



THE RD ER

The National Magazine of The Order of Australia Association
No 35, Autumn 2014



The founder of Creativity Australia's With One Voice Choir, Tania de Jong AM, has been encouraging people to sing to lift spirits, dispel anxiety, make friends and a great deal more. Read her inspiring story and that of her choirs on Pages 12 and 13.

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The Order of Australia Association

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EXCELLENCE

IN ALL ITS FORMS is the specific quality that Australia acknowledges when it bestows honours in the Order of Australia upon its best people.

Indeed, it is the main quality that all members of the Order have in common.

It follows that advertising in *The Order* — the national magazine of the Order of Australia Association — reaches not only thousands of those excellent people but many others who read it — mostly their associates and friends. Recent research indicates that each copy of *The Order* is read by at least four people.

Advertising rates in *The Order* are modest.

If you have a service or product that you would like to bring to the attention of your fellow members and their associates — or participate in decision-making of an organisation that does — it may be worthwhile to consider advertising in this national magazine, now in its fifteenth year. To advertise, contact the OAA Secretariat on 02 6273 0322 or email oaasecretariat@ozemail.com.au

Knights and dames, arise

The Prime Minister, Mr Tony Abbott, has reinstated awards of knight and dames to the Order of Australia, up to four people in governorships, the military and the judiciary. The first awards have gone to Her Excellency Honourable **Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO** and the Governor-General His Excellency, **General Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AC MC Retd.**

In his statement on March 24 Mr Abbott said, "On my recommendation, Her Majesty the Queen has amended the Letters Patent constituting the Order of Australia.

"Knights and dames in the Order of Australia will be approved by Her Majesty on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. There may be up to four knights or dames created in any year.

"This special recognition may be extended to Australians of 'extraordinary and pre-eminent achievement and

merit' in their service to Australia or to humanity at large. "Henceforth, the serving Governor-General will be the principal knight or dame in the Order of Australia. The first new dame will be the outgoing Governor-General. The first new knight will be the incoming Governor-General.

"It is fitting that the Queen's representative be so honoured. Invariably, Governors-General have been extraordinary and pre-eminent servants of the Australian people.

"My intention is that this new award will go to those who have accepted public office rather than sought it; and who can never, by virtue of the office they have held, entirely return to private life.

"The Chairman of the Order of Australia Council will be consulted on any such recommendation. This change will not affect existing Companions, Officers or Members of the Order of Australia".

Politicians and the Order of Australia

The chairman of the Order of Australia Council, **Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston AC (Retired)**, who is a former Chief of the Australian Defence Force, has rejected claims that there is political influence on the council's deliberations in selecting people nominated for honours.

In a letter to the editor of *The Canberra Times*, he wrote, "I write to refute suggestions that Attorney-General George Brandis personally intervened in the selection process for conferring Australian honours in a partisan way during recent meetings of the Council for the Order of Australia."

[Fairfax Media reported on the front page of *The Canberra Times* under the heading 'Brandis accused of intervening to keep honours list Coalition-friendly', on March 4].

Air Chief Marshal Houston's letter continued, "Senator Brandis's attendance at one of two days of council meetings last week was in no way unusual. Indeed, it has been the norm over the last decade for parliamentary representatives to attend council meetings. Like all council members, ex-officio members of the council are entitled to put forward their views and opinions and, in my view, it is important that all members contribute and participate in the deliberations of the council.

"To assert that Senator Brandis was attempting to

'Scrupulously independent of political intervention'

A former Secretary of the Order of Australia, **Mr Malcolm Hazell CVO AM**, made much the same point as Air Marshal Houston (see above) when he spoke at an Australia Day breakfast hosted by The Order of Australia Association in Canberra on January 26.

"These awards were some of more than 6,000 made from more than 11,000 nominations considered by the Council for the Order of Australia during my five and a half year tenure as Secretary — actually, 11,300 nominations resulting in 6200 awards between May 2003 and September 2008."

He went on, "Although nothing is ever perfect, as the commentariat will no doubt remind us with the awards published today, I can tell you that the Order is held in high regard here and especially overseas for its apolitical nature and impartial recognition of Australians of singular merit. I made inputs to recent major reviews of the honours systems of both the UK and Canada, and the over-

influence the deliberations of the council to ensure honours are skewed in favour of Coalition-friendly individuals misrepresents council discussions.

"Senator Brandis in no way 'politically interfered' with deliberations of the council last week and to suggest that he did is not correct.

"Members of the public can be assured that the council takes its role very seriously and makes decisions on honours and awards in an impartial and independent manner."

The published letter was signed: Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston (retired), chairman of the Council for the Order of Australia.

Fairfax Media published that Senator Brandis attended the first day of the council's deliberations and that the Prime Minister's Parliamentary Secretary, Mr Josh Frydenburg, attended the council's second day of considering nominations, some of which could be expected to be in the Queen's birthday honours list.

During the term of the previous government, Senator Kate Lundy or Senator Jan McLucas had attended Order of Australia Council meetings and on at least one occasion Senator John Faulkner had attended, according to the media report. [Source: *The Canberra Times* March 4 & 6, 2014 Page 1 and letters]

whelming comment made to me was that the Australian model was regarded as best practice.

"Our honours and awards are scrupulously independent of political intervention thanks to the role of the independent Council for the Order of Australia, [at present] chaired by Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, and the Honours Secretariat located at Government House, Canberra, and not within a government department.

Mr Hazell continued, "I also commend to you the awards made on the recommendations of the Australian Bravery Decorations Council, of which I had the privilege of serving as Secretary. The sister organisation of this Association, the Australian Bravery Association, does very good work in supporting many recipients of bravery awards who go through life sometimes carrying huge emotional burdens, often as a result of their selfless acts of bravery. Those are stories that reflect powerfully on the Australian character."

Further report page 16



OAA NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWSLETTER

NT Branch helps young cricketers

The NT Branch's AGM was held at the newly built Lord's Taverners Training facility at NT Cricket headquarters at which Tony Judd, cricket head coach of the NT Institute of Sport, was guest speaker.

Tony enthralled his audience with tales from Scotland and around Australia but it was his passion for young Territorians and their opportunity to play at the highest level that impressed us all.

Dr Tom Lewis OAM presented a cheque for \$1,000 from the NT Branch of the OAA to NT Cricket's Red Dust program, which is a specifically designed cricket program for remote indigenous communities in the NT.

The program aims to provide sustainable and equal cricket opportunities for people living in remote areas of the NT. It enables local communities to create their own cricket culture and strives to equip teams so they are more easily able to participate in season competitions, community cricket carnivals and ultimately the annual Imparja Cup championships.

