



Chairman's Report

It saddens me to report the passing of our former Victoria Branch State Committee Member, Richard Williams OAM, who passed away in early August from pancreatic cancer.

Richard was quite an amazing person, highly respected by the Order of Australia Association, Life Education Victoria, and the Pied Pipers Organisation who raise so much for the Royal Children's Hospital.

It was very pleasing to note that the ode, which was put together with the assistance of the Police Chaplain, and was read out on behalf of the Association by Neil Soullier OAM, was extremely well received. Our thoughts are with Richard's family and his extensive network of friends.

I know his attitude would be to make sure things keep happening, and with that in mind we are delighted to announce that Lord Vestey will be honouring us with his presence on Wednesday 4th November at an event to be held at The Sofitel Melbourne on Collins. Lord Vestey gave the oration at last year's Victoria Racing Club Chairman's Dinner in front of the who's who of Melbourne and Australia, all of whom were in awe of his presence, his experiences in life, his connections with the Royal Family, and his near death experience.

Thanks again to Fred Harrington OAM who puts together the Victoria Branch e-newsletter, spending many hours on emails and phone calls following up on matters, and ensuring all of us submit our contributions on time. Thank you Fred for a great effort and for keeping all members up to date with Association news, particularly Victoria State Branch and our regional groups.

Please remember that the merchandise range helps us with a few dollars in the bank and contributing towards our profit. It's quite an extensive range managed by Richard Rozen OAM and Neil Soullier OAM. Details of new merchandise and 'how to order' information appear in this publication, "The Order".

Another pleasing event was held at Government House on Friday 11th September for recipients of the Order of Australia given out on Queen's Birthday, with their honours being presented by the Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency, The Hon. Linda Dessau AM.

It's a very proud moment sitting in the biggest ballroom in the Southern Hemisphere at Government House; seeing people from all walks of life, all nationalities, religions, socio-economic statuses, and age groups being honoured for 'above and beyond' service to the community. The cross sections of words associated with each nomination were very diverse and highlighted how many people do so much for so little in return, but one of the great moments in life is when they receive their Order of Australia.

With the Governor in mind, I'm delighted to announce that Her Excellency The Hon. Linda Dessau AM has confirmed that she will be the Patron of the Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch, and looks forward to welcoming members during her term in office to Government House.

Other recent events organised by State Branch include the visit to the National Gallery of Victoria for the Treasures of the Hermitage Exhibition and our afternoon tea at the Four Seasons Botanic Hotel on St Kilda Road to welcome new awardees from 2015 announcements.

David G. Mann OAM
Chairman – Victoria State Branch



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Victoria Branch acknowledges the ongoing and generous support of the Royal Automobile Club Victoria in presenting this report.

EASTERN SUBURBS REGIONAL GROUP AUSTRALIAN WOMEN DOCTORS NOT RECOGNISED IN WORLD WAR 1

Guest speaker at the Melbourne Eastern Suburbs Regional Group luncheon on 28th July was Dr Heather Sheard, who spoke about the 24 women Doctors who made their own way overseas at the start of WWI after being told by Australian authorities that they could not enlist and were to go home and knit!

Not to be put off, these women Doctors teamed up with the Red Cross and a group of Scottish Women doctors and went overseas. Dr Sheard spoke about the Australian and New Zealand women who worked as surgeons and medical Officers on the battlefields of France, Eastern Europe and in Military hospitals in Britain. The Women's Hospital Corps established hospitals in Paris and at Wimereux near Boulogne.

Eventually the War Office gave permission to establish the Women's Military Hospital in Endell St. London. The Women's Hospital Committee sent the first medical unit to

France 3 months after the War started. By 1915 the Scottish Women's hospital unit had established an Auxiliary hospital with 200 beds in the 13th. Century Royaumont Abbey and in that same year they served in Serbia.

On the Balkan front one Doctor lost her life in Ukraine and was given a full Russian funeral.

Three doctors were awarded the Serbian order of St. Sava [3rd.class] and Dr. Phoebe Chapple was the first woman doctor to win the Military Medal.

Unable to serve in Australian units because of Government policy at the time, many of the most competent medical women left Australia and served in overseas units. Because of this, they have never been recognised in Australia. A situation that Dr Sheard and the Victorian Medical Women's Association are seeking to rectify with a memorial plaque to be placed in Melbourne.



