



Dated NOV 2021

Vision Impaired Accessible Document

BE OF GOOD CHEER

COVID-19; TIME TO LOOK AT SOME GOOD NEWS

Here and globally, Covid-19 has been devastating. Not only because of high hospitalization and death rates in those infected, especially in the elderly, but frequently on overwhelmed health systems. Restrictions on what we can do, have been necessary at times to restrict the spread of the virus. But restrictions also have detrimental effects on people's livelihoods, the economy, our ability to interact with friends and families. So, they have had major effects on us all psychologically and socially, and on our sense of wellbeing.

But we have also had remarkable achievements since late 2019, when this infection first started to spread in China. In Australia, with our prompt action in early 2020 in closing our international borders, and by people cooperating and decreasing their interactions and travel, we have not only kept large numbers of infections out of Australia but also prevented their spread. We not only flattened our epidemic curve, and did so very early on, but we reversed the curve. In all States and Territories, the virus was eliminated, often for long periods of time. Even when reintroduced into our larger cities, elimination was again achieved, albeit not before devastating effects in Melbourne in winter 2020. But with those efforts and despite setbacks, we have still one of the lower per capita mortality rates in the world from Covid-19 (here 57 per 1 million people, compared to 2026, 1224, and 2145 per million in the UK, Germany, and the USA respectively by October 11th).

The recent introduction of the delta variant has however changed our ability to stop spread. The virus is now endemic in the largest states in Australia as well as in New Zealand and will continue to be present and spread. But we now have very effective vaccines, and they are being taken up in very high numbers of Australians. Already by early October, in NSW and the ACT we exceeded over 90% first dose vaccine uptake. So, by mid-November, both will have reached 90% or more of those eligible, who will then be fully vaccinated.

Science and innovations have allowed very effective and safe vaccines to be produced, approved and distributed in less than a year after the virus was first identified. We also have developed new drugs and better support for those with serious illness that have decreased hospitalisation and mortality rates.

We developed PCR tests to detect the virus, very early in Australia in our Public Health network. This allowed us to do early and effective contact tracing and quarantine, which helped keep the virus from circulating widely. Globally there are now large numbers of commercially available diagnostics tests, including rapid antigen test, widely available. These were manufactured, approved, and distributed at remarkable speed.

We should be optimistic for the immediate future. By December we will have a very large percentage of the population fully vaccinated. We will, also have much warmer weather with us over the next 6 months and this is when all respiratory virus (including Covid-19) spread less readily than in winter. This all means any restrictions when present, will be much less severe and this will open-up opportunities for us to all have much more interactions and travel, including to some overseas destinations.

PETER COLLIGNON AM

MB,BS, BSc (Med), PhD, FRACP, FRCPA, FASM

Infectious Diseases Physician and Microbiologist, Canberra Hospital

Professor, Medical School. Australian National University.

Member of The Order of Australia QB 2010:

For service to medicine, particularly as a practitioner and educator in the fields of clinical microbiology, infectious diseases and infection control.

NOTICES & EXCLUSIONS:

This version of our National magazine is not intended for general distribution to the wider public but is prepared as a service to those of our members who require the use of vision-impaired screen-reader technology. Thus, certain pages of the hard-copy version involving complex graphics or page layout have been omitted.

A summary of these pages and other notes of a general nature will be listed here.

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION.

National Office – Email: oaasecretariat@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

National Secretary – Graham Hyde OAM Email: natsec@theorderofaustralia.asn.au



MESSAGE FROM PATRON- His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)

Like so many Australians, I have spent the last two months in lockdown – working remotely and via video conference.

It could be easy to focus on the challenges and the things we have missed – we still eagerly await meeting our second grandchild for the first time – but I am an optimist and I prefer to focus on the positive.

There is much to celebrate in our community and we should never lose sight of that fact.

Linda and I particularly enjoyed the opportunity to meet via video conference with representatives from state and territory branches of the Order of Australia Association. These meetings reaffirmed my long-held appreciation for the work of the Association in the community and its support of the Order of Australia.

In each call I took the opportunity to outline four areas of reform to the Order of Australia that I am pursuing: building greater awareness, increasing transparency (up to the point of individual nominations or the Council's considerations), improving diversity of nominations to reflect Australian society and enhancing our internal systems to improve efficiency and analytical capability.

It was important to me to seek the views of members, hear about what has worked well on the ground in the past and talk through ways my Office could support the Association.

These meetings were also uplifting. One of the traits common among Australians celebrated through the Order of Australia is selflessness. Ask any Australian recognised in our system why they do what they do and they will tell you that they saw something that simply needed to be done. They most certainly don't serve their communities for recognition.

Similarly, those in that group who opt to join The Order of Australia Association do so not for recognition or out of any moral obligation but rather because they believe in promoting and celebrating Australian citizenship. It is important work and makes a real contribution to our community. As we reflect on the challenges of recent times, it is worth reminding ourselves of who we are as a people and how we have responded to this generational test. The people we've spoken to in more than 260 virtual engagements in recent months have reaffirmed my belief that we are a strong and caring people and that we're willing to put our shoulder to the wheel to help our community.

We've been enormously impressed with the many individuals and groups that we've spoken with and how they have helped those around them through the pandemic. From people who have started cooking and delivering meals to those in need, to volunteers in organisations who provide help and comfort, to the men and women on the frontline of the response to COVID-19 – our community has responded to the challenge.

Readers of *The Order* will, I'm sure, be able to instantly recall recent and inspirational examples of Australians putting the interests of others before themselves. It is both apt and timely that the theme of the Association's 2022 National Conference is 'Celebrating service'.

There is much to celebrate in our community. It is important that we take the time to celebrate and to recognise outstanding service and achievement.

I thank all members of The Order of Australia Association for their important work in our community. As we head towards Christmas, Linda and I hope that pandemic restrictions continue to ease and that you are able to re-connect with families in the same room.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I heartily endorse the comments of our guest columnist, Professor Peter Collignon, on the great progress we have made in managing Covid 19 and the role modern science has played in it. Science has certainly served us well in the pandemic.

I'm off to my first in person Board dinner for months and it feels good, albeit a bit strange. The threat of lockdowns is now behind us and now we all need to get comfortable again in normal business gear and heels! I suspect the discomfort from the latter will be a metaphor for the odd feeling that accompanies being able to move around more, go to restaurants etc, engage more people, board a plane interstate let alone internationally. It'll take a little time for us to adjust.

In the meantime the world is moving forward and, while still dealing with the virus, is focusing on other issues: the Glasgow COP 26 Conference, the path of inflation, especially in the US, and geo-political tensions in the Asia Pacific. These are emerging as the most important determinants of our future security and prosperity. As well they will determine how well markets perform - important for Superannuation. On climate change, investors are well ahead of the game. Companies are catching up but have a long way to go. Public policy in many countries is running a poor third, captive of short-term political interests. The science that has served us so well on Covid 19, is telling us we have a very big issue to wrestle with. Hopefully it will be heeded in Glasgow.

Inflation is currently a supply side phenomenon. We don't have enough labour, and goods can't move around quickly or efficiently globally or locally. As well, energy prices are at very high levels and being skewed by the confluence of a range of supply problems, and the rebound from the pandemic both colliding with extreme weather conditions in many parts of the world.

China is asserting its power in our region. It has enormous economic and strengthening military power.

So, while we should be happy to break free of the shackles of covid, armed with our vaccinations and better therapeutics, there's a lot going on. Hopefully our policy makers can move to focus on these equally existential issues.

In the meantime, I'm set to enjoy my dinner!

Best wishes,

Heather Ridout AO
National President

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We have all been through a tough two years in the face of the pandemic, with in many locations extended lockdowns and restriction of activities as well as massive pressure on business ventures.

At last we are beginning to see a path to a new world in which we are able to continue our lives with Covid 19 as a manageable but not overwhelming threat. In our local communities as well as in our Association this will require some precautions and changes in the way we operate. The first and obvious step is to ensure we are all vaccinated, not just for our own protection but also for our families, colleagues, and fellow Association members. Double vaccination, already required in some locations, is recommended for all situations where our Association members come together.

The changes forced on us by Covid 19 have resulted in the adoption of new, innovative ways of conducting the business of our Association. A notable example has been the widespread use of video conferencing for national, branch and regional group activity and the wider adoption of email for communication.

Branch committees and some members had the privilege of video meetings with our Governor General and Mrs Hurley. These meetings underlined the determination of the Governor General to extend the 'reach' of the Order to all parts of our community as well as his understanding of the vital role the Association plays in achieving this.

As you will see elsewhere in this edition, planning is well advanced for our 2022 National Conference in Canberra from 19th to 22nd May 2022. This will be our first opportunity to meet as a national body since Hobart in 2019. Please mark it in your calendar and make every effort to attend what is shaping as a noteworthy event

As we approach the end of a very difficult year I ask you to continue your efforts to build the strength of our Association by participating in activities and reaching out in your communities to those whose efforts warrant consideration for nomination of an award in the Order.

I wish you and yours a very happy Christmas and us all a New Year 2022 of great promise

Barry Nunn AO
National Chairman

EDITORIAL – PHIL MORRALL AM, CSC

Our theme for this edition is ‘Be of Good Cheer’. I commend to you the front-page article by Professor Peter Collignon AM, a member of the ACT Branch and a distinguished National and International infectious disease expert, based at the Australian National University.

As we collectively, as a Nation and an Association, take the tentative steps out of Covid-19 lockdown and Public Health restrictions, opportunities open up to revert to our normal Association and Community activities. So many deferred New Recipient congratulatory functions following on from the formal investitures by Governors and the Governor-General hopefully will be possible, if not in late 2021 then perhaps early in 2022. New recipients joining as new members are the lifeblood of our Association, please take every opportunity to encourage them to join.

