



# Order of Australia Victorian Branch

*“fostering love of and pride in Australian citizenship”*

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## Editor's message

Welcome to our fourth edition of the State Electronic Newsletter.

Thank you to the many regional group representatives who have provided details of their forthcoming events as listed later in the newsletter. This edition contains details of sixteen state and regional events being held between October and December. It is good to see this list growing in each edition of the newsletter. It is also good to see that over recent times the number of members of one regional group attending the functions of other regional groups.



Sadly we note the passing of Richard Williams OAM, former State Branch Committee member, John Nicol OAM, former chair of the Western Regional Group and Harold Bird OAM. This edition contains a tribute to each of these members and a number of others from around the Regional Group who have recently passed.

The State Branch committee meets every month to address and progress a range of functions and activities. In this edition there is a report on the activities and projects currently being undertaken by the State Branch Committee.

Did you know that copies of all editions of the State Electronic Newsletter and the National Magazine, The Order can be viewed on the Order of Australia website [theorderofaustralia.asn.au](http://theorderofaustralia.asn.au) Also on the Order of Australia website is a copy of the Brochure and Registration form for the 2016 National Conference being held in Sydney between 11th and 16 March 2016.

The last edition of the newsletter for 2015 is scheduled for distribution around 21<sup>st</sup> December. The cut-off date for submission of articles is 23 November. This final edition for the year will have a focus on the outcomes of the Annual General meetings of the State Branch and Regional Groups.

**Fred Harrington OAM**

## Message from the Chairman



It saddens me to report the passing of our former Victoria Branch State Committee Member, Richard Williams OAM, who passed away early August from pancreatic cancer.

Richard was quite an amazing person, highly respected by the Order of Australia Association, Life Education Victoria, and the Pied Pipers Organisation who raise so much for the Royal

Children's Hospital.

It was very pleasing to note that the ode, which was put together with the assistance of the Police Chaplain, and was read out on behalf of the Association by Neil Soullier OAM, was extremely well received. Our thoughts are with Richard's family and his extensive network of friends.

I know his attitude would be to make sure things keep happening, and with that in mind we are delighted to announce that Lord Vestey will be honouring us with his presence on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November at an event to be held at The Sofitel Melbourne on Collins.

Details on how to book are outlined further in this Newsletter. We look forward to seeing many of you there to join in the spirit of the Melbourne Cup Carnival.

Lord Vestey gave the oration at last year's Victoria Racing Club Chairman's Dinner in front of the who's who of Melbourne and Australia, all of whom were in awe of his presence, his experiences in life, his connections with the Royal Family, and his near death experience.

I'm sure if you can spare some time to come along you will enjoy meeting quite a remarkable human being.

Thanks again to Fred Harrington OAM who puts together the e-newsletter, spending many hours on emails and phone calls following up on matters, and ensuring all of us submit our contributions on time. Thankyou Fred for a great effort and for keeping all members up to date with Association news, particularly Victoria State Branch and our regional groups.

Please remember that the merchandise range helps us with a few dollars in the bank and contributing towards our profit. It's quite an extensive range managed by Richard Rozen OAM and Neil Soullier OAM. You can find articles on new merchandise and 'how to order' information in our quarterly publication, "The Order".

Another pleasing event was held at Government House on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September for recipients of the Order of Australia given out on Queen's Birthday, with their Honour being presented by the Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Linda Dessau AM.

It's a very proud moment sitting in the biggest ballroom in the Southern Hemisphere at Government House; seeing people from all walks of life, all nationalities, religions, socio- economic statuses, and age groups being honoured for 'above and beyond' service to the community. The cross sections of words associated with each nomination were very diverse and highlighted how many people do so much for so little in return, but one of the great moments in life is when they receive their Order of Australia.

With the Governor in mind, I'm delighted to confirm that Her Excellency Linda Dessau AM has confirmed that she will be the Patron of the Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch, and looks forward to welcoming members during her term in office to Government House.

Other current events organised by State Branch include the visit to the National Gallery of Victoria and our afternoon tea at the Four Seasons Hotel on St Kilda Road to welcome new members.

I hope you continue to enjoy the updates in the Newsletter and now that we have moved out of the colder months, that Spring brings happiness to each and every one of you, and that you continue to enjoy being a member of the Order of Australia Association. I hope that you can join us at some of the wonderful events throughout the metropolitan and regional areas.

**David Mann OAM**

# Forthcoming events 2015

## October

**Friday 9th Barwon Regional Group.** AGM followed by Annual Luncheon. The agenda pack and luncheon invitation has been emailed to members. For further information and bookings contact Helene Bender OAM at [helenebender@westnet.com.au](mailto:helenebender@westnet.com.au)

**Thursday 15th State Branch.** Visit to National Gallery Victoria to view "Masterpieces from the Hermitage: the Legacy of Catherine the Great". 11am start for lecture followed by entry to the exhibition. An optional lunch follows at 1 pm lunch at the Café Vic. Price per person - \$35 for lecture and exhibition and \$35 for lunch; total \$70. A booking form for this event is attached to this newsletter.

**Wednesday 21st Gippsland Regional Group.** Third annual Macfarlane Burnet Dinner and Oration at the Premiere Reception Centre Traralgon . Guest Speaker will be Professor Brendan Crabb, C E O AC of the Burnet Institute. A booking form for this event is attached to this newsletter. For more information please contact Doug Caulfield on 0409 008 494.