Dr Heather Sheard grew up in Melbourne and attended Elwood High and later Melbourne University where she graduated with a B. Commerce, Dip. Education and a Graduate Diploma in Education Administration. Dr Sheard gained her Masters degree on the History of Victoria's Baby Health Centres and her Doctorate on Dr. Vera Scantlebury Brown who served during WWI.

Contributed by Barbara Thompson
Deputy Chair ESRC

MESSAGE OF PEACE DELIVERED IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Representing the Rotary International President at Conferences has brought some incredible experiences for Cathy Roth OAM and her husband, surgeon John Roth.

Appointed to a multi-District conference in Phoenix, Arizona, Cathy and John were advised that the conference theme would be "Heroes" with conference attendees honouring serving members of the forces, and those who had been lost in action. Thus, the decision was made to travel via San Francisco and to spend time, first, at the RACV-affiliated Military Club. There, within a memorial room, details of recently-fallen soldiers etched on plaques are honoured in sombre acknowledgement, as military flags, and the national flag, stand in silent guard. Club guests, predominantly military personnel, shared their feelings of isolation when serving, and of the sadness of losing friends in battle, yet, of being determined to fight for the rights of those who need that.

The conference was true to its theme. Attendees at the conference brought goods for packs for serving forces in Afghanistan. Tables were laden and over 1,000 care boxes were dispatched. Conference speakers spoke of heroism, leadership, humanity, and of national pride.

The theme allowed Cathy to speak of our own heroes, and the impact of Gallipoli and the ANZAC traditions that define this nation. It allowed reflection on the message of peace. It allowed, also, for some of the light-hearted banter that is such a national characteristic, and it provided an opportunity to show the ability Australians have to take

the job seriously, but not themselves. So the "Heroes Dinner" provided some opportunity for Australian light-heartedness with Roman attire.

The conference closed to the drumbeat of the Trooping of the Colours followed by a soldier's unaccompanied voice singing the American national anthem. It reminded attendees that, as has been throughout history, it is these young who continue to defend our nations, and our freedom, and it is for us all.

Contributed by Cathy Roth OAM – OAA Barwon Regional Group member and State Committee member



MORNINGTON PENINSULA REGIONAL GROUP



The Annual Luncheon and Presentation of the 16th Annual Schools Awards was held on Friday 14th August 2015 at the Safety Beach Sailing Club Community Centre, Safety Beach overlooking Port Philip Bay.

There were 52 in attendance including the Mayor of Mornington Peninsula Shire Cr Bev Colomb along with Cr Antonelli Celi. Guest Speaker was Andrew Mackenzie OAM well known Author, Researcher and Lecturer on Australian Art. He is a leading authority on the Artists of the Heidelberg School and concept creator of the Heidelberg School Artists Trial. Andrew gave an interesting and insightful talk and challenged those present with a questionnaire testing their knowledge about the history of Anzac Day, Dame Nellie

Melba and Walter Withers painting "The Drover". Andrew instigated the naming of the " Dame Nellie Melba Rose" and a great deal of interest was shown in his suggestion that he would be happy to support an Official Launch of the Rose on the Peninsula maybe at historic Beleura House given it has a longstanding Melba connection.

Schools Awards Convenor Allan Pizzey AM gave an outline of the background of the Group's Schools Awards Program and thanked Spowers Architects for their generous Sponsorship over the next three years guaranteeing it's continuation.

The Major Schools Award winner for 2015 was Mornington Secondary College for their excellent submission titled" VCAL

Community Services". VCAL Community Services focuses on personal development skills through volunteering in local community projects developing student's self confidence, teamwork and skills important for life, employment and active citizenship.

A Cheque to the value of \$1000 and a framed Certificate was presented to the School.

The Runner-Up for 2015 was John Paul College Frankston for their submission titled "The Community Companion--Food and Outreach Trailer". The Community Companion is a newly established "Soup Van" that brings food, clothing, food parcels and companionship to the homeless and marginalised of the Frankston region. A \$500 cheque and a framed Certificate was presented to the School.

A delightful meal was enjoyed by all adding to a wonderfully successful event.

The Group held its Annual Dinner and Roy Ward Presentation in late October 2015 with Guest Speaker Neil Soulier OAM, the Chief Executive Officer, Victoria Police Blue Light Foundation.

