



ORDER OF AUSTRALIA VICTORIA BRANCH

“fostering love of and pride in Australian citizenship”

Chair's message

My congratulations to the many new awardees announced recently in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. I look forward to welcoming those who have accepted our invitation to join our Association and urge our members to encourage other awardees to join us if they haven't already done so.

I am thrilled to announce the appointment to the Victoria Branch committee of Peter Jones AM. Peter runs one of Australia's premium event management companies and you can learn more about him at his company's website: <http://pjse.com.au/our-team>.

Peter fills a casual vacancy brought about by the retirement of Dr Michael Kennedy OAM, and for whose service the Victoria Branch is most grateful.



Whilst I've been preparing for an interview with Denis Walter AM on 7 June for his 3AW Afternoon program, to discuss the importance of the Honours List and particularly, the process of nomination, I had a timely opportunity to study the Governor General's website, where I came across a sentence that has really resonated with me. "...While endeavour may have been sustained over many years, in essence, membership of the Order of Australia is not an award for long service but for outstanding service". Keep this guidance in mind if you are considering a younger person who has made an 'outstanding' contribution in a particular area of community or endeavour, but not necessarily over a long period of time.

Regional groups will benefit from a recent project conducted by the Victoria Branch to increase the number of email addresses for our members. Enlisting the help of actor and presenter, Ken James, many members who had not supplied an email address received a lovely call from Ken, or a letter from me. I'll be writing more about this in the next edition of The Order when we have final figures, but current estimates are that we have secured 277 new email addresses, reducing the number of members without email addresses by 62%. That's a significant amount of postage costs saved! Thank you all for your positive responses in helping us become more financially sustainable and ensuring you receive communications in a timely and efficient manner. Our thanks also to Ken James for his warm and sensitive manner in engaging with our members.

Diane James AM

Chairman, Victoria Branch

Editor's message

Welcome to the Winter edition and as usual News from the Victoria Branch and the Regional Groups, forthcoming events around the State and other relevant information make up this edition.

In addition we are trialling several new initiatives;

- Letters to the Editor section,
- Stories from Regional Group [RG] members,
- Roving Reporter at Large.



Letters to the Editor: This is a section where any member can write in and express an opinion or provide information or even tell a story. The first cab off the rank in this edition is from Victoria Branch Committee member William Lye OAM [p.8].

Stories from Regional Group members: From time to time we receive a life story of a member from the Regional Groups. We have decided that any such story will now be included in the relevant RG contribution. The first such story, and a very fine one, is from Ron Ellis OAM [p. 23].

Roving Reporter at Large: Is a contribution from Dr June Kane AM, telling some of the incredible achievements of our members. First encounter is with Margaret Barry OAM [p.9]. If you have suggestions for interesting interviewees, please contact June [E: oaamelbwest@gmail.com].

Two members I knew well passed away last year. One was a recent member and the other received his award posthumously. During one of the chats with their partners, I mentioned that the Victoria Branch has '*Affiliate Membership*' policy which would apply to them. Both of the spouses were delighted about such an opportunity and immediately took up that option.

This made me think that maybe there are many others out there who may not know about the policy which could be an important consideration for them in their lives. To that end, I invite members to advise relevant people they may know of the policy which I have replicated as Appendix 1, including an application form. The full details can be accessed at: <http://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/branches/vic/PolicyVic.htm> .

As usual, this e-Newsletter is only made possible with your contributions, in particular June, Fred, Irene and Helene and I thank you all for that.

The timetable for contributions in 2018 for the e-Newsletter and The Order are also included in p. 13 for future reference.

Dr John Basarin OAM

**Victoria Branch Office
Holders & Committee Members -
2018**

Patron

The Governor of Victoria
Her Excellency The Hon. Linda
Dessau AC

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Diane James AM
chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Deputy Chair [Metropolitan]

Dr John Basarin OAM

Deputy Chair [Country]

Duncan Stalker OAM

Secretary

Fred Harrington OAM
secvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Honorary Treasurer

Wayne Myers OAM

Regional Groups Co-ordinator

Fred Harrington OAM

Editor

Dr John Basarin OAM
editor@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Events Co-ordinator

Christine Unsworth AM

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Neil Soullier OAM

Peter Jones AM

William Lye OAM

Immediate Past Chair

Paul Wheelton AM KSJ

Co-opted Members

Membership Secretary

Tony Smith OAM

National Merchandise Officer

Richard Rozen OAM

Branch website

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/VIC

**Chairs of Regional Groups -
2018**

Barwon:

Peter Doak OAM

Central Highlands:

Jean Wise OAM

Eastern Suburbs:

Barbara Thompson OAM

Gippsland:

Doug Caulfield OAM, RFD

Loddon-Campaspe:

John Higgs OAM

Mallee:

Vernon Knight AM

Melbourne Central:

Trevor Clark OAM

Mornington Peninsula:

Brian Stahl OAM JP

NE & Goulburn Valley:

Barbara Thomas OAM

North Central Suburbs:

Fred Harrington OAM

South Central Suburbs:

Ross Newton OAM

SW Victoria:

Dr Peter Habersberger AM RFD

Western Suburbs:

John Ravenhall AM

2018 Upcoming Events

Regional Groups

June

Wednesday 20th: Eastern Suburbs

Lunch at the Mitcham Hotel from 11.30am following by a musical performance of “Frankly Sinatra – A Tribute to Ol’ Blue Eyes” at the Whitehorse Centre Nunawading at 2.00pm Lunch at own cost; tickets for musical performance are \$18.00 per person. Glenys Grant OAM (9877 5680)

Sunday 24th: Loddon Campaspe

A concert by Teddy Tahu Rhodes and the Male Welsh Choir at the Ulumbarra Theatre in Bendigo.

July

Wednesday 4th: South Central Suburbs

Mid-year Luncheon This event will be held at the prestigious West Brighton Club and our guest speaker will be Channel 9 newsreader Peter Hitchener OAM. Details are announced later in this e-Newsletter.

Tuesday 17th: Regional Groups meeting.

The meeting is to be held between 1:00pm and 3:00pm at the RACV Club, 501 Bourke St Melbourne following a lunch commencing at 12 Noon.

August

Wednesday 8th: Eastern Suburbs

Function for 2018 Order of Australia awardees at the home of our President, Barbara Thompson OAM in Glen Waverley. **Dot Browne OAM** (9874 2501) for response to invitations.

