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

November 2026



NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION
Monday 19 October 2026

Congratulations to our new recipients announced in the 2026 King's Birthday Honours List:

Standing, left to right: Andrew van Essen AM; Paul Daly OAM; Paul Boyce OAM; Dennis Oldenhove OAM; Kevin Tannebring OAM.

Seated, left to right: Toni Batten OAM; Lorraine Greenfield OAM; Kate Strohm OAM; Emeritus Professor Mike Young AO; Professor Jozef Gecz AO; Gerard Tancred OAM.

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION LIMITED, South Australia Branch
To celebrate and promote outstanding Australian Citizenship
PO Box 67, COLLINSWOOD SA 5081 || 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, November 2026

In this November newsletter, we highlight several important moments from another busy and rewarding period for the South Australia Branch.

In this edition, we are delighted to announce the Top 10 recipients from the 2026 Student Citizenship Awards. They – along with the winner of the Keith Chook Fowler OAM Student Citizen of the Year Award (to be announced on the night) – will be formally recognised at Adelaide Town Hall on 23 November.

We are very pleased that our National President (and also a former Branch Patron), the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, will present the awards, acknowledging the outstanding service, community commitment and leadership shown by these young South Australians. Their achievements reflect the values we proudly uphold as an Association.

Last month, on 19 October, we hosted the New Recipients' Reception, welcoming and congratulating South Australians recently honoured in the King's Birthday National Honours List. It was a pleasure to meet so many new recipients and their families, and to share with them the role and purpose of the Association as they consider joining our community.

We are also pleased to confirm Adelaide Airport as a Gold Sponsor for the 2027 Order of Australia Association National Conference.

Their support strengthens our preparations and reinforces the significance of hosting the conference here in Adelaide.

As the year draws to a close, we look forward to gathering for our SA Branch Christmas Morning Tea on Friday 18 December, at the Goodwood Community Centre.

This annual event is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the year's achievements and to enjoy fellowship in a relaxed and festive setting.

Noel Hender OAM BEM
SA Branch Chair

REMINDER



SA BRANCH CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA
Friday 18 December 2026

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

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

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Saturday 13 March: SA Branch 41st Annual General Meeting at the Edinburgh Hotel, Mitcham

Friday 26 March: Riverland and Mallee Regional Group luncheon meeting

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

Sunday 2 May: Yorke Peninsula Regional Group luncheon meeting

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
Post-Nominals – Multiple Awards

When the Order of Australia was originally established in 1975, it was created with a Civil Division and a Military Division. By Letters Patent dated 24 May 1976, the former was retitled 'General Division'.

The riband of the Military Division is moire Royal blue silk with a central band of scattered golden mimosa blossoms of various sizes – with gold edge stripes, 1.5 mm in width.

Promotion within the Order of Australia

A recipient of the Order of Australia may subsequently receive the Order at a higher grade in the *same* Division. This is called a 'promotion' within the Order. The Insignia Ordinance provides that such a recipient may only wear the insignia and use the post-nominals of the higher appointment.

Double recipients in the Order of Australia

It is possible for a recipient of the Order of Australia in one Division to receive an award or appointment, at any grade, within the *other* Division.

The Insignia Ordinance provides that such a recipient is entitled to retain and wear the insignia of *both* Divisions.

The insignia of the higher grade is always worn ahead of the lower. If they are at the same level, an award in the General Division takes precedence over the same level of award in the Military Division.

This leads to the arrangement where two full-size medals might be worn beside each other.

Such a recipient is entitled to use both post-nominals, using explanatory parentheses to define the lower award.

Example 1: Warrant Officer Jane Astra received the OAM in the Military Division during her service in the Royal Australian Air Force, and was entitled to use the post-nominals 'OAM'. For her subsequent contributions to the community outside of her Defence service, Mrs Jane Astra was awarded the OAM in the General Division. She may wear the insignia of both awards – with the medal in the General Division taking precedence. She is entitled to use both post-nominals: "OAM OAM(Mil)".

Example 2: Major John Paratus was appointed a Member in the Military Division during his service with the 1st Armoured Regiment, and was entitled to use the post-nominals 'AM'. For his subsequent contributions to the community after leaving the Australian Army, Mr John Paratus was awarded the OAM in the General Division. He may wear the insignia of both awards – with the insignia of the AM taking precedence ahead of the OAM. He is entitled to use both post-nominals: "AM OAM(Gen)".