Coming Events are a Remembrance Day observance on 11th November 2015 at the Memorial Garden Mt Eliza and the AGM followed by the Annual Luncheon on 27th November 2015. The Guest Speaker will be Richard Rozen OAM National and Victorian OAA Merchandise Officer.



SOUTH CENTRAL SUBURBS REGIONAL GROUP

In September St Leonard's College hosted the Debating Association of Victoria Schools Competition Octo-Finals. The event saw 64 teams from 55 schools visit the College to compete for places in the upcoming Quarter Finals.

The College's year 12 team of Josh Staley, Dion Karakiklas, Kate Garrow and Edie McAsey, was adjudged the winner of their final against Melbourne High School.

Their victory guarantees them a place in the final 8 (top 2%) of teams in the state, and progresses them to the Quarter Finals to be held at Box Hill Secondary College on the evening of Wednesday 9 September.

The team will also be presented with an award from the **Order of Australia Association** in recognition of being the best performing team in the Bayside region. On an individual level, three St Leonard's students - Kate Garrow (Year 12/A Grade), Dario Pagoda (Year 11/B Grade), and Niamh Nolan (Year 10/C Grade) - were announced as Swannie Award recipients for the Brighton Region.

The "Swannies" are awarded to the speaker in each region and grade with the highest score after completing at least three debates during the year Swannie Awards are presented to the top debaters in each of the nine Victorian regions of the competition - one for each of years 9, 10, 11 and 12.

The Brighton Region encompasses member schools from Albert Park to Mentone including Brighton Grammar, Firbank Grammar, Mt Scopus

Memorial College, and McKinnon Secondary College. To win three of the four awards on offer is a wonderful achievement and testament to the hard work of each student, as well as the quality of the College's debating and public speaking programs.

Co curricular programs such as these are only possible through the dedication of many staff, ably led by the Director of Public Speaking, Mr Matthew McDonald.

Congratulations to all the students involved and good luck to the year 12 team for their upcoming final.



Winning team: Kate Garrow (co School Captain), Joshua Staley, Dion Karakiklas and Edie McAsey

VALE RICHARD WILLIAMS OAM - ORDER OF ASSOCIATION VICTORIA BRANCH BOARD MEMBER

The corporate and charity sectors are mourning the passing of business entrepreneur, philanthropist and serial volunteer, Richard Williams OAM who died in Melbourne on August 11 from pancreatic cancer.

Many members of the Association will recall Richard's happy face at the 2014 OAA Conference in Melbourne where despite deteriorating health Richard with wife Sandra were there rain, hail or shine to help make the event the success it was.

Richard was an accomplished businessman who used his position in the community to leverage opportunities to raise very significant funds for a number of causes and charities, most notably the Royal Children's Hospital.

In 1966, he and his wife Sandra started the Cha Cha Club (Cha stands for Children's Hospital Appeal) and in 1969 he was a founding member of the RCH Pied Pipers which has raised almost \$7 million for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

Richard was influential and pivotal in the ongoing development of the Pied Pipers encouraging his business associates and friends to be involved end to contribute to the cause.

Since 2010 Richard has been a board member of Life Education, which educates

children about issues such as drug and alcohol abuse and nutrition. He held the position of Deputy Chairman at the time of his passing. Richard was also Vice President of the Tally Ho Fitness Group.

On July 29th Members of the Association were part of 150 people who attended a "Special Tribute Night to Richard Williams" at Melbourne's exclusive Athenaeum Club to celebrate his life and community work. Richard on the night said his charity work gave him satisfying logistical challenges and he loved encouraging others to get involved.

One of many highlights on the night was Mike Brady AM of "Up there Cazaly" fame writing and performing "There is only one Richard Williams" sung to another of Mike's famous songs, "One Day in September"

State Branch Chairman David Mann OAM announced on the night that in recognition of the commitment Richard has made to the Association and his many other causes, the Victoria Branch of the Association will award a scholarship via the Order of Australia Foundation to be named **The Richard Williams OAM Scholarship.**

In addition to his Order of Australia award, he completed seven Melbourne Marathons and was honored to be an Olympic Torch carrier for the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.

At a Memorial Service held on the 21st of August a large number of Order of Australia Award Recipients stood as Neil Soullier OAM read the OAA Ode and placed a sprig of wattle on the memorial table.

A quote given at the memorial service summed up Richard's view to life.

"In 100 years time it will not matter what car I drove, what house I lived in or how much money I had in the bank. The World however will be a better place if I have made the difference in the life of a child."

