

# NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST GROUP ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION



## Thank You

to the members who contacted us with email addresses and information about other recipients. This newsletter will only go out to recipients with an email address. If you know of someone without an email, why don't you become their **email buddy** and pass on copies of newsletters and notices.

## Advance Notice Save the date

**NENW Luncheon  
9th October 2021  
The Inverell Club**

## Your committee

Chairman: Fred Edwards OAM  
Tamworth

Secretary: Roger Butler OAM  
Moree

Treasurer: Garnet Wood OAM  
Tamworth

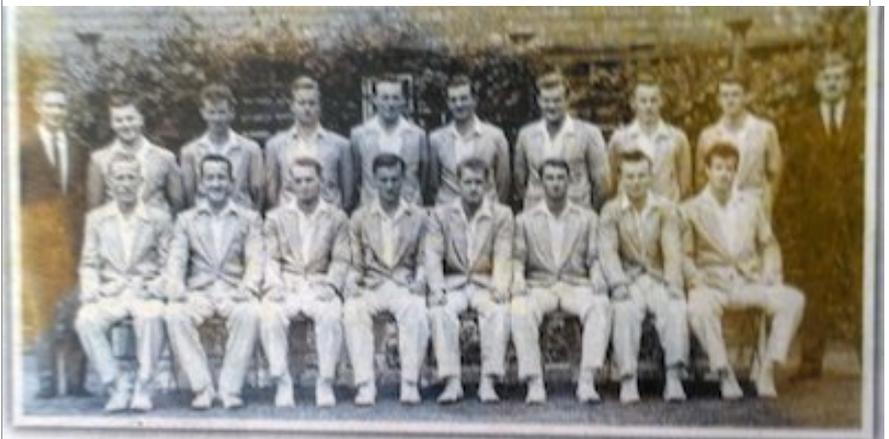
Communications:  
Maria Hitchcock OAM  
Armidale

Committee:  
Peta Blyth OAM  
Delungra

Bruce Stewart OAM

## Down Memory Lane

I was fortunate to be a member of J.S.(Jim) White's Emu Cricket Team when he took us on a 3 months tour of the world in 1961. My good mate Ken Falkenmire was manager. The team included the late Aussie mystery spinner the late Johnny Gleeson who was a wicketkeeper-Batsman in the side. People living in Tamworth, Gunnedah and Narrabri will readily recognize many of the players. I was so pleased to have taken 91 wickets on the trip. The last port of call was Hong Kong where I purchased an engagement ring for partner Mary who was a nurse at Tamara Private Hospital in Tamworth. I am so blessed that she said yes as next year we celebrate 60 years of marriage!!  
John Muller (Tamworth)



The Emu Cricket Club team photographed at Lords in England in 1961. The back row (L-R) is Ken Falkenmire, Allan Robinson, Neil Frame, Hugh Munro, Terry Gleeson, Gordon Cross, Peter Davidson, Tim Grosser, Johnny Gleeson and JS (Jim) White. The front row is (L-R) David Rutherford, John Muller, Neville Holstein, Russell Scott, John Hayward, Bill Bucknell, Colin Elliott and David Evans. They had 19 games in 21 days in England.

*Ed: Does anyone have a story for our Memory Lane section?*

*On another subject my husband and I will be celebrating our golden wedding this year but don't know how to celebrate. It used to be so easy. Hire a hall and a band and have a good old fashioned knees up. What do people do today?*

## Can you help?

We need new addresses for the following recipients. Please send them to [maria.hitchcock@gmail.com](mailto:maria.hitchcock@gmail.com)