Tony was appointed senior coach of the NT side and during 2013 he coached them to victories over the SA Redbacks and WA Scorchers. At the same time the NT side played in the final of South Australia's Premier League T20 Cup.



Indigenous players in Tiwi and Robinson River

Historian, author heads branch

The new NT branch chairman is **Dr. Tom Lewis OAM**. Tom has worked as a divemaster, high-school teacher of English and history and a naval officer, completing a combat deployment in Baghdad in 2006 and seeing service in East Timor.

He has been awarded the Australian Active Service Medal, the Iraqi campaign medal and the US Army Commendation Medal, among others. In 2004 he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for services to naval history. He is now the Director of the Darwin Military Museum, having had an association with it since the 1990s and taken it recently through a \$14 million expansion.

Dr Lewis has a long association with Northern Territory history and is a multipublished author. His recent works include *Zero Hour in Broome* (with Peter Ingman) and *Carrier Attack*, published in October 2013, a forensic study carried out with Peter Ingman on the realities of the first Darwin air raids, a topic on which he broadcast for the ABC at the bombing of Darwin's 70th commemoration.

He is in demand as a public speaker and has appeared in several documentaries. His latest project is to spread the word that Australia was under attack in its north for two years in 1942–44, raided almost weekly — but that the country has little understanding of this part of its history.

Tom lives in Darwin, is married and has two daughters and has interests in astronomy, collecting antique swords and tournament chess.

Chairman steps down

Dr. Val Asche AM, the NT Branch's inspiring chairman for about the last three years, has retired. With her husband, Austin, Dr Asche moved to the Northern Territory in 1986, where she worked as senior research officer in the Microbiology Unit at the Menzies School of Health Research and sessional microbiologist at Royal Darwin Hospital. Author of several books and Frontline Australia Ambassador, Dr Asche has been awarded many honours for her work and service, including the Distinguished Service Award by the Australian Society of Microbiology 1991, Dame of the Order of St John of Jerusalem 1993, Distinguished Service Award of Australia 2000, Member of the Order of Australia 2001, Paul Harris Fellowship Rotary (NT) 2007. Her contribution to the Order of Australia Association was acknowledged at the 2014 National Conference in Melbourne with a plaque and citation, formally presented to her at a social event this month (April). Val served on the NT committee for 10 years.

NT members have truly enjoyed her warmth and intellect and will miss her leadership.

Office holders

The NT Branch has begun 2014 under a new committee, elected at its AGM last November.

Chairman: Dr Tom Lewis OAM

tom.lewis@darwinmilitarymuseum.com.au;

Secretary-Treasurer: Michael Martin OAM

michael.martin@bigpond.net.au;

Vice-chairman: Grant Tambling AM. Other committee members are Luke Gosling OAM, Nora Lewis AM, Peter Carew AM and Wendy James OAM.

Administrator and patron honoured

The Northern Territory Branch of the OAA is proud that its patron, the Administrator of the Northern Territory, the **Hon. Sally Thomas**, was made a Companion (AC) in the general division of the Order of Australia in the 2014 Australia Day Honours List for eminent service to the people of the Northern Territory, particularly to the judiciary and social justice, to the advancement of women in the legal profession, to youth and to the promotion and development of tertiary education.

Citizenship ‘pledge’ in web campaign

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection has launched a year-long social-media campaign that should appeal to Order of Australia Association members who promote Australian citizenship.

The campaign marks the 65th anniversary of Australian citizenship, highlighting the unique stories of those who have become Australians recently.

More than 4.5 million people have become Australian citizens over the last 65 years, a record 17,863 of them on Australia Day this year.

A spokesman for the Department of Immigration and Border Protection said the social-media campaign would share the journeys of those who have adopted Australia in the last 65 years and focus on those taking the final step in those journeys.

Throughout the year the department will publish a web series, *The Pledge*, to provide an insight into the citizenship stories of Australians from different walks of life.

New citizens are being encouraged to share their citizenship stories on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, using the #AusPledge hashtag, which will map them around the country throughout the year.

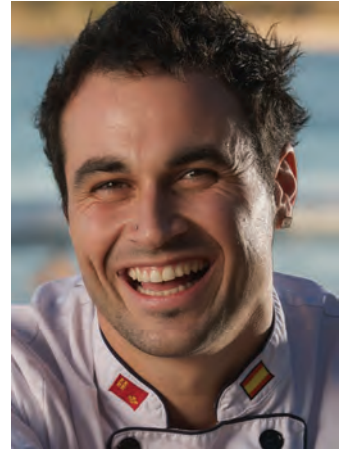
The first story of *The Pledge* features former Spanish celebrity chef Miguel Maestre, who became an Australian citizen in October 2013.

In the story, Mr Maestre said he had struck up a romance with Australia after sparks had flown at an Edinburgh restaurant with an Australian waitress — now his wife.

“I believe, when you are a citizen, it’s just that little last step, that click — everything just clicks and you’re so proud and happy to just be a part of what is our amazing beautiful country, Australia,” he says.

The public can also add messages, photos or videos to an e-card marking the 65th anniversary.

This will act as a hub for members of the public to contribute to the 65th anniversary in their own way, including uploading photos of their own citizenship ceremonies or of family members’ experiences.



Miguel Maestre

To add a message, photo or video to the 65th anniversary e-card, visit www.citizenship.gov.au/events/65_anniversary/

To view *The Pledge* web series, visit the department’s immiTV YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/immiTV

Follow the #AusPledge hashtag on Facebook at [facebook.com/DIBPAustralia](https://www.facebook.com/DIBPAustralia) Twitter at @DIBPAustralia, and Instagram at [Instagram.com/DIBPAustralia](https://www.instagram.com/DIBPAustralia)

Australian warships pavilion for Maritime Museum



An architect’s drawing of the proposed new pavilion.

The Australian National Maritime Museum will build a state-of-the-art Warships (Royal Australian Navy) Pavilion to mark the centenary of World War I and commemorate 100 years of submarine and surface service by the Royal Australian Navy.

Located adjacent to the museum’s ex-Navy destroyer HMAS Vampire, submarine HMAS Onslow and patrol boat HMAS Advance, the pavilion, according to the Minister for the Arts, Senator George Brandis QC, “will provide a dynamic, immersive entry experience for visitors on the history of the RAN and its people”.

Senator Brandis said the Australian National Maritime Museum’s new Warships RAN Pavilion would be the only major and permanent centenary project to commemorate the Royal Australian Navy’s involvement in the First World War.

“More than half a million people, including [more than] 50,000 school children, will visit the new pavilion each

year and learn about the role of the Royal Australian Navy during and [after] the First World War,” Senator Brandis said.

