



**The Order of Australia Association
Tasmanian Branch**

'Recognising outstanding service and exceptional achievement of citizens in our communities.'

Northern Region July 2021 Newsletter

Dear Members and Affiliates,

A message from the Chair of the Northern Region (Tas) – Sue Shea OAM



We extend congratulations to the Northern Region recipients who received Order of Australia awards in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours: Mr Rod Fraser OAM, Ms Diane Nailon OAM, Captain Edgar McDermott OAM, Dr John Paull OAM and Mr James Wilcox OAM. Investiture ceremonies will take place on Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 September at Government House in Hobart.

On 23 April this year, eighteen Northern Region members and guests attended a successful End of Term Dinner for Her Excellency the Honourable Professor Kate Warner AC and Mr Warner AM. The dinner provided an opportunity to thank Her Excellency for her dedication and service as Governor of Tasmania over the past six and a half years and to express appreciation to Mr Warner for his support and valuable contribution. Thank you to members who represented the Northern Region by attending this dinner at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania in Hobart.

On 16 June 2021 former Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia and 2021 Queen's Birthday honour recipient Barbara Baker was sworn in as Tasmania's 29th Governor. Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania and Professor Don Chalmers AO have kindly accepted our invitation to a function in Launceston in November this year. Details will be provided in the next newsletter. Early this month Government House confirmed that Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC was delighted to accept the position of Patron of the Tasmanian Branch of The Order of Australia Association.

The Committee has expressed its appreciation to the Editor of the Examiner, Courtney Greisbach and the editorial team for the excellent coverage in the Examiner on Monday 14 June of the Order of Australia Queen's Birthday Honour Awards. This included a total of twelve pages including the front page and 'Opinion' piece written by Sue Shea OAM and Dr Frank Madill AM. It really was an outstanding feature and highlighted the relevance and importance of the Order of Australia National awards.



The Committee is continuing its work liaising with local councils in the Northern Region to promote an awareness about the Order of Australia and encouraging local councils to purchase an Order of Australia Medal Board. The Launceston, West Tamar and Northern Midlands Council can now all proudly display their medal boards. It is pleasing that the George Town Council is in the process of ordering a board and we thank John Osborne OAM and Dr Frank Madill AM for their efforts in this regard.

Since the last newsletter we have held two Region Committee meetings and a successful social function at Rosevears. On Wednesday 11 August, a luncheon is being arranged with guest speaker Peter Tonkin OAM and this will be held at the Westbury RSL Club. An invitation is attached to this newsletter. We have many Order of Australia Association members who reside in the vicinity of Westbury/Deloraine and we are pleased to be holding a function in their area.

I look forward to meeting Northern Region members at the forthcoming social functions and welcoming new members to the Order of Australia Association.

Regards.

Sue Shea OAM
Northern Region Chair

End of Term Dinner

The Branch Chairman Mr Alastair Douglas OAM and Committee members arranged an End of Term Dinner for Her Excellency, the Hon Professor Kate Warner AC Governor of Tasmania and Mr Warner AM at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania on Friday 23 April. The Region was represented by several Committee members and Northern Region members.



Her Excellency, the Hon Professor Kate Warner AC
Governor of Tasmania with Alastair Douglas OAM



Gary Carr OAM and Geraldine Carr.



Investiture of Lexie Young OAM



Lexie Young OAM with Irene Elphinstone (sister)



Karen Burrard from Sydney (daughter), Lexie Young OAM and Merrilyn Young OAM



James Burrard (grandson) with Lexie Young OAM

Congratulations

In the recent **Queen's Birthday Honours**, the following Northern Tasmanians were recognised:

Mr Rod Fraser OAM for service to the community through a range of organisations

Ms Diane Nailon OAM for service to Early Childhood Education

Captain Edgar McDermott OAM for service to veterans

Dr John Paull OAM for service to medicine, and to history

Mr James Wilcox OAM for service to the community through a range of organisations

Alison Monk, OAM Rod Fraser, OAM Prof. Richard Scolyer, AO James Wilcox, OAM



Photos courtesy of The Examiner June 14th 2021.

