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

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

October 2026



HONOURS RECIPIENTS FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Thursday 27 August 2026

Standing (left to right): Noel Hender OAM BEM (SA Branch Chair and MC), Ray Greig OAM JP (Guest Speaker), Colin Johns OAM JP, Anne Bachmann OAM JP, Shirley Dunn, John Rowley OAM, Jenny Macintosh OAM, Patricia Pledge OAM, Jong-min Chong, Wonho Chong OAM, Wendy Chapmann AM, Andrew Chapmann AM, Emeritus Professor Hilary Winchester AM, Flavia de Pasquale OAM (coordinator)

Seated: Ann Marsh OAM, Hedley Bachmann AM, Dr Aileen Connon AM, Peter Dunn OAM, Dawn Thorp AO

Not in image: Don Clark OAM, Associate Professor John Svigos AM

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION LIMITED, South Australia Branch
To celebrate and promote outstanding Australian Citizenship
PO Box 67, COLLINSWOOD SA 5085 || 0409 672 882 || chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au
https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/sa/about-us/

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

SA BRANCH NEWSLETTER, October 2026

October will be a month of both celebration and reflection for the South Australia Branch as we recognise achievement for new recipients from the King's Birthday Honours list, and acknowledge the closing chapter of a distinguished Vice-Regal partnership.

On 19 October, we will acknowledge at a special reception the final group of Order of Australia recipients invested by Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC before her term concludes on 6 October.

Elsewhere in this newsletter we express our gratitude for Her Excellency's steadfast support as Patron of the SA Branch and her genuine engagement with our members over the past five years.

In recent weeks, the 2026 Student Citizenship Award certificates – each of them personally signed by Her Excellency – have been distributed to 32 schools across the State. These 43 certificates represent Her Excellency's final contribution to a program she has championed with enthusiasm, encouraging young people to embrace service, initiative and leadership. The accompanying SCA medallions will be presented to these students by members of the Association later in term 4.

The 'Top 10' (With Distinction) recipients will be presented with their plaques this year by the National President of The Order of Australia Association, the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, at a special reception on a date to be determined.

Our regional groups have also been active, with the Riverland Region hosting a luncheon in Barmera on 25 September, followed by upcoming gatherings in Cowell on 2 October for the Eyre Peninsula Region, and Ardrossan on 25 October for the Yorke Peninsula Region. These events provide vital connections for fellowship and recognition across the State.

Noel Hender OAM BEM
SA Branch Chair

REMINDER



SA BRANCH NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION
Monday 19 October 2026

We look forward to seeing you at our New Recipients' Reception at Payneham Library, to acknowledge 2026 King's Birthday Honours List recipients. New recipients may attend as a guest of the South Australia Branch.

Full-size medals should be worn.

We will have an interesting Guest Speaker, raffles, and Order of Australia Association merchandise will be available to purchase.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday 2 October: Eyre Peninsula Regional Group luncheon meeting (note confirmed new date)

Monday 19 October: New Recipients' Reception (see Reply Form attached and online)

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

Monday 23 November: Student Citizenship Awards 2026 Top 10 award ceremony

Friday 18 December: Christmas Morning Tea

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

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

Friday 26 February: South East Regional Group annual luncheon meeting

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
Post-Nominals – Foreign Awards

'The Order of Wearing Honours and Awards' permits the wearing of foreign awards, provided the acceptance and wearing has been authorised by the Governor-General.

To count as an 'official award' and to receive 'permission to wear', the issuing country must be listed in the 'Schedule of Approved Countries and Awards approved by the Governor-General (the current version is as at 1 May 2026)':

https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards/accepting-and-wearing-foreign-awards-australians

Typically, foreign honours and awards are worn after all other awards in the Australian Honours System, including commemorative medals and long service medals.

Foreign honours and awards are usually worn in the order of the date on which they were awarded (with some exceptions for Australian Defence Force personnel).

Prior to 1992, awards within the UK honours system made to Australian citizens were considered as 'imperial' awards and were worn according to the Order of Precedence.

All awards made to Australian citizens from the UK honours system after 5 October 1992 are classed as 'foreign awards', and should be worn accordingly. This does not, however, include honours and awards conferred by The Sovereign in exercise of the Royal Prerogative, such as the various grades of the Royal Victorian Order.

Post-nominals

By convention, post-nominals relating to foreign honours and awards are not recognised officially.

The document "Guidelines concerning the acceptance and wearing of foreign honours and awards by Australians (approved by the Governor-General February 2026" dated 25 February 2026 states that officially approved foreign awards do not attract the official use of post-nominals or formal titles in Australia.

An exception might be at an event for which the award has specific relevance – for example, a Philippine decoration when attending a Philippines National Day or Armed Forces Day event at which the Philippine Ambassador or other senior dignitary will be present.

Serving Defence personnel may not use post-nominals and titles associated with foreign nation decorations (other than for British Imperial awards issued prior to 1992).

In the obituary of a military veteran, post-nominals of foreign honours and awards may unofficially be used after their name to show their accomplishments, with the country of origin shown in brackets. For example, in the obituary of an Australian recipient of the French *Légion d'honneur* (National Order of the Legion of Honour), the post-nominals "Ld'H(Fr)" might be used.

