

The ORDER



THE NATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION

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NEAR AND FAR – OUR ASSOCIATION'S INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

The Order of Australia, does that evoke for you images of the wide brown land and expansive blue skies? Is the name of our Association redolent with suggestions of community service in myriad fields of endeavour in our States and Territories?

Perhaps it should also trigger thoughts of 'international connections'. Currently we have some 90 members based overseas, spanning all appointments and awards within our Society of Honour.

Our two biggest concentrations are such as to warrant 'Regional Groups'; United Kingdom & Europe and North America. By coincidence, the ACT Branch report in this edition provides some details of Ms Penelope Thwaites AM the convenor of the UK / Europe regional group. She has within her group about 37 association members, as the name suggests mainly within the UK but also in Spain, Malta, France and Switzerland.

Association members might recall an article in the February 2018 edition detailing a Very Pleasant Gathering with the Acting High Commissioner and a OAA Choral Evensong at St Mary-le-Bow in September 2017.

As an aside, might I recommend the synopsis of an Australia Day address, in this edition, of Penelope's own story and that of her family with their very strong Canberra connection; not to mention aspects of music, poetry, gardens, literature and spies!

Our North America Regional Group comprises about 35 association members in both the United States of America and Canada. Greg Copley AM the stalwart convenor has members scattered from 'sea to shining sea' or should I add from 'the Maritimes to BC'! Over many years a very close relationship has been developed with the Australian Ambassador and I can well imagine our North America members interest in the appointment of The Hon Kim Beazley AC as Governor of Western Australia.



(Photo: The Great Victoria Desert – Jan Forrest OAM)

So where are the remaining 18 International association members? They are scattered throughout; Japan, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan, Korea, New Zealand, Luxembourg, Turkey and Israel. In ones and two's, they represent a visible presence of both our Association and the long-standing relationships in matters of commerce, the arts, culture national security and politics, between our Nation and our neighbours near and far.

Of course, there are recipients of Honours, in these and other places, who have not joined our Association; if known to you why not encourage them to expand our international connections?

Phil Morrall AM, CSC
Editor

**How to become a Member of our Association.
Check our website www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au**



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THE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au

The Association website is a source of important information: it is easy, fast, up-to-date and includes:

- The Association's aims and structure.
- Membership application and renewal.
- Editing your basic membership contact details.
- National Conference — Hobart 2019.
- National Committee membership and contacts.
- National publication — The Order.
- A link to each branch with current information:
 - Committee and contacts.
 - Upcoming functions.
 - Newsletter and local information.
- Frequently Asked Questions about The Order of Australia.
- Nomination process and documentation for awards.

Make the website your first port of call. If you want further information please talk to your branch committee.

If you have ideas about information you would like on the website please contact your branch committee.

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Our recent National Conference in Adelaide was a great opportunity to meet members and to make and renew friendships. There was lively, direct and positive comment on the direction in which we are moving our Association. Changes to our Constitution were agreed, aimed at increasing member influence over the management of our activities. Members were pleased with the content of the Conference and the welcoming atmosphere. A presentation on the 2019 Conference, to be held in Hobart, was well received and anticipation is high.

Our Association has benefitted from the decision by almost 2,000 members to accept their copies of 'The Order' by email, resulting in a significant reduction in costs. If you have not done so already, we ask you to provide us with your email address. The printed copy of 'The Order' will still be sent to you unless you agree to receive the email version but registering your email permits better and more timely communication. National, Branch and Regional information will increasingly be sent by this means.

We will shortly launch a new initiative, the Association 'eNews'. This will be a short sharp summary of national issues of significance to members, particularly as they affect the achievement of our goals of community involvement and pride in citizenship. The eNews will be available to all members who have provided their email address.

Association membership growth is an ongoing responsibility for all of us. Community awareness of the Order remains low and I encourage all to ensure community contacts are made aware of the principle of awards for Australians doing exceptional work in our community. Nominations for awards in the Order have to date neglected some segments of the Australian community. You are encouraged to seek out and promote nomination of under-represented groups.

Nationally we attract around 40% of new awardees to membership of our Association. The approach within Branches to welcoming and engaging new awardees is critical in this regard. We need to do more to increase the positive perception of membership and its benefit to the community and to communicate a sense of inclusion and purpose if we are to recruit an increasing percentage of awardees.

It is with regret that I must report on the passing of our previous National Chairman, Bill Galvin OAM. Bill served in both Branch and National positions and was a member of our Association for over 20 years. The Association was represented at Bill's funeral.

I look forward to continuing to meet members as I visit Branches and Regional Groups over the coming twelve months.

Barry Nunn AO
National Chairman

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Congratulations to the South Australian Branch for the success of the recent National Conference and also to Chairman Barry Nunn for the many initiatives taken by the Board to improve effectiveness and efficiency, lower costs and enhance the value and standing of the Association.

The Board appreciates that at the present time many members feel a sense of uncertainty. Technology is changing our lives at a rapid pace, creating challenges, especially for families (but also offering remarkable opportunities). Many feel uncertain as utility costs, health insurance and rates increase at a pace faster than most family's income. At a much deeper level, for decades we have been passing through a time when secular contemporary culture is drifting from its spiritual moorings.

For many the international scene is troubling. Xi Jinping is the most ambitious Chinese leader in decades. Chinese philosophers are forecasting a path to international order which draws on Chinese rather than Western philosophical roots. Russia is broken and angry, and working to undermine democratic processes elsewhere. Brexit and the French and German elections showed that many are unhappy in Europe. Iran and Saudi Arabia seem set on a collision course. At a significant cost to America's standing, President Trump succeeded in galvanizing those who were angry and disappointed in their country. Domestically Trump confronts serious issues. These are modest, however, compared to the problems that confronted

George Washington's generation in achieving independence and fashioning a free state, or the problems that confronted Lincoln in bringing the republic through a civil war or Franklin Roosevelt's generation in surviving the worst depression and joining Churchill to give the world compelling leadership. Internationally Trump is a worry. With leaders like the two Roosevelts, Harry Truman –the farm boy from Missouri, Dwight Eisenhower, George H.W. Bush, and John F. Kennedy the United States shaped the international system for the better. Trump now risks undermining their legacy.

A rules-based order led by the United States, whatever its strains, was easier for Australia. But now the post-war global order is over. Policy making has become more complicated for whoever forms our government. We need to manage relationships within Asia that are far more complex than we have ever encountered.

This is no time to be complacent but there are reasons to respect the view of our most distinguished historian. Geoffrey Blainey believes that 'this is about the most fortunate period in the history of the world. We haven't had an all-out war for over 70 years and the number of people in the world who have enough food and a reasonable life is enormous...this is an incredibly fortunate period to be alive'. Thirty years ago more than a third of the world lived in poverty, now only about a tenth do. Today more than 90% of all children in the world attend primary school. Medical science has advanced rapidly. In many parts of the world women are gaining political power... Voltaire's Pangloss took it too far but I lean to the view you have to be positive. If not, you risk getting lost in despair.

Philip Flood AO



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Language is an important and powerful tool that connects people to their culture and so assists in preserving it. When you hear the words, "I still call Australia home", or "I love a sunburnt country", or "I am, you are, we are Australian", doesn't it give a little tingle of excitement? When those words are combined with music I am guessing the feeling is even stronger.

The erosion of our language can even assist in the erosion of our national pride. For instance, during World War II our diggers struggled up the Kokoda Track, not the Kokoda Trail. I enjoy chips with my steak, but I never ever eat "fries" with anything! Last night I enjoyed the company of a few blokes down the road, they were not "guys"! I am not advocating speaking "ocker", but I do think we need to hold on to our genuine Australian idiom and identity.

We are each committed to "**Foster Love of and Pride in Australian Citizenship**". Every one of us can do this in small ways - we don't have to make a big song and dance about our pride. In a way, when each one of us was recognised within

the Order of Australia system, we became an 'ambassador' to uphold the good things in our Australian citizenship.

Words are powerful. Rudyard Kipling said that words are, "The most powerful drug used by mankind". This is a great reason to attend the annual National Conference and our Branch and Regional meetings. At these gatherings speakers say this and that, but every now and then there will be a pearl of wisdom that may "hit the spot" for you and inspire you to make a difference in your community. The strength of this Association is in the talents, opinions and ideas of its members clustered around its diversity. Please roll up your sleeves and be an active member for the good of us all, and the continuing betterment of Australia. In addition, please preserve our unique idiom and in doing so, we preserve our identity.

Dr John G. Thorne AM
Branch Chairman

JOHN OSBORNE OAM & BERYL OSBORNE OAM

George Town at the mouth of the Tamar River is Australia's third oldest settlement. For the last fifty five years it has had the benefit of a huge contribution to its community life from John and Beryl Osborne.

John is an Industrial Chemist with a Master's Degree from the University of Tasmania. He worked as a research assistant before moving to George Town in 1961, where he worked as a research chemist and public relations adviser at Comalco Aluminium Plant. He was a member of numerous professional organisations and committees related to his employment. John also involved himself in a wide range of community interests and activities – George Town Apex Club, Rotary Club, YMCA, the local primary school, high school and the Alanvale College and as a trustee and member of the George Town Uniting Church. A talented pianist, he was accompanist for the George Town Entertainers for over 30 years.

John was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1975 and a Marriage Celebrant in 1977. He has given extensive service in local government and numerous other voluntary community activities. He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in June 1985.

Beryl Osborne received her education in Launceston and her teaching qualifications at the University of Tasmania in 1953. She and John were married in the Invermay Methodist Church in 1959, and with their two sons, Craig and Stephen, moved to George Town early in 1961 where their daughter Cathryn was born. They have lived there ever since.

She retired from full time teaching in 1990 and has been involved in a large number of voluntary church and community activities



John Osborne OAM and his wife Beryl Osborne OAM.

since. She was part of the group that set up the Bell Bay Seafarers Mission in 1989 and was created a Life Member in 1999. Beryl in her own words was a frustrated accountant and this is demonstrated in the fact that she has been treasurer for no less than 5 organisations – all at the one time! She was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 2014.

Both Beryl and John Osborne have given their community a huge amount of time, energy and inspiration over many years. They richly deserve their Order of Australia recognition.

Keep up to date through our website www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au



DR JOHN S TOOTH OAM MB BCHIR, FRANZCP 06.03.32 – 7.01.18

Dr John Tooth was born & educated in England. He migrated in 1965 to Australia after he qualified in Medicine & specialized in Psychiatry. For much of his professional life he practiced as a Government Community Psychiatrist, always aware that services

for people with Dementia were gravely lacking.

After spending 4 years as a Consultant Psychiatrist and Deputy Medical Supervisor at the 1,200 bed Kenmore Psychiatric Hospital in Goulbourn NSW, he took up a position of Government Psychiatrist in Devonport Tasmania.

In 1983 he was appointed Chairman of the Tasmanian Mental Health Services Commission where he made a determined effort to change the emphasis of Public Psychiatry from Institutional to Community care. He developed further expertise in Psychogeriatrics and established Dementia Day Centres with comprehensive community support systems.

He practiced as a Psychogeriatrician but considered his most important contribution was establishing then directing the clinical services of the ADARDS nursing home in Hobart for ambulant people with Dementia and more difficult behaviours. It was a unique facility both for its homely design and staff attitudes and attracted worldwide interest.

Dr Tooth lectured and taught in Canada, Hong Kong, Britain and the USA advising organisations all over the world on Dementia facility design and behaviour management. Until the last couple of years Dr Tooth was an active supporter of the O.A.A. Tasmanian Southern Region.

NORTHERN NOTES

Thanks to members who attended our AGM on the 15th of February at Glenara Lakes. Clive Lee AM ASM was re-elected Chairman, Dr Frank Madill AM Deputy Chairman and Terese von Samorzewski OAM Secretary. New member Susan Shea OAM was elected as Treasurer – Jim Anderson retired from this position after many years of service and his work as the Hon Auditor. Graeme Barwick was appointed auditor and Gary Carr OAM joined the northern committee.

The region was well represented at the Branch AGM on the 25th of February at Campbell Town and members were particularly pleased to have the opportunity to raise a wide range of relevant matters at the forum which was held immediately after the AGM and prior to the sumptuous lunch.

New Australia Day awardees from the northern region due to be invested on Friday the 18th of May at Government. We extend our congratulations to Associate Professor Neville King AO, Dr Colin Chilvers AM, Mrs Shane Gould AM, Mrs Sheryl Burnie OAM, Mr Richard Chugg OAM, Mrs Mandy Fortheath OAM and Mrs Sandra Atkins OAM.

Our most recent function was at the Tasmanian Gourmet Sauce Company, 174 Leighland's Road, Evandale – a unique tour and lunch on 5 April. It was another good opportunity to meet new members of the association as well as old friends. All were delighted



with this Tasmanian boutique home industry.

We were delighted to have members attend a special meeting in Launceston with the National Chairman Mr Barry Nunn AO RFD ED.

Back row – Dr John Thorne AM, Alastair Douglas OAM, Sue Shea OAM, Therese von Samorzewski OAM, Dr Frank Madill AM, Maureen Oates OAM.
Front row – Barry Nunn AO RFD ED, Dr Nicholas Chantler AM, Clive Lee AM ASM.
Absent – Ron Blake OAM, Maureen Rudge OAM

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Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC, Governor of Tasmania

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[Resigned 2 April 2018]

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[To 21 June 2018]

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North: Mrs Thérèse von Samorzewski OAM;
Ph: 03 6330 3047

South: Mrs Maureen Oates OAM;
Ph: 0409 970 793



SUSAN SHEA OAM

Sue Shea's background is in tourism having worked for Ansett Airlines of Australia from 1966 over a 25 year period. During this time she was involved with tourism development in Tasmania and the introduction of Fly Drive Holidays. Her last position was Tours and Promotion Supervisor – Tasmania; a role which promoted Tasmania to all parts of Australia as a prime tourist destination. Sue held many positions with Ansett including work in the Holiday Travel, Group Travel and Convention Department.

Sue was appointed Administrative Officer for the 1992 IOF Veteran World Orienteering Cup Championship which saw 2000 visitors congregate on the East Coast of Tasmania. She then commenced several years working as a Professional Conference Organiser before retiring in 1994.