As our National Chairman says, now is a good time to start thinking about participating in the National Conference and Annual General Meeting, 19 – 22 May 2022 in Canberra. Save the Date!!

The countdown to the ‘festive season’ is in full swing. I offer my compliments of the season to all Association members and your families. Stay positive, be of good cheer, enjoy the constants of the Australian summer, as best as circumstances allow. And of course, continue your service to Australia and our fellow Australians.

2022 NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 19 – 22 MAY 2022

As previously advised, the 2022 National Conference and AGM will be centred on Hotel Realm in Canberra's inner south. The ACT Branch Committee is now pleased to announce further details.

INDICATIVE PROGRAM, FEES AND TICKET COSTS

Members will appreciate that COVID-19 considerations continue to complicate our planning, but an indicative program and schedule of fees and ticket costs is as follows.

- **Conference Registration Fee.** Member - \$210 Guest - \$210
- **Thursday 19 May.**
 - 12.00 - 4.30pm (TBC). Registration Desk open at Hotel Realm.
 - Time TBC. Vice-Regal Reception at Government House, Yarralumla.
 - **Dress – Lounge Suit and Miniature Medals.**
 - Please Note: For security reasons, all attendees will be required to use bus transport provided by the ACT Branch, departing from and arriving at Hotel Realm. Private transport to Government House will not be permitted.
- **Friday 20 May.**
 - 7.30am – 4.30pm. Registration Desk open at Hotel Realm.
 - 8.30am – 4.30pm. National Conference at Hotel Realm.
 - **Dress – Business Attire and Lapel Badge.**
 - 9.00 – 10.00am. Session 1 - National Oration & Keynote Address
 - 10.30 – 11.30am. Session 2 – Speaker TBC.
 - 11.40am – 12.40pm. Session 3 – Speaker TBC.
 - 1.30 – 2.45pm. Session 4 – Panel TBC.
 - 3.15 – 4.30pm. Session 5 – Panel TBC.
 - 4.45 – 5.30pm. Fellowship Drinks at Hotel Realm.
- **Saturday 21 May.**
 - 8.30am – 12.30pm. Registration Desk open at Hotel Realm.
 - 9.00 – 11.30 am. National AGM & Members' Forum at Hotel Realm.
 - **Dress – Business Attire and Lapel Badge.**
 - 6.45 – 10.30pm. Conference Dinner including presentation of Foundation Awards at National Arboretum, \$120pp.
 - **Dress – Black Tie preferred and Miniature Medals.**
- **Sunday 22 May.**
 - 11.15am – 12.15pm (TBC). Commemorative Service at National Museum of Australia.
 - **Dress – Business Attire and Full-Size Medals**
 - 12.30 – 2.30pm (TBC). Farewell Luncheon at National Museum of Australia, \$65pp.
 - **Dress – Business Attire and Full-Size Medals.**

REGISTRATION & TICKETS

- Members and their guests wishing to attend the Conference and associated activities must register and pay the conference registration fee.
 - The Vice-Regal Reception, Fellowship Drinks, Conference Dinner, Commemorative Service and Farewell Luncheon are considered associated activities. It is a condition of booking for associated activities that the conference registration fee has been paid.
- The Vice-Regal Reception, Fellowship Drinks and Commemorative Service are included in the conference registration fee, but tickets for the Conference Dinner and Farewell Luncheon will be billed separately.

- Members wishing to attend the AGM & Members' Forum only (ie not attending the conference or associated activities) must register for these events but attendance will be free of charge.
- Registration will open in mid-February 2022. Members are strongly encouraged to register and book tickets online through our registration platform *StickyTickets*, but a hard-copy alternative will be available. Details will be in the February issue of *The Order* and on the website.

CHECK-IN AND COVID SAFETY

- On arrival in Canberra, delegates should register at the Registration Desk as soon as possible. A nametag with a unique QR code will be issued as part of the registration process and delegates must wear their nametag to enable check-in at each activity.
- In addition to the Association's check-in procedures, delegates must download the Check In CBR app and use it when arriving at venues. Hard-copy alternatives will be available.
- Relevant COVID-19 protocols, including any vaccination requirements, will apply throughout the Conference, associated activities, the AGM and the Members' Forum. Details will be advised in the February issue of *The Order* and on the website and confirmed in the Conference Booklet.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Realm is part of the Doma Group, four hotels within easy walking distance of each other and offering a range of accommodation styles and prices. Delegates can book accommodation at Doma Group hotels now.

- **Hotel Realm:** 5 star hotel with hotel and suite style accommodation.
www.hotelrealm.com.au.
- **Burbury Hotel & Apartments:** 4.5 star hotel with hotel rooms, suites and apartments.
www.burburyhotel.com.au
- **Little National Hotel:** 4 star hotel with affordable luxury to all.
www.littlenationalhotel.com.au
- **Brassey Hotel:** 4 star 1920s hotel with old world charm, refurbished in 2017.
www.brasseyhotel.com.au

Discount:

All four hotels are pleased to extend 15% off best available rates for delegates attending our Conference. To take advantage of the discount, delegates can visit the respective website, follow the links to make a reservation, then enter the booking code **EVENT**.

The image shows a search bar for hotel bookings. It contains three main sections: 'Guests' with a person icon and the text '1 Adult, 0 Children'; 'Check-in' with a calendar icon and the text 'Tue, May 17, 2022'; and 'Check-out' with a calendar icon and the text 'Mon, May 23, 2022'. Below these sections is a red arrow pointing to a dropdown menu labeled 'Special Codes or Rates'.

Alternatively, delegates can call or email Doma Group Central Reservations and advise which hotel they would prefer to book and quote the code **EVENT**.

T: 0261631888 |E: reservations@domahotels.com.au

TOURS

No organised tours are planned in conjunction with the 2022 Conference. Delegates wishing to arrange their own tours or find out more about what to do in Canberra may wish to use the Visit Canberra website at <https://visitcanberra.com.au>.

WA BRANCH

WA Chairman's Report: Bettine Heathcote AM

As reported in these pages, we were fortunate to be able to hold a very successful Reception for 45 of the 69 WA recipients of an award in the Queen's Birthday 2021 Honours list. COVID was not very far from our minds with the very informative speech given at the Annual Dinner by Commissioner Chris Dawson APM who's current role is COVID 19 vaccine Commander and State Emergency Co-ordinator.

Members of our Committee were pleased to participate in a zoom meeting with His Excellency the Governor General and Mrs Hurley when he outlined his ideas and plans to increase nominations with a particular focus on women, and people from multicultural and indigenous groups. Regrettably technical issues prevented some members from joining in the discussion.

Western Australian members have a busy time with a talk by author Fler McDonald on 17th October, a visit to a Winery in the South-West on the 29th October as that region's annual event, our Christmas Lunch on 17th November (Christmas has come early this year) and the Annual visit to Albany for the Great Southern region annual weekend and Church Service on 28th November.

We count our blessings in WA that, so far, our State has been spared the extended lockdowns experienced by other States and Territories. We extend our very best wishes to all our colleagues thus affected and do hope the situation will have eased to the extent that Christmas can be shared by families.

OAWA Office-holders and Committee Members

Patron: Hon Kim Beazley AC Governor of Western Australia

Vice Patron: Hon Kerry Sanderson AC

Chairman : Mrs Bettine Heathcote AM

Secretary: Miss Margaret Lobo AM

Treasurer: Mr Peter Snow OAM

WA National Director: Professor Robin Watts AM

Committee: Capt. Michael Bleus OAM CSC: Convenor Police Patron Scheme

Mr Geoffrey Cattach AM

Prof Lorraine Hammond AM: Membership Officer

Mr William Hassell AM JP: "Newsletter editor"

Dr Jackie Scurlock OAM: WA Editor of "The Order."

Mrs Rebecca Tolstoy AM

Mrs Margaret Nunn OAM

Regional Coordinator : RBC

Regional Convenors

South West Region: Hon Barry House AM

Great Southern Region : Ms Jan Savage OAM

Contact Information

wabranch@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

phone 0418 865 313

Mail: General Correspondence:

The Hon Secretary 26B Albemarle Street Scarborough 6019

Financial Correspondence :

The Hon Treasurer 3 Stoneykirk Loop Kingsley 6026

“Let’s Talk About” 21.7.21

In the large Meeting Room on the St Louis Estate Claremont on 21.7.21 a number of OAAWA members and Residents of the Estate awaited the guest speaker who failed to arrive. Our Treasurer, Peter Snow OAM stepped into the breach and gave us an entertaining and informative talk on Albany's Discovery Bay Tourism Precinct.

In early 1979 Peter had been on an assignment in the Gold Coast. On his last evening, he met up with former client, Colin Green, from EG Green and Sons (Harvey Beef). They had successfully taken over the Cheynes Beach Whaling Company that operated Australia's last whaling station at Albany and closed it a few months previously as unviable. Along with plant and equipment rusting away and 3 rusty whaling ships, 106 people were put out of work when it closed on November 21, 1978. The final upshot was that Peter, then as Chairman of The Jaycees Community Foundation Inc, was offered the 50 acre site with 6 whaler's cottages and 2 rusting ships. On 12 December 1980 the paperwork for a museum and youth camp was finalised and on 15 December 1980 the Greens gifted the site to the Jaycees Community Foundation.

On 26 December 1980 it was opened as Whale World. Since then, there has been ongoing development with help by many donors, volunteers and Lottery West.

It now comprises Albany's Historic Whaling Station, Australian Wildlife Park, Regional Flora Garden and a 2,000 seat grassed Amphitheatre. Planning for a marine science Eco-village and a pilot site for renewable energy are well advanced.