If a foreign honour is not on the Schedule of Approved Countries and Awards, the post-nominal letters cannot be used in official contexts or in signature blocks within Australia.

// to be continued

VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

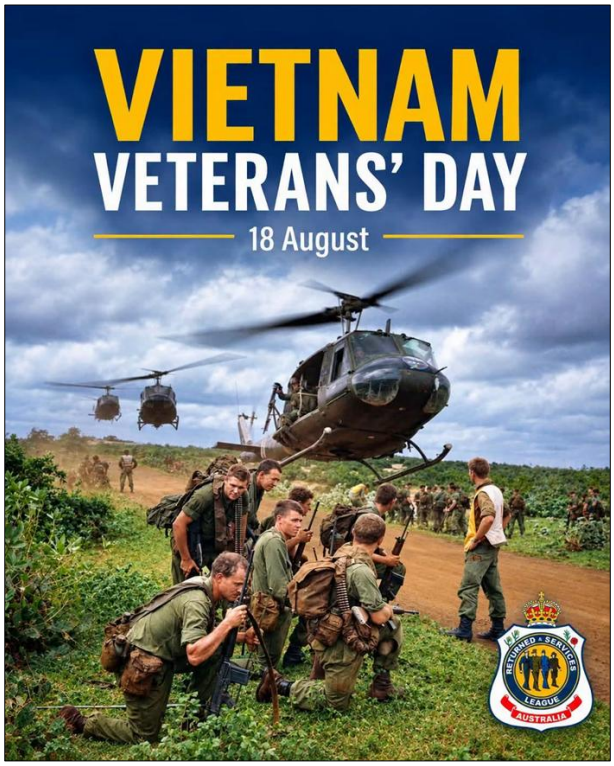
Adelaide, Tuesday 18 August 2026

On Vietnam Veterans Day veterans, families and mates gathered at the Vietnam War Memorial at Torrens Parade Ground to honour the more than 60,000 Australians who served in the Vietnam War. They paid their respects to those who lost their lives, those who were wounded, and those who returned carrying the physical and emotional scars of war.

In particular, this ceremony also marked the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, which the RSL has described as a battle that has come to symbolise the service of all Australians who served in Vietnam.

A number of recipients of the Order of Australia and members of the Association were in attendance. Lieutenant-Colonel John Spencer OAM RFD (ret'd) represented the National Servicemen's Association, and also the SA/NT Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia.

John delivered the key-note address, speaking of the purpose, planning and dedication of the Vietnam War Memorial – as the former RSL South Australia State Secretary, John had been instrumental in establishing this memorial.







HONOURING VIETNAM VETERANS

As part of the 2027 Order of Australia Association National Conference in Adelaide, the Conference Sub-committee is planning a Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the St Peter's College Memorial Hall. The Memorial Hall stands as a sacred space and constant reminder of the members of the St Peter's College community who served and/or made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Within the foyer of the hall are honour boards bearing the names of Old Scholars who served in wars from the Boer War through to contemporary campaigns and peacekeeping missions. Among those listed are some Vietnam War veterans who have been honoured with the Order of Australia.

The Honourable Dr Nigel Drury Abbott AM
"*For service to the community, particularly through local government and to the Tasmanian Parliament*" (QB94)
Lieutenant-Colonel, Royal Australian Army Medical Corps, 8th Field Ambulance and 1st Australian Field Hospital (1968)

Dr Peter Dudley Byrne AM RFD ED
"*For service to the Australian Army Reserve as Director of Medical Services 4th Military District*" (Military Division, AD92)
Major, Royal Australian Army Medical Corps, 1st Australian Field Hospital (1969-70)

Major-General James Curnow Hughes AO DSO MC
"For service to the Australian Army" (Military Division, AD82)
Lieutenant-Colonel**,** Royal Australian Infantry Corps (1966, 1970); 4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (1971)

Dr (Colonel) Allan Kerr Grant AO RFD ED
"*In recognition of service to medicine, particularly in the field of gastroenterology and to medical education*" (AD91)
Colonel, Royal Australian Army Medical Corps (1968-69)

Dr Peter Murray Last OAM
"*For service to Medicine*" (QB91)

Lieutenant-Colonel Ivan Grattan Wheaton OAM RFD ED
"*For service to Regimental and Military History and to the South Australian Branch of the Royal Geographical Society of Australia*" (QB97)
Lieutenant-Colonel, Royal Australian Infantry Corps**,** attached to the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (1967)



MALAYA & BORNEO VETERANS COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

Sarawak, Thursday 27 August 2026

The South Australia & Northern Territory Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia acknowledges with honour and gratitude the support provided by the people of Borneo to Australian personnel in 1965 and 1966 during military deployments during Confrontation to support the defence of Sabah and Sarawak.

In particular, the Branch honours the sacrifice of eight Australian soldiers who died on operational service in Sarawak in 1965 and 1966, and three who died after being evacuated from Sarawak.

