



Order of Australia Victorian Branch

"fostering love of and pride in Australian citizenship"



Editor's Message

Welcome to our first full edition of the state electronic newsletter.

I have commenced this edition with what I hope will become a growing list of forthcoming events. I encourage Groups and members to use it to promote their events to all state branch members.

Our Regional Groups have many and varied ways of celebrating Australia Day. Included in this edition is a summary of the Australia Day activities.

Also included are details of activities proposed for Anzac Day. I invite Groups to provide me with details, including photos, of any activities undertaken on Anzac Day by your Group.

Following these items there are reports from a number of the Regional Groups.

The cut-off date for the submission of items for the next electronic newsletter is 1st June 2015. A list of the cut-off dates for the remainder of the year is provided in this newsletter. All items should be sent to fred.harrington@gravity.net.au

Finally a sincere thank you to all those who contributed items, at what was very short notice, to this edition of the newsletter.

Fred Harrington OAM

Submissions

The following are the cut off dates for submission of articles for inclusion in the newsletter together with the anticipated mail out dates for this year's editions of the electronic newsletter:

Cut-off date	1 June	31 Aug	23 Nov
Approx mail out date	6 Jul	5 Oct	21 Dec

Articles can be sent to fred.harrington@gravity.net.au



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Forthcoming Events 2015

April	Sun 19th	South West Victoria Regional Group. Luncheon at Regional Group Chairman Peter Habersberger's historic home "Delvui". Delvui is located close to the township of Noorat. Dr Peter Habersberger AM RFD will be a guest speaker on a topic pertinent to the 100 year commemoration of Anzac Day. Also speaking is Jarrod Hodgson, an OAA Foundation scholarship winner. Numbers are limited. Closing date for registration April 8. Cost \$30 pp. For more details and reservations contact Duncan Stalker - Dstalker5@bigpond.com , 0417 163 477 or 03 5561 1329
		North East Victoria and Goulbourn Valley Regional Group: Luncheon at the Mulwala Golf Club. Key note speaker Jim Judd OAM, a community leader in Yarrawonga. Contact Irene Cracknell OAM for more details and reservations icrackne@bigpond.net.au 02 6032 9429
	Tues 28th	Eastern Suburbs Regional Group: Morning tour of the Shrine of Remembrance, (maximum 40 people) commencing at 11:00 am with optional lunch, in the Botanic Gardens afterwards. Further information /bookings to Dot Browne OAM by 21 April (dotandcol23@bigpond.com)
May	Thurs 14th	Barwon Regional Group Primary Schools Citizenship Award. Commencing at 10.15am for a 10.30am start and a 12 noon finish. The venue is the Newland VC Room Geelong RSL. 50 Barwon Heads Road, Belmont. Cost is \$15per person including morning tea includes scones and slices with tea, coffee, juice and water following the presentations. For further information or a copy of the registration form contact Wayne Myers OAM at waynemyers@outlook.com
June	Sun 7th	Mornington Peninsula Regional Group. Interfaith Festival 12.30 -5.30pm Peninsula Community Theatre Wilson's Rd Mornington. For further information and bookings contact Brian Stahl OAM JP at ber.bri@bigpond.com
	Tues 16th	Eastern Suburbs Regional Group. Morning tour of Victorian Parliament House commencing at 11:00am with lunch (cost \$30 per head) in the Parliament House restaurant. Further information or bookings to Dot Browne OAM by 9 June 2015 (dotandcol23@bigpond.com)
July	Tues 28th	Eastern Suburbs Regional Group. Christmas in July Luncheon, commencing at 12:30 pm, with guest speaker at Bucatini restaurant, Mitcham. Maximum of 50 people, cost \$30 per head. Further information or bookings to Dot Browne OAM by 20 July. (dotandcol23@bigpond.com)
August	Fri 14th	Mornington Peninsula Regional Group. Annual Luncheon and Schools Award presentations commencing at 12.30pm at the Safety Beach Sailing Club, Marine Drive Safety Beach. For further information and bookings contact Brian Stahl OAM JP at ber.bri@bigpond.com
	Sun 16th	North East Victoria and Goulbourn Valley Regional Group. Luncheon at Trawool Resort – Key note speakers Kevin Butler OAM & Rhonda Butler OAM of BlazeAid fame. Contact Irene Cracknell OAM for more details and reservations - icrackne@bigpond.net.au or 02 6032 9429
October	Fri 23rd	Mornington Peninsula Regional Group - Annual Dinner and Roy Ward Prize presentation. Commencing 6.30pm at Brooklands Convention Centre, Tanti Ave Mornington. For further information and bookings contact Brian Stahl OAM JP at ber.bri@bigpond.com
November	Wed 11th	Mornington Peninsula Regional Group. Remembrance Day Service commencing at 10.30am in Memorial Garden Canadian Bay Road, Mt Eliza. Bookings not required. For further information email Brian Stahl OAM JP at ber.bri@bigpond.com
	Sun 15th	North East Victoria and Goulbourn Valley Regional Group. Mayday Hills, Beechworth – Key note speaker Prof. Brendan Crabb AC of the Burnet Institute. Contact Irene Cracknell OAM for more details and reservations icrackne@bigpond.net.au 02 6032 9429
	Thurs 26th	State Branch AGM and Luncheon. Further details in next edition of this newsletter.