Sunday 12th: Gippsland

Luncheon at Criterion Hotel Function Room, 90 MacAlister Street, Sale with guest speaker Peter Synan OAM to talk about the history of Australian Author, Mary Grant Bruce.

Thursday 23rd: Barwon

Barwon Regional Group Primary School Citizenship Award presentations and morning tea being held at Geelong RSL from 10:30am to 12 noon, for bookings or further information contact **Helene Bender OAM** at helenebender@westnet.com.au.

Friday 24th: Mornington Peninsula

Annual Luncheon and Roy Ward Prize Presentation at Safety Beach Sailing Club Marine Parade Safety Beach—further information and invitations will be circulated closer to the event.

October**Tuesday 16th: Eastern Suburbs**

Ferry trip from Docklands at 9.30am to Portarlington (arrive 11.00am) and return. Lunch at Portarlington. Return on ferry at 3.30pm to arrive at Docklands at 5.00pm. **Colin Browne OAM** (9874 2501) or **Margaret Hammon OAM** (9955 4532) for further enquiries.

Wednesday 17th: Gippsland

The 6th Annual Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnet Address to be held at the Premiere Function Centre, 29 Grey Street Traralgon commencing at 7-00pm. This year's address is to be delivered by Associate Professor Dr. Seth Masters, Laboratory Head, Inflammation Division, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute who will speak about how inherited inflammatory diseases can help in understanding and treating disorders of the immune system.

Friday 26th: Barwon

Barwon Regional Group Annual luncheon and Archibald Prize Exhibition. Following the success of our 2017 Annual Luncheon at the Davidson Restaurant and the Archibald Exhibition at the Geelong Gallery, OAA Barwon RG is pleased to offer the package again in 2018. Places are limited to 80 members and guests. Contact helenebender@westnet.com.au if you would like to register an interest to receive the invitation and booking form.

November**Tuesday 13th:**

Eastern Suburbs: Annual General Meeting, Guest speaker and morning tea at Wheelers Hill Library, cnr Jells & Ferntree Gully Roads, Wheelers Hill, 10.00am – 12.30pm. Guest speaker is Professor David Karoly, senior climate scientist leading the National Environmental Science Program. Contact **Barbara Thompson OAM** (9802 3980) for further enquiries.

Thursday 15 th:

North Central Suburbs: Reception for 2018 Awardees, Guest speaker and afternoon tea commencing at 2pm. Contact **Fred Harrington OAM** fred.harrington@gravity.net.au.

Friday 16th: Mornington Peninsula

Annual Schools Award Presentation at Beleura House and Garden Mornington – Further information will be circulated closer to the event.

National News

The **National Conference** early May showcased Adelaide to Order of Australia Association members and partners. The Member Forum covered numerous topics including:-

- Ask awardees at Investitures to join the Association
- Support scholarships
- Branches need to discuss how they will market and increase membership plus retention and nomination diversity
- Affiliate Membership including national award recipients other than Orders of Australia, this was also a conference discussion topic
- Letters to new awardees
- Marketing our image and awareness in the community



The conference and outcomes from the AGM are covered in the current edition of *The Order*. At the Conference Dinner we congratulated Juanita Kelly-Mundine, the 2018 Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship recipients. In addition to undertaking the combined courses of Bachelor of Arts and Master of Cultural Materials Conservation at the University of Melbourne she has a strong involvement in community activities. Juanita's scholarship is a bequest from the Estate of Leonard Gordon Darling AC CMG. At the dinner we also heard from Dr Alyssa Fitzpatrick a 2009 Order of Australia Association Foundation recipient who is a high achiever who wants to balance clinical and research work.

Following the success of the email project in Victoria, all Branches are now contacting their members who don't have an email address noted allowing us to increase our e-database and quick communication when required to our members, plus YoB of Life members for actuary planning.

At the May 3, 2018 Order of Australia Association Board meeting I was elected National Membership Director, I look forward to working with the Branch Membership Officers to increase our nomination process including the diversity of age, gender and culture. Cathy Roth OAM has replaced me as the Victoria Branch Representative.

A reminder, *The Order* our national quarterly magazine is available in e-version which I commend to you to save postage, printing and stationary costs. Please email Secretary Phil Morrall AM CSC oaasecretariat@ozemail.com.au if you prefer this option.

Save the Date: April 11 to 14, 2019 for the 33rd National Conference in Hobart. The theme is '*Make a difference*'.

Helene Bender OAM

E: helenebender@westnet.com.au

M: 0407 261 951

Women's Financial Literacy Seminars - Reminder

There will be two workshops for female members over 65 run by Australian Shareholders Association, each lasting 3 hours:-

Workshop 1 will cover basic investment concepts. It will introduce women to the concept of the financial plan, financial goals and touch on the jargon used by professional advisers.

Workshop 2 will be about managing the discussion about your financial affairs. Each workshop will comprise no more than 15 women. ASA will provide a handbook with notes, list of resources and potential pathways for greater learning and a closed Facebook page so you can continue to talk to and support each other after the workshop.

Dates and locations in September 2018:-

| | |
|----------|--------------------|
| Brighton | Monday 3 and 10 |
| Geelong | Tuesday 4 and 11 |
| Ballarat | Wednesday 5 and 12 |
| Albury | Thursday 6 and 13 |
| Hawthorn | Friday 7 and 14 |



Please register your interest at:

<https://australianshareholders.com.au/node/1203774>, by filling out the form on the link and submit.

If you require any additional information or have questions regarding the workshops please contact me.