Conclusion

Using post-nominals consistently ensures fairness, recognises members' achievements, and reflects the integrity of the Australian Honours System.

Our Association follows this standard approach so that all recipients are acknowledged respectfully and in line with common national practice.

'AUSTRALIANS IN SARAWAK'
SHARED HISTORIES – ENDURING FRIENDSHIP, SIDE BY SIDE 2026

The South Australia & Northern Territory Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia recently conducted a Sarawak Reunion Pilgrimage. The primary purpose was 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.

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, NMBVAA 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*".

One of the key activities during the visit was the launch of a Photo Exhibition in Kuching titled "Australians in Sarawak: Shared Histories – Enduring Friendship, Side by Side 2026".

The exhibition was arranged by Group Captain Belinda Edmunds, Australian Defence Advisor to Malaysia at the Australian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur.

Through a carefully curated collection of black-and-white photographs provided by the Australian War Memorial and the SA/NT Branch NMBVAA, the exhibition invited visitors to remember, reflect upon and appreciate the courage, sacrifice and enduring friendships forged during two defining periods of the twentieth century – World War 2 and Confrontation.



Lieutenant-Colonel John Spencer OAM RFD (ret'd) discusses regional military history

Another aim of the Branch visit to Sarawak was to donate two original military ammunition boxes to the Principal of *Sekolah Kebangsaan* Serebak school in Kampung Serikin, and the *Ketua Kampung* (Village Chief) of Kampung Gumbang, for inclusion in their museum collections.

These boxes, which contained belted 7.62 mm machine-gun ammunition, had been used at the Serikin patrol base by members of 'C' Company of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR) during an alert one night in May 1965.

One of these ammunition boxes was displayed at the launch of the photo exhibition on 26 August, and was shown to the Guest of Honour, the Deputy Premier of Sarawak, Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian DA PNBS PJN MLA, a cardiologist who graduated from Monash University.



Datuk Dr Philip Ting, Australian Honorary Consul to Sarawak, and South Australian NMBVAA State President Paul Rosenzweig with one of the 1965 ammunition boxes donated by a Branch member.

Another of the VIP guests at the launch was Datuk Dr Philip Ting PGBK AM, the Australian Honorary Consul to Sarawak. Philip Ting 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*". He 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'.

FAREWELL TO OUR BRANCH PATRON
Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC

On 22 September, the Governor and Mr Rod Bunten hosted the first of two Patronage Receptions at Government House, welcoming representatives from organisations of which they are Patrons, Joint Patrons or Honorary members.

Among the SA Branch members who were in attendance representing various organisations were Antonietta (Toni) Cocchiaro OAM, Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP, and Dr Richard Willing OAM (pictured right, courtesy of Government House).

Chair Noel Hender OAM BEM represented the SA Branch of the Order of Australia Association at a second reception Thursday 24 September. Also attending that night was Kathryn House AM.