Since that time Australian, New Zealand and Malaysian defence personnel have contributed to peace and security across the world. At this year's Anzac Dawn Service in Kuala Lumpur, the Australian High Commissioner spoke of enduring Australia-Malaysia defence and security ties and said, "*the legacy of those who served here is not only written in history, it is carried forward in the strength of our relationships*". The SA/NT Branch is proud of its ongoing relationship with Sarawak.

South Australian NMBVAA State President Major (ret'd) Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP, who planned and coordinated the Sarawak Reunion Pilgrimage, said: "*Through our visits and the support we provide, the Branch hopes to maintain these strong bonds of friendship between Australia and Malaysia, contributing to the future stability and prosperity of the region*".

Operation 'Hornbill 2026' was recently conducted, primarily to participate in activities and ceremonies to mark the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Malaysia-Indonesia Peace Agreement at Istana Merdeka in Jakarta, Indonesia on 11 August 1966. This 'Jakarta Accord' brought to an end the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia.

Considerable support was given to the pilgrimage party by Dato Lim Kian Hock PSBS JBK OAM, former Heritage Adviser with the Sarawak Tourism Federation, and former State Secretary for Sarawak.

Dato Lim was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (Honorary) in the General Division on 8 July 2022, "*For service to Australia-Malaysia relations, particularly to commemorating the role played by Australians in Sarawak, Malaysia, during World War II*". In 2016, Lim Kian Hock was awarded the *Panglima Setia Bintang Sarawak* (PSBS) by the Governor of Sarawak: this award, Commander of the Order of the Star of Sarawak, bestows upon the recipient the title 'Dato'.

A public Service of Commemoration was held at the Borneo War Memorial in Batu Lintang Memorial Square in Kuching on Thursday 27 August. The focus of the service was honouring the fallen and reflecting on 60 years of regional peace.

A ceremonial detachment representing the Commonwealth forces was provided by British Forces Brunei / 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles commanded by Warrant Officer Class 2 Sunil Galami.

2RGR carries forward the heritage of the Confrontation-era 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles, known as the 'Borneo Victoria Cross Battalion' – on 21 November 1965, Lance-Corporal Rambahadur Limbu performed acts of bravery which led to the awarding of the Victoria Cross, the only VC awarded during the post-World War 2 Malayan wars.

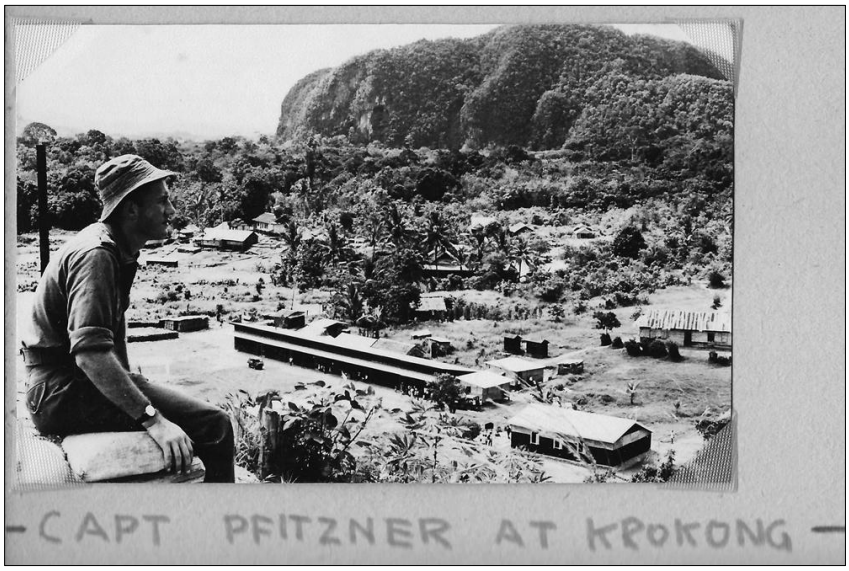
Also providing outstanding support to the NMBVAA delegation was Datuk Dr Philip Ting PGBK AM, Australian Honorary Consul to Sarawak – who is in fact Australia's longest serving honorary consul.

Philip was appointed an Honorary Member of the Order of Australia in the General Division on 1 July 2010, "*For service to the Australian Government as the Honorary Consul of Australia – Kuching, in Sarawak, Malaysia*".

Philip also holds the Panglima Gemilang Bintang Kenyalang (PGBK): this award, Grand Commander of the Order of the Star of the Sarawak Hornbill, bestows upon the recipient the title 'Datuk'.



Lieutenant-Colonel John Spencer OAM RFD (ret'd) places a tribute at the Borneo War Memorial in Batu Lintang Memorial Square in Kuching, flanked by Gurkha soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles.



Paul Rosenzweig provided this photograph for use by the Sarawak Tourism Federation in commemorative materials marking the 60th anniversary of the end of Indonesia's Confrontation with Malaysia.

The photograph comes from the album of Acting Sergeant Wilhelmus (Bill) Lagas, who served in Sarawak in 1965 as a member of the Intelligence Cell of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (used with permission).

The image shows Captain Fred Pfitzner overlooking Kampung Krokong, the site of a platoon patrol base near the Sarawak-Kalimantan border.

