



The Order of Australia Association, South Australia Branch

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

SA BRANCH NEWSLETTER, March 2020 #2

This supplementary newsletter has been issued because the Branch committee felt it was important to update our members on various actions which have been taken as a result of the 'Coronavirus' outbreak, focused on measures to slow its spread.

These decisions have not been taken lightly, but are felt to be in the best interests of the health and wellbeing of our members.

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

orderofaustraliasa@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

14 April: SA Branch committee meeting; *members should use discretion with regard to their own health circumstances*

30 April: Honours Recipients Fellowship Lunch, Naval, Military and Air Force Club: *cancelled*

1 May: Fleurieu Regional Group lunch meeting: *cancelled*

7 – 9 May: The Order of Australia Association 34th National Conference 2020, Darwin: *cancelled by the national board*

18 May: SA Branch Reception for 2020 Australia Day honours recipients: *cancelled*

12 May: SA Branch committee meeting

8 June: SA Branch Queen's Birthday Lunch: *cancelled*

9 June: SA Branch committee meeting; SCA Assessment Panel to meet afterwards

25 June: Honours Recipients Fellowship Lunch, Naval, Military and Air Force Club: *cancelled*

14 July: SA Branch committee meeting

IMPORTANT UPDATE

New Recipients Welcome Reception Monday 18 May 2020

With regard to the developments surrounding the outbreak of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), we regret to advise the **cancellation** of the SA Branch Welcome Reception for new recipients from the 2020 Australia Day Honours List, which was scheduled for 18 May.

The committee is considering options for this event and will be able to make an informed decision once the investitures have been rescheduled.

We will also consider the possibility of a combined New Recipients Function in October, to encompass all recipients from the 2020 Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Honours Lists.

IMPORTANT UPDATE



Queen's Birthday Lunch Monday 8 June 2020

The Committee of the SA Branch must also advise the **cancellation** of our Queen's Birthday Lunch which was scheduled for 8 June. We have had to take into consideration the potential for a prolonged period of 'social distancing' and the consequences of a last-minute cancellation.

This decision has not been taken lightly, but is felt to be in the best interests of the health of our members. We look forward to hearing from Senior Sergeant First Class Brian Mattner OAM CEM (South Australian Police) at a future event.

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION, South Australia Branch
PO Box 1065, CLEARVIEW SA 5085 || orderofaustraliasa@gmail.com

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

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COVID-19 UPDATE

Members will be aware that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared COVID-19 ('novel Coronavirus') to be a pandemic.

You will no doubt have seen that the Order of Australia Association 34th National Conference 2020 in Darwin has been cancelled by the national board. Alternative arrangements are also being made for the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

Further information is available from the Order of Australia Association website:

<https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Cancellation-Darwin-Conference-Advice-v2.pdf>

The SA Branch has received notification from the Official Secretary at Government House, Adelaide that, due to the current health situation and in consequence of relevant Government guidelines, the investitures of Australian Honours to have been held in April have been indefinitely postponed.

As a consequence, we have decided to cancel the Welcome Reception for the 2020 Australia Day new recipients, which was scheduled for 18 May. The committee is considering options for this event, and will be able to make an informed decision once the investitures are rescheduled. We will also consider the possibility of a combined function in October, to encompass all recipients from the 2020 Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Honours Lists.

We also wish to advise that we have cancelled the SA Branch Queen's Birthday Lunch which was scheduled for Monday 8 June 2020.

These actions taken by the Branch are in line with Government and Private sector responses, to best ensure the health and wellbeing of our members as the highest priority.

Our Treasurer, Professor John McKellar AM ED, will be arranging to refund monies already paid.

We are still accepting nominations for the Student Citizenship Awards, with nominations closing on Friday 15 May. The SCA Assessment and Selection Panel will then assess the nominations and select the top 10 and Student Citizen of the Year. At this stage, the intention is to continue as planned with a reception in October, subject to advice from Government House.



This Australian 33 cent stamp was issued between 22 April and 31 October 1985, marking the tenth anniversary of the Australian Honours System. The stamp depicts the insignia worn by Her Majesty The Queen as Sovereign Head of the Order of Australia.

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA Did you know...?

The Order of Australia was established by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia, on the advice of the Australian Prime Minister, by Letters Patent dated 14 April 1975.

At that time the Order comprised just three levels – Companion (AC), Officer (AO) and Member (AM).

The Medal of the Order (OAM) was established by Letters Patent dated 24 May 1976. The grade of Knight/Dame (AK/AD) has existed, but only between 1976 and 1983 and 2014-2015.

In addition to these grades, three other insignia exist.

As Sovereign Head of the Order of Australia, Her Majesty The Queen wears the Sovereign's Badge.

As Chancellor of the Order of Australia, the Governor General wears the Chancellor's Badge.

A unique badge may also be worn by the Secretary of the Order (usually the Governor-General's Official Secretary): at ceremonies of the Order, this badge is worn suspended from a gold chain about the neck.

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At the SA Branch AGM on 15 February, the Student Citizenship Awards Director Mr Noel Hender OAM BEM introduced the 2019 Student Citizen of the Year, William Gillett from Loxton High School, as guest speaker.

STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

Since 2003, the SA Branch of the Order of Australia Association has successfully offered the prestigious Student Citizenship Awards.

These awards are presented to year 11 and 12 students nominated by their respective schools and colleges, and selected by an adjudication panel, as worthy of recognition for their contribution to citizenship in South Australia.

The awards are intended to recognise those young people who contribute broadly through voluntary service to school and/or general communities – students who exemplify the Association's objective, *"to foster love of and pride in Australian citizenship"*.

Nominations for the 2020 Student Citizenship Awards will close on 15 May, and will be considered by an adjudication panel.

The ten students judged most worthy will be invited to receive a special plaque and certificate at an award ceremony, which we hope will be hosted by His Excellency at Government House later in the year. His Excellency is Patron of the SA Branch of the Association.

At this ceremony, the 2020 Student Citizen of the Year will be announced.

In addition, those students judged worthy of recognition will receive a 'Highly Commended' certificate signed by His Excellency the Governor.

Our website contains additional information:

<https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/sa/school-awards/>

SOUTH EAST REGIONAL GROUP LUNCHEON

Friday 28 February 2020

A luncheon for members, other honours recipients and guests was held at the Mount Gambier RSL, arranged by Mr Eric Roughana AM. Among the 32 who attended were the SA Branch Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM and his wife Cheryl, and Regional Groups Coordinator Ken Coventry OAM JP and his wife Di. Attendees were responsible for the cost of their meals and drinks.

Those present paused for a moment of silence to remember the past Convener, the late Barbara Lees-Margiotta OAM, recognising her support for others, her caring approach, and her contribution to the Regional Group.

The Group agreed to continue meeting annually, with future lunches to be held in February, at various locations throughout the Group area. The Group's geographic area is principally defined as the South East up to Kingston, but other members and guests are welcome even if living outside of those boundaries (eg: Cooke Plains). Attendees were reminded of the support available from the State Branch Regional Coordinator as a first step, and also the State Chairman.

No formal structure is proposed. Mr Eric Roughana AM has agreed to continue to act as Convener until the February 2021 luncheon.

RIVERLAND HONOURS RECIPIENTS

Sunday 15 March 2020

A gathering of Riverland OAA members and other honours recipients was recently held in Renmark.

The SA Branch is encouraging the formation of Groups in regional and rural communities across the State. This is planned to occur over the next 12 months or so. These Groups will provide an opportunity for award recipients to come together once or twice a year in an informal setting for social connection and interaction. This meeting was facilitated by Ken Coventry OAM JP, Regional Groups Coordinator of the SA Branch, and Tony Metcalf OAM, the State Branch Chairman, was also in attendance. A full report will be provided in the June newsletter.

For further information regarding the Riverland Group please contact Mr Tim Grieger OAM JP on 0409 099 122 or tgrieger@riverland.net.au

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PORTFOLIO APPOINTMENTS

Following our Annual General Meeting in February, the following portfolio appointments have been confirmed:

Regional Groups Coordinator:
Mr Ken Coventry OAM JP

Student Citizenship Awards Director:
Mr Noel Hender OAM BEM

Communications (website, newsletter, *The Order*):
Mr Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP

Events Manager:
Mr John Phillips OAM

Merchandise Officer:
Mrs June Genders OAM (co-opted)

Member Secretary SA:
Mr Greg Gordon OAM (co-opted)

We are pleased to welcome Greg as a co-opted member of the SA Branch committee, taking on the role of Member Secretary. Greg was awarded the OAM on 26 January 2000, "*For service to the pipe band movement as an administrator and tutor*".

To update your contact details, or to receive this newsletter via email, please contact Greg:

oaasambsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au



MERCHANDISE UPDATE

Two new items of merchandise are now available.

Inductive Power Charger. Place your tablet or phone (any brand) on the 'loop' charger (pictured above) and your tech will charge through inductive energy. Introductory price for members: \$18.

Travel Power Pack. Designed to replace the many adaptors and chargers typically carried on overseas travel. Introductory price for members: \$28.

Postage for each will be approximately \$12.50, to be calculated accurately depending on the other items in each order. Full details of each will be provided in the next edition of *The Order*.



The Travel Power Pack comes in a zippered case measuring just 12 x 12 cm. There are adaptors for Australia, the US, the UK and Europe, and the charger has four USB ports so multiple electronic items can be charged concurrently.

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How do I find out more about the SA Branch?

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

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

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

REGIONAL GROUPS

Fleurieu Regional Group

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

The proposed meeting on Friday 1 May has been cancelled; a new date will be advised.

Convenor:

Mr Rex Keily AM JP

Mobile: 0400 279 297

RNKeily@activ8.net.au

South East Regional Group

Meets annually in February.

Contact:

Mr Eric Roughana AM

Mobile: 0408 817 260

roseric1@bigpond.com

Barossa Regional Group

Gawler and District Regional Group

General enquiries:

orderofaustraliasa@gmail.com

Do you have email?

We still have some members who receive this newsletter through the post, either because they do not use email or because we do not have their email address recorded.

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

oaasambrsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

THE ORDER

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

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

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

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

secnational@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Newsletter contributions

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

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

orderofaustraliasa@gmail.com