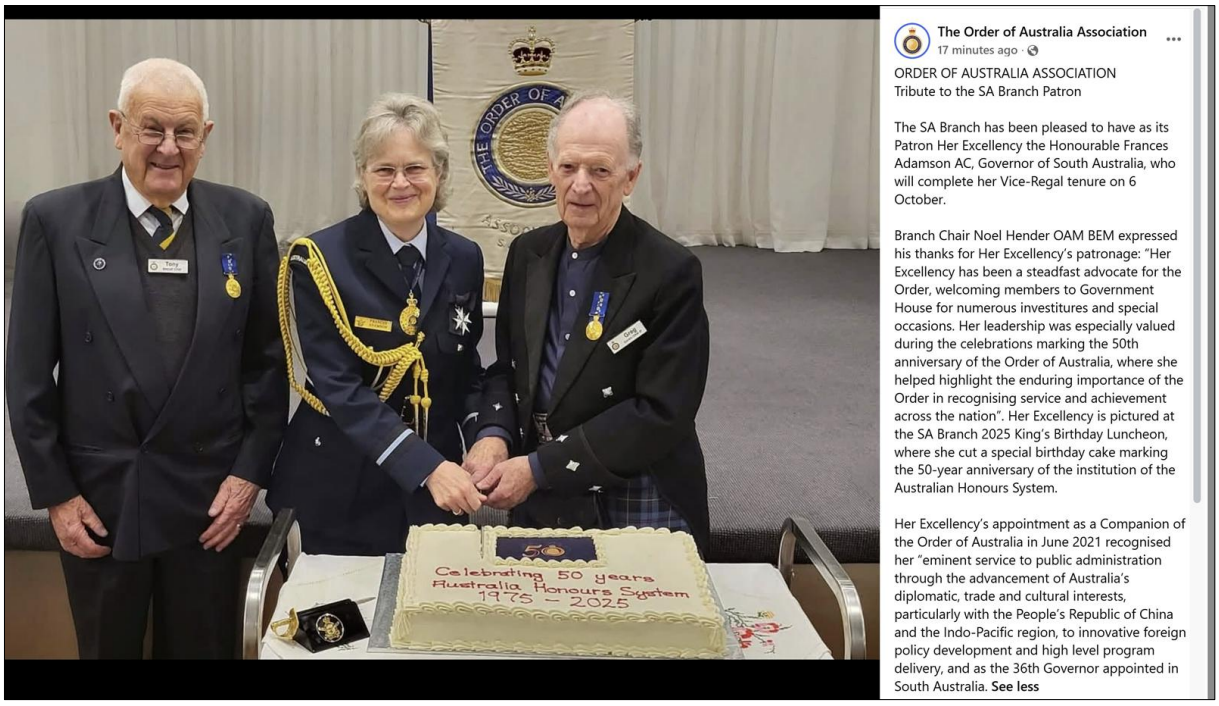


The Order of Australia Association
148 likes • 257 followers
Celebrating and promoting outstanding Australian citizenship!
Nonprofit organization

SOCIAL MEDIA

Members can keep up to date with the activities and personalities of the Order of Australia Association through the Association's official Facebook page. The latest post refers to our Branch acknowledgement of the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, who has served as our Branch Patron for the past five years. You can find the page here (Ctrl+Click to follow the link):

The Order of Australia Association



The Order of Australia Association
17 minutes ago ·

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION
Tribute to the SA Branch Patron

The SA Branch has been pleased to have as its Patron Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, who will complete her Vice-Regal tenure on 6 October.

Branch Chair Noel Hender OAM BEM expressed his thanks for Her Excellency's patronage: "Her Excellency has been a steadfast advocate for the Order, welcoming members to Government House for numerous investitures and special occasions. Her leadership was especially valued during the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the Order of Australia, where she helped highlight the enduring importance of the Order in recognising service and achievement across the nation". Her Excellency is pictured at the SA Branch 2025 King's Birthday Luncheon, where she cut a special birthday cake marking the 50-year anniversary of the institution of the Australian Honours System.

Her Excellency's appointment as a Companion of the Order of Australia in June 2021 recognised her "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. See less

GOVERNOR OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

GOVERNOR OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

On Tuesday 6 October, Premier Peter Malinauskas announced that His Majesty King Charles III had approved his recommendation to appoint Commissioner Grant Stevens APM as the 37th Governor of South Australia.

Grantley John Stevens was awarded the Australian Police Medal in the 2012 Australia Day Honours List.

The Premier said that Commissioner Stevens had devoted his working life to serving and protecting South Australians, from frontline policing to leading our response to major emergencies.

It is expected that the swearing-in ceremony will occur on 9 December.





GOVERNMENT HOUSE OPEN DAY

Sunday 8 November 2026

Government House will be holding an Open Day on Sunday 8 November 2026 between 10 am and 2 pm.

Open Days at Government House provide an opportunity for members of the public to explore the residence of the Governor of South Australia and tour the gardens.

Members of the SA Branch Committee will be on duty to answer questions about the Order of Australia and the nomination process.

Entry is free and bookings are not required.

For additional information, please refer to the Government House website:

https://www.governor.sa.gov.au/vice-regal/government-house-open-day

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2027

2027 LUNCHEON PROGRAM

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

The next Fellowship Luncheon will be held on **Thursday 25 February 2027**.

There has been a rescheduling – the guest speaker will now be **John Rowley OAM**, talking on the topic "David Bower, the forgotten Philanthropist: the story of the founder of Port Adelaide".

John was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia, "*For service to the Liberal Party, and the community of South Australia*" (KB25).

