



Dated May 2019

Vision Impaired Accessible Document

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS & NEW SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE



Our two very proud Scholarship recipients Jeremy Doupe and Hannah Gandy. More details are on later pages

Coincident with this presentation, your Board is pleased to announce the creation of an Association National Scholarship Program to allow Branches and individual members to donate into a consolidated account, which when it reaches the Scholarship funding level (currently \$40,000), will allow the award of an Association Scholarship. Scholarships may be named in recognition of the primary donors. Donations will be through the Foundation and will attract DGR tax deductibility.

Donations to the designated Association National Scholarship Program are now open and may be made to:

Name of Account: The Order of Australia Association Foundation Ltd Gift Account

BSB No.: 013006 Account No.: 314735771

Barry Nunn AO National Chairman

NOTICES & EXCLUSIONS:

This is our third attempt at an accessible version, feedback would be welcome.

This version of our National magazine is not intended for general distribution to the wider public but is prepared as a service to those of our members who require the use of vision-impaired screen-reader technology. Thus, certain pages of the hard-copy version involving complex graphics or page layout have been omitted.

A summary of these pages and other notes of a general nature will be listed here.

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION.

National Office – Email: oaasecretariat@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

National Secretary – Phil Morrall AM, CSC Email: natsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I feel very honoured to be appointed National President of the Order of Australia Association. I would also pay tribute to my predecessor, Philip Flood. He has left big footprints throughout his career and will be a tough act to follow.

I have always believed very strongly in the concept of citizenship and of course, as award recipients, members of the Association embody the best of this commitment.

I look forward to better understanding the work of the Association and to engaging with the Board in the governance of the Association. The Council clearly plays a big role, and supporting their efforts will be integral. I also look forward to meeting members and engaging new members as they receive their timeless awards. The day we received our awards,

I suspect for all of us, was a very special one and a memory to treasure. Contributing to Vice-Regal liaison will be important. We need to remain ambitious about the Awards and the ongoing support of this office is fundamental. My Executive career was as a leader of a national membership organisation. I intimately understand the challenges and opportunities involved in this work. My organisation was also a national one. It gave me a terrific understanding of the States and the differences between them that have developed as a

patina on the history of our Federation. I have also worked extensively at the National level. All will hopefully be helpful and relevant over the period ahead.

Heather Ridout AO

National President

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Annual Conference is always a great opportunity to hear directly from members their views of our Association and their wishes for the future. It was therefore pleasing to see so many members attend the 2018 Conference in Hobart and participate so willingly in all activities. Conference success is very dependent on the work of the host Branch, and our Tasmanian Branch is to be congratulated on a very successful event.

Our 2019 AGM was held during the Hobart Conference. Two Special Resolutions were put forward by members, raising the issues of funding for Branches and the development of a new Association Constitution. Although neither Resolution was successful, the constructive discussion that ensued underlined the need for us to remain mindful of the need to ensure all members are well-informed on the issues facing our Association.

We farewelled Philip Flood AO at the conclusion of the 2019 Conference. Philip has been our President for the past three years and has provided both guidance and counsel to directors and vital Vice-Regal liaison. We look forward to working with his successor, Heather Ridout AO.

Planning is already well under way for our 2020 Conference, to be held in Darwin from 7th to 10th May 2020. This promises to be a very enjoyable event and members are encouraged to mark the dates in their diaries.

Although in 2018 Order awards increased considerably, continued promotion will be essential. Branches, Regional Groups and members all have a role to play both in increasing community awareness of our unique Order of Australia and in encouraging more nominations. The commendable success rate for women needs to be sustained and extended to other under represented sectors of our community.

In addition to more awards being made in the Order, there has been an increase in the proportion of awardees who are joining our Association. Great credit must go to Branches, Regional Groups and members for the way in which new awardees are welcomed and encouraged to join.

I have been returned as your Chairman for the next two years. 2019 is proving to be another busy year, but when the opportunity presents, I am keen to meet with committees and members.

Barry Nunn AO

National Chairman

POSITION VACANT - ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Board seeks a volunteer to assist the Editor with the coordination and collation of Branch inputs to our magazine. The effort is required generally in the middle of the months of January, April, July and October in preparation for the forthcoming edition.

General familiarity with the use of email and computers including the saving of contributions including images to Dropbox would be advantageous. If you can assist please contact Phil Morrall AM, CSC National Secretary at natsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au or Tel: 0411298926.

Western Australia Branch

WA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2019 is now well underway. The Branch AGM has been held and the outcomes reported by newsletter to the Branch members. My Chairman's report will be posted on the WA Newsletter page of the OAA website for those who could not attend the AGM.

The Branch reception for the awardees on the Australia Day list was held on 20 March. The Branch is very grateful to the City of Perth and Deputy Commissioner Gaye McMath for hosting the reception, which was a full house. The committee will look at options for larger venues in future.

There were 74 West Australians on the Australia Day list, significant increase on previous lists. I also noted some younger awardees and am pleased to see nominations being made earlier in life. I certainly look to these younger awardees to be branch committee members in the not too distant future.

While the number of women receiving awards has increased, West Australian women are still under represented as a percentage of our State population. I know there are many worthy women in WA, we just need more of them to be nominated. Please make nominating a fellow West Australian of merit a personal aim.

The Branch now has over 90% of its members with an email address. This is a great effort that makes communications easier and, significantly reduces costs. Notwithstanding this, your committee understands a full inbox is not always a good thing and, will not communicate unnecessarily or too frequently.

Regrettably, we could not encourage a nominee to take over from Ian Williams AO, who has completed his five years tenure as Treasurer. As a result, Ian has kindly agreed to another year. This extension of tenure has been approved by the National Executive but, we still need someone to take over from Ian. The Treasurer's job does not require accounting skills or take undue time. If any member is a willing volunteer, please let me know and I will arrange a handover to be conducted over the remainder of this year.

The National Board will be conducting a 'Futures Day' in June to examine the way ahead for the association. I understand a key topic of this day will be the development of a well-considered and sensible plan to review and update the association's somewhat archaic Constitution and By-Laws. If any Branch members wish to make suggestions about the association's objectives or rules, please feel free to submit them via: wabbranch@theorderofaustralia.asn.au or, PO Box 4222, Mosman Park, WA 6912.

Best wishes

Mark Bonser AO, CSC

Branch Chairman

POLICE PATRON SCHEME

This is one of OAAWA's community ventures. "Patrons" – volunteers from among our members (who are given training) – act as mentors and counsellors to pre-graduation police recruits at the Police Academy in Joondalup.

Our convenor of the Scheme is Michael Bleus, OAM.. Patrons are still needed for the squads commencing 19 August, and 14 October.

If you are willing to volunteer for this very worthwhile work please contact Michael Bleus on michael.bleus@bigpond.com

Be assured this is not scary work and training is provided before it is undertaken.

REGIONAL LIAISON ESTABLISHED



At the recent committee meeting it was agreed to appoint Mrs Margaret Nunn OAM to act as a liaison person for the regions. Margaret has, for many years, been instrumental in encouraging members from Perth to travel to Albany for their various functions and has built up a connection with the Great Southern region.

This connection also includes the South West region where many functions have been enjoyed and friendships made and maintained

WESTERN AUSTRALIA - COMING EVENTS

ST GEORGE'S

CATHEDRAL PERTH

June 16th - 5.00 pm

Annual Choral Evensong

All members and friends welcome

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

RECEPTION

August date TBA

Venue TBA

Invitations will be issued

ANNUAL GALA DINNER

18th September

Royal Perth Golf Club

Labouchere Road, South Perth

Invitations will be issued

WILDFLOWER WALK IN

KINGS PARK

2nd October

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

November 28th

Fremantle Sailing Club

For further information about any of the above

please contact Bettine Heathcote, Events

Coordinator on bettineh@bigpond.com or

9409 9626

AUSTRALIA DAY 2019 RECEPTION

It was a full house when 35 Awardees plus their guests together with over 100 members and guests attended the Australia Day 2019 Reception. The Reception, held at Council House in Perth, was hosted by the Commissioners of the City of Perth Council. A very moving welcome to country was given by Barry McGuire and, representing the Commissioners, was Deputy Commissioner Gaye McMath who welcomed guests on behalf of the Council. WA Chairman Mark Bonser AO individually recognised each of the new recipients of an award and read a brief citation for each. We were pleased, though saddened, to also welcome family members of 3 recipients of an award who had passed away before the Reception.