**Alma CROOK OAM**  
**Dora SPENCER OAM**  
Tenterfield

**Audrey DEARDON OAM**  
**Joan HAUSFELD OAM**  
Tamworth

**Gary DOYLE OAM**  
Mungindi

**Oliver DUFFY OAM**  
Armidale

**Glenn JONES ESM**  
Tamworth

**Hazel LEE OAM**  
Quirindi

**Les NOTT AFSM**  
Boggabri

**William RICHARDSON OAM**  
Barraba

**Lester THURSTON OAM**  
Tooraweenah

**Robert VARCOE ESM**  
Tamworth

**Kerrie WALLACE AFSM**  
Uralla

**Christine WALTERS OAM**  
Attunga

## On the move

**Paul Cook OAM** of Inverell has moved to Evans Head

**Les Davis OAM** of Armidale has moved to the coast.

**Ken Barker OAM** now lives in Warragul Vic.

**Dr Robin Jones AM** moved to Queensland

## 2021 North West Floods

As far as I know in the geographical area of the New England and North West Region of the Order of Australia Association only the town of Moree was flooded in the March 2021 events that followed the disastrous coastal flooding.

If on Sunday the 21st March any one had asked me whether I thought Moree was likely to be flooded I would have laughed. That 8 to 10 inches of rain in 36 hours on the following Monday and Tuesday (22nd and 23rd) would produce a flood certainly proved me wrong. Initially there was a significant amount of local flooding solely from the local Moree rain but just as that started to subside the rain that had fallen upstream and filled the river systems arrived creating a major flood. However, it was certainly not the biggest, by a long margin. The second wave peaked around 7:00 am on Thursday the 25th at which time the town was totally isolated and had been “cut” in three – in an east west direction at Hassell Street so that those to the west could not get into town and on the northern side of the Mehi River Bridge which effectively cut north Moree from south Moree. By Friday morning although there was still plenty of water around (the famed Moree Golf Course being still inundated) the roads were no longer cut and travel was freely restored.

The appearance of the town, particularly as shown in photographs published in the media, was far worse than the reality. The support from SES, Fire & Rescue and Moree Council staff was phenomenal – highly organised, substantial in number and very efficient. As a consequence damage and inconvenience was minimised and a clean up of public areas and public buildings quickly completed. This flood produced more mud and debris than any that I have previously seen and that presumably is a consequence of the three year drought which preceded it and the fact that many farmers had prepared their country for the 2021 winter crop and there was thus a lot of nice cultivated top soil to be washed away by the flood waters.

Moree was very fortunate compared to our coastal cousins. Furthermore the floods will have replenished the water table and provided magnificent subsoil moisture for the next crop. As farmers are known to say “there is money in mud”.

*Roger Butler OAM*  
*Moree*

See images on next page



Above: Image: Anne Burey



Above: Image: [theland.com.au](http://theland.com.au)



Left: Image: Brook Lester



Image: Jenny Bruno

## Honour Boards

We have prepared Honour Rolls for the following councils

Armidale Regional  
Glenn Innes  
Gunnedah  
Liverpool Plains  
Narrabri Shire  
Walcha

Letters have been sent to all councils suggesting they install an Honour Board of all recipients in their LGA.

## THE ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

Members might recall the creation of an Association National Scholarship Program to allow Branches and individual members to donate into a consolidated account, which when it reaches the Scholarship funding level (currently \$40,000), will allow the award of an Association Scholarship.

Donations may be made to:

**Name of Account:**

The Order of Australia  
Association Foundation Ltd  
Gift Account

**BSB No:** 013006

**Account No:** 314735771

Please advise details of EFT transfers to:

[sec@oaaafoundation.com.au](mailto:sec@oaaafoundation.com.au)

Donations through the Foundation attract DGR tax deductibility.

Phil Morrall AM CSC

Dear NSW Members,

Thank you for your confidence in electing me as Peter Falk OAM's successor as Branch Chairman. Peter's contribution has been particularly significant in these pandemic times with his commitment, humour, pastoral concern for members and business acumen. Each of these has been well appreciated.

We have a great Branch Committee to serve our members in NSW for the coming year with A/Prof Dr John Gullotta AM being our new Deputy Branch Chairman. I remain the NSW Branch Nominated Director on the Association's National Board, Martha Jabour OAM as Branch Secretary, Gail Dunne OAM as Branch Treasurer, and Louise Davis AM as a Committee member.