**Friday 23rd Mornington Peninsula Regional Group.** Annual Dinner and Roy Ward Prize presentation. commencing at 6.30pm at Brooklands Convention Centre Tanti Ave Mornington. Guest Speaker will be Neil Soulier OAM Chief Executive Officer, Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation. For further information and bookings contact Brian Stahl OAM JP at [ber.bri@bigpond.com](mailto:ber.bri@bigpond.com). An invitation and booking form is attached to this newsletter.

**Sunday 25th Central Highlands Regional Group.** Spring Luncheon 12 noon for 12.30 start. Horsham Sports and Community Club 177-179 Baillie Street Horsham. Guest speaker is John Millington OAM. Cost \$35 per person. Further information and bookings contact Jean Wise 03 5398 1901 or 0407 242 914 or at [honeywise@bigpond.com](mailto:honeywise@bigpond.com)

## November

**Wednesday 4th Eastern Suburbs Regional Group.** AGM and Guest Speaker commencing at 1:30 pm. Guest speaker is Ian Crawford of Crawford Productions. The venue for this event is the Box Hill Library (First Floor) 1040 Whitehorse Rd Box Hill. Afternoon Tea will be provided with a gold coin donation. Further information /bookings to Dot Browne OAM at [dotandcol23@bigpond.com](mailto:dotandcol23@bigpond.com)

**Wednesday 4th Victoria State Branch.** Cocktail party with Guest speaker, Lord Vestey KCVO, "Master of the Horse (the keeper of the Queen's horses) and the third most senior officer in the Royal Household. This is to be held in Arthur Streeton Room of the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins, 25 Collins Street, Melbourne with a 4:30 pm start for address by Lord Vestey followed by a cocktail reception finishing at 6:30pm. A booking form for this event is attached to this newsletter.

**Wednesday 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 contact Brian Stahl OAM JP at [ber.bri@bigpond.com](mailto:ber.bri@bigpond.com)

**Wednesday 11th South Central Suburbs Regional Group.** Luncheon Presentation on the Timor Leste Aloia Foundation by Kirsty Sword Gusmao, AO at The Sandringham Club, 92 Beach Road, Sandringham commencing at 12 Noon. An invitation and booking form for this event is attached to this newsletter.

**Sunday 15th North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley Regional Group.** AGM and luncheon at Mayday Hills, Beechworth – Key note speaker Prof. Brendan Crabb AC Director and CEO of the Macfarlane Burnet Institute for medical research. Enquiries may be made with the Secretary, Adrian Twitt OAM, ph 03 5721 5327.

**Thursday 19th North Central Suburbs Regional Group.** AGM and Guest Speaker commencing at 3:00pm at the Eltham Library, Panther Place Eltham. Guest Speaker is Kel Glare AO, former Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police. Contact Fred Harrington OAM at [fred.harrington@gravity.net.au](mailto:fred.harrington@gravity.net.au). An invitation and booking form is attached to this newsletter.

**Wednesday 25th. State Branch AGM.** Commencing at 11:00am at William Angliss Institute, 550 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. Full details will be provided when finalised.

**Wednesday 25th State Branch Luncheon.** Commencing at 12 Noon at William Angliss Institute, 550 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne Full details will be provided when finalised.

**Wednesday 25th. Regional Groups meeting.** Commencing at 2:00pm following the State Branch Luncheon at William Angliss Institute, 550 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. The Notice of Meeting will be mailed to Regional Group representatives early November with Regional Group reports required by 15 November.

**Friday 27th. Mornington Peninsula Regional Group.** AGM and guest speaker Richard Rozen, OAM, commencing at noon at the Royals Hotel, Esplanade Mornington. For further information and bookings contact Brian Stahl OAM JP at [ber.bri@bigpond.com](mailto:ber.bri@bigpond.com).

## December

**Friday 4th. South West Victoria Regional Group AGM.** This will be a luncheon gathering to be held in Hamilton. Full details will be mailed to members in October.

## News from the State Branch Committee.

The following is a summary of the activities of the State Branch Committee over recent months.

- **Functions:** The following functions have been organised: an afternoon tea in September for the 2015 Australia Day and Queen's Birthday award recipients, a cocktail function, on November 4th, for Lord Vestey, and the Annual General Meeting of the State Branch on Wednesday November 25th. Additionally planning for the 2016 Australia Day function at the Shrine is now well advanced.
- **Website:** The Victoria Branch and Regional Groups sections of the national website are being updated.
- **Affiliate membership:** The committee is seeking to work through the National Board to achieve a review of the current by law to clarify both the eligibility criteria for affiliates and a uniform approach to applications, annual subscriptions and entitlements. By way of background regional groups have listed approximately 27 affiliate members.

- **Merchandise:** The committee has taken on the responsibility for the marketing and supply of all OAA merchandise. The branch has recently offered regional groups an opportunity to promote and sell merchandise and achieve income for the group from the sales.
- **Communication/ Email addresses:** The committee will be communicating with those members who have not advised their email address or who do not have an email address to ensure options are provided for these members to receive the State Electronic Newsletter.
- **Ode/ Tribute:** The branch is well advanced in the development of an Ode / Tribute that can be used at the funeral / memorial service for an Order of Australia Recipient. Some further refinement still needs to be undertaken and the matter needs to be discussed with the national committee.