In her retirement, Sue has devoted herself to voluntary work mainly associated with the retiree community and golf. As a member of the Riverside Golf Club Sue has held positions at Club, Region and

State level including the Golf Tasmania Championship Committee and a 3 year term as a Board Member of Golf Tasmania. As well she has held executive positions on several Veteran Golfers Union National Championship Committees held in Tasmania the next one as Event Coordinator for November 2019.

This, along with her work for the Association of Independent Retirees (A.I.R.) Limited resulted in Sue being recognised with her award of a Medal of the Order of Australia in the June 2017 Queens Birthday Honours List. Since 1996 Sue has worked tirelessly for the Association, holding positions at Branch, Division and National levels. A.I.R. is a voluntary organisation working for members who fully, or partly self-fund their retirement.

Sue has been involved in running Retirement Expos, being Editor of the Branch newsletter, was on the National Baby Boomer Committee and served as Secretary and Treasurer many times. She was



Chair of the 15th National A.I.R. Conference held in Launceston in 1999 and is currently Deputy President, Treasurer, Secretary and Membership Officer of the Tasmanian Division and is the National Registrar and Chair of the National IT Management Group.

Sue has recently been appointed to the committee of the Northern Region of the Order of Australia in Tasmania.

HOBART LORD MAYOR'S RECEPTION

On 28 November 2017 the Lord Mayor of Hobart (Sue Hickey) hosted an afternoon tea at the Town Hall with Southern Tasmanian recipients of 2017 OA Awards being the guests of honour. In her welcoming speech the Lord Mayor stated:

"I see you as Tasmania's national treasures, promoting national unity, reflecting the very best of our national character and serving as an aspiration for many women and men.

Your life stories and the paths that you have travelled are very important to our society as they are rich with the highest community standards and values.

On behalf of my fellow Aldermen and the citizens of Hobart I thank you for your generous contribution to your community and to the State".



Bernadette Connor OAM & Joan Humble OAM



Janet Casimaty, Bob Gordon, Dr Diane Snowden AM & Bill Casimaty AM



Suzie Lebasi & David Brill AM



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am writing this from Japan, where I am attending a trade mission and facilitating a 'Women in Business' Roundtable, amongst other civic activities. Very pleasing to see a number of other Honours recipients also in attendance! Whilst the

schedule is busy, I have taken time out to check out the beautiful cherry blossom, which has just emerged to the delight of the many tourists who throng here at this time of the year.

What a busy start to the year it was! Our Inspiring Australians Oration was held in late February, with Dr Susan Alberti AC delivering the oration to a very attentive audience of OAA members, guests and 120 young female students from two Melbourne schools.



The new list of Honours recipients was announced on Australia Day, and it was pleasing to co-ordinate the sending of our congratulatory letters with the National Chair, with a seamless process this year. Well done to all involved, and let's hope we are able to welcome many new members to our branches.

Our current project is to encourage 444 members on our database to supply email addresses so that we can reduce our postage costs and volunteer hours in processing hard copy communications. We are currently attempting to make contact with these members, already with significant success. I have no doubt that within the next few years, 100% of our members will supply an email address that will either be their own, or belong to someone close to them who can relay communications. This will have a huge impact on the financial sustainability of Victoria Branch, and our regional groups.

Having said that, the decision by National Committee to continue to produce hard copies of The Order will be well received by many members who see it as a tangible benefit of membership; these members enjoy reading the paper magazine at their leisure, often sharing it with others.

It is pleasing to note that Victoria is taking a bold action to increase the number of nominations of women. This initiative is the subject of an article in the following pages.

Diane James AM
Branch Chair

NOMINATE A WOMAN FOR AN AUSTRALIAN HONOUR

The Victoria Branch has been concerned about lack of gender equality in the Honours for some time. It is a known fact that women are under represented in the Australian Honours system comprising only one third of nominations and recipients. Acting Minister for Women Jenny Mikakos MP said that "*Victorian women contribute equally to the success of our state and it's important that we nominate them to be recognized for their service and dedication*".

Hence to address this imbalance, the Victorian Government recently appointed a dedicated awards officer, Stacey Williams [pictured]. It is anticipated that Stacey will assist generate an additional 200 nominations of Victorian women each year. To find out more about this innovative program please contact Stacey at: stacey.williams@dpc.vic.gov.au



AUSTRALIA DAY 2018

On this delightful sunny day, some 400-people attended this Australia Day event, many coming across to the Shrine, after visiting Government House. They sat on the grass, and enjoyed the Ceremony.

A number of dignitaries including the Former Governor-General Dr Peter Hollingworth AC, representatives of Consulates from a number of countries and several members of the Association were present.

The event was enriched by a stirring speech delivered by Colonel John Coulson OAM, RFD, ED about Sir John Monash, the great general, followed by lowering of the flag. The Ceremony was organized by Max Chester OAM, with the assistance of Dr Michael Kennedy OAM and the Victoria Branch of the Association.

AN ORATION TO INSPIRE US ALL

In February this year, the Victoria Branch of the Order of Australia Association was privileged to have Dr Susan Alberti AC deliver its annual Inspiring Australians Oration to a large audience; Association members, friends and nearly 120 senior students from Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar and Lauriston Girls' School who also provided a String Quintet playing music from Bach, Handel and Elgar.

Dr Alberti's successes in life have been outstanding, achieving many of the personal crusades she has embarked upon. These, despite and inspired by the many personal tragedies she has faced and overcome.

Courage, determination, resilience and optimism were keynotes of her Oration. She spoke of the difficulty of losing her husband at an early age and the subsequent need for her to study and become the first woman registered builder in Victoria. The need for her to then manage four construction businesses and raise a young daughter on her own. Dr Alberti spoke of the tragedy of her daughter losing her battle to Type 1 diabetes, followed by her determination to successfully overcome her own battle with lymphoma.

Dr Alberti chose to turn these battles into something positive and she established a Foundation raising funds for research into a cure for Type 1 Diabetes. Her boundless energy was also channelled into the successful establishment of the Woman's Football League (AFLW).

Named the 2017 Melbournian of The Year, Dr Alberti is also The Chairman of the Australia Day Ambassador Program, and remains a passionate supporter of the Western Bulldogs Football Team, a generous philanthropist and a very proud Melbournian.

The attending schools were very much inspired by Susan Alberti and here are remarks from them;

"The inspiration of her Oration came not from her professional success or from the many titles and honours she has been afforded, but from the sheer grit, courage and determination with which she faced tragedy in her personal life. Marise McConaghy, Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar"

"Susan Alberti spoke of personal struggles, values and strength in never giving up on trying to find a cure for Type 1 Diabetes. She passionately talked about her support for women's football and her encouragement for young women of today. Susan's words were expressed with honesty, kindness and passion. On behalf of Lauriston, I would like to thank the Order of Australia Association for the invitation to attend this inspiring event.

Sherri Silby, Lauriston Girls' School"



Victoria Branch Committee Chair Diane James AM, Dr Susan Alberti AC and National Committee Deputy Chairman Paul Wheelton AM,

AUSTRALIAN JAZZ MUSEUM

About 40 members of the Eastern Suburbs Regional Group attended an event at the Australian Jazz Museum in leafy Wantirna in mid-March. The Museum goes unnoticed as it is hidden away in a corner of Koomba Park off Burwood Highway. However, it has great significance as it archives thousands of articles recording the history of jazz in Australia.

There are records, tapes, books, newsletters, posters, programs and instruments reminding us of such masters of jazz as Graeme and Roger Bell, Ade Monsborough, Frank Trainor, Louis Armstrong, Paul Grabowski, Smacka Fitzgibbon and many others.

These items are preserved against the ravages of time by a team of volunteers using state of the art methods. The volunteers have converted an old trucking garage by their own labour and funds and created an attractive building. It can



house the collection, provide workspace for the unpaid staff and entertain groups. In places one can see the old structure, iron skeleton and corrugated iron roof. Three containers make secure storage rooms. The collection, largely donated by musicians and their relatives, is the most extensive in Australia and must be preserved for posterity.

We were taken around in small groups by members who were extremely well informed and then entertained by a five piece jazz band, *The Usual Suspects*, comprising tenor sax, clarinet and vocals, drums, bass and guitar. It was a delightful session. Then a generous light lunch was served by volunteer ladies and we all engaged in sociable chat. A very successful event.

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART (MOMA) AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

MELBOURNE WINTER MASTERPIECES 2018

OAA Victoria Branch Event - Thursday 14 June 2018 at 11.00am

OAA members and friends Australia wide are invited to attend the annual visit to NGV to view the 2018 Melbourne Winter Masterpieces exhibition featuring works from The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

MoMA at NGV will provide a unique survey of the Museum's iconic collection. Consisting of approximately 200 key works, arranged chronologically into eight thematic sections, the exhibition will trace the development of art and design from late-nineteenth-century urban and industrial transformation, through to the digital and global present.

The exhibition will include works by Paul Cézanne, Salvador Dali, Marcel Duchamp, Henri Matisse, Piet Mondrian, Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko and Vincent van Gogh.

As with previous visits the event will commence with a lecture about MoMA at 11.00am, then on to a viewing of the exhibition and followed by an excellent lunch in the Café Vic.



Paul Cézanne. French 1839–1906.

Still life with apples 1895–98. Oil on canvas 68.6 x 92.7 cm.

Lillie P. Bliss Collection, 1934. Digital Image © The Museum of Modern Art, New York, 2017

Bookings

All Bookings are to be made through the Try Booking website at: <http://www.trybooking.com/356339>. Please book asap.

Further Information Contact: **Brian Martin OAM**, brian_martin@netspace.net.au

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VICTORIAN REGIONAL GROUP CONVENERERS

Barwon: Peter Doak OAM

Central Highlands: Jean Wise OAM

Eastern Suburbs: Barbara Thompson OAM

Gippsland: Doug Caulfield OAM, RFD

Loddon Campaspe: John Higgs OAM

Mallee: Vernon Knight AM

Melbourne Central: Trevor Clarke OAM

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Western Suburbs: John Ravenhall AM

MERCHANDISE MAN EXTRAORDINAIRE: RICHARD ROZEN OAM



Every copy of The Order has a full back page of OAA merchandise for sale which provides a steady source of income to the organisation. Most would not know the person behind that page is Richard Rozen OAM who has an amazing life story. Below find some of the details of Richard's life which began in Poland in 1935.

Richard survived the Holocaust in Poland (1939-1945), hidden with his parents in a cupboard for 13 months. He was interned in Lublin Ghetto for 6 months, and was disguised as a girl in a village for 6 months. The last 18 months of the WW2, he was hiding in the forest with Polish Partisans.

After liberation, he spent three months in a sanatorium in Poland, one year in a displaced people camp in Germany, nearly five years in an orphanage in France.

Richard lost 23 members of his family, including his father, who perished in the Holocaust. Wanting to start a new life in a new country, Richard and his mother arrived in Melbourne in 1951. He mastered English from nothing, managed to attend Melbourne High School, studied electrical engineering at RMIT. His brilliant mind led him into chess and bridge where he excelled in both.

After establishing the first Chess Club at RMIT, in 1955 Richard established the St. Kilda Chess Club and was its President for 5 years. Richard won a number of tournaments, including Victorian Championship, and attained a rank of National Chess Master in 1960.

1984-1995 Richard served as President of the Victorian Bridge Association. In 1988 he attained the rank of Grand Master at Bridge, and won a number of State and National titles. In 1993, he represented Australia in Biarritz, France, at the World Bridge Championships.

During the period of 1989-1995, Richard was a volunteer, guide and Executive member of the Melbourne Jewish Holocaust Museum.

In 1997, for all of his excellent voluntary work, Richard was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM). In 1999 Richard joined the Victorian Committee of the

Order of Australia, after 19 years, he still continues to serve as a co-opted member on the Committee, presently as a National Merchandise Officer.

In 2012 Richard was appointed an Australia Day Ambassador. Richard serves on various committees and is currently a Chairman of Brighton Residents for Urban Protection (BRUP Inc.).

Richard's war experiences have been recorded in several publications, including Jane Marks, *'The Hidden Children'*; Dr. Paul Valent, *'Child Survivors'*; New York Museum of Jewish Heritage, *'The Book of life'*; also several articles were published in Australia, Israel, France, Canada and the USA.

In 2005 – a play 'Feather Boy' based on Richard's war experiences was staged by students at St. Martins Theatre.

2014 – a play 'My name is Richard Rozen', written and performed by Malcolm White, in St. Francisco, was recorded on video and screened to audiences throughout Australia.

Richard was involved in various businesses, including a knitting factory, a confectionary wholesaler and as property investor. Currently Richard is an investor on the stock market, mentor and advisor.

Richard is married to Rysia Rozen OAM, has 2 sons and 2 grandchildren.

VICTORIA BRANCH COMMITTEE MEETS THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Earlier this year the Victorian Branch Committee met with the OAA National Chairman, Maj. Gen. Barry Nunn AO in Melbourne.



OAA National Chair MAJGEN Barry Nunn AO, RFD, ED with the Victoria Branch Committee

The Branch is working on issues discussed including:-

- * Regional Groups to ask Life Members for their Year of Birth ensuring our actuary data is updated for financial reporting;
- * Strong focus on diversity of nominations;
- * Promoting OAA Foundation Scholarships;
- * Personal contact with members who haven't provided an email address, this is an ongoing project. Email addresses received to date have been sent to RGs to add to their e-databases helping to reduce mail-out costs.

The National Chair noted our regular communication with our members via the Victoria Branch quarterly e-Newsletter.

Keep up to date through our website www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I write for the first time as the newly elected chairman of the WA Branch Committee. Having been a general committee member for the last two years, I have had the pleasure to work with some wonderful committee members and our immediate past chairman, Bill Hassell AM.

At our recent AGM, Bill Hassell presented his Annual Report which provided an excellent overview of WA Branch activities and the recent changes in our committee. So rather than restate his report, it is summarised in this article as a means of informing those members who were unable to attend the AGM.

As Bill has said, the Branch has been fully supported by our patron The Governor, Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC. The Branch is also very pleased to see the rigour being applied to the workings of the National Board.

The new WA committee is looking forward to continuing the good work of its predecessor committee, building on our community support projects and providing a service to our members.

