



# nsw branch newsletter

PATRON - HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR MARIE BASHIR AC CVO, GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES

As we move closer to the end of the Association's financial year, there is no doubt that our members in New South Wales continue to increase their support and attendance at our wide range of events. These events are a result of your advice regarding both the Sydney Metropolitan and Regional areas. We are particularly grateful for the leadership of Regional

## Message from the Chairman



Co-ordinator Ron Sharpe in the astute organisation of these regional groups, with further assistance from committee members who have been able to support and/or attend such functions.

The 2011 National Meeting (February 2011) will be held in Hobart, Tasmania. The Tasmanian Branch is now completing the overall organisation of this event which will attempt to cater for all members. We expect a record number of members/guests will attend this Meeting and enjoy the great Tasmanian hospitality.

The NSW Calendar of Events for 2011 is also in the planning stage and your ideas/contributions would be most welcome - before July 30, 2010. All of these events will appear shortly on the NSW website.

We were delighted to see over 500 members/guests at the recent Welcome Luncheon for new recipients at Parliament House. Our remaining functions for 2010 are strongly booked.

Membership is increasing; we are especially pleased to see our senior members attending branch/regional events. It is these senior members who have strongly supported our Association for so many years

Their ongoing participation allows us to move forward, with a strong foundation and an exciting future.

Best wishes for your continued success.

*W. R. Galvin OAM Chairman*

## MEMBERSHIP AND ENCLOSED FORM

Would members please advise the Branch Secretary of any change of address. For Branch details on its e-mail and telephone, see p. 4.

Members are also asked to provide the enclosed **Membership Form** to any recipient of an Award in the Order of Australia who is not a member of the Association and who may wish to become one.

## 2010 INTERFAITH SERVICE

We are returning to St Vincent's College Chapel in Rockwell Crescent, Potts Point for our annual interfaith service. This will be held on Sunday, 19th September at 2.30pm. Of great interest to our members and their guests will be the beautiful pipe organ which was built by Fincham of Melbourne and first used in 1914. They will also be able to visit the College archives.

The occasional speaker for the Service will be Father Frank Brennan SJ AO who has been involved with many matters associated with Aboriginal Australians. He was Director of the Uniya Jesuit Social Justice Centre in Sydney and is now Professor of Law in the Institute of Legal Studies at the Australian Catholic University. He has been the Chairman of the Australian Government's National Human Rights Consultation Committee. The Service will be followed by afternoon tea and provides an opportunity for members and their families to meet.

## NOMINATIONS FOR BRANCH COMMITTEE 2010-2011

Nominations are called for the position of Chairman\*, Deputy Chairman, Honorary Secretary\*, Honorary Treasurer\*, Newsletter Editor and five (5) Committee Members for the Branch Committee for 2010-2011.

A nomination form (obtainable from the Hon. Secretary) signed by the proposer and seconder and countersigned by the Member nominated, stating he/she consents to the nomination, should be forwarded to reach -

*Mrs Colleen Wardell OAM  
NSW Branch Hon. Secretary  
The Order of Australia Association  
P.O. Box 206  
Castle Hill, NSW 1765*

not later than 21st September 2010.

Notices of Motion to be discussed at the Annual General Meeting of the Branch are also required to be received by 21st September 2010.

\* Current Office Bearers not eligible for re-election.

## DIARY DATES

### Welcome Reception for Queen's Birthday Awardees

**Thursday 26th August 12 noon**  
The Athenian Greek Restaurant  
11 Barrack St, Sydney  
(See enclosed Booking form)

### Interfaith Service

**Sunday 19th September 2.30 pm**  
St Vincent's College Chapel, Potts Point

# REGIONAL REPORT

by Ron Sharpe

Courtesy Southern Highlands News



**19.2.10 Bowral, Bradman Museum - L/R: J. Lemann OAM, R. Vanzella OAM, L. Bergin OAM, D. Mudd OAM, P. Grigg AM, G. Lewis OAM, H. Kemsley representing late husband J. Kemsley OAM, S. Waterford OAM, J. Simons OAM.**

## SOUTH HIGHLANDS GROUP

On a beautiful evening in February, Southern Highlands Regional Convenor Virginia Adlide OAM, supported by her organizing team, welcomed some seventy members/guests to the Bradman Museum of Cricket in Bowral for a reception.

