thousands of dollars in debt' only to have committed suicide as this seemed the only way out, for him!

"Most kids today can tell you the odds before they can tell you the score," says the renowned child psychologist. And according to Carr-Gregg, this is 'the predictable outcome of years of unrelenting advertising'. "It is always there - in your face," he says.

He then went onto inform the audience of the late Peta Murphy and her unyielding support, as a Federal Government Minister, in protecting our children, and online gambling being one of those harms, as well as the dangers that our youngest and most precious Australians face online, where they are exposed to all manner of atrocities and things they simply shouldn't be looking at, at their age

"The Murphy Report told us exactly what to do," said Dr Carr-Gregg instead it is still weighed down in procrastination and deliberate delay.

Three of many key messages that the prominent Child & Adolescent Psychologist and Author, left the audience with, were:

- Children are not miniature adults
- Adolescence is not a marketplace
- and, what kind of Australia do we want to hand to the next generation?



In his quest to find another Sir Edmund Hillary who was a tremendous ambassador against Big Tobacco in New Zealand, in the late 1980s, Dr Carr-Gregg serving at the time as head of the Coalition Against Tobacco Advertising and Promotion (CATAP), was hired to form a coalition of health and youth groups to fight the multinational tobacco industry and lobby the government for strict anti-tobacco legislation.

Dr Carr-Gregg, worked directly alongside New Zealand's Minister for Health, Helen Clark, to drive these reforms, drafting the initial language for what became the Smoke-free Environments Act 1990, which officially launched in 1989 with Helen Clark's vital political backing, ten years before she was to become the Prime Minister of New Zealand.

In a final plea, Dr Carr-Gregg implored the audience to help him find an Australian Ambassador who could work with him to fight the prevalence of online gambling to teenagers, in a similar vein as Sir Edmund Hillary did all those years ago.

South Central Suburbs Regional Group

60 members of the South Central Suburbs Regional Group (Vic Branch) attended their Mid-Year Luncheon held at the historic Sandringham Club. Guest speaker was Dr David Parkin OAM, iconic Australian rules football legend, elite coach and educationalist.

David talked about his career with Australian football which started in 1961 and included playing for Hawthorn (Victoria) and Subiaco (Western Australia). He coached Hawthorn (1977-1980), Carlton (1981-1985), Fitzroy (1986-1988), returning to Carlton (1991-2000) and Hawthorn (2001-2002). Premierships included Hawthorn (1978) and Carlton (1981, 1982 and 1995). David has been inducted into the Australian Football Hall of Fame, Hawthorn Football Club Hall of Fame (Legend Status), Carlton Football Club Hall of Fame (Legend Status) and the Sport Australia Hall of Fame.

David also spoke of having a parallel career to football in education, where he taught in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions.

South Central Suburbs Regional Group continued

In 2013, David received an Honorary Doctorate from Deakin University, where he is an Adjunct Professor in the School of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences. Deakin University has also established the annual David Parkin Oration for Sport and Social Change.



Australia Day 2013 David Parker was a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) recipient for service to the sport of Australian rules football as an administrator, coach and player.

A prostate cancer survivor for 20 years, David urged every man to be tested, regardless of age.

All attendances enjoyed the interesting and inspirational talk presented by Dr David Parkin OAM.

Photo: *South Central Suburbs Regional Group Chair Felicity Frederico OAM with guest speaker Dr David Parkin OAM*

VALE Richard Rozen OAM (15.4.1935 – 9.7.2026)

Richard Rozen OAM served the Order of Australia Association Ltd for many years as National and Vic Merchandise Officer. During this time, Richard and his displays of OAA merchandise was a familiar, welcome sight at Victoria Branch events and National Conferences.

He was also a dedicated, inaugural committee member of the South Central Suburbs Regional Group from its inception in 2007 until 2024. As well as his invaluable input, Richard would help whenever a job needed to be done, such as functions coordinator, adhering address labels to hundreds of hard copy newsletter envelopes, parking attendant, and of course displaying OAA merchandise at events. Richard and his wife Rysia Rozen OAM also generously hosted many committee meetings in their home.