ANOTHER HONOUR FOR A MEMBER OF OUR ASSOCIATION

Admission to the WA Women's Hall of Fame this year was a recognition of the contribution M'Liss Henry OAM has made to the community, especially to those people with special needs. M'Liss, who was awarded an OAM in the Australia Day Honours awards in 2018, has always been involved with horses from growing up on a station in NSW to being the Reserved rider for Australia in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, and now to caring for 60 horses in a Therapeutic Riding Centre which brings benefits to thousands of people.

In an interview with The West Australian Newspaper it was stated that "M'Liss Henry, 75, has joined the dots between horses and people and found a therapeutic connection that continues to change lives".

Shortly after moving to Perth she purchased some ponies and kept them in Claremont where one day she met two couples one of whom had a child with cerebral palsy and the other a child who had had polio. M'Liss offered the children an opportunity to ride and this was the start of what, 46 years later, has become a full-time occupation with thousands of people benefitting from riding a horse. The Claremont Therapeutic Riding Centre now has a CEO, a Board and lots of volunteers who keep the Centre running. At least 3 or 4 volunteers are needed each day. M'Liss estimates that in its 35 year life span, a horse would have had around 20,000 people on its back. It is not only the physical benefits and M'Liss states that one hour on a horse equates to eight hours at the Gym but the emotional and mental benefits many people have found. In the early days it was children with special needs who benefitted physically from the experience of riding a horse but now adults have found mental health benefits as well. M'Liss states that "people with Alzheimer's, heart problems, breast cancer, everything can benefit". She says that "no matter what a person's condition is, or what their special needs are, you have a goal for them. It doesn't matter how big or small the goal is; it's about giving people a sense of purpose and an aim". We congratulate M'Liss Henry on her admission to the WA Women's Hall of Fame – a well deserved recognition of sharing her love of horses and bringing joy and benefits to thousands of Western Australians.



M'liss Henry with para rider Mercedes Portaro mounted on Flash

WA BRANCH OFFICE-HOLDERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

Hon Kim Beazley AC Governor of
Western Australia

Vice Patron

Hon Kerry Sanderson AC

Chairman

RADM Mark Bonser AO CSC

Secretary

Miss Margaret Lobo AM

Treasurer

Mr Ian Williams AO

National Board Representative

Professor Robin Watts AM

Committee Members

Capt. Michael Bleus OAM
Mr Geoffrey Cattach AM
Mr Bill Hassell AM
Mrs Bettine Heathcote AM
The Hon Barbara Scott OAM
Mrs Helen Smith OAM

Regional Coordinators

South West Region

Mrs Glenys McDonald AM

Great Southern Region

Mr Ken Pech AM JP

Contact Information

WABranch@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Mail: PO Box 4222,
MOSMAN PARK WA 6912

Australian Capital Territory Branch

ACT BRANCH OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

Gen Peter Gration AC OBE

Chair

Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM
Chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au
0467 719 020 (M)

Secretary

Robert Altamore OAM

Treasurer

Terry O'Brien OAM RFD

Committee Members

Narelle Hargreaves AM
Trish Keller OAM
Bill Maiden PSM OAM
Alan Morrison AM
Coralie Wood OAM
Sam Wong AM

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Many congratulations to the Tasmanian Branch on a fantastic National Conference in Hobart. It's hard to think of anything that could have been improved upon, and the welcome from Branch members and the Tasmanian community more broadly was everything we've come to expect from the Apple Isle and more.

We look forward to seeing the Conference Report as we start to think about hosting in Canberra in 2021.

In this edition of The Order, you'll find reports on our Australia Day Breakfast with Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC (Retd), the Branch AGM and presentation by Senior Australian of the Year, Dr Sue Packer AM, and our April morning tea with Jenny Bowker AO. How lucky we are to be blessed with such wonderful speakers and to count them amongst our Branch members.

We have a couple of busy months coming up with our next reception for new recipients, our Queen's Birthday Luncheon with guest speaker Her Excellency Lady Lynne Cosgrove, and the 2019 Australian Defence Force Oration with Chief of Defence Force, General Angus Campbell AO, DSC, as the Orator. And we have some other bonus events in planning, of which more in the Branch newsletter. We do hope you'll be able to join us.

Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM
Branch Chairman

2019 AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

Almost 100 members and guests gathered at the Royal Canberra Golf Club with our guest speaker, Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC to celebrate Australia Day and the achievements of ACT and region recipients in the 2019 Australia Day honours list. Sir Angus spoke about two significant anniversaries occurring in 2019: he first described the 1919 Great Air Race, won by two Australian pilots, Ross and Keith Smith, and the subsequent development of a commercial air route between London and Australia, with particular emphasis on the role of Empire Class flying boats in that development, and their role in WW2, before observing that 2019 marks the 20th anniversary of no flying fatalities in the Royal Australian Air Force. While praising the extraordinary achievements of early aviators, he contrasted their approach to risk with the modern culture that has transformed the Air Force's safety record.

FATHER OF FLUORIDATION IN NSW

The passing on 22 February of ACT Branch member Dr Syd Dobbin AM, former Mayor of Yass, was a reminder that he was instrumental in 1956 in making Yass the first town on the Australian mainland to have a fluoridated water supply. In recognition of his determined efforts to promote fluoridation, he was appointed a member of the Order of Australia in 1986 *In recognition of service to the community, particularly in the field of dental health*. He continued his passionate advocacy for fluoridation throughout his life.

MORNING TEA WITH JENNY BOWKER AO

Members and guests were treated to a very interesting talk by Branch member Jenny Bowker AO at our first morning tea of 2019 on Thursday 4 April at the Royal Canberra Golf Club. She talked on her personal experiences as a quilt maker and textile artist, and her life travelling the world as the wife of

a diplomat, particularly in the Middle East from where she gained inspiration for many of her art works. The audience were privileged to see a number of her stunning creations.

Jenny was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honours *for distinguished service to Australia-Middle East cultural relations through the preservation of traditional creative and visual arts, and as a textile artist and educator*. Members will have seen Jenny's story in the previous edition of The Order with a striking quilt image gracing the front cover.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & EVENING WITH SUE PACKER AM



Members and guests gathered at the Royal Canberra Golf Club, Yarralumla on 13 February 2019 to participate in our governance and hear the 2019 Senior Australian of the Year, Dr Sue Packer AM, speak about her Australian of the Year experience.

The AGM saw the 2018 Annual Report accepted and a new Branch Committee elected. Our experiment with providing AGM papers only in electronic format was very successful and this approach will be retained, saving considerably on postage costs and volunteer time.

Sue began her talk by describing the 'surreal' experience of the months and weeks leading up to the announcement of her award, the realities of the presentation night, and the whirlwind of Australia Day

in Sydney. She spoke of her delight at being able to share a day with all 34 Australian of the Year finalists and the wonder of a ride around Sydney Harbour with the other winners aboard the ferry *Victor Chang*.

She went on to explain that she has always been passionate about children, even while growing up, and that this had led to her becoming a paediatrician in 1972 and eventually to her work in the child abuse sector. She shared a range of insights from her experience and exhorted all adults to be more interested in children, and to encourage their curiosity. In response to a question, she even gave advice on successful grand parenting! We are very proud to have Sue as a member of the ACT Branch and wish her every success during her tenure as Senior Australian of the Year.

Sue was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 1999 *for service to child welfare, to Paediatric medicine and to the community* and was named Canberra Citizen of the Year in 2013 "in recognition of her personal efforts and significant contributions to the ACT community, particularly as an advocate for the safety and wellbeing of children."

Victoria Branch

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



2019 has started well for the Victoria Branch of the Order of Australia Association.

For the first time, the Vic Branch was invited to participate in the Australia Day March along Swanson Street, past the Melbourne Town Hall and other iconic buildings before finishing in the gardens off St Kilda Road.

The same day Victoria had a record number of recipients and we look forward to welcoming them at upcoming events during the year.

On Wednesday February 27 in excess of 230 members, guests and secondary students attended our third Oration in Deakin Edge at Federation Square.

The event started with our National Anthem being sung by Imogen Spendlove. The Oration was delivered by The Right Honourable Sally Capp Lord Mayor City of Melbourne. MC David Mann AM interviewed 2018 OAA Foundation scholarship recipient Juanita Kelly-Mundie; an excellent ambassador for the scholarship program. Thank you to our members who attended this successful event.