Through dynamic interactive displays and immersive media, visitors will learn more about the role and loss of Australia’s first submarine, AE1, in the battle for German New Guinea; the story of AE2 at Gallipoli and its incredible voyage through the Dardanelles; and the story of Australia’s first great naval battle — HMAS Sydney v SMS Emden.

Building work is expected to begin in July this year and the new pavilion is scheduled to open in September 2015 to coincide with the anniversary of the loss of AE1. A memorial to AE1 will also form part of the entry to the pavilion.

New board for ANZAC Centenary Fund

Former ACT Senator Gary Humphries will chair the new board of the Anzac Centenary Public Fund and former Minister for Veterans’ Affairs **Con Sciacca AO** is deputy chairman.

Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, AC AFC (Retd), Finance Secretary David Tune and Veterans’ Affairs Secretary Simon Lewis will also be members.

Air Chief Marshal Houston and the Anzac Centenary Advisory Board have been advising government about the Centenary of Anzac program.

The Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC, Senator Michael Ronaldson, thanked **Lindsay Fox AC** for his work raising funds for the Public Fund.



The Order of Australia Association Tasmanian Branch

Patron: His Excellency, The Honourable Peter Underwood AC, Governor of Tasmania

Chairman greets members — everywhere

As this is the first opportunity for the rest of Australia to know what is happening in our Island State, I thought it might be good to give a thumbnail sketch of our activities and our wonderful state.

The Tasmanian Branch consists of three regions: **Southern Region** (Hobart, the South Eastern area and most of the East Coast); **Northern Region** (Launceston, Flinders Island and the North Eastern area); and **North West Region** (Devonport, Burnie, Wynyard, the West Coast and King Island).

As in other states, each region arranges its own meetings and functions. The State committee arranges such functions as post-investiture dinners for awardees, who are guests of the Association. They are formally presented and their achievements announced [see diary date below].

Tasmania's way of choosing the branch chairman differs from that of mainland branches to ensure that all areas have equal representation as our population is evenly spread between the regions.

At the time of his election, the branch chairman is the current chairman of one of the regions. The three-year branch chairmanship rotates between the three regions. The present branch chairman is the North West Region chairman. At the end of his term, the Northern Region chairman will assume the role, then the Southern Region chairman.

Let me advise you now about our beautiful island, Tasmania, the island that can show the faces of change in the weather up to four times a day — and the permanent residents would have it no other way. Our island is our place of home, peace, tranquility and serenity. It is where we live, love, work and play.

We love to leave for a holiday or take on a new vocation or change our workplace, take an extended long leave with a caravan, home exchange, or travel to other countries. Whether it is a long or short change of place, we just long to return to "just down the track" — Tasmania.

We know of people from other states who sail in, leave Devonport after docking at the port then amble off with the idea of doing a "round trip" to see all of Tasmania and being back in time to be on the return sail the same day! Some have missed the boat; some just made it back in time after driving to Hobart then having to turn back to get back in time for the sailing. (Forgot to check the distance, travel delays, food, comfort stops with that plan!)

There is an extremely wide range of products that can be stored, sold, eaten now or later, manufactured to be utilised here or shipped overseas, including the Antarctic.

We have many acres of poppies, potatoes, vegetables and pyrethrum plus forest plantations. There are dairies, fresh and dried milk and associated products, chocolate, vegetable processing and timber processing just to name a few. There are many more industries that create a wide and diverse range of opportunities to buy or sell.

There is every activity under the sun, energetic or leisurely, to make a visitor welcome.

For those who have no idea who I am, here is a brief introduction: I'm **Max Hutchinson OAM JP**; of 462-464 Mount Street, Romaine Tas. 7320. My wife is: Elizabeth J. (Beth); we have two sons, one daughter, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

For many years my careers has been in management of companies involved in shipping, transport and storage (all that is now called "logistics").

My best wishes to you all.

Max

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Vice Chairman: Mr Noel Viney OAM (03) 6425 2581, Hon. Secretary: Mrs Maureen Rudge OAM JP (03) 6225 3954, Hon. Treasurer: Mr Noel Ruddock AM (03) 6239 9988, Functions Manager: Mrs Bernadette Connor OAM (03) 6223 6001. Committee Members: Mr Graeme Barwick OAM (03) 6327 4224, Mr Ron Blake OAM (03) 6431 5709, Mr Alastair Douglas OAM (03) 6225 2012, Mr Clive Lee AM (03) 6391 9398, Mrs Therese von Samorzewski OAM (03) 6330 3047, Dr John Thorne AM JP (03) 6225 4588.

Diary date and speaker

Friday, May 23 The Post-Investiture Dinner at The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, 6.30pm for 7pm, for recipients announced in the 2014 Australia Day Honours List. The guest speaker will be the Chancellor of the University of Tasmania, **Mr Damian Bugg AM**, who is a former Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, a position he held from August 1999 to October 2007. Before his elevation he was the Tasmanian Director of Public Prosecutions from July 1986 to 1999. In 2005. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to the law. **Invitation enclosed for Tasmanian members.**

New Tasmanian Branch members

The State Committee and members of the Tasmanian Branch sincerely welcome those members who have joined the Branch since the previous edition of the newsletter: **J G Bromfield OAM, Mr P G Morgan AM, Mr L D Blazely OAM, Mr A C Johnston OAM, Mr B G Richards OAM, Mrs M F Oates OAM, and Ms E D Robin OAM.** Membership of the Branch stands at 293.

Vale

The Tasmanian Branch is saddened by the passing of some of our members since the last newsletter. We recall with appreciation, the support these members have given to the Association. Each Tasmania OAA region has a banner for use at memorial services for all members who have been active in the Tasmanian Branch.

'Faith in Action' — SA's Australia Day theme

SA Branch's two Student Citizens of the Year, Shaun Gerschwitz and Minh Tan Pham, gave short addresses at the multifaith celebration on Australia Day. They were asked to speak on what the theme Faith in Action meant to them as young Australians. The following is a synopsis of what they said.

Shaun Gerschwitz, a final-year student at Prince Alfred College, spoke of his experiences in Cambodia and New Guinea and of the expectation of immediate gratification in today's society.

Society has changed. People are losing their faith. It is difficult to believe in something that cannot be seen and touched. There is no immediate outcome from an investment in faith. You don't receive quarterly payouts on your investment and there is no immediate gratification. People are forgetting that faith is long-term, forgetting that climbing a mountain takes many steps, forgetting that happiness is not the goal.

Why does a middle-aged family man, financially secure, ask himself "Why can I never be as happy as my children are when they are playing with bubbles?"

The reason is that he is unhappy because he has no faith, because he wants for nothing and does not need it; but without faith there is no passion for life, no unbounding drive. It is faith that allows an idea to be made into reality. Without faith he cannot have these things; so it seems there is a trade-off between faith and materialism.