Born in Poland, Richard arrived with his mother in Australia in 1951 as a 16-year-old Holocaust survivor. After graduating from Melbourne High School, he studied electrical engineering at RMIT University, and then attended the Working Men's College. A successful businessman, Richard also became a National Chess Master and a Bridge Grand Master, representing Australia in 1982 at the World Bridge Championships in France.

Richard's harrowing wartime experiences as a child have been highlighted in Jane Mark's *The Hidden Children: the Secret Survivors of the Holocaust*, Dr Paul Valent's *Child Survivors of the Holocaust*, the New York Museum of Jewish Heritage's *Book of Life* and been twice adapted for the stage.

In 2009, Richard was appointed an Australia Day Ambassador. This gave Richard the opportunity to visit Victoria's regional areas to share his story. Not only did these talks generate awareness of the holocaust, but Richard could pay tribute to Australia as the wonderful nation that had made a big difference to his life. In Richard's words: 'Becoming an Australian citizen in 1954 is one of my life's proudest moments.'

Deepest condolences to Rysia Rozen OAM and Richard's family and friends.

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.

Order of Australia Investiture Ceremonies

Late August 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 King's Birthday 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.

Professor Michael Berk AO

Professor Michael Berk, one of Australia's leading mental health researchers, has been appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the King's Birthday 2026 Honours for his service to epidemiology, preventative medicine, mental health and tertiary education.
Professor Michael Berk AO has spent more than three decades asking a deceptively simple question: *how can we find better treatments for people living with mental illness?* Quite early in his career, he became enraptured by the idea that it was not enough simply to ensure that people received the best treatments available; there was an opportunity, and an imperative, to help develop and validate better treatments. That conviction has driven a career at the forefront of psychiatric research, taking him from clinical psychiatry into the discovery, testing and translation of new approaches to treatment.



The defining feature of Professor Berk's work has been his determination to translate scientific discoveries into treatments that can make a real difference to patients. His research has
contributed to clinical trials of novel approaches that have impacted clinical care in disorders including bipolar disorder, depression and schizophrenia, including atypical antipsychotics. Michael and his team discoveries have included N-acetylcysteine, minocycline, nutritional interventions, and drug repurposing. More recently, his work has used patient-derived stem cells to identify existing medicines that could be repurposed for psychiatric disorders. This has led to a series of clinical trials.

Professor Michael Berk AO continued

Through creating IMPACT and the national Mental Health Australia General Clinical Trials Network (MAGNET) he has also helped build the research infrastructure needed to test promising treatments at scale. His contribution is therefore not simply measured in publications, but in the potential to change clinical
practice and improve outcomes for people with mental illness - not only in Australia, but around the world.

His appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australia recognises a career of sustained service to mental health research, prevention, education and the advancement of psychiatry. For Professor Berk, it is also a humbling recognition of the work of the substantial team of colleagues, collaborators, clinicians, researchers and people with lived experience who have contributed to this journey. He hopes the honour will not simply mark what has been achieved, but serve as an enabler of bigger and better things to come.

Photo previous page*: L to R: Michael Berk AO with Governor of Victoria Her Excellency Professor the Hon Margaret Gardner AC*

Elisabeth (Janet) Calvert-Jones AC – Elevated recipient

1998 Queen's Birthday Elisabeth (Janet) Calvert-Jones was a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) recipient for service to children with hearing impairments, particularly as Chairman of the Advisory Council for children with impaired hearing. The Murdoch Institute for Research into birth defects and to the community as a benefactor and supporter of charitable organisations.

2006 Australia Day Janet Calvert-Jones AM was elevated to an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for service to the community through philanthropy and support for medical research, access to education in rural areas, development of significant cultural and botanical collections, and to the print media.