The first week in April Government House Victoria was full of excitement with the three investitures for the presentation of Australian Honours and Awards by Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC Governor of Victoria.

Families, friends and colleagues proudly acknowledged the achievements of the recipients who have given so freely of their time and knowledge to make a difference in so many areas across Victoria. It was also pleasing to see a good number of recipients from regional and rural areas being acknowledged for services to their community.

Thank you to our members who take the time to nominate achievers who have gone above and beyond. It was also fantastic to see some recipients in the late 20s to early 40s receiving their Order of Australia Medal this year.

We live in a vibrant multicultural state where cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths. That was evident at the two investitures I attended with Fred Harrington OAM VIC Branch Secretary and Regional Groups Co-ordinator.

Our next event is Wednesday 13th June at the National Gallery of Victoria, a dual presentation of Chinese art and culture past and present, the Melbourne Winter Masterpieces series will present China's ancient Terracotta Warriors, alongside a parallel display of new works by one of the world's most exciting contemporary artists, Cai Guo-Qiang.

The VIC Branch values the ongoing support we receive from our members – thank you.

Helene Bender OAM

Branch Chairman

INSPIRING AUSTRALIANS' ORATION

On the 27th February, at Deakin Edge within Federation Square, over 220 guests enjoyed the 3rd annual Inspiring Australians' Oration. In addition to many of the Victoria Branch members, there

were students from invited schools Camberwell Grammar School, John Monash Science School, Ringwood Secondary and Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar.

The event itself consisted of a musical performance from Imogen Spendlove, an interview with the OAA Foundation Scholarship awardee Juanita Kelly-Mundine and of course a delightful Oration by The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp.

The Lord Mayor spoke about the qualities of Inspiring Australians which she admires, which was great to hear from different perspectives with her experiences.

At the conclusion, many students enjoyed their time in discussion with the Lord Mayor, Imogen and Juanita after the Oration.

The Oration has now established itself as one of the major events undertaken by the Victorian branch and will again be held in 2020.

A special thanks to Paul Wheelton AM and Angela Wheelton OAM, for their continued support of the event.

AUSTRALIA DAY IN VICTORIA



The Order of Australia Association was given the opportunity for the first time, to participate in one of the major highlights of Australia Day 2019: The Australia Day Parade held in Melbourne's CBD.

Leading the fifteen OAA Members were Branch Chair Helene Bender OAM and Branch Secretary Fred Harrington OAM who held aloft the Victoria Branch sign.

The street parade commentators introduced the OAA Group over loud speakers, to which the crowds responded with cheers, clapping and several saying "good on you" in

warm response.

In amongst the rich coloured national costumes of many countries represented, several OAA members took the opportunity to add their own colour and style using the Australian Flag, Akubra hat and other items of national pride.

The success, fun and enjoyment of the day augers well for an even bigger representation of OAA Members taking part in Australia Day 2020.

FATHER AND DAUGHTER ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL RECIPIENTS

Victorian recipient, Ms Susan Kathleen Bergman, was invested with her Order of Australia Medal by the Governor of Victoria on Tuesday 2nd April, at Government House.

Ms Bergman OAM was recognised for her service to the performing arts, particularly through community theatre. The ceremony was witnessed by Ms Bergman's family.

The Victoria branch congratulates a rare and special occasion for a duo father daughter recipient of the Order.

William Lye OAM and Fred Harrington OAM represented the branch for the first of our three Australia Day 2019 investitures in Victoria.



The photograph shows her proud husband and daughter; and her mother and father Mr Donald Beresford Bergman OAM, sharing the wonderful occasion. Mr Bergman OAM was awarded the Medal on Australia Day 2017 for service to veterans and their families, and to the community.

South Australia Branch

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Branch AGM was held in the balcony room at the Strathmore Hotel on Saturday 16th February, preceded by a morning tea for assembled members. The business part of the meeting was conducted successfully, and we were entertained by one of our committee members, Ms Pamela Rajkowski, who has an extensive knowledge of early South Australian history.

Pamela told us about how camels assisted the performance of law enforcement in the outback, right up to the early 1950's

Following our Branch AGM your new committee has been busy organising activities for the coming year.

Our new recipients' investitures have taken place over 5 days in early April. The number of investiture ceremonies was due to the increased number of recipients this year, which is very pleasing.

Our new recipients' function will be held on Monday 13th May and we will again be hosted through the generosity of the Norwood, Payneham, St Peters Council and Mayor Robert Bria. The venue will be as in the past, at the Payneham Library complex, corner of OG Road and Turner St., Felixstow, commencing at 5-30 pm. (large medals please). A finger food buffet will be supplied.

The National Board is organising a planning day leading up to the June Board meeting. Attendees will be the Board and State Chairpersons. Some Board members are also state chairpersons, so the range of ideas and input from ordinary members will likely be quite limited as to the variety of issues put forward. In order to involve as much member input as possible, the S.A. branch committee is going to organise a "Futures" day on Saturday 1st June at the Fullarton Community Centre (lunch provided). At this day we plan to discuss issues raised by members from a questionnaire circulated during April.

Further details will be advised by newsletter accompanying the questionnaire. I ask as many members as possible to put forward their ideas in response to the questionnaire.

At this stage we are planning our Queen's Birthday lunch on either Saturday 8th or Monday 10th June. The final date will be dependent on the speaker we hope to organise. Further information about this will be advised by newsletter.

We are again organising our annual Student Citizenship Awards and nominations have been called for from all secondary schools through the Education Dept., Lutheran, Catholic and Independent Schools' website.

By the time you read this the 2019 AGM of the Association will have been held, and the fate of our special resolution decided.

The 2020 AGM is scheduled to be held in Darwin, so now is a good time to start planning your holiday to the N.T.

Our “Captain Proud” paddle steamer cruise and lunch, held on the 26th March was a great success, with 46 members and friends attending. We are hoping to run something similar later this year. We also expect to have more regional functions to welcome new recipients, so please keep a look out in our newsletters for something happening in your area.

Tony Metcalf OAM

Branch Chairman Order of Australia Association

SA BRANCH FUTURES DAY

YOU ARE IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE OF OUR ASSOCIATION, PLEASE COME.

ALL South Australian members are invited to the South Australian Branch Futures Day.

To be held at the Fullarton Community Centre, 411 Fullarton Rd, Fullarton on Saturday 1st June from 10-00 am to 3-00 pm. Lunch will be provided.

The aim of this day is to discuss ideas from all members on a broad range of ideas about the future aims and objectives of the Association and how we can attract and keep members involved.

You will shortly receive a questionnaire from the South Australian Branch seeking your ideas and thoughts. At the SA Branch Futures day, with the assistance of a facilitator, we plan to discuss ideas put forward via the questionnaire with the aim of agreeing to three or four key proposals to go to National for presentation to their planned strategy day at which all states and the National Board will be represented. This will be held in mid-June 2019.

We look forward to your participation on 1st June.

OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

His Excellency the Honourable
Hieu Van Le AC,
Governor of South Australia;
Chairman: Tony Metcalf OAM

Secretary: Paul Thomas AM

Treasurer: John McKellar AM

National Director:

Immediate past Chairman: Ken Coventry OAM JP

Committee: Francis Wong OAM

John Philips OAM

Pamela Rajkowski OAM

Paul Rosenzweig OAM

Brian Holecek OAM

Brian Mattner OAM

June Genders OAM

Martin FitzPatrick OAM

Noel Hender OAM BEM

Membership (acting): Jan Forrest OAM

FRANCIS WONG, OAM, OSJ, FAICD

Francis Wong is an accomplished Australian tourism leader and company director with 30 years of experience in developing positive tourism and business developments. He migrated from Brunei in 1988 as a business migrant, as was recognised by the former Minister of Immigration, Hon Philip Ruddock MP, as a role model migrant to the nation.

He operated one of the most awarded inbound tourism companies in Australia, Encounter Australia Pty Ltd based in Adelaide South Australia, focusing on Asian inbound tourism. He also mooted the formation of the Australia Tourism Export Council (ATEC) branch in South Australia, served on the national board of ATEC for two terms and Chaired ATEC Asian Inbound Tourism Operators Committee.

With his extensive involvement in marketing of Australia and tourism internationally, he won the recognition from the industry and the business community with numerous awards. In 2016, The Hon Andrew Robb MP, former Australian Minister of Trade, Tourism and Investment invited him to join the board of Tourism Australia in 2016.

His wise counsel, trusted endorsements and valuable introductions have opened many doors for Asia and Australia. These connections are always made with the utmost integrity, honesty and transparency.

His previous community contributions also include:

- Board Director- Adelaide United Football Club
- Board Director- Tourism Australia
- Board Director- Clipsal 500- SA Motor Sports Board
- Board Director- Women's and Children's Hospital Foundation
- Board Director- Orana Inc
- Board Director- Australia Day Council SA
- Board Director- Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation
- Board Director- Adelaide Convention Bureau.
- Board Member- Department of Immigration & Ethnic Affairs- Business Advisory.
- Councillor- Adelaide City Council
- Patron- Sight for All

On Australia Day 2014, he was honoured with an Order of Australia Medal OAM for his contribution to business and community.

AGM 2019 OUTCOMES

Members will be aware that the Agenda for the AGM 2019 contained 7 Items requiring a deliberative vote. I wish to formally advise the ballot outcomes:

- There were 926 valid proxies received assigned to 30 Proxy Holders.
- The proxies included totally directed, totally open and mixed selections.
- There were 119 ballot papers distributed to Members in attendance at the AGM.
- The total number of available votes was therefore 1045.
- In accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws, Special Resolutions require not less than 75% of total available votes,(784 votes) to be carried.

The results:

- Item 4. National Chairman's Report. **For: 981 Against: 50 – CARRIED.**
- Item 5. Directors Report. **For 983 Against: 48 – CARRIED.**
- Item 6. Finance Report. **For: 1019 Against: 12 – CARRIED.**
- Item 7. Foundation Report. **For: 1016 Against: 11 – CARRIED.**
- Item 8. Special Resolutions.
- Special Resolution 1. **For: 434 Against: 611 – NOT CARRIED.**
- Special Resolution 2. **For: 407 Against: 634 – NOT CARRIED.**
- Item 9. Election of Office Holders. **For: 965 Against: 54 – CARRIED.**

A SUMMARY OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS IN RELATION TO REPORTS

CHAIRMAN'S AND DIRECTORS' REPORT

The National Chairman offered the following remarks in relation to the Reports before the meeting:

- He was honoured to address the meeting as Chairman of an Order of contributing Australians, and he was confident we would approach deliberations in a spirit of objectivity and cooperation in seeking to engender unity within our Association.
- 2018 was a year of significant activity:
- Five changes to our Constitution were adopted at the Adelaide AGM. These ensure that members are able to nominate for positions on the National Board.
- In addition, it was recognised that our Constitution and supporting rules, while complying with regulatory guidelines, needed considerable change. This work has commenced and continues.
- The Association Strategic Plan was updated to provide a framework for our activities.
- Key activities included, particularly at Branches and Regional Groups efforts to increase the awareness of the Order and to increase nominations. Considerable success has been achieved both in more nominations overall and in more women being recognised. Once nominated women continue to have a higher success rate than men. Our challenge is to increase the rate of nomination of women and other still under-represented groups.
- Our finances are well managed. Our Life Reserve has increased, and drawdowns maximised. In addition to Branch Administrative

Grants some funds have been provided to Branches for special purposes.

- Increased email contact with over 80% of our members has allowed reduced costs for the 20% taking The Order electronically and also has provided an ability for Branches to communicate with members quickly, inexpensively and in a timely manner.
- A dominant theme throughout 2018 has been improving two-way communication between the Board, Branches, Regional Groups and our members. While progress has been good more needs to be done.
- Our National President Mr Philip Flood AO will complete his 3-year term at the conclusion of this AGM on behalf of all members I thank him for his leadership and wise counsel.
- Our incoming National President Ms Heather Ridout will be known to many.
- He thanked both fellow Board members, Branch and Regional Group committees and all members for their ongoing involvement and support for Association activities. only with that participation can we be a truly National Association.

TREASURER'S REPORT – KEY FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2018

The underlying surplus for the year was \$86,304 after taking into account state branches and their regions. Following the revaluation of our investments at balance date the net surplus was reduced by \$75,835 to \$10,469. The market had improved by \$84,076 at the time of our annual meeting.

At year end we had 7,863 members who paid membership fees in one of the following ways Annual \$77 (incl GST); Three yearly \$200(incl GST) and Life members \$1,115(incl GST).

Membership income for 2018 was:

- Annual membership fees at \$70 excl GST \$151,163
- Three-year memberships at \$60.60 excl GST \$43,304
- Life member 2018 actuarial drawdown \$65,000
- Investment income \$44,365
- Membership income after GST totals \$303,832

Expressed per member \$38.64 per annum – Pie Chart “Income per member 2018”

Significant expenditure on member services were:

- Audit \$13,000
- Bookkeeping \$29,365
- Branch Support Grants (BAG) \$41,298
- Insurance \$3,980
- Magazine and magazine Postage \$82,951
- Member database \$47,643
- Photocopying, printing, postage \$7,881
- Regional Support additional to BAG \$3,310
- Rent \$6,924
- Telephone \$2,045

Member services total cost \$238,397

Expressed per member \$30.32per annum – Pie Chart “Expenditure per member 2018”

The remaining member fee income of \$8.32 goes towards indirect member administrative costs.

A REPORT ON THE MEMBERS' FORUM

The following issues were raised by members for discussion and noting by the Board:

- The introduction of an OAA ID Card as an alternative means of identification principally for those who might have needed to surrender their driving licence.
- Enhanced consultation and communication specifically around:
 - Board deliberations and outcomes – limiting the use of In-Confidence caveats.
 - KPI's in Strategic plans etc.
 - Access to the Association Business Plan.
 - Possible Bequest and its use in the primary education area.
 - Revision of the membership value proposition, particularly on the Association website.
 - Recognition of both Richard and Rysia Rozen for their outstanding efforts over many years in relation to Association merchandise sales.
 - Possibility of modified membership fees for those members who might find the current fees unaffordable.
 - Inclusion of Board Committee reports in future Annual reports.
 - The character of and financial implications of Life Membership.
 - The possible amendment of the Nomination System for Directors.
 - Recognition of New Recipients in AGM activities and the value of personal invitations to join the Association.

The National Chairman thanked members for their input and noted that time for discussion was limited but undertook to ensure that the issues raised would be considered by the Board.

THE OLDER WE ARE THE LONGER WE LIVE!

The older we are the longer we live! This may seem to be a contradiction, but it is borne out by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Each year the ABS produce a series of 'Life Tables' that show the average life expectancy of Australian men and women of varying ages.

The 2017-18 tables show that:

- For a woman aged 60, on average she will live to age 86.78
- For a man of the same age, he will live only to age 83.8

And for those who have passed these 60 'milestones'

- For a woman aged 80, on average she will live to age 90.42
- For a man of the same age, he will live only to age 88.92

At the end of 2018 we had 4,816 Life Members. Each has paid a single membership subscription that they rightfully expect to be there to service their membership for 'whole of life'.

At the end of 2018 the Life Reserve, to which Life Membership payments are credited, totalled \$858,504 (2018 Annual Report – Note 15)

Actuarial calculations are completed annually to determine the funds that may be drawn from the Life Reserve to service Life Members, while maintaining enough to ensure the Reserve last for ‘whole of life’ of members. This calculation is somewhat complicated as only 40% of Life Members have so far provided their year of birth, necessitating a conservative estimate of the amount that can be drawn down.

While the Life Reserve must be preserved as above, it does not languish in a bank at low or zero interest rate. Instead it is actively invested with the proceeds being directed to support both Life and Annual Member activities throughout our Association.

CHANGING THE ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

Members will recall that some changes were made to the Association Constitution at the 2018 AGM. In bringing these changes forward your National Board recognised that there was a need for much more work if our Constitution was to serve the Association in the years ahead.

The Special Resolution put before the 2019 AGM, requiring a new Constitution by June 2019, did not fully appreciate the progress already made in this matter or the complexity of the task. After some initial work on the subject, the Board formally set up a ‘Constitution Working Group’ in October 2018. This Group has been collecting information and the views of Branch Committees since that time. A gap analysis has identified additional points that need to be addressed in a new Constitution for it to be in harmony with the Australian Charities and Not-for -profits Commission (ACNC) requirements.

At a recent National Board meeting a set of guiding principles for a new Constitution were agreed.

These included:

- Giving members a greater say in the governance of the organisation
- Branches and Regional Groups given flexibility in their operations to take account of the varying circumstances in States and Regions
- The organisation’s ‘officers¹’ have clearly assigned responsibilities and are accountable to all members.
- Continuity of efficient and effective management of the organisation
- Documents to be written in plain, understandable language

A Constitution can be prepared only after a ‘blueprint’ has been prepared for the way ahead, incorporating both principles and operating concepts. To this end Directors and Branch Chairmen are to come together in June to develop this blueprint for the future, to guide the writing of our new Constitution. Branch and Regional Committees will be encouraging members, during May, to put forward their views for consideration during this process.

Your Board has agreed that a new Constitution document will be required, with its foundation the ACNC2 template. The principles of the new document should incorporate the outcomes of the June Directors’ and Chairmen’s meeting. It is intended that we develop a foundation Constitution supported by one subordinate suite of policy documents.

1 - An ‘officer’ is any member taking a voluntary role in the management of the Association in the National, Branch and Regional structure

2 - For more information on ACNC go to: <https://www.acnc.gov.au/tools/templates/constitution-charitable-company-limited-guarantee>

THE DISTRIBUTION OF NOTICES BY USE OF EMAIL

Over 80% of our members have advised an email address. This does offer a much more cost-effective distribution of Administrative

Notices compared to the more traditional hard-copy mailout.

The Board has considered this matter in the context of the additional cost consequent upon the notification of Petitions and the recent delayed hard-copy mailout of AGM notices and papers.

Therefore, members are advised that in the future the default method of distributing Administrative Notices, from National and Branch level will be to the notified email address.

It is envisaged that notices relating to AGM's, Newsletters, Invitations and function booking flyers will be primarily distributed by email.

Members not notifying an email address will continue to receive hard copies of notices either through inclusion in The Order magazine or by separate mailout from National or Branches, as appropriate.

Please note; this does **NOT** apply to the distribution of The Order magazine. Members will still retain the choice of electing whether to receive a hard-copy or e-copy of the magazine.

While the Board would encourage the choice of e-copy for The Order, in order to free resources for other uses, it remains a matter of each member's personal choice.

QUEENSLAND MAILOUT OF FEBRUARY 2019 EDITION

Many Queensland members will be aware of problems associated with the Hard Copy mailout of the February 2019 edition of The Order. Similar problems were not repeated in other States or Territories and indeed were not universal within Queensland or individual suburbs.

The disrupted distribution reflects a failure of AustPost and not of our Printer or their distribution processes.

Our Printer packages and labels the Hard Copies in accordance with AustPost requirements involving 'postcode' consolidation and caging.

Although there is no mandated requirement to include labels reminding AustPost staff to breakdown the consolidated bundles, our Printer has indicated that he will in future include such labels.

RETURN OF MEDALS – SCAM!!

It has come to the attention of the Association that certain absolute scoundrels are contacting the bereaved relatives of deceased Honours recipients suggesting that their 'medals' need to be returned.

This is totally false and is a malicious scam. Please ignore any such approaches.

Tasmania Branch

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

With the National Conference now behind us I have been taking stock and remembering the various facets of the event as for me the Conference seemed to pass in somewhat of a blur. I am delighted with the responses we have received and sincerely thank my organising committee of

Maureen Rudge OAM, Margaret Gibbs OAM, Sue Cox AM, Michael Hodgson AM, Bob Thorpe OAM, David Brill AM and Ron Blake OAM for being a happy, efficient and supportive team that made the required tasks so much easier.

As with any event of this length and complexity there were some unexpected issues to manage. However we were able to handle these so as to minimise impact on the conference.

I also have to thank all those outside of the committee who so willingly contributed to the Conference's success. The various speakers without exception were so pleased to accept the invitation to participate as was everyone else such as the Incat staff, Liferaft Systems Australia and many Branch members and partners.

Those who visited Incat and Liferaft Systems appeared to be most impressed with the scale and complexity of the businesses. We are also pleased that the programme we put together appeared to be very well received and that these activities were all cloaked in Tasmania's best autumn weather.

Of the 208 conference registrations the final number attending was 189 after cancellations that were overwhelmingly due to medical reasons, were taken into account.

The split between Branches was Tasmania 33.3%, Victoria 25%, Queensland 12.1%, New South Wales 10.2%, Australian Capital Territory 6%, West Australia 6%, South Australia 4.6% and Northern Territory 2.8%.

On the 10th of May the Investiture of the Tasmanian Australia Day awardees will be held at Government House. For many years now the Tasmanian Branch has held a celebratory dinner following the Investiture which, at the time of writing, has bookings close to the capacity of the University Club venue. This dinner is a special night for Branch members to honour and celebrate with the new awardees who attend with their family and friends.

Alastair Douglas OAM

Branch Chairman

SECRETARIAL NOTE

The remainder of the Tasmania contribution to the edition was an extensive photograph collage of participants and activities during the very successful National Conference.

Queensland Branch

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Congratulations to all those women and men who received awards in the Order of Australia in the recent Australia Day Honours list. My very sincere congratulations on the recognition you have received for your important contributions to our community. I warmly invite you to join with others who have previously received awards in the Order of Australia and become a member of the Order of Australia Association.

At the recent well-attended Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Queensland Branch of the Association I was pleased to report on our very successful 2018. Thanks to the Branch Committee Members and Regional Group Conveners for their support and interest during the year. The detailed report of the year's activities is available on the Association web-site, www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au, and I commend it to you.

The Branch Committee for 2019 was elected unanimously at the AGM and I am pleased to welcome three new members onto the committee. Your Branch Committee for 2019 is an excellent balance of new and experienced members. At its first meeting held on 6 March the immediate tasks and major responsibilities for 2019 were decided. The membership of the Queensland Branch Committee for 2019 is listed in this edition of *The Order*.

The AGM was followed by the very successful Annual Dinner attended by a record number of 143 members and guests. We all enjoyed the presentation by Emeritus Professor Roly Sussex OAM: Chevalier des Palmes Académiques, who convinced us that we now have a recognisable Australian English Language. Additional highlights included the presentation of the Branch's 2018 Senior Volunteer Awards to three very worthy volunteers. I wish to thank Blight Rayner Architects for continuing to sponsor these awards and Michael Rayner AM for presenting the awards at the dinner.

Another highlight was the opportunity to recognise the outstanding contributions to the Branch Committee made by Professor Paul McNally OAM. Paul, supported by Margaret, his wife. Paul has been a very active Branch Committee member and Branch Newsletter Editor for the past eight years. I was pleased to present a commemorative plaque to Paul recognising his service and flowers to Margaret thanking her for her support. Paul has kindly agreed to continue to act as Convener of the Darling Downs Regional Group.

2019 promises to be another interesting and exciting year with a large increase in the number of awards in the Order of Australia being made to outstanding Queenslanders. Members of the Branch Committee and the Regional Group Conveners are looking forward to servicing the interests of members throughout the year.

John Harden AM

Branch Chairman

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND MEMBERS LEARN ABOUT THE QUEENSLAND AMBULANCE SERVICE

Twenty members of the Central Queensland Regional Group met at the Rockhampton Leagues Club on 11 March 2019 and welcomed three new local recipients of awards in The Order of Australia - Graeme Brady OAM, Grant Cassidy OAM and Peter Conaghan OAM - each of whom received their awards in the 2019 Australia Day honours.

Wallace Taylor OAM introduced our Guest Speaker, Dr Mick Davis AM ASM, Volunteer Manager Heritage & History, Queensland Ambulance Service. Mick is a Past Chairman and current member of The Order of Australia Association Queensland Branch Committee. Mick and his wife Elaine were both long term former Rockhampton residents.

In his presentation Mick outlined the history of the Queensland Ambulance Service from its founding in September 1892 as a network of locally managed services to the establishment in 1991 of the current State Government funded entity. Members found the history of development and modernisation up to the present sophisticated Service very interesting and it encouraged an informative question session. Eric Anderson OAM moved a vote of thanks.

The Group's appreciation was extended to the Rockhampton Regional Council for the loan of the National banners and to Karen, Caitlin and John for setting up the venue.

Our next function is our Annual Luncheon on 16 September 2019.

Raymond Young OAM, Convener

SUNSHINE COAST MEMBERS ENJOY GETTING TOGETHER

Members from the OAA Sunshine Coast Region gathered together on 5 April 2019 for their first function of the year to enjoy morning tea at Serenity Restaurant at the Waterways on Bribie Island. They were treated to sumptuous home-made delicacies while taking in the view of the beautiful Pumicestone Passage and Glass House Mountains.

The speaker for the morning was Sonia Colvin (a hairdresser from Bribie Island) who spoke of her original dream and desire to assist those being affected by Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse. Three years on and the dream has become a reality. Hairdressers with Hearts is now an incorporated not-for-profit organization whose aim is to see hairdressers/barbers providing appropriate resources to link clients in these situations with the relevant professional support services.

Members who did not attend this morning tea will be given the opportunity to attend the second function which will be held in the Buderim/Maleny area of the Region in late June. As some members have to make a round trip of 286 km to attend functions, events are planned in locations within the Region to suit as many members as possible. As Convener I have become used to travelling long distances to inspect venues and attend the functions.

However the pleasure, fun and fellowship which we all enjoy when we meet together are worth the travel. I quote in part from an address given by The Revd. Mark Vainikka, Assistant Bishop, Lutheran Church of Australia at the recent Commonwealth Multi- Faith Service held at St. John's Anglican Cathedral, Brisbane on 12 March this year: *"Anything that creates community, anything that brings people together, anything that makes connection possible, is worth celebrating, is worth preserving, is worth protecting."*

Marjorie Voss OAM, Convener

AN ENJOYABLE LUNCHEON IN TOWNSVILLE

The second event to be hosted by the newly re-formed committee of the Townsville Regional Group was successfully held on Saturday 9 March.

An attendance similar in size to the first dinner held in October 2018 was present at the luncheon held in the tropical surroundings of the Seagulls Resort, with attendees from as far away as Cloncurry and Home Hill joining award recipients from the city at the function.

A large number of apologies was also received from members who were keen to attend, but were already committed to other activities.

We initially planned to have a guest speaker at each of our functions; however on this occasion those present heard from two of their own members who highlighted the reasons behind the citation that came with their respective awards.

The Townsville Regional Group Committee will be meeting in the near future to plan for another dinner proposed to be held in September 2019.

David Jackson OAM, Convener

VALE DR JAMES CROKER AM

We were saddened to hear the news that one of our regular attendees to our events, Dr James (Jim) Croker AM passed away on 12 January 2019.

Jim was a very enthusiastic past member of the Queensland Branch Committee from 1989 to 1999 serving the Committee with distinction. He had the honour of being elected as Queensland Branch Chairman for 1995 and 1996. After his Committee service he and his wife Joan continued to support Queensland Branch events particularly the Annual Dinners and new award recipient celebratory receptions and luncheons. Their last attended event was the Queen's Birthday award recipients' lunch on 20 September 2018.

Jim was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) on Australia Day 1986 in recognition of service to the dental profession. Jim's service to the profession included President of the 24th Australian Dental Association Congress, Federal Chairman of the Dental Health Education Committee from 1982 to 1985 and a member of and consultant to the World Dental Health Education Committee of the Federation Dentaire Internationale from 1978 to 1984. He received the Distinguished Service Award in 1981 and was made a Life Member of the Australian Dental Association (Qld).

Jim was an active Rotarian serving as President of his Club and Chairman of the District Rotaract Committee from 1969 to 1972. He was President of the Queensland Youth Choir from 1986 to 1992.

In the 10 years that I have got to know Jim I found him to be a thorough gentleman with a charming, kindly nature. He was very supportive to me in my role as Branch Secretary. We will all miss his presence at future events. Jim enjoyed a wonderful life of 91 years.

To Joan and the Croker family we offer our sincerest condolences.

Geoff Cowles OAM [Information on Jim was sourced from the Queensland Branch Bulletin – August 1996]W

MEET THE 2018 SENIOR VOLUNTEER AWARD WINNERS

The winners of the sixth annual Senior Volunteer Awards were announced at the Queensland Branch Annual Dinner on 25 February 2019. The Awards publicly recognise the vital contributions made to the organisation and operation of our society by senior volunteers. Michael Rayner AM from Blight Rayner Architects, the awards sponsor, presented the three winners with their awards.

The 2018 award winners are - **Blanche McNelley** from St George, 510 km west of Brisbane. Blanche McNelley is a stalwart of her outback community of St George. Born in 1924, Blanche has given years of voluntary service to so many of St George's community organisations including St George Red Cross, St George Golf Associates, St George Meals on Wheels, St George RSL Club, and Friends of Warrawee Retirement Village. She is an active member of St George Anglican Church and for some 25 years was Guild Secretary.

Her nominator reports that *"Blanche has always offered informal community support to individuals and families in need. She has quietly provided food and done shopping for those who are sick, frail or elderly. (She) has been and remains an inspiration to generations of women as a community minded, generous, compassionate and thoughtful individual who throughout her life always looked out for others especially those less fortunate, the elderly and the sick."*

Blanche is an outstanding member of the St George community and is certainly worthy of a 2018 Senior Volunteer Award.

Sandra Shepperd from Minyama, Sunshine Coast.

Sandra is a long-standing volunteer with the Cancer Council Queensland ESA Wig and Turban Service where she uses her skills and knowledge of hairdressing and dressmaking to create wigs, turbans and other head coverings for women suffering hair-loss because of cancer treatment.

Her nominator reports that Sandra's *"love of her volunteer work is reflected in her enthusiasm and warm smile she offers to all who use the service."*

In addition to her voluntary work with the Cancer Council, Sandra strongly supports rural families suffering the effects of drought, raising funds for drought relief and visiting outback families to offer assistance.

Sandra has recently been invited to accept a position as an Elder of the Kawana Uniting Church, acknowledging her continuing contribution to community support.

Sandra is certainly a worthy recipient of a 2018 Senior Volunteer Award for her greatly valued assistance to those in need.

Dr Stuart Stieler from Banksia Beach, Bribie Island.

Stuart has been an enthusiastic and committed member of Rotary for almost thirty years contributing to countless Rotary initiatives and projects both in Australia and overseas.

His main focus has been organising and coordinating Rotary youth leadership and Interact projects at District level and literacy and exchange projects at club level.

Of special note is the work he has done as a volunteer member of building construction teams in both Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands.

Stuart is a strong supporter of the Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) and has been a member of their Redcliffe Advisory Committee since 2016. He has been the handyman for the Wallum Action Group

Nursery on Bribie Island for five years. He has also contributed to projects supporting the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Stuart's contribution to the welfare and development of the community has been extensive, valued and wide-spread. He is a worthy recipient of a 2018 Senior Volunteer Award.

WIDE BAY-BURNETT REGIONAL GROUP MEETS AT GAYNDAH

The Wide Bay Burnett group met at the Gayndah CWA cottage on 16 March 2019 for a delightful lunch prepared by the Gayndah CWA ladies.

Also in attendance were three of our newest Order of Australia awardees, Dr Judith Grimes OAM, John Mellor OAM (brother of our guest speaker) and Elaine Madill OAM. Each gave us an overview of their lives and details of their award citations.

It was interesting to listen to so many wonderful life achievements. Gayndah's last Mayor, Bill Mellor OAM, was our guest speaker and he gave some of us differing sized bells so that when we got bored with his speech we could ring our bell and he would consider putting an end to his talk. He gave me the biggest and loudest bell- a cow bell!! Bill gave us a wonderful rundown on the town, its history and the landmarks and museums we should visit while in Gayndah. Bill is also a mad keen cricketer and played the game well in his younger days.

I am sad to report that our Treasurer, Mrs Dawn Kling OAM, was unable to attend our luncheon as she had a fall in the previous week fracturing her pelvis. We offer our prayers for her speedy recovery.

Donna Duncan OAM, Convener

RECORD ATTENDANCE AT THIS YEAR'S WONDERFUL ANNUAL DINNER

One hundred and forty-three guests attended a most wonderful Annual Dinner on Monday 25 February 2019 in the Ballroom at Victoria Park in the Victoria Park Golfing Complex at Herston in Brisbane.

This represented a record attendance for an Annual Dinner, surpassing last year's event by 10 guests. As has been past practice, the Annual General Meeting of the Queensland Branch preceded the Dinner and was well attended by forty-six Association members.

This year's colourful guest speaker was Emeritus Professor Roland (Roly) Sussex OAM: Chevalier des Palmes Académiques who delighted the audience on his chosen topic "*Strayyan English: How our national idiom came of age*"

The following is an abstract of the address, as provided by Roly.

In two short generations Australian English has established itself as our national idiom in all spheres of activity. No longer do we pay lip service to offshore models of English. This is a major achievement, and one primarily by the generation of those who have been honoured

by the Order of Australia. Our pronunciation, vocabulary and styles of speech are now confidently and often distinctively ours: whether in the media, education, the arts, parliament, sports and elsewhere. This maturing of our language, and ourselves, can be found in many milestones.

We are part of the international community of English, but – stone the crows – at the same time we have found a new identity, and a new way of expressing that identity.

Many in the audience could relate to the often used Australian expressions that Roly highlighted in his address that are rarely expressed today. Roly spoke with authority and added here and there touches of nostalgic humour that captivated his listening audience.

At the Dinner three outstanding Queensland senior volunteers received their Queensland Branch Senior Volunteer Awards from Michael Rayner AM representing Blight Rayner Architects, the award sponsor. (Refer to separate article elsewhere in this edition of *The Order*).

The Queensland Branch also recognised Professor Paul McNally OAM at the Dinner for his 8 years' service as a Queensland Branch Committee member and Queensland Branch Newsletter Editor.

Geoff Cowles OAM

QUEENSLAND BRANCH OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

His Excellency the Honourable
Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of
Queensland

Chairman

Associate Professor John Harden AM
Tel: 0418 988 659 (M)

Deputy Chairman

Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO
Tel: 0408 887 923 (M)

Secretary

Geoff Cowles OAM
Tel: 07 3351 4991 (H); 0413 833 720 (M)

Treasurer

Ronda Nix OAM
Tel: 0409 615 514 (M)

National Board Director

Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ
Tel: 0408 887923 (M)

Membership Officer

Patrick Galligan OAM
Tel: 0408 703 276 (M)

Regional Groups Coordinator

Dr Mick Davis AM ASM
Tel: 0411 554 955

Committee members

Dr Gary Bacon AM
Dr Carol Cox AM
Paula Penfold AM
Darryl Seccombe OAM
Royce Voss OAM

Regional Group Conveners and Committee members

Marjorie Voss OAM
Raymond Young OAM
Co-opted member
Graham Hyde OAM, Newsletter Editor
Tel: 0419 736 571 (M)
All correspondence to:
Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary,
16 Kanturk Street,
Ferny Grove, Qld 4055 or email
secqld@theorderofaustralia.asn.au]

QUEENSLAND REGIONAL GROUP CONVENERS

Central Queensland: Raymond Young OAM – raymond@cyberoz.com.au

Darling Downs: Paul McNally OAM – pmcnally1@bigpond.com

Far North Queensland: Carole Miller OAM – carole.miller@bigpond.com

Gold Coast: Clive Mitchell-Taylor OAM - clive@taylor.id.au

Mackay-Whitsunday: Carmel Daveson AM – carmel@ehw.net.au

Sunshine Coast: Marjorie Voss OAM - Marjorie.voss@bigpond.com

Townsville: David Jackson OAM – ddjacko@bigpond.com

Wide Bay-Burnett: Donna Duncan OAM – donna_dd@bigpond.net.au

New South Wales Branch

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

CHANGES IN NSW BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At the recent 2019 Annual General Meeting of the NSW Branch a number of changes a number of changes were effected amid the ranks of the Executive Committee and a warm welcome was awarded by the attending members to the newly elected Executive.

The Branch's outgoing Chairman Mr John Archer OAM had completed his 3 year term and everyone was appreciative of John's superlative efforts as apart from chairing numerous meetings and functions he also travelled the length and breadth of NSW visiting many of the Branch's regions informing them of the latest developments and espousing the good work of the Association. I am pleased to advise that that the Branch will not be losing John as he was later unanimously appointed as the NSW Director to the National Board where he will no doubt continue to keep the Branch and its regions advised of the latest news from the Board.

Mr. Peter Falk OAM made the switch from the position of Deputy Chairman a position that he held for 3 years to Chairman after being unanimously elected to the position. Peter proved to be a good ally and assisted John during his term and no doubt the experience he gained during that period will stand him in good stead in his new position.

Mr. James Mein AM also made a change from the position of Treasurer to take over the position of Deputy Chairman following his unanimous election and no doubt his vast experience will enable him to fill his new position with great aplomb. Mrs Gail Dunne OAM has put aside her short hand and pencil from her time as Minute and Assistant Secretary to take up the position of Treasurer. Mrs Carolyn Lyons OAM who performed admirably in the role of Honorary Secretary will remain in that position for the ensuing year following her re-election.

Ian McKnight OAM

NSW Newsletter Editor

SYDNEY HARBOUR SPARKLES FOR AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS



The 2019 Australia Day dawned and In excess of 140 OAA NSW Branch members who came from all points of the compass in NSW made their way to Circular Quay where they gathered at the Commissioner's Steps and waited patiently to embark on one of the large Captain Cook Cruise vessels. However, as the morning wore on the weather became quite hot and soon the shade under the trees became very popular and very scarce as people sought refuge from the sun.

Eventually the Captain Cook vessel arrived and when all the members and their guests had safely embarked it was off down the Harbour to enjoy the scenery and the day's festivities. While a few hardy souls braved the top deck and the sights many of the group remained to enjoy the cooler conditions and the views through the specious windows.

There were many wonderful sights to see such as the ferrython which included Sydney's much loved ferries which raced from Circular Quay to Shark Island and back to a spectacular finish under the Harbour Bridge. Hundreds of amphibious vehicles of all shapes and sizes from the very small to the

very large and crowded with spectators gathered around the awesome HMAS Choules to celebrate the Salute to Australia. There was a 21 gun salute and an inspirational address from the NSW Governor, then many joined in with a bevy of choirs from across NSW to sing the National Anthems.

There were a number of other entertaining events such as Tug and Yacht Ballet which also included jet skis and ferries in a choreographed show while there was also entertainment in the sky with a RAAF jet ensuring that all and sundry were still awake and a visit from a Qantas airliner as well as a Navy helicopter towing the largest Australian Flag one is ever likely to see in a lap of the Harbour.

Finally the Red Berets dropped in by parachuting down to specific targets on the water with most hitting their target.

To cap off a wonderful spectacle there was the Australia Day Harbour Parade with hundreds of vessels both large and small all decked out with a myriad of flags of all colours and sizes as they made their way down the Harbour in a very colourful display.

Amid all the merriment Captain Cook Cruises staff served a sumptuous luncheon which everyone enjoyed immensely with the sweets again proving popular and there was no shortage of refreshments available and served with a smile for the duration of the cruise.

Finally, like all good things the cruise came to an end and a very happy group returned to Circular Quay with many vowing that they would return for the 2020 Australia Day cruise.

Ian McKnight OAM

NSW Newsletter Editor

HUNTER REGIONAL GROUP

The Hunter Regional Group enjoyed a luncheon at the Cardiff RSL Club on Saturday 16th February 2019 to welcome the OA Australia Day recipients of the Region. Ten of the 23 local recipients were able to attend the luncheon with family and friends. Sadly Kenneth William Guy OAM passed away on 27 December 2018 and was represented by six members of his family.

June Cameron AM hosted the day and extended special congratulations to all the recipients and a warm welcome to those in attendance at the luncheon.

The venue was comfortably full as 143 members and guests were in attendance. Jim Mein AM, the New South Wales Honorary Treasurer, attended the luncheon. He advised those present of current happenings at the National and State levels. He proposed a toast to the Order of Australia.

The special guest speaker on the day was Super Hubert OAM who delivered an extremely interesting run down on his past achievements as a magician, entertainer and charity fund raiser and his address was well received.

Fellowship and a wonderful lunch was enjoyed by all in attendance.

The next activity planned by the Order of Australia Hunter Regional Group is a Morning Tea at Cardiff RSL Club on Wednesday 17th July 2019.

Charles Stevens OAM RFD ED

REGIONAL GROUP CONVENERS

- **Blue Mountains/Hawkesbury/Nepean:** Mr Lindsay J Callaghan OAM (02) 4739 4128
- **Central Coast:** Mrs Patricia Slattery OAM (02) 4341 3188
- **Central West:** Mrs Audrey Hardman OAM (02) 6367 5034
- **Clarence/Richmond:** Mr Don Johnston OAM (02) 6628 0055
- **Coffs Coast:** Vacant
- **Dubbo:** Miss Ruby Riach OAM (02) 6882 0658

- **Far South Coast:** Dr Jenny Munro AM Mobile 0407 299 149
- **Hastings/Macleay:** Mr Laurie Smith OAM Mob 0416 221 147
- **Hunter:** Mrs June Cameron AM (02) 4954 7005
- **Illawarra:** Mr John O'Dwyer OAM (02) 4297 2582
- **Manning:** Wing Commander Greg Hartig AM (Retd) (02) 6556 3158
- **New England North/West:** Mr Frederick Edwards OAM 02 6767 1112
- **Riverina:** Mr. John Mueller OAM (02) 6922 3614
- Co-Convener: Mr. Wayne Geale OAM
- **Shoalhaven:** Mr. Rod Gibb OAM (02) 4446 0226
- **Southern Highlands:** Mrs Virginia Adlide OAM (02) 4861 1331
- **Southern Tablelands:** Mr Mark McRae OAM (02) 6227 5739
- **NSW Regional Groups Co-ordinator:** Mr Peter Veenstra OAM Tambaroora
- 381 Lower Lewis Ponds Road Orange NSW 2800 0417 253 099

NT BRANCH

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE 2020 DARWIN CONFERENCE

The theme of the 2020 National Conference is “**Future Proof, How Past Experiences Inform Future Challenges**”.

As part of the conference, delegates will be treated to visits to two Territory owned and operated, internationally renowned institutions: **Menzies School of Health Research** and **The National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre**.

Menzies School of Health Research is Australia’s leading medical research institutes involved in improving the health and wellbeing of Indigenous Australians. They are global leaders in tropical research in to life threatening illnesses. Internationally known for its collaborative research with remote indigenous Territory communities. There will be an introduction from Professor Alan Cass, Director.

The National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre is a key element of the Australian Government's disaster and emergency medical response to incidents of national and international significance. Established as a result of the 2002 Bali Bombings, the NCCTRC is strategically positioned to ensure Australia has the best readily deployable medical workforce to rapidly respond to sudden health emergencies both onshore across Australia, and offshore throughout South East Asia. There will be an address by Director Professor Len Notaras AM.

In addition:

- » Visits to the unique Government House (a survival of the Bombing of Darwin and cyclone Tracy) and Parliament House which is the most modern Parliament in Australia.
- » An Oration from the NT Administrator Her Honour Vicky O’Halloran AM
- » Another four sessions by either Keynote Speakers or Panel discussions focusing on how the Territory has overcome many past challenges and how the future provides so many opportunities.

Contact:

Professional Conference Organisers, Agentur, info@agentur.com.au

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

At the Hobart Conference Dinner on 13th April 2019, two new recipients of the Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship received their Certificates from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Tasmania, The Hon. Justice Alan Blow AO.

Foundation Chair, Mr Hugh Morgan AC, announced the Awardees and introduced them, in turn, to Justice Blow AO.

JEREMY DOUPE

Twenty-one-year-old Jeremy Doupe grew up in Montrose, Victoria.

He is combining a Bachelor of Commerce (Major in Finance and Marketing) with a Master of International Business at the University of Melbourne. He has consistently achieved honours scores in his studies. Jeremy is currently preparing to sit the Chartered Financial Analyst Level 1 exam.

Jeremy completed his VCE in 2015 at Yarra Valley Grammar School. He was involved in many co-curricular areas, receiving service to school awards for sport, music, drama, and community service. He was the Year 12 Music Captain and Concert Master of the School Orchestra. For six years, Jeremy was involved in Yarra Valley Grammar's mentoring program with Mitcham Primary School, assisting newly arrived students from low socio-economic backgrounds with their English and Math.

Jeremy is currently completing the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, and in 2019 is volunteering as a Team Leader for 180 Degrees Consulting, assisting a renowned Victorian charity to better serve the community.

Furthermore, Jeremy has been involved in the Surf Life Saving movement since the age of seven. He has achieved his Gold Medallion in Advanced Life Saving, has been a Patrol Captain at Sorrento SLSC, has assisted with managing a 'nipper' group, and was recently selected to represent his club and Lifesaving Victoria at Surf Life Saving Australia's National Leadership College in Sydney. Jeremy has also been a committee member for the Melbourne University Snowboard Team.

In 2017, Jeremy travelled to Chile for an intensive management consulting subject. He was the recipient of a New Colombo Plan Scholarship to complete a two-week program with the University of Delhi, and in July 2018 he volunteered with Vatsalya Org, an Indian NGO that houses and educates orphaned or disadvantaged children. He aims to pursue a career without borders that has a positive impact on vulnerable communities. Upon completion of his studies, Jeremy aims to work in strategic consulting.

Jeremy's breadth of involvement in community organisations, high achievements in study, and passion for finding new ways to contribute to society places him clearly as a future leader.

The generous donor of Jeremy's Award is The Family of Jack Mayer Joel OAM.

HANNAH GANDY

Twenty-year-old Hannah Gandy of Montmorency, Victoria is studying for a double Degree of Law/Arts majoring in Politics at La Trobe University. She was raised, alongside her brother, by a single mother who worked full-time and frequently experienced relocation of living arrangements and lack of support for education. Hannah was not a regular school attendee, which resulted in attending three different High Schools. Her life changed dramatically when she finally enrolled at The Pavilion

School. She enrolled in Distance Learning for her classes but took full advantage of the school environment for support.

“Engagement strategies and long-term support from the school enabled me to turn my life around” she asserts. By Year 12 Hannah was already studying two University Law subjects, in which she excelled, receiving the highest marks in the law program. She ran a peer support program, was her school Valedictorian, School Captain and their first student to ever complete Year 12 VCE. This was widely reported in the press and television because of the outstanding achievement of a student from a disengaged background. Hannah then received an early offer to enrol in her current Degree course.

At University, Hannah has maintained a High Distinction grade average, has received excellence awards in numerous Law subjects and was invited to join the Hallmark research program where she has carried out research about student re-engagement strategies.

She carries out extensive community service by advocating for flexible learning schools and is employed as a youth outreach worker for her local council. She is also employed by La Trobe University to work with disadvantaged schools and since year 11 has undertaken research at the Fair Work Commission, firstly in a Projects and Policy Team and later in Award Modernisation.

Hannah enjoys being one of La Trobe University’s Elite Athletes and has been selected to represent Australia in the World Roller Games this year after being placed second in last year’s Australian Women’s Open League for freestyle slalom skating.

Hannah is dedicated to re-engaging students who have been excluded or disengaged from mainstream education. Being aware of the powerful influence supportive learning conditions can provide, she strives to assist decision makers in appreciating the extent of the problems. There is no doubt that Hannah is destined to lead in her chosen fields of endeavour.

The generous donor of Hannah’s Award is Freemasons Victoria proudly supported by Freemasons Victoria Foundation Limited.

JAMES BROINOWSKI

At the conclusion of the Award presentations an Awardee from 2011 James Broinowski, was introduced to Justice Blow AO, to thank him on behalf of the two Awardees present and on behalf of all previous Awardees, for his attendance.

James Broinowski studied viticulture and oenology at the University of Adelaide, Waite Institute. The generous donor of his Scholarship was Mr Baillieu Myer AC.

Tasmanian-born James, graduated in 2013 then sought to attain his ambitions in the field of exquisite fine wines. Thanks to the expertise and generosity of Andrew Margan of Margan Wines, James enjoys a yearly visit to the Hunter Valley in NSW to hone his vintage skills.

He has also benefited greatly from his good fortune in working with industry greats Peter Althaus of Domaine A, Coal River Valley, Tasmania and Greg Harrington, Master Sommelier of Gramercy Cellars (USA).

By 2015 James was ready to test the market with his brand Small Island Wines. With capital from crowd-funding, James purchased pinot noir from Glengarry Vineyard in Northern Tasmania. His initial purchase in 2015 was 2.2 tonnes. By 2018 this figure had grown to 20.5 tonnes. His wines consistently achieve outstanding scores of 90 and more. (Three have achieved 96!) In 2016 he achieved a gold medal-winning pinot noir at the Hobart Wine Show.

James has tremendous drive, breadth of vision and leadership. He was listed in James Halliday's top 10 New Wineries of 2018. And his new venture, Drink Co, in Salamanca Place, Hobart, is a highly regarded wine shop and tasting room. Many hours are also spent making and refining wines at the Pooley Winery with Justin and Anna Pooley and Jonny Hughes of Mewstone Wines in the Derwent Valley.

This year James is seeking to establish a Co-Op Winery to support small growers.

James generously donated the proceeds from twelve of his top vintage wines towards a future Scholarship. In his speech he particularly noted that ‘..this Award changed my life in that it gave me confidence to pursue my goals and thus achieve my dreams.’