### **CAN YOU HELP? ARE YOU IN ADVERTISING OR HAVE GRAPHIC DESIGN SKILLS?**

Our State Branch has commenced the planning for the design of a membership brochure specific to Victoria and will complement the current National Membership Brochure. The new brochure is to be presented to Victorian recipients of The Order of Australia when the letter of congratulations, from the State Branch Chair, is sent to them following their award. The purpose of the brochure is to both publicise our State Branch and our programs and, hopefully, persuade the new awardee to join the Order of Australia Association.

If you are be able to assist, please contact Vice President Duncan Stalker OAM at [dstalker5@bigpond.com](mailto:dstalker5@bigpond.com) or 0417 163 477.

## Vale

### Richard Williams OAM



Richard Williams received his OAM in the 2012 Queen's Birthday awards. His citation read *"For service to the community through executive and fundraising roles with the Royal Children's Hospital"*.

The following details just a part of the involvement and achievements of Richard.:

- President, Royal Children's Hospital Pied Pipers Fundraising Group, 1972-1974 and 1998-1999; Founding Treasurer, 1969.
- Coordinator, Pied Piper's Good Friday Appeal, 1969-2012.
- Chair, Annual Sports and Comedy Night, for 25 years.
- Coordinator, sale of AFL grand final posters, for 44 years.
- Involved in fundraising for the Royal Children's Hospital, for 60 years.
- Board Member, Life Education Victoria; Deputy Chair.
- Involved with toy and food hamper distribution, The Smith Family, since 1996.
- Former Member, Syndicate 10 Group, CEO Institute.
- Vice-President, Tally Ho Fitness Group.

## John Nicol OAM



Former Western Regional Group Chair John Nicol OAM passed away on 26 August 2015. John was a man totally committed to his community.

The following extract from the publication of the Committee for Wyndham highlights some of his community involvement:

- City Engineer for the City of Wyndham and shire between 1974 and 1994.
- Awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 1989 for services to Local Government
- Wyndham citizen of the year 1999
- Chair Regional Rail Link Authority Community Reference Group
- Chair Victorian Desalination Project Community Liaison Group
- Member of the Westbourne Grammar School Board for 13 years
- Trustee of several local foundations
- President of the Werribee Football Club for the past 8 years (Board for 15 years)
- Member of Rotary for the past 38 years
- Life Member of Apex
- Life Member of the Committee for Wyndham (Inaugural recipient)

## Norman Hammon OAM

It is with sadness we record the passing of Eastern Suburbs Regional Group member, Norman Hammon OAM on 17th August.

Norm was the husband of ESGR Committee member Marg Hammon OAM and on 25th June 2010, received his OAM for service to the sport of sailing, particularly through the International Fireball Association, and service to the community.

A Service to celebrate Norm's life and his contribution to the community was held at the Box Hill Uniting Church on Monday 24th August.

### **Harold Edwin Bird OAM**

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2015, a Celebration of the life of Harold Bird (29/12/22 - 28/5/15) was held at Le Pine Chapel in Eltham. Harold had lived in Eltham for the greater part of his life and this service celebrated the passing of a very special Order of Australia awardee, aged 93 years. Harold was a quietly-spoken humble man and his life had been devoted to the service and well-being of others.

His early teaching days were in a school of hard knocks at Olympic Village during the 60s. It was a tough school but Harold gained the respect of the staff and pupils by being firm and fair. Music was his passion. He felt the piano in the assembly hall was being under-utilised so moved it into his classroom and the whole profile of Music in the school cranked up a few notches. He organised lunchtime sing-a-longs for the staff, teaching them the songs from the ABC songbook, which enhanced each teacher's confidence in getting the most from the weekly ABC music broadcasts. We were told that he divided the staff into "nightingales" and "crows" and the crows were encouraged to mouth the words.

During this time his own son Russell joined the National Boys' Choir of Australia, which was founded in 1964 and recently celebrated its 50 year anniversary. Harold continued to teach and the District Inspector picked him out as Principal material. He also intervened with his discipline skills to pull the choir-boys into line in the early days, when he felt their behaviour somewhat unruly. His administrative skills were also put to good use in assisting the choir management in planning rehearsal venues, music camps, tours and overseas trips away. He always had a passion for the choir. Rehearsal venues were difficult to find and they were forced to move from one church hall or public building to another in order to practice regularly. Harold's wife Yvonne had become Treasurer of the NBCA and her tight and careful rein on the finances was very much appreciated.

Harold received an Order of Australia award in 1994 for his decades of dedication to the National Boys' Choir of Australia during which he had had a positive effect on hundreds of young boys over the years, each of whom he remembered individually.

In later years, choir management organised the renovation and purchase of a permanent rehearsal studio with two large rehearsal studios in Ringwood which was named the Bird Studio after the lifetime of support and assistance of the NBCA given by Harold and Yvonne Bird.

## Regional Groups

### ***Mornington Peninsula***

The Annual Luncheon and Presentation of the 16th Annual Schools Awards was held on Friday 14th August 2015 at the Safety Beach Sailing Club Community Centre Safety Beach overlooking Port Philip Bay. There were 52 in attendance including the Mayor of Mornington Peninsula Shire Cr Bev Colomb along with Cr Antonella Celi.

Guest Speaker on the day was Andrew Mackenzie OAM well known Author, Researcher and Lecturer on Australian Art and Leading Authority on the Artists of the Heidelberg School and concept creator of the Heidelberg School Artists Trial.