Mark Bonser AO, CSC
Branch Chairman

PS – The State Government has recently announced the next Governor will be The Hon Kim Beazley AC. Mr Beazley is a member of our association.

POLICE ACADEMY PATRON SCHEME

The Police Patron Scheme is going along very strongly.

A number of members have indicated their willingness to become Patrons.

Unfortunately the recruit intake program has slowed down due to a lower turnover of Police through the ranks.

On Monday 5th February, 40 recruits were inducted into the Academy. At this time Michael Bleus, Principal Police Academy Patron had the pleasure of meeting the new Principal and his three superintendents.

All had been briefed on the Police Patron scheme and were full of praise for the Association and its members.

The Police Academy held its Award Ceremony for the graduating recruits on Thursday 22nd March where Patrons Jenny Davis and Bob Mummery presented the Order of Australia Association Good Samaritans Awards to their respective squads.

The Good Samaritan award is for a graduating Constable who in the eyes of his peers demonstrated the following,

“Having displayed unselfish kindness and generosity to other squad members and being prepared to ‘walk the extra mile’ in support of their colleagues”.

This will be an ongoing award.

On 27th March, The Chairman Mark Bonser, Bettine Heathcote and Michael



Police Academy Patrons Bob Mummery and Jenny Davis presenting the Order of Australia Association Good Samaritans Awards to two outstanding graduating Police Squad Members

Bleus met the Academy Principal Dario to discuss a range of topics which included providing a Patron of Indigenous descent for the Police Indigenous Cadet scheme the Academy is currently running.

There were 20 youths involved in this scheme. Three have now begun there

police training, with the remainder continuing in the scheme waiting for an opportunity to join a squad.

The Association feels privileged to have been asked to provide a Patron for this cadet scheme.

OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR

Much has happened since our last Annual General Meeting the most important being a rejuvenation of the national body of which we are a part. This followed the Annual General Meeting of the national association in Brisbane and associated board meetings. From the the national conference emerged a new national Chairman and Executive led by Major-General Barry Nunn, AO, who has worked for nearly a year now to bring everything

into order nationally and make the national body relevant to all members and to the Branches of the Order of Australia Association Limited. The work continues in the lead up to the national conference for 2018 to be held in Adelaide in early May.

Our own Western Australian Branch has had a most successful year, and I will now turn to some particulars of that.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH ACTIVITIES



WA Branch Chairman, Bill Hassell presenting "Scroll of Appreciation" signed by all Committee members to Her Excellency Kerry Sanderson, Governor of Western Australia, at celebratory end of year WA Branch Committee function held at home of Bill and Sue Hassell.

March 2017 saw a very welcome visit from the National President, Philip Flood, AO accompanied by his wife Carole. A Committee dinner was held to welcome them and they attended the reception for the Australia Day recipients of awards in the Order the following night. It was noted that their visit was the first to Western Australia by a national office bearer since the Conference held in Perth, and it was greatly appreciated.

The Australia Day recipients' reception was hosted by Parliament, and was a most enjoyable occasion which gave due respect to new members of the Order. We are most grateful to Hon Barry House, then MLC and Hon Michael Sutherland (MLA at the time), respectively the President and Speaker for facilitating the event. Parliament's staff showed great professionalism in the conduct of the event and were unfailingly helpful.

In early March, in response to suggestions from members in our 2016 survey, the first of our new series of semi-formal information sessions was held at the State Library. The challenging topic was the legal and taxation changes to superannuation. It was not well attended and we wondered if we had something wrong in the formula, although those who attended provided positive feedback. We decided to continue the pilot programme while evaluating the concept. The next topic was Cybercrime – better attended and of great interest to attendees. Then we had as our third offering in the series a visit to the corporate headquarters of Wesfarmers on St George's Terrace to view the splendid Wesfarmers art collection; again, much enjoyed by those who participated. This series, led all the way by Bettine Heathcote, AM, a member of our Committee, is now well established and will continue, I believe, with new offerings in the pipeline.

A Choral Evensong Dedication Service of Worship for the Order of Australia Association was held on Sunday, 18th June at St George's Cathedral, Perth. This was a truly ecumenical event involving a tripartite conversation between the Dean, the Very Reverend Richard Pengelley and Pastor Margaret Court AO MBE., and Rabbi David Freilich OAM. This was introduced to replace the usual homily. Other outstanding features of the service included musical contributions from the Choir of Perth College and the Salvation Army's Perth Fortress Band.

A highlight of the year was the Branch Annual Dinner at the Royal Perth Golf Club, with the Hon. Kim Beazley, AC our guest speaker and the Hon Kerry Sanderson, AC, Governor of Western Australia and Patron of the Branch who proposed the toast to The Order. Over 140 people attended which was a tribute to Kim Beazley as guest speaker and to the reputation of the event.

In early August our reception at the City of Melville for those honoured in the Queen's birthday list was also a great success. The City was host for the event and its warm hospitality and wonderful civic facilities added lustre to the reception. We enrolled a number of new members for the Branch as a direct result of the event.

The Christmas lunch in November at the RAAFA premises in Bull Creek was again held with some participation by members of the Royal Commonwealth Society and was again popular and successful.

Throughout the year our community service programmes continued.

Led by Michael Bleus, OAM, the Police mentoring programme at the Western Australian Police Academy has continued, with new Branch volunteers to mentor the Police recruits as required. This work has been fully supported by the Western Australian Police Commissioner over a long period, and there is every indication it is of value to the police service.

Led by Emeritus Professor Odwyn Jones, AO, working with Ian Williams, AO, the careers guidance programme for young people has reached maturity. Through the persistence of Odwyn it has been integrated with educational, vocational and industry programmes as an on-line educational facility, so that our programme originally designed for young folks in areas of high youth unemployment is now available State-wide. Meanwhile new plans are afoot and perhaps more will be done. Without patience and persistence on the part of our people this would never have got to where it is now.

In concluding this report two special notes of appreciation should be recorded:

Firstly, to our Patron, Her Excellency, Kerry Sanderson AC, Governor of Western Australia. She has supported this organisation in every possible manner, from her warm welcomes at Government House and access for us to promote the Order and the Association, to helping push for more nominations, to her attendance at so

many of our events. No request of ours has been declined. I am particularly delighted that on Friday, two days ago, we were able to present to Her Excellency a scroll, signed by all Branch Committee members, recording our personal appreciation to her.

Secondly, to our own committee. My task as Chairman would not have been as successful without the dedicated and selfless service of each member of our own committee. I have acknowledged them in The Order magazine and gladly do so again in this annual report.

Finally, although there are no elections for positions at this AGM, we lose some good people –

- Helen Smith, retiring because of the constitutional limitation on her term,
- Odwyn Jones, for the same reason,
- Terry Barritt, who is finding distance a growing challenge,
- Robin Watts as secretary although she will stay on the committee and may have another role,

COMING EVENTS

SUNDAY 17th JUNE AT 5.00 pm

All members, families and friends are invited to the Annual Church Service for the WA Branch of the Association which will be an ecumenical Evensong service at St George's Cathedral Perth. This is a wonderful choral service which will be followed by supper in Burt Hall.

WEDNESDAY 15th AUGUST

Reception for the Queen's Birthday Honours recipients to be held at the Wanneroo Civic Centre. Invitations to this event will be sent closer to the time.

SEPTEMBER – 2 EVENTS

Annual Black-tie dinner – details are being finalised and "Let's talk about wildflowers" with a visit and walk in Kings Park followed by coffee. Further information for both events in the next edition of "The Order".

- Barry Nunn as Immediate Past Chairman being replaced by me as immediate past Chairman.

Especial thanks to them for all their efforts over many years.

We gain and I welcome especially –

- Hon Barbara Scott, OAM,
- Margaret Lobo, AM, as Secretary
- Warren Kerr, AM, and
- Geoff Cattach, AM.

We wish them all the best as they extend their service to the community through the Order Association in Western Australia.

Thank you all for the support you have given me and the Association in my time as Chairman. I am indeed confident that our incoming Chairman, Mark Bonser AO, will lead this Branch of the Association with vigour, as all his work on the committee has demonstrated, and distinction.

WA BRANCH OFFICE-HOLDERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

Her Excellency
Hon Kerry Sanderson AC

Chairman

RADM Mark Bonser AO CSC

Immediate Past Chairman

Bill Hassell AM JP

Secretary

Miss Margaret Lobo AM

Treasurer

Ian Williams AO

Committee Members

Professor Robin Watts AM
Capt. Michael Bleus OAM
Bettine Heathcote AM
Professor Warren Kerr AM
The Hon Barbara Scott OAM
Geoffrey Cattach AM

Regional Coordinators

South West Region

Mrs Glenys McDonald AM

Great Southern Region

Mr Ken Pech AM JP

Contact Information

WABranch@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Mail: PO Box 4222,
MOSMAN PARK WA 6912



NORTHERN TERRITORY



2020 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The NT Branch has decided on dates for the 2020 National Conference. Planning will commence towards holding the Conference from 7 to 10 May 2020.

Our Branch has formed a Conference committee and of course volunteers are always welcome. If you are interested please contact Tom Lewis our Branch Chairman.

The NT Branch extends our condolences to Nora Lewis our nominated Director(NT) on the passing of her husband Graeme.

NT Branch



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As I write this article, I look back upon the last 18 months, and particularly the last 6 months, as we planned and prepared for the National Conference of the Order of Australia Association here in South Australia that we had the responsibility to organize. A number of people have dedicated a large

portion of their time to ensure its success. To them I express my grateful thanks.

It is now time to turn to those matters that we do, and do well, each year. Our Student Citizenship Program is underway for 2018. We have taken the opportunity to welcome new recipients who received an Honour Award on Australia Day and will also hold a Reception for the Queen's Birthday recipients later in the year. A notice in this edition also advises of other activities for our members. I extend to each of you an invitation to join us at the events that are planned. Furthermore, as our Membership Registrar Jan has suggested, we would welcome ideas from you, our members, about what activities might interest you and what we could do.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 17 February 2018. I thank those past members who did not renominate this year for their contribution – Rob Clyne OAM, Pamela Rajkowski OAM, Jenny Macintosh OAM, Dr Joe Verco AM and Don Sarah AM. I am mindful of and have appreciated the support of Rob as Branch Secretary and the work of Pamela, particularly as Convenor of the Student Citizenship Awards in 2017.

To the newly elected members of the Committee – Noel Hender OAM, BEM who will take on the role as Convenor of the Student Citizenship Awards, Judith Leeson AM and John Phillips OAM – welcome. We look forward to you contributing to the work of the Branch Committee.

It is very disappointing that at the AGM we were not able to fill the position of Secretary for the next 12 months. At the time of writing this report the position is still vacant. This is a key position of the Committee and the rules of the Association provide that it must be filled at all times. For the time being the Deputy Chairman/Treasurer – who has also been serving as Conference Registrar and Treasurer, and National Treasurer of the Association – and I have been sharing the load. It is inappropriate to expect already heavily committed members of the Branch Committee to carry an additional load. An early appointment is necessary and critical to the ongoing role of the Branch Committee.

This is a call for the position of Branch Secretary of the South Australian Branch until the next AGM in early 2019. I would invite anybody who is interested and believes they have the skill set to carry out the role of Secretary to email me on coventry01@internode.on.net or call me on 0428 999 483 to discuss the position and your interest.

As I was elected for a further term of one year at the AGM I look forward to working with and for you in the months ahead.

**Ken Coventry OAM, JP.
FLGMA [Ret], Dip.LG.
Branch Chairman**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Following the Annual General Meeting held on 19 November 2017, our guest speaker was member Professor John Greenwood AM, Director of the Adult Burns Unit at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. His talk entitled 'Me, Biodegradable Polyurethane and Shifting the Paradigm' was inspirational. Professor Greenwood cares for 450 acute burns patients each year and has developed a biodegradable skin graft substitution. As South Australia's 2016 Australian of the Year, Professor Greenwood's ground-breaking research has revolutionised burns care in South Australia and the world.



SA Branch AGM: Ken Coventry OAM, Professor John Greenwood AM, Margot Vowles OAM and Professor Alan Johnson AM. Photo: Jan Forrest OAM

Check out our website www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au

SOCIAL EVENTS AUSTRALIA DAY LUNCH

When the Branch Committee approved the Australia Day Lunch at ‘Damien’s on Fisher’ as a barbecue, some of us wondered how it would eventuate and possibly had visions of everyone standing around in the heat. However, the barbecue proved to be a most enjoyable event with Damien and his staff producing a lovely meal. The weather was odd – hot, then it rained. Fortunately we were inside and the weather made no difference.

In lieu of a guest speaker, Chairman Ken Coventry interviewed three members and this demonstrated the wide variety of experience, talent and dedication of our members in so many fields in the community and the work place

The three members provided a wonderful insight into their careers and voluntary contribution to the community and proved to be so interesting that we plan to seek other members to be interviewed at future events.

The members interviewed were:

- Maree Anderson OAM
For service to the community of Minlaton.
- Professor Derek Frewin AO
For service to the advancement of medical education, to research in the field of hypertension, and to the community, particularly in relation to the care of the ageing and of people affected by drug addiction.
- Dr. Aileen Connon AM
For improving healthcare for women and children and services to medical education.



Australia Day Lunch: Maree Anderson OAM, Ken Coventry OAM, Professor Derek Frewin AO and Dr Aileen Connon AM. Photo: Jan Forrest OAM



Also enjoying the Australia Day Lunch: Leonie Clyne OAM, Professor Alan Johnson AM and Francis Wong OAM. Photo: Jan Forrest OAM



Helen Genders OAM, Cheryl Metcalf and Robin Genders also enjoying the conviviality of the Australia Day luncheon. Photo: Jan Forrest OAM.