When some people think of faith they focus on structures and rituals. However, I think that true faith comes from within and is willingly invested in a belief. Thankfully, many of today's youth do have faith. Our unwavering faith in friendship, our faith in a better world, in our ability to fix an environment and a people that others have destroyed.

In the street where I was staying in Cambodia, there were more Australian young people than Cambodians and they were all there for one reason: to make a difference.

So I think if we all take a little time, to invest a little faith, we will have a very bright future.

Minh Tan Pham, a final-year student at Adelaide High School, spoke of his struggle and success as a young Vietnamese student.

In 2009 I was one of 10 students selected to be part of the Special Language Interest Program at Adelaide High School. It was a program I just couldn't wait to start.

However, the beginning of high school turned out to be the most difficult year of my life. Something happened that I had never thought could happen — I was bullied.

In a matter of days I had lost my friends and my life became intolerable. My school attendance and grades dropped dramatically and, frankly, I felt unsafe and scared. Honestly, I thought it was time to give up and leave — but I didn't. Fast forward to 2013, the last year of high school. I was elected president of the Student Representative Council and deputy head prefect and had the opportunity to work toward the areas of human rights, education and multiculturalism. I received three major external awards for this area of work, not because I was better than any-



The Lieutenant Governor of South Australia, Mr Hieu Van Le AO (suited), with a gathering of some of the participants in the Australia Day multifaith celebration, Adelaide.

Jane Arthur AM, SA Branch, writes: Once again the SA Branch was privileged to bring the annual multifaith celebration to the people of Adelaide and South Australia. The Elder Hall venue is such a great place for this celebration and we thank the University of Adelaide for making it available to us once more.

Given our theme, *Faith in Action*, it seemed most appropriate that we were able to have the Adelaide City Salvos Brass Band welcome everyone as they arrived.

Uncle Lewis O'Brien welcomed us to the Kaurna land on which we gathered, followed by a message from His Excellency the Governor of South Australia, **Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR**, based on our theme.

The seven participating faith communities each presented a symbol of their faith as well as a short contribution in music or verse.

The rousing song *We are Australian*, which followed, had everyone joining in to celebrate that we are Australian. Our own commissioned *Song for Australia* was a fitting finale to the event.

Music for the day was most professionally brought together by Mr Norm Inglis on the wonderful Elder Hall organ and Mr Matt Reiner, with the multifaith musicians. soloists Elizabeth McCall, soprano and Tim Keenahan, trumpet, brought a sense of grandeur to the event.

The *Thanksgiving for Faith* was given by **Mr Hieu Van Le AO**, Lieutenant Governor of South Australia and Chairman of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission.

one else but because I was extremely lucky — I had the privilege of calling Adelaide High School my high school. It provided me with support, opportunity and necessary personal qualities to allow me to strive.

Most importantly I found faith in myself. Faith that whatever or whoever I chose to be could happen as long as I didn't give up. I have left school with many opportunities open to me, including study tours in Japan and France — and with an apology from my friends who had earlier made life so difficult for me.

So my hopes and dreams are to continue to make a difference, a difference in education in South Australia and advancing internationalism and multiculturalism through the world of politics so that I can continue to fight for the voice of the students, teachers and public schools.



THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION

North American Group

Tradition survives the snow

From OAA North America Group Chairman

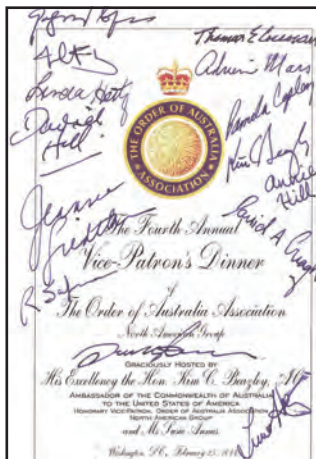
Gregory Copley AM
FRCGS in Washington



Australian Ambassador to the United States Mr Kim Beazley AC (back row centre) with guests at the Fourth Annual Vice-Patron's Dinner for The Order of Australia Association North American Group, at his Washington residence in February.

There were doubts that it was even going to happen. Snow began falling heavily over Washington DC on February 25, 2014, the morning of the scheduled Fourth Annual Vice-Patron's Dinner for The Order of Australia Association North American Group, hosted by its Vice-Patron, **Ambassador Kim Beazley AC**.

It had been four years earlier to the day that Ambassador Beazley had presented his credentials to US President Barack Obama and the Ambassador remembered it: he had been in a wheelchair, having slipped in the snow and ice of a similar blizzard a few days earlier on his arrival from an Australian summer. The Ambassador's assistant, Wendy Hammond, emailed OAA **North American Group Chairman Gregory Copley AM**, over breakfast: "The dinner will be on, rain, hail, or shine."



Copley emailed back: "Please do not let the Ambassador take the dog out for a walk."

However, Mr Beazley was intact by evening, and the dinner went ahead for an intimate group of distinguished Australians and US holders of honorary ranks in the Order.

Mr Beazley declared that the event was now a firmly entrenched tradition and an important rallying point for Australians out in the world representing and promoting Australia.

Mr Beazley has had a long association with the Order, from his time in government when he served as Vice-President of the Executive Council, a post which is represented in deliberations on nominees for the Order.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr Beazley gave a history of the Order and its contributions to recognising the efforts of Australians.

Still, the elegant dinner — this year for 14 in the Ambassador's residence — was relaxed and good-natured, marred only by the absence of the Ambassador's wife, Ms Susie Annus, whose flight back to Washington had been delayed. "Every guest was special at the event," said Chairman Copley.

"It was a great pleasure to see a number of US citizens with honorary awards in the Order attending, reflecting their continued commitment to US-Australian relations."

These included **John Mars AO (Hon.)**, **Jeanne Liedtka OAM (Hon.)** and **Thomas Corcoran OAM (Hon.)**.

"We had [also] such great Australians as Dr Paul Scully-Power AM, Australia's first man in space; media leaders such as **Leon Hertz AO** and **David Hill AM** and the new Australian Military Attaché to the US, **Brig. David Creagh, AM CSC**," Mr Copley added.

All the attendees signed the program which, with the formal menu for the event, have become keepsake items from this now North American tradition for the Association. It culminated, as is also now traditional, with toasts to the Sovereign of Australia — and of the Order — and the Association.

For information about the North America Group email **Gregory Copley AM** grcopley@aol.com

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Level 12, 135 King Street, Sydney

Melbourne conference earns many 'thank you' messages



Photos: Janusz Molinski Photography



The Governor chats with members of the choir and musicians who entertained guests at the conference reception.

This year's national conference was attended by 369 members and their guests, travelling from every state and territory. The many messages of "thank you" since received from them have been deeply appreciated.

