

Occasional electronic newsletter from The Order of Australia Association, Western Australian Branch

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Number 1 of 2020

We are still here and your organisation is flourishing

Your committee met last week to settle the programme going forward in 2020 and beyond. Let me start with the Committee, at this time just the names and positions:

Chairman	Bettine Heathcote, AM
Secretary	Margaret Lobo, AM
Treasurer	Peter Snow, OAM
Immediate Past Chairman	Mark Bonser, AO, CSC
WA Nominated National Board Director	Robin Watts, AM
Committee persons	Michael Bleus, OAM
	Geoff Cattach, AM
	Lorraine Hammond, AM
	Bill Hassell, AM, JP
	Jackie Scurlock, OAM
	Rebecca Tolstoy, AM
Great Southern Group of the WA Branch Convenor	Janet Savage, OAM, JP
South West Group of the WA Branch Convenor	Hon Barry House, AM
Southern Groups facilitator	Margaret Nunn, OAM

The vital signs of life in your Association –

-  Membership – over 700
-  Finances – sound and strong with good reserves
-  Committee – willing and able!
-  Programme – coming to life post Covid 19 – see below
-  Members – continuing their fine tradition of service in many ways including those working on OAAWA community programmes – see below.

Covid cancellations

- After the reception for recipients of Honours in the Australia Day list things ground to a halt, but not much has been missed and we hope no more.
- It was necessary to cancel the 2020 Ecumenical church service at St George's Cathedral.
- There have been no “Let's Talk About” events, the Police Patron scheme has been in suspense and our Ed-Connect programme delayed. But all are coming back!
- Due to cancellation of restrictions our reception for the Queen's Birthday Honours list recipients will now be held on August 11th at the Telethon Speech and Hearing Centre – see attached invitation.

- The National Conference scheduled for Darwin this year was necessarily cancelled, but it is planned will be held next year in Darwin.

The OAAWA programme ahead

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Booking and detail</u>
Tuesday 11 August	<u>Reception for QB List awardees</u>	<i>The Bendat Parent and Community Centre of Telethon Speech and Hearing , 36 Dodd Street, Wembley</i>
Thursday 13 August	<u>Next meeting of the Committee</u>	<i>Committee members will be advised venue when given notice of meeting</i>
Wednesday 16 September	<u>Annual dinner of OAAWA</u> Royal Perth Golf Club <i>A “subject to” booking made for us.</i>	<i>To be advised in later newsletter</i>
Thursday 26 November	<u>Christmas luncheon</u> Details to come later. <i>A “subject to” booking has been made at Fremantle Sailing Club</i>	<i>To be advised in later newsletter</i>
	<u>Great Southern Group of the WA Branch</u> Plans are in hand for the Annual Church Service and luncheon in November – COVID 19 allowing.	<i>Convenor</i> <i>Mrs Janet Savage OAM JP</i> <i>8 Hiam St</i> <i>Bayonet Head WA 6330</i> <i>Phone 0427 986 476 Email</i> <i>jannypat@westnet.com.au</i>
	<u>South West Group of the WA Branch</u> Once restrictions are lifted, there is a plan to visit the Bunbury Dolphin Centre to be followed by a luncheon.	<i>Convenor</i> <i>Hon Barry House AM</i> <i>barry.house49@gmail.com</i> <i>0417 976 158</i> <i>22/25 Holgate Road</i> <i>Broadwater, WA 6280</i>

Police Patron Scheme

This is one of OAAWA’s community service ventures. “Patrons” – volunteers from among our members (who are given training) – act as mentors and counsellors to pre-graduation police recruits at the Police Academy in Joondalup.

Our convenor of the Scheme is Michael Bleus, OAM.

Michael has reported to the Committee –

Met with Steve Post, Head of Faculty at the Academy on Tuesday morning to talk about the reintroduction of the Patron scheme.

All went well and the Academy would like the Patrons to start again.

I was also given an updated Squad schedule for the remainder of 2020. Have a Squad starting Monday week [29 June], so had to get the skates on.

The following awardees have volunteered for the updated Squad schedule,

1. 25/05/2020. Rebecca Tolstoy (Rebecca will be able to take up her Squad now)

2. 29/06/2020. Jeff Wake (Big thanks to Jeff)
3. 27/07/2020. Lloyd Blake
4. 24/08/2020. Lynne Cohen
5. 26/10/2020. Wendy Ireland
6. 14/12/2020. Colin Philipppson

Some of the new awardees that showed interest previously have fallen by the wayside. If you are willing to volunteer, or want to find out more about it, please contact Michael, michael.bleus@bigpond.com telephone 0450 603 643.

The WA Branch community service project -- EdConnect

Back to School

Our volunteers working with Ed Connect are heading back to school. Ed Connect Australia is a charity that trains, supports and places volunteers in local schools to improve the lives of vulnerable students.

The need for more volunteers has increased given that many of the children in need of support have lost momentum in the weeks of 'lock down' and require one-on-one sessions in order to catch up.

There are several ways in which volunteers can help: mentoring, classroom support and 'other' e.g. helping with school veggie gardens or in the canteen.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering with Ed Connect go to their website: edconnectaustralia.org.au

Or contact Robin Watts, AM via email – robinjw7@bigpond.com.

Further information for our regional members is available from Margaret Nunn, OAM on 9386 4096.

Volunteer for a passive role?

The national Association produces some merchandise which many members across Australia are keen to acquire and use. It includes ties, scarves, cuff-links etc. our WA Branch keeps on hand a small quantity of the merchandise for display and sale at our events.

The total stock occupies a small-ish box.

As we have no office or storage facility, we are seeking a volunteer simply to hold the box of stock and make it available as required for events – about 4 times per year at most.

Please advise WABranch@theorderofaustralia.asn.au if you can help with this.

Social Media

A comprehensive policy has been drafted for the Committee and is being developed for adoption in due course.

This is not just to stop things! Rather it is to facilitate the proper use of social media to promote the work of the Association, including especially increasing nominations for awards in Western Australia.

Website

Committee person (Past Chairman), Mark Bonser, is organising an update of our Branch website.

It is intended to include an online payment facility to cover our various functions where payments need to be made. This will be of assistance to members who have become accustomed to this manner of payment as cheques are decreasingly used.

Newsletter editor

For input and material, please send to Bill Hassell – wrbhassell@gmail.com

Best wishes,

Bettine Heathcote

Chairman,

The Order of Australia Association, WA Branch.

wbranch@theorderofaustralia.asn.au