Andrew gave an interesting and insightful talk and challenged those present with a questionnaire testing their knowledge about the history of Anzac Day, Dame Nellie Melba and Walter Withers Painting "The Drover". Andrew instigated the naming of the " Dame Nellie Melba Rose" and a great deal of interest was shown in that particularly his suggestion that he would be happy to support an Official Launch of the Rose on the Peninsula maybe at historic Beleura House given it has a longstanding Melba connection.

Schools Awards Convenor Allan Pizzey AM gave an outline of the background of our Schools Awards Program and thanked Spowers Architects for their generous Sponsorship over the next three years guaranteeing it's continuation.

The Major Schools Award winner for 2015 was Mornington Secondary College for their excellent submission titled "VCAL Community Services". VCAL Community Services focuses on personal development skills through volunteering in local community projects developing student's self confidence, teamwork and skills important for life, employment and active citizenship. A Cheque to the value of \$1000 and a framed Certificate was presented to the School.

The Runner-Up for 2015 was John Paul College Frankston for their submission titled "The Community Companion--Food and Outreach Trailer". The Community Companion is a newly established "Soup Van" that brings food, clothing, food parcels and companionship to the homeless and marginalised of the Frankston Region. A Cheque to the value of \$500 and a framed Certificate was presented to the School.

A delightful meal supplied by Snooks Catering was enjoyable by all in extremely pleasant surroundings adding to a wonderfully successful event.

The next function will be the Annual Dinner and Roy Ward Presentation to be held at Brooklands Tanti Ave Mornington 6.30pm Friday 23rd October 2015. Guest Speaker on that occasion will be Neil Soullier OAM Chief Executive Officer, Victoria Police Blue Light Foundation. Other Coming Events are Remembrance Day 10.30am 11th November 2015 at Memorial Garden Mt Eliza and our AGM Luncheon Friday 27th November 2015--Venue TBA.



*L-R: John Riddle Student Counsellor John Paul College Frankston, Sarah Walker VCAL Coordinator, Mornington Secondary College, Kye Bressant Yr 11 Mornington S/C, Brian Stahl OAM JP Chairman MP Region, Allan Pizzey AM Convenor MP Region Schools Awards.*

### **Northern Suburbs**

Following several years of the Northern Suburbs Regional Group not being able to encourage enough members to participate on its committee the matter was considered by the State Branch Committee.

After contact with all members of the group the State Branch committee considered the comments and resolved that the members of NSRG residing in the municipalities of Hume and Moreland would become members of the Western Suburbs Regional Group and members residing in the municipalities of Darebin and Whittlesea would become members of the North Central Suburbs Regional Group.

All members have now been notified and the national database changed to ensure all members continue to receive National, State and Regional communications.

Sincere thanks are extended to Doreen Akkerman AM, former chair of the group, for her efforts over an extended period of time in chairing the group and facilitating its operation.

## **North Central Suburbs.**

The next function will be the AGM and Guest Speaker, followed by afternoon tea, to be held on Thursday 19th November 2015 at the Eltham Library commencing at 3.30pm. Guest speaker will be Kel Glare AO, former Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police. Members, guests and members of all regional groups are welcome to attend. An invitation and booking form is attached to this newsletter.

The group welcomes the 21 former members of the Northern Suburbs Regional group who have been joined the NCSRg group following the closure of the Northern Suburbs Group.

North Central Regional Group member Jack Kelly OAM is heading towards the title of OAA luckiest member. Jack attended the Mornington Peninsula Regional Group (MPRG) picnic day at Cruden Farm in February and won a prize in the raffle on that day. Then at the Eastern Suburbs regional Group's 'Christmas in July' luncheon Jack won a hamper in the raffle on that day.

Congratulations are extended to our committee member, Joyce McGrath OAM, on the occasion of her 90th birthday on 19th October. Joyce received her OAM in the 2002 Australia Day Awards and her citation read:

*For service to the collection and preservation of historical documentation relating to art and music, particularly through the establishment of the Australian Art Archives.*

The group welcomes the following new members of the Association and in particular the NCSRg since the last newsletter. Mr David Jacka OAM of Fairfield, Mr J. Gardner AM of Fairfield, Professor R Catrall AM of Yarrambat. and Mrs Val Lennie OAM of Viewbank. The group also welcomes Sr Val Deakin OAM who has transferred to Victoria from Western Australia.

## Barwon

### Civic Reception for 2015 Recipients

On Wednesday July 29 the City of Greater Geelong hosted the annual Civic Reception for 2015 Australia Day and Queen's Birthday recipients from the Barwon Region covering Borough of Queenscliffe, City of Greater Geelong, Golden Plains Shire and Surf Coast Shire, this year there was a total of 20 recipients including one OAM elevation to AO.

The City of Greater Geelong Mayor Cr Darryn Lyons acknowledged the excellent contribution the 2015 recipients have made to the greater Geelong region, Victoria and Australia in the areas of nursing, tourism, hospitality, sporting groups, early childhood education, service to youth through the Scouting movement, service to the community of Norlane through a range of social welfare organisations, performing arts as a singer and entertainer plus broadcast media.

Barwon Regional Group Chair Barbara Abley AM on behalf of members and the committee thanked the Mayor of the City of Greater Geelong, fellow Councillors and Officers for once again generously hosting and organising the Civic Reception.

Our Committee urges all members to consider nominating quiet achievers who have unselfishly provided sustained service over many years and haven't sought recompense or recognition for consideration by the Governor General's Committee to be future recipients.