For further information, and to register your interest in being a speaker, please contact:

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

Pamela Rajkowski OAM
0400 810 196 | pamraj@bigpond.com



John Rowley OAM



KATHRYN HOUSE AM

Congratulations to SA Branch member, and former Branch Committee member, Kathryn House AM who has been re-elected to the Board of the Royal Zoological Society of South Australia (Zoos SA). Kath said, "*It's a privilege to continue contributing to one of South Australia's most iconic organisations, and one I care deeply about*".



HENRY YOUNG OAM

We send our congratulations and best wishes to SA Branch member Henry Young who will compete at the World Tennis Masters Tour Championships in Crete. Henry is a World War 2 veteran and centenarian, recognised as the world's oldest competitive tennis player. He was awarded the OAM, "*For service to veterans, and to tennis*" (KB25).

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS 2026

TOP TEN – 'WITH DISTINCTION'

The Student Citizenship Awards program is conducted annually as the flagship program of the SA Branch of the Order of Australia Association. Senior students are nominated by their schools and selected from submissions assessed against four criteria – leadership, contributions to the school and/or community and contributions to the environment and/or community development, as well as pride in Australian citizenship.

The Awards are intended to recognise those senior secondary students who actively engage with and contribute to school and/or local communities rather than for specific academic or sporting achievements. The Awards exemplify the Association's objective:

To celebrate and promote outstanding Australian citizenship

For 2026, a total of 43 submissions were received, from 31 schools and colleges. The following students have been identified as the Top 10 recipients for 2026, and will receive a 'With Distinction' award:

Nathan Bishop, Blackfriars Priory School

Maggie Collins, Tenison Woods College

Eva Fiebig, Seymour College

Jenny Ngoc Anh Huynh, Woodville High School

Karsha Ireland, Port Broughton Area School

John Thomas Lucas, St Peter's College

Abinav Murugappa, University Senior College

Marzila Osmani, Thebarton Senior College

Chloe Riley, St Michael's College

Elena Wabnitz, Temple Christian College



Each will receive a Student Citizenship Award medallion mounted on an engraved wooden plaque, as well as a 'With Distinction' certificate signed by Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, immediate past Governor of South Australia and Patron of the Order of Australia Association SA Branch, and the SA Branch Chair Mr Noel Hender OAM BEM.

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.

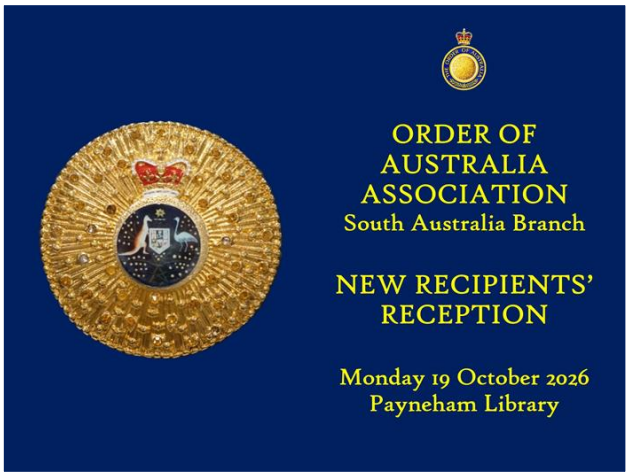
The Top 10 award ceremony will be held at Adelaide Town Hall on Monday 23 November, hosted by the Lord Mayor of Adelaide Dr Jane Lomax-Smith AM.

In addition to the 'Top Ten', a further 33 students will receive a certificate and medallion – 15 of whom were rated as 'Highly Commended'. From 2025 for three years, these medallions are being provided through the generous support of the Government of South Australia.

We heartily congratulate these students on being selected for this well-deserved award.

Contact person for further information:
Dr Neville Highett AM, Convenor Student Citizenship Awards
sca.sabranch@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch





NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION
Monday 19 October 2026

We gathered at Payneham Library to acknowledge several Order of Australia recipients from the 2026 King's Birthday Honours List.

On behalf of the Committee and members of the SA Branch, Chair Noel Hender OAM BEM sent this message to all new recipients:

> *Congratulations on your wonderful achievement and award.*
>
> *I commend the Association to you as a means of continuing meaningful and satisfying interaction with similar focused and dedicated individuals committed to serving Australia and / or their communities.*

We thank Mayor Robert Bria of the City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters for his ongoing support.

We also thank Rosemary Milisits OAM and Vili's Family Bakery for again subsidising the cost of the refreshments.