A very warm welcome was extended to those new recipients of an award in the Order in the Queen's Birthday Listings of 2008/2009 and the Australia Day 2009/2010.

This is a wonderful location, with excellent catering and low costs, where the group is always made most welcome.

Jeff Prell OAM gave a fascinating insight into his life as a farmer in his talk "A Centenary of Family Farming". The Branch was represented by Douglas Parker and Colleen Wardell.

Our members in this area are loyal supporters of the National Braille Music Camp held annually in Mittagong.

## BLUE MOUNTAINS / HAWKESBURY / NEPEAN GROUP

On a lovely Autumn Sunday 23rd May, Graham and Del Swain welcomed sixty-six members/guests to Penrith Panthers for the 20th Annual Function of this most supportive and friendly group.

Four new awardees were welcomed - Allan Drew OAM, Peter Kilkeary OAM, Marion Peters AM, Stewart Thompson OAM.

Grace was spoken by Rev. Kilkeary, the Toast to the Association by Colleen Wardell, while Chairman Bill Galvin spoke of the Branch's activities and the next National Meeting in Hobart in 2011.

Guest Speaker Audrey Blood OAM, who is the current National Chairman of The War Widows' Guild, spoke of her forty-year involvement with this organisation and the great work it has done in supporting war widows whose current age range is from 25 to 90+. She visited France for the 90th celebration of the signing of the armistice - a very moving experience.

Air Commodore Geoffrey Michael AO OBE AFC RAAF (Rtd) spoke most highly of Audrey's work in his vote of thanks. Many Branch Committee members were also present.

**(Left) Guest speaker Audrey Blood OAM with Del Swain.**



**23.5.10 Penrith - L/R: Graham Swain AM, Stewart Thompson OAM, Marion Peters AM, Rev. Peter Kilkeary OAM, Allan Drew OAM.**



## CENTRAL WEST GROUP

Not even a drab, rainy day could dampen the warmth of the friendly welcome to the Eleventh Annual Luncheon held at beautiful Duntryleague Golf Club in Orange. On Saturday, 29th May, Convenor Betty McDonald OAM, supported by her team of Audrey Hardman OAM and Gwen Coulter OAM, greeted the fifty members/guests who have grown into such a close knit group over the years and made welcome some new recipients and new attendees.

Grace was said by Rev. Noreen Towers OAM, the Loyal Toast by John Christian AO, the Toast to The Association by Mary Doughty (who also spoke of the Branch's Community Projects programme), while Branch Co-ordinator Ron Sharpe spoke of the Branch functions and the plans for continued regional growth. Sister Mary Trainor RSM OAM provided a most enjoyable musical interlude and encouraged us to join her.

Jean Whiley, whose husband had been a member of this group, provided a beautiful accompaniment. Neville Barlow OAM and Harold Balcomb AM made the necessary votes of thanks.

**29.5.10 Orange - L/R: Audrey Hardman OAM, Bill Crawford OAM, Gwen Coulter OAM, Betty McDonald OAM.**



## ILLAWARRA GROUP



**28.5.10 Port Kembla - L/R: Standing, J. O'Dwyer OAM, B. Harrison, A. Darling AM, Guest speaker Rev. R. Green, Bishop K. Short AO, M. Barry OAM, J. Hayne AM (Vote of Thanks). Seating, J. Meehan OAM, L. Wilson OAM, L. East OAM, W. Seay OAM, B. MacKander OAM.**

This group's mid-year function was held at the Port Kembla RSL on Friday, 28th May. Fifty-five members/guests were welcomed by Regional Convenor Bill Seay OAM, with support from Lynn Wilson OAM. The Grace was said by Bishop Ken Short AO.