Helene Bender OAM

Victoria Branch

E: helenebender@westnet.com.au

M: 0407 261 951

Nominate a Woman for an Australian Honour- Reminder

Women are underrepresented in the Australian Honours system comprising only one third of nominations and recipients. To address this imbalance, the Victorian Government recently appointed a dedicated awards officer, Stacey Williams [pictured], to focus on generating an additional 200 nominations of Victorian women each year. Stacey can help you collate evidence, find references and submit your nomination for you. For further information:

Stacey Williams: M: 0437 966 916

E: stacey.williams@dpc.vic.gov.au



News from the Victoria Branch Committee

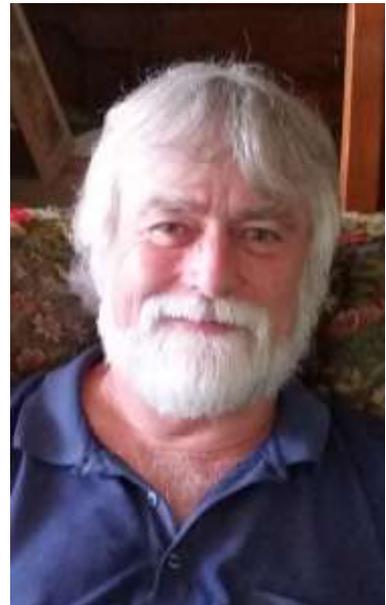
Victorian Connection to a Unique Exhibition in the NGA, Canberra

Watercolours by HRH The Prince of Wales; 10 August – 18 November 2018

An experienced watercolourist and passionate patron of the arts, the Prince of Wales [Prince Charles] has been painting for most of his adult life. To celebrate his 70th birthday, the National Gallery of Australia will display a selection of 30 artworks. Further details of the exhibition can be found at the National Gallery of Australia website: [<https://nga.gov.au/princeofwales/default.cfm>]



It all started when a Mornington Peninsula resident and member of the Association, Andrew Mackenzie OAM [pictured] wrote to The Prince of Wales in April 2011 and offered to organise an exhibition of his watercolour works in Australia. After a series of correspondence, he received a positive response which spurred Andrew to successfully take the proposal to Allan Myers AC QC, Chair of National Gallery of Australia.



After seven years of trying, Andrew was delighted when the exhibition was announced to be opened on 10 August. Already this exhibition has generated a lot of interest, as this will be the first time in Australia that the public will have the opportunity to view the original watercolours of HRH The Prince of Wales, whose works follow in the footsteps of his Great Great Great Grandmother, Queen Victoria.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Contribution by William Lye OAM [E: wemlye@vicbar.com.au]

Dear Members

I am writing to you in my capacity as the new Chair of the Membership Task Force sub-committee for the Victoria Branch of the Order of Australia Association. I would like to thank the outgoing Chair Neil Soullier OAM for his contribution and service, and former committee member Dr Michael Kennedy OAM who has retired from the sub-committee.

Membership of the Association is open to anyone who is an Order of Australia Awardee. The role of the Membership Task Force sub-committee is to help increase the membership to the Association from the pool of new awardees of Australian Honours who haven't yet joined the Association.

Membership is more than just a tangible package of benefits in the form of publications, newsletters or events. It is your connection to a group of amazing people who are committed to Australia and who contribute selflessly to building our country.

Membership also provides the following benefits:

- Accessing a network of over 8,000 members of the Association;
- Joining and engaging with very interesting people in the community, regionally, nationally and Victoria Branch at events, eg the Inspiring Australians Oration;
- Mixing socially at stimulating social events and functions organised by the Branch, eg at the National Gallery of Victoria visits;
- Participating and giving further service to the community;
- Helping to nominate other deserving people to be recognised for Honours who have gone above and beyond in their field;
- Receiving 'The Order' magazine and Branch e-Newsletter quarterly;
- Participating and attending the Association National Conference;
- Contributing to the Association Foundation scholarships;
- Opportunity to give something back to the development of our young Australian scholarship recipients by becoming a mentor.

As part of our membership drive, if you know an Awardee who is not a member of the Association, please encourage them to join the Association and invite them to one of our metropolitan or regional events.

I welcome any suggestions or ideas as to how we could serve you better, increase membership and diversity of nominations that include gender, culture and age, noting that there are young people in the community making a difference.

ROVING REPORTER AT LARGE: INTERVIEW WITH MARGARET BARRY OAM

Margaret Barry OAM has spent many years in Bali, where she recently retired from her successful business venture, "Magg in Bali" boutiques. She is also founder of the Bali Children Foundation, and it is for this work that she received her Medal in the Australia Day Honours List 2018. Our Roving Reporter [RR] caught up with Margaret Barry [MB] when she was in Melbourne in May.



RR

First of all, Marg, congratulations on receiving the Order of Australia Medal “for service to social welfare organisations assisting children in Bali”. Can you tell us how the Bali Children Foundation [BCF] started?

MB

Thank you. In fact, BCF began with a terrible event. People will remember the Bali Bombings of October 2002, which took the lives of 202 people, including 88 Australians. For those of us who live in Bali, it was both desperately sad but eventually uplifting, because we witnessed Balinese people, tourists and expats working together to do what they could to help victims and save lives. It seemed to me that we should be able to harness this goodwill and use it to help the many disadvantaged children of Bali. That’s the model we continue to use: local people, visitors and supporters overseas all working together in different ways to make a difference.

RR

When most people think of Bali, they think of sun, sea and sand, but that’s not the whole picture, is it?

MB

Not at all. Of course Bali is a wonderful place to spend a relaxing holiday, but it has pockets of deep poverty. When we began our research in the north and north-west, we found that most poor children in these remote regions ended up in children’s homes so they could get an education. If they went to the local school, they frequently dropped out after Year 6 primary. We all know that education is the key to eventually making poverty history, as they say. It lifts whole families out of poverty because they have at least one person who can find paid employment and, once one child is educated, parents see the value of sending all their children to school. And educated children then grow up to be parents who send their children to school. It really does make generational change.

RR

So how did you set about encouraging parents to send their children to school?

MB

We were realistic. Parents needed help, so we began providing community scholarships to children from disadvantaged families. By 2006 we were able to provide scholarships in Corot, Dencarik Village, and then we began rolling out the model, one village at a time. We now work in 53 communities and have seen some 4,200 children receiving an education. As you can imagine, the role of parents remains vitally important, and we have been so happy to see how parents have supported the programme. In the 2016/17 school year, for example, we had a 99 per cent retention rate at school, with children going through to Year 12.



RR

You expanded the programme with other education-related activities once that model was working, didn't you?

MB

Yes. We also run after-school classes focusing on teaching English and computer literacy. We have more than 1,200 children in computer classes at the moment and almost three and a half thousand learning vocational English. In a tourist-oriented place like Bali, this gives them real skills they can use to find jobs when they graduate. We also run village clubs and we work with local partners to provide medical and dental care for the children. As the programmes grew, we set up a Teachers' Learning Centre to upskill local teachers and to encourage development of the curriculum. We have 66 trained BCF teachers now, and we work closely with the Bali Education Department.