Barwon Regional Group warmly acknowledges and congratulates the new recipients, their families and those anonymous people who worked diligently behind the scenes to fulfil the nomination obligations.

We look forward to welcoming 2015 recipients as members and their attendance at upcoming OAA Barwon events.



*(L-R: Graeme Vincent former editor Geelong Advertiser, Denis Walter OAM, Annette Walter, Mayor Cr Darryn Lyons and Peter Burnett AM)*

## Annual General Meeting and Annual Luncheon

The Barwon Regional Group AGM will be held on Friday October 9, 2015 in the Media Puzzle Room in the Gargan Stand at the Geelong Racing Club - 99 Breakwater Road, Breakwater. The AGM is scheduled to commence at 11.30am followed by the annual luncheon in The Committee Room at 12.15pm scheduled to finish at 2.30pm.

OAA Barwon Regional Group members will have received their AGM agenda pack including the annual luncheon invitation; family and friends are invited plus we welcome Members from other OAA Regional Groups. Please contact Barwon Regional Group Secretary Helene Bender OAM [helenebender@westnet.com.au](mailto:helenebender@westnet.com.au) if you require any additional information regarding the Barwon AGM or annual luncheon.

Guest speaker at the annual luncheon is Dr Mimmie Claudine Ngum Chi Watts. Mimmie has a diverse range of skills and interests particularly in International Health; Health of Minority and Disadvantaged Women and Gender inequalities. She received a Living Legend award at the Celebration of African Australian National Awards in Canberra last year for engaging African Australian communities through her volunteer work and research. Her research, which she completed at La Trobe University, included a PhD thesis highlighting the cultural social and structural barriers young African Australian women faced in dealing with teenage pregnancy.



Mimmie is also a mentor and support worker for women from refugee backgrounds. Dr Ngum Chi Watts will speak about her role in the public health sector.

Cost is \$45 per person for 2 course lunch with beverages at bar price. This year at the annual luncheon the Barwon Regional Group will acknowledge recipients celebrating 30, 25, 20, 15 and 10 year Order of Australia Association membership, there is a total of eleven (11), this includes one (1) who became a member in 1982 and two (2) from 1984.

### Member recognition Dr Malcolm John OAM

In June 2006 Dr Malcolm John was an Order of Australia recipient for service to the community of Geelong through music as an educator, composer, performer and conductor.

In 1981 he established Geelong Summer Music Camp alongside another OAA Barwon member Wendy Galloway OAM and directed it for 13 years on and off.



The camp is recognised Australia wide providing opportunities for young instrumental performers to play in a large orchestra. Now in its 36th year, the camp attracts 240 young people who spend a week together making and enjoying music.

Malcolm has been an examiner for the Australian Music Examinations Board for 40 years.

To celebrate Malcolm's 80th birthday, musicians of Geelong hosted a Retrospective: The Music of Dr Malcolm John OAM on Sunday June 21 at St Luke's Uniting Church, Highton Geelong. Margaret Hughes OAM a Barwon Regional Group Committee member attended the musical afternoon and reports the much anticipated and talked about concert to honour Dr Malcolm John OAM, initiated and organised by Anne Pilgrim, gave an opportunity to hear some of Malcolm's outstanding and under-performed works which had not been heard since the performances for which they had been composed. Malcolm selected and conducted the works himself, choosing his favourites.

An audience of 250 was delighted to hear a program of fourteen compositions, written in many musical styles over a lifetime of composing. Guests were entertained with a program of songs set to words by well-known poets; choral works; excerpts from a cantata, a musical, a music drama, instrumental music including a piano trio, an oboe concertino, and a wind quintet, and arrangements for Chorus, wind, percussion and strings. Attendees also heard Malcolm's latest work, Fly Away Peter - an adaptation of David Malouf's significant and moving novel about two young Australian men participating in WW1 in France – which premiered in May this year. This is a twenty minute composition for narrator and four instrumentalists.

Malcolm is a community man, husband, father of four musical children and a grandfather - his wife, children and grandchildren were among the singers and instrumentalists performing these works.

At the conclusion of the concert Dr Malcolm John OAM received a well-deserved standing ovation – recognition of his contribution to music education and to community and regional music over the past decades.

### ***North East Victoria and Goulburn Valley***

The NE&GV region was one of the worst affected by the Black Saturday fires of 2009. It was therefore with great satisfaction, that the founders of Blazeaid, Kevin and Rhonda Butler were each awarded an Order of Australia Medal for their outstanding work, which inspired the creation of an organization that is now of national importance.

Kevin and Rhonda Butler were guest presenters at a luncheon held at Trawool Resort, near Seymour, attended by seventy OAA members and guests on 16th August. Kevin and Rhonda's farm near Kilmore suffered severely in the Black Saturday fires, though their house survived.

The major hurdle they faced was to rebuild fences to keep in surviving stock. Many volunteers assisted them. But, as Kevin said, there were many others worse off than them, and he and Rhonda were so buoyed by the work of their friends that they felt the strong need to support others. With it, Blazeaid was commenced.

Blazeaid assisted, and continues to assist, burnt out farmers with their critical fencing needs. In this region there were serious fires which burnt vast farmland areas just prior to last Christmas, requiring the help of Blazeaid volunteers.

Many hundreds of volunteers giving thousands of hours have supported the efforts of Blazeaid since its inception. Now, it extends its work to help victims of flood and drought, across all parts of Australia. In giving rapid on-ground physical support, the volunteers provide a huge morale boost for the affected families and their communities in their time of need.