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Australia Day within the groups

Barwon

The Australia Day Twilight Reception was in the garden at The Geelong Club. This year one of the committee members, Margaret Hughes OAM, led the choir singing the National Anthem and member Dale Jennings OAM was the narrator of Australian poetry, a lovely touch and the three poems were well received by the 63 members and guests.

Guest speaker was Richard Rozen OAM, an Australia Day Ambassador and Victoria Branch committee member. Richard spoke about his life in Australia, after being born in Poland. The next morning he also spoke at the Rotary Club of Geelong Central about his childhood and being a survivor of the Holocaust. Group Chair Barbara Abley AM welcomed one of the 2015 Australia Day recipients, Ross Synot OAM, to the Twilight Reception. Ross was recognised for his service to sport and the community of Geelong and it is pleasing to note that he has joined the Order of Australia Association.



LEFT: Richard Rozen OAM being thanked for his address at the Twilight Ceremony by Alston Park AM, Barwon Deputy Chair and Barbara Abley AM, Barwon Chair.



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South West Victoria

For the fourth year, the group again partnered with the Warrnambool RSL to conduct a "Lowering of The Flag Ceremony". The ceremony mirrors the Victoria Branch ceremony conducted at Melbourne's Shrine and is conducted at the same time. The ceremony is held at the Warrnambool War Memorial with RSL and OAA members present, together with invited guests and members of the public.

Participating in the ceremony were the President of the SW Group, Dr. Peter Habersberger AM RFD and the President of the RSL, Mr. John Miles. Also participating were the Warrnambool Pipes and Drums, The 413 Squadron Air Cadets, Scouts and Guides, Brauer College Choir, senior secondary students, guest vocalists and primary and secondary students.



ABOVE: Australia Day Ceremony for the South West Group. Presidents Peter Habersberger and John Miles about to place a wreath. Some of 413 Squadron Air Cadets and Warrnambool Pipes and Drums Pipers are visible

The parade to the Memorial was led by the pipes and drums, with the cadets, scouts, guides and senior secondary students following.



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The 30 minute ceremony included an address by one of the members, Dr. Geoffrey Quail OAM, music appropriate to Australia Day and two readings by students, one primary student the other senior secondary, of what they had written to the title of "My Australia".

The Australian flags were lowered by a contingent of the Air Cadets to the strains of "The Pipers Lament", played by a Warrnambool Pipe Band Piper. The cadets also provided a Catafalque Party at each corner of the War Memorial. The cadets, together with the Pipe Band, were splendidly presented and those present were exceedingly proud of all who participated in the ceremony.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the RSL, OAA members, guests and participants, attended a reception in the rooms of the adjacent RSL.

Again this year the group was delighted with the sincere and moving ceremony and the attention from the public that it attracted. The group was also so very fortunate to have the partnership with the RSL and the cooperation and willing support of the Air Cadets, the Pipe Band, students, musicians, and the Scouts and Guides.