47031 Brigadier Errold Frederick ('Fred') Pfitzner AM (1939-2015)

Captain Fred Pfitzner from South Australia was a Regular Army officer of the Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

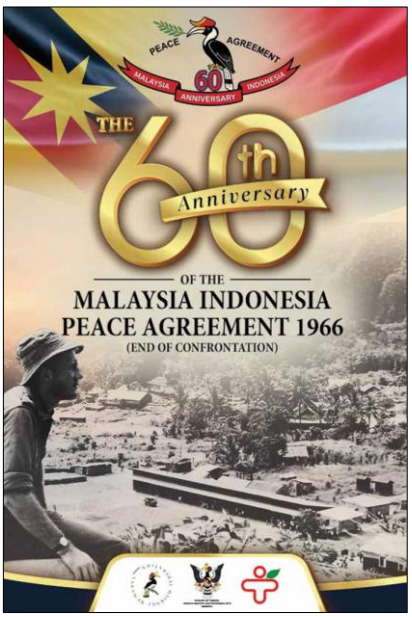
He attained the rank of Brigadier, and in the Australia Day Honours List of 26 January 1990 was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Military Division, "*For service to the Australian Army as the Chief of Staff Joint Exercise Planning Staff*".

Errol Frederick Pfitzner was born in Adelaide on 9 September 1939. He graduated from the Royal Military College Duntroon in December 1961, and was assigned to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. He served with the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR) on the Malay Peninsula, and as a Temporary Captain saw active service in Sarawak during Confrontation.

Whilst on Borneo he was detached for an official duty visit to South Vietnam in April-May 1965, and he later deployed with Headquarters, 1st Australian Task Force in 1967. He was detached to 5RAR for the majority of his time in South Vietnam. During the Australian withdrawal from South Vietnam, he was the commander of 'Fred Force', a company group based on 'A' Company, 9RAR which was on standby for deployment to South Vietnam if required. Later in his career Pfitzner was Commanding Officer of the 8/9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment in 1978-80; Director of Infantry; and a Brigade Commander. Fred Pfitzner died on 9 March 2015, aged 75 years.



The official Sarawak Government banner for the commemorative ceremonies to mark the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Malaysia-Indonesia Peace Agreement on 11 August 1966 which brought Indonesia's Confrontation with Malaysia to an end.



The cover of the commemorative book for the 60th anniversary events.

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

OUR BRANCH PATRON

Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC

Branch Chair Noel Hender OAM BEM wishes to share this letter received from our Branch Patron regarding the conclusion of Her Excellency's Vice-Regal term.

GOVERNOR OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Ref: 15/01/049

Tuesday, 1 September 2026

Dear Noel,

As you may be aware, my term as Governor concludes on Tuesday, 6 October 2026.

That means my term as your patron will also come to an end then.

I want you to know it has been a privilege and pleasure to have served as your patron, and I send my best wishes to you and all at the Order of Australia Association - South Australian Branch.

I look forward to seeing you or your representative at the Patronage Reception in late September.

Yours sincerely

Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC
GOVERNOR OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mr Noel Hender OAM BEM
Chair
The Order of Australia Association - South Australian Branch
PO Box 67
COLLINSWOOD SA 5081

GOVERNMENT HOUSE ADELAIDE

A TRIBUTE TO OUR BRANCH PATRON
Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC

As the conclusion of her five-year tenure has approached Her Excellency – the 36th Governor of South Australia – decided to not accept an invitation to renew her appointment.

Frances Adamson, a former diplomat and public servant, was appointed Governor on 7 October 2021.

She was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia, "*For eminent service to public administration through the advancement of Australia's diplomatic, trade and cultural interests, particularly with the People's Republic of China and the Indo-Pacific region, to innovative foreign policy development and high level program delivery, and as the 36th Governor appointed in South Australia*" (QB21).

Her Excellency was also appointed a Dame of Grace of the Order of St John (DStJ).

Her Excellency has been patron of some 120 organisations, plus more than 50 jointly with her husband Mr Rod Bunten. Through these relationships Her Excellency has promoted six priority areas: leadership, civics and citizenship, international engagement, gender equality, support for Reconciliation, and business. Her aim has been to bring together organisations and people to foster collaboration and deepen understanding of issues of importance to South Australia.







Branch Chair Noel Hender has provided this tribute from the South Australia Branch:

Over the past five years, the South Australia Branch of the Order of Australia Association Ltd has been privileged to enjoy the patronage of the Governor of South Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC. Throughout her term, Her Excellency – supported unfailingly by her husband Mr Rod Bunten – has demonstrated a deep and genuine commitment to the values and work of the Association.

Her Excellency has been a steadfast advocate for the Order, welcoming members to Government House for numerous investitures and special occasions. These events have been marked by her warm hospitality, thoughtful engagement, and sincere respect for the achievements of recipients across the State.

A particular hallmark of Her Excellency's patronage has been her enthusiastic support for our Student Citizenship Awards. Each year, she has personally signed certificates and, together with Mr Bunten, hosted a reception at Government House for student recipients and their families.

Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC

In her support of the Student Citizenship Awards program, Her Excellency has each year awarded plaques to the 'Top Ten' (With Distinction) recipients and the Student Citizen of the Year. The upper image on the previous page shows Her Excellency with Callum Gregory from Mount Gambier High School, the 2025 South Australian Student Citizen of the Year – and the inaugural recipient of the Keith 'Chook' Fowler OAM Award.

Branch Chair Noel Hender continues:

Her Excellency's interest in encouraging young South Australians to embrace civics, citizenship, and community service has been both inspiring and deeply appreciated.

Her Excellency has also contributed significantly to the broader life of the Association. She has addressed members as keynote speaker at major functions, encouraged participation in Government House open days and seminars, and facilitated thoughtful discussions on contemporary issues.

Her leadership was especially valued during the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the Order of Australia. Her Excellency was guest speaker during our King's Birthday Luncheon, and cut our special birthday cake to mark the 50-year anniversary of the institution of the Australian Honours System and the Order of Australia. She helped highlight the enduring importance of the Order in recognising service and achievement across the nation.

The South Australia Branch expresses its sincere gratitude for Her Excellency's generous patronage, her meaningful engagement, and the many opportunities she has provided to our members and to the wider South Australian community. Her support has strengthened the Association's mission and enriched its contribution to civic life.

Her Excellency has also been an enthusiastic supporter of the Branch's plan to host the Order of Australia Association National Conference in May 2027, and can be seen welcoming delegates in the promotional video which may be found on the national home page (Ctrl+Click to follow the link):

https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/

Her Excellency will complete her Vice-Regal appointment on 6 October 2026. At Clarence House in London on Monday 27 July, Her Excellency and Mr Bunten were received for a farewell audience by His Majesty The King.

The SA Branch has been pleased to have as its Patron Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, and we tender our best wishes for her future endeavours.



FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2026

RAY GREIG OAM KStJ JP AFIEA MAICD
Thursday 27 August 2026

Our Guest Speaker for the August Fellowship Luncheon was former St John Ambulance SA Commissioner Ray Greig OAM. His topic was, "*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*".

The MC was SA Branch Chair Noel Hender OAM BEM, also a former St John Ambulance SA Commissioner.

Ray joined the St John Ambulance Brigade (as it was known then) in 1969. He rose through the ranks of Divisional Officer, Superintendent, District (State) Officer, State Superintendent and Commissioner (2008-14).

Meanwhile he had a career in the Public Service spanning 43 years employed by SA Water, and has been volunteering as a Justice of the Peace for 22 years. 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.

Ray was admitted to the Most Venerable Order of St John in 1984 at the grade of Serving Brother (SBStJ). As a Corps Staff Officer with St John Ambulance, on 15 May 1986 he was awarded the National Medal for 15 years' long service.

He was promoted to Officer of the Order of St John (OStJ) in 1989, and then Commander (CStJ) in 2001, and was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2001, "*For long and voluntary service through St John*".

In 2008, he was promoted to the grade of Knight of Grace of the Order of St John (KStJ), and in 2010 was awarded the OAM, "*For service to the community through St John Ambulance Australia*" (AD10).

He had received the Service Medal of the Order of St John with several bars for long service, but in 2020 this was superseded by the newly-instituted Ultra-Long Service Medal of the Order of St John – in recognition of 50 years' service with St John Ambulance.



The Ultra-Long Service Medal of the Order of St John



Presentation ceremony, 7 December 2020

Ultra-Long Service Medal

The Ultra Long Service extension to the Service Medal of the Order of St John was introduced on 1 January 2020 to recognise 50 years of qualifying service.

The Service Medal of the Order of St John had originally been announced in the St John Ambulance Brigade General Regulations for 1895. The design was approved by Chapter-General on 29 November 1898, and the design of the black and white ribbon was approved on 3 January 1899. Final approval was granted on 31 October 1899, and medals were first minted and awarded that year.

The Service Medal was originally awarded for 15 years' service, but the length of service required for recognition has varied over the years and in different countries. In 2020, the qualifying period of service for the Service Medal was standardised worldwide to ten years. Additional service every five years is recognised by silver and gold bars.

In 2020 the Ultra Long Service Medal was introduced to recognise service of 50 years or more. This medal has the same design as the Service Medal of the Order of St John, but with a gold-plate finish. The suspension ribbon is also the same but the central black stripe is dissected by a 3 mm gold stripe. Subsequent service is recognised by a gold bar every five years.

The original Service Medal of the Order of St John can now be awarded with up to four Gold Service Bars to recognise a total of 45 years' service.

Upon achieving 50 years' service, the Ultra Long Service Medal is awarded, and the Service Medal is removed and replaced.

The St John Ambulance Museum and Research Centre in Arundel Road, Brighton holds a cased specimen Ultra-Long Service Medal as part of its collection. This was presented to the St John Ambulance Historical Society of SA by the then Governor of South Australia, the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC KStJ on 16 May 2021.