The project has contributed more than \$40 million to the local economy and won a number of awards. The project is not subsidised and a portion of its operating surplus is applied to the benefit of the wider community.

We learnt subsequently that our advertised speaker had had a bad fall and ended up in Royal Perth Hospital while we were waiting for him.

Reception for the new awardees in the Queen's Birthday Honours 17.8.21

The RAAFA Club Centre was once again an excellent venue for our Reception honouring the new recipients of the Order of Australia Awards.

At the beginning of the evening a friendly, relaxed atmosphere was created when guests could mingle, enjoy a drink and choose a table in which to sit before the formal proceedings began.

Our Chairman, Bettine Heathcote AM welcomed the new recipients, recognising their achievements and congratulating them.

As Senator Dean Smith, who had hosted the Reception, was unable to leave Canberra as he was in quarantine because of COVID-19 restrictions, the Hon Steve Irons MP was pleased to be able to represent Senator Smith and read his message in which he said he was proud to sponsor the event, recognising that those who received the Order ranged in age from 29 to 100 years old.

Bettine Heathcote AM read out the achievements of the new recipients : six AOs, 13 AMs, and 26 OAMs. The OAAWA Branch was delighted that 45 recipients and their guests were able to join us for the evening.

Our Patron, Hon Kerry Sanderson AC CVO congratulated the new recipients and raised a toast to them.

Thanks, on behalf of the Recipients was given by Ian Trust AO, who had flown from Kununurra to be with us on the night. He was proud to be the son whose Mother was from the Gidja People of Turkey Creek and his Father from the Walmatjari People from Gogo Station. He noted empowering Aboriginal people was a work in progress, it was important to do your best for other people and know your people are right behind you. Your Character is how your family know you and Reputation is what other people think of you.

His speech was succinct and to the point.

Our National Chairman, Barry Nunn AO, who lives in WA congratulated the new awardees. He honoured the 69 recipients in WA, many whom were with us and noted the team work behind them. He said, as did Senator Smith that this award is not a Government but is a Citizen's award. He said the Association is a Federation with eight unique branches. There are 8,000 members, Australia wide, in the Order of Australia Association. He ended his speech with a recommendation that all at the Reception be vaccinated!

A delicious supper was served after the formal proceedings.

During the evening Joy Sinclair OAM did well selling most of the merchandise she had brought and also encouraging donations, all going towards the Scholarship Fund.

OAAWA Annual Dinner 2021

Despite a forecast of cold, wet weather 145 braved the elements to attend the Annual Dinner at Royal Perth Golf Club, a record number. It was a very enjoyable occasion meeting up with old friends, meeting new acquaintances with wonderful stories and achievements and good food.

We were welcomed by the Branch Chairman, Bettine Heathcote AM. Grace was given by Frank Crawley OAM. We were delighted to have our Honorary Vice Patron, the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC, who before raising the toast to the Order encouraged members to make nominations to the Order, especially as WA is under represented in nominations relative to our population numbers.

In 2024 WA will host the OAA National Convention in Perth. Bill Hassall AM spoke about the Order of Australian Association Foundation Scholarships. Only two have been awarded to Western Australians Rahul Khubchandani and Ash Hunt. We are planning to raise \$45,000 to fund a scholarship at a WA University to be presented at the 2024 National Conference. Members and those present were encouraged to donate.

The Guest Speaker, Commissioner Chris Dawson APM, spoke mainly about his present role as COVID-19 Vaccine Commander and State Emergency Coordinator.

After 18 months of long hours, he has just come back from a short holiday in the South West of WA where his ancestors came to in 1830. Elijah Dawson, a veteran of Waterloo, was the first policeman in the South West. Chris Dawson is a very true West Australian.

His present role is ever being challenged and he says he is being handed “a curved ball” so it is difficult to plan – there are a “lot of spinning plates” he is presented with. He pointed out how difficult it is with polarised people in our country and beyond our shores.

He pointed out that COVID-19 is not the first pandemic we have faced. Many occur after fighting wars. Smallpox was brought to the State and devastated the First Nation Peoples. He pointed out the story of Jenner who started the first vaccination in England and was soundly denounced by many. The Smallpox vaccination saved countless lives and finally the disease was eliminated.

After WW1 the Spanish Flu was a terrible pandemic, killing more than the war!

He is pleased that we are not calling the delta variant the Indian variant as the Spanish Flu did not originate in Spain! It is wrong to demonise a certain country.

He claimed we are now all epidemiologists and acknowledged the work of the Public Health Physician, Dr Andy Robertson, who is even tempered and consistently gives good advice.

He pointed out the need to protect the vulnerable and his concern that insular communities, with distrust of the police and military, may not want vaccination.

The problems we face are with social media and disinformation.

We do not ask for the efficacy and the side effects of the flu vaccine and all the other vaccines we have!

We live in one of the most privileged areas in the world.

We need to look at what is common and what brings us together and not follow the human trait to look for differences.

The vote of thanks was given by the National Chairman, Major General Barry Nunn AO.

Adjunct Professor the Hon Dr Andrew Lu AM

Andrew Lu was appointed AM in the 2021 Queen’s Birthday Honours for significant service to the visual and performing Arts, the Law and Legal Education.

Born in Britain of Chinese heritage and to a family hailing from southern China via the British Colonies of Sarawak and Hong Kong, he first visited Perth in the 1980s and fell in love with the blue sky, sunshine and freedom from some of the hierarchy of the British Class System. “It was a good place to run away to!” He returned in the 1990s and enrolled at the Law School of the University of

Western Australia where he obtained an LLB before taking a doctorate in Law at The Australian National University. This was where he first began lecturing in law.

He was the first lawyer of Chinese heritage appointed to the WA State Administrative Tribunal. He is also the first Asian-Australian person ever recognised in the Order of Australia for services to Law in Western Australia.

Dr Lu is an insurance litigation partner of HBA Legal (part of Crawford & Company) and heads its national health and aged care industry group, with substantial experience as an assistant general counsel, in private legal practice with commercial law firms Minter Ellison and Freehills, and as adjunct Senior Lecturer at UWA Law School. Elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law, he was formerly Manager Professional Development for the Law Society of Western Australia and remains a member of its Education Committee. He also serves as deputy member of the WA Reproductive Technology Council, and mentors the next generation as Adjunct Professor of Law at Curtin University, as a charter member of the Rotary Club of Elizabeth Quay, and through Pride in Law and the Asian Australian Lawyers Association. He currently chairs the Fulbright Scholarship Selection Committee for WA.

He is also passionate about arts philanthropy and good governance in the not-for-profit sector, serving for over 20 years on Arts boards and previously as an Honorary Solicitor to the National Australia Day Council and as a member of the Calvary Health Care Human Research Ethics Committee. He is currently a non-executive director of national charities: the Arts Law Centre of Australia, the Australian Youth Orchestra, the National Gallery of Australia Foundation in Canberra, and the Melbourne International Film Festival where he chairs the finance, risk and governance committee and is a member of the MIFF Premiere Fund. He is also a board director of the Chamber of Arts and Culture Western Australia, and on the Council of the Art Gallery of Western Australia Foundation. He was named the Asian Australian Lawyers Association's Diversity Leader 2019 and is noted among Australia's leading Health and Aged Care solicitors in Doyle's Guide and the Australian Financial Review's annual Best Lawyers list.



Dr Andrew Lu AM

OAA WA Regional Report

Our Great Southern Region received 3 Awards for the Queen's Birthday Honours List and all have joined the Association.

South West Region received 9 Awards in the Queen's Birthday Honours with 5 who have joined the Association.

Other country areas received Awards but do not have a regional centre.

Great Southern Region Convenor, Jan Savage OAM has organized their annual meeting on Sunday 28th November 2021 visiting St Thomas' Catholic Church before going to Motel Le Grande for lunch.

SW Region will have held its yearly function at St Aidan's Winery, Dardanup on Friday 29th October organized by the Convenor, Hon Barry House AM.

Coming Events

November 17 – Christmas Lunch at Fremantle Sailing Club

November 28th – Great Southern Event : Albany Weekend with Church Service at St Thomas Catholic Church and Lunch at Le Grande Motel.

ACT BRANCH

OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley

Branch Nominated Director

Dr Alan Morrison AM JP

Chair

Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM
Chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au
0467 719 020 (M)

Secretary

Robert Altamore OAM

Treasurer

Phil Morrall AM CSC

Committee Members

Lynne Duckham OAM
Narelle Hargreaves AM
Trish Keller OAM
Bill Maiden PSM OAM
Andrew Phelan AM
Coralie Wood OAM

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

How things have changed since the last edition of *The Order!* In early August we were looking forward to a full program through the back half of 2021, then Canberra was locked down and most things ground to a halt. We were able to stage the Australian Defence Force Oration with Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld AO, DSC, and you can read the report in these pages and on the website. But our Student Citizenship Awards presentations, reception for new recipients and October morning tea all went by the board. By the good grace of the Vice-Chancellor, we were able to swing the Australian National University Lecture to an online format and at the time of writing this was scheduled for early November. This will change the feel of the event considerably but, on the upside, it did allow us to invite members from branches all around Australia to attend. Sadly, a face-to-face event seems unlikely before the new year, though we will continue to look for opportunities consistent with the ACT Government's public health directions.

Our Branch and Conference Planning Committees have remained active, meeting regularly online. In early October, members of both Committees met online with Their Excellencies to assist in their efforts to reform the Order of Australia as reported in His Excellency's letter above. Our representatives provided a range of perspectives and I later wrote to His Excellency to follow up on some points of detail.