North East Victoria and Goulbourn Valley

The Rural City of Wangaratta award recipients were invited by the Council, with their partners, to the Australia Day official ceremony in the King George Gardens. Seats were reserved for award recipients and their presence was recognised by the MC, CEO of the Council, Brendan McGrath, in the opening address.

Mornington Peninsula Shire

Regional Chairman Brian L. Stahl OAM JP was Guest Speaker at the Mornington Peninsula Shire Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony held in Rosebud Hall. The ceremony saw 57 receive Citizenship from 10 nations, including some family groups. As usual it was a joyous and memorable occasion for the recipients and their families.

The group will provide Guest Speakers on the occasion of another 5 Citizenship Ceremonies in 2015.



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Anzac Day within the groups

Barwon

Chair Barbara Abley AM will be laying a wreath on behalf of the Order of Australia Association Barwon Regional Group at the Cenotaph at the front of the Geelong RSL, 50 Barwon Heads Road, Belmont at 9.30am on Saturday April 25, 2015. OAA Barwon Regional Group members, family and friends are welcome attend.

North East Victoria & Goulbourn Valley

On Anzac Day, the group members based in Wangaratta will lay a wreath at the 11.00 am service at the Wangaratta Shrine of Remembrance. Members will then assist in the preparation and conduct of a service at the Oxley Shrine which bears the names of 303 soldiers from WW1.

This will be followed by afternoon tea where guests will be encouraged to bring historic records for scanning and preserving.

New Members

A warm welcome is extended to the following members who joined the Association during the first half of March this year.

Mr B L Jenkins OAM, Leopold
Mrs J P Garner OAM, Nerrina
Dr B J Maddern-Wellington AM, Horsham
Mrs A Amad AM, Carlton North
Mr A J Benbow OAM, Vermont South
Em Professor P L Juliff AM, Ashburton
Mr P Mavroudis OAM, Bulleen
Mr A L Paull OAM, Camberwell
Mrs A Zillner OAM, Doncaster
Mr W B Bass OAM, Yarram
Mr W B Carrington OAM, Traralgon
Mr N E Bowen OAM, Springully Bendigo
Counciller R J Fyffe OAM, Bendigo
Mr D H Boykett OAM, Rosebud
CMDRE C T Eastman OAM RANR,
Langwarrin

LTCOL P T Newman OAM ED, Mount Eliza
Mr W J Fleming OAM, Monbulk
Mrs S M Campbell OAM, Benalla
Mrs M B Hearn OAM, Eldorado
Mrs J F Miles OAM, Kialla Lakes
Mrs J S Phillips OAM, Numurkah
Mr M J Mercovich OAM, South Morang
Mr E E Goldhammer OAM, Caulfield South
Mr C A Levy OAM, Elsternwick
Mr P R Lewis AM, Cheltenham
Mr M R McCutcheon AM, Elsternwick
Mr A W Clarke OAM, Warrnambool
Mr W J Ryan OAM, Colac
Mr A R Thomson OAM, Port Fairy



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Merchandise - *Item submitted by State Branch Treasurer, Julian Stock AM*

In April last year, Victoria Branch assumed the responsibility of buying, financing and selling all OAA-badged merchandise to the Australia-wide membership of the Order of Australia Association. Since that time the merchandise sub-committee (Richard Rozen – selling, Neil Soullier – buying, Julian Stock – financing) has been very active. The following are some relevant statistics of those ten months' worth of activities.

Sales revenue - \$39,452

Net Profit - \$17,824

National Office share of profits (eight months) remitted to Canberra - \$7,960

Return on investment in merchandise inventory – 78%

Merchandise items sold (the best sellers)

Winter jackets – 114

Polo shirts – 165

Key rings – 319

Ties – 216

Pens – 194

Lapel badges – 148

Playing cards – 283

While the sub-committee is pleased with the results so far, it has no intention of resting on its laurels. It is keen to learn what members want and is happy to add to the range of merchandise available where this makes commercial sense. Send ideas for new merchandise to Richard Rozen at rozenr@bigpond.com.