Rosemary and her late husband Vilmos (Vili) were both awarded the OAM, "*For service to the food industry, and to the community through support for a range of charitable organisations*" (QB05).

BARBARA BIGGINS OAM

We were privileged to have as our guest speaker Barbara Biggins OAM.

Barbara spoke on the topic "From Big Tobacco to Big Tech: children, challenges and campaigns".

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

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

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

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

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

VILI'S
Family Bakery

https://www.vilis.com/

City of
Norwood
Payneham
& St Peters

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch





OFFICER of the Order of Australia

Professor Jozef Gecz AO

"For distinguished service to human translational genetic science, to genomic research, to child health, and to neurodevelopmental disability"



OFFICER of the Order of Australia

Professor Emeritus Michael Denis Young AO

"For distinguished service to conservation and the environment, to water resource management, and to tertiary education"





MEMBER of the Order of Australia

Dr Andrew Leonard van Essen AM

"For significant service to podiatry as a clinician and educator, and to specialist podiatric surgery"

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch





MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Ethel May (Toni) Batten OAM
"For service to the community, and to youth"



MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Paul Roger Boyce OAM
"For service to architecture"



MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Paul James Daly OAM
"For service to Australian rules football, and to the community of Onkaparinga"



MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Lorraine Leigh Greenfield OAM
"For service to remote communities"

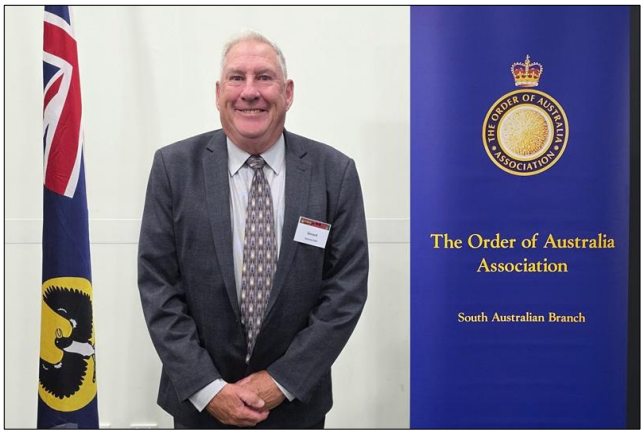


MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Dennis Oldenhove OAM
"For service to veterans, and to the community of Macclesfield"

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch



MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Kathryn Erica (Kate) Strohm OAM
"For service to disability support"



MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Gerard Tancred OAM
"For service to baseball"



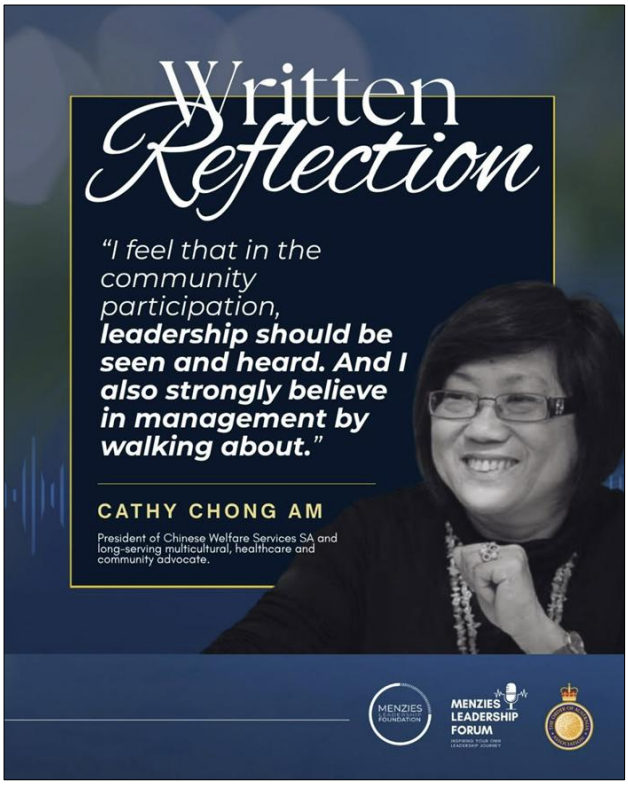
MEDAL of the Order of Australia
Kevin Martin Tannebring OAM
"For service to sport, particularly softball"



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

NEW RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION 2/2026





MENZIES LEADERSHIP FORUM

Voices of Leadership, Extraordinary Impact

The following announcement has been provided by the Menzies Leadership Forum.

