



The Order of Australia Association Tasmanian Branch

Patron: Her Excellency, the Honourable Professor Kate Warner AC, Governor of Tasmania

Newsletter, August 2020

Message from the Chairman

Welcome to another edition of the Tasmanian Branch newsletter. We hope that you have and are still faring well coping with the various limitations imposed by COVID-19 and now being able to enjoy most of the activities we did before the coronavirus.

Because of the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 the Branch Committee has recently utilised the facilities offered by electronic virtual meetings. This system is planned to be used for most future meetings saving time and costs particularly as meetings were held in the relatively centrally located historic town of Evandale requiring committee members to travel from the three state Regions.

Using the virtual meeting method of Zoom concurrently with a physical meeting is also being considered for Branch member meetings. Some advantages might include guest speakers from around the State or from interstate giving their presentations on screen. This apparently has been successfully done by our South Australian Branch. I would be particularly interested to know your thoughts on this as I see it could involve more members with our Association. Please send me an email or phone me with your thoughts on joint physical and Zoom meetings.

Government House will be conducting the investitures for both the Australia Day and Queen's Birthday awardees in the mornings and in the afternoons of 15, 16, 17, 18 and 21 September* (* revised dates) This means that instead of having the Association's usual Post Investiture Dinner in the evening, a lunch on each day will be held at The Royal Yacht Club of

Tasmania for awardees, their family members and friends along with Association members. An invitation will be sent to members about mid-August but early booking for one or more of the lunches can be made with the Branch Secretary Maureen Rudge OAM at email at maurk@bigpond.com.au.

Although Tasmania has done well in managing the coronavirus, now there is some certainty about the situation it is possible to make some plans. It had been planned that for the first time a wreath be laid on behalf of the Association at the Anzac Day 11.00am service at the Hobart Cenotaph. As the Anzac service was cancelled, along with all others around the State, Tasmanians were invited to stand for a minutes silence outside their homes at 6.00am. In some areas strains of the last post were heard while in other areas hardy citizens braving the cold just stood quietly. It is known that some of our members dressed appropriately in suits or military uniform with their medals giving due respect to all who had fought and those who lost their lives for the



Government House, Hobart

country we love. Even though the usual formal service was cancelled, people found it quite a moving experience seeing others in the early dawn gloom also standing solemnly at their front gates paying their respect.

The National Executive Committee of the Association met on May 30th, noting that as

governments were easing restrictions because of declining coronavirus cases, agreed to lift it's blanket ban and delegate to the Branches and Regions the decision about when to schedule face-to-face meetings. However, considering our membership demographic we have not rushed ahead even though we know many are straining at the leash ready for a run.

Alastair Douglas OAM
Branch Chairman
0418 127 897



Queen's Birthday Honours List

The Association congratulates the Tasmanians listed below on their recognition in the 2020 Queen's Birthday announcement.

Dr Rosemary Anne Callingham AM

For significant service to mathematics education, to teacher development, and to the community.

Mr Hugh James Hiscutt AM

For significant service to the people and Parliament of Tasmania, and to the community of West Devon.

Mr Rodney Eric Bramich OAM

For service to the community of Port Sorell.

Mr Donald Stewart Ives OAM

For service to music, and to the community.

Mr Christopher David Jones OAM

For service to the community of Hobart.

Mr Michael Anthony King OAM

For service to the project management sector.

Ms Colleen Mavis McGann OAM

For service to community health in Tasmania.

The late Mr Ian Gordon Paton OAM

For service to the community of Wynyard.

Mrs Edna Florence Pennicott OAM

For service to the community of Kingborough.

Mrs Lola Mary Phillips OAM

For service to women, and to the community of Sorell.

Mr Rex Croydon Wilson OAM

For service to education, and to the community of Tasmania.

New Merchandise Items

Inductive power charger

This ultra-slim table-top charger is in blue with the OAA crest in full colour. It comes complete with a cable.



You will never have to look for your charger cables again, and switch chargers between Apple and Android phones and tablets when members of the family need to recharge but have different models. Just place your phone on the blue 'loop' charger on your desk or table and your tech will charge by inductive energy.

Loop is compatible with all Qi-enabled devices, otherwise known as Wireless Charging devices including recent iPhone™ models and top-end Samsung, Google, Microsoft, Sony, HTC, LG smartphones.

The 'loop' is on sale at an Introductory Price of \$18 for members, P & H \$9.50.

Travel Power Pack

For all members who travel overseas and carry a variety of adaptors and chargers, this is the ideal solution! This power pack comes in an attractive zipped box with the OAA crest in black and white on a silver panel. The crest is also on the charger, which has four USB ports so that you can charge multiple electronic items at the same time.

There are adaptors for Australia, the US, the UK and Europe.

And the whole package measures just 12 cm x 12 cm.

The Travel Power Pack is on sale to members for the Introductory Price of \$28.