2026 King's Birthday Janet Calvert-Jones AO was elevated to a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) for eminent service to philanthropy, to the arts, to medical research organisations, to the community, and to children and youth.

Janet is credited with leading the Murdoch family in founding the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, and continues to sit on the MCRI Council of Ambassadors. Other causes supported by the Calvert-Jones Foundation include Second Bite, Orange Sky Laundry, the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Melbourne Zoo and the Aboriginal Literacy Foundation.

She is also a director of the Royal Botanic Gardens and trustee of Cruden Farm, which was her childhood home. Janet Calvert-Jones AO is an OAA VIC Branch Melbourne Central Regional Group member.

Photo *of Janet Calvert-Jones AO courtesy Herald Sun*

Dr. Bogumiła Żongołłowicz OAM

Dr. Bogumiła Żongołłowicz OAM received her Order of Australia for services to the Polish community.

Dr. Bogumiła Żongołłowicz was born in Słupsk, Poland, where she established herself as a well-known journalist and served as a sub-editor at *Goniec Pomorski*, one of the first privately owned newspapers established after 1989. The year 1991 marked a major historical turning point for Poland, seeing the end of the Soviet military umbrella, the consolidation of post-communist democracy, and the stabilization of a newly free nation. During this pivotal year, she made the personal decision to emigrate to Australia, settling in Melbourne.

In those early days, she was entirely unknown in her new country. However, she soon connected with prominent figures in the Australian-Polish community, including sociologist Jerzy Zubrzycki, Editor-in-chief Jerzy Grot-Kwaśniewski of the Polish weekly newspaper *Tygodnik Polski*, and biographical writer Lech Paszkowski. Influenced by these intellectuals, she devoted her career to researching the settlement history and cultural contributions of the Australian-Polish community. Her research focused heavily on the post-World War II migration wave between 1948 and 1954, which saw more than 60,000 Polish refugees arrive in Australia.

She undertook extensive work to document the lives of the Polish diaspora, emphasizing the preservation of memories of community members who shaped Australian culture and social life.



Her decades of dedication involved collecting, compiling, and publishing archival materials, some of which were entrusted to her directly by family heirs. She recorded vital interviews with living members of the diaspora, authored and reissued books, and worked to secure their availability in libraries. Furthermore, she prepared biographical entries for both the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* and the *Polish Biographical Dictionary*. Her articles appeared regularly in domestic and Polish diaspora media, and from 1991 to 2023, she collaborated with the Australian public broadcaster SBS (Special Broadcasting Service).

The culmination of her research will be an upcoming book focusing on the resilient Poles who rebuilt their lives in Australia after World War II. Her lifetime of tireless dedication was formally celebrated when she was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the King's Birthday Honours List 2026. This prestigious honour serves as powerful recognition that the multicultural nation she calls home deeply appreciates her immense contributions to its cultural tapestry.

Photo: *Dr. Bogumiła Żongołłowicz OAM*

Order of Australia Nominations via the online Portal

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.

"Voices of Leadership, Extraordinary Impact" podcast series

Earlier this month our National Chair William Lye OAM KC announced the podcast series titled Voices of Leadership, Extraordinary Impact was launched.

This is a new podcast series produced in partnership with the Menzies Leadership Foundation. Hosted by our immediate past National President, The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO FAICD, it is an eight-part series exploring the lived experiences, values and leadership lessons of recipients of the Order of Australia, and what their stories can teach us about leading in the service of others.

The first episode, "Leadership as Service", features Dr Peter Rogers AM. You can listen to it now at menziesleadershipforum.podbean.com. It is a splendid initiative, and a natural extension of everything this Association stands for. Please take the time to listen, and then share it widely, and help us bring these stories to a broader audience.