Victorian Honour Roll of Women - *Item submitted by Mrs Malvina Malinek OAM.*

Every year for International Women's Day on or about 8th March, a number of "inspirational women from all walks of life" are nominated for inclusion in the Victorian Honour Roll of Women. While many may be nominated, there are usually only 20-22 accepted.

On 11th of March, the 2015 inductees were honoured at a lunch by the Premier of Victoria and certificates presented by the Minister for Women and Domestic Violence, Fiona Richardson MP.



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From the booklet listing all of us inductees and our full citations I am copying below those who also have an Order of Australia. They may or may not be members of the Association.

Ms. Deborah Cheetham AM- the world renowned Aboriginal Opera singer, composer, playwright and creator of the first Aboriginal opera

Dr. Eva Eden AM- A distinguished and world renowned scientist, lecturer and administrator.

Dr. Olga Kanitsaki AM- A distinguished retired nurse with a 40 year career devoted to cultural-sensitive health services.

Mrs. Malvina Malinek OAM- Advocate for the rights of women locally, nationally and internationally for over 50 years.

Emeritus Professor Anne Mitchell AO- A community educator and development worker for over 20 years in the field of sexual health.

(Editor's Note: For the full list of 2015 inductees, visit the Department of Human Services website - www.dhs.vic.gov.au. Congratulations to all of the above inductees as well as all other women inducted this year.)

Profile of DR D. Geoffrey Neilson AM GCSJ FCA, FCPA, ACIS, FTIA

- Item submitted by Barwon Regional Group.



I am pleased to be able to provide a snap shot account of our Barwon Regional Group member Dr Donald Geoffrey Neilson AM, known to everybody by his second Christian name – Geoff.

He is the son of the late Donald Ferguson Neilson and Grace Elizabeth nee Barber, and in early life was a day student at the Geelong College from 1935 to 1947, a member of the cricket, football and athletic teams, and winner of the Dr Gus Kearney Memorial Prize.

Soon after leaving School, he became Treasurer of the OGCA (Old Geelong Collegians Association), later Secretary and President. Geoff has been a member of the College Council from 1960 to 1980 and its Chairman from 1978-1980.

His dedication and contribution to the College was recognised when he was elected a Fellow of the OGCA and in December 2003, when he was appointed a



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Life Governor of the Geelong College. An annually awarded academic prize is named in honour of Geoff Nielson: The D Geoffrey Neilson Prize for Accounting. His portrait hangs in the Geelong College Senior School Dining Hall.

Geoff began his accountancy career 'as a junior clerk in his father's and uncle's accountancy firm, Nielson and Nielson, in 1948. He studied for the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia examinations with the Hemingway Robertson Institute going on to win the Victorian Intermediate Prize in 1949. In 1952, he completed his exams. Geoff also gained second place in Victoria and first place in Victoria in intermediate auditing.

He then completed the Institute of Chartered Secretaries examinations. Geoff's father died in July, 1953 and six years later his uncle died leaving Geoff the sole-partner of the firm until 1962, when he decided to merge his business with Howard Day, Glyn Jenkins, and Graham Johns. In 1955, he married Glenda Elizabeth Moyle.

In the early 1960s, Geoff became interested in farm accountancy, attending a short course at the University of New England and becoming a member of the Australian Committee for Coding Rural Accounts, and presenting papers on the subject at several conferences. He followed this up by writing the third edition of the Law Book Company's title Principles and Practice of Farm Management Accounting.

He has been strongly involved in both the Victorian and National Institutes of Chartered Accountants. He became a member of the National Council in 1977, elected to the Executive in 1978, and elected President in 1980-81. He has also represented the two major Australian accounting bodies on the executive committee of the Conference of Asian and Pacific Accountants and the Institute of the Victorian Council of Professions.

His community involvement is considerable. He has been a member of the Council of Deakin University and Secretary to the Councils of Morongo Girls' College and Marcus Oldham Farm Management College. Geoff is a past President of Geelong YMCA from 1966 to 1968 and of the Rotary Club of Geelong 1971 to 1972; the first chairman of the Geelong Business Awards in 1984.