You'll see elsewhere in this edition that arrangements for the 2022 Conference and AGM are starting to fall into place. Some members may feel uncertain about attending in these times, but I assure everybody that we will run a COVID-safe program, strictly consistent with government and venue health protocols. We have in mind a range of national and local level speakers for the Conference who we feel will both stimulate and entertain, and with a bumper five Foundation scholarships to be presented at the dinner, Canberra 2022 is surely an event not to be missed!

Warm regards,

Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM
Branch Chairman

THE 2021 OAA-ADF ORATION ON MONDAY 9 AUGUST 2021



The Ngunnawal Theatre at Russell Offices was at COVID safe capacity with members and guests for the 2021 OAA-ADF Oration, “**The Centenary of the RAAF, and our vision for the future**” which was delivered by the Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld AO, DSC. Air Marshal Hupfeld touched briefly on the Air Force's first 100 years, before turning to current issues and some thoughts on the future. The Oration was followed by a lively Q & A session, with fellowship and refreshments to complete the evening. The full transcript of the Oration is at <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/act/events/>.

Air Marshal Hupfeld was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia in January 2015 *for distinguished service to the Australian Defence Force in senior command and staff appointments*. The Association is grateful to the Chief of the Defence Force for his continuing support to this important community outreach event.

2021 ACT STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

The Student Awards are an important community outreach for the Association to acknowledge and reward good citizenship in the ACT student body. Following last year's COVID-19 hiatus for the ACT Branch Student Awards, the Branch has awarded the following students with commendation certificates after consideration by the judging panel of the 2021 nominations from schools and colleges.

- **Jake Johnson (Year 5)** and the school's ‘**Children's Parliament**’, from the new Margaret Hendry Primary School in the suburb of Taylor, were awarded Certificates of Commendation for sustained community service at their school. Jake has demonstrated

leadership skills in helping younger children and working in the school's grounds presentation. The seven children elected to the 'Children's Parliament' volunteer their time to positively effect change through community service, which improves conditions for all at Margaret Hendry School.

- **Carl Thygesen (Year 5)** is a student at St John Vianney's Primary School, Waramanga. Carl is regarded as a valued and reliable helper who strives to help and serve others in the local community and through dedication, Carl demonstrates excellent service to his church community. His outstanding efforts have been recognised with a Highly Commended Certificate.
- **Sophie Thorp (Year 12)** and **Sam Harding (Year 12)** are students from Canberra College and have demonstrated outstanding and sustained student leadership throughout their high school years and especially in college during the COVID-19 outbreak. They made significant contributions to building a vibrant and cohesive student community at a time when students were facing the challenges of learning in isolation. Both have been awarded Highly Commended Certificates.

The certificates will be presented to students at the respective schools and colleges at a suitable time after lockdown ends. The Branch appreciates the work by Student Awards coordinator Dr Bill Maiden PSM, OAM and fellow judging panel members, Elizabeth Grant AM, Narelle Hargreaves AM, and Trish Keller OAM, to make the awards program a success.

WELCOME TO A NEW OAA MEMBER FROM THE 2021 QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Warrant Officer Class 1 Virginia Morris AM OAM – For meritorious performance of duty as the Regimental Sergeant Major of 2nd General Health Battalion and 7th Combat Service Support Battalion.

MEET OUR MEMBERS - Mrs NERIDA CULLEN OAM



New member Nerida Cullen was recognised in the 2021 Queen's Birthday honours with a Medal of the Order of Australia *for service to the community of Goulburn* and followed earlier recognition in 2013 as Goulburn Woman of the Year.

Nerida said she is motivated by the enthusiasm, generosity and resilience of those she interacts with. "Country towns by their nature encourage people to contribute to the vitality and viability of their communities, otherwise these communities stagnate. It has been my privilege to contribute to the ongoing

success of Goulburn and rural and regional NSW."

Nerida has been active in many aspects of community work including fundraising for Goulburn Hospital. She is President of the BDCU Goulburn Hospital Fundraising Inc which has raised

over \$400,000 for needed equipment and has been a member of the Community Consultative Committee for Goulburn Health since 2015. In the Education field she has been a Board Member of the Country Education Foundation of Goulburn and District, former President of the Board of Southern Tablelands Community College, and former President of Goulburn Rostrum Club.

Nerida has also served as a member of the Community Advisory Group, South-East Local Land Services and is a former Director and Deputy Chair of the Goulburn Rural Lands Protection Board and its successor, the Tablelands Livestock Health and Pest Authority. She is on the NSW Farmers Goulburn Branch executive committee and has also been a board member of TALGA (The Australian Lavender Grower's Association) promoting this emerging industry. Nerida has been a member of the Goulburn Agricultural, Pastoral and Horticultural Society since 2003 and is now Patron.

She is a former Director for the ACT/New South Wales branch of *Australian Women in Agriculture* which is committed to ensuring that women influence the agricultural agenda.

Her support for rural women was shown with her positions as former Co-Chair and Member of the State Advisory Committee, Rural Women's Network and Co-Chair and Member of the New South Wales Rural Women's Council from 2011-2012. She has also been active in the local Country Women's Association branch and was President of Soroptimist International Goulburn

VALE

We regret to advise the recent passing of the following ACT Branch members and pay our respects for their contribution to the Association and the Australian community.

AIRCDRE Jeffrey Blackwell AO - Australia Day 1979 – In recognition of service to the RAAF, particularly as Director General of Personnel Services.

Mr James Service AO – Australia Day 2004 – For service to business and to the community particularly through support to the arts, cultural and charitable organisations.

LTCOL Maxwell Tinkler AM – Queen's Birthday 1983 – For service to the Australian Army, particularly in the field of equipment maintenance.

VICTORIA BRANCH

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr Helene Bender OAM Branch Chairman

Most restrictions in Victoria have now been lifted; our only hurdle is the social distancing cap on event venues due to be lifted when we are 90% fully vaccinated. Thank you to all our members who are fully vaccinated or have a medical exemption. Bring on 2022.

Last month the VIC Branch committee and some of our Regional Group Chairmen met with the Governor-General and Mrs Hurley, they thanked us for the work our Branch has done, and continues to do, the Governor-General outlined his vision for the Order of Australia, the pre-eminent award system in Australia. His Excellencies vision is to increase the recognition of deserving people from all backgrounds, including Indigenous and multi-cultural representation and to increase female representation in the Order.

It is pleasing to know Queen's Birthday Investitures at Government House Victoria originally scheduled for September and October are now being held November and December in smaller groups with all attendees fully vaccinated unless exempt.



Our annual lunch will be held on Wednesday November 24 from 12noon to 1.45pm via ZOOM as a virtual event due to government social distancing regulations.

The speakers will be Jade Hameister OAM and Paul Hameister OAM, father and daughter talking about their polar explorations including the Polar Hat Trick.

Paul is a Melbourne property developer, co-founder and executive chairman of Hamton Development Group. He has completed the Polar Hat Trick as well as the Seven Summits, climbing the highest mountains of each of the continents.

Twice Australian Geographic Society Young Adventurer of the Year, Jade's Polar Quest began in 2016. In 2018 she skied from Antarctica to the South Pole without help, becoming the first Australian woman and the youngest person to do so and the youngest to complete the Polar Hat Trick.

Jordan Eitler 2016 recipient of the Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship donated by the OAA VIC Branch will talk about his employment and community work over recent years.

Earlier this year the VIC Branch undertook a Member Survey, thank you to members who replied. We have listened and taken on board your feedback when planning for 2022, please "Save the Dates".

Wednesday February 23 – Inspiring Australians Oration 10.30am to 12.30pm

Wednesday March 30 – Annual General Meeting and lunch with guest speaker

Thursday September 1 – Reception for 2022 Australia Day and Queen’s Birthday recipients who have joined the Association

Thursday November 24 – Dinner with guest speaker

Subject to the NGV Winter Masterpieces dates, we will organise a lecture, exhibition and lunch on a Sunday in June or July.

In addition to VIC Branch events, our Regional Groups are planning their dates for 2022, please refer to the Order of Australia Association website www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au VIC Events page.

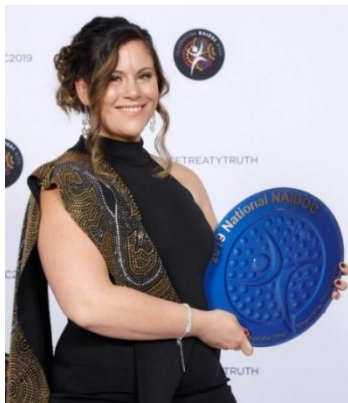
As we farewell 2021 the VIC Branch takes this opportunity to thank all our members who have supported the Branch and our Regional Groups during another challenging year where most events and meetings were virtual. We also value our Lifetime members and appreciate those who renewed their membership in 2021 plus new members from Australia Day and Queen’s Birthday Order of Australia Honours and Awards recipients – thank you all.

Please enjoy your upcoming festive season, stay safe and we will talk further in 2022.

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY OF MILDURA AND BEYOND - SHANTELE THOMPSON OAM

Shantelle’s amazing story was shared by the Governor-General’s office to showcase the level of achievement recognised by the Order of Australia.

Shantelle Thompson is a proud Barkindji and Ngyampaa women, three time Jiu-Jitsu world champion and mother of five.



She is also now Shantelle Thompson OAM, having being awarded a Medal in the Order of Australia for services to the Indigenous community of Victoria Queen’s Birthday 2021.

For as long as Shantelle can remember she was determined to break through the cycles of intergeneration trauma and the low expectations and aspiration that have surrounded her community.

“First and foremost I have tried to do this with myself, leading by example, so that my children and family didn’t become victims of my trauma and so the cycle didn’t continue.

“With the determination to empower others through my own journey, I became the first person in my family to finish school, go to University and start my own business.”