OAA Members in the community

Lisa Barron OAM

Youth Activating Youth (YAY) Board new member – Lisa Barron OAM



As one of Australia's most respected fashion designers and business leaders, Lisa has spent more than four decades building a successful Melbourne-made fashion brand while championing local manufacturing, innovation and women's leadership. Her commitment to creating opportunities for others and strengthening communities aligns strongly with YAY's mission.

Lisa brings a unique combination of entrepreneurial experience, creative leadership and strategic insight. Her extensive experience building a nationally recognised business, advocating for Australian industry and supporting emerging leaders will be invaluable as YAY continues to expand its impact and create meaningful opportunities for young people across Victoria.

"We are delighted to welcome Lisa Barron OAM to the YAY Board. Her leadership, experience and commitment to community will strengthen our organisation as we continue creating opportunities for young people across Victoria." Mark Stone AM Chair, Youth Activating Youth
We look forward to working alongside Lisa and benefiting from her insights, experience and passion as we continue empowering young people across Victoria.

Comment from Mark Stone AM - A real pleasure to welcome Lisa Barron OAM to the Youth Activating Youth Board. Lisa first starting supporting our founders Ahmed Hassan OAM and Ali Ahmed a decade ago. Lisa's constant support has been highly valued and now we are delighted to have her join our Board. Welcome Lisa and we are looking forward to working with you as we continue to provide YAY services to the Victorian community.

Australia Day 2022 Lisa Barron was a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) recipient for service to the fashion industry. She is a member of the OAA VIC Branch Melbourne Central Regional Group.

Photo: *Lisa Barron OAM courtesy of LinkedIn*

Professor James Angus AO

After more than 8 years of dedicated leadership as the Chair of the Melbourne Children's Campus Council, Professor James Angus AO concluded his role at the end of June 2026.

Under James' stewardship as Chair, the Melbourne Children's Campus has continued to evolve as a powerful partnership between The Royal Children's Hospital, Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI), the University of Melbourne and The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation.

Over the years, Professor Angus has been instrumental in reinforcing the principle that the Campus must deliver outcomes greater than the sum of its parts – championing the integration of clinical care, research, education, and community engagement to improve the health and wellbeing of children locally, nationally and globally.



James' contribution to the Campus will continue through his role as a Director of The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation, reflecting his deep commitment and leadership in connecting philanthropy and the broader Campus mission.

On behalf of The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation Board, community, donors, and philanthropists, sincere thanks were extended to Professor Angus for his outstanding leadership, dedication and service.

Professor James Angus AO was sworn-in as Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria on 12 November 2021.
The Lieutenant-Governor acts as the Governor's deputy, usually when the Governor is out of the State. In those circumstances, the Lieutenant-Governor deputises for the Governor in relation to limited functions.

Queen's Birthday 2010 Professor James Angus was an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) recipient for distinguished service to biomedical research, particularly in the fields of pharmacology and cardiovascular disease, as a leading academic and medical educator, and as a contributor to a range of advisory boards and professional organisations both nationally and internationally.
He is a member of the OAA VIC Branch Frankston Mornington Peninsula Regional Group.
Photo *of Professor James Angus AO courtesy of Governor-Victoria website*

Vivienne Nguyen AM

After seven years leading the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC), Chairperson Vivienne Nguyen AM will conclude her term on Wednesday 15 July 2026.
Since her appointment in 2019, Vivienne has led the VMC through some of Victoria's most significant moments, including the COVID-19 pandemic, flood recovery efforts and the impacts of international events on multicultural and multifaith communities. Throughout her tenure, she has championed community-led engagement, strengthened partnerships across government and the community sector, and ensured diverse voices remained at the centre of the VMC's work.



Photo *of Vivienne Nguyen AM courtesy Victoria Government*

Vivienne Nguyen AM continued

Under Vivienne's leadership, the VMC convened the Multifaith Advisory Group, contributed to Victoria's Anti-Racism Taskforce and delivered flagship initiatives including Cultural Diversity Week. In 2021, she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in recognition of her service to multicultural Victoria.