Diane Nailon, OAM Capt. Edgar (James) McDermott, OAM Dr John Paull, OAM



Professor Richard Anthony SCOLYER, AO (NSW) was recognised for distinguished service to medicine, particularly in the field of melanoma and skin cancer, and to national and international professional organisations. Richard grew up in Launceston and gives credit to his education, training and family here in Tasmania for his remarkable achievements in his medical career.

Barry Maxwell Easter OAM

Barry was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in January 2019 for service to local government and to the community of the West Tamar.

Barry, Jan and their four children moved to the West Tamar from Launceston to live on a few acres where they and their children could enjoy an outdoor life perhaps with a few animals! That was 45 years ago and what a memorable time they had living in such a welcoming and friendly community.

All the children attended the schools at Exeter where Barry became involved in the Parents and Friends Associations. The Exeter High School was built during this time. Robin Gray who was running for election in 1982 said to Barry, 'One day, if we win this election we will build you a new high school at Exeter.' He was successful at that election and in 1985 the new school was built. This was certainly a wonderful achievement for the West Tamar community, many of whom had been working very hard over a number of years for this to come to fruition.

Barry was asked to join the local Rotary Club in 1976 and it was not long before he was approached by a group of local farmers and encouraged to stand for a vacancy that had occurred on the Beaconsfield Council. He agreed and was successful at the election in March 1983.

He held the position of Warden 1990 – 1993 and Mayor (after the renaming of the position) in 1994. These council positions were the result of an election around the council table. When popular election for Mayor was introduced in 2000, he held that position successfully being elected every time until his retirement from council in October 2014.

Barry thoroughly enjoyed his involvement in local government; he was a member of the Local Government Association General Management Committee 2004 – 2014; Vice President 2006-2009 and President 2009- 2014. As President of the Association, he was a member of the Premier's Local Government Council and a Director of the Australian Local Government Association.

It was at 9.23pm on ANZAC Day 2006 that a large seismic event at the Beaconsfield Gold Mine resulted in a substantial rock fall. Seventeen workers were underground at the time, fourteen had escaped to safety and three of whom were unaccounted.





The disaster took the Beaconsfield community very much by surprise, many had experienced small seismic events but there was a general acceptance that this was just part and parcel of underground mining, never thinking that anything untoward would occur as a result of these occasional grumbles.

The story of the rescue was broadcast and televised worldwide and thankfully on 9th May 2006, 14 days after the incident two of the three miners unaccounted for were brought safely to the surface, but sadly one of their mates did not make it.

For Barry, as Mayor, it was quite a stressful time, but a time when he experienced the true values of that close knit and compassionate Beaconsfield community. The media exposure was incredible and even today people come up to Barry and say, I know you!

Barry retired from full time employment in July 1993 having spent 20 years involved in the export woodchip and sawmilling industry, initially on the accounting side of the business and later, he was responsible for the company's industrial relations and community relations. These were very interesting times, challenging but very rewarding!

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA NORTHERN REGION SOCIAL FUNCTION



Rosevears Luncheon, Thursday May 13th

Twenty nine members and guests attended an enjoyable luncheon at the newly refurbished Rosevears Hotel.

Kim Seagram AM, our guest speaker, spoke on the topic 'Choose to Challenge' – which focussed on building opportunities for a brighter Tasmanian future.

Kim Seagram AM is pictured with secretary, Therese von Samorzewski OAM and Chair, Sue Shea OAM.



June Hazzlewood OAM, Norma Barwick and Graeme Barwick OAM



John Osborne OAM and Beryl Osborne OAM



Alwyn Shaw AM and Judy Shaw



Peter Tonkin OAM and Joanne Godfrey



Anita Wettenhall and Dr John Wettenhall OAM



Therese von Samorzewski OAM with Jocelyn Watson OAM



Jocelyn Watson OAM and John Watson AM



John Beswick AM and Dot Beswick



Jan Easter, Sandra Atkins OAM and Jan Atkins OAM



Gary Carr OAM, Frank Madill AM, John Watson AM and Kim Seagram AM

Name badges:

If you would like to order a name badge which shows the OAA logo and Tasmania Branch these can be ordered for \$15. Partner badges can also be arranged with name only for \$15.