Friendly, hospitable and affordable were three key words constantly in the minds of the organising committee, as a program was formulated of seven days to include tours, activities and sessions of interest and challenging ideas.

Two initiatives, the "Ambassadors" and the "House of Friendship" were warmly embraced by all in attendance, as were the activities specifically designed for the partners of the members. The shopping tours were a great hit — perhaps to the dismay of participants' partners!

The substantial feedback from attendees highlighted the University of Melbourne lectures, the National Oration, conference dinner, both receptions, shrine service, MCG lunch, home-hosting, the Sky Deck, some of the group

RIGHT: National Chairman Peter McDermott AM CSC (right) presents a Medal of Appreciation to Victorian Governor, His Excellency Alex Chernov AC QC.

LEFT: Hardly wallflowers, rather more conversationalists, these members attending the National Conference found much to discuss.



Tasmanian trio (from left) Mrs Deidre Flint OAM, Mrs Bev Harris OAM and Mrs Bernadette Connor OAM.

dinners and the great range of new OAA merchandise.

The presentation by the OAA Foundation and the entertainment at the conference dinner received unanimous praise from all in attendance.

The involvement of Victoria's regional groups added a wonderful dimension of hospitality to each of the four tours to the four different regions.

Why was the conference so successful? Undoubtedly there were many factors — the great attitude of the attendees, the "Ambassadors", the warm welcome to all entering the "House of Friendship" but, undoubtedly, the financial and in-kind support of Victoria Branch OAA benefactors and the initiative, unity, efficiency and talent of the conference team was crucial to the success.

How startled was one attendee to find it was a retired Chief Commissioner of Police whom she was constantly addressing as "driver".

Review on expanding OAA Membership: your opinion wanted

The OAA Board has agreed to conduct a review of those who may be able to join the Order of Australia Association.

At present only those with awards in the Order of Australia are able to join the OAA. The review will look at extending OAA membership eligibility to include others who had been recognised in the Australian Honours System but not in the Order of Australia, reflecting changes made to the honours system since our association was formed. In particular this would relate to the Australian Bravery Awards, the Public Service Medal and similar other new honours recognising service in Emergency Services, as well as an increased number of new military honours and awards.

There are now many grants of awards and honours in other systems in the Australian Honours System, many equal to those in the Order of Australia in terms of published Order of Precedence.

Although holders of other Australian honours can join as affiliate members at branch level they are precluded from being full members. Extending our membership base by changing eligibility would also allow us to grow our membership.

To allow the board to make a considered decision to develop this concept, it has requested two eminent Australians, Past OAA National President and Chairman **Dr Neil Conn AO** and the Patron of the ACT Branch, **General Peter Gration AC OBE** to examine the proposal and possible impacts on the OAA and to make recommendations for the board to consider.

Any proposal flowing from the review and the board's decision would be presented to members, probably at the 2015 AGM. The review team is now seeking submissions from OAA members. More information and the terms of reference can be downloaded from the OAA website or from the National Office by calling 02 6273 0322.



ORDER NEWS



Western Australian Branch

Police cooperation continues



The WA Branch Police Patron scheme was initiated in 2000. Since then every police recruit squad passing through the West Australian Police Academy has had a member of our Association as Squad Patron.

The purpose of the patron scheme is to provide police recruits in training at the academy with access to a prominent member of the community who can reinforce community expectations of police officers by providing personal observations and guidance.

Patrons decide how often they visit their squads but a visit at least once a month works well. Patrons address the

recruits on induction day and then visit when an aspect of the training is of interest. It is essential that they attend the last two days for each squad at the academy — the awards day and the graduation parade (pictured above)..

As well as being of considerable assistance to the WA Police Service, being a patron to a recruit squad can be a very rewarding personal experience.

We now seek interest from WA Branch members in becoming patrons. If you feel that you can contribute to this most important program, please contact Peter Winstanley at peterwinstanley@bigpond.com

Promoting the Order

WA Branch Chairman's report
by Major General Barry Nunn AO RFD ED

Our year has started well, the WA Branch committee arranging events throughout the year. We hope these activities will provide the opportunity for you to maintain contact with fellow members as well as welcome new recipients to the Order and to the Association.

The recognition of 41 new WA recipients in the 2014 Australia Day Honours contributed to a very well-attended and successful reception in March, hosted by the City of South Perth.

The committee intends to continue this program of holding receptions in cooperation with local government as a means of enhancing awareness of the Order in the community.

Talking to community groups in WA on the significance of the Order and the process of nomination continues and we trust will lead to more West Australians gaining the recognition they deserve for work beyond the norm. If you are able to help by identifying community groups or participating in the program, we need to hear from you.



It was pleasing to see an enthusiastic group of WA members enjoy the 2014 National Conference in Melbourne. Its success bodes well for the 2015 National Conference, to be held in Perth from March 20 to 22.

I encourage you to participate in our 2014 events and look forward to meeting you at them. **[See lift-outs]**

A big turn-out for awardees

The number of WA Branch members and their guests at the new awardees' reception mentioned in the Branch Chairman's report (left and above) was greater than for some years. The reception provided an excellent opportunity to meet the new awardees and to renew acquaintances. Her Worship Mayor Sue Doherty congratulated the new awardees and spoke of the importance of recognising effort and maintaining a connection with the community.

WA diary dates

June 8: Evensong, St George's Cathedral, Perth.
July 24: Queen's Birthday Honours Reception.
September 17: Annual Dinner, Royal Perth Golf Club.
November 20: AGM and Christmas lunch, RAAFA Bull Creek
March 20–22 2015: OAA National Conference, Perth.

Western Australian Branch



Volunteers wanted for 2015 Perth conference

An exciting program of events is being developed for the National Conference to be held in Perth from March 20–22, 2015. Both formal and informal events have been arranged and are detailed in the conference registration material enclosed with this edition of *The Order*.

Active promotion of Perth 2015 began with an information kiosk (pictured below) maintained throughout the 2014 National Conference in Melbourne. Many of the 20 WA conference delegates volunteered to work at the kiosk and were kept extremely busy answering questions about the Perth conference, Perth itself and WA in general.

Promotion of WA at the conference was enhanced by the availability of a substantial amount of material sourced from Tourism WA and the Perth Convention Bureau.

The enthusiasm expressed by so many delegates for an extended visit to WA led to the 2015 conference committee's engaging a tour operator, Casey Australia Tours, to provide day tours before the conference and a three-night tour to the south-west after the event.

The Perth 2015 Conference Committee seeks volunteers



in the planning of the conference or in conducting it. Help is required in contacting enterprises that may be able to provide sponsorship or other support. Volunteers are needed to assist with registering and welcoming the many visitors expected, as well as leading informal and sometimes impromptu visits around Perth.