The region indeed owes Kevin and Rhonda a huge debt for their heroic efforts in founding this vital national organization. Their heartfelt presentation was enthusiastically received by the gathering.

The Group's next luncheon, which is our AGM, features guest speaker Professor Brendan Crabb AC, the Director and CEO of the Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research. It will be held on Sunday 15th November in Beechworth. Enquiries may be made with the Secretary, Adrian Twitt OAM, ph 03 57215327.

## **Eastern Suburbs**

Following the successful tour of the Victorian Parliament House hosted by Bruce Atkinson MP on 16th June, fifty five members and friends sat down to a "Christmas in July" lunch at Bucatini's Mitcham Restaurant on Tuesday 28th July.

Guest speaker for the event was Dr Heather Sheard who spoke on The role of Australian Women Doctors in World War I. Dr Sheard is a graduate of Melbourne University and gained her Doctorate from research undertaken on Dr Vera Scantlebury Browne who was an Australian Doctor who served in WWI.

The absorbing presentation by Dr Sheard explained how Australian women doctors who were unable to serve in Australian Units because of Government Policy at the time, joined with overseas defence force units and how to this day their contribution has not been recognized in Australia. At the conclusion of the luncheon popular members, Jack Kelly OAM and Yvonne Bird OAM, were lucky winners of the two Christmas Hampers that were raffled.

Due to a clash of dates with the Victorian Branch Reception for OA recipients in late September the ESRG Reception planned to be held a week later has been deferred until next year.

The Group's last function for the year will be a meeting on Wednesday 4th November with Ian Crawford from Crawford Productions as the guest speaker. The meeting will be held at the Box Hill Library, 1040 Whitehorse Road Box Hill, commencing at 1.30 pm and will incorporate the Groups AGM.

Planning is already underway for the 2016 program led by Activities Organiser Dot Browne OAM and already flagged is the Reception for 2015 OA recipients at the Camberwell Town Hall at a date to be advised during March or April.

## **South Central Suburbs**

On Wednesday 26th August the South Central Suburban Group and the Central Suburbs Group of the Order of Australia Association co-hosted a well-supported luncheon for 108 people at the William Angliss Restaurant in the City.

In the spirit of the Anzac Centenary Year and to recognise and acknowledge a great Australian and an outstanding General, the theme for the luncheon was a tribute to General Sir John Monash, GCMG KCB VD.

The National Anthem for the day was sung by a young graduate of Monash University, Anita Levy whose grandfather, Rev Dr Ray Laird, OAM from Queensland, had been appointed to the Order of Australia in June 2011.

Anita then led the group in singing the first verse of Waltzing Matilda to get us into the spirit of the Diggers of World War 1.

This created the right atmosphere for our guest speaker The Honourable Tim Fischer, AC who delivered an excellent address on the General which was well appreciated by the 108 people who attended. Tim had recently completed a book on General Monash so was truly an authority on his subject.

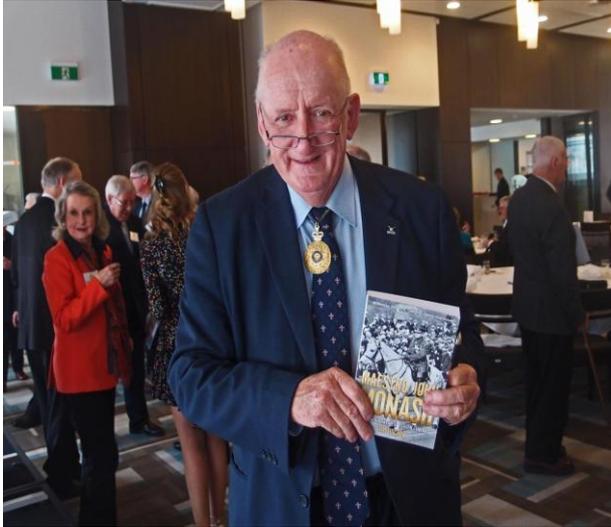
Dr Judith Landsberg from the General Sir John Monash Foundation briefed the meeting on the role of the Foundation and gave examples of the students who had received Foundation Scholarships.

A high quality 3 course luncheon, served by William Angliss Institute students, was enjoyed by all.

A raffle was conducted on the day with Jack Ings, AM winning the major prize. Jack, a former RAAF man, will be a passenger in a light aircraft as part of the Royal Victorian Aero Club Battle of Britain Commemorative Flight of 40 aircraft on 13 September 2015. The route for the Flight, which will take about 1 hour, is around the perimeter of Port Phillip Bay.

Proceeds from the raffle will be used to fund large posters on the Order of Australia and the Australian Honours and Awards System for Council libraries within our area.

The hard working Committee for the event included Ross Newton, OAM as our very polished MC, supported by Secretary Cheryl Threadgold, OAM, who coordinated the entertainment, and Marion Lau, OAM who arranged the superb menu.



South Central Suburbs Regional Group guest speaker The Honourable Tim Fischer, AC; acclaimed Monash author, former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, National Service Army Officer and Vietnam Veteran who has made such a magnificent contribution to our nation.

## **South West Victoria**

### **Passing of Alex Gannaway.**



The group has been greatly saddened by the recent death of Alex Gannaway. As Secretary of the Warrnambool RSL Alex provided substantial administrative assistance to the operation of the SW group.

He was also actively involved in the introduction of the joint OAA SW Group/ RSL annual Australia Day “Lowering the Flag” ceremony. This ceremony mirrored the ceremony being conducted at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance by our Victoria Branch.

