



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Branch Chairman Dr John Thorne AM is currently in Iceland having left a few days after another very successful Post Investiture Dinner hosted by the Branch.

The venue was Blundstone Arena and Award Recipients, their families and friends and Association Members joined together to make it a memorable celebratory occasion following the Investiture in the Ball Room at Government House in Hobart.

This edition features two members of the Branch Committee, Ron Blake OAM Branch Treasurer and Sue Cox AM Branch Function's Manager who recently had her book "Banished Beyond the Seas" published.

The Branch congratulates the 22 Tasmanian recipients of the 2017 Queen's Birthday Awards.

Maureen Rudge OAM
On behalf of Dr John Thorne AM

BOOK LAUNCH



Sue's husband Harry Cox, Grandson Sam Meikle, Sue Cox AM & Granddaughter Lucy Meikle

Tasmanian, Sue Cox AM, is best known by thousands of families in Tasmania and midwives nationwide from her 35 years as a midwife, lactation consultant and author of parenting books. She is recognised nationally and internationally for her pioneering work in lactation consultancy, was the Australian representative on the inaugural international examiners board for lactation consultants and the first non-American president of her international professional association. Sue was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2004 for her work.

Now Sue has changed direction and her focus is on Tasmanian history - particularly that of female convicts – and has based a novel

on the life of her great, great, great grandmother who was transported to Van Diemen's Land as a convict in 1841. Sue's motivation for writing the story was to revise the written record on "Jeannie's" life, as she believed her ancestor's character had been tainted. Sue wanted instead to demonstrate "Jeannie's" strength of character and her ability to survive incredible hardship. She wanted to show the power of "Jeannie's" resilience and love for her six children, who she had devoted herself to and fiercely protected before her transportation – a trait that has endured through the generations and has been clearly evidenced in the many successful pursuits of her descendants.

Over 100 people travelled from around Tasmania and interstate for the launch of the historical fiction, published by Forty South, "Banished Beyond the Seas. A Saga of Van Diemen's Land," at the Richmond Town Hall in late August. The novel was launched by Ian Heads OAM.

Amongst other things he said:

"... It's a book that reflects love of place, friends and family and one that records the truth about hope of the chance that things can always get better, no matter how dark the clouds. Suffice to say that I found the story of Jean Haddo, a resilient Scottish lass, dealt rather too many dud cards in life, to be both educative and uplifting. The sense of the heroine's determination to keep going was inspiring..."

In his back cover appraisal he states "... a tough and authentic book that ... illuminates the saga of white settlement in Australia through its focus on a single woman." Ian Heads OAM, author & historian.

In addition to being a member of the Tasmanian Branch Committee for which she is Functions Manager for the Post Investiture Dinners Sue has worked as an extra on a recent television production which will be seen on the AB's upcoming second series of "Rosehaven".

HONOUR BESTOWED BY ROYAL LIFE SAVING, TASMANIA



Ron Blake OAM and Graham Ford President of Surf Lifesaving Tasmania

Ron Blake OAM has had over 50 year's involvement with surf lifesaving in Tasmania. This commenced with gaining his Bronze Medallion in 1963. He has held many senior positions including President and Life Member of his surf club at Burnie. As well as being a Life Member of the Burnie Surf Life Club he is a Life Member of Surf Life Saving Tasmania and was a former Director of Surf Life Saving Tasmania.

In 1991 he was awarded a World Life Saving Citation of Merit and the Australian Sports Medal in 2000. He was awarded

the Order of Australia Medal on 26th January 2006 "For services to surf life-saving in executive and administrative roles and to the community of Burnie".

Recently Ron was inducted into the Surf Life Saving Tasmania Hall of Fame at a celebration at the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA), Hobart. The citation read: *In recognition of his exceptional contribution to Surf Life Saving in Tasmania particularly in the area of administration.*

Ron is the Treasurer of the Tasmanian Branch of the Order of Australia Association and the North West Regional Group of the Association.



PATRICIA ANN O'BRYAN OAM



Ted and Pat O'Bryan OAM

Born in Hobart, Tasmania in 1932, Patricia O'Bryan was educated in Burnie and Deloraine Primary Schools and St Mary's College Hobart where she matriculated at age 16. She gained a Bachelor of Music degree at Melbourne Conservatorium and returned to Tasmania to teach music both in Hobart and Launceston. She taught in Manila for a year and in America when her father took up an appointment at the United Nations. She was 23 years old at the time and remembers being sometimes mistaken for a student as many of her pupils looked older than her. At the time Pat retired from school teaching due to her husband's ill health she was coordinator of fine arts and in charge of the music department at St Patrick's College Launceston.

She competed in the Launceston Competitions over a period of almost 50 years, starting as a dancer at the age of four. Her first appearance on stage in a Scottish dance

section was greeted by laughter from the audience because she looked so tiny behind a very large overweight piper. Unperturbed, she soldiered on and actually later won this event. Pat was instrumental in supporting and encouraging huge numbers of young people to enter the competitions. In addition, spanning 40 years, she was organist for four Catholic parishes.

In retirement she, along with her husband Ted, was actively involved in the management and operation of the Launceston School for Seniors – she is a life member of this organisation.

Pat received an OAM in June 1999 for "her contribution to music and the arts in Tasmania and to the community of Launceston." She was an active member of the Northern Region Committee and the Tasmanian State Branch of the Order of Australia Association, attending several National conferences with her late husband.

Pat remains active – she was secretary of the residents Association of the Glenara Lakes Lifestyle Village, and is on the auxiliary of the nursing home, assisting as a volunteer and entertaining resident with weekly piano sessions and directing a percussion band which she formed three years ago.

Patricia Ann O'Bryan OAM is a shining example of lifelong community service.