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"Being in this role has been an honour and a privilege. As we lived through the impact of overseas events that flowed to our shores, to the celebrations of achievements here in Victoria, we individually and collectively have shown that we can live and thrive, and we can overcome adversity no matter the shape and size. Diversity is indeed our strength and our asset."

Viv was a speaker at the OAA 2023 national conference in Geelong. Viv's story is the story of modern multicultural Australia. Arriving as a young refugee, she has dedicated her career to creating opportunities for others, championing inclusion, and ensuring that diverse communities are not only heard but valued.

Queen's Birthday 2021 Vivienne Nguyen was a Member of Australia (AM) recipient for significant service to the multicultural community of Victoria. She is a member of the OAA VIC Branch Western Suburbs Regional Group.

Chris May OAM

Last month Chris May OAM was appointed one of the newest Shrine Governors. As part of his role as a Shrine Governor, Chris will assist the Shrine Trustees with our commemorative services.

Chris is a former Sergeant of the Australian Army, retiring in June 2025. In September 2011, Chris was wounded in action while deployed to Afghanistan; his uniform is now held on display at the Shrine. Following his recovery, he was selected to serve with the Australian Federation Guard, where he was appointed Catafalque Commander for the 2013 Villers-Bretonneux Dawn Service on Anzac Day.



For his veteran advocacy, Chris was a 2017 Victorian Australian of the Year Finalist; he is currently a Leading Firefighter with Fire Rescue Victoria.

Photo *of Chris May OAM courtesy Shrine of Remembrance website*

Chris May OAM continued

King's Birthday 2025 Chris May OAM was a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) recipient for service to veteran welfare, and to the community, he joined the OAA VIC Branch North Central Suburbs Regional Group.

William Lye OAM KC on radio with Beverley Pinder OAM

On a cold wintry May morning Order of Australia Association Chair, William Lye OAM KC was a ray of sunshine as he took to the airwaves on Community Radio to promote Australian ideals and citizenship.

Trumpeting the inherent value of the Honours system to program host, VIC Branch Committee member, Beverley Pinder OAM, the newly-appointed National Chair, was his usual ebullient self.

Taking listeners along the Honours system journey, William highlighted the nomination process while heralding the thousands of role model awardees whose contributions to science, the law, education and community made for terrific listening and great information for the listenership that is part of a large audience within an 80,000 + catchment in and around Bayside Melbourne.

The conversation on *Pinder's Ponderings* on 88.3 Southern FM covered a range of themes but most importantly highlighted the contributions by so many unsung heroes, volunteers and ground-breaking practitioners who go about their daily work doing 'what they do and well'.



The need for increased numbers of nominees of those with ethnic backgrounds was also discussed with William citing that, for example, there are only 300+ awardees of Chinese origin which is not representative of the contribution made by this particular ethnic group.
William continued with his often said mantra: 'you cannot be what you cannot see', as an example of the need to engender more young people into believing that they too can aspire to such acknowledgment, some day. His words were also encouragement to listeners to look around and spot those who they believe 'go over and beyond' each and every day – for the good of the community – these quiet achieves are the ones worth nominating.

The chat session of one hour was interspersed with Christine Anu's *My Island Home* and Bruce Woodley's *I am Australian*, two songs befitting of the interview and the topic and a celebration of the OAA's extraordinary model of community engagement – which it serves.

Photo *and article received from OAA VIC Branch committee member Beverley Pinder OAM*

Mark Watt AM

More Than 1,000 Young People Are Waiting for Someone to Believe in Them

Growing up without a father, I know personally what it means to have an important gap in your life. I was fortunate: a mentor stepped into mine and changed its direction. That experience has stayed with me throughout decades of working with vulnerable young people and now shapes my leadership as Chief Executive Officer of Big Brothers Big Sisters Australia.

A mentor does not replace a parent, counsellor or teacher. They offer something different and deeply valuable: the consistent presence of a trusted adult who shows up, listens, encourages

and believes in a young person. Sometimes that simple relationship can change the way a child sees themselves and the future they imagine is possible.