RR

You said that, from the outset, the idea was to bring together the goodwill of locals, expats and visitors, so how do you do that?

MB

Well, we work with a number of local partners. For example the medical and dental services provided to the children are through a partnership with a local not-for-profit, Bali Kids. We have volunteer staff from overseas, including very experienced educationalists who help us develop our programmes. And of course we receive financial support from many sources, including overseas donors, particularly in the UK. Australian supporters donate to us through our Australian charity 'Bali Children Foundation Limited', which has DGR status and provides tax deductibility. We are able to offer that to partners in the UK, US and NZ too. I think that

everyone, everywhere, sees the value of education in transforming not only children's lives but the future of families, communities and indeed countries.

RR

You are clearly passionate about education, Marg. Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

MB

Just one set of statistics, which I think shows how successful our modest programme has been: the national school drop-out rate in Indonesia is 40 per cent. In Bali it is 32 per cent. BCF programmes have a drop-out rate of less than one per cent. Clearly we're doing something right!

Visit of Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) Exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria [NGV], Melbourne Winter Masterpieces 2018

On 14 June, 133 OAA members and friends visited the NGV to view the 2018 Melbourne Winter Masterpieces exhibition featuring works from The Museum of Modern Art, New York. MoMA at NGV provided a unique survey of the Museum's iconic collection. Consisting of approximately 200 key works, arranged chronologically into eight thematic sections, the exhibition traced the development of art and design from late-nineteenth-century urban and industrial transformation, through to the digital and global present. The exhibition included works by Paul Cézanne, Salvador Dali, Marcel Duchamp, Henri Matisse, Piet Mondrian, Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko and Vincent van Gogh.



Afterwards, 94 members and friends enjoyed a delicious lunch and companionship at the Café Vic of the NGV. A huge success by all measures.

The Order of Australia Association – Merchandise

Association members are able to purchase the Association's merchandise. The current selection of merchandise can be ordered via:

Richard Rozen OAM, National Merchandise Officer

E-mail: rozenr@bigpond.com **Phone (03) 9592 8068** or via web site:

<http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart/>

2018 DATES FOR E-NEWSLETTER & THE ORDER

The relevant dates for E-Newsletter and The Order contributions are summarized below. Please submit your timely articles with a photo to editor:

Dr John Basarin OAM, Email: editorvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

VICTORIAN ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER - DATES FOR 2018

| Invitation to Regional Groups to Submit Articles | Cut off date for submission of articles for e-newsletter | Finished e-newsletter to Tony Smith | Distribution date |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 20 Aug | 07 Sept | 16 Sept | 24 Sept |
| 1 Nov | 14 Nov | 21 Nov | 30 Nov |

THE ORDER – 2018

| Invitation to Regional Groups to Submit Articles | Cut off date for submission of articles | Copy to CANBERRA | Distribution date |
|--|---|------------------|-------------------|
| 15 June | 01 July | 08 July | Aug |
| 15 September | 01 October | 08 October | Nov |

News from the Regional Groups

EASTERN SUBURBS



Photo Credit: Glenys Grant OAM

On Wednesday 9th May, Eastern Suburbs R G continued their run of successful events with a luncheon at the lovely upmarket Italian Bucatini Bar and Restaurant in Mitcham. About 40 members enjoyed a midday lunch and were entertained by top bush balladeer, Don McQueen. Don has received many awards, including “Bush Poet of the Year” for 5 years in a row between 2007 and 2015.

This is an achievement which acknowledged his passion for Australian history and poetry recitals that are now giving rise to much enjoyment to fans around Australia. His involvement in Community Affairs is widely known and in January 2006, he was awarded “Australia Day Citizen of the Year” by the Shire of Murrindindi.

Don is a big man, presenting as a bushie with an Akubra hat, jeans, check flannel shirt, Drizabone coat and boots, and with an incredible memory for the poems of Henry Lawson, C. J. Dennis, Banjo Patterson, Bill Kearns and many others. His hour-long performance is flawless as he introduces his repertoire, dragging the senior audience into nostalgic days with reference to the old Primary School Readers and school newspapers which contained some of his favourite poems. He questioned why present school texts are not still presenting these poems.

Some poems had us laughing like “A Bush Christening” by Banjo Patterson, some had us crying like “The Fire at Ross’s Farm” by Henry Lawson. “The Meat Raffle at the Aged Persons’ Home” was an absolute scream, and we were sucked into the special rolling rhythms of C.J.Dennis’ poetry, which Don performed so well. He had us clapping and yelling for more. His expressive voice and actions delivered the works with a sensitivity which kept us on the edge of our seats. The meal was great, the venue fine, a fantastic performer, over all a lovely event.

LODDON CAMPASPE

Members of the Loddon Campaspe group participated in a tour of the Thales factory in Bendigo under the guidance of one of the project managers Mark Brennan.

This company has purchased the Former Bendigo Ordnance factory and has the contract to produce the Hawkei for the Australian Defence Force [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0hp89e5Eb0>].

Members were shown the process from first design to a finished model. It was great to see a company manufacturing in Australia and providing employment for the local community.



SOUTH CENTRAL

SYNCHROTRON VISIT



Chairman Ross Newton OAM and fascinated visitors view a model of the synchrotron.

25 members and guests visited the world class synchrotron in Blackburn Road Clayton on Wednesday 18th of April. This visit was arranged and instigated by Roger Wilson OAM and finalised by Treasurer Geoff Oscar AM who carried out all the formalities associated with a visit to a secure lock down facility.

These members and guests were transported into the astonishing world of high-tech scientific intellect at the Australian Synchrotron.

The facility is one of only two synchrotrons in the Southern Hemisphere - part of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation's (ANSTO) custody of our country's landmark science infrastructure, which also includes the OPAL nuclear research reactor at Lucas Heights in Sydney, accelerators, cyclotrons and neutron beam instruments

They were privileged to be welcomed by Dr. Dean Morris, Head of Operations, and given an authoritative tour of the facility by Zoran, a very enthusiastic Monash University physics lecturer.