Alex also provided valued assistance for the National Conference hosted by our Victoria Branch in February of last year. He was recognised for that effort by our state chairman, David Mann, at the “thank you” function held later at the Windsor Hotel.

During the past 20 years Alex has been very involved in various aspects of the Warrnambool community, including one organisation which supported challenged youth. His acceptance 12 years ago of the voluntary position of secretary of the Warrnambool RSL, a strategic branch for the Victorian RSL in South West Victoria, was instrumental in the branch achieving the financial and administrative success it enjoys today.

Alex will be greatly missed by our group and by so many others in the South West.

### End of year function and AGM.

This will be a luncheon gathering to be held in Hamilton on Friday December 4, 2015. Full details will be mailed to members in October and it is hoped that this early notification will enable all members to save this date. A recipient of an OAA Foundation Scholarship will be present together with a guest speaker.

### Gippsland

The third annual Macfarlane Burnet Dinner and Oration at the Premiere Reception Centre Traralgon. Guest Speaker will be Professor Brendan Crabb AC, C E O of the Burnet Institute. A booking form is attached to this newsletter. The group can also assist in providing details of accommodation available nearby on the evening of the event.



Lorraine Bartling OAM (centre) presenting a cheque for \$500 to Carman Cook (left) and Kay Radford, representatives of Centenary House, a wonderful facility sponsored by Rotary, which provides accommodation for outpatient cancer sufferers from all over Gippsland.

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



## National Gallery of Victoria Exhibition

### “Masterpieces from the Hermitage: The Legacy of Catherine the Great”

The Victoria Branch of the Order of Australia Association has arranged an exclusive 45 minute introductory talk followed by entry to this year's winter blockbuster. The exhibition contains over 400 works of art, including paintings by Rembrandt, Rubens, Velasquez and Van Dyke.

**When** – 11 am Thursday 15 October 2015

**Where** – National Gallery of Victoria, St Kilda Road, Melbourne

**How much** - \$35 per person

Those wishing to stay for lunch after the exhibition may care to visit Cafe Vic in the Arts Complex. Lunch has been arranged for members of the group at a cost of \$35 per person (main course, dessert, glass of wine, tea/coffee).

If you would like to come please complete the following and mail to OAA, PO Box 18389, Collins Street East, Victoria, 8003 or email to [jbstock@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jbstock@bigpond.net.au) **as soon as possible but definitely before the final acceptance date of 8 October.**

Member's name \_\_\_\_\_ Post Nominal \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Guest's name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cost – lecture and entry \_\_\_ @ \$35 per person \$

Lunch \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35 per person \$

Total \$.....

Payment options (please circle)

- Visa/MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date \_\_\_/\_\_\_CVV \_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- Direct deposit to OAA – Bendigo Bank BSB 633-109 Account 1424 94384
- Cheque to PO Box 18389, Collins Street East, Vic 8003



The Chairman of the Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch, Mr David Mann OAM, and members of the Victoria Branch Committee have the honour of extending to you and your friends the unique opportunity to attend

**A SPECIAL RECEPTION WITH LORD SAMUEL VESTEY KCVO**

Lord Vestey is Master of the Horse, the third most senior office in the Royal Household. He attends Ceremonial occasions and is responsible for the Royal Mews and The Queen's ceremonial Horses, Carriages and Cars. The Vestey's have a long history with Australia and on his mother's side he is the great grandson of Dame Nellie Melba.

- Date:** Wednesday 4th November 2015  
**Time:** 4.30pm sharp – 6.30pm  
**Venue:** Arthur Streeton Room, Sofitel Melbourne on Collins, 25 Collins Street, Melbourne  
**Cost:** \$60 per person  
**Dress:** Cocktail and Business attire. Full size decorations can be worn.

If you would like to attend this special reception, please complete the following by Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October and mail to OAA, PO Box 18389, Collins Street East, VIC 8003

.....  
.....  
Member's name:.....Post Nominal:.....  
Address:.....  
Guest's name(s): .....  
.....  
.....  
Phone number:.....Email:.....  
Payment options (please circle)  
Visa/MasterCard.....Expiry Date:... / .....CVV:.....  
Signature:.....

Direct Deposit to OAA- Bendigo Bank BSB 633-109Account 1424 94384  
Cheque to PO Box 18389, Collins Street East, VIC 8003



**ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION**  
**North Central Suburbs Regional Group**  
**(Encompassing the Municipalities of Nillumbik, Banyule, Yarra Ranges, Darebin and Whittlesea.)**

Details for the Annual General Meeting and Guest Speaker are:

- Date:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015.  
**Venue:** Eltham Library, Panther Place Eltham Melway 21 J5 (Plenty of Parking available, along Panther Place and nearby areas.)
- Program:**
- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 3:00pm - 3:15pm | Welcome and introduction of 2015 Awardees. |
| 3:15pm - 3:30pm | Annual General Meeting                     |
| 3:30pm - 4:15pm | Guest Speaker: Kel Glare AO                |
| 4.15pm - 5:00pm | Afternoon Tea and Raffle draw.             |
| Cost:           | Nil  |

**Guest Speaker: Kel Glare AO**

During his police service Kel Glare was commended seven times for exceptional performance of duty. He is the holder of the Good Conduct and Long Service Medal, received the Australian Police Medal for distinguished service in 1987, was admitted as an Officer in the Order of St John (O SrJ) in 1990 and was awarded an Order of Australia (AO) in 1993.