Following the birth of her twins in 2009, Shantelle developed severe postnatal depression and began Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu as a form therapy. “I went from trying to harm myself to becoming a world champion, a member of the 2018 shadow Commonwealth Games wrestling team and a member of the National Wrestling team.”

Throughout her achievements Shantelle has strived to share her story and be an advocate for self-determination, mental health and connection to culture.

“When I was competing at a national level, I was trying to encourage more women to get involved in sport. I was trying to break through and make a change, because when you have a

foot in the door, you're responsible for making sure that door stays open. You create a pathway for others to come through."

Shantelle's commitment, drive and passion, not just in the indigenous space but for women and youth has been recognised with Medal of the Order of Australia.

"To know that someone has seen the work I have done and to nominate me for such a prestigious honour – it was really humbling. I also found it really empowering to know that the work I am doing is valued and I can continue to do that work." Giving back to community: Shantelle set up 'Kiilalaana' — a Barkindji word meaning 'growth', a volunteer youth program in Mildura. As a gifted storyteller and skilled motivational speaker, Shantelle runs empowerment and leadership programs in schools and community groups, with a strong focus on women's and girl's empowerment.

But Shantelle says that her work is only effective if she is taking her own advice. "I don't believe you can tell someone they can be or do something, unless I've done that myself," she says.

"We have an inherited responsibility to overcome the trauma and everything that has happened because our ancestors fought really hard so that I could have these opportunities.

We all know achievers like Shantelle who should be nominated. Please start the process, refer to <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/about-the-award/> If you need some assistance regarding the nomination progress please contact the OAA VIC Branch.

“R U OK” AND MENTAL HEALTH

The virtual event on Thursday September 23 hosted by VIC Branch and MC'd by David Mann AM was well attended by OAA members Australia wide.

The feedback has been positive about this important issue and we thank the speakers Kim Koop AM and The Hon Robert Knowles AO who reminded us all it is essential to check-in on family, friends and colleagues and ask the question “R U OK” then having asked, listen to their response and act accordingly with the required support that is available.

Kim Koop AM has been an independent consultant since December 2016 with experience as a consultant, facilitator and coach builds on over 8.5 years as CEO of VICSERV (now Mental Health Victoria) the Victorian peak body for mental health services, and 5 years as Deputy Chair of Victorian Council of Social Services (VCOSS). She was also a founding member of Community Mental Health Australia (CMHA) working to establish this organisation nationally.



Kim has many years of leadership and management experience in health and community services including over 25 years' on numerous Boards. In 2017 she was inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women in recognition of her contribution to Mental Health within Victoria and in 2019 appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her work nationally.

Kim is one of only 5 people in Australia certified to teach Compassion Cultivation Training, an evidence based course created at Stanford University and now delivered worldwide

The Hon Robert (Rob) Knowles AO holds commercial directorships at Global Health, Drinkwise Australia, Silver Chain Group and IPG. He was a member of the Victorian Parliament and had responsibility for a number of portfolios, including Minister for Health and Minister for Aged Care.

Rob is also Chair of the Royal Children's Hospital, Commissioner of the National Mental Health Commission, Chair of the Victorian Health Reform and Innovation Council and Director of beyondblue since September last year.



In 2007, Rob was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for service to the community through a range of aged care, mental health, research and cultural activities and his work in the Victorian government.

Some Useful Links:

Online services at Beyond Blue www.beyondblue.org.au T: 1800 512 348

R U OK? www.ruok.orh.au

Lifeline T: 131114

Business support for healthy workplaces www.headsup.org.au

To learn more about Mental Health reforms in VIC <https://www.mhrvic.gov.au>

Josh Piterman - Concert for the Future

‘SAVE THE DATE’

On the afternoon of Saturday February 12, 2022 in Melbourne join international musical theatre performer Josh Piterman star of the upcoming Phantom of the Opera. Josh will be accompanied by leading Australian musical director, pianist and composer John Foreman OAM for an intimate afternoon of classical music and musical theatre favourites with a creative vision and lively chat along the way.

Follow Josh Piterman on Instagram @joshpiterman

The 'Concert for the Future' is supporting the Order of Australia Association Foundation VIC Branch Scholarship allowing the future generation of leaders to achieve their potential.

This is the perfect gift for the upcoming festive season, birthdays, anniversaries or a thank you to someone special.

For further information please contact chairvic@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

SA BRANCH

BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE:

As the August issue of *The Order* went to print, South Australia had just been through another COVID lock-down. Nevertheless, the Branch Committee and our Events Subcommittee continued with their planning, and we have been fortunate to be able to hold our events and social activities as planned – although we are very conscious of staying COVID-Safe and in some cases this has restricted the number of guests.

In August, members visited the historic All Souls' Anglican Church, and we held our 'Wisteria Walk' event in the Adelaide Botanic Garden on 2 October. We have continued to hold our regular Fellowship luncheon meetings at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club on 26 August and 28 October. Our regional groups have also been quite active.

Our Student Citizenship Awards Assessment and Selection Panel reviewed a total of 34 nominations, and noted that the quality of submissions and calibre of the nominees remained impressively high. We look forward to holding an award ceremony for the Top 10 recipients at Government House on Monday 29 November, at which time the 2021 Student Citizen of the Year will be announced.

The Honourable Hieu Van Le AC completed his term as Governor of South Australia on 31 August: a week before that we held a farewell luncheon at the Adelaide Club for His Excellency and Mrs Lan Le. His Excellency was our Patron for seven years, and has been closely involved with three branch presidents, namely Professor John McKellar AM ED, Ken Coventry OAM JP and Tony Metcalf OAM. John, Ken and Di, and Cheryl and I personally have great memories of this time, and have appreciated both their professional approach and friendship.

Arrangements have been made by Government House for the investiture of this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List recipients to occur in the first week of November, and the Branch will hold a welcome reception for these new recipients on Tuesday 23 November.

Christmas season greetings to all

Tony Metcalf OAM

SA Branch Chair

chairsa@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

BRANCH COMMITTEE DETAILS:

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Office-holders and committee members

Immediate Past Patron

The Honourable Hieu Van Le AC

Chairman

Tony Metcalf OAM

Deputy Chairman

Noel Hender OAM BEM

Secretary

John Phillips OAM

Treasurer

John McKellar AM ED

Member Secretary SA

Greg Gordon OAM JP

Student Citizenship Awards Convenor

Noel Hender OAM BEM

Regional Groups Coordinator

Ken Coventry OAM JP (co-opted)

Merchandise Officer

June Genders OAM (co-opted)

Editor/Webmaster

Paul Rosenzweig OAM JP

Other committee members

Kathryn House AM

Joe Ienco OAM (co-opted)

Flavia de Pasquale OAM

Pamela Rajkowski OAM

Branch Nominated Director

John McKellar AM ED

Website

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

REGIONAL CONTACTS

Fleurieu Regional Group

John Hutchinson OAM

johnhutc@bigpond.com

South East Regional Group

Eric Roughana AM

roseric1@bigpond.com

Riverland and Mallee Regional Group

Tim Grieger OAM JP

tgrieger@riverland.net.au

Yorke Peninsula Regional Group

Elaine Bussenschutt OAM (Kadina)

elaine@yp-connect.net

Maree Anderson OAM (Minlaton)

mareeanderson@internode.on.net

Barossa, Gawler & District and mid-North Regional Group

orderofaustraliasa@gmail.com

VICE-REGAL NEWS

On 24 August, Branch Committee members hosted a luncheon at the Adelaide Club to farewell the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC and Mrs Lan Le, and to thank His Excellency for being our Branch Patron for the last seven years. His Excellency told us that his staff had collated some statistics on his term as Governor – notably, in seven years he has attended over 8,000 events, and he has invested 1,003 recipients of the Order of Australia.

His Excellency had earlier written to us: *“It has been a privilege to have served as your patron, and I wish your organisation continued success in its important work in the community”*.

The Lieutenant-Governor Professor Brenda Wilson AM served as Administrator of the State from 12:01 am on 1 September, until the Honourable Frances Adamson AC was sworn-in on 7 October as the 36th Governor of South Australia. Ms Adamson was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in this year’s Queen’s Birthday Honours List. We heartily welcome Her Excellency as our new State Governor.

SA Branch Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM presented the Honourable Hieu Van Le with a specially-inscribed Order of Australia Association plaque as a memento of his term as Patron.

MEETING WITH THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL AND MRS HURLEY

On Wednesday 6 October, SA Branch members participated in a 55-minute virtual meeting with His Excellency the Governor-General (Chancellor of the Order of Australia) and Mrs Hurley. During the Zoom call, our members discussed how the Branch is holding up with the current restrictions and heard His Excellency's plan and vision for the Order. We sincerely thank His Excellency and Mrs Hurley for their initiative in creating this opportunity.

REGIONAL GROUPS

The Riverland and Mallee Regional Group held its meeting on 26 September at the Barmera Club. Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM and his wife Cheryl, and Regional Groups Coordinator Ken Coventry OAM JP and his wife Di, joined them for a most enjoyable afternoon. Ken interviewed Tim Grieger OAM, Meredith Arnold OAM and John Rix OAM, inviting them to comment on what led to their honour and what they were doing now. Ellen Traeger OAM then spoke about the Caroline Bristow Wig Library that services the Riverland and Mallee – of which she is a co-founder and with which she is passionately involved.

A preliminary meeting held in Nuriootpa at the end of June had discussed the possibility of creating a regional group for the communities of the Barossa, Gawler & District and mid-North. A further meeting was held in Tanunda on Sunday 10 October to discuss the possible creation of such a group. Regional Groups Coordinator Ken Coventry OAM JP advised that this was a very positive and constructive meeting. The members who attended reported their pride in receiving the Order of Australia, and see that collectively they could have a significant impact for their communities and future nominees. A social gathering to progress the concept is proposed for the first half of next year.