Behind our hardworking Committee members are their families. Taken at the Australia Day Lunch are from left: Cheryl Metcalf (Tony Metcalf is our Deputy Chairman and Treasurer), Di Coventry (Ken Coventry is our Chairman), Bev Braithwaite (sister of Jan Forrest, Membership Officer) and Peggy House (Richard is Secretary of the Conference Committee). Thank you to the families of all our Committee members for their enthusiastic support. Photo: Jan Forrest OAM



FUTURE EVENTS

Following information from members at the AGM, we have been looking at trying to reduce the cost of events, especially the traditional lunches on Australia Day and the Queen's Birthday. These are Public Holidays when the fee for room hire and an additional levy on functions held on such occasions can make these events costly. In addition, once a room is hired, it is obligatory at most venues to use their set menu, which is more expensive than ordering from the main menu. We have now found several venues who have agreed that members may order the meal of their choice from the main menu and this can sometimes include a Seniors' Menu. The room hire fee is still applicable. However, we are hopeful that the arrangement for future events will cut the overall costs.

We would appreciate if, when next time members visit a favourite hotel or function centre, they would enquire on our behalf regarding what the room hire and meal rates would be for 60 people on a Public Holiday and let us know. We are also keen to move to different parts of the metropolitan area rather than keep returning to the same venues.

If members have ideas for other events, such as a visit to a place of general interest, again please advise us. We presently do not have an Events Co-ordinator on our committee but you may contact Membership Registrar Jan Forrest OAM with your ideas. Jan is very keen to hear from you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

The **Queen's Birthday Luncheon** will take place at *Damien's on Fisher Restaurant*, Living Choice Complex, 123 Fisher Street, Fullarton on Monday 11 June 2018 from 12 noon to 2.30 pm. The cost is \$60 per person. Large medals are encouraged. **Please respond by completing and returning the appropriate Reply Form by 4 June 2018.**

DAVID ROCHE FOUNDATION HOUSE MUSEUM

Visit to the David Roche Foundation House Museum, 241 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide on Wednesday 25 July 2018 at 10 am. This will be followed by an optional lunch (at own cost) at the Lion Hotel Café, 161 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide. Cost for the guided tour is \$20 per person. Please feel free to bring your friends and family. The David Roche Foundation House Museum was opened in 2016 and contains over 3,000 items from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Many items are rare and were sourced from all over the world by David Roche AM (1930 – 2013). Following David's death, his home and collection have now been made available to the public for viewing. It is an outstanding collection of world significance. The tour takes 1½ hours. However, with so much to see, the time goes by very quickly. Seating is available in some rooms. Parking is available on site. As numbers are limited, it may pay to reserve your place prior to the closing date. The Lion Hotel is a five minute walk from the Museum along Melbourne Street or alternatively park in the Hotel grounds or in nearby streets. **Please respond by completing and returning the appropriate Reply Form by 18 July 2018.**

OTHER EVENTS

Plans are in hand for several further events to be held later in the year as well as the September Investiture Reception for Queen's Birthday recipients at the Payneham Library, 2 Turner Street, Felixstow. Date to be advised. Watch for further details in the next copy of The Order.

A NOTE ABOUT E-MAIL

Last month we provided information regarding the April Investiture Reception to members for whom we have recorded an e-mail address. If you have an e-mail address and did not receive this information, then we do not have your address. If you would like to receive last minute information on events, please provide your e-mail contact details to Jan Forrest our Membership Registrar and she will adjust your records.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia;

Chairman (and Regional Co-ordinator)

Mr Ken Coventry OAM;

Secretary

Vacant

Treasurer and Deputy Chairman and Acting Secretary

Mr Anthony Metcalf OAM;

National Director SA

Professor Alan Johnson AM

Branch Membership Officer

Ms Jan Forrest OAM

Committee Members

Mr Francis Wong OAM

Mrs Judith Leeson AM

Mr Noel Hender OAM BEM

Mr John Phillips OAM

IN MEMORIAM

We acknowledge the contribution of the following recently deceased members of the Association and express our sincere sympathy to their families.

John Vincent O'Neil OAM

Roslyn Marie Paterson OAM

Ross Swayne OAM

Malcolm Fricker AM

Clive Oswald Auricht OAM

STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

New committee member Noel Hender OAM BEM has now taken over the management of the Student Citizenship Awards. If you would like to be involved during October in presenting certificates to students in a school or college near you, please email Noel at nrhender1@optusnet.com.au or mob. 0409 672 882.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The thirty-seventh Annual General Meeting of the New South Wales Branch was held on Tuesday 20th March 2018 at The York Function Centre, Sydney.

At the outset, I would like to acknowledge the hard work put in by members of the New South Wales Branch Committee during the past twelve months. Their dedication in supporting and promoting our Association is much appreciated.

To the outgoing committee members thank you on behalf of our Branch for your service. To the incoming committee members, congratulations on your election and let us look forward to a very successful and productive year ahead.

I would also like to thank our members and guests for supporting our numerous and successful functions throughout the year. I sincerely thank all our Regional Groups for their outstanding and hard work during the year.

Australia Day 2018 was celebrated with a four hour cruise on Sydney Harbour. Over 150 members and guests joined our committee on board the Captain Cook 111 for what was a spectacular day. Highlights included a sumptuous buffet luncheon and drinks watching the Sydney Harbour ferry race; a parade of tall ships from yesteryear; a fly past by RAAF F/A- 18 Hornet jet fighters and a Harbour Bridge Ballet by military helicopters. All in all a magnificent day.

On the 9th March, I had the pleasure of attending the Southern Highlands Regional Group Annual Awards Reception at the Bradman Museum in Bowral. It was a most enjoyable evening.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our functions throughout the year,

John Archer OAM
Branch Chairman

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS REGION 2018 ANNUAL RECEPTION

The Southern Highlands community celebrated the achievements of 16 extraordinary people on March 9.

The 2017 Queen's Birthday and 2018 Australia Day awardees were congratulated by more than 90 guests at Bowral's Bradman Museum during the annual reception.

Order of Australia Association Southern Highlands Regional Group chairperson Margaret Smith AO said the society had been established to give recognition to Australians for their outstanding achievements. Margaret also said, "We regard them as true assets, not just to the Order of Australia organisation, but to our wider community and we thank them for their respective contributions and congratulate them on their particular area of service."

Attendees were also joined by special guests Mayor Ken Halstead and Order of Australia NSW Branch nominated chairman, John Archer OAM.



Margaret Smith AO with John Archer OAM



Geoff Thiessen RFSM, Malcolm Stephens CB, Margaret Smith AO, Virginia Adlide OAM, Kit Bright OAM, Peter Grigg AM

OAA (NSW) MEMORABILIA FOR SALE

Item Price incl. P/H

Neckties Traditional style	\$27.00
Neckties Corporate: Maroon/Black/White	\$27.00
Neckties Corporate: Navy/Aqua/White	\$27.00
Neckties Corporate: Blue/Gold/White	\$27.00
Neckties Corporate: Red/Black/Silver	\$27.00
Pens	\$12.00

Association Brooches	\$17.00
Association lapel badges	\$17.00
Cufflinks (boxed)	\$35.00
Car Stickers (57mm x 78mm)	\$ 6.00

Please mail your order and accompanying cheque payable to 'The Order of Australia Association NSW to:

Mrs S Vidoni OAM, 68 Carlisle Street, Leichhardt NSW 2040.
Telephone (02) 9550 0049 for further information



2017 JOHN LINCOLN YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Twenty –six senior High School students received the John Lincoln Youth Community Service Award in recognition of their exemplary contributions to their communities at a ceremony at NSW Government House on 24th November, 2017. Each recipient was presented with a Certificate of Commendation, together with an engraved glass trophy.

The NSW Branch was represented by Chairman Mr John Archer OAM, Secretary Mrs Carolyn Lyons OAM and Award Convenor Dr Frank Kelleher OAM, with VIP guest Ms Margot Braithwaite, Head, Liaison Unit, School Registration and Accreditation Directorate, NSW Education Standards Authority. The 3 Award Judges, Ms Babette Smith OAM, Mrs Lynette Smith OAM and Mr Doug Donoghue AM were special guests of the Branch. Ms Babette Smith is the niece of Dr John Lincoln, founder of the Award, and judged it for many years but retired after the 2017 ceremony. The Award sub-committee is working on a replacement for Ms Smith, who must hold an Order of Australia award.

The awards were presented by His Excellency, General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Governor of NSW, who congratulated the recipients for their outstanding commitment to community service, which epitomised the true spirit of the Order of Australia. Their contributions were wide-ranging, covering a broad spectrum of local, national and international community projects and organisations in areas such as education, cultural development, care and services to the aged and infirm, natural disaster recovery, support for the disadvantaged, refugee advocacy and voluntary work for a host of charities.

His Excellency encouraged all recipients to build on their experiences and continue their demonstrated commitment to community development in its broadest sense, as they moved into their adult lives and the workforce. He concluded his remarks with the observation that with recipients such as these, as a microcosm of the future adult population, the outlook for Australia was in good hands.

HUNTER REGIONAL GROUP

The Hunter Region Group enjoyed a three-course luncheon at the Cardiff RSL Club on Saturday 17th February 2018 to welcome the Australia Day recipients of the Region. Seven of the sixteen recipients were able to attend the luncheon with family and friends.

June Cameron AM hosted the day and extended special congratulations to all of the recipients and a warm welcome to those who attended the luncheon. Again, the group had a near full venue with 115 members and guests in attendance. Garth Doyle OAM the Association Regional Groups Coordinator attended the luncheon and proposed a toast to the Order. The special guest speaker on the day was the Chief Executive Officer of the Hunter Development Corporation Mr. Michael Cassel who delivered an extremely interesting run down on the Corporation's structure, past achievements and into the future planning. His address was well received.

A wonderful lunch and entertainment was enjoyed by all in attendance.



2017 John Lincoln Youth Community Service Award recipients with the Governor and Mrs Hurley, and (left) Award Judge Babette Smith OAM, NSW Chair John Archer OAM, NSW Secretary Carolyn Lyons OAM and (right) Dr Frank Kelleher OAM, Award Convenor

Award recipients and their guests, including in many cases their School Principal (or representative) were joined by His Excellency and Mrs Hurley at afternoon tea in the Government House grounds at the conclusion of the ceremony. Several expressed interest in maintaining contact after the event and all were later invited by email to form a group. Those who accepted and their email addresses were then circulated to the group and it is expected that an "alumni" group may be formed, with one proposal to set up a website.

The group is their own and I expect that the NSW Branch of the Association will be kept informed of any future progress or initiatives.

Arrangements are under way to update the nomination process from the current mailout of forms to one whereby the form will be accessible via a weblink on the Association website. This should substantially reduce cost as well as enabling easier access for School Principals.

Dr Frank Kelleher OAM
Convenor, John Lincoln Youth Community Service Award.



David Walker OAM, Richard Anicich AM, Nicholas Talley AC, Sandra Berenger AM, Jean Martin OAM, Walter Davidson OAM, Richard Marocco OAM. / Photo by – Graham Hynds – Newlight Photography

Two upcoming activities planned by the Order of Australia Association Hunter Regional Group are a Morning Tea at Fingal Bay on Wednesday 20 June 2018 and a Morning Tea at Cardiff RSL Club on Wednesday 4 July 2018.

Stephen Finney OAM

NSW MEMBERS RETURN TO SYDNEY HARBOUR FOR AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS



A full complement of OAA NSW members and their guests once again descended upon Sydney Harbour to celebrate Australia's National Day in style. Once again our large contingent gathered at the Commissioner's steps at Circular Quay and became a part of a huge crowd that was waiting to embark upon the various vessels that were departing from the same location. As our group was to board one of the larger Captain Cook Cruise boats which was last in the queue there was a delay before we managed to venture out onto the water.

The weather on the day was somewhat overcast for which everyone was grateful but the humidity was quite high although was not so noticeable whilst on the water. This year witnessed a new introduction to festivities in the form of a commentator on our vessel who was well versed in

the history of the Harbour and its surrounds and he kept our group quite interested in particular with his knowledge of historical events surrounding the Harbour. Many of our group commented in a most favourable manner to his introduction and it would appear that a commentator will become a permanent fixture in the future.

As usual there were a couple of cruise ships anchored out in the Harbour where their inhabitants no doubt enjoyed the colourful scene. Sydney's revered ferries were a colourful sight as they took part in the ferrython from Circular Quay to Shark Island and back to the Bridge. The HMAS Canberra was the central point for the 21gun salute with the Australian Army, Navy and Air Force all involved.

Back on the water there was a Tug and Yacht Ballet where one could witness a fleet of yachts, tugboats, jet skis and ferries created amazing manoeuvres while up in the sky there was the usual noise from RAAF Jets and a Qantas A380 flew over the Harbour which ensured that no one had nodded off to sleep. The Australia Day Harbour Parade was a sight to be seen when an armada of vessels of all shapes and sizes which had been transformed into a sea of colour and flags as they paraded around the Harbour.

One of the highlights of the day was the tall ships race when the historic ships raced for the 'Tall Ships' Trophy and a roar of delight emanated from our vessel when it was realized that the 'Young Endeavour' had hit the front. Once again Captain Cook Cruises left nothing to chance and a wonderful luncheon was provided for our group and there was no shortage of refreshments during the cruise.

It was certainly a memorable day with many of our group which included quite a number of first timers remarking what a wonderful day they had experienced and would certainly be back for the 2019 cruise. Eventually it was time to turn around and return to the Quay which indeed signalled the end of a wonderful experience for our group.