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2026

Associate Professor John Svigos
AM MBBS DRCOG MRCOG CBioEth
FAGO FRCOG FRACOG FRANZCOG
Thursday 29 October 2026

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

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

2027 Luncheon Program

Thursday 25 February
Emeritus Professor Hilary Winchester AM:
"*Intangible heritage and women's lives in Queensland frontier towns of the early 20th century*"

Thursday 29 April
Squadron Leader Mike Turton AM (ret'd):
"*Israel and Gulf War I: our life before, during and after*"

Thursday 24 June
John Rowley OAM

Thursday 26 August
Wonho Chong OAM JP

Thursday 28 October

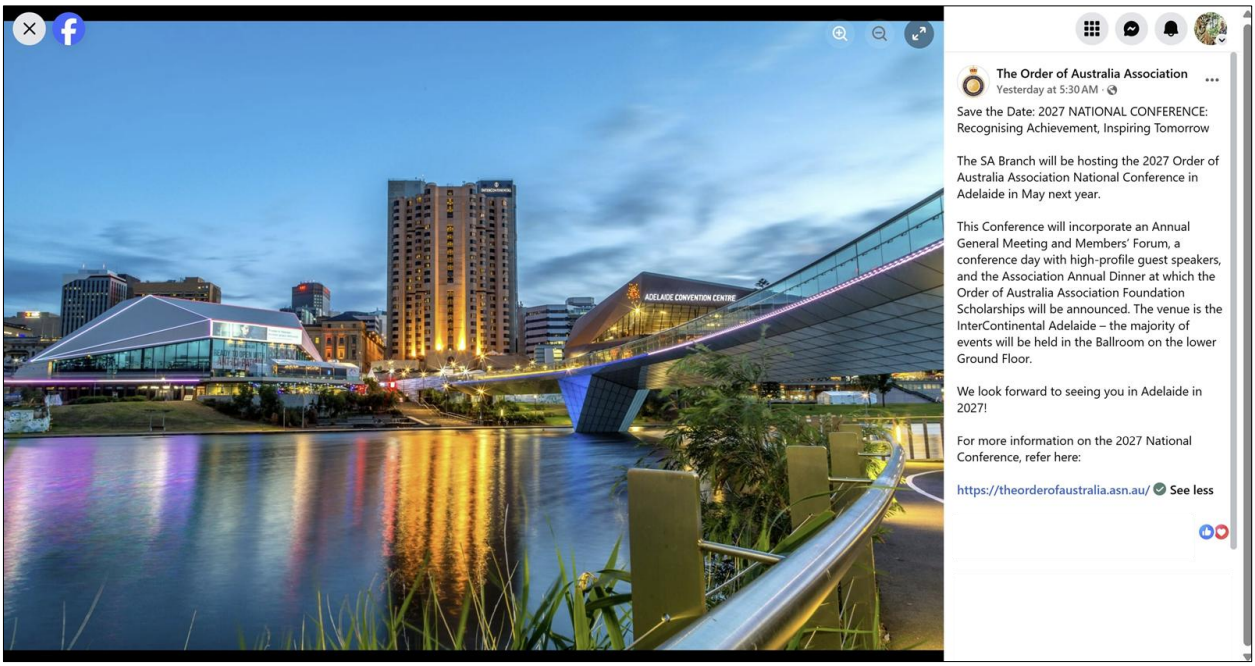
The Order of Australia Association
148 likes • 257 followers
Celebrating and promoting outstanding Australian citizenship!
Nonprofit organization

SOCIAL MEDIA

You can keep up to date with the activities and personalities of the Order of Australia Association through the official Facebook page. You can find the page here (Ctrl+Click to follow the link):

The Order of Australia Association

The latest post refers to the 2027 Order of Australia Association National Conference in Adelaide in May next year – with the theme "Recognising Achievement, Inspiring Tomorrow".



SPECIAL PROJECT GRANT

SA Branch Chair Noel Hender OAM BEM reports that the MaC Special Project Grant from the History Trust of South Australia gets underway at the end of this month. The project will be led by Denise Schumann OAM. Denise will be completing an audit and assessment of the historical collection currently held by the Association.

This grant has been approved to enable an approved contractor to be engaged to develop governance guidelines, conduct an audit of our collection, and to conduct a significance assessment. This project will support preparations for the SA Branch's 50-Year Anniversary. The memories, people and milestones of our Association deserve to be preserved and celebrated. This project is vital in honouring the past while shaping how we reflect on it into the future.

If any members are holding documents or photos that may be of historical significance for the Association and are happy to donate that to the Collection for assessment, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the Branch Chair to share your material:

chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS 2026

Nominations for the 2026 Awards closed on Monday 27 July 2026. Awards Convenor Dr Neville Highett AM is pleased to confirm that there were 43 submissions received for consideration, from 31 schools and colleges.

These comprise the Top 10 ('With Distinction'), 15 students who were rated as 'Highly Commended', and 18 Awardees.

All students will receive a certificate signed by Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia and Patron of the Order of Australia Association SA Branch, and the SA Branch Chair Mr Noel Hender OAM BEM.

In previous years the Top 10 awards have been presented by the Governor, however Her Excellency concludes her term of office on 6 October. For this year's ceremony, the Top 10 awards will be presented by the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, former South Australian Governor and President of the Order of Australia Association Limited.