He was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1985 for services to accountancy and a Knight of the Sovereign of St John in 1995 for service to the



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community. He was elected Victorian Chairman of The Order of Australia Association from 2006 to 2008, and is a supportive member of the Barwon Regional Group of the Order of Australia Association.

Geoff was acknowledged for his distinguished service to Marcus Oldham over the institution's first 50 years of operation. Many students will remember Geoff as their part-time lecturer in Tax and Estate Planning. Geoff also held the position of Secretary to Council from the commencement of the College in 1962 until 2012. Geoff was officially recognised for his service with the opening of the new administration building – The Geoff Neilson Centre. Geoff's enormous contribution over the decades has gone a long way in ensuring that Marcus Oldham remains the pre-eminent agricultural, agribusiness and equine management college in Australia.

Geoff has also been involved with the Geelong Community Foundation since 1997 when he agreed to chair a steering group of 15 members to investigate the concept of a Community Foundation for Geelong. He was a long serving board-member and founding Chairman. Geoff continued as Chairman until 2005 and remained a very active board member and committee chairman until retiring in November 2011.

He is an inaugural and current Trustee of the Geelong Advertiser Music Scholarship Trust which was established in 1991; he currently serves as the Geelong Chamber of Commerce's Chair of Finance & Audit Committee/Public Policy Committee; and is a generous supporter of the Geelong Performing Arts Centre.

Geoff is a long serving and faithful member of the Uniting Church in Australia – at St David's, Newtown where he has served as Treasurer, Choir Member, and Council Member. He is the author of a number of publications including "Journey of Faith: St. David's Uniting Church, Newtown 1851 – 2001".

Through a generous arrangement orchestrated by Geoff, our meetings of the Barwon Regional Group Committee continue to be hosted in the Board Room at the offices of his former business, now owned by Crowe Howarth.

The above information merely details some of the extraordinary commitment to the wider Barwon Region and beyond, made by this outstanding member of the Order of Australia Association.



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Regional Group Reports

Eastern Suburbs

The reception for 2015 Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Order of Australia Award recipients from the Eastern Suburbs is being planned for October in conjunction with the Boroondara City Council. Following this function, the Eastern Suburbs Regional Group AGM will be held on 4th November at the Whitehorse-Manningham Library at Nunawading with a guest speaker.

Members of the Eastern Suburbs Regional Group are able to access the website www.oaaesrg.org for information on the Regional Group and activities programmed for the coming year.

Barwon

Barwon Regional Group has congratulated the 10 new recipients and 1 elevation on Australia Day and acknowledges the contribution each has made to their community over many years. Well known Geelong identity Frank Costa was elevated from OAM to AO for distinguished service to the Geelong community in sports, business, religious, medical, educational and social organisations.

A new Barwon Regional Group project in 2015 is the Primary School Award: 80 primary schools have been invited to submit an application for an award for "pride in Australian citizenship" projects undertaken with their students. This aligns with the aim of the Order of Australia "to foster love of and pride in Australian citizenship".

Four schools will be chosen from the submissions to make a presentation with each to receive a certificate and one to be selected as the winner of the \$500 prize. The Primary School Award presentations will be made at a morning tea on Thursday May 14, 2015 at 10.30am in the Newland VC Room at the Geelong RSL, 50 Barwon Heads Road, Belmont. Cost is \$15 per person, members and guests are encouraged to attend and hear about the excellent projects being undertaken by primary schools in the region.

Elected Office Bearers for 2014/15:

Chair – Barbara Abley AM

Deputy Chair – Alston Park AM



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Treasurer – Wayne Myers OAM
Secretary – Helene Bender OAM
Committee – Peter Doak OAM, Margret Hughes OAM and Mary Lewis OAM

The group acknowledged the contribution over six years Lloyd Gosling AM made to Barwon Regional Group as a Committee member, Secretary and in 2014 as Chair and wish him well for the future. The group has also congratulated Cathy Roth OAM, a Barwon Regional Group member, on her election to the Victoria Branch as a committee member for 2014-15.