Ian McKnight OAM



**How to become a Member of our Association
check our website www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au**



COMING EVENTS

Illawarra Regional Group – Mid Year Luncheon **Friday 25th May 2018 11.15am for 11.45am**

Guest Speaker: Trevor Allan
Venue: Dapto Leagues Club, Bong Bong Road, Dapto
Contact Lynn Wilson OAM Secretary Email lynnwilson@loadednet.com.au

Hunter Regional Group **Wednesday 20th June 2018**

Morning Tea at Fingal Bay
Contact: June Cameron AM
Phone 4954 7005 Email jandbc70@gmail.com

Hunter Regional Group **Wednesday 4th July 2018**

Morning Tea at Cardiff RSL
Contact June Cameron AM 4954 7005 Email jandbc70@gmail.com

Annual Luncheon NSW Parliament House, Sydney **Wednesday 25th July 2018 12 noon for 12.30pm**

Special Guest: Crown Prosecutor
Ms Margaret Cunneen SC
All welcome.
Further details: Ian McKnight OAM, Mobile 0407 598 588 or email ianmckni@tpg.com.au

NSW Branch Formal Dinner **Wednesday 22nd August 2018 6.30pm for 7.00pm**

Venue: Club York Red Room 97 York Street Sydney.
Dress: Black Tie or Lounge Suit All Welcome
Special Guest: Former NSW Chief Commissioner Andrew Scipione AO APM
Further details contact Ian McKnight OAM, Mobile 0407 598 588
Email: ianmckni@tpg.com.au

REGIONAL GROUP CONVENERS

Blue Mountains/Hawkesbury/Nepean: Mr Lindsay J Callaghan OAM (02) 4739 4128

Central Coast: Mrs Patricia Slattery OAM (02) 4341 3188

Central West: Mrs Audrey Hardman OAM (02) 6367 5034

Clarence/Richmond: Mr Don Johnston OAM (02) 6628 0055

Coffs Coast: Vacant

Dubbo: Miss Ruby Riach OAM (02) 6882 0658

Far South Coast: Dr Eleanor Robin OAM (02) 4476 5906

Hastings/Macleay: Mr Laurie Smith OAM Mob 0416 221 147

Hunter: Mrs June Cameron AM (02) 4954 7005

Illawarra: Mr John O'Dwyer OAM (02) 4297 2582

Manning: Wing Commander Greg Hartig AM (Retd) (02) 6556 3158

New England North/West: Mr Frederick Edwards OAM 02 6767 1112

Riverina: Mr. John Mueller OAM (02) 6922 3614

Co-Convener: Mr. Wayne Geale OAM

Shoalhaven: Mr. Rod Gibb OAM (02) 4446 0226

Southern Highlands: Mrs Virginia Adlidge OAM (02) 4861 1331

Southern Tablelands: Mr Mark McRae OAM (02) 6227 5739

NSW Regional Groups Co-ordinator:

Mr Garth Doyle OAM 15 Nimbin St
Russell Vale NSW 2517
Tel: (02) 4284 0111 Mob: 0409 850 511

NSW BRANCH OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

His Excellency General The Honourable
David Hurley AC DSC (Retd.)

Chairman

Mr. John Archer OAM
Mob. 0407 919 235

Deputy Chairman

Peter Falk OAM
Mob. 0411 141 103

Honorary Secretary

Mrs Carolyn Lyons OAM
Mob. 0427 374 744

Honorary Treasurer

Mr James Mein AM
Mob. 0408 660 591

Committee Members

Mr. Peter Veenstra OAM
(Regional Groups Co-ordinator)
(02) 6365 1186

Mr Ian McKnight OAM
(Events Manager)
Mob. 0407 598 588

Mr Edward Selwyn OAM
Mob. 0488 601 480

Dr Frank Kelleher AM
(John Lincoln YCSA co-ordinator)
Mob. 0427 644 397

Mr. Malcolm Longstaff OAM
(Membership Assist.)
(02) 9988 3563

A/Prof. John Gullotta AM
Mob. 0418 233 069

Co-opted members

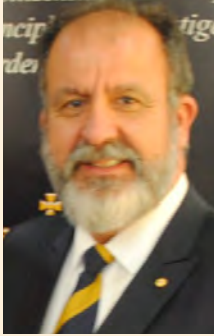
Mrs Mary Doughty AM
(Archives)
9410 7062

Rear Admiral Tony Hunt AO RAN (Rtd)
(Young Endeavour co-ordinator)
(02) 9332 4976

Mrs Silvana Vidoni OAM
(Merchandising Officer)
(02) 9550 0049

Mr Garth Doyle OAM
(Regional Groups Assist.)
(02) 4284 0111

Mr Peter King AO
(Events Assist.)



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It's a great honour to be elected Chair of the ACT Branch Committee for 2018/19 and I very much look forward to working with the Committee and all our members in the coming year.

The Branch has a mature program, developed over several years, including our Australia Day and Queen's Birthday events, receptions for new recipients, ADF Lecture and ANU Oration, Morning Teas and the Multi-Faith Observance. I believe these events cater to a wide range of interests and will be available again in 2018. One of the great benefits of membership is the opportunity to share fellowship with other members and hear their inspirational stories at these events.

Our principal community outreach activity is the annual Student Awards, in which we acknowledge the wonderful community service and good citizenship of ACT school

students. We look forward to a bumper crop of nominations for our judges to consider later in the year.

In considering what other community outreach we might undertake this year, the Branch has formed a sub-committee to find practical ways to promote more nominations for ACT women for recognition in the Order of Australia. Women currently receive far fewer nominations than men, and both the Chancellor of the Order, His Excellency General The Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, MC (Retd), and the National President of the Association, Phillip Flood AO, have asked that more be done to address this imbalance.

I should add just a word or two about membership. A very good number of ACT recipients from the Australia Day 2018 Honours List have joined the Association, but historically the number of new recipients joining is a little uneven, so the Committee will work this year to find ways to grow our membership further.

I look forward to seeing you over the course of the coming 12 months.

Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM
Branch Chair

BILL STEPHENS OAM – MEMORIES AS NATIONAL TREASURES

Following the Branch AGM on 1 March 2018, member Bill Stephens OAM provided a fascinating insight on his experiences in contributing to the National Library's Oral History Collection for which he has recorded over 200 interviews since 1985, specialising in personalities from the performing arts.

Bill related his introduction to the oral history program with his interview with Jenny Howard, then aged 80, a raconteur with stories of her life as a star in variety and pantomime on the Tivoli circuit, of working with the likes of Gracie Fields and George Formby and entertaining troops in WW2. At that time Bill realised the importance of capturing the stories of the Australian entertainers for posterity, particularly the personal information that is unique, and putting material on the record, that up to date had been off the record.

Highlights for Bill were interviewing a number of people who were integrally involved in the first production of the musical "The Boy from Oz", the first Australian musical to get to the Broadway stage, and in 1987 he conducted ten hours of recollections with June Bronhill OBE, the internationally renowned opera singer.

Another recent interview he conducted was with pianist and conductor Frank Dobbs, 84, who relocated from the USA in 1961. Frank had a long association with the Australian Ballet, Opera Australia, has conducted many major musicals, worked with contemporary Australian composers, and had discussed details for presentation of 'Porgy and Bess' in a personal association with Ira Gershwin.

Bill received his OAM in the 2017 Australia Day awards for *service to the performing arts through a range of roles.*



Bill Stephens OAM, Elizabeth Grant AM



Derek Robson AM, Bill Stephens OAM, Michael Crane DSC*, AM

2018 AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST GUEST SPEAKER - PENELOPE THWAITES AM



Her father received an AO for his literary achievements including the Kings Gold medal for poetry, and her mother, with great effort, was able to bring about the establishment of the Remembrance Nature Park behind the War Memorial, with a space dedicated to aboriginal troops who had fought and died in various wars. Penelope also outlined her musical career, including appearing as soloist with orchestras in Europe and Australia. She talked of the importance to her of including Australian composers in her repertoire and she founded and chaired the Performing Australian Music Competition (London 2001 and 2008), attracting participants from 20 countries.

Penelope also discussed her speciality of playing, researching and recording the music of Melbourne-born Percy Grainger and she is editor of *The New Percy Grainger Companion*.

Although she has made her home in London, Penelope returns regularly to Canberra where she has family, and loves both countries as home. Penelope was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2001 *for service to music through the performance and promotion of Australian compositions in the United Kingdom and internationally*. The full text of Penelope's address can be seen on our website at <http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/act/about-us/>

Penelope Thwaites AM, Chair of the Order of Australia Association UK/Europe, gave a fascinating address to our members and guests on her topic "Canberra Connections". Born in the UK to Australian parents, Penelope grew up in Melbourne. After having made her home in London to establish her career as a concert pianist, she made regular visits to Canberra to visit her parents - now in Campbell, enjoying the clear air and bush of the capital. She paid tribute to her parents, Michael and Honor Thwaites for their contribution to the city.



Penelope Thwaites AM, Margaret Beamish



Peter Thwaites, Penelope Thwaites AM, Malcolm MacKerras AO



Bruce Trewartha OAM, Malcolm Beazley AM, Penelope Thwaites AM, Maureen Etherington, Dan Etherington AM, Len Goodman AO

TOUR OF THE NGA ART OF WAR EXHIBITION

On 14 March 2018, Branch members and guests were privileged to be hosted on a tour of the **Arthur Streeton: the art of war** exhibition by Dr Anna Gray AM, Emeritus Curator at the National Gallery of Australia.

Dr Gray was able to provide detailed insights into the exhibition and gave her perceptions of the way Arthur Streeton portrayed the war, particularly focussing on landscapes and stranded military equipment rather than graphic personal images. He had served with the Royal Army Medical Corps at the Third London General Hospital in Wandsworth from 1915 to 1917 before leaving for the Western Front as an official war artist in May 1918.

The members attending were appreciative of opportunity to hear Dr Gray and share her in-depth knowledge on the Arthur Streeton works. Dr Gray was appointed a Member of The Order of Australia in June 2017 *for significant service to the visual arts as a curator, scholar and historian, to Australian artists, and to the promotion of cultural heritage*.



Members at the NGA with Dr Anna Gray AM (Centre left).



THE CHIEF OF JOINT CAPABILITIES TO DELIVER THE 2018 “OAA-ADF ORATION” ON THURSDAY 24 MAY 2018

The Chief of Joint Capabilities (CJC), Air Vice-Marshal Warren McDonald AM CSC will present the 2017 “OAA-ADF ORATION” to explain the rationale for the establishment of the new Joint Capabilities Division within the ADF, what the Division does, and where he hopes to take it by 2020.

Now in its eighth year, the OAA-ADF Oration embraces military and general recipients of The Order to create a closer understanding of each other’s commitment to service - as recognised through the Australian Honours system. For this reason, all Branch members are strongly encouraged to attend regardless of whether you have a military background, and to invite family and guests to accompany.

Air Vice-Marshal McDonald was appointed a Member of The Order of Australia in June 2015 for exceptional performance of duty as Officer Commanding Number 92 Wing, Director General Capability Planning – Air Force, and Commander of Air Mobility Group.

The Oration will commence at 5.30pm, in the Ngunnawal Theatrette. Members and guests are asked to be seated by 5.25pm. The Theatrette is accessed from the foyer of Building R1, Russell Offices - the large block to the rear and to the left of the Russell Hill complex, looking from the “Eagle” monument, and backing onto Constitution Ave. There is ample parking adjacent to Russell building R1.

Light refreshments will be served after the Oration courtesy of the ADF - with the event concluding at 7.00 pm.

REGISTER at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/66774> for this free event.

2018 QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY LUNCH – TUESDAY 12 JUNE 2018



We hope you can join us for the Queen’s Birthday lunch on Tuesday 12 June 2018 at The Royal Canberra Golf Club where we can acknowledge the ACT citizens honoured in the Queen’s Birthday list on Monday 11 June 2018.

We are also looking forward to hearing our guest speaker, **Mr Glenn Keys AO** talk on “Giving Back; from Defence, to business to disability”.

Glenn is the co-founder of Canberra-based Aspen Medical, a provider of healthcare solutions which have included establishing the Remote Area Health Corps and managing Ebola Treatment Units in West Africa. In 2013 Glenn was appointed to the Board of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and in November 2014 was awarded the 2015 ACT Australian of the Year. He is a Board Member of the National Capital Authority & was appointed Chair of the Canberra Business Chamber in Feb 15. Glenn is the founder and Chair of Project Independence, providing housing for people with an intellectual disability. He is a member of our Branch and was appointed an Officer of The Order of Australia in June 2017 for distinguished service to the community of the Australian Capital Territory through contributions to disability support programs, and to business and commerce as an advocate for corporate social responsibility. Register at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/67194> for this event.

ACT BRANCH OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

Gen Peter Gratton AC OBE

Chair

Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM
mandmlive@bigpond.com
0439887480 (M)

Secretary

Robert Altamore OAM

Treasurer

Terry O’Brien OAM RFD

Membership Officer

John O’Neill OAM

Committee Members

Duncan Smith OAM
Sam Wong AM
Bill Maiden PSM OAM
Narelle Hargreaves OAM
Gabrielle Cooper OAM

Immediate Past Chair

Bruce Trewartha OAM

CHECK OUR WEBSITE www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Congratulations to all those who have had their exceptional contributions to our community recognised by an award in the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours List. We look forward to your participation in the Association. The Queensland Branch Committee and the Regional Group

Conveners look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to the interesting events which will be held throughout the State.

I am pleased to report that both the Queensland Branch Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner held recently were very successful with record numbers of members and guests attending. Mr Royce Voss OAM who has served the Branch with dedication and distinction as the Treasurer for the past 10 years did not seek election to the Branch Committee. It was my pleasant duty at the Annual Dinner to present him with a plaque recognising his outstanding service. At the AGM I was very pleased to welcome Mrs Ronda Nix OAM who was elected as Treasurer for 2018. All other positions on the State Branch Committee were filled and the membership of the Committee for 2018 is listed elsewhere in *The Order*. I thank the outgoing Committee members for their hard work and support during 2017, a very busy year. I thank members at the AGM for electing me as the Chairman of the Branch for another term and I look forward to working with the Committee and

the Regional Group Conveners in serving members' interests in 2018. A full copy of the 2017 Queensland Branch Annual Report I presented at the AGM, can be downloaded at the "About Us" section of the Queensland Branch homepage of the Association's website at <http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/>. It makes for very good reading.

The well attended Annual Dinner had several highlights including the presentation of the Branch's Senior Volunteer Awards by Mr Michael Rayner AM and the Occasional Address presented by Major General Professor John Pearn AO KStJ RFD, a very distinguished Australian.

Please use the Association's web site, which is currently undergoing an upgrade, to stay in touch with events and activities planned at National, Branch and Regional levels. Can Regional Group Conveners please keep the Queensland Branch Secretary informed of planned events so the web site can be kept up to date? Queensland is the most decentralised State and we are aware of the issues this presents in servicing members. We were very pleased that the majority of the Regional Group Conveners were able to attend the recent AGM and Annual Dinner. I thank them on behalf of the members for making the effort to participate, some having to travel considerable distances to attend.

2018 promises to be another exciting and interesting year and the Queensland Branch Committee is looking forward to servicing the interests of members.