Today, more than 1,000 young people, predominantly in Victoria, are seeking that same opportunity. Many are living with the effects of family breakdown, social isolation, mental-health challenges or a lack of positive adult role models. Some have experienced domestic and family violence. They are not asking for someone to solve every problem. They are asking for someone safe and dependable to walk alongside them.

Big Brothers Big Sisters supports young people aged 7 to 17 by carefully matching them with screened and trained volunteer mentors. Each mentor commits for at least 12 months and usually spends time with their mentee once a week. The activities can be wonderfully ordinary - kicking a football, cooking, fishing, visiting a skate park, sharing a meal or simply talking. The power is not in the activity itself; it is in the trust built through consistency.

One match in our recent annual report captures this beautifully. Jess and Jesse have shared fishing trips, skate-park adventures, gold panning and plenty of laughs. Over time, Jesse has grown in confidence, made friends more easily and begun taking the initiative to organise their outings. Jess describes their time together as the best part of her week. Mentoring is not a one-way act of service; it can enrich both lives.

The evidence is also encouraging. In a recent Big Brothers Big Sisters evaluation, 84 per cent of participating young people said their mentor increased their self-confidence, 82 per cent said their mentor helped them think about their future, and 74 per cent said mentoring helped them connect better with friends and family. Behind every percentage is a young person beginning to feel more hopeful, capable and connected.

Across Melbourne, Ballarat and Wangaratta, around 200 young Victorians are currently being mentored through our programs. We know we can support many more. Our greatest constraint is funding: recruiting, screening and training volunteers; carefully matching each young person; maintaining child-safe systems; and providing professional support throughout every relationship all require sustained investment.

That is why we established the Change Makers Club, a community of people and organisations providing regular financial support. A contribution of $300 a month can fund one young person to receive a full year of mentoring, while $48 a month helps provide eight mentoring catch-ups. Every contribution helps us turn a young person's wait into a life-changing connection.



Members of the Order of Australia Association understand service, leadership and the difference individuals can make in their communities. I invite you to extend that spirit of service to the next generation. By supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters, introducing others to our work or joining the Change Makers Club, you can help ensure that a young person who is waiting today has someone standing beside them tomorrow.

Photo: *Networking Noah the young prson, Mark CEO and Anton mentor*

Mark Watt AM continued

I know from my own life that one caring adult can change a young person's story. With more than 1,000 young people waiting, we have an urgent opportunity to write many more stories of confidence, belonging and hope.

To learn more or join the Change Makers Club:
www.bigbrothersbigsisters.org.au | support@bbbsau.org

Australia Day 2018 Mark Watt was a Member of Australia (AM) recipient for significant service to the community, particularly to disadvantaged and at-risk youth, through social welfare support organisations. He is a member of the OAA VIC Branch Eastern Suburbs Regional Group.

By Mark Watt AM, Chief Executive Officer, Big Brothers Big Sisters Australia

Stories of a Nation: The Immigration Museum's Place in Australian Life

By Leon Kempler AM, President of the Museums Board of Victoria, 2019-2023

Between 2019 and 2023, I had the privilege of serving as President of the Museums Board of Victoria. Museums Victoria is Australia's largest museum organisation comprising Melbourne Museum, the Royal Exhibition Building, Scienceworks and of course, the focus of this article - the Immigration Museum.

Flinders Street is not short of grand nineteenth-century buildings. One of them is the former Customs House - and within its walls is an institution undertaking something quite unique. The Immigration Museum tells the story of a state and country still forming, shaped by the stories of First Peoples and migrants that followed, intersected in joy, sorrow, loss and resilience.