Leadership doesn't always arrive with a title.

Sometimes it arrives as a volunteer who has shown up every Saturday for thirty years. A teacher who stayed back. Someone who kept building long after the applause stopped.

Across Australia, leadership is lived every day in acts of service, courage and community, and nowhere is that clearer than in the stories of those recognised through the Order of Australia.

Follow the Menzies Leadership Forum page so you don't miss the announcements:

https://www.facebook.com/MenziesFoundation

'Voices of Leadership, Extraordinary Impact'

Among those who featured in the Menzies Leadership Forum podcasts, hosted by the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO FAICD, with the Order of Australia Association, was our own SA Branch Deputy Chair and President of the Chinese Welfare Services of SA Inc Cathy Chong AM JP.

The Menzies Leadership Forum reported that Cathy's own life, a third-generation Malaysian-Chinese family shaped by displacement, then a small, tight-knit Asian community in South Australia during the Colombo Plan era, is the proof of concept, not a backstory.

Cathy calls it 'management by walking about': literally leaving the office and standing where the decisions land.

In the episode of Purpose: Leading into the Future, Vicki O'Halloran spoke with Cathy, a former nurse turned full-time community leader across multicultural organisations, Rotary and civic and business boards for decades.

Here's her real argument: there's a difference between leading a community and leading with one. Most leaders think they're doing the second while actually doing the first.

The test is simple, and it's the whole framework: before you finalise a decision, ask two questions. Have the people most affected by this actually helped shape it? And could I have learnt something here by showing up in person instead of designing this from a boardroom?

If the honest answer to either is no, you're leading a community, not with one.

Their journeys remind us that leadership is not defined by title or position, but by the commitment to serve others and strengthen the common good.

Listen to Episode 3 here:

https://menziesfoundation.org.au/podcast?shem=aimgspe



ORDER OF AUSTRALIA INSIGNIA

Typically when imperial orders and decorations have been created, a key element of the design has been the Royal Crown of the sovereign at the time.

The Military Cross (MC), for example, was created by King George V on 28 December 1914 for, "*an act or acts of exemplary gallantry during active operations against the enemy on land*". At the end of each of the four ornamental arms of the cross was a Tudor Crown, and in the centre the Royal Cipher of King George V.

Later designs would bear the Royal Cipher 'GVIR' for King George VI, and 'EIIR' for awards made during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Current awards bear the Royal Cipher 'CIIIR' of King Charles III.

In all cases though, the design retains the Tudor Crown at the end of each of the four arms in tribute to the founding sovereign, King George V.

The Order of the British Empire was established by King George V on 4 June 1917. The insignia is in the form of a cross *patonce*, featuring a Tudor Crown at the top of the upper arm. Again, this crown has been retained in the design under each successive reign.

The Conspicuous Gallantry Cross (CGC) was created by Queen Elizabeth II in 1993: it is in the shape of a cross *pattée* and bears in the central circular medallion the St Edward's Crown of Queen Elizabeth II. It is expected that this will remain unchanged during the reign of King Charles III.

The Order of Australia was established by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia, on the advice of the Prime Minister of Australia, by Letters Patent dated 14 February 1975. In recognition of the Queen's position as Sovereign of the Order, the disc was surmounted by the St Edward's Crown.

Crests and insignia are now being changed from the "Queen's Crown" of Queen Elizabeth II to the Tudor Crown or "King's Crown" of King Charles III.

However, in accordance with the tradition detailed above, it is not expected that the crown on the insignia of the Order of Australia will change.

The insignia will retain the St Edward's Crown in tribute to Queen Elizabeth II who was sovereign at the time the Order was instituted.

The Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat has confirmed that there is no planning underway at this stage to change the current design of the Order of Australia insignia.



This is a Military Cross from World War 1, in its original Garrard & Co Ltd presentation case.

The insignia comprises an ornamental cross struck in sterling silver, privately engraved on the reverse. The suspension ribbon is in watered silk, white, with a broad central stripe of violet signifying valour.

This Military Cross was awarded to Lieutenant John Edmund Hopper of the 6th Machine Gun Company, 2nd Machine Gun Battalion AIF for "conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty" and "courage and leadership" during an attack at Ville-sur-Ancre, near Albert in northwestern France on 19 May 1918.

The four arms are decorated with the Tudor Crown of King George V who instituted the award.