A "home dining" experience was a great success in Melbourne and the committee would

like to hear from members willing to participating in this activity next year. Ideas for short excursions for visitors in and around Perth are also welcome.

The Perth 2015 Conference Committee may be contacted at perth2015@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Big or small?

The dilemma of choosing the correct medal to wear on each occasion when they are required continues to daunt some members. The normal protocol is:

- Neck decorations are worn on all occasions
- Large medals are worn to daytime functions
- Small medals are worn to evening functions (usually from 6pm)

WA Branch invitations will always indicate which medal option is appropriate



Anzac Memorial, Mt Clarence, Albany

Centenary of ANZAC sailing

On November 1, 1914, the first Australian contingent left Albany for the long voyage that ended on the shores of Gallipoli and later the Western Front of World War I. For many the magnificent Princess Royal Harbour and King George Sound were their last views of home.

Work is under way in Albany to recognise the centenary, including an interpretive centre overlooking the harbour.

OAAWA Great Southern Regional Group is planning its annual commemorative service and Christmas lunch in Albany in November. This is a great opportunity for WA members to plan a visit to Albany, join the Great Southern members' get-together and participate in remembering a significant event in Australian history.

WA Branch office holders

Patron: His Excellency Mr Malcolm McCusker AC CVO QC, Governor of Western Australia

Chairman: MAJGEN Barry Nunn AO RFD ED

Hon Secretary: Mrs Susan Glasfurd OAM

Hon Treasurer: Prof Stanley Nowak OAM

Committee: Prof Odwyn Jones AO; Dr John Owen AM; Mr Ian Williams AO; LTCOL Peter Winstanley OAM RFD

Great Southern Region (Albany) Mrs June Hodgson OAM

South West Region (Bunbury) Mrs Glenys McDonald OAM

CONTACT: WA Branch Order of Australia Association, PO Box 167, NEDLANDS WA 6909

Tel: 9225 5454 Fax: 9325 9977

Email: WABranch@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Web: www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/branches/wa

doh ray me far so la te doh ... doh te la so far me ray doh

Changing the world, one voice at a time...



For five years Tania de Jong AM (above) has been encouraging people to sing their troubles and phobias away — and succeeding.

Singing is the language of the heart. For centuries, song has played a key role in community, culture and storytelling worldwide.

Yet few people dare to sing freely these days ... except in the shower; but what if we could change the world, through song?

Creativity Australia's *With One Voice* choir program, which turns five this year, was named recently one of Australia's top social innovations.

With programs in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, founder and chairwoman Tania de Jong AM has her heart set now on a nationwide singing movement.

In fact, given that inquiries are coming from as far away as Arizona, a more accurate description is perhaps worldwide!

"The *With One Voice* program builds bridges of understanding across cultural, generational, religious and socioeconomic boundaries, in pursuit of harmony," Tania says.

"Neuroscience proves singing connects the neural pathways in the brain differently and releases endorphins, making people healthier, happier, smarter and more creative.

"From this position people are more capable of asking for, receiving and giving help via our innovative Wish List program.

"The choirs welcome people from 40 nationalities, aged 9 to 90.

"Asylum-seekers, job-seekers, CEOs, people with disabilities, migrants, people with mental illness, seniors, people experiencing disadvantage ... everyone is welcome!



Happy members of the With One Voice choir at a Creative Innovation gala dinner.

"This diversity promotes authentic community connections and generates opportunities for mentoring and support between people who might otherwise never have met.

"The *With One Voice* choirs are inspiring, joyful places for people to find their voices, improve wellbeing, find friends and mentors, learn English, improve self-esteem, build skills and employability and find work.

"We believe that empowered individuals and supportive communities are better placed to solve society's biggest challenges.

"The *With One Voice* program changes lives!"

With One Voice choirs meet weekly, led by a professional conductor. Then there is a supper, an important opportunity for participants to share and network.

One of the unique parts of the *With One Voice* program is the Wish List, through which participants grant one another's wishes, big and small.

Examples include work experience, help with CV-writing, English tuition and free music lessons.

Tania, a leading Australian soprano and award-winning social entrepreneur, was once told she couldn't sing.

She defied the odds and was inspired by the potential of singing to help people unleash creative potential to create long-term, sustainable change for communities Australia-wide.

Her recent TED talk, "How singing together changes the brain," is getting thousands of views on YouTube and sparking interest from around the globe. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_HOBr8H9EM]

Continued next page

The *With One Voice* program has some impressive statistics, which include:

- 14 choirs (and increasing quickly)
- 40+ nationalities embracing diverse cultures and faiths
- 9-year-olds to 90-year-olds participating
- 8 professional conductors
- 50-plus volunteers
- thousands of volunteer hours
- hundreds of inspiring performances

The program has helped hundreds of people with:

- employment opportunities
- skills and mentoring opportunities
- community services, and
- improved physical and mental health

Recent surveys show that:

- 97% of people say choir is a way to de-stress
- 90% experience improved wellbeing on a weekly basis
- 86% say it is a great way to bond with colleagues, friends & family
- 85% say they have made new friends at choir
- 80% felt anxiety reduced or depression relieved
- 80% experienced increased self-esteem
- 70% increased their understanding & appreciation of diversity
- 70% gained new skills for work and life

doh ray me far so la te doh ... doh te la so far me ray doh



ABOVE: At a Creative Innovation gala dinner Beth tells Peter and the rest of the choir and guests how she began coming to choir alone, after asking her carers if she could do it alone.

RIGHT: Everyone gets into the spirit of things at the With One Big Voice concert in Melbourne, last September.



ABOVE: Tania de Jong in concert with the With One Voice choir at a concert rehearsal in Melbourne in July last year.

Puzzling but working, says Hugh Morgan AC

Continued from previous page

Tania goes on, “We are fortunate to live in one of the world’s most liveable countries but challenges like loneliness and isolation, mental illness, lack of cross-cultural integration, unemployment and disadvantage can result in poor social and economic outcomes.

“With 750,000 charities in Australia and over a million programs working to support people experiencing disadvantage, government funding is stretched very thin.

“The *With One Voice* program is powered by cross-sector collaboration, offers real cost savings for governments, particularly in the challenging areas of mental health and employment.

“The programs build bridges of understanding across all areas of society, and complement the specific intervention programs of other charities and organisations.

“Furthermore, we are working to create a genuine sense of meaning and purpose for participants, their families and the broader community.

“Together, we can help reduce mental illness, racial intolerance, drugs, crime and unemployment ... so join us in song!”

Creativity Australia patron **Hugh Morgan AC**, who is also chairman of the Order of Australia Association Foundation, said that, as the program grows, its transformational outcomes become more apparent, because they build on each other and amplify.