The building has a storied history. It was built upon - and continues to occupy - the unceded Country of the Woi Wurrung Peoples of the East Kulin Nation, who have lived there for tens of thousands of generations. The first customs post was a tent, replaced by a bluestone structure in 1841. Gold-rush wealth in the 1850s prompted architect Peter Kerr to design a grander building, completed between 1873 and 1876. Customs officers left in 1965. After years as Parliament offices and a period of vacancy, architect Daryl Jackson led the restoration of the building, which reopened to the public as the Immigration Museum in 1998 - under the auspices of Museums Victoria.



These days, the Immigration Museum weaves together stories of migration and Victoria's social history - a space to encourage shared understanding and a sense of belonging through its permanent collection, temporary exhibitions, educational and public programs.

Its permanent exhibitions examine Victoria's immigration history from several angles - the circumstances that prompted people to leave their countries of origin, personal accounts from immigrants across different nations and eras - and the evolution of Australia's immigration policies. It also addresses more intimate subject matter, such as the complexities of personal identity and how this diversity has shaped Australian experiences of belonging and exclusion alike.

Museums Victoria holds the largest collection in Australia that broadly reflects the history of migration to the state - comprising more than 10,000 objects, documents, images and oral histories. More than 400 items are on display at the Immigration Museum at any given time.

The Immigration Museum's Place in Australian Life continued

The collection was formally established in 1990. Examples from the collection include a scrapbook belonging to philanthropist Caroline Chisholm and the suitcase and escape clothes of Vietnamese refugee Cuc Lam. The Greek Shadow Puppet Theatre collection, the only one of its kind in Australia, documents a tradition brought from Greece and adapted in Melbourne.

There are also more contemporary stories. Between 2023 and 2026, the museum's Culture Makers program, supported by the Scanlon Foundation, invited artists from across Victoria to work alongside curators to shape new work and exhibitions. The program has provided a platform for creatives from communities historically underrepresented in museums' galleries and seven digital works screen at the Immigration Museum.

Beyond the galleries, the museum's Tribute Garden commemorates more than 7,000 people who migrated to Victoria from more than ninety countries, honouring journeys from the 1800s to today. Created by Melbourne artist Evangelos Sakaris, it reminds visitors that migration remains woven into the city's fabric.

This is where the museum's value becomes most apparent. Each year, it receives some 130,000 visitors, including around 27,000 students. Public discourse on migration can be divisive, reducing families and individuals to statistics. However, when a school group moves through the galleries and engages with the stories and objects, they observe those statistics as people. As one of the museum's team describes it, the Immigration Museum is 'an empathy incubator'.



The museum's temporary exhibitions have ranged widely. In the Community Gallery, *Order Up: A City Fed by Many Cultures* paired artist and restaurateur Daniel Saade with cinematographer Redmond Stevenson to explore cultures behind Melbourne's food scene. *Home is Football: Belonging in Australian Soccer* was presented with Melbourne Victory Football Club and Professional Footballers Australia - delving into a sport that remains a source of community for Australians from a broad range of groups and identities. The Long Room hosted *Notre-Dame de Paris: The Augmented Exhibition*, enabling visitors to travel through time on a journey through its 850-year history - including the cathedral's restoration after the 2019 fire. It also became a space of collective emotion and intimacy through one of the Museum's most beloved exhibitions, *Love,* developed by the Museum with storytellers of diverse backgrounds to share universal love stories of all kinds - and in collaboration with Heide Museum of Modern Art. The forthcoming exhibition *On Country: Photography from Australia*, opening in October, creates a photographic dialogue between First Peoples and non-Indigenous artists and collectives. It explores aspects of being 'on Country', a First Peoples term to describe the lands, waterways, seas and cosmos to which they are connected.

As it approaches its 30th anniversary, the Immigration Museum's future is now part of the story. In April 2026, Museums Victoria launched a public consultation called IMagine, inviting the community to help shape its next chapter. More than 650 people attended the inaugural open day, representing 96 different cultural groups - spanning three generations.