The obverse bears at its centre the Royal Cipher of King George V, the reigning monarch at the time of bestowal: 'GRI' denoting George Rex et Imperator – 'George, King and Emperor' (of India).

There were just 2,572 awards of the Military Cross to Australians during World War 1.

The Order of Australia Association Limited, South Australia Branch

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:

The Honourable John Neil Andrew AO



VALE
The Honourable
John Neil Andrew AO FTSE (1944-2026)

Born on 7 June 1944 in Waikerie, and a graduate of Waikerie High School and Urrbrae Agricultural High School, Neil was an Australian politician, farmer and horticulturalist. He was a Fellow of the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.

Neil had Local Government experience as a Councillor in the Waikerie District Council for 9 years. He represented the seat of Wakefield in the House of Representatives as a Liberal Party member from 1983 to 2004. He was Chief Government Whip in 1997-98, and from 1998 was the 24th Speaker of the House of Representatives until he retired in in August 2004.

Neil was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia, "*For service to the Parliament of Australia through the advancement of parliamentary administration and reform, and to the community in the areas of agricultural research, development and education*" (AD08).

Neil was a guest speaker at our Honours Recipients Fellowship luncheon meeting on 24 June 2021 (pictured left). He spoke on the topic "Reform of water use in the Murray Darling Basin".

Neil had a lifelong association with the irrigation industry, particularly irrigated horticulture and viticulture. From 1975 until 1983 he was a member of the SA Advisory Board of Agriculture (Chair in 1980-83). He was Commissioner of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, and was Chair of the Murray Darling Basin Authority from 2014 to 2019.

INVITATION

'CELEBRATION OF AUSTRALIA DAY' LUNCHEON

Saturday 16 January 2027

We will celebrate Australia Day at Jarmer's Kitchen, 18 Park Terrace, Bowden at 12 for a 12.30 pm start.

We will enjoy a 3-course meal, alternate drop; cash bar for drinks, and children's menu available.

Association merchandise will be available to purchase. We encourage you to wear your full-size medals.

Our Guest Speaker will be Dr Lainie Anderson OAM on the topic, "Celebrating the women of WW1 Adelaide".



Regional Group Events

Riverland and Mallee Regional Group. Convenor Tim Grieger OAM JP advises that the group held its luncheon meeting at the Barmera Club in Barmera on Friday 25 September.

There were 19 in attendance, including Branch Chair Noel Hender OAM BEM and wife Jill, 2027 Conference Convenor Tony Metcalf OAM and wife Cheryl, and Regional Groups Coordinator Ken Coventry OAM JP and wife Di.

Noel gave a detailed briefing on matters before the national body and State Branch, and Tony spoke about the forthcoming National Conference of the Association to be hosted by the SA Branch in May 2027.

Ken conducted a member interview with recent recipient Bert Haslam OAM JP.

Bert was the Riverland Citizen of Year in 1984, and in 2023 was the District Council of Loxton Waikerie Citizen of the Year. He was awarded the OAM, "*For service to the community of the Riverland region*" (KB26).

Bert was a teacher from 1959 to 2017, Principal of Loxton North Primary School and Loxton Primary School, and Superintendent, Riverland Primary Schools.

Bert has been a Justice of the Peace since 2001. He was Vice-Chairman of the Justices of the Peace Riverland/Riverland Association of Justices (2019-21) and has been Chairman since 2021.

He was a Councillor with the District Council of Loxton Waikerie from 2003 to 2010.

He has been a member of the Rotary Club of Loxton since 2002 (President 2021-24), and a volunteer at The Pines, Loxton Historic House and Garden (Chairman, 2003-10).

With the Riverland Football League, he was Tribunal Commissioner for six years and a former umpire (250+ games), and was made Life Member in 2017.

Bert has been a member of Loxton North Football Club, Loxton North Sports Club (Loxton North Netball Club) and Loxton North Cricket Club, and has served terms as President of each.

Bert was made a Life Member of Loxton North Football Club.

Eyre Peninsula Regional Group. Regional Groups Coordinator Ken Coventry OAM JP reports that the group held its luncheon meeting at the Commercial Hotel in Cowell on Friday 2 October.

There were 19 present, including Noel and Jill Hender, Ken and Di Coventry, and Convenor Wendy Holman OAM.

Noel briefed those present about matters before the national body and State Branch, and regarding the forthcoming Association National Conference in May 2027.