Guest Speaker Rev. Ray Green was introduced by past convenor Brian MacKander OAM. Ray provided a most interesting insight into his work as Senior Chaplain of the NSW Ambulance Service - of the challenges facing ambulance officers at accident scenes as they cope with patients and families and the impact on their own lives.

In 2003 he was awarded the Cook Community award for outstanding service, in 2008 the Ambulance Medal of Commendation and since 2009 has been employed as the first full time Chaplain.

# WELCOME RECEPTION FOR AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDEES

The number of new recipients and their guests attending the Branch's Welcome Luncheon at Parliament House on 5th May was so great we used three different areas to accommodate them.

Guests came from Broken Hill, Thackaringa, Bourke, Nyngan, Hay, as well as other regional and metropolitan areas - providing an overall picture of this vast country of ours.

It is a privilege for the Branch Committee to arrange these functions twice a year and rewarding to note the increase in the numbers of those attending.

It celebrates the success of the Association and its activities in New South Wales and provides a strong platform to welcome new recipients and to give them the opportunity to meet with current members.

There are always two committee members present at each of the Investitures at Government House. This

gives the Branch a wonderful opportunity to speak with as many of the new awardees as possible in the gardens after the ceremony and tell them about the Association and its activities.

In 2009, the NSW Branch established some new speaker events in prime locations, designed to provide members with after work opportunities to meet. Speakers have included Sir Laurence Street AC QC, Rev. Bill Crews AM (Exodus Foundation) and the acclaimed author Thomas Keneally AM.



GROUP 1

GROUP 2



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## REGIONAL REPORT (continued)

### HASTINGS GROUP

Regional Convenor Daphne Johnston OAM welcomed 27 members/guests to the Kendall Services and Citizens Club, overlooking the Camden Haven River, for the annual luncheon on 18th May.

Four new awardees were introduced and warmly welcomed - Mavis Barnes OAM, Neville Clark OAM, Esme Cochrane OAM and Jack Monti OAM. Grace was said by Pam Perry OAM and the Toast to the Order and The Association by Greg Hartig AM.

Alison Hayle, the guest speaker, spoke about the history of Kendall and about the future of this town which won the Community of the Year Award in 2007.

Although it has a population of only 1,700 people, it is a proud and vibrant community which takes its name from the Australian poet Henry Kendall. Alison is involved with the Kendall Dragon Boat Racing team which participated in the annual championships held in Adelaide in 2009.



18.5.10 Kendall - L/R: Front, Jack Monti OAM, Esme Cochrane OAM, Convenor Daphne Johnston OAM, Mavis Barnes OAM, Neville Clark OAM. Back Row, Greg Hartig AM, Ron Sharpe OAM.

# YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

By Vice Admiral **David W. Leach** AC CBE LVO RAN (Rtd)

In 1993 His Honour Dr John Lincoln AM tabled a plan for the community project known as the Youth Community Awards (Youth Community Service Awards since 2001). The project was accepted by the NSW Branch Committee and continues to the present day under his convenorship.

It entails writing to the Principals of all NSW Secondary Schools (both State and private), inviting them to nominate students who have excelled in voluntary work for charities and other civic endeavours. The award is not for sporting or academic achievements.

The nominations are given to a panel of three judges - initially Professor Di Yerbury AO of Macquarie University, Professor John Collins AM and myself. Recently Sister St Jude Doyle OAM has taken the place of Professor Yerbury.

Each year some twenty students are chosen from approximately one hundred entries.

The winners are then presented with a handsome medallion and a certificate by Her Excellency Governor Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO at Government House. This



The Order of Australia Association Medallion's actual size is 50 mm in diameter.

project has had the support of each Governor of NSW since its inception.

The judges continue to be impressed by the breadth and variety of these endeavours which cover a huge range of activities such as the Red Shield Appeal, The Forty Hour Famine, Daffodil Day, night patrols with Mission Beat and the Salvation Army, visits to the elderly and overseas assistance to needy schools and orphanages.

The quality and dedication of our young people bodes so well for the future.