The Immigration Museum's Place in Australian Life continued

The message emerging from the event has been consistent and echoes the museum's ambition to be recognised as a third place, a space beyond home and work where people can gather. Though my own term as President has long concluded, I will continue to follow this next chapter with pride. The Immigration Museum will remain a place where personal stories continue to be told - and where communities recognise themselves in what they find there. That, to me, is the truest measure of a museum's worth.

Australia Day 1998 Leon Kempler was a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) recipient for service to Trade, in particular as Federal Chairman of the Australian Israel Chamber of Commerce. 2018 Leon Kempler OAM was elevated to a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to the community through contributions to national cultural institutions, charitable, education and children's medical foundations. He is a member of the OAA VIC Branch South Central Suburbs Regional Group.

Photo *1 page 22: Red vinyl suitcase used by Cuc Lam on her journey from Vietnam to Melbourne in 1978. Source: Museums Victoria / Photographer: Benjamin Healley*

Photo *2 page 23: Visitors viewing 'Atong Atem: To Be Real' exhibition in Immigration Museum. Source: Museums Victoria / Photographer: Joel Checkley, Tiny Empire Collective*

50th anniversary of the Chinatown gates in Melbourne CBD

When you step through the archways and into Melbourne's Chinatown, you're entering the oldest continuous Chinatown in the southern hemisphere. It's been 50 years since the iconic archways made their debut along Little Bourke Street, creating a visual gateway to a living heritage precinct.



Alongside Chinese community leaders in the 1970s, Councillor David Wang was behind the push to create the 4 archways, cementing Chinatown as a key part of the Melbourne CBD's identity.

Chinese gateways, known as paifang or pailou, traditionally mark neighbourhood boundaries or the entrances to temples and other significant places. They feature markings to bless visitors.

Designed and built in Melbourne, the archways each stand more than 7 m tall and were recently bejewelled with bright red neon lights. A fifth arch, the Facing Heaven Archway was assembled in Cohen Place by Chinese craftsmen in 1985, a replica of a 600-year-old gate in Nanjing and a gift from Jiangsu Province – the sister-state of Victoria.

It was a safe harbour for many new arrivals – a home away from home where people could find support and stock up on supplies before heading to the gold fields.

Today, the arches are one of Melbourne's most photographed landmarks, with thousands of people heading to Chinatown each year for Lunar New Year celebrations, vibrant lion dances, festivals and food.

On Saturday 22 August 2026, Chinatown continued this much-loved tradition of celebration for the 50th anniversary – crowds enjoyed a colourful parade of lions and dragons, cultural dances and tasty treats.

50th anniversary of the Chinatown gates in Melbourne CBD continued

Half a century after they were installed, the arches are far more than a gateway. They're enduring symbols of pride for Melbourne's Chinese community and an unmistakable invitation to enjoy a whole new world of Asian cuisine, karaoke, cocktail bars and fashion boutiques.

Explore the strip of nineteenth century buildings between Swanston and Spring streets on Little Bourke Street – Australia's oldest Chinatown.

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.



The Governor-General, Her Excellency The Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, speaking at the State Funeral for Professor Richard Scolyer AO.

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.

That one day in September



Thursday 5 March 2026 the AFL season kicked off with a new initiative, the introduction of a Wildcard Finals Round, expanding the finals to 10 teams and replacing the pre-finals bye.

If your team Fremantle or Brisbane Lions is playing in the Grand Final this weekend, please enjoy the excitement AFL Finals bring.

For those who follow other football codes – enjoy your Finals.

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 17 September 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	Justijana Katerinskaja OAM

Merchandise

OAA Merchandise is available to purchase for you and your friends and great as a gift to new recipients

NEW



OAA Sticker $2.50
91mm x 125mm sticker for indoors and outdoor use. The stickers are often placed on car windows, drink bottles and diaries.

End of Season Discount
Knitted scarves – blue and grey reduced to **$24.00 each** till end September



All items and others in the OAA range can be purchased at
www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart