



The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch

Patron: His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia

SA BRANCH NEWSLETTER, April 2020

This is a further catchup newsletter to keep you all informed about our activities and cancellations in light of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak declared by the Prime Minister.

While most of our activities have been cancelled, including the Association's National Conference in Darwin, we are still looking forward to and planning for the resumption of normal activities.

I send my personal best wishes, and those of our Branch Committee, to our members for good health during these difficult times. Stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Tony Metcalf OAM
SA Branch Chair

For general enquiries, unless otherwise noted, the committee can be contacted via the following generic email address:

orderofaustraliasa@gmail.com

OUR PATRON

Our Patron, His Excellency the Governor, has advised that the Vice-Regal program has been adjusted to take account of the public health situation, resulting in the necessary cancellation or postponement of most face-to-face engagements.

As previously advised, the Australia Day Investitures at Government House have been indefinitely postponed, which in turn has led us to cancel our Welcome Reception (see separate notice)

A letter from His Excellency is attached to this newsletter.

A video and text of the message can be found at <https://governor.sa.gov.au/>

SAVE THE DATE

SA Branch Christmas Morning Tea

We are certainly looking ahead to resuming some social interaction. All Association members and their friends are cordially invited to the SA Branch annual Christmas Morning Tea. We hope to have a guest speaker or artist (details will be confirmed later).

Date: Wednesday 2 December 2020, 10 am

Venue: St Francis Anglican Church Hall,
835 South Road (corner of Dinwoodie Street),
Clarence Gardens

Cost: no cost to financial members

Full-size medals should be worn

INVITATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Saturday 9 May 2020

All financial members are invited to contribute to the 2020 AGM of the Order of Australia Association.

On 9 May, the Directors and Branch Chairman will hold an AGM teleconference. Association members are requested to assist by completing a Proxy Form.

The revised Notice of AGM, Proxy Form and AGM documentation are available at:

<https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/national/aggm/>

A financial member entitled to vote at this meeting may appoint as proxy any other financial member of the Association; a Proxy Form on which a name is not put in the space will be deemed to have appointed the National Chairman as proxy.

To be valid, the Proxy form must be received by the National Secretary no later than 1200 hrs (AEST) on 1 May 2020.

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Certificates for the Top 12 Student Citizenship Award recipients at Government House last year.

STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

In light of the current circumstances, the closing date for nominations for the 2020 Student Citizenship Awards has been extended to the last day of Term 3 in South Australia, 25 September 2020.

All SA schools have been advised of the change, and our website has also been updated to reflect the new guidance:

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/sa/school-awards

The good news though is that this page has been regularly viewed, and the nomination form has been downloaded a number of times, consistent with this time in past years.

The nominees will be selected as worthy of recognition for their voluntary service and contribution to citizenship in South Australia. The panel will be looking for students who exemplify the Association's objective, *"to foster love of and pride in Australian citizenship"*.

After the closing date, the nominations will be considered by an adjudication panel – subject to the circumstances prevailing at that time, the committee may meet 'virtually', using telephone conferencing or online networking apps.

It is likely that the Government House ceremony for the Top 10 recipients from 2020, and the announcement of the 2020 Student Citizen of the Year, will be held early next year.

His Excellency the Governor is Patron of the SA Branch of the Association and his ongoing support for the Association, and our Student Citizenship Awards, is greatly appreciated.



Members of the Australian Army detachment based at Port Hera on the north coast of East Timor, east of Dili, conducted an Anzac Dawn Service on 25 April 2002 using a makeshift wooden 'cenotaph' they constructed in the days prior, with an F88 Austeyr rifle and slouch hat.

ANZAC DAY DURING SOCIAL DISTANCING Saturday 25 April 2020

At this time, it is important to reflect on the service, achievements and sacrifice of our forebears.

Anzac Day does not require a big crowd to have an impact, nor does it require an elaborate cenotaph or memorial arch. All it needs from each of us is a personal act of reverent reflection – which might be based around a candle, a photograph or a poppy.

While many traditional Anzac Day activities have been cancelled, or substantially reduced in scope, there are still ways for us to pay our respects.

One way is to use a social media platform to pay respect, either to a particular family member or a notable Australian perhaps from your local district. This could be through sharing a photo of them, a photo of a memorial where they are honoured, a poppy tribute, or some other personal message of reflection. Some suitable platforms could be:

A page for Malaya-Borneo veterans:

<https://www.facebook.com/NMBVAAadelaide/>

A page for St John Ambulance veterans:

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnSAHistoricalSociety/>

The 'Thanks Digger' page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Thanks.Digger/>

Your State RSL Facebook page

Your local RSL sub-Branch Facebook page

We will still remember them
Lest we Forget

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THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

Did you know...?

The full-size insignia of the Order of Australia in the grades of Knight (AK), Companion (AC) and Officer (AO) are worn as a neck decoration.

A Dame of the Order (AD) may also wear the insignia as a neck decoration or, if preferred, on the left shoulder suspended from the ribbon of the Order 38 mm in width tied in a bow.