John Harden AM
Branch Chairman

A 'SHIPSHAPE' MORNING TEA AND TOUR OF THE PORT OF BRISBANE

Ever wondered what a typical working day at Australia's third busiest shipping port is like?

Well here is a wonderful opportunity for you to find out by joining us on a most interesting morning tea and tour visit on **Monday 6 August 2018** to the Port of Brisbane on Fisherman's Island, at the mouth of the Brisbane River. The Port of Brisbane was named Australia's 2017 Port of the Year.

We will all assemble in the Zahel Road parking area of Carina Leagues Club where we will leave our cars free of charge and everyone will travel by bus to the Port from there. Once at the Port of Brisbane we will enjoy a very delicious morning tea in the impressive Cerberus Room affording magnificent views of Moreton Bay. During morning tea there will be a talk provided on the history and day-to-day work activity at the Port. This will be followed by a comprehensive one hour windscreen tour

of the entire facility in the bus. There will also be opportunity to go to the observation deck of the modern architectural Visitor's Centre and admire the best views of the Port from there.

The cost is **\$30 per person**. The Queensland Branch Committee has decided to subsidise the bus component of the event to keep the price attractive to members.

An information flyer incorporating a registration/payment form is included with this edition of *The Order*. The flyer contains important information about the bus travel, car parking arrangements and dress code for the event. Please be aware that the only form of transport to the Port will be by bus leaving from Carina Leagues Club and return.

So it's "Ship Ahoy!" by making sure you book to see the Port of Brisbane in action with a morning tea included for good measure.



The modern architectural Visitor's Centre with Observation Deck on top floor.



Experience the best views of the Port from the Visitor's Centre's Observation Deck.

For all enquiries please contact Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary, phone 3351 4991 or email secqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

A MOST WONDERFUL ANNUAL DINNER

One hundred and thirty-three guests attended a most wonderful Annual Dinner on Monday 19 March 2018 in the Ballroom at Victoria Park in the Victoria Park Golfing Complex at Herston in Brisbane.

This was the biggest attendance for an Annual Dinner for many years. As has been past practice, the Annual General Meeting of the Queensland Branch preceded the Dinner and was well attended by forty-five Association members.

Our outstanding guest speaker was Major General Professor John Pearn AO KStJ RFD who spoke on the interesting topic *"The Symbols of Queensland – the Maltese Cross and the Colour Maroon"*.

John's address touched on the Maltese Cross and its origins; the special association

of Queen Victoria and the emblem of the Maltese Cross identified with Queensland; Queen Victoria's association with her favourite colour maroon; and how prominent Queensland institutions have chosen to adopt the colour to promote their identity over the years. You can read a full transcript of John's excellent address by visiting the "News and Events" section of the Association's website at <http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/>

Also at the Dinner Michael Gowdie from Toowoomba and Jennifer Ivin from Ferny Grove, Brisbane received their Queensland Branch Senior Volunteer Awards from Michael Rayner AM representing Blight Rayner Architecture, the award sponsor. (Refer to separate article elsewhere in this edition of *The Order*).



Our distinguished guest speaker, Major General Prof John Pearn AO KStJ RFD.



Our guest speaker (4th from left) attracts quite a following at the Annual Dinner.



Some of the 133 guests enjoying good fellowship at the Annual Dinner.

WIDE BAY-BURNETT REGIONAL GROUP – A CHANGE OF NAME

Our first gathering for 2018 - lunch at the Bargara Golf Club on Sunday 22 April - was enjoyed by all the members and guests who attended.

In case you have not noticed, we have a name change. Following comments from our members on the name of our Regional Group, I made a proposal to the Queensland Branch Committee through its member, Royce Voss OAM, for a change from Bundaberg Regional Group to Wide Bay- Burnett Regional Group and it was successful. I would like to thank Royce Voss OAM, Marjorie Voss OAM and Geoff Cowles OAM for presenting the proposed name change to the Branch Committee meeting for approval. The approval of the Association's National Board has also been received. I feel everyone in our area is now represented and I hope you are all pleased with the change.

Our mid-year gathering will be a joint lunch at Gympie between our group and the Sunshine Coast Group. Mrs. Marjorie Voss OAM is the convener for that group and we have been steadily working on planning the event for 16 June. I will forward details when they are finalised.

Since our last lunch, we have lost some of our friends. I have forwarded their names to the Queensland Branch Secretary and have spoken to each of the families concerned and conveyed the sympathies of our Group.

Donna K Duncan OAM, Convener.

IN MEMORIAM

Norman William AUSTIN OAM
 Joseph Thomas BAKER AO
 Eric Noel CULLEN OAM
 John Fredoline GLEESON AM
 Percy Harold ISZLAUB AM
 John Kenneth LESLIE AO
 Alec Frederick McINTOSH OAM
 Tom Walker McLUCAS OAM
 Alison MOSS OAM
 Reginald Roland PASCOE AM
 Sister Nola Patricia RILEY AM
 Russell George RITTER OAM
 Robert Charles SIM OAM
 Olive SMITH OAM
 John Powell WALKER AM
 Rudolph (Rudy) Carl WASSMAN OAM
 Barbara Ann YOUNG AO



Associate Professor John Harden AM, Queensland Branch Chairman presents appreciation plaque to former Treasurer, Royce Voss OAM (right) at the Annual Dinner



Committee members past and present thank Tony Webber AM and wife Valerie (7 and 9 from left)

THANK YOU TONY AND ROYCE

Professor Tony Webber AM and Royce Voss OAM, two long standing stalwarts of the Queensland Branch Committee have decided to “call it a day”.

Tony was farewelled and thanked over lunch after his last Committee meeting on 14 February 2018. Committee members past and present gathered to show their appreciation of Tony’s significant contribution over the past seven years including his leadership as Queensland Branch Chairman and Queensland Branch Nominated Director on the National Board and his enthusiasm as a member of the 2017 National Conference Committee. Tony has also been a valued Committee member.

Associate Professor John Harden AM, the current Branch Chairman, presented Tony with an appreciation plaque to mark the occasion and praised the outstanding support Tony and the Branch Committee have received from Tony’s wife Valerie throughout Tony’s tenure.

Over a continuous ten year period Royce has been a truly outstanding Treasurer of the Queensland Branch. He has presided over the financial affairs of the Branch prudently and efficiently over this time. He is respected for his loyalty, dedication and wisdom and for his contribution, not only as treasurer but as a valued Committee member. Royce has

presided over the budget and finances for two Brisbane national conferences in 2009 and 2017. He has enjoyed the strong support of his wife, Marjorie, who is now a current member of the Branch Committee. Not wanting to leave the Committee “in the lurch”, Royce has agreed to stay on the Committee for one more year to help the newly elected Treasurer, Ronda Nix OAM “find her feet”. Associate Professor John Harden AM was very honoured to present an appreciation plaque to Royce at the Annual Dinner on 19 March 2018.

The Queensland Branch salutes both Tony and Royce for jobs well done.

Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND REGIONAL GROUP MORNING TEA

Twenty two members and twelve guests attended our Regional Group’s morning tea in Rockhampton on 12 March.

Our first guest speaker was Dimity Dornan AO. Dimity is a speech pathologist, author and, very importantly, the founder in 1992 of the Hear and Say Centre for Deaf Children. Dimity helped initiate newborn hearing screening in Queensland hospitals, the first such program in Australia.

Peter Milne AM was our second guest speaker. Until 2004 Peter managed cattle properties in northern Australia and was active in various industry organisations including as President of Cattle Council of Australia for a number of years. He received the award of Member of the Order of Australia in the 2017 Queen’s Birthday honours for his significant service to primary industry, particularly to the livestock sector, to animal health and biosecurity programs, and to the community.

The Regional Group is very appreciative to Wallace Taylor OAM who arranged for Dimity to come to Rockhampton and to Michael Shearer who sponsored Dimity’s visit.



Wal Taylor OAM, Rhonda Taylor, Dimity Dornan AO, Peter Milne OAM, Caroline Milne AM, Raymond Young OAM and Michelle Landry MP at the Rockhampton morning tea.

Our next function will be our Annual Luncheon on the 10 September 2018.

Raymond Young OAM, Convener.

THREE VERY SPECIAL QUEENSLAND SENIOR VOLUNTEERS RECOGNISED

The winners of the fifth annual Senior Volunteer Awards were announced at the Queensland Branch Annual Dinner on 19 March 2018. The Awards publicly recognise the vital contributions made to the organisation and operation of our society by senior volunteers. Two of the recipients, Michael Gowdie and Jennifer Ivin, were presented with their awards by Mr Michael Rayner AM whose architectural firm, Blight Rayner Architecture, sponsored the awards for 2017. The third recipient, Jerry Gwynne, was unable to attend the Dinner as he was interstate. Arrangements are being made for the presentation of the award to him at a forthcoming event.

Michael Gowdie thoroughly deserves his award. He is a stalwart of the returned services community of Toowoomba. For more than fifteen years he has held offices as President and Secretary of the Harlaxton RSL sub-Branch, Toowoomba, organising activities for its members, attending meticulously to the sub-branch's administration, representing the organisation and its members at formal commemorations such as ANZAC Day, assisting and visiting aged and unwell members, and ensuring attendance at deceased members' funerals.

Additionally Michael is a foundation member, President and, when required, bandmaster of the Harlaxton RSL Brass band which provides music at ceremonial and other civic events. He also contributes as a member of the Toowoomba Municipal Band and recently has been instrumental in the establishment in 2017 of the Toowoomba Regional Youth Orchestra. He is very active in fostering a range of youth development projects.

Michael is an outstanding contributor to the Toowoomba community as a volunteer. One of his referees commented in relationship to his voluntary work with the Harlaxton RSL – "he is almost irreplaceable."

George (Jerry) Gwynne's contribution to society as a volunteer is simply outstanding.

Following more than 20 years meritorious service in the Royal Australian Navy, Jerry returned with his family to live on



Sharing a moment at the Senior Volunteer Awards Presentation at the Annual Dinner – L to R Michael Gowdie and Jennifer Ivin (award winners); Michael Rayner AM (award sponsor) and Associate Professor John Harden AM (Qld Branch Chairman)

the Sunshine Coast. Almost immediately he became active in community service joining the Rural Fire Brigade and becoming a Scout Leader for the Pomona Scout Troop.

In 2004 he responded eagerly to a request to assist in the operation of the Australian Navy Cadets. Subsequently, Jerry has filled roles of Training Officer and Executive Officer for the Noosa Navy Cadet Unit, T/S Sheean. For an extended period he and his colleague Alan Parr also ran the Maleny Cadet Unit, T/S Centaur when that unit had no staff available to do so. During his extensive service with the Navy Cadets he completed many training courses and received several awards including a Senior Officer's Commendation. His nominator for a 2017 Senior Volunteer Award had this to say about Jerry – "He has positively influenced hundreds of young people and motivated many other volunteers to give of their best. His energy, commitment and modesty are a tribute to him and have extended for a quarter of a century of volunteering."

Jennifer Ivin is a true all-rounder volunteer and a vital contributor to community life. Her major contributions centre on the Jerry Grove Primary School where for

more than seven years she has volunteered to support students in the school's Ready Readers Program, working with individual students to assist in the development of their reading skills which are critical for their educational success.

Jennifer also volunteers extensively at the school's Stationery and Uniform Shop where she is widely recognised for her reliability, commitment and willingness to help out in any way necessary.

Jennifer does sterling volunteering in the Purls Knitting Group which makes soft toys and other items to donate to Project Love and Care, an organisation which seeks to provide loving support to children and young people in foster care.

A champion for the environment, for more than 15 years Jennifer has volunteered with the Kedron Brook Catchment Network, Wildlife Queensland and Birds Queensland, surveying bird populations and leading bird walks.

Jennifer acts as a collector for the annual Red Cross Appeals in Brisbane, was a Cub Scout Leader for more than ten years and was involved in community theatre and ballet.



HAVE YOU NOMINATED ANYONE FOR AN AWARD IN THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA?

Do you know of someone whom you think should be recognised for her or his outstanding community service? If so, please consider nominating that person for an Order of Australia award. Details about nominating a person for an award in the Order of Australia and the nomination form can be downloaded from the website of the Governor-General www.gg.gov.au.

An often-heard criticism of the Order of Australia awards is that many of the recipients fit into the "male, pale and stale" category. That is, the awards do not adequately reflect the diversity of Australian society.

So think of people in those groups which are under-represented in the nomination process such as women and people of aboriginal or ethnic heritage. There are certainly many worthy of being nominated for an award in the Order.

Also if you know of persons who have been recipients of an Order of Australia award but are not members of our Association, please encourage them to join. Perhaps you could pass your copy of *The Order* on to them after you have read it.

Patrick V. Galligan OAM, Queensland Branch Membership Officer

A VERY ACTIVE SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL GROUP

After an enjoyable gathering at Pelican Waters Golf Club, Caloundra late last year (the first gathering of members for over two years), another successful gathering was held on 12 April at the Pacific Harbour Golf and Country Club, Bribie Island when our guest speaker was Dr Mick Davis AM ASM. Mick spoke of some of his experiences during his 53 years in ambulance administration and operations.

We were very pleased that our local member of the Queensland Parliament, Mrs Simone Wilson MP, was able to accept our invitation to be our guest at the morning tea. We endeavour to invite a member of our Local Government and State and Federal Parliaments to our gatherings so they are made more aware of The Order of Australia Association in their region.

The Sunshine Coast Region stretches from Mango Hill (just south of Bribie Island) to Gympie in the north, a distance of approximately 143 km on the main highway and then further inland. At present there are 135 members in the Region. Since January we have welcomed six new recipients and one returning member to our Region.

To cater for all members it is intended to hold a total of four functions this year in various venues. The next function will be at Gympie on 16 June 2018. This will be a combined function as we have invited the Wide Bay-Burnett Regional Group to join with us.

As a new Convener, I am feeling my way and endeavouring to meet the needs of members. I am hoping for a renewed interest by members in the events planned for 2018. Details of the next two events for 2018 will be made known in the next edition of *The Order*.

Marjorie Voss OAM, Convener.