The Yorke Peninsula Regional Group held its luncheon in Maitland on 31 October, and the Fleurieu Regional Group held its luncheon in Victor Harbour on 5 November.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEONS

Our guest speaker on 26 August was Kathryn House AM, one of the newest Branch Committee members, speaking on ‘Collective Giving & the changing face of philanthropy in Australia’.

Kathryn was appointed a Member of the Order in the 2020 Queen’s Birthday Honours List, “*For significant service to the community through charitable initiatives*”, recognising her role as a “committed philanthropist”, as she was described by *SA Life* magazine. Kathryn, a pioneer in Chinese language teaching in our State, now devotes most of her time to supporting various not-for-profit organisations, and sits on several boards, including Impact100 SA, the Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation and Grandparents for Grandchildren SA. Notably, she has been a volunteer for Catherine House Inc for the past 17 years, supporting women who are experiencing homelessness, serving as chair of their Trust and as a Community Ambassador, and was a founding Board member for the Roger Rasheed Sports Foundation, working in fundraising and events during that time. Kathryn says that she has “*a commitment to create kinder, more connected communities*”, and her aim is to raise the profile of philanthropy and the culture of giving in our community.

For the luncheon held on 28 October, John Phillips OAM gave an address titled: ‘SA Waste Strategy 2022-25 – Engaging the Population’. John is Secretary of the SA Branch Committee, a member of the events Sub-Committee and a member of the Student Citizenship Awards Assessment and Selection Panel. He is also a Life Governor of Apex Australia, and former CEO of KESAB Environmental Solutions (1988-2019).

STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

As a result of a state-wide lockdown, the closing date for this year’s Student Citizenship Award nominations was extended to 30 July to allow schools extra time to compensate for the disruption. The Assessment and Selection Panel reviewed a total of 34 nominations, and selected the top 10 nominations. The nominations were judged on four criteria, including leadership, contributions to the school and/or community and contributions to the environment and/or community development, as well as pride in Australian citizenship.

The students selected for the top 10 are: Shikofa Anguri (Thebarton Senior College); Riley Day (Australian Science & Mathematics School); Jayden Gale and Jordan Zorzi (Rostrevor College); Georgia Kehagias (Immanuel College); Madeleine Moss and Charlotte Worthley (Walford Anglican School for Girls); Jamieson Noutsatos and Samuel Wabnitz (Temple Christian College); and Kanika Singla (Mount Carmel College).

Each will receive an inscribed plaque and certificate ('With Distinction') at an award ceremony to be held at Government House Adelaide on Monday 29 November hosted by Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC and Mr Rod Bunten. The Student Citizen of the Year will be announced at this time.

The Student Citizenship Awards program is the flagship endeavour of the SA Branch. Branch Chairman Tony Metcalf OAM joins with all SA Branch members in congratulating these worthy award recipients, and thanks schools for their strong support of this Branch initiative.

EVENTS

On 19 August, members visited All Souls' Church in St Peters (the Anglican Parish of All Souls). After morning tea in the War Memorial Chapel, members inspected the historic stained-glass windows, and learnt about the origins of the Church and Parish, and its relationship to All Souls' Church in the UK.

On 2 October, we enjoyed a breath-taking Wisteria Walk and tour of the Adelaide Botanic Garden with morning tea. This visit was scheduled to capture the fragrant purple blooms of *Wisteria floribunda*, which only begins to flower in mid-September and is finished by early October. Our COVID Marshal for the day was Margaret Davy AM, and our volunteer helpers were Eugenia and Francesca Fiocchini. The several members and guests who attended this event were exhilarated by the beautiful weather, the informative tour and talks, the tasty morning tea and an unexpected gift of a packet of Flanders Fields Flower Seeds.

Upcoming activities include:

23 November: New Recipients' Reception

29 November: Student Citizenship Awards Reception

1 December: Christmas Morning Tea

22 January: 'Celebration of Australia Day' luncheon

24 February: Fellowship luncheon

26 February: 2021 Annual General Meeting.

TASMANIA BRANCH

BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE:

A highlight for some Tasmanian members was an unexpected but much appreciated invitation to meet via Zoom with the Governor-General His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and Mrs Hurley. It is understood that some other member groups will also enjoy this opportunity to hear His Excellency's thoughts for promoting the Order of Australia and to note the work Association members are conducting around our country. It also was a great opportunity for members to offer their thoughts about the Order of Australia and the timings of the announcements.

In the last edition I reported that Her Excellency the Hon. Barbara Baker AC was sworn in as Tasmania's 29th Governor. In September Her Excellency conducted four investitures over two days and the Tasmanian Branch was able to host celebratory lunches each day at which most new recipients, their family and friends attended. Again, the venue of The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania was chosen that allowed the Association to conduct the lunches to a tight timeframe between the morning and afternoon investitures but in a fashion that appeared to be relaxed. We thank the RYCT for their cooperation and efficiency in helping make the occasion memorable. All attendees appreciate the function as it adds to the special occasion of the investiture.

October is always the occasion of the Tasmanian Seafarers Memorial annual service. The memorial located at Triabunna on Tasmania's east coast was instigated 24 years ago and has been continually managed by OAA member Mrs Kath Fergusson OAM. The memorial is unique in that it is a memorial to all Tasmanian seafarers who have lost their lives at sea including Tasmanian members of the armed services, and those seafarers who, regardless of occupation or nationality, have lost their lives in Tasmanian waters. Amongst the gathering a number of other OAA members were expected but as I write this note we hear that southern Tasmania is in a snap three day COVID lockdown, consequently the memorial service is cancelled. (www.seafarersmemorial.org.au)

While it was inevitable that a COVID outbreak would occur sometime in Tasmania, residents are very unhappy about the cause for this particular event. While we expect, and hope, the lockdown to last just three days we can only commiserate with our mainland compatriots who have endured months.

Alastair Douglas OAM
Branch Chairman

BRANCH COMMITTEE DETAILS:

TASMANIAN BRANCH
OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE
MEMBERS

Patron

Her Excellency, The Honourable
Barbara Baker AC Governor of Tasmania

Chairman

Mr Alastair Douglas OAM
(P: 0418 127 897)

National Board Director

Dr Rosemary Callingham AM

**Hon Secretary &
Southern Regional Chairman**

Mrs Maureen Rudge OAM

Northern Regional Chairman

Susan Shea OAM

North Western Regional Chairman

Dr Peter Holm OAM

Hon Treasurer

Mr Ron Blake OAM

Branch Committee

Mr Neville Bingham AFSM OAM

Mrs Maureen Oates OAM

Dr Nicholas Chantler AM

Mr David Brill AM ACS

Dr Frank Madill AM

Regional Coordinators

South

Mrs Maureen Oates OAM

North

Mrs Thérèse Samorzewski OAM

**TASMANIAN DIRECTOR OF THE OAA BOARD – DR ROSEMARY
CALLINGHAM AM**

Rosemary is enjoying her role as the Tasmanian Director on the OAA Board. To enable you to find out more about Rosemary she was invited to share more about her activities.

I am a retired academic having worked at two universities in mathematics education – educating pre-service teachers about teaching mathematics. This career has taken me to some surprising places. I worked with UNICEF in North Korea, helping the Korean educators develop a new primary mathematics curriculum using evidence-based processes. I was privileged to visit the country seven times over the three-year life of that project. More recently I spent a month in Kazakhstan as a visiting scholar at a developing university, working with teacher educators – all of whom were very young by Australian standards! I have also had extended stays in Hong Kong. I have come to realise that the challenges for educators may seem diverse in different places, but that everywhere I have been, teachers at all levels want the best outcomes for their students. The varied encounters that I have been privileged to experience have made me realise the importance of social equity. As a result, I worked with Anglicare Tasmania as a board member for nine years, the last three as chair. The variety of needs and the extent of poverty in Tasmania is confronting at times. Those working directly in the field, regardless of which organisation they work for, go way beyond expectations to support people needing help. I have found that Tasmanians genuinely care about each other and want to support the

most vulnerable members of our community, both formally through funded programs, and informally through their own neighbourhood networks.

Since being awarded my AM for services to mathematics education, teacher development and the community, I have taken on the role of the Tasmanian director on the Order of Australia Association national board. The amazing people I am meeting, and the wide range of interests and achievements is genuinely awe-inspiring. I am convinced that the system of Australian honours is unique, and I encourage everyone to consider nominating an unsung hero.

DR FRANK MADILL AM

Dr Frank Madill AM is the past Tasmanian Branch Nominated Director for the Order of Australia Association from 2018 - 2020. Frank was awarded an AM at the Australia Day Awards in 2014 for his services to Tasmanian Parliament, the community and for his work as a general practitioner. He has given distinguished service to the organisation since receiving that honour. He has actively canvassed members to join the committee and supported the nomination of numerous recipients. His own long term contribution to so many different organisations is a shining example of selfless service to the community.

In The Examiner newspaper on 25 September there was a very complimentary article to celebrate 50 years of service and contribution by Dr Frank Madill AM to the Northern Bombers Football Club. Club President Thane Brady was quoted as saying *“If Frank played football, he would be the ultimate utility. You could play him in every position. He can sing, dance, MC, save our lives, enter politics, become hugely popular and successful, a farmer, father, husband, author, and volunteer serving multiple community organisations.”*

Not only has Frank given 50 years of service to the Northern Bombers Football Club and over 50 years of service to the Medical profession he has been outstanding in so many diverse fields of endeavour. In the past Frank has been a member of over fifty community organisations and was privileged to be patron of 36 of them. Frank is an active contributor in so many fields of endeavour.