Gippsland

The group's first luncheon for 2015 will be held at Traralgon Winery on May 31st. Guest speaker will be a member of the Branch, Vicki Hamilton OAM, CEO of Gippsland Asbestos Related Diseases Support, a volunteer, nonprofit, non-government organisation, dedicated to giving support to sufferers and their families.

After the recent AGM, held at Centenary House in Traralgon in November, the group resolved to donate some of the proceeds from the May luncheon to this very worthy organisation. It offers accommodation to patients from all over Gippsland, who are receiving cancer treatment at Latrobe Valley Hospital.

South West Victoria

Seven south west residents received Order of Australia awards in the list from Australia Day. Three of the seven have so far joined the group and we now hope that in time all seven will become members. Each new awardee has been invited to be our guest at our next function on April 19.

Peter and Pamela Habersberger have generously invited the group to hold its next function, a luncheon on Sunday April 19, at their historic home "Delvui", which is set in spacious heritage listed gardens. Delvui is located close to the township of Noorat. Dr Peter Habersberger AM RFD will be a guest speaker on a topic pertinent to the 100 year commemoration of Anzac Day. As well, the group will have as a guest, Jarrod Hodgson, an OAA Foundation scholarship winner. Jarrod will have returned three days earlier from studies in Australia's Antarctic region.



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North East Victoria and Goulbourn Valley

This Group is an active and growing Group in Victoria, currently chaired by John Brown AO. During last year the Group conducted functions at the Bishop's Lodge, Wangaratta, hosted by Bishop John Parkes AM and in Mansfield and Shepparton.

At the final luncheon of 2014, the Group focused on refugees, with engaging speakers who are representatives from Afghan and South Sudan refugee groups. As a Group, NE & GV are conscious that we all must reach out to those who have struggled in their earlier lives and who are now exemplary Australian citizens of which all can be proud.

All award recipients within the Rural City of Wangaratta award recipients were included on the invitation list for a Civic Reception for Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove AC and Mrs Cosgrove on 16th February.

The Governor addressed the large audience in the Performing Arts Centre and spoke of the many positive impressions he had gained during his visit to the City. He then interacted freely with the audience.

Mornington Peninsula

Within the MPRG there were in total 15 persons who received Awards including Emergency Services and Naval.

The group held its annual Cruden Farm Picnic on Sunday 15th February 2015 in glorious summer weather and was attended by around 100 adults and children including members from Melbourne.

Entertainment on the day was provided by the Westernport Regional Band who stepped in at short notice, as unfortunately the Band Master at Toorak College incurred a serious injury and their Sisters of Swing were unable to attend.

Although the numbers were much lighter than were expected all who attended enjoyed looking through the beautiful gardens of the Late Dame Elisabeth Murdoch's Home and the entertainment provided. Funds raised on the day go towards the group's Annual Schools Awards Program and the Roy Ward Prize.



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Northern Suburbs

Following the retirement of Doreen Ackerman AM as chair of this group no activities have been organised. To assist in ensuring NSRG members are provided with opportunities to attend activities the several regional groups abutting the NSRG will be including NSRG members in invitations sent for various events.

Western Suburbs

The first event for 2015 was held on Thursday 19th February and was an evening meeting with a meal at "Quatrefoils" restaurant in the Catholic Regional College at Sydenham, which has proved to be a very popular site on previous visits by the group. The prime objective of this evening meeting was to provide an opportunity for people to attend who cannot come to our usual daytime events due to other commitments, such as their profession. Guest speaker: Gary Ferguson, Community Education Co-coordinator, Seniors Rights Victoria.

OAA Event- Masterpieces from the Hermitage: The Legacy of Catherine the Great

The OAA will be organising a visit to the National Gallery of Victoria to see "Masterpieces from the Hermitage: The Legacy of Catherine the Great". The event will consist of a lecture followed by entry to the exhibition and lunch (same format as last year). The timing will be early in October. If you are thinking of going please register your interest with Julian Stock (jbstock@bigpond.net.au) and he will keep you informed as details are finalised.

*We recognize the ongoing and generous support of the
Royal Automobile Club of Victoria in the publishing of this newsletter.*

