



ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION TASMANIA BRANCH

The Committee of the Tasmania Branch of the O.A.A. meets (by kind permission of the Brigade Chief) at the station of the Evandale Fire Brigade. At the meeting on Thursday 11th February 2016 members of the Evandale Fire Brigade attended to participate in a commemorative photograph.



Seated: left to right: Dr. John Thorne AM; Ph.D.; JP; Branch Director, Rick Fleming 4th Officer, Ron Blake OAM; Hon. Treasurer, Grant Rigby Brigade Chief, Noel Viney OAM; Chairman, Maureen Rudge OAM; JP; Hon. Secretary, Jacinter Sinclair 3rd Officer, Clive D. Lee AM; ASM; Deputy Chairman Standing: John Pease OAM, Firefighter Bronwyn Rigby, Therese von Samorzewski OAM, Terry Mather OAM, Betty Hite OAM, Firefighter Danielle Shaw, Probationary Firefighter Nicholas Evans, Hon. Dr. Frank Madill AM, Firefighter Alicia Styles. Absent: Sue Cox AM Photo: Trevor Bunyard

THÉRÈSE VON SAMORZEWSKI OAM



Thérèse was born Thérèse Mary Wright on 31st of December 1944 in Newtown in Sydney. She went to school at St Mary's Star of the Sea at Hurstville, a Catholic girl's school, catering from kindergarten up to the equivalent of Year 11 today. She and her fellow pupils had to walk past the local state primary school and she remembers the pupils there would lean over the fence and try and pull their school uniform hats off – often with success! At the age of seven she found that she enjoyed school so much that she decided to become a teacher. Thérèse found that the resources at her Catholic school were meagre compared with those at the nearby

State School. Exercise books, pencils and one reader was all her material in the early years. She learned early in her school life the importance of adequate resourcing as one of the keys to good education.

Next was the Catholic Teachers College at North Sydney where she graduated in 1963. Her first job was at St Christopher's Primary School at Panania, in Sydney. She got a summer holiday job at Streets Ice Cream in Turrella working in the laboratory, and that's where she met Reinhard von Samorzewski who had come from Cologne, Germany, for a holiday and to visit the great Outback. It sounds very romantic – they met over the Streets Heart ice-cream machine and were married at the end of 1963. They built a home in the Blue Mountains, survived the terrible bushfires that ravaged the area in 1969 and then moved to Tasmania at the end of 1975, looking for a cooler climate than New South Wales.

Responding to an advertisement in the local newspaper, Thérèse found herself appointed as Principal at Our Lady Help of Christians School at Newnham in May of 1976. She was one of the first four lay Principals appointed at the Catholic Education system in Tasmania and the only female. She was there for 6 years and then appointed lay Principal

at St Anthony's School at Riverside. She worked there for 14 years and built the enrolment from an initial 27 students to an enrolment of 237 in 1995. In 1996 she took up the position of Principal of Sacred Heart School in Launceston and was there for 9 years. In her 35 years working in Catholic education, Thérèse involved herself in every aspect of its development and innovation.

In 2006 she joined the Board of St Michaels Association; she was elected President in 2007 and currently holds that role. This Association works to develop independence for individuals living with a disability. Thérèse's philosophy has been that children are basically always happy and one of the most important objectives in education should be to provide an environment where they can express their happiness, creativity and eagerness to learn. One of the most satisfying outcomes during her presidency at St Michaels has been the building in excess of 35 independent living units for disabled people.

Thérèse von Samorzewski richly deserved the award of Order of Australia Medal in 1997, recognising her outstanding contribution to Catholic education and to the community in general in Northern Tasmania. Since retiring in 2004, she has continued to work for young people and adults with special needs.



NORTHERN NOTES

Thank you to everyone who attended our luncheon at Betty Tasker's on 6th February and a special 'Thank You' to Dr Nicholas Chantler AM PhD for his very informative and interesting talk on the amazing life of bees. Thank you also to Betty for her hospitality and excellent food.

Congratulations are extended to the northern awardees who received their award on Australia Day – Mr Ian MacKinnon AM, Mr Peter Kearney OAM, Mr Arthur J Withers OAM, Mrs Colleen McCormack OAM, Mr Brian Roe OAM, Mrs Judy Kilby OAM, Mr Norman Warburton OAM, Hon Geoffrey Lyons OAM, Mr Peter F Maher OAM.

FUTURE NORTHERN FUNCTIONS

7th April at 12.30pm. Studentworks – Soup and Sandwich Luncheon, 199 George Town Rd, Rocherlea TAS 7248.

Tour of facility and Speaker, the Manager. <http://studentworks.net.au/>: \$12 per head.

16th June at 1.30pm. Tour of Queen Victoria Museum, Invermay.

Speaker Mr Richard Mulvaney followed by afternoon tea. \$12 per head.

Citizenship ceremonies were held all around our nation on Australia Day. In Launceston the major ceremony conducted by the Mayor of Launceston, Ald Albert van Zetten was significant in that the Mayor specifically mentioned the Australia Day Honours Programme. The City Council's display board of the Australia Day insignias was prominent, and the Mayor clearly explained the significance of our own Australian Honours System, its relevance to our national day, and most importantly, its egalitarian nature. He encouraged people to nominate Australian Citizens who have made special contributions to our society. The Northern Regional Committee is particularly grateful to Mayor van Zetten.

One of our committee members, Dr Nicholas Chantler AM PhD, gave the Australia Day address at the West Tamar Council's Citizenship Ceremony. He also used a display of the award insignias, and eloquently emphasised the importance of our national awards.

It is one of the aims of our Northern Regional Committee that all Citizenship Ceremonies should include highlighting of the Order of Australia Awards and a request to all present that people put forward names of people who have made special contribution to our Australian community.

TASMANIAN BRANCH OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

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

Chairman:

Mr. Noel Viney OAM;

Deputy Chairman:

Mr Clive D Lee AM ASM;

Secretary:

Mrs Maureen Rudge OAM JP;
Ph 03 6225 3954

Treasurer:

Mr Ron Blake OAM;

Functions Manager:

Mrs Sue Cox AM;

Committee:

Dr Frank Madill AM;
Mrs Thérèse von Samorzewski OAM;
Mr John Pease OAM;
Betty Hite OAM;
Mr Terry Mather OAM;
Dr John Thorne AM JP
(National Director)