Congratulations and well done Frank!

NORTHERN NOTES:

The Northern Region members attended a luncheon at the Westbury RSL Club. The guest speaker was Peter Tonkin OAM who was recognised in January 2019 for his service to swimming. Peter has used his experience to help generations of Tasmanian and Indigenous children learn to swim. Peter is a past Olympian at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and it was fitting that the event coincided with the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

His Worship the Mayor of Launceston, Councillor Albert van Zetten hosted a function at the Town Hall to recognise the Order of Australia Association. This Civic Reception has been an annual event for some years and we are most grateful for the support of the Mayor and the City of Launceston to recognise the special contribution and achievements made by those members in our community who have been recognised with Order of Australia awards. The City of Launceston RSL Band entertained the guests.

On Friday 19th November the Region will be hosting Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, The Governor of Tasmania, and Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers, AO at a cocktail function to be held at the Launceston Club.

QUEENSLAND BRANCH BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE:

Dr Gary Bacon. AM. BSc (Hons). PhD. FIFA.

Hearty Greetings are forwarded to all members.

The prime function of the Order of Australia Association is to celebrate and promote outstanding Australian citizenship. What better demonstration of this ideal is there than a focus on the participation and commitment of outstanding Queensland youth via the Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards. For the Queensland Branch this event held on 17 September has been an uplift date on our yearly calendar since 1999. The Awards recognise final Year 12 students for their community service and remind us all of the significant level of volunteering undertaken by young Australians. My exhortation to our energised youthful cohort was ‘Keep the pace up’. As always the ambience and gravitas of the occasion was enhanced by the active participation of our local Patron, His Excellency, The Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, CVO, Governor of Queensland.

At times a ‘keeper’ item arrives in the daily email pile. I share one such below from the National Archives of Australia, which is an excerpt from a New South Wales public health poster about the Spanish influenza (flu) pandemic, drawn by children’s illustrator and author May Gibbs in 1919. The detail features a gumnut baby and a kookaburra sitting on a branch, with eucalyptus leaves wrapped around their mouths in the manner of surgical masks. Apart from the leaf, the gumnut baby wears only a gumnut on her head. The illustration is captioned ‘Hullo! How are you?’

<https://www.naa.gov.au/>



A century before the onset of COVID -19 the Australian population was subjected to mask mandates, closures of public services and events, the emergence of quarantine camps, inter-State squabbles and border travel restrictions. Some 12,000 Australians died from the 1918-19 pandemic.

‘Hullo! How are you?’ is as apt and welcoming a greeting today as it was a hundred years back.

On 6 October an HISTORIC meeting, the first of a kind by the Chancellor the Order of Australia (OA), His Excellency the Honourable General David John Hurley, AC, DSC, FTSE and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley with Queensland Branch Committee members and Regional Convenors was progressed via ZOOM protocol. It was useful to hear the themes of OA enhancement under consideration and the opportunity for members to raise matters directly was much appreciated.

Continue to keep well and safe.

Gary

OFFICE-HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patron

His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, CVO Governor of Queensland

Chairman

Dr Gary Bacon AM.

[Tel:0400 733 822](tel:0400733822)

Deputy Chairman

Dr Mick Davis AM ASM

Membership Officer

Secretary

Dr Carol Cox AM

Tel-0427 691 566

Treasurer

Ronda Nix OAM

National Board Director

Peter McMurtrie AO KStJ.

Committee Members

Ross Patching OAM

Assistant Secretary

Graham Hyde OAM

Newsletter Editor

Paula Penfold AM

Governance/Policy Review Officer

Darryl Secombe OAM

Regional Convener Liaison Officer

Kathy Wooldridge OAM

Merchandise Officer

Marjorie Voss OAM

Regional Convener Sunshine Coast

Geoffrey Cowles OAM

Events and Awards Coordinator (Metro)

All correspondence to:

Dr Carol Cox AM Secretary

Email- secqldoaa@iinet.net.au

REGIONAL GROUP CONVENERS DETAILS:

Central Queensland: Dr Wallace Taylor OAM

Darling Downs: Paul McNally OAM

Far North Queensland: Carole Miller OAM

Gold Coast: Dr Clive Mitchell-Taylor OAM

Mackay-Whitsunday: Carmel Daveson AM

Sunshine Coast: Marjorie Voss OAM

Townsville: David Jackson OAM

Wide-Bay Burnett: Donna Duncan OAM

STUDENTS SHINE AT THE 22ND ANNUAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC CVO, Governor of Queensland, presented the Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards at the 22nd annual Awards Presentation Ceremony in the Premiers' Hall of Queensland's Parliament House on Friday 17 September 2021. This was the fifth occasion during His Excellency's tenure as Governor of Queensland that he has presented these awards. We thank His Excellency for his continued keen support of our awards programme.

Members may recall that last year's event was postponed due to Covid 19 Government restrictions, so it was very pleasing that the awards could go ahead in 2021. We received an excellent response of 62 nominations of worthy year 12 students from 53 Secondary Schools comprising a good sprinkling of both State High Schools and private colleges from across Queensland.

Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards were presented to twelve outstanding year 12 school students selected by a three-person judging panel. The Awards showcase some outstanding Queensland secondary school students performing great examples of selfless community service and promoting true Australian citizenship. The acceptance speeches from the students were inspirational and the students brought great credit to the schools they represented.

Music was provided during the Presentation by the CHAC String Quintet from Cannon Hill Anglican College.

One hundred and twenty-three guests including students and their families, school principals and representatives, State Members of Parliament and twenty members of the Association attended.

The Queensland Branch of the Association thanks Mr Tim Fairfax AC for his continued support and sponsorship of the awards program over a number of years and for presenting Certificates of Community Service to nine local students at the Presentation, prior to the main awards.

Geoff Cowles OAM

NEWS FROM TOWNSVILLE

Thirty members of the Townsville Group of the Order of Australia Association and their partners attended the Group's annual Dinner at the Townsville RSL in September 2021, with many others apologising for not being able to join the event.

Among the numbers in attendance was one of the newest awardees in the Townsville Group, Dr Wendy Smyth, who was included in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours with an OAM for her Service to Nursing, and her husband, Peter Smyth. Dr Smyth will receive her award in a private ceremony in October. Those present enjoyed a sumptuous meal provided by the RSL, as well as an interesting address by Derek Smith OAM, who spoke of his involvement with an orphanage in Vietnam and the work that had been carried out to improve the conditions for the children in the facility.

Derek Smith received his OAM in the General Division of the 2019 New Year Honours for 'Services to the international community through humanitarian aid'. He is the Founder and co-ordinator of Australians Supporting Kids at Vinh Son Orphanages, Kon Tum, Vietnam since 2007. He is also the Author of a biography book, 'A Twist in the POGO's Tale: An Army Clerk's passage from childhood to war in Vietnam' – among other roles. He served in the Corps of Royal Australian Engineers in the Australian Army, joining in 1963 and retiring in 1986 with the rank of Major.

Many members of the Townsville Group have interesting stories to tell of their roles leading to the receipt of their Australian Honours (just like Derek Smith) and those members are urged to put themselves forward to be a guest speaker at future functions.

Anyone interested in telling their own story is urged to contact Townsville Regional Convener David Jackson OAM at ddjacko@bigpond.com.

FAR NORTH REGION

Up in the Far North Region of fair Queensland, thirty members, partners, friends and guests enjoyed their first function since 2019. On Saturday, 31 July they gathered at noon at the historic old pub, *The Mountain View* on the Gillies Range Highway for lunch overlooking the little Mulgrave River.

In such a tranquil and pleasant setting they heard the history of this amazing highway, when it was built, who built it and why, and then listened to the wonderful stories of its early opening and use by William (Bill) Frazer. Bill was the son of the Top Gatekeeper on the Gillies. When first built the road, with 613 sharp corners, was so narrow and steep it was one way only and to ensure it was safe there were gates and gatekeepers, top and bottom of the Range, who lived there with their families and endured a lot of insults from impatient motorists until the Highway was finally widened.

Carole Miller, OAM. FNQ Regional Convener

IN MEMORIAM JULY-SEPT

PARKER Judith Ann AM DCStJ
GABLE James Andrew OAM
BRUSASCO Ian AO AM
EDWARDS Irene Ann Ellen OAM
EDWARDS Sir Llewellyn Roy AC
WARRICK Francis Michael OAM

KELAIDIS Evangeline Lily OAM
HUGHES Emer Prof Keith Leslie AO
HOCKEY Kevin Prosser OAM
MINES Sr Margaret Patricia OAM RSC
CARLYON John Robert OAM
CROOKE Gary William AM QC
BRADLEY Ernest Charles Percy OAM
CONNOLLY Donald Patrick OAM
SHORT Mervyn OAM
GIBSON-WILDE Dorothy OAM
HARGREAVES Claudia Adams OAM
STEWART Dr Donald Edward AM
KENNEDY James Joseph AO CBE
GRANT-THONSON Prof John Charles AM
MAHONY Prof Mary Deirdre AO
CRAIG Dr Barbara Elizabeth OAM
LYNCH Prof Alban Jude AO

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

BRANCH CHAIRMAN ARTICLE: NSW

A pandemic is certainly an excellent time to celebrate and promote outstanding Australian citizenship. There is more time to look out for others. It is a tipping point for us to change.

Now we meet virtually in this new normal. Oh, for face to face gathering at events, around the table and in other more physical ways; but remember, wherever and however we meet, there should always be room at the table so to share. We just need to be ready to act quickly when opportunities arise to hear about others as to what they are doing, how they are coping with social isolation and health wise, and whether something new has happened.