“It may seem puzzling at first to see an organisation using choral singing to achieve social and economic

outcomes,” Hugh said, “but it is being proved over and over again, both in academic research and, more importantly, right before our very eyes.

“We are seeing more stories of people getting back on their feet, finding jobs, improving self-confidence, appreciating their neighbour’s background and feeling generally happier.

“I look forward to many more successful years of Creativity Australia’s programs and hope that Australians become more supportive of and receptive to such innovative and transformational programs.”

For more information, research, videos and more visit www.creativityaustralia.org.au

Feel like bursting into song or just helping?

- join a choir or sponsor one or more people in need;
- make a tax-deductible donation or offer in-kind support, like a venue or resources;
- book a choir to perform at a community, corporate, multicultural or interfaith event;
- sponsor work colleagues as part of a workplace wellbeing program;
- make a bequest;
- set up a new choir, short-term choir or singing workshop in your community or organisation.

OAA Foundation

An eye on resources — and help for refugee kids

RIGHT: Thomas Crowhurst receives his OAA Foundation Scholarship certificate from **His Excellency the Hon. Alex Chernov AC QC**, Governor of Victoria, at a ceremony at the OAA National Conference in Melbourne in February.



Thomas Crowhurst, from Floreat, Western Australia, is studying Commerce (Economics, Finance)/Engineering (Mechanical) at the University of Melbourne.

He attended Shenton College, Perth, where, with an ATAR score of 99.90, he achieved outstanding recognition by receiving an Australian Student Prize, a General Exhibition and a Certificate of Excellence. He was dux of school in 2010, a national finalist in the University of New South Wales, Economics and Business Studies Competition and highest achieving student for the subjects economics, chemistry and physics.

At school Thomas was elected prefect on three occasions and in Year 12 organised the school ball, charity day and yearbook.

At university he was named on the Dean's Honours List in 2011 and 2012, worked in a team providing analytical and strategic advice to social enterprises in Melbourne, helped refugee secondary students with their studies and, at his residential College — Trinity — acted as Student Co-ordinator and convened an alumni program.

Growing up in Bahrain and Western Australia has given Thomas a unique insight into the potential of resources projects to enrich communities.

At school he won a trip to Karratha, a prize in the West Australian Petroleum Club's Schools Information Competition.

This enabled him to observe the scale and transformational capability of resource projects, alongside the severe social and economic problems in the region.

Thomas twice won the West Australian Debating League Competition while still at school and was involved in the Schools' Mock Legal Trials Competition.

His sporting interests are varied. In Bahrain he represented the country in rugby and cricket at junior level. In Western Australia he played representative cricket at junior and men's level.

He is a member of Trinity College first cricket and football teams. He has been a voluntary team manager with Sporting Carlton Soccer Club — helping children from refugee backgrounds to play competitive soccer. He founded and presided over the Trinity College Racquets Society (tennis and squash) from 2011. His other sports

include golf and running.

Thomas has an outstanding academic record, and proven leadership capabilities in the community and on the sporting fields. He possesses excellent public speaking and debating skills and a willingness to volunteer. He is eager to link his economics and finance studies with a Master of Engineering and has declared his career goal "to become a leader in the global resources industry".

He seeks the technical knowledge and commercial understanding to develop innovative and sustainable projects which support local communities and meet growing energy needs of an environmentally conscious world.

Mr Hugh Morgan AC has generously donated the funding for Thomas's scholarship



Treat yourself and help the OAA Foundation

Apply for your official Order of Australia Association plaque. See the other side of the address sheet of *The Order* for details and order form. Sales of plaques help fund-raising by The Order of Australia Association Foundation.



OAA Foundation

From a variety of outback jobs to university



RIGHT: Emma Goode receives her OAA Foundation Scholarship certificate (pictured at left) from the Governor of Victoria, His Excellency the Hon. Alex Chernov AC QC.



Emma Goode, from Hillier, South Australia, is studying for the Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences degree at The University of Adelaide, Roseworthy College.

She attended Kapunda High School, where she excelled in Agricultural Studies, Business Education and Vocational Studies.

While still at school she began her lifetime involvement with animals — horses in particular.

She conducted a business that involved breaking and training horses, re-educating and supplying horses for clients.

She received many SA and interstate awards for quarter-horse showing. On completing Year 12 she accepted a position on a Northern Territory cattle station, which in turn led to further positions on the land for six years, in a veterinary clinic, research station, cattle and sheep feedlots and a dairy.

With many certificate courses in equine nutrition, pasture management, artificial insemination, first aid and responsible service of alcohol completed, Emma realised her dream of undertaking tertiary studies.

Her excellent results reflect her understanding of the workforce, her ability to manage her time well and a passion for the industry.

The awarding of this scholarship will alleviate the necessity to work three part-time jobs to pay for her course.

With a heavy workload, Emma has still found time to volunteer for a “Big Sister” program, supporting children in remote areas.

She has always been involved with gymkhanas, sports events and carnivals.

Church and fellowship activities are important components in her community involvement. She accepts leadership roles with ease and is popular.

Being the successful candidate for a Trevor Dillon Agronomic Roseworthy Study Scholarship last year allowed Emma time to volunteer in the research laboratory at Roseworthy College. This has inspired her to undertake an honours program.

Emma has the distinction of having worked in many of

the remote areas of Australia.

She understands the different circumstances prevailing in different states.

She has had to be resilient and able to work independently, while being required to work as part of a team when the occasion arises.

Most of the practical work she undertakes involves risky activities, requires a clear understanding of routines to be followed, involves an understanding of Australian and world-wide regulations and must comply with audit requirements.

She is conscientious in her routine updating of skills and her constant willingness to help inform others as to the procedures required. She says,

“The more I learn and become involved within the agricultural industry the more excited I am about the future.”

Emma is delighted that The Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship will also introduce her to a mentor.

The Riddiford Trust has generously donated the funding for Emma’s Scholarship.

Clarification

In the last edition of *The Order*, in an article about Amelia Parker, it should have stated: “Amelia is a most competent pianist and former saxophone player. Her sporting love of hockey is still an important part of her yearly routine. It provides the “joie de vivre” for this popular, active, accomplished person.”

Time to replace voter apathy with education

In addition to his comments reported on Page 3, Mr Malcolm Hazell CVO AM, a former Secretary of the Order of Australia and former Official Secretary to two Governors-General, reminisced on people's reaction to awards in the Order of Australia. In addressing an Australia Day Breakfast hosted by the ACT Branch of OAA, he commented on the need for less apathy toward Australia's democracy.



Mrs Rhondda Hazell, Mr Malcolm Hazell and Mrs Ann Gration at the ACT Branch's Australia Day Breakfast.