They learned how a large circular machine about two hundred metres in diameter (approximately the size of a football field), accelerates electrons, with energies as high as 3 billion electrovolts, to almost the speed of light. Scientists are enabled to distinguish features of matter up to 1000 times smaller than otherwise possible. In examining the atomic and molecular detail of a wide range of materials from the fields of health and medical, food, environment, biotechnology, nanotechnology, energy, mining, agriculture, engineering etc., researchers have a wonderful tool to assist in making tomorrow's discoveries and developments.

Our avid group was treated to a close inspection of the awe-inspiring synchrotron itself, with red lights on to show that the machinery was running and we were only metres from electrons running past them at speeds beyond human comprehension. None, I believe, could fully comprehend the complexity of the engineering, electrical components and power needed, nor cease to marvel at the intelligence of every scientist and technician involved.

The morning concluded with a light meal in the canteen which was a great opportunity to enjoy each other's company after such a brain-stretching and in cases, numbing experience.

MID YEAR LUNCHEON

We have been fortunate to have engaged the doyen of current Television News announcers and presenters, Mr. Peter Hitchener OAM, to be our guest speaker on Wednesday 4th of July.

Peter has been the chief news presenter at GTV9 since 1998 so we are sure he has an interesting story to tell and anecdotes to share as well as the other passions in his life.

As this is a midday meal and with the work commitments of our speaker this will start a little early and will not drag on. A very well presented luncheon will be served "silver service". If you have not had the opportunity of visiting the West Brighton Club this is a great opportunity. It is of a time past.

There is ample car parking and if you have dietary requirements please advise us of this with your booking.

Peter Hitchener

It's been a great privilege working with the news for more than 40 years and I would love to share with you some of my other passions in life.

Peter H



✂.....

WEST BRIGHTON CLUB – MID YEAR LUNCHEON

I wish to attend the luncheon at the West Brighton Club, 22 Park Street, Brighton, on Wednesday 4th July 2018, commencing at 11.30 am for a 12.00 midday start.

Please find enclosed cheque forpersons at \$60 each \$.....

Cheques should be made payable to The Order of Australia Association and mailed to the Treasurer by **29th June 2018**. Alternately, pay by Direct Debit to Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000. Account number 132398835. No receipts will be issued.

If paying by Direct Debit please tick box indicate "Mid-Year Luncheon".

Name and Post Nominals:.....

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

Name/s of your Guest/s.....

Special dietary requirements

Please post to the Hon Treasurer Geoffrey Oscar AM, 8A Hoyt Street, Hampton 3188

Phone 9521 9065. Email genoscar@melbpc.org.au

MALLEE



While the Mallee Branch of the Order is relatively small, recent activities have demonstrated our ability to do significant things when the need arises.

In January this year, we welcomed the announcement that former Detective Denis Ryan was to be made a member of the Order of Australia. Denis was the hero cop who pursued child abusers in the 1970s and was ultimately dispatched from the Police Force when he refused to drop charges against the worst offenders. Years later his efforts were applauded by a Royal Commission and he received a public apology from the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police.

Sadly that did not address the loss of his career and the Police pension which he was entitled to after twenty years of service. Our members were horrified to discover that he was living on an Age pension in a rented flat in Mildura. Anyone wishing to know his story might wish to read his biography, *“The Unholy Trinity”*.

Thanks to the concerted efforts of the Mallee members, the matter was brought to the attention of the Victorian Premier and justice has prevailed. Denis will soon take occupancy of new accommodation (which he will own) and he'll finally have the funds to live-out a comfortable retirement. It is a small but important compensation for a lifetime's pain and anguish. While advocacy may not be seen as a primary goal for OAA branches, the past few months have evidenced that there are times when our influence can be used for the greater good.

NORTH EAST VICTORIA AND GOULBURN VALLEY



The North East and Goulburn Valley Regional Group held its 25th anniversary luncheon at The Sherbourne Hotel on Sunday April 15th and was attended by 83 members and guests. This was preceded by an Ecumenical service at the beautiful St Augustine's Church in Shepparton.

John Miller AO was the guest speaker at the luncheon and he spoke about his experience in doing business in China, India and Japan. John emphasised the importance of understanding the culture of each country before attempting to negotiate business.

Having a Japanese exchange student in his family early in his life led to his life-long interest in Asia. John gave several examples of how building up a relationship was so important in his successful negotiations. John believes that the future for Australian business lies in Asia and that India in particular is underrepresented.

The NEGV group started when the late John Brown AM was contacted in March 1993 about forming a NEGV Regional group of the OAA. John Brown Snr was the first Chairman and the first function was a lunch held at Rafferty's in Benalla on May 16th 1993.

The group has gone from strength to strength with son John Graham Brown AO becoming Chairman in 2013 until 2016 so it was very fitting to have John cut the 25th beautiful anniversary cake which was shared by all the members and guests.

Duncan Stalker OAM, Deputy Chair (Regional), State Committee also attended the lunch with his wife Margaret. Duncan congratulated the group on its anniversary and outlined the current state of affairs of the OAA.

Our next luncheon is to be held at the Yarrowonga/Mulwala Golf Club on Sunday 19th August at 12.30pm. Guest Speaker will be Judy Brewer AO who is actively involved in many autism and carer organisations.

BARWON

Vale Dr Donald Geoffrey (Geoff) Neilson AM

Dr Geoff Neilson AM passed away in his sleep on May 5, 2018 aged 88. Geoff will be remembered as a business and community leader in many sectors of life including The Geelong College, where he was elected a Fellow of the OGCA in 2003 when appointed a Life Governor of the College. Secretary to the Councils of Morongo Presbyterian Girls College and Marcus Oldham Farm Management College, he was a guest lecturer for 39 years and received an honorary degree in 2005.

In 1948 Geoff began his accountancy career in his father's and uncle's accounting firm, Neilson and Neilson; his father died in 1953 and six years later, his uncle died, leaving Geoff the sole partner of the firm.



In 1962 he decided to merge his business with Howard Day, Glyn Jenkins and Graham Johns and traded as Day Neilson Jenkins & John. Geoff was appointed to membership of the Interim Council of Deakin University in 1975; he became a member of the University Council when constituted on January 1, 1978 serving until December 31, 1981. He was again elected to Council in 1983 to 1998; he was Deputy Chancellor from 1996 to 1998. In May 1999 Deakin University conferred on Geoff the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University for Distinguished Service to the University Council. He was a member of the Rotary Club of Geelong, first Chair of the Geelong Business Awards in 1984, and Board Member of Geelong Chamber of Commerce 1994 to 2013.