TASMANIAN BRANCH OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

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

Chairman:

Dr John Thorne AM, JP;

Deputy Chairman:

Mr Clive D Lee AM, ASM;

Immediate Past Chairman:

Mr. Noel Viney OAM;

Secretary:

Mrs Maureen Rudge OAM, JP;
Ph: 03 6225 3954

Treasurer:

Mr Ron Blake OAM;

Functions Manager:

Mrs Sue Cox AM;

Committee:

The Hon Dr Frank Madill AM;
Mrs Therese von Samorzewski OAM;
Mr John Pease OAM;
Mrs Betty Hite OAM;
Dr Nicholas Chantler AM;
Mrs Maureen Oates OAM

NORTHERN NOTES

Twenty members and partners attended lunch on Thursday, 10 August at Drysdale house – the hospitality campus of the northern TAFE. The meal was prepared and professionally served by students and the guest speaker was Ms Marie Gerke.

The annual mayoral reception in recognition of the order of Australia Association will be held on Thursday, 19 October at the town Hall. We are very grateful to Mayor Alderman Albert van Zetten in the city council for providing this opportunity to also recognise our newest awardees.

On Thursday, 9 November Association will be holding special cocktail function at 'Sheringham', the home of Mrs Joan Green OAM. One of the highlights of the evening will be the Northern launch of the book "Banished Beyond the Seas – A Saga of Van Diemen's Land" written by Sue Cox AM. Joan generously made her historic home available to the Association last year for a very



Linda Madill OAM, Betty Tasker OAM and Joan Jacks at the Drysdale restaurant

successful function and we thank her for providing it again this year as well as chairing our special functions subcommittee. Thanks to the work of this subcommittee, members can look forward to a vibrant and stimulating program in 2018.

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

DINING AT DRYSDALE – LAUNCESTON

The Drysdale Restaurant is a fully licensed training venue that is open to the public. It provides students with hands-on, industry-relevant experience and opportunities. All food and beverages are prepared and served by students with the support of qualified, industry experienced professionals.

Visitors and local residents are invited to sample the fine cuisine prepared and served by students as they undertake their practical training in pursuit of becoming qualified service personnel in Tasmania’s growing hospitality and tourism industry.

Walk-ins are welcome, however reservations are recommended.

The Drysdale Restaurant is located at 93 Paterson Street, Launceston.



VISIT TO CLAREMONT HOUSE

Members of the Southern Region recently visited historic Claremont House for a tour of this grand Victorian Italianate mansion which began life c1830 as a four room Georgian Cottage.

The first century of its life saw Claremont House being owned by wealthy merchants, businessmen and politicians, with material changes in the architecture and building over the years which are still evident today.

In 1940 the property passed into the hands of the Red Cross for use as a convalescent home for returned Servicemen and in 1951 it was acquired by the Royal Hobart Hospital as the Lady Clark Rehabilitation Centre until 1980 when it was then taken

over by the Education Department until 1996. By then the condition of the building had deteriorated and a demolition order on the House was passed by the Local Council.

Claremont House moved into private ownership and the current owner Joel Van Sanden has spent several years meticulously restoring this “Grand Old Lady” which is now open as one of Tasmania’s premiere venues with luxury heritage accommodation in the mansion now available.

On the morning of the Southern Region’s visit members were treated to a tour and talk on the House history and a sumptuous buffet tea.



Neil Hirt, Joel Van Sanden (owner) & Barry Hirt OAM



Southern Regional Group

ROGER VALENTINE OAM & BARBARA VALENTINE OAM



Roger & Barbara Valentine

It is not uncommon for couples to receive an award under the Order of Australia for entirely different contributions to their community.

Roger Stuart James Valentine OAM, LLB was born in Hobart in July of 1932. He was educated at Hutchins School in Hobart and

graduated as a Bachelor of Law from the University of Tasmania in 1955. He was admitted to legal practice in the Supreme Court in Tasmania in 1956, was in private practice as a private Barrister & Solicitor in Hobart, practising in all branches of the law including crime, property, matrimony and town planning matters. Roger was involved in an extraordinary number of public service administrative positions – President of the Hobart Chamber of Commerce, founder of the Tasmanian Tourist Council, Chairman of the Liquor Licensing Board, Chairman of the Child Protection Board, Chairman of the Adoption Appeals Committee and Public Service Arbitrator. In January 1985 he was admitted as the first Commissioner of Review for Tasmania. He was Chairman of the Order of Australia

Association’s Northern Tasmanian region and a committee member of the Association’s Tasmanian Branch.

Roger married Barbara Darling in 1955. Barbara Valentine was a librarian and authority on Tasmania and Tasmanian history and was awarded OAM on Australia Day 2012 for service to the community through the preservation of the history of Launceston and the Museum and Galleries sector. They have three children, four grandchildren and one great grandson. Barbara has been involved as a contributor/compiler/editor of a huge number of books relating to Tasmanian history and particularly the northern part of the state. She is regularly consulted regarding assistance with matters relating to Tasmanian history and literary editing.

In two entirely different areas of service, Roger and Barbara Valentine have made a great contribution to Tasmania.



POST INVESTITURE DINNER



STOP PRESS!!!

Dr Michael Kennedy OAM, a member of the Victorian Branch Committee, has been appointed by the Board as a replacement National Membership Secretary after the resignation of Pat Galligan OAM, who unfortunately had to withdraw on health grounds.

Your National Board wishes to recognise the sterling service provided by Mrs Rosemary Everett CPA who retired as the National Manager of our Office on 30 September 2017.

A service provider arrangement has been finalised with Commerce Management Services to provide accounting services for an initial period of six months. A principal of this organisation is Dr Elizabeth Grant AM who members might recall has and continues to have an active involvement in Association activities in the ACT.

Phil Morrall AM, CSC