QUEENSLAND REGIONAL GROUP CONVENERS

Central Queensland: Raymond Young OAM – raymond@cyberoz.com.au

Darling Downs: Paul McNally OAM – pmcnally1@bigpond.com

Far North Queensland: Carole Miller OAM – carole.miller@bigpond.com

Gold Coast: Bill Collins AO – wmandrjc@qld.chariot.net.au

Mackay-Whitsunday: Carmel Daveson AM – carmel@ehw.net.au

Sunshine Coast: Marjorie Voss OAM - Marjorie.voss@bigpond.com

Townsville: Please contact Geoff Cowles OAM, Branch Secretary

Wide Bay-Burnett: Donna Duncan OAM – donna_dd@bigpond.net.au

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland

Chairman

Associate Professor John Harden AM, Tel: 07 3408 2005 (H); 0418 988 659 (M)

Deputy Chairman

Mr Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ, 0408 887 923 (M)

Secretary

Mr Geoff Cowles OAM, Tel: 07 3351 4991 (H); 0413 833 720 (M)

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Dr Mick Davis AM ASM, Member Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO, Member Paula Penfold AM, Member Mr Darryl Seccombe OAM, Member Mrs Marjorie Voss OAM, Member Royce Voss OAM, Member Mr Raymond Young OAM, Member

All correspondence to Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary, 16 Kanturk Street, Ferny Grove, Qld 4055 or email secqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au



ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Order of Australia Association Foundation is supporting the next generation of leaders by helping promising young Australians to achieve their potential for the benefit of future generations of Australians.

The Foundation was formed by The Order of Australia Association on 29 April 1999 as a separate entity from the Association and can offer donors tax deductibility for their donations.

Every year the Foundation provides Scholarships with Australian Universities for young students in their early years of tertiary study.

The Scholarships have two significant features. Recipients receive :-

- a Scholarship of \$40,000 which is tailored to the awardee's individual needs to include tuition fees, living allowance, text books and equipment ; and
- an introduction to and a personal mentoring relationship with a volunteer mentor who has received an appointment or award in The Order of Australia and is eminent in the chosen field of study of the awardee.

The Foundation, in consultation with the generous donors who have provided the funding for individual scholarships, offers Scholarships to selected Universities. The Universities then call for applications

from students in their second or third year of studies in the nominated course, interview promising candidates and select a short list of three. These candidates are then considered by an independent National Selection Panel consisting of representatives from the Universities designated for the awards and chaired by Professor Michael Hamerston. The candidates are assessed on their academic achievements, potential as future leaders in their field of study, community involvement for the benefit of Australia and need for financial assistance to achieve their potential.

The Foundation has so far provided 39 Scholarships to undergraduates from all States and Territories and more are planned.

INTRODUCING THE 2017 AWARDEE...

Ms Juanita Kelly-Mundine



Ms Juanita Kelly-Mundine receives her 2017 Foundation Scholarship Award Certificate from His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC

Twenty-one year old Juanita is undertaking the combined courses of Bachelor of Arts, which she has just completed and Master of Cultural Materials Conservation at the University of Melbourne, Faculty of Arts, Grimwade Centre. Her undergraduate studies included majors in Art History and Italian. Her career goal is to become a conservator of works on paper. She completed HSC Year 12 at Frensham High School in Mittagong NSW in 2014 and has a long history of involvement in community activities, volunteering and competency-based courses. Juanita has endless drive to be creative in art, music, theatre and singing as well as mentoring and supporting others.

With such a passion for the arts, Juanita has a very clear perspective that a robust involvement in community work also

requires a dedicated awareness of the need to commit to and achieve academic success. She has consistently achieved high honours in her subjects and has worked to live on campus in a Hall of Residence in order to partake, to the full, in campus life.

On completion of her current course she hopes to gain entry to Camberwell College of Arts in the United Kingdom. She says "this University College of the Arts in London, is where I hope to continue my post-graduate studies in paper conservation before I then move to conservation work in the UK and also, hopefully, in Italy. ...I have studied Italian through my undergraduate course and have fallen in love with its language, culture and Art scene."

This year Juanita has arranged a position as a studio and personal assistant to Melbourne based artist Jaden Hastings. She hopes that this will give her a great deal of experience within the industry and further her knowledge of Arts Melbourne. On return from Europe, she says " I hope to return to Australia and pursue a career in conservation and have a particular interest in looking into the conservation of Indigenous Art given my own Aboriginal (Mundine) heritage".

Meanwhile, this effervescent, dedicated, generous, hard-working recipient of this Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship will continue with varied community engagements to present the Arts for the enjoyment of many.

Juanita's scholarship is generously provided by a bequest from the Estate of Leonard Gordon Darling AC CMG.

INTRODUCING A 2009 AWARDEE...

Dr. Alyssa Fitzpatrick



A 2009 Foundation Scholarship Awardee Dr Alyssa Fitzpatrick thanks the Association and Foundation on behalf of all the present and past Foundation Awardees.

Alyssa was a recipient of the 2009 Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship, which was generously sponsored by Mrs Diana Ramsay AO. She was mentored by Dr Michael Rice AM, who continues to provide invaluable guidance and support. She achieved outstanding results throughout every level of her schooling and finished as Dux of Loreto College, with a Tertiary Entrance Rank score of 99.95 – the highest possible.

In her six years at university she was top student in her cohort and completed her Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery at the University of Adelaide in 2012. She was the recipient of the prestigious University Medal. She also participated extensively in university and community activities; as elected medical student repre-



sentative in Insight-Global Health Group at the University; a social justice advocate and worker; an active worker for the Heart Foundation Doorknock Appeal; and in the University Volunteer Program for International Students, in which she was partnered with a student from China with whom she conversed and helped with orientation in libraries, museums and social centres. Her leisure activities included classical ballet, netball and advanced piano studies.

She was elected the 2013 Rhodes Scholar for South Australia and attended the University of Oxford from 2014-2016 at Magdalen College. Rhodes Scholars are

elected on the basis of exceptional intellect, character, leadership and commitment to service. At Oxford, Alyssa completed the Master of Global Health Science and the Master of Public Policy, both with distinction. Her research focus included examining perinatal outcomes for women with kidney disease and long-term outcomes for premature infants. She has published in the International Journal of Women's Health and Paediatrics. Her extra-curricular activities at Oxford included netball, coxing and taking up playing the cello.

Alyssa returned to Adelaide in late 2016 to commence specialist training in internal

medicine at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Her long-term aspiration is to combine her interest in internal medicine and health service delivery to improve equitable access to health services, particularly for women and their babies. She is keen to undertake work in rural areas to improve the quality of access to professional practice. Another ambition is to work in developing countries. She would like to maintain a balance between clinical and research work.

This outstanding, modest, high achieving professional brings so much talent to everything she undertakes. Watch her soar!

OBITUARY – PROFESSOR DAVID COOPER AO

On Sunday 18th March this year David Cooper passed away after a short illness. He was born in Sydney in 1949, graduated medicine in 1972 at University of New South Wales [UNSW], specialized in immunology, completed a doctorate in medicine, was awarded DSc., and finally appointed as Scientia Professor at UNSW.

The control of the HIV epidemic in Australia was in great measure due to the exceptional talents, selfless commitment and amazing capability of David Cooper to gather and sustain a team of people who worked with him to ameliorate the burden of HIV/AIDS in Australia and globally.

The first cases of AIDS in Australia occurred in 1982. At that time David Cooper was at the Dana Faber Institute in Boston as a NHMRC Travelling Fellow. David returned to Australia and set about establishing a clinical research unit within the Centre for Immunology at St. Vincent's Hospital in Darlinghurst. The number of people with AIDS in Australia and internationally was increasing.

Consistent with the gravity of the threat, the Australian Government developed a National HIV/AIDS strategy with designated funding to provide the services and supports required to protect Australians. In short order a coordinated response to HIV was established to protect the population from further infection, and to support those who had acquired infection. All blood donors were tested, populations at risk were urged to ascertain their HIV status, those living with HIV were provided with all available care, and research was initiated to come up with "best answers" to blunt the epidemic.

Three National Research Centres were the foci for guiding the Strategy; the National Centre in HIV/AIDS Epidemiology and Clinical Research [NCHECR], the National Centre in HIV Virology and the National Centre for Social Research in HIV/AIDS. As director of NCHECR, David Cooper put in place three programs that underpinned Australia's effective early response to manage HIV. These included epidemiology studies to portray the numbers of people living with HIV, clinical trials on treatments and significantly, the clinical manifestations of primary infection.

This latter research was undertaken by and amongst people living with HIV and it documented that within weeks of acquisition of HIV [by transfusion, injection or sexual risk] a glandular fever like illness occurred which entered a latent phase.

Armed with this information it was possible to undertake back-projections to indicate when HIV entered the Australian population, the risk groups and strategies for prevention.

When treatments became available, NCHECR was in the vanguard of conducting clinical trials, initially with Zidovudine and then with successive anti-retrovirals.

David must be credited with designing and conducting clinical trials to define optimal treatment regimens that transformed the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Internationally, the greatest burden of HIV/AIDS was in poorer countries; as President of the International AIDS Society, David brought a focus on the epidemic in the African countries by way of an international AIDS conference in South Africa. He then worked with colleagues in the Netherlands and Thailand to establish HIVNAT [Netherlands, Australia, Thailand].

At this time the Thai Red Cross mounted a successful program for preventing mother to child transmission of AIDS by donating 400 Bahts for a HIV positive mother to deliver a healthy baby. This was successful except that the parents of the healthy newborn succumbed to HIV – leaving AIDS orphans. Together with Joep Lange from Amsterdam and Praphan Phanuphak from Thai Red Cross, HIVNAT implemented treatment trials for parents to care for their newborn. This was the beginning of the global fund within UN to provide treatments internationally to reduce the burden of AIDS.

In the course of transforming AIDS to a chronic manageable condition, David Cooper and colleagues brought about substantial improvements in the infrastructures and systems to treat and prevent infection generally. These included a new system for approving clinical drug trials, a greater focus on infection control, a "section 100" system to provide expensive therapies to people in the community, and particularly for breaking down the barriers of unwarranted discrimination. Not just for people living with infections but also with other conditions.

David demonstrated greatness in ameliorating the scourge of HIV/AIDS, nourished by his faith in Judaism he became a beacon to guide others. He leaves a loving wife and two daughters.

A public memorial is planned for 14th June at Sydney Town Hall in the afternoon.

All are invited to attend. For further information visit the Kirby Institute web site www.kirby.unsw.edu.au

**Peter McDonald AM,
Chair of the Commonwealth AIDS Research Grants Committee**

A SYNOPSIS - CANBERRA CONNECTIONS

A synopsis of an address to the OAA ACT by Penelope Thwaites AM, Chairman OAA UK/Europe

Australia Day 2018

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, and a very Happy Australia Day!

I am honoured to be invited to address you and am very much enjoying meeting OAA Members in the ACT region. And on behalf of the UK/Europe Group, may I bring warm greetings - even if they are all currently shivering in the cold!

Canberra has a special place in my heart. I was born in the UK of Australian parents, and following our return to Australia, I spent my school and university days in Melbourne. But by the time my parents had re-located to Canberra, I had started to make my life and musical career in London. So Canberra then became home on my visits and tours back to Australia.

And how clearly Australian it felt to look out from their sitting-room, across Cobby Street, and over to the lovely bush-covered slopes of Mt Ainslie. One of the first things we would do would be to take a walk up to their favourite view. In the 70s and 80s, you could still see the expanse of Lake Burley Griffin, framed by the gum trees on the slopes... and beyond that, the vivid, sometimes snow-capped mountains.

The diamond clear air of Canberra was a stimulating contrast to England's softer outlook. My parents' delight in the flora and fauna meant close observation of trees and wildflowers as we walked - often under the tolerant gaze of several kangaroos. That wonderful scent of the bush, the endlessly entertaining bird-calls - all seemed to welcome me home.

My favourite English bird is the blackbird - a real virtuoso songster. But just as joyful is that sound of the Australian magpies in the early morning. And I was wondering the other day - what on earth our immigrant ancestors must have thought when they first heard a kookaburra? That unbridled cackle - followed up by the gleeful hooting. You can't help smiling.

My parents have died, but - if you will forgive me - I would like to pay a short

tribute especially to my parents, Michael and Honor Thwaites - for some of the ways they were able to contribute to this city that they loved.

At the end of his life, my father received an AO for his literary achievements (including being the first Australian to receive the Kings Gold medal for poetry). My mother's work in the 1970s was at a time when awards were perhaps less frequent, particularly for women. But I think she would have been astonished to think in those terms at all. What fired her was a passionate love of the natural Australian environment.

Anyway - her particular venture started with a situation many of us will recognise - unwelcome land development on our doorstep. In the 1970s she got wind of a plan to build a row of town-houses on the opposite side of Cobby Street, obscuring the slopes of their beloved Mt Ainslie. My mother was appalled! She tramped up the hill and sat looking out over their favourite view, fuming.

In 1978 the Remembrance Nature Park was officially gazetted. Walks were created and one of them - just opposite my parents' old home - has a modest sign naming the *Honor Thwaites track*. There is also now a bench in her memory at the favourite viewing spot half way up Mt Ainslie. It is an ideal place just to sit and think and breathe in the bush air.

My father's links with Canberra preceded my parents' move to live here. Although by training and inclination a poet and academic, in 1950 he had been invited to join the newly-formed Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation in Melbourne. Shortly after he began the job, the fairly routine trips from Melbourne to Canberra became more dramatic with the sudden defection from the Russian Embassy of two Soviet diplomats, Vladimir and Evdokia Petrov.

Apart from the regular de-briefings following this event, Dad surprisingly found himself involved in a literary capacity. The Petrovs wished to tell their individual stories and asked my father to be the ghost writer for their book, *Empire of Fear*. It tells an extraordinary story of life in Stalinist Russia - their rise from peasant backgrounds, through the Communist system to privileged positions,

which allowed them to travel abroad as diplomats.

However, their growing disillusion with the Soviet system, led eventually to their defection.

But back to Australia Day. What challenges in Australia strike me the most?

The Day itself brings into focus the ongoing change in how we look at the history of this land. I notice how much more visible and audible are the aboriginal voices, and how all Australians in our cultural diversity now have many more chances to learn of different approaches to life. When the aboriginal singer Deborah Cheetham AO spoke at Australia House in London recently, she said something I have never heard articulated before: she said, "I want *all* Australians to feel a part of our 60,000-year-old culture."

