



TASMANIAN BRANCH NEWS

The Branch AGM and Luncheon were held on the 26 February 2017 at "Entally House" Hadspen. Following the luncheon guests were taken on a tour of the historic home & gardens. Prior to the meeting a multi-faith service was conducted in the "Entally House" Chapel.

The Branch congratulates the 19 Tasmanians who received Order of Australia Awards on Australia Day 2017 especially our Branch Patron the Governor of Tasmania Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC.

DR ALAN NICHOLAS CHANTLER AM PHD, BSC, DIP TEACH, DIP CH

The son of Alan Chantler (clothier) and Wanda, née Cieniewska-Radziwill (artist and physiotherapist); Nicholas was born with a twin-sister in Cheshire on the 11th March 1950. He attended Rydal School in North Wales; and, then completed an Agricultural Apprenticeship at the Cheshire College of Agriculture.

The discovery of a letter, in a tin box in his grandfather's attic in Manchester, captured his imagination and excitement about Australia. This was further raised in school geography lessons on the Snowy Mountain Scheme and Australian agriculture. Then sometime later, meeting a vicar's daughter who was migrating to Australia, confirmed his desires.

An inherent interest in electronics, Sputnik and the Space Race, led him into amateur radio in the early 1960s, something which he is still passionate about today.

Nicholas arrived in 1973; and, after working as a trainee teacher, qualified at the University of Queensland. He then joined the Australian Regular Army (ARA) as an Education Officer in 1981. He then transferred to the corps of Signals. Some years later, as a hobby, he was monitoring a Russian imagery satellite with home-built equipment. This attracted the attention of the Australian Intelligence Corps (AIC) and Nicholas joined the corps in 1987.

He left the ARA in 1991, but stayed in the active reserves whilst lecturing at Queensland University of Technology and the Defence Intelligence Training Centre. He completed a PhD on computer hackers in 1996. From 2001 he worked with the UN for three years in Kosovo to rebuild information and communications technology. This was followed with projects in Kuwait and Korea to do with combating cybercrime.



Dr Nicholas Chantler AM and his wife Tanya.

Nicholas was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2010 "For service to computer science, particularly as a contributor to the development in security concepts and methodology, and as an educator."

Nicholas is married to Tanya; and they have two children Sophie and Marcus. They live in the beautiful West Tamar, near Launceston.

NATIONAL AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM OF TASMANIA



Brian Mathews OAM conducting a Museum tour for the OAA Northern Regional Members

The Museum was established in 1987 by well known Launceston motoring identity Geoff Smedley. It was situated at Launceston's historic Waverley Woollen Mills complex in its early years until it was moved to its current site at Cimitiere St, near the CBD of Launceston, and opposite the beautiful City Park. It is a not-for-profit organisation; the NAMT Pty Ltd Trust Company owning the assets of the Museum. It is managed by a board of twelve (12) volunteer directors. The new Museum was officially opened in September 1996, and three (3) years later the seasonal theme display concept was introduced. This involves a three monthly cycle of exhibitions on the feature floor,

typically celebrating manufacture, era, nationality or specific theme. This ensures that the Museum is constantly refreshed and reflects the diversity of the collection.

Vehicles in the main hall of the Museum, along with the motorcycles housed on the mezzanine floor are also regularly rotated. All of the vehicles on display are privately owned. They belong to Tasmanian enthusiasts and collectors, and occasionally we have vehicles loaned by interstate owners. The success of the Museum is testament to the many hundreds of exhibitors who have made their vehicles available for display and to the directors and other volunteers who help in the day to day running and administration of the Museum.

The Museum plays host to various outside events during the year, often involving visiting car clubs. A Community Awareness Weekend is held annually, the purpose of which is to show the local community what Museum has to offer.

Also housed in the Museum is the Tasmanian Motorsport Hall of Fame, paying tribute to Tasmanians who have excelled in local, national and international motor sport. There is also a souvenir shop with a vast collection of rare and sought after die cast models available. The National Automobile Museum of Tasmania is respected as one of the finest of its kind in the country. It reflects great credit on those who originally established it and who manage it today, as it continues to delight thousands of visitors to our city every year.

A MOTIVATED AND CARING COUPLE



Jim Colville AM & his late wife Margaret Colville AM

Jim and Margaret Colville with the assistance of friend, Robert Gray, spent ten years bringing an otherwise dilapidated colonial wooden cottage, "Bangalor", back from the brink. See *The Order*, summer edition, 2017.

What else do we know of this wonderful couple who both were appointed as Members of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2002 but for different reasons.

Margaret Colville AM was always an active community member, but when her third child was born with Down syndrome she became an advocate for other children with the syndrome and a strong supporter of their families. In her determination to provide services and support for other parents in her position she established "The Towers", a multi-functional centre for people with special needs; Toy Town, a toy library for children with disabilities; and the Down Syndrome Association of Tasmania with a goal to support families of children with Down syndrome and help these children realise their full potential.

For many years doctors referred parents of newly-born Down syndrome babies to meet with Margaret and she readily passed on her skills to others to continue this

important work. Margaret held office both locally and nationally with the Australian Association of Special Education and the Down Syndrome Association. She brought to all her work a great insight into the needs of those with special needs.

Margaret was appointed to the Tasmanian Honour Role of Women in 2009 and was a Finalist in the Tasmanian Senior Australian of the Year in 2010. The community was sad to lose a strong and passionate woman when she died in July 2014.