Postage will be approximately \$12.50 – to be calculated accurately depending on the items in each order

Other merchandise items can be found on the Association's website at

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart/





Notes from the North West Regional Group.

The Order of Australia

The Order was founded 45 years ago and the Tasmanian Branch 40 years ago this year. However, any proposals for due celebration have been put on hold.

May I firstly congratulate all the people who have been awarded in the Order in the Australia Day and Queen's Birthday honours lists. Well done and thank you to you all for your contributions to our society and community. I believe that arrangements are now in hand for your Investitures at Government House in September. I feel I must recall our sadness and extend our sympathies to the Family of Dr Tom Langston OAM, who passed away suddenly before the Investiture of his Australia Day Award.

The NW Group held a very successful Lunch at the Emu



Her Excellency the Honourable Professor Kate Warner AC with Betty Hite OAM at the Rhododendron Gardens.

Valley Rhododendron Garden in mid-March which was attended by Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC and Mr Richard Warner AM, at which a presentation was made to Mrs. Betty Hite OAM for distinguished service to the Association at both State and local level. It was to be the last such function the Governor was to attend prior to the State lockdown.

Since March there has been little action except for meetings of the State and Group Executive Committees which at a State level are now at a distance thanks to modern technology.

With Her Excellency are (from left) Ron Blake OAM, Graeme Milburn AM, Neville Bingham AFSM OAM and Peter Holm OAM



The Dis-order of Australia and the rest of the world

Much has been said and a lot written about the current world health situation and many people think the world has changed forever.

Apart from the effects of climate change, the rest of the world goes on as usual. The birds will nest and lay eggs in the Spring, just a few short weeks away, and some plovers already have chicks running around the paddocks. The bulbs are out early this year, continuing a trend that has been going on for over 50 years and the fruit tree buds are swelling and they too will soon be in flower.

For the human race, lulled by so many years of improving living conditions and widespread growing comfort, the current corona virus has severely jolted the complacency of society and the sense of entitlement that has emerged among some.

I often hear folks talking about the "New Normal". Certainly we will no longer be able to focus on ourselves alone, as Mother Nature should have taught us to be more cautious and to organise ourselves to be aware that these events can happen at any time and with almost no warning. The future we can shape and try to predict, but must also make provision to plan for the unexpected.

These times are full of sadness, stress and concern, but the world will continue. With typical human resilience and resourcefulness we will adapt to our new circumstances and learn to enjoy ourselves anew.

My very best wishes to everyone, stay safe, be thoughtful and keep well.

W. Peter Holm OAM, M.A.(Cantab.), Vet. MB



Constitution and By-Laws

A draft of the new OAA Constitution has been made available to members. This draft can be accessed on the OAA's website at: <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/national/news-events/>

The new document proposes changes to the purpose of our Association, the election and tenure of Directors and the place of bylaws and policies in our activities.

Given the constraints imposed by the COVID- 19 pandemic, the planned briefing sessions in Branches cannot now be held.

The draft Constitution has been prepared with guidance provided by the ACNC, our corporate regulator, and with input from Branch Committees and those with constitutional expertise.

The new Constitution represents a key first stage in an overall 'governance' project to be accompanied by the completion of a revised set of bylaws and continued policy development. It is intended that members be asked to adopt the new Constitution, after a period of consultation, at the National AGM in May 2021.

The associated By-Laws will soon be available for members review.

The Order of Australia Association, Tasmania Branch Committee

Chairman

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Vice Chairman

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Hon. Secretary

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Hon. Treasurer

Mr Ron Blake OAM, (03) 6431 5709

Committee Members

Mr Neville Bingham AFSM OAM,
Dr Peter Holm OAM, 0419 376 021
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Mr Gary Carr OAM, 0418 145 328
Mr David Brill AM, 0401 107 132

Branch Nominated Director

The Hon. Dr Frank Madill AM, 0419 632 699
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### ***Newsletter contributions***

Please submit any relevant articles of interest, photographs, news snippets or event notices you may have to the Editor at:

ChairTas@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

## ***New Members***

The Tasmanian Branch Committee welcomes the following new members who have joined the Association this calendar year. We hope that you can attend some of our Branch and Regional functions. Our members will look forward to meeting you.

Mr Rodney Eric Bramich OAM  
Dr Rosemary Anne Callingham AM  
Mr Gregory Reginald Jackson OAM  
Mr Michael Anthony King OAM  
Mrs Margot Elizabeth Lampkin OAM

Dr Robert Lavis OAM  
Mr Peter John McDermott OAM  
Mr Ian Mead Paterson OAM  
Mrs Lola Mary Phillips OAM  
Mr Douglas Alan Renshaw OAM  
Ms Constance Kimberly Diane Seagram AM  
Mr Anthony Charles Smibert AM  
Mrs Jocelyn Yvonne Watson OAM  
Dr John Milton Wettenhall OAM RFD  
Miss Merylyn Lexie Young OAM  
Mrs Lexie Eileen Young OAM