In 1985, Geoff was made a Member of the Order of Australia for services to accountancy and elected Victoria Branch Chairman of the Association from 2006 to 2008. Geoff was one of the four founding members of the Order of Australia Association Barwon Regional Group in 1992 and December last year he was presented with an Order of Australia Association thank you plaque.

Our thoughts are with Geoff's family.

Archibald Prize is returning to Geelong Friday October 26, 2018

Following the success of the Order of Australia Association Barwon Regional Group 2017 Archibald Prize Exhibition at the Geelong Gallery following

lunch at the Davidson Restaurant we are repeating the event again this year.

Since its inception, the Archibald Prize has been engaging art enthusiasts, often stirring up controversy and always challenging the way we see ourselves and our society. Over the years, the prize has been awarded to many of Australia's most prominent artists.

The Geelong Gallery is the exclusive Victorian venue for the 2018 Archibald Prize.

An invitation is extended to **all** Order of Australia Association members in Victoria to attend the OAA Barwon Regional Group annual luncheon at Davidson Restaurant and the 2018 Archibald Prize at the Geelong Gallery on Friday October 26.



OAA Barwon Regional Group members will receive their Annual General Meeting pack in October that includes the invitation to our annual luncheon and 2017 Archibald Prize Exhibition to be led by Jason Smith Geelong Gallery Director.

We know the 2018 Archibald Prize will appeal to other OAA regional group members and friends **statewide**.

If you would like to receive an invitation to the OAA Barwon Regional Group annual luncheon and Archibald Prize Friday October 26, 2018 please advise OAA Barwon Regional Group Secretary Helene Bender OAM on E: helenebender@westnet.com.au or M: 0407 261 951

Mrs Palfrey at the Claremont

On Sunday May 20 the Barwon Regional Group hosted the screening of *Mrs Palfrey at the Claremont*, the tale of an unlikely friendship between an elderly widow and a young writer; an enduring, deceptively simple story “a feel good, comedy-drama”.

Following the screening, members and guests enjoyed a selection of hot savories, cheese & fruit platters, sweet slices, cupcakes, wine, soft drink and tea/coffee all donated by the Barwon Regional Group Committee.

This is an annual event and we thank Margaret Hughes OAM Barwon committee member for organising this social event.

Primary School Citizenship Award Invitation

The Order of Australia Association Barwon Regional Group Primary School Citizenship Award is in line with the Association aim of “fostering love of and pride in Australian citizenship”.

2018 is the fourth year of this Award that is open to all primary schools in the OAA Barwon Region catchment. Again this year, the Geelong RSL is our generous “in kind” sponsor; they acknowledge this award fits their goals of supporting children during the Anzac commemorations.

Barwon Regional Group invites members and one guest per member to our 2018 **Primary School Citizenship Award** presentation to the school that has undertaken a project with their students that promotes the value of Australian citizenship.

Please note 2018 Australia Day and Queen’s Birthday award recipients and one guest per recipient are also invited to this free event.

The judging panel of Maureen Zampatti OAM, Professor Geoff Wilson AM and Wayne Myers OAM will shortlist the primary school projects and invite the finalists to make a presentation on **Thursday August 23**, 2018 at the Geelong RSL, 50 Barwon Heads Road, Belmont. Please note there is ample onsite parking.

The winning school will receive \$500 and the Geelong RSL perpetual trophy, a replica of ‘*The Spirit of ANZAC*’ sculpture by William Wallace Anderson (1888-1975) that commemorates the soldiers who fought in World War 1.

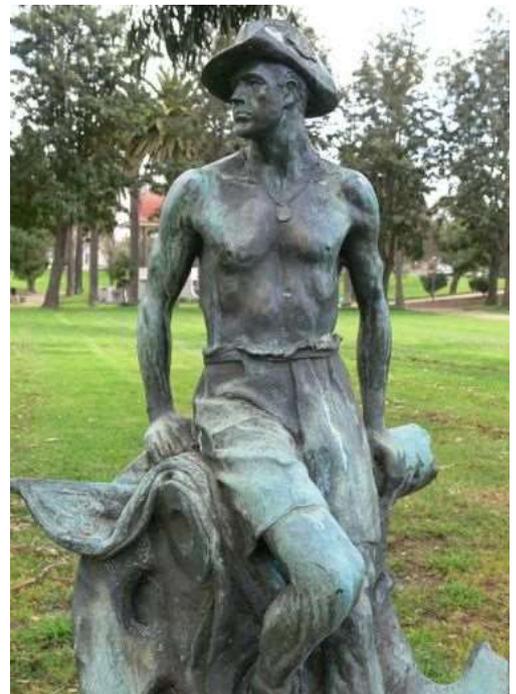
The cost of the presentation from the finalists and morning tea is **free** however RSVP is essential by August 16, 2018 for catering purposes, name badge preparation and to ensure ample seating.

The invitation to this event will be distributed to OAA Barwon RG members in July 2018.

Contact Barwon Regional Group Secretary Helene Bender OAM.

Email: helenebender@westnet.com.au or

Mobile: 0407 261 951 if you require any additional information regarding this event.



*‘The Spirit of ANZAC’
sculpture in Johnstone
Park - Geelong*

EASTERN SUBURBS

Functions for 2018

The Eastern Suburbs R.G. is looking forward to an interesting year of planned activities for our members and guests.

Wednesday 20th June: Lunch at the Mitcham Hotel from 11.30am following by a musical performance of “Frankly Sinatra – A Tribute to Ol’ Blue Eyes” at the Whitehorse Centre, Nunawading at 2.00pm. Lunch at own cost, tickets for musical performance are \$18.00 per person. **Glenys Grant OAM (9877 5680)** for theatre tickets.

Wednesday 8th August: Function for 2018 Order of Australia awardees at the home of our President, Barbara Thompson OAM in Glen Waverley. **Dot Browne OAM (9874 2501)** for response to invitations.