The insignia of Knight, Companion and Officer is presented with a full-size neck ribbon in Royal blue silk moiré, 38 mm in width, with fastening clasps at either end. This ribbon is only ever used for the purposes of the investiture – and should not be used again after that time.



This is the presentation ribbon of a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in the General Division – a full-size neck ribbon, 38 mm in width, with fastening clasps. This ribbon is only ever used for the investiture ceremony.

Within the presentation case will be a length of ribbon of the Order 16 mm in width, with fastening clasps at either end.

This ribbon should be used to wear the neck badge insignia on all future occasions.

Female recipients of the AC or AO not in uniform may, if they prefer, wear the insignia on the left shoulder suspended from the ribbon of the Order 38 mm in width tied in a bow.

Further information on wearing the insignia may be found in the booklet *Order of Australia* published by the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General, Canberra.

A copy of the most recent booklet is included with the presentation folder and Warrant at the time of the investiture.



This is the full-size neck badge insignia of a Knight of the Order of Australia (AK) worn by the Right Honourable Sir Zelman Cowen AK GCMG GCVO QC DCL (1919–2011), a former Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, who was appointed on 8 December 1977.

The insignia is worn using a neck ribbon in Royal blue silk moiré, 16 mm in width.

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How do I find out more about the SA Branch?

The Order of Australia Association SA Branch has an active website which contains information on our role and purposes, the Student Citizenship Awards, the calendar of events, our committee members and our Patron.

You will also find our newsletters and reply forms for forthcoming events. Please refer to this site regularly to keep updated:

<https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/sa/about-us/>

REGIONAL GROUPS

Fleurieu Regional Group

Meets on the first Friday in May and November, with a social activity followed by a luncheon.

The first meeting for 2020 scheduled for Friday 1 May has been cancelled.

Convenor:

Mr Rex Keily AM JP

Mobile: 0400 279 297

RNKeily@activ8.net.au

South East Regional Group

Meets annually in February.

Contact:

Mr Eric Roughana AM

Mobile: 0408 817 260

roseric1@bigpond.com

Barossa Regional Group

Gawler and District Regional Group

General enquiries:

orderofaustraliasa@gmail.com

Do you have email?

Some members will receive this newsletter through the post, either because you do not use email or because we do not know your email address.

We will continue to post the newsletter to you if that is what you wish. But if you have an email address that you would like us to use, could you please advise the SA Branch Member Secretary Mr Greg Gordon OAM JP:

oaasambrsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

THE ORDER

Standing Branch contributions include: Report from the Chair, activities since the last issue, future activities, a Student Citizenship Awards report, plus photos of Branch events.

Personal contributions, 'Letters to the Editor', advertisements etc may be submitted by any financial member of the Association.

Items may be sent by post (as per details given in *The Order*) or by email to the National Secretary/ Editor:

natsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au **or**

secnational@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Newsletter contributions

Please submit any articles of interest, photographs, news snippets or notices of future events to the Editor before 13 August:

PO Box 5, SMITHFIELD SA 5114 **or**

orderofaustraliasa@gmail.com

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE
ADELAIDE

Message from His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia

The COVID-19 pandemic is proving to be one of the greatest challenges of our generation.

We are facing a health emergency that poses a significant threat to our physical wellbeing and that of our families and our loved ones.

The widespread ramifications of this emergency, and the steps that must be taken to combat it, mean that our way of life is changing.

As a result, many people are also suffering socially and economically.

In these unprecedented times, it is understandable that people are feeling anxious, distressed and vulnerable.

There is much uncertainty in the face of this crisis, but there are also things that are certain.

First, we are not alone.

Every one of us is potentially affected by this pandemic – no one is exempt.

At the same time, as we are physically distancing ourselves from one another, we need to remain connected in spirit.

More than ever, it is important to extend kindness to one another, to look out and care for each other, and to ensure that our actions and words reflect the society that we are – a society that is harmonious, resilient, respectful, and decent; a society that believes in the common good.

Second, we all have a role to play.

History judges a society not only on the outcome of a crisis; it will also look to how society grappled with that crisis.

The actions of each of us will play a crucial part of the collective effort to overcome this pandemic.

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It is imperative that we follow official directives and guidance to ensure a consistent and unified response.

Acting in this way means that we are protecting each other, including the vulnerable members of our community.

Third, this crisis will pass.

Our society has survived many crises: there is no reason why this one should be an exception.

If we act in solidarity, we will lessen the damage.

I would like to express my sincere condolences to those people who have lost loved ones as a result of this pandemic.

My thoughts are also with business owners and employees who have suffered great loss and are enduring hardship.

Let's all make sure we do what we can to support businesses that are doing it tough.

I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone in our community who is either directly or indirectly working in response to this crisis: frontline health workers, aged care workers, law enforcement personnel, teachers, childcare workers, supermarket staff, government employees and volunteers.

We are grateful for your service and the commitment that you display to our community.

It was only recently that our state suffered the devastating bushfires.

My wife Lan and I were moved by the courage, resilience and compassion our community displayed during that time.

Let us continue to uphold these values in the way we respond to the emergency we are facing now.

Lan and I are thinking of the people of South Australia.

We hope that everyone takes care of themselves and others.

We will get through this together.

Friday, 27 March 2020