His outstanding career in Victoria Police culminated in being Chief Commissioner of Police between 1987 and 1992.

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**RSVP: By November 6th, 2015 (essential for catering purposes) by completing the booking form below, cut-off and return by mail or email to:**  
**Mr. Fred Harrington OAM 36 Sackville St Montmorency 3094, Telephone 0417 116 304 or email:fred.harrington@gravity.net.au**

.....

**BOOKING FORM**

I..... Phone: .....

**Email:** .....

Will be attending the OAA North Central Suburbs Regional Group AGM /Guest Speaker on Thursday 19 November, 2015 and will be accompanied by the following guests:-

- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 1. .... | 4. .... |
| 2. .... | 5. .... |
| 3. .... | 6. .... |



**THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION**

**Invitation**

The Chairman and Committee of the South Central Suburban Group requests the pleasure of your company at a luncheon presentation on the Timor Leste Alola Foundation

By  
Kirsty Sword Gusmao, AO  
at  
The Sandringham Club  
92 Beach Road, Sandringham  
on  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 12.00 pm

- RSVP:** By 2nd November 2015 to Ross Newton  
**Dress:** Jacket and tie; full size medals  
**Tickets:** \$40 pp; guests welcome  
**Parking:** In local streets; no off street parking available

**ATTENDANCE VOUCHER**

I would like to attend the Alola Foundation Luncheon on Wed 11<sup>th</sup> November at the Sandringham Club

Please find enclosed cheque for ..... persons @ \$40 each \$ .....

Cheques should be made payable to the Order of Australia Association and mailed to the Treasurer by 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015; or pay by Direct Debit to Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000, Account Number 132398835. If paying by Direct Debit, please email Treasurer with payment details. [rhnewton@hotmail.com](mailto:rhnewton@hotmail.com)

Name & Post Nominals .....

Phone.....Email.....

Names of your Guest/s.....



**THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION**

*The Mornington Peninsula Regional Chairman, Brian Stahl OAM JP and the Committee invite you to the*

**Annual Dinner**

**Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2015, 6.30 for 7.00 pm**

**at "Brooklands", 99 Tanti Ave, Mornington**

**Guest Speaker**

**Mr Neil Soullier, OAM**



*Neil pursued a successful 25 year business career with Tandy Electronics that covered most areas of retail management and administration. In 1988, following the murders of Constables Steven Tynan & Damian Eyre, joined a group of people to form the Tynan-Eyre Memorial Foundation that later became the Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation. He served as a volunteer and board member for 12 years, before taking over as the foundation's fulltime Chief Executive Officer.*

**The cost is \$60 per person**

*Dress: Lounge Suit / Ladies after Five (miniature insignia worn in evenings)*

*RSVP: Strictly no later than 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015*

*To the Treasurer, OAA, Regional Group, PO Box 161, Mt Martha, 3934.*

*Enquiries: Doug Perry OAM RFD ED. Mob: 0419 355 675 ,*

*[perry@shepard.com.au](mailto:perry@shepard.com.au)*

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## October 2015 Edition #4

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Please find enclosed a cheque for \_\_\_\_ persons @ \$60 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_.  
Cheques payable to: The Order of Australia Association.

Electronic Transfer: BSB: 633-108 Account 131047052 --- Please quote your name as  
"Reference"

If paying by Electronic Transfer please ensure that the printed RSVP is sent to PO Box  
161 Mt Martha 3934.

Please print in BLOCK LETTERS how you wish your name tag(s) to be printed  
and indicate post nominal's.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please supply email address for our records:

\_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MENTION ANY SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS

PRE-DINNER DRINK AND SNACKS INCLUDED.

ALL OTHER LIQUOR/DRINK REQUIREMENTS AVAILABLE AT BAR PRICES.



THE GIPPSLAND REGIONAL GROUP OF  
THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA BRANCH)

PROUDLY PRESENTS

## SIR FRANK MACFARLANE BURNET ANNUAL ADDRESS

Keynote speaker: Professor Brendan Crabb, AC, Director and CEO, Burnet Institute  
*Key challenges in global health*

**Date:** Wednesday 21 October 2015 **Time:** 7.00pm for 7.30pm  
**Where:** Premiere Function Centre, 29 Grey Street, Traralgon, Victoria  
**Cost:** \$60pp or \$30pp for student concession holders, includes a two-course dinner. Drinks at bar prices.

### BOOKING FORM

**Step 1: No of guests** \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 2: Guest name/s** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Step 3: Special dietary requirements**  No  Yes, \_\_\_\_\_

### Step 4: Payment Options

**Direct Deposit / EFT Payment**

BSB: 633 000

Account No: 149 983 009

Name: Order of Australia Assoc Gippsland

Reference: Surname and intial e.g. J SMITH

**In Person**

Bendigo Bank Branch

Quote Account No: 149 983 009

Reference: Surname and initials e.g. J SMITH

Only complete a pay-in slip if paying with a cheque at the counter

**Cheque or Money Order**

Payable to: The Order of Australia Association Gippsland Regional Group

Post to: PO Box 906 Traralgon 3844

Reference: Include name and initials of each person attending

Please forward **this** confirmation of your booking request to **PO Box 906 Traralgon 3844** or email [emnetworksolutions@gmail.com](mailto:emnetworksolutions@gmail.com).

For more information please contact Doug Caulfield on 0409 008 494.