At our first Branch Committee meeting in March 2021 we will finalise the NSW Business Plan for 2021 which will include:

1. Establishing the newly constituted role of "Affiliates" as non-voting members of our branch. More to come.
2. Increasing the Branch's support of regional activities and we will announce the opportunity for them to get financial boosting for promoting The Order of Australia in their region and publicising the Association.
3. Branch Committee Office Bearer attendance at regional functions, along with our new Regional Coordinator, Chris Dunne OAM.
4. Expanding our communications within the Branch with more member profiles, event updates and promoting branch and regional initiatives.
5. Establishing sub-regions within Sydney for lower cost functions, a well-supported direction in the recent Branch Membership Survey.
6. Accepting the NSW Governor's wish to attend Branch and Region functions where possible.
7. Creating a Branch Committee function for publicity and profile lifting of our organisation, the Branch's Youth Community Service awards, and what the branch members and the regions are doing in the community.
8. Further development of other well supported membership suggestions from the recent Membership Survey.

Another challenge is to move on from the Covid pandemic's substantial impact on communities worldwide but it has also made us more aware of the needs to change how we meet and communicate, the importance of relationship building, and the need to look forward, not behind us. One of my favourite sayings gathered over the years is: "Don't let the past veto the future." Another related one is: "Live for today and tomorrow as you cannot change yesterday, just learn from its history." We need to move forward.

Finally for me, these two sayings are vital to our organisation's community responsibility to build community harmony and social wellbeing and inclusion. Each of us earned an award for making a difference and receiving our award should be the beginning of continued community service, not the end.

I look forward to strengthening our relationships for the future.

Jim Mein AM  
Branch Chairman  
The Order of Australia Association NSW  
[chairnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:chairnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)

## **Nomination process:**

### **The Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia**

Click on this link:

<https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awardsorder-australia/nominate-someone-order-australia>

### **Online form:**

Click on this link:

<https://forms.business.gov.au/smartforms/servlet/SmartForm.html?formCode=OrderOfAustraliaNom&tmFormVersion=2.3>

### **Offline form to post**

Click on this link:

<https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards/nominate-someone-award>

Scroll down and click on this link:

[You can also download an offline version of the nomination form.](#)

Print out the form, fill it in and post along with copies of documents, referees statements, etc.

Remember to keep a few copies.

## **So you want to nominate someone in your community for an Order of Australia Award**

It's not as hard as you think! It just requires a bit of homework. It's probably best to share the load with a friend. It will bring out the James Bond in both of you.

**Step 1:** Select your candidate but don't let them know.

**Step 2:** Enlist the aid of a person or persons close to your candidate - a partner or close relative is best but you need to swear them to secrecy! You need this person or persons to provide you with a list of your candidate's qualifications, achievements and personal details - date of birth, etc.

**Step 3:** Find four referees who will support your application. You will need a brief reference from each, their address, email and phone number. If the candidate is part of a larger organisation then a senior office-holder of the organisation would be advantageous. Referees need to be respected people in the community who can attest to things like self-sacrifice, voluntary service, strong dedication to a valued cause, etc. It should be over and above normal work practices or behaviour. Ask the referees to email you their contributions if you are doing an online application.

**Step 4:** Look for newspaper articles, copies of certificates, etc. to add more support. A strong application has a better chance of being successful.

**Step 5:** You can submit your application either online or by post. If you want to send it by post you will need to download an application form and fill it out. Online applications are simple. Just fill in the sections, copy and paste in the referees' statements, upload any documents and submit. You will be informed of acceptance of the application.

Now you wait for a year or two and keep fingers crossed. Successful applicants are usually informed about 6 weeks before the announcement.

**Final step:** CELEBRATE with the candidate - make them feel special because they are.

Now start another application....