In 1973 Jim Colville AM was the founding Director of a very large and successful Community, not for profit, organisation, "Colony 47." After tirelessly working to raise the \$3000 necessary as a seeding fund "Colony 47" opened in a rented property, a closed historic church, at 47 Davey Street, Hobart. Right from the beginning he set up a coffee shop as a drop-in centre where young people could visit to receive assistance in a relaxed setting.

Jim recalls: "The young people who came to the service were all really involved and I learnt there that what's important is that people who are judged as being useless by society often have a lot to give if you tap into that potential. I've always felt it's not what you see but what the person can be, what the potential is in that person, and that's how we started."

He remembers a few of the early mistakes such as painting the front doors red as a statement, that there was something new there. Hobart people were very negative and the police also became involved suggesting they would charge Jim with running a house of ill repute based on the fact that some of the rough kids who came to the coffee shop had just been released from prison and were using the refuge to plan other crimes. Unfortunately this led to many people withdrawing their previously offered financial support.

Faced with this set back Jim realised that it was important to diversify. Colony 47 set up a Toy Library; LAMDA which was a support group for people in the gay community; and helped a lot of organisations that wanted to start but couldn't

afford a place to rent. The other aims of Colony 47 were working with unemployed young people; starting a community garden; developing contacts with places which could provide accommodation for young people.

Jim is warmed by the fact that nearly forty five years later when he meets some of these now adult people they thank him for the help he gave them to set them on a new path in life.

Postscript: Colony 47 provides support to 15,000 Tasmanian children, young people and families every year.

Article contributed by Sue Cox AM

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

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NORTHERN REGIONAL NOTES



Lunch organised by Betty Tasker OAM. Left to right Linda Madill OAM, Joan Green OAM, Betty Tasker OAM & Therese von Samorzewski OAM

The Northern Region continues an active and vigorous program of events into 2017. Members and partners attended a luncheon on 4th February at the beautiful home of Betty Tasker OAM. Dr Nicholas Chantler AM PhD gave an interesting and entertaining talk on his experiences while working in National Intelligence. The 26 attendees were delighted to be able to congratulate in person Mrs Linda Madill OAM on her Award received on Australia Day. Congratulations were also extended from the Northern Region to Awardees Mrs Robyn Dilger OAM of White-mark, Flinders Island and Mr Robert T Legge AM from Avoca.

The Northern Region AGM was held on the 16th of February at Glenara Lakes Hall and the current executive and committee were re-elected. Chairman Clive Lee AM gave special thanks

to retiring committeeman Graeme Barwick OAM for his great contribution over 12 years, having been treasurer for many years and major contributor to the success of the previous National Conference held in Tasmania and also for organising four branch AGM's. Clive also thanked Terry Heggaton OAM who was unable to continue on the committee, for his special contribution when the new committee came into being in 2013. A vote of thanks was moved for Terry and Graeme's commitment to the Association and their input to sustain the Northern Regional Group.

Special thanks and appreciation was also extended to Dr Frank Madill AM for his work over the last 12 months to achieve the production of the first information pamphlet promoting awareness and the importance of nominating citizens for Order of Australia Awards. The pamphlet will officially be on the agenda for the National Board Meeting at the National Conference in Brisbane in April. It is a great contribution from the Region to the Branches' commitment to promoting the Awards.

Clive, Frank and Nicholas attended citizenship ceremonies on Australia Day in Launceston, West Tamar and the Northern Midlands. At each of these ceremonies, the Mayors specifically spoke about Order of Australia Awards as distinct from Local Government Councils Australia Day Awards, and the new pamphlet was distributed to our newest citizens, friends, family and other persons who showed an interest. All seven (7) councils in the 03 telephone region had been approached during 2016 by the executive and we will be working to get the other four (4) on board this year to include the information on the Order of Australia in their citizenship ceremonies.

Particular thanks must go to our hard working secretary Therese von Samorzewski OAM for ensuring that all correspondence, meeting organisation and incidental matters (even including assisting with catering) runs smoothly.

BRIAN RAYMOND MATHEWS OAM

Brian was born in Tasmania on June 21st in 1940 and educated at Invermay State School, Launceston Technical High School and Launceston Technical College. After leaving school Brian worked at Kelsall and Kemp in the laboratory, working in industrial chemistry.

He then worked for Gillette for 15 years and then after leaving the work force was employed for a further 15yrs as a consultant. Prior to retirement he worked internationally for the Gillette Company including assignments as President and Chairman of the Board of Gillette Indonesia and President of Gillette (Philippines) Inc.

Brian has always had a great interest in vintage and fine automobiles. He is a life member of the Veteran Car Club of Australia (Tasmania) serving on the committee in several positions including

17 years as its State Secretary. He is a member of the Jaguar Car Club of Tasmania. The Rolls Royce Owners' Club of Australia and has spent much of his life and retirement being involved with the National Automobile Museum of Tasmania (see article in this issue). He was the Chairman of the steering committee that facilitated its move to its present premise and the inaugural Chairman of the Board of the Trustee Company for the museum, serving on the board from 1996 to the present.

Brian was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in the 2009 Australia Day Honours list for "Service to the Community particularly in the administration of motoring clubs and the establishment of the National Automobile Museum of Tasmania Foundation."

He has owned close to 30 or more cars



in his lifetime. He owns 3 and at the moment, 1949 Rolls Royce, 1972 Rolls Royce and a 2002 British Green Jaguar of which he has been the only owner.

Brian Mathews has been and continues to play a major role in the continuing and growing operation of our Automobile Museum in Launceston.

Brian Matthews OAM with his Rolls Royce (National Automobile Museum of Tasmania)