In each virtual or face to face contact, also consider asking and encouraging your friends to identify somebody to nominate for an Order of Australia Award. That somebody could be the strength of your local communities with their sacrificial and positively impacting lives in your township or local suburbs, or your profession or vocation, or elsewhere (regionally, nationally or even internationally).

The more we do this and celebrate outstanding local Australian citizenship, the more our awards have significance. Your community knows about itself and those citizens who make our communities so much stronger and more unified. Recognise them. This is a promotable way of saying thank you.

Our nominees earn their recognition by their selfless contribution, but why is it that I still hear personally and from other Award recipients that citizens do not know what the Award post-nominals or our lapel badges mean and represent. Why is it that our local “Australians of the Year” are better applauded in their communities than our Awardees?

It is up to you and me to search for nominees, and to promote the Awards and the backgrounds of own members because everyone’s citation and life story are well worth publicising.

The Power Point presentation by the Western Australian Branch for the National Board is now available for each member to do a presentation to your local service clubs, local media and local sporting, cultural and community service organisations, to local schools and tertiary education bodies, churches and other faith groups, and even service to outside communities.

The Branch Committee welcomes your enquiries about navigating the nominations process.

IT IS UP TO US. YOU and ME.

NB: My sincere thanks to our Committee member, Dr Frank Kelleher OAM for his untiring work in planning and delivering an outstanding awards ceremony for our twenty-five 2020/21 Youth Community Service Awardees, conducted virtually, at the suggestion of our Patron, Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC on 23 September. For more information refer to our story in this issue of The Order, and our website: <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/nsw/youth-award>

Jim Mein AM

Branch Chairman

NSW BRANCH OFFICE HOLDERS

Patron

Her Excellency The Honourable

Margaret Beazley AC QC

Chairman & National Director

Mr James Mein, AM

Mob. 0408660591

Deputy Chairman, Metro Events & Public Relations Coordinator

A/P John Gullotta, AM

Mob. 0418233069

Honorary Secretary

Ms Martha Jabour, OAM

Mob. 0419279337

Honorary Treasurer

Ms Gail Dunne, OAM

Mob. 0419279337

Committee Members

Regional Coordinator & Web Coordinator

Mr Chris Dunne, OAM

Mob. 0419279337

Communications & Publicity Liaison

Mrs Louise Davis, AM

Com9nsw@theorderofaustralia.asn

The Order of Australia Association

NSW Branch, Youth Community Service Coordinator

Dr Frank Kelleher, OAM

Mob. 0427644397

Assisting Events Coordinators

Ms Adrienne Cahalan, OAM

Mob. 0421936850

Mr Romano Di Donato, OAM

(02) 92626699

Coopted for Membership

Rev Dr Geoffrey Glassock, AM, FAP

Mob. 0408436676

Regional Chairs: [http//:](http://)

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA NSW BRANCH YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS CEREMONY 2021

On September 23, our Patron, Her Excellency The Governor of NSW, The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC hosted our NSW Branch Youth Community Service Awards via a virtual ceremony.

The twenty-five year 11/12 students from high schools across the State, who were the finalists in our Branch Youth Community Service Awards program attended the ceremony virtually and were handed their trophy and certificate in their own homes, by one of their relatives. The Governor spoke with each Awardee, congratulating them on their outstanding achievements in important community support including Beyond Blue, St Johns Ambulance, Rotary, Suicide Survivors, Meals on Wheels, Lions Club, Seas of Change, First Nations Student Leadership, Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week, Sydney Youth Pride Network, Mind Games for Dementia, Multiple Sclerosis, Headspace, Rural Fire Service, Legacy, Drought Relief and many more. The students were also recognised by their schools by being appointed School Captain, or Leadership in Citizenship and in many cases were also on their local Council Youth Advisory Group.

Details of the citations for each Awardee can be accessed through the following link:

<https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/nsw/youth-award/>

PROFESSOR CAROL POLLOCK AO

Royal North Shore Hospital clinician and Kolling Institute researcher Professor Carol Pollock AO was recognised for her extraordinary contribution to healthcare in this year's Queen's birthday honour roll.

Carol was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for her distinguished service to medical research, education and science, nephrology, and clinical practice and governance.

As a renal medicine specialist and internationally respected academic, Prof Pollock has had a remarkable career as a clinician, researcher, lecturer, mentor and advocate.

Professor Pollock authored over 400 publications relevant to kidney disease and its treatment. She is an inaugural Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (2015) and recognised as a 'Distinguished Professor' by the University of Sydney (2012). In 2014 she was the recipient of the Ministerial Award for Excellence in Cardiovascular Research. She was Scientific Chairman of the 2013 World Congress of Nephrology and is the current Chair of the NSW Bureau of Health Information. She is also a Director of the Photobionics Research Institute, Deputy Chair of the Australian

Organ Tissue and Transplant Authority, Director of Certa Therapeutics, a member of Council of NHMRC and Chair of Kidney Health Australia.

For a full list of Prof Pollock's achievements and service see <https://honours.pmc.gov.au/honours/awards/2009262>

To find out more about Kidney Health Australia visit <https://www.kidney.org.au>

MEET OUR MEMBERS - MR THUAT VAN NGUYEN AM

NSW Member of The Order of Australia Association NSW Branch, Thuat Van Nguyen was awarded an AM in the Queen's Birthday 2021 Honours List in recognition to his service to the community.

Following the fall of the South Vietnamese Government in 1975, Thuat and his family were able to escape six years later. They ended up in a refugee camp in the Philippines and amazingly, there was a Vietnamese Scout Group in the camp. He had first joined the Scouts when he was 12 years old and went on to form a Rover Crew in his local area in Vietnam. In 1982 Thuat and his family were taken to Germany with other refugees, staying there for the next eight years. He formed a Scout Group where they lived. Through scouting, Thuat learned about multicultural life in Australia, and decided to migrate from Germany with his family to Australia in 1989.

He set up the 2nd Bankstown Scout Group soon after arriving in Australia, and the First Canley Heights group in 1992. The growth of the Vietnamese scouting movement in Sydney is one of Thuat's proudest accomplishments, but his biggest life achievement has been the very successful creation of the Children's Festival which has in the past 22 years been successfully staged 35 times in Western Sydney, in Bankstown, Canterbury, Marrickville, Campbelltown and Sydney, attracting a quarter of a million participants and inspiring thousands of volunteers, particularly young people. For more on Thuat Van Nguyen AM, visit:

<https://www.nsw.scouts.com.au/meet-the-refugee-and-scout-behind-sydneys-children-festival/>

NT BRANCH

OAA NT News

The Investiture Ceremony honouring Queens Birthday Order of Australia Awardees from the Northern Territory was held at Government House in Darwin on Friday, September 10th. Some awardees here are seen sharing their happiness with family members. The NT Branch of the OAA was represented by Mrs. Nora Lewis AM

The next function to be enjoyed by members of this Branch will be on November 4 at the Officers Mess, RAAF Base, Darwin, to commemorate the centenary year of the RAAF. There will be a presentation on *The RAAF Darwin: Past, Present and future.*

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

2005 Scholarship Awardee Dr NICK CLEMENTS

On Christmas Eve 2003, I discovered I'd won an OAAF Scholarship. I was elated, but I had no idea just how much it would help me. In 1997, I'd left school at 15 with poor results and plenty of teenage angst. After an apprenticeship, I travelled for a year before returning at 21 to work as a fitter machinist. Five months in, I broke my back in a diving accident and had to say goodbye to manual labour. In 2004, I enrolled in an arts degree at Utas, waddling into my first lecture in a full body brace. I fell instantly in love with learning, specifically with history, philosophy, and Aboriginal studies. It's hard to explain, because I was so often disengaged from high school, but to this day passion for learning is my strongest personality trait.

It didn't hurt that I was doing well. By the end of my first year, I was receiving top marks in all subjects and then, to my amazement, I was considered worthy of the country's most reputable Scholarship. It felt utterly surreal – I'd always considered myself dumb but now I felt capable of anything. And because I now had the financial means, I could throw myself at my studies in earnest.

My volunteer work was something the OAAF considered when awarding me the Scholarship in 2005, and I continue to volunteer on Aboriginal initiatives and most recently a school board. My luck in life has been extraordinary, and like those who support the Foundation, I believe in spreading that around.

In 2006, I graduated with majors in Philosophy, History and Aboriginal Studies. The next year was Honours. Working under Prof/ Henry Reynolds, I examined Aboriginal representation in the press during Tasmania's Black War (1823-31). After a year abroad in 2008, I started a PhD, looking at experiences and motivations on both sides of the Black War. It became [*The Black War: Fear, Sex and Resistance in Tasmania*](#) (2014), which has sold 8000 copies and been shortlisted for several awards.

I was married in 2013 and, desiring a more settled life, I became a high-school teacher and had two children. I love my work and my family and consider myself very fortunate on both counts. I swore I'd never write again.

That was until 2018. Enter Henry Reynolds and the idea for a co-authored book about an unknown but remarkable resistance leader. I couldn't say 'no' to working with the guru once more. I went part time and pulled my historian boots back on. In August this year, we published [*Tongerlongeter: First Nations Leader and Tasmanian War Hero*](#). The first print run sold out in four days, and the response from all corners has been incredibly gratifying.

We wanted to give Tongerlongeter the recognition he deserves and to advance the movement to commemorate frontier wars and memorialise their heroes and victims. This book will go a long way towards achieving that. This makes me feel like I've made a difference. I hope it makes those who work so hard to raise money for

Scholarships like mine feel they too have helped in a small way to better the world, and in a big way to better the lives and opportunities of the growing number of young people they support.

Nick's generous Donor was Estate of George Adams.

His Mentor was Dr Kalev Kruup OAM