Tuesday 16th October: Ferry trip from Docklands at 9.30am to Portarlinton (arrive 11.00am) and return. Lunch at Portarlinton. Return on ferry at 3.30pm to arrive at Docklands at 5.00pm. **Colin Browne OAM (9874 2501) or Margaret Hammon OAM (9955 4532)** for further enquiries

Tuesday 13th November: Annual General Meeting, Guest speaker and morning tea at Wheelers Hill Library, corner of Jells & Ferntree Gully Roads, Wheelers Hill, 10.00am – 12.30pm. Guest speaker is **Prof. David Karoly**, senior climate scientist leading the National Environmental Science Program.

Contact **Barbara Thompson OAM (9802 3980)** for further enquiries.

RON'S STORY



One of my earliest, precious memories is of being taken on a really special holiday to Sandringham in Victoria. No - my parents did not own a huge holiday house. My holiday was with lots of other ‘needy’ children selected to enjoy the treat of a sea-side holiday provided by “Cottage by the Sea”.

Growing up in Collingwood in the 1940’s was no picnic! In fact in order to help feed and clothe her family of five, my mother had to take on work in nearby factories. My father didn’t have a well-paid occupation and in the depression years was forced to accept any job available including sustenance work. We lived in a small rented cottage of three rooms which accommodated my parents, my two sisters, my two brothers and me.

Despite these humble circumstances, my mother was always helping neighbours who were even less ‘well off’ than herself. And indeed she encouraged her family to do the same. We boys were often sent to chop wood for an old blind man who lived nearby and we had great delight in hearing

his stories of days gone by. As I reflect on those times, I am sure that my mother's values and attitudes have been deeply ingrained.

In such surroundings education did not rate highly among the priorities of day to day existence. Just as soon as it was legally possible, children left school and were herded into factory employment so that their meagre wages could assist with family finances. For several months I worked in a chair factory, sandpapering chair legs. I then became an apprentice as a cabinet maker, although the wage was not good. When I finished my course, I decided to serve a two year apprenticeship as a 'clicker' in a shoe factory where the wage was much better. I was even awarded two small scholarships.

However, contact with a group of Christian people who sought to help those in need in the area, motivated me to study at night school and in 1956 I was invited to work with the Melbourne YMCA in their boy's department, and later completed a Diploma of Youth Leadership. Subsequently I was requested to establish and manage the West Footscray Family YMCA which became a 'model' for Youth and Family work in Melbourne, attracting more than 2,800 members. To my great joy, it is still operating today.

It is now fifty years since I was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to study work with 'Youth and the Family' in twenty countries over a 5 month period. My fellowship study enabled me to advance the work at West Footscray and regional Victoria. I continued to work with the YMCA for fifteen years.

In 1972, after my YMCA long service leave, I was invited to join the Appeals Team at Australian Red Cross Victoria where I continued for almost thirty years as Director of Appeals and for the latter thirteen years as Manager of a new Planned Giving Program that I had developed, which attracted many millions of dollars to help advance the humanitarian work of Red Cross.

Following 'official retirement' and a further five years with Red Cross as 'Bequest Program Senior Adviser' I continued as a consultant to present workshops and seminars on Fundraising throughout Australia and around the world sharing the expertise that I have gained over a life-time. Over the last 40 years, I led 16 overseas group holiday tours to some 78 countries.

I have been greatly blessed and humbled by the many honours bestowed on me including:

- Australian Red Cross Distinguished Service Award - 1997
- Was made a Fellow of the Fundraising Institute of Australia
- 1994 National FIA Award for Excellence in Bequest Fundraising.
- Order of Australia Medal (OAM) – on Australia Day 1999
- Jaga Jaga Community Australia Day Award

Ron Ellis OAM Email: ron@ronellis.org

NORTH CENTRAL SUBURBS

Members of NCSRG recently enjoyed an informal luncheon at the Sycamore Tree coffee shop in Heidelberg. The informal nature of the lunch allowed members to chat and get to know each other, a little better in a warm and inviting cafe.

The Sycamore Tree coffee shop is a not-for-profit organisation that trains people in hospitality skills and practice. Commencing in 1986, the Sycamore Tree has evolved and grown over 32 years of community and volunteer involvement and has a fine tradition of supporting those who need the opportunity to learn and develop their life and work skills.

Sincere thanks to all who attended and made the event enjoyable. The thanks of those attending were extended to Barbra Brooke OAM for organising the event and particularly to Andrew and his team for the excellent food and service provided. Hopefully the event can be repeated again later this year.

Forthcoming events include a visit to the Institute for Breathing and Sleep, Centre of Excellence, located in the Austin Hospital precinct, in October and hosted by NCSRG member Bill Noonan OAM and our reception for new awardees to be held on Thursday 15th November.

MELBOURNE CENTRAL

Our activities are based around information and understanding, as well as meeting one another and sharing conversation, and networking.

At our Luncheon series on 8 May at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club we were fortunate to have Prof. Colin Masters AO an international researcher who spoke about Alzheimer's disease, with over 60 people in attendance. Professor Masters' research career in Alzheimer's disease spans over 35 years. He is widely acknowledged as a major worldwide influencer on Alzheimer's disease research.



Our next Luncheon speaker will be Mrs Launa Inman, a non-executive director, and previous Managing Director of major retail groups, her talk will be about The Future of Retailing. This is a very current subject, given Amazon's setting up in Australia. The lunch will be on 21 August 2018 at 12.30pm at the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club, the notice for this event will be sent on 18 June.



On 19 June at 5.30pm to 7.00pm we have the opportunity to be guest of the British Consul-General Mr Chris Holtby OBE at the Consulate. The notice for this event has been sent out to members, bookings will be limited.



MORNINGTON PENINSULA

VALE: Reverend John Aylmer Leaver AO RFD ED [29.8.1930-15.5.2018]

A thanksgiving service was held in The Ansett Hall at Peninsula Grammar Mt Eliza on Thursday 24th May 2018, attended by an estimated 800 people. Reverend John is survived by his loving wife Wendy, adoring daughters Jane and Susan, along with their partners and grandchildren.

On behalf of the Order of Australia Mornington Peninsula Regional Group Committee and members we extend our sincere sympathy to Wendy and family and our gratitude for John's 18 years of dedicated service as a member of our committee.

John received his AO in 2000 for significant Service to Education.