## 'YOUNG ENDEAVOUR' PRESENTATION

In March our Committee representatives, Colleen Wardell and Jack Ball, were present as the *Young Endeavour* docked at Garden Island at the conclusion of its 12 day voyage from Hobart - what a glorious sight !

The crew had taken up positions on the yards to enter the docks and sang the National Anthem.

In the ceremony that followed on board, Colleen Wardell presented Rory McKenzie with a certificate confirming him as the 2010 recipient of the Branch's scholarship of \$500.

James Paver, selected by his fellow-crew members, received the Branch's medallion for this voyage and then responded on behalf of the crew, expressing their appreciation of the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme and the knowledge gained.

This Scheme develops leadership skills, teamwork and social responsibility in all who experience a voyage in *Young Endeavour* and, in return, the Australian people benefit from the potential of these young people and the positive contributions they make to their community.

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION  
**NSW BRANCH COMMITTEE**  
 TELEPHONE (02) **9680 2618**  
 ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 206, CASTLE HILL NSW 1765  
 e-mail: wardelljandc@bigpond.com  
[www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au)

### OFFICE BEARERS

#### Chairman

MR WILLIAM (BILL) GALVIN OAM  
 Mob. 0418 100 927

#### Immediate Past Chairman

MR WOLFGANG GRIMM AM  
 Mob. 0416 124 092

#### Deputy Chairman

REV. DR DOUGLAS PARKER OAM  
 'Ph. (02) 4869 1529

#### Hon. Secretary

MRS COLLEEN WARDELL OAM  
 'Ph. (02) 9680 2618

#### Hon. Treasurer

MR JOHN C. LAFOREST OAM  
 'Ph. (02) 9452 1651

#### Newsletter Editor/Producer and Photographer

MR GIULIO C. VIDONI OAM - 'Ph. (02) 9550 0049

### MEMBERS

MR JACK BALL AM - 'Ph. (02) 9251 0286  
 MR REGINALD S. CHIRGWIN OAM  
 'Ph. (02) 9523 6615, Mob. 0412 008 313  
 MRS HELEN CHRISTIAN AM  
 PO Box 170, Rosebery 2018  
 MR PAUL COUVRET OAM - 'Ph. (02) 9452 1059  
 MR BRIAN FAVERO OAM - 'Ph. (02) 6921 4567  
 MR JOHN JOBLING OAM - 'Ph. (02) 9818 5523  
 MRS RUTH LILIAN OAM - 'Ph. (02) 9388 0654  
 MRS JOAN E. MACKENZIE OAM  
 'Ph. (02) 9979 1569  
 MR RON SHARPE OAM - 'Ph. (02) 4343 1011  
 MR JOHN WALKER OAM - 'Ph. (02) 9417 2016

### CO-OPTED MEMBERS

MRS MARY DOUGHTY AM - 'Ph. (02) 9419 7062  
 SISTER ST JUDE DOYLE OAM  
 DR JOHN LINCOLN AM  
 DR KEITH REEVE AM  
 MRS SILVANA VIDONI OAM

## ASSOCIATION'S MEMORABILIA TIES, CUFF-LINKS, SCARVES, BROOCHES, PENS, etc.

Neckties: New Style \$35 ea.  
 Traditional Style \$35 ea. *Plus package and postage \$2*  
 Scarves: Chiffon (Navy Blue) \$25 ea. *for each of the items at left*  
 Pens: . . . . . \$10 ea.  
 Association Brooches: \$20 ea.

Cuff-links: . . . . . \$35 (in a presentation box)  
*Plus package and postage \$5*

Sir Zelman Cowen book "*Speeches to Members of the Association*" (G C Vidoni, Editor) \$10 ea. *Plus package and postage \$2.50*

Contact - 'Ph. (02) 9550 0049

**Mrs S. VIDONI, OAM**  
**68 CARLISLE ST, LEICHHARDT NSW 2040**

*Cheques are payable to:*  
**The Order of Australia Association, NSW Branch**  
*and mailed to the above address.*

Only Members are permitted to wear Association ties, cuff-links, scarves and brooches.