Submitted by Paul Wheelton OAM



The late Richard Williams OAM pictured with friend and colleague Paul Wheelton OAM

BARWON REGIONAL GROUP CIVIC RECEPTION FOR 2015 RECIPIENTS

The City of Greater Geelong hosted a Civic Reception for the 20 Australia Day and Queens Birthday 2015 recipients.

This year a husband and wife team Wayne Gunn OAM and Julie Gunn OAM were recognised for their service to youth through the scouting movement.

Wayne's scouting journey commenced as a Cub in Wangaratta, Victoria. He has always been passionate about Scouting and all that it offers to both youth and adults alike. Soon after being married, Julie realized that it was either join Scouting or be left at home; needless to say the option chosen was to join her husband in Scouting.

Together they have worked mainly in the Venturer Scout section, teenagers aged between 14 and 18 years. They believe that the opportunities provided to these young people are important to their social, physical and intellectual development as well as being character building. Wayne, in his current role as Region Commissioner Geelong, has seen a 30% increase in membership in the past 7 years which he –contributes to the hard work and dedication of all Leaders in the Region. Wayne provides a great deal of support to the leaders within the Region as well as attending youth presentations such as Queens Scout Presentations and the like.

Julie currently works at Catholic Regional College Sydenham leading the pilot programme of Scouting being delivered as a formal subject and qualification within the Education System of Victoria. A testimony to the success of this programme was the presentation of 9 Queen Scout Awards at Government House, Victoria on Saturday 19th September, 2015.

Both Wayne and Julie have attended International events such as World Jamborees and at present Julie is working to support the growth of Scouting in Timor Leste. Jointly, they are still working within Scouting and enjoy being a part of all that Scouting can offer young people.

They are welcomed as OAA Barwon Regional Group newest members and the Group looks forward to their attendance at upcoming events.

Wayne and Julie Gunn are the third husband and wife from our region to be recipients.

On Australia Day 2008 Lynette Mason AM and Douglas Mason AM were recognised for their service to international relations through humanitarian assistance to people in developing countries.

In 2009 Val Lawrence OAM for service to local government through the Borough of Queenscliff Council and the community joined her husband COL David Lawrence AM who in 1984 was awarded for

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGIONAL GROUP

Recently the Group in conjunction with the City of Ballarat, honoured winners of the School Citizenship Awards with a Civic Reception in the Ballarat Town Hall.

The eight winning students were from secondary schools across Ballarat and their impressive citations were read by committee members Nina Valentine OAM and Mary Akers OAM.

The presentations were made by the Deputy Mayor, Cr Peter Innes and Cr Belinda Coates.

The Spring Luncheon will be held in Horsham for the benefit of Association members who live in the western end of the Region.



Julie Gunn OAM, Mayor Cr Darryn Lyons and Wayne Gunn OAM

his service as the commandant of the Army Apprentices School. In April this year Val and David followed the original ANZACs and sailed from Albany in Western Australia to Egypt, then to Cannakle the nearest port to Gallipoli. They also spent two days touring the battle fields where they were able to appreciate the enormity of what our soldiers faced.

CERTIFICATE PRESENTATIONS

At the OAA Barwon Regional Group annual luncheon on Friday October 9, 2015 OAA Certificates were presented to the following members noting their 30, 25, 20 and 15 year membership plus one from 1982 and two from 1984; this is a new initiative in 2015 hence including members pre-1985.

Certificates presented to:-

Ken Carr AM – 1982
Peggy Taylor AM – 1990
MAJ Adrian Sherriff AM (Ret'd) – 1984
George Ballas OAM – 1995
COL David Lawrence AM – 1984
Richard Brady OAM - 1995
Geoff Neilson AM – 1985
The Rev Alec Hilliard OAM – 2000
Ian Martin AM – 1985
Graeme Goldsworthy AM - 2000

In the next edition of The Order there will be further news from the Barwon Regional Group AGM and annual luncheon with guest speaker Dr Mimmie Claudine Ngum Chi Watts, an Academic at the College of Health & Biomedicine, Victoria University.



Photograph: Geoff Crick OAM, Chair, Central Highlands Regional Group, Nina Valentine OAM, Geoffrey Wickham AO, Deputy Mayor Cr Peter Innes, Mary Akers OAM and past Chairman Dr John Hurley AM.