Wendy Holman OAM has been Convenor for 3 years – originally she had accepted the appointment for two years but last year agreed to extend for one year. The appreciation of the SA Branch was extended to Wendy at the luncheon.

In considering a nominee for Convenor, the group proposed that luncheons continue to be held at varying locations – presently Port Lincoln, Cummins, Tumby Bay and Cowell – and that the Convenor be appointed for a term of one year and be drawn from the upcoming host community.

Port Lincoln has been chosen to host the next luncheon, and Julie Low OAM and Bruce Green OAM have agreed to share the role of Convenor.

Yorke Peninsula Regional Group. Convenor Elaine Bussenschutt OAM advises that the group held its luncheon meeting at the Ardrossan Hotel on Sunday 25 October.

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

2027

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

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

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

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

Eyre Peninsula Regional Group. The next meeting will be held in Port Lincoln on 8 October 2027.

RIVERLAND AND MALLEE REGIONAL GROUP
Friday 25 September 2026

Tony Metcalf OAM (2027 National Conference Convenor); Ken Coventry OAM JP (Regional Groups Coordinator); Bert Haslam OAM (new recipient); Noel Hender OAM BEM (SA Branch Chair); Tim Grieger OAM (Riverland & Mallee Group Convenor).



EYRE PENINSULA REGIONAL GROUP
Friday 2 October 2026

Rear: Sue Chase AM (luncheon Convenor); Julie Low OAM (joint Convenor); Geoff Stewart; Nancy Stewart OAM; Ken Lamb OAM; Valerie Lamb OAM.

Front: Ken Coventry OAM JP; Noel Hender OAM BEM; Bruce Green OAM (joint Convenor).



NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2027

GOLD SPONSOR – ADELAIDE AIRPORT
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We sincerely appreciate the generosity of our Gold Sponsor, Adelaide Airport.

This commitment 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.

A total of 13 international airlines flew out of Adelaide across the financial year: at its peak, during the summer holiday season, they recorded more than 70 international flights a week.

Enquiries about sponsorship opportunities for the conference can be directed to Mr Noel Hender OAM BEM:

chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2027

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. Details are progressively being added to the OAA National website:

https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/



This memorial plaque on the North Terrace side of the InterContinental Adelaide commemorates South Australia's first police station (1838-1851), which was established following the creation of a South Australian police force by Governor Hindmarsh on 28 April 1838.

The plaque was unveiled by Police Commissioner Hunt QPM on 28 April 1992.

Chief Superintendent Hunt had been awarded the Queen's Police Medal (QPM) in the New Year's Honours List of 31 December 1980, "For outstanding service with the South Australian Police Force".

Mr David Alexander Hunt AO QPM CStJ JP (1934-2010)

David Hunt was appointed as South Australia's 19th Commissioner of Police on 30 June 1983, and retired from the SA Police on 31 December 1996. Police Commissioner Hunt was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the General Division in the Queen's Birthday Honours List of 10 June 1994, "For service to the South Australian Police Department and to the community".

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 5081

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 Convenors for 2027:

Julie Low OAM
0428 843 522 || julie.low@bigpond.com

Bruce Green OAM
0437 437 051 || juice5547@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

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 5081

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!

CELEBRATION OF AUSTRALIA DAY



REPLY FORM – SA BRANCH 'CELEBRATION OF AUSTRALIA DAY' LUNCHEON, Saturday 16 January 2027 – at Jarmer's Kitchen, 18 Park Terrace, Bowden; arrival from 12 noon for 12.30 pm start. Full-size medals may be worn. Association merchandise will be available for purchase.

The cost is $85 for Order of Australia Association members and their partner, and $90 for non-members, partners and guests, for a 3-course Australia-themed meal, alternate drop; cash bar.

The guest speaker will be Dr Lainie Anderson OAM on the topic, "Celebrating the women of WW1 Adelaide".

Please register to attend and make payment not later than **Monday 21 December 2026**

Register online using Humanitix (preferred) using the link below:
https://events.humanitix.com/celebration-of-australia-day-2027

Alternately, pay online via EFT, using the code "ADL + your surname"
Account Name – '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 5081
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] ……

Payment enclosed (OAA member & spouse/partner): …… for ……. people ($85 per person)

Payment enclosed (non-members and friends): …… for ……. people ($90 per person)

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!