In this ceremony the Student Citizen of the Year will be announced and presented with the Keith 'Chook' Fowler OAM Award for the 2026 Student Citizen of the Year.

The Top 10 award ceremony will be held at Adelaide Town Hall on Monday 23 November, hosted by the Lord Mayor of Adelaide Dr Jane Lomax-Smith AM.

Members interested in presenting a Student Citizenship Award certificate and medallion at a school assembly later this year are welcome to contact the Awards Convenor Neville Highett:

SCA.sabranch@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

SA BRANCH
NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION
Monday 19 October 2026

We will acknowledge recipients of awards in the Order of Australia from the 2026 King's Birthday Honours List at our New Recipients' Reception at Payneham Library.

Among the 703 recipients of awards in the General Division, there were 65 South Australian recipients. These include:

- 1 promotion to Companion of the Order (AC)
- 5 appointments as an Officer of the Order (AO)
- 16 appointments as a Member (AM)
- 1 promotion to Member of the Order
- 38 awards of the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)
- 4 people were posthumously awarded the OAM

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

- 1 promotion to Officer of the Order
- 1 award of the Medal of the Order of Australia

ASSOCIATION NAME BADGE

Association members may purchase a name badge using the Order Form found on our website – which you can access via the QR Code above or this link:

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

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

NEW MEMBERS

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

Richard Grant Giles OAM

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:

Membership Application - The Order of Australia Association

VALE

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

Robert John Mayo AM

VALE
Robert 'Bob' Mayo AM (1941-2026)

Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) recently announced the passing of Bob Mayo AM on 4 June 2026.

Bob dedicated more than six decades of service to surf life saving. He was a Life Member of Surf Life Saving Australia, Surf Life Saving South Australia and South Port Surf Life Saving Club (SA).

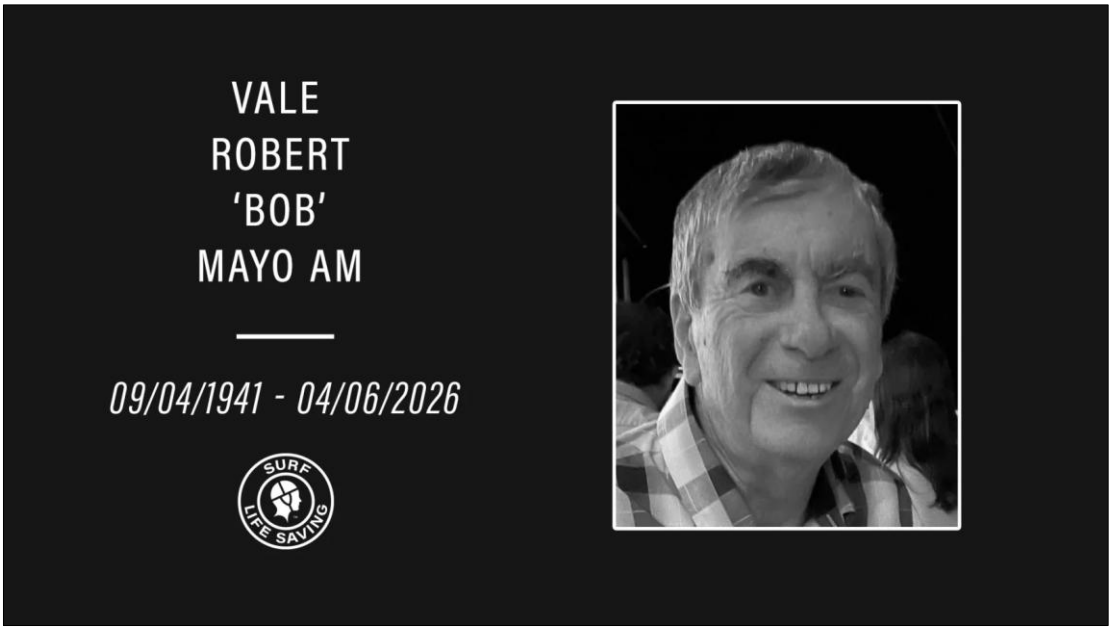
Bob first joined South Port SLSC in the 1960s. He served in a number of leadership roles including Secretary, Treasurer and Club Captain, and was honoured as a Life Member of the club in 1969.

In his obituary, SLSA noted that Bob was instrumental in shaping the South Port March Past Team, serving as a coach and mentor for over thirty years.

Bob was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia, "*For service to Surf Lifesaving in South Australia*" (AD99).

His ongoing and outstanding service was duly recognised with his induction into the SLSA Hall of Fame in 2008 as an individual, and again in 2015, as a member and coach of the South Port March Past Team.

SLSA observed: "*Bob leaves behind a significant legacy as a respected leader, a powerful advocate for March Past, and for his lifelong service to South Port SLSC and surf lifesaving in South Australia*".



The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2027

The SA Branch Planning Sub-committee is working to develop an interesting and engaging Order of Australia Association National Conference in May 2027. Details are progressively being added to the OAA National website:

https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/



The venue for the 2027 Order of Australia Association National Conference is the InterContinental Adelaide – the majority of events will be held in the Ballroom on the lower Ground Floor. Accommodation packages will be released in due course.