If you are interested, please complete the attached form by July 31st





Who is an Affiliate? Affiliate status may be offered to a person who does not qualify to become a Member of the Association but who has received and currently holds an award of an appointment, whether substantive or honorary, in the Australian Honours and Awards system as listed in the website

<https://www.pmc.gov.au/government/its-honour/awards/z-australian-awards>

or a person who was or is the domestic partner of a member.

Joan Jacks paved the way and was the first Affiliate of the Tasmania Branch.

Her late husband Bernard Jacks was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services in the life insurance industry in 1986. In 1997 he was further recognised with the award of Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for "Services to the community through programs designed to recognise achievements." In 1995 he was elected as the National Chairman of the Order of Australia Association. He sadly passed away in 1999.

Joan has been an Affiliate for the past five years, and we appreciate her wonderful support. If you are eligible to become an Affiliate and would like to apply please contact the Secretary Therese von Samorzewski OAM. rvonsamo@gmail.com
The cost is \$10 per year.



Joan Jacks

[The Northern Region Committee members](#)

Chair Sue Shea OAM sueshea@bigpond.net.au Ph: 0418 737 186

Deputy Chair Gary Carr OAM

Treasurer Sue Shea OAM

Secretary Thérèse von Samorzewski OAM rvonsamo@gmail.com Ph: 6330 3047

Committee members: John Osborne OAM (Archives), Jenny Fraser OAM (Newsletter), Gary Carr OAM (Social Functions), Dr George Merridew AM, Dr Frank Madill AM and Dr Nicholas Chantler AM PhD.

Future functions:

Our next function is planned at the Westbury RSL Club on Wednesday 11 August at 12 noon. The guest speaker will be Peter Tonkin OAM. There will be a choice of two courses for main and dessert and the cost will be \$35. Members and their partners and Affiliates are warmly invited to attend. Further details are on your invitation on the next page.

Vice Regal Function:

Friday November 19th will be a Vice Regal function in Launceston. Keep this date free. More information to follow.



Invitation to Members

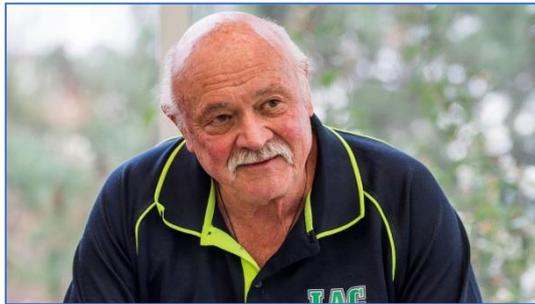
The Order of Australia Northern Region Committee
invites you and your partner to a luncheon

Where: Westbury RSL Club, 7 Lonsdale Street, Westbury
When: Wednesday 11 August 2021
Time: 11.30 am for 12 noon
Menu / cost: \$35 per person includes choice of two main courses served with roast vegetables, two desserts and tea/coffee

- Roast pork
- Chicken breast in creamy mustard sauce
- Sticky date pudding
- Pavlova

Notes: *Menu option must be advised in advance on your reply
Pre-ordered vegan or vegetarian main course available
Drinks may be purchased from the bar*

Guest Speaker - Olympic swimming star Peter Tonkin OAM



Peter Tonkin OAM

Peter received a Medal in the Order of Australia in January 2019 for his service to swimming.
Peter has used his experience to help generations of Tasmanian
and Indigenous children learn to swim.

RSVP Wednesday 4 August
Secretary, Therese von Samorzewski OAM
76 Atkinsons Road, Grindelwald, Tasmania 7277
03 6330 3047 rvonsamo@gmail.com
Please advise dietary requirements

*Payment required in advance (include name)
Direct Deposit: Account name
OAA Tas – Northern Regional Group
BSB 037-608 Account number 737261
Members are asked to wear their large medals*

We look forward to you joining us