Stephen Higgs, Executive General Manager Victorian Ecumenical System of Schools, in his Eulogy acknowledged the incredible contribution John had made to Education dating back to 1972 whilst Anglican Parish Priest in Maryborough. Having received a request from the local Catholic Parish Priest to encourage Anglicans to enrol in St Joseph's Secondary College in an attempt to avoid its pending closure John realised if all Churches supported an Ecumenical School its future would be assured.

As a result Highview College was created in 1974, followed in 1975 by Braemar College in Mt Macedon, Newhaven College in Cowes, Beaconhills College in Pakenham, Overnewton College in Keilor, and Christian College in Geelong. Casey College in Cranbourne, Hume Anglican Grammar, Trinity Albury, Trinity Wodonga, Cathedral College Wangaratta, Moama Anglican Grammar and Balcombe Grammar, Mt Martha; all assisted by or initiated by Rev John Leaver. Without doubt an incredible contribution to Education.

Brigadier Doug Perry OAM RFD ED in his Eulogy acknowledged John's 26 years of service as Chaplain to the Army Reserve dating from 22nd July 1959 until retirement on 23rd August 1985 achieving the worn Rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Doug commented for John "retirement" only meant, ceasing to be paid, as he continued to minister and mentor his Military Colleagues in many ways as well as the students in Peninsula Grammar Cadets.

GIPPSLAND

The Gippsland Regional Group held a most enjoyable luncheon at a West Gippsland Winery in April which was attended by more than 40 members and partners where we received a fascinating insight into the challenges confronting today's youth through the medium of one of our members Wayne Bass OAM.

Wayne has worked in education for over 35 years and is currently the Principal of the Flexible Learning Option at Kurnai College in the Latrobe Valley. Wayne's address covered a wide range of issues that were both confronting and, at the same time enlightening, to those present and provided us with 'food for thought' about the issues of concern for our next generation.

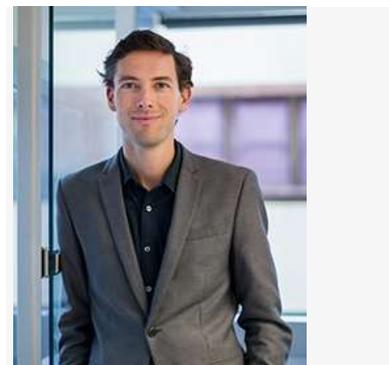


Wayne Bass OAM

The Committee has another luncheon planned for August (Sunday 12th) at the Criterion Hotel in Sale where the guest speaker (Mr Peter Synan, OAM) is to give a talk on renowned author, Mary Grant-Bruce.

At the same time all this is happening, planning is well advanced for our sixth gala annual event, The Annual Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnet Address which is to take place on Wednesday 17 October evening at the Premiere Function Centre, 29 Grey Street Traralgon at 7-00pm.

This year's speaker is Associate Professor Seth Masters, BSC (Hons) Melbourne, PhD Melbourne [pictured]. A/Prof Masters is Laboratory Head, Inflammation Division, at the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute. He is to address the issue of how inherited inflammatory diseases can help to understand and treat disorders such as Type 2 diabetes, heart disease and inflammatory bowel disorders.



As attendances have continued to increase year after year, the Committee is hopeful of exceeding 150 for this year's event and will continue to foster the attendance of students from Federation and Monash Universities as has been the case in the past.

The date for the Annual General Meeting of the Group has been scheduled for Sunday 25th November at Rotary Centenary House, 39 Valley Drive Traralgon at 2pm.

APPENDIX 1: POLICY: SOCIAL AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

[<http://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/branches/vic/PolicyVic.htm>]

Policy adopted: Meeting 16/8/2016

Updated:

Author: Julian Stock AM, State Treasurer.

Policy:

1. Social affiliate membership may be offered to all holders of imperial awards and to members of the immediate family of a deceased member of the Order of Australia Association.
2. The charge for social affiliate membership is \$20.00 per calendar year commencing on 1 January of the year following the date of application.
3. Social affiliates are entitled to receive (from date of application) all electronic communications directed to the general membership of the OAA Victoria Branch by both the branch committee and by regional groups.
4. Hardcopy newsletters attract an additional charge of \$25.00 per year.
5. This policy does not conflict with the terms of clause 20.5 (Branch Affiliates) of the OAA National By-laws.

Procedure:

6. Application for social affiliate membership must be made on the form "Application for social affiliation" (Refer *Application for Social Affiliation* form attached) and forwarded to the secretary of the OAA Victoria Branch.
7. The secretary sends one copy to the membership secretary and one copy to the treasurer (together with any enclosed cheque).
8. The membership secretary establishes and maintains a social affiliate database.
9. The treasurer banks all cheques and processes all credit card payments and direct deposits.
10. The membership secretary advises the relevant regional group chairs of all new social affiliates.
11. The membership secretary ensures that social affiliates are included in all communication databases (eg the branch's quarterly newsletter).
12. In September of each year the membership secretary provides the treasurer with a list of all current social affiliates.
13. The treasurer sends (either by email or post) the form "Renewal of social affiliation" (Refer *Renewal of Social Affiliation* form attached) to all social affiliates, except those enrolled in the current year.
14. Renewals are processed as in 7 to 9 above.

(End)



The Order of Australia Association
Victoria Branch
APPLICATION FOR SOCIAL AFFILIATION

| | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| | | | | |
| GIVEN NAMES | | FAMILY NAME | | POST NOMINAL |
| <i>title / rank</i> | | | | |
| OF | | | | |
| no. | street | SUBURB | STATE | POSTCODE |
| EMAIL ADDRESS | | PHONE | MOBILE | |
| | | | | |
| I wish to apply to become a Social Affiliate of The Order of Australia Association Victoria Branch at a cost of \$20.00 per calendar year, and agree to be subject to all of its By-Laws and provisions. | | | | |
| Payment options (please tick) | | | | |
| <input type="radio"/> Cheque made payable to OAA Victoria Branch (enclosed with application) <input type="radio"/> Direct deposit to Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000 Account 1424 94384 <input type="radio"/> Visa/MasterCard Number _____ Expiry date ____/____ CVV _____ Signature _____ | | | | |
| Please mail application to: | The Secretary Order of Australia Association, Victoria Branch PO Box 18389, COLLINS STREET EAST 8003 | | | |
| Or email to: | Email: secvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au | | | |
| For Office Use Only | Date received: | | | |
| | Advised to: | | | |
| | Treasurer | | Membership Secretary | |