One of the optional activities will be a visit to the Army Museum of South Australia, which showcases the State's military heritage from pre-colonial days to the present, including this display relating to Confrontation and the Vietnam War. Pictured (centre) is a South Australian digger Private Oscar Johnsson of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment in 1965 on patrol near the Sarawak-Kalimantan border with a local Iban Tracker, Lulut anak Aloh from Kapit.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2027

KEY SPONSORSHIP ANNOUNCED – ADELAIDE AIRPORT

Proudly connecting and shaping South Australia

The Chair of the South Australia Branch of the Order of Australia Association Mr Noel Hender OAM BEM, and Conference Convenor Mr Tony Metcalf OAM, are pleased to announce that Adelaide Airport has confirmed their support for the Order of Australia National Conference to be held in Adelaide 13-16 May 2027 at the InterContinental Hotel.

We are most grateful for their commitment as a Gold Sponsor which will add to South Australia's ability to present a quality conference for delegates expected from across Australia.

Adelaide Airport achieved a record of more than 9.1 million passengers in 2025/26, led by strong international growth from new airlines and new destinations. A total of 13 international airlines flew out of Adelaide to 12 destinations across the financial year. At its peak, during the summer holiday season, they recorded more than 70 international flights a week.

Over the past year, Adelaide Airport welcomed the first ever direct US service with United Airlines flying to San Francisco, the first service to Christchurch with Air New Zealand and the first flight to Shanghai with China Eastern.

They also welcomed back Qantas international flights for the first time in more than a decade with services to Auckland.

To meet growing demand, Adelaide Airport is undertaking a $600 million infrastructure program, called Project Flight, to upgrade their aeronautical facilities.

Works underway or completed including an expansion of the main check-in hall, expansion of gates and lounges at both ends of the terminal, a full refurbishment of all gate lounges, security upgrades for both passenger screening and checked bag screening and creating more tarmac space in and around the terminal's precinct for aircraft parking.

Again, we are delighted to thank and welcome Adelaide Airport aboard.

Enquiries about sponsorship opportunities for the conference can be directed to:
chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au



We sincerely appreciate the generosity of our Gold Sponsor, Adelaide Airport

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

NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION

REPLY FORM – SA BRANCH NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION, Monday 19 October 2026 – at Payneham Library, 2 Turner Street, Felixstow (off OG Road), at 5.30 for 6 pm, finishing before 8 pm, to acknowledge recipients from the 2026 King's Birthday Honours List. The cost is $35 per head for Order of Australia Association members and their partner/guest, $15 for children under 18. No cost for new recipients who are guests of the SA Branch.

The guest speaker will be Barbara Biggins OAM, speaking about her life and career as an advocate for children's interests regarding the media: "*From Big Tobacco to Big Tech: children, challenges and campaigns*".

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

Please forward this reply form and payment, to be received not later than ***Monday 12 October 2026***

Register online using Humanitix (preferred) using the link below, or scan the QR Code:
https://events.humanitix.com/sa-branch-kb26-new-recipients-reception

Alternately, pay online via EFT, using the code "NRR - your surname"
'Order of Australia Association' // BSB 105-900 // Account no 147028640 (Bank SA)
Scan and send this form to: oaasa.events@gcgordon.id.au

If necessary, forward this Reply Form to:
SA Branch Events Sub-committee: PO Box 67, COLLINSWOOD SA 5085
Please note that we would prefer not to receive cheques and money orders

Name: [please print] …… [post-nominals] ……

Preferred name: …… Phone Contact: ……

Email *or* Address: ……

Dietary requirements [if any] ……

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

Guest 1: …… [post-nominals] ……

Guest 2: …… [post-nominals] ……

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

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

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

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

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

We hope you can join us for this significant event!

CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA



REPLY FORM – SA BRANCH CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA, Friday 18 December 2026 – to celebrate the completion of a successful year, we will hold our annual Christmas Morning Tea at the Goodwood Community Centre, 32/34 Rosa Street in Goodwood, 9.30 am arrival for a 10 am start, finishing at 12 noon.

There is no cost for members and guests.

We will have the usual entertaining raffles, and Order of Australia Association merchandise will be available to purchase.

Full-size medals may be worn.

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

Please RSVP not later than ***Friday 4 December 2026***

Register online using Humanitix (preferred) using the link below:
https://events.humanitix.com/sa-branch-2026-christmas-morning-tea-pc8976lf

Alternately, forward this Reply Form via email: oaasa.events@gcgordon.id.au

If necessary, forward this Reply Form to:
SA Branch Events Sub-committee, PO Box 67, COLLINSWOOD SA 5085

Name: [please print] …… [post-nominals] ……

Preferred name: …… Phone Contact: ……

Email *or* Address: ……

Dietary restrictions [if any] ……

I will be accompanied by (additional guests are very welcome: *please advise names using the email address above*):

Guest 1: …… [post-nominals] ……

Guest 2: …… [post-nominals] ……

Guest 3: …… [post-nominals] ……

Guest's dietary restrictions: ……

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

We hope you can join us for this significant event!