My parents had known leaders of the indigenous community back in the 50s and 60s and we met some of them: the singer Harold Blair, the activist and stateswoman, Margaret Tucker, the dynamic Charles Perkins. We glimpsed something hopeful. Despite the cruelty and blindness of the past, these aboriginal leaders, were prepared to forgive.

In that way, they offered us all a challenge - to change in our attitudes, and to move forward. This is clearly a complex and massive scenario and there are no easy answers.

But I was proud and encouraged to hear Deborah's statement.

In taking over as Chair of our Regional Group in 2013, I and the Committee had considered what we might have as a theme for at least some events. As it happened, two of our members had been involved in helping to look after the indigenous Australian scholars at Oxford. We invited one of these students, Sharon Davis to address our Spring Luncheon. It was a really interesting introduction to the use of Aboriginal English as the unifying language for many different tribal backgrounds and Sharon is now in charge of this aspect of education throughout Western Australia.

Mr Chairman - thank you again for inviting me this morning and I wish everyone a very happy and fruitful 2018.



HOW CAN WE MAKE IT MATTER?

In two previous articles I have asked What's the point? and Does it matter? I am accused of being pessimistic when

predicting that the Order of Australia will disappear within a generation unless we take action. I have suggested that individual members can and should strive to make the public better informed. But it will take more than individual effort. The problem of relevance and value to today's society will not be solved easily or simply.

One of the problems that must be addressed is the public's confusion on just what an Order of Australia award is about. Our distinctive national award is lumped in with a host of other awards – State and local – all using Australia in their descriptions. This against a background of general public ignorance results in the Order of Australia being put on the same level in the public's mind as a council Australia Day award for five years' service.

Along with measures I have previously suggested that we should take as individuals we will need a concentrated and coordinated effort from government – from our State Governors, the Prime Minister and Federal MPs, State Premiers and State Members of Parliament and Municipal Mayors and Aldermen.

But no way! I hear you say. We can't be political!

Of course we can't – we cannot favour any political party or group but we can, as now, be apolitical. Remember that the Order of Australia was set up by Federal Parliament with unanimous support from all

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

8 December 2017

Dr Frank Madill AM offers a good challenge to recipients of awards, urging them to nominate others (What's the Point? Does it matter? Edition 49 Spring 2017 p 38) and wondering why not more of them do so. I am pleased to say that I have done so, but there can be difficulties, and perhaps some attention to the nomination form might make it easier.

Obviously a judging panel needs to know details of the nominated person, but some of these details can be impossible to discover without alerting the person involved, and confidentiality makes that impossible.

It can be hard enough trying to find out on what date and where someone was born even if they have a wife or family to contact in secret. Getting the fine details of when they did what in their long lives can be equally difficult unless those family members can get access to their CV, even assuming they have a CV and, without a family member, it can be impossible.

I am not sure of the answer, but perhaps the words "if known" or similar could be included where the information is not crucial. It might encourage some more nominations.

Prof Rob Morrison OAM
rob.morrison@flinders.edu.au
Phone: (08) 8339 3790

political parties. It continues to be supported by whichever party is in government, and its selection process is totally separated from any political influence. Our Governor General has shown no reluctance to be involved. Last year he wrote to each State Governor urging them to seek candidates, particularly women candidates, to be nominated for an Order of Australia award. While our parliaments are held in less regard than in the past, our Governors are highly regarded by the average Australian. They have a vital role in regularly publicly endorsing the Order of Australia and in stimulating community interest.

The Order of Australia should be taught in every school so that our future citizens will have a full knowledge and respect for the institution.

Local government should take every opportunity to highlight the difference between the Order of Australia awards and other local awards. Every local council should have an Order of Australia medal board prominently displayed in their Council Chambers along with printed information.

All State and Federal MPs, regardless of political affiliation, should have as a basic duty the job of assisting their constituents to nominate persons of their choice for an Order of Australia award. Also they should ensure that existing awardees are informed and when appropriate invited to state and civic functions.

If our Australian community cannot come together and make the effort to place the Order of Australia firmly in the minds and hearts of our citizens, it must ultimately be relegated to the status of historical curiosity. Those of us who value our unique and special national award fervently hope that this will never happen, and the Order of Australia will always matter and remain an emblem of our national pride.

Dr Frank Madill AM

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

"An Award is a thoughtful way of saying thank you".

In reference to a letter in the Summer edition of The Order 2018 entitled 'How can we make the point' by Dr Frank Madill AM.

First of all, I would like to thank and congratulate Dr Madill, for making a practical effort to promote the Order of Australia awards.

Actually, he half beat me to it, because I was going to ask the OAA why we do not have a Publicity / Promotion Officer to promote the OAA instead of telling us to promote it. As I have made a few nominations, since 1967, some of them successful and some not.

In fact, soon I will have dinner with a Dr friend of mine, to discuss a re-nomination. Actually, I tried Dr Madill's suggestion, but the feedback was 'Steve is bragging',

Seriously, I believe our National and State Association should have Promotion / Publicity officers.

And to give him / her something to do; to read the names of the OAA recipients in the News, I need a magnifying glass! I do have a pair of glasses.

I am looking forward to the publication of this letter and the response to it. A true award is a thoughtful way of saying thank you.

Steve Raskovy OAM, JP
Victoria

OBITUARY WILLIAM (BILL) GALVIN OAM



Our Association acknowledges with profound regret the untimely death of Bill Galvin OAM a stalwart of the Association for over 20 years.

Bill received his award of The Medal of the Order of Australia in 1997 in recognition of his work in national and inter-national tourism. He was a foundation member of the Sydney

Olympics 2000 Bid and participated in and chaired many industry groups in preparation for the games.

In 2000 he received an Australian Sports Medal in recognition of his support for a variety of sporting organisations across the country.

Bill was involved in the Executive Committees of various Catering & Hospitality industry groups for many years receiving accolades and awards for his endeavours. He also found time to participate in community welfare activities including direct assistance to the homeless.

In 2008 Bill was appointed as Chairman of the NSW Branch of our Association. In 2013 he was elected as Deputy National Chairman and in 2015 he was elected as National Chairman, serving until April 2017.

Our National Chairman has conveyed the Association's condolences to Bill's wife Elizabeth and the wider family.

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION MEMBERS FORUM ADELAIDE 4 MAY 2018

SUMMARY

The National Chairman welcomed members attending and expressed a wish that all would take the opportunity to raise issues of concern and pass on ideas for the future development of the Association. He referred to the comments and presentation of the just completed AGM and expressed a wish to offer a few opening remarks on the matter of growing our membership. These issues included:

- Awareness of the Order in the general community.
- Nominations and the representative nature of Australian society at large.
- Recruiting awardees to the Association.
- Retention of current Association members.

QUESTIONS AND ISSUES RAISED:

- A suggestion to give priority to increasing the Branch Administrative Grant as a means of increasing Branch communication opportunities.
 - Balance between increasing the BAG vs expenditure on new initiatives such as The E-News.
- The importance and utility of fostering increased awareness, through Honours and Awards information groups, drawn from Branch and Regional Group members.
 - The need to better inform both members and the public of the Council of the Order of Australia, its role, membership and process for recommending appointments to it.
- The importance of providing fulsome publicity about Conference activities.
- The importance of taking up all Marketing opportunities to increase awareness.
- The possibility of holding Conferences in regional areas and not just Capital cities.
- The relationship between and the timing of Congratulatory Letters from National, Branch and Regional Group chairmen.

- The difficulty in obtaining contact details of Awardees (but not association members) within the constraints of Privacy regulations.
- The need to enhance both the perception and reality of the value of Association membership.
- The issues surrounding both retention and diversity of membership.
 - What is the value proposition for membership?
- How do we identify issues of diversity and gender in order to gain an appreciation of our membership's character in this regard?
- The need to 'entertain' and 'enthuse' conference delegates as a mechanism to increase attendance.
- The issues surrounding Privacy considerations and the move to 'cloud-based' IT solutions.
 - The impact of off-shore data storage?
 - The enforcement of Australian standards?
- The continued access to and the promotion of Associate membership of the Association.

The Tasmania Branch Committee presented information on 2019 National Conference in Hobart and encouraged completion of the 'Registration of Interest' flyer.

The National Chairman indicated that he hoped that the 'issues' embedded in the questions and discussion today could be taken up by both the Board and Branch Committees and reported on through The Order or Branch Newsletters and perhaps the E-News concept as it was further developed.

The National Chairman thanked all for their participation and emphasised that the Board sought ideas from members and Branch Committees and Regional Groups. Interaction between Branches on so many of the issues was to be encouraged, there was no need for us collectively to reinvent wheels if we could learn from the experience of others.

He encouraged attendees to transfer the tenor of our discussions to their Association colleagues on returning home.

May 2018



NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

At the recent Members' Forum associated with the AGM in Adelaide many of the questions and issues related to the general characteristics of our membership. I have been asked to include some broad characteristic data.

A general note of caution please. There are many reasons why there are differences between Branches in these data summaries. Such issues as the size of Branch membership, the geographic distribution of members throughout a State or Territory, the age distribution within a Branch all influence the outcomes.

Please these are not intended to be a 'ranking table'.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

- Approx 8000 members.
- 38% are female (Roughly reflects gender balance in Awards)
- 60% are life members 40 % annual & 3 year annual members.
- 90% of members have more than one year's membership.
- 75% of members have 5 years of membership or more.
- 35% of members have 15 years of membership or more.
- About 3% of members have 30 years of membership or more.
- The average age of members joining is 70 years.
- The five-year average number of members leaving is about 480 and the number joining is 562.
- Of the approx 11,000 members who have left since inception of the association, some 5200 (47%) were removed because they passed away
- Action is underway at Branch level to collate the year of birth of life members to assist in actuarial analysis of the life-member reserve fund.
- Data on other diversity issues is more difficult to assess because the information has not been sought on joining.

EMAIL ADDRESS NOTIFICATIONS TO DATABASE:

These are the figures of those who have advised an email address at April 2018:

Global Average = 60%

Branch	WA	VIC	TAS	SA	QLD	ACT	NSW	NT
Percentage	85%	78%	66%	58%	57%	81%	50%	56%

E-COPY TAKE-UP:

These are the figures of those who have chosen an e-copy of The Order at April 2018:

Global Average = 24%

Branch	WA	VIC	TAS	SA	QLD	ACT	NSW	NT
Percentage	33%	26%	28%	20%	24%	33%	16%	14%

The 1800 members electing to take up E-Copy of The Order have, on the basis of the costings for the February edition, allowed savings of about \$12500 per year.

It is not too late to opt to contribute to savings just advise your wish for an E-Copy of The Order to: secnational@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT FROM AWARDEES:

These figures are based on the last 4 years plus the Australia Day Honours List:

Global Average = 40%

Branch	WA	VIC	TAS	SA	QLD	ACT	NSW	NT
Percentage	52%	42%	52%	40%	45%	32%	34%	33%

I and Ms Helene Bender OAM, the new National Membership Director will continue to analyse and report on such matters as these from time to time.

Phil Morrall AM, CSC
National Secretary / Editor

OUTCOMES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018 BALLOT

Eligible Registered Votes including Proxies 210.

Special Resolutions require 75% of Eligible Registered Votes to be carried.

OUTCOMES:

	For	Against
To receive the Report of the National Chairman [carried]	191	1
To receive and adopt the Directors' Report [carried]	191	1
To receive the Financial Report, including the Auditor's Report [carried]	191	1
To note the Foundation Financial Report, including the Auditor's Report [carried]	191	1
To note the results of the election of National Office Bearers [carried]	191	1
	For	Against
To approve Special Resolution Motion 1.		
Motion 1. [carried]	204	Nil
To approve Special Resolution Motion 2.		
Motion 2. [carried]	204	Nil
To approve Special Resolution Motion 3.		
Motion 3. [carried]	204	Nil
To approve Special Resolution Motion 4.		
Motion 4. [carried]	203	1
To approve Special Resolution Motion 5.		
Motion 5. [carried]	204	Nil
To approve Special Resolution Motion 6.		
Motion 6. [carried]	204	Nil



Order of Australia Association

MERCHANDISE

The Order of Australia Association is delighted to offer an extended range of merchandise to its members.

You may now choose from our ever popular products plus an extended range of recently released new items. We have also introduced credit card facilities to make your purchasing even easier. From time to time we will add new items and limited offers of special purchase products. If you think of other products that may be of interest to members, drop us a line with your suggestions so it can be researched by the merchandise committee.

	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	PRICE	POSTAGE & HANDLING	QUANTITY ORDERED
1	Cufflinks in Gift Box	35.00	7.00	
2	Association Brooch	15.00	2.00	
3	Association Lapel Badge	15.00	2.00	
4	OAA Blue/Gold Metal Pen	5.00	1.00	
5	OAA Traditional Tie Navy	25.00	2.00	
6	OAA Tie Red/Black/Silver	25.00	2.00	
7	OAA Tie Maroon/Black/White	25.00	2.00	
8	OAA Tie Blue/Gold	25.00	2.00	
9	OAA Tie Navy/Aqua/White	25.00	2.00	
10	Car Decal	5.00	1.00	
11	Key Ring in Gift Box	10.00	8.00	
12	Metal Drink Coasters (set 4)	35.00	8.00	
13	OAA Travel/Sports Bag Navy	40.00	10.00	
14	Business Document/Laptop Bag	30.00	10.00	
15	Playing Cards	3.00	1.00	
16	OAA Metal Medallion 10cm	20.00	2.00	
17	Notebook/calculator	10.00	3.00	
18	A5 Compendium	40.00	8.00	
19	Notepads for Compendium (4)	10.00	8.00	

*Only OAA members may wear apparel, cufflinks & badges.

EMAIL OR POST YOUR ORDER TO
 Mr Richard Rozen, OAM National Merchandise Officer
 The Order of Australia Association
 PO Box 9211, Brighton VIC 3186
 Phone 03 9592 8068
 Email rozenr@bigpond.com
Postage & handling rates may be adjusted where multiple items are ordered.

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TOTAL POSTAGE & HANDLING	
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