Commenting on the pledge taken by all new citizens, Mr Hazell said, "I wonder how many of us born as Australian citizens even know this pledge, and have thought about what it means. How many of us make the effort to inform ourselves about our democratic systems and the things they embrace? How many of us know about our rights and liberties not only for ourselves but also for our neighbours and the sense of obligation each and every one of us has in this regard?"

"Extraordinarily, more than one million eligible people were not enrolled to vote at last year's election, with equally staggeringly large numbers casting informal and donkey votes. We have this high level of disengagement, despite the right of universal suffrage having been hotly contested and hard won."

He called for a greater emphasis on community education. "I expect the reality for many people is that most of their knowledge about democracy comes from a fairly superficial study of history and civics at school. We are at a point where the risk of losing the benefits of being one of the world's most successful democracies is increasing, due to the unedifying reason of apathy and ignorance about our democratic platforms."

Commenting on the constitutional role of a Governor-General, Mr Hazell said it was probably the least understood by the public but in many ways the most significant, especially as the powers of the Governor-General originate from the words of the Australian Constitution.

"The Governor-General is not a delegate of the Queen but a representative. His or her powers are specifically prescribed in sections 2 and 61 of our Constitution. And these are traditionally the powers of a head of state."

A Governor-General's powers also include the power to appoint or dismiss a Prime Minister and call an election.

"The power to appoint and dismiss a Prime Minister, clearly used sparingly, can become especially important in the case of a hung Parliament — and all here will recall that ... this was a recent occurrence.

"We are in a uniquely fortunate position of having inherited a strong and stable system of government, a parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarch, which people of foresight and immense national pride have adapted and improved to reflect the Australian character and our national and international requirements as an

independent power. If in the future, we are to make significant changes to our democratic system of governance, we should do so from a base of informed debate about our current system.

"One of the ideas that seems to gain currency is that if a person dislikes the current system or dislikes an individual office-holder, then apparently it is reasonable to be openly destructive of our present arrangements.

"I find this idea quite dangerous.

"In my view, to fail in full support of our current systems of governance because of mere personality preferences diminishes our individual and national integrity and does a disservice to our proud history. Let's debate and talk about the issues rather than personalities."

Mr Hazell commented also on the idea of a republic, saying, "For my part, I also find it unhelpful to be told, especially on Australia Day, that somehow it is 'more Australian' to support a change in our governance arrangements to a republic.

"Our present system of governance as a parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarch is uniquely Australian and has been so for many decades. It underpins our national stability because our Constitution exhibits a carefully calibrated set of checks and balances involving key roles for our Governor-General and our elected representatives"

Full text at: [http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/downloads/MalcolmHazellOAAustraliaDay-Speech2014.pdf](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/downloads/MalcolmHazellOAAAustraliaDay-Speech2014.pdf)



Ambitious agenda

*Chairman's Report by
Peter McDermott AM CSC*

Your association held another enjoyable annual conference in February in Melbourne, organised most successfully by the Victorian Branch under the leadership of Victorian Branch Chairman **Mr David Mann OAM** and a conference committee headed by **Mr Duncan Stalker OAM**.

Costs to members were kept low because all administration was conducted by volunteers and significant levels of corporate and private sponsorship.

I thank all those who made the conference so memorable.

The focus was the AGM and I was pleased to report to members that careful financial management by directors, national office and branch committees at the branch and national levels had resulted in a strong, positive outcome for the last financial year.

We had some change of directors when long-standing and hard-working National Secretary **Roger Dace AM QGM** passed the baton to **Colleen Wardell OAM**, NSW Branch; and **Jane Arthur AM**, SA Branch, accepted the changing role of National Membership Director from **Colleen Thurgar AM**.

I thank Roger and Colleen most sincerely for their hard work, leadership and commitment to national affairs over the last few challenging years.

The board farewelled **Alistair Douglas OAM** (Tasmania), **Val Asche AM** (Northern Territory) and **Derek Robson AM** (ACT), thanking them for their national and branch leadership and welcoming in their place **Trish Keller OAM** (ACT), **Tom Lewis AM** (Northern Territory) and **Max Hutchinson OAM** (Tasmania).

The Board met just before the annual conference and set itself an ambitious agenda for the next year or so, focusing on increasing membership, building awareness of the Order and improving communications in the organisation.

More issues of *The Order*: As I mentioned in my last column, we have set up a communications team looking at improving all forms of communications with members: *The Order*, the web site, branch and regional group newsletters, as well as making the most of our revised computer system, which gives members, branches and regional groups electronic access to their records.

In July we will complete the move to a trial of combining national and branch newsletters, producing a restyled quarterly national magazine, with pages dedicated to branch information (as was done for WA in the summer 2013-2014 edition of *The Order* and continued in this issue with the addition of the Northern Territory, Tasmanian and NSW newsletters). This trial will double the publishing rate of *The Order* as well as allowing branches to reach their own members with notice of branch and regional group events..

Expanding our Membership: The Board has agreed that we will consider extending our membership to allow others who have been honoured in the Australian Honours system — but not in the Order of Australia — eligibility to join our association.

We have asked two eminent Australians to conduct a review of membership eligibility and I encourage all with a view on this possible expansion to provide their comments.

Further details — page 9

OAA Ambassadors: We will start a trial program of appointing OAA Ambassadors at national and branch level.

Ambassadors will help us promote and publicise who we are and what we do, particularly in those parts of the Australian community that are under-represented in awards in the Honours system.

Our new national secretary takes the reins

Colleen Wardell OAM (pictured) was elected National Secretary at the National OAA 2014 Conference in Melbourne in February. She was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in June 1998 for service to the community through the Asthma Foundation of NSW.

Colleen has had 11 years' experience with the OAA NSW Branch Committee, including a second term as Honorary Secretary.

Her career has included secretarial and executive positions with international and national corporations in Australia and overseas.

Diplomatic experience has been with the Australian Embassy in Washington DC (with the Australian Military Mission), the World Bank, also in Washington and the Office of the Australian High Commissioner, London.

She graduated from Macquarie University (NSW) with an Arts Degree, majoring in history.

Her voluntary work with not-for-profit organisations has been in Australia, Argentina and the USA.

Colleen co-authored two published medical papers: *Australian Medical Journal* December 2000 and *Contemporary Pediatrics* (US) October 2006, both relating to asthma, children and swimming.

Her many interests include history, swimming, gardening and reading.



Observations of a battlefield saviour

Diaries of a Stretcher-Bearer 1916–1918 by
L/Cpl Edward Munro MM
Edited by Donald Munro AM
Published by Boolarong Press, Brisbane
RRP \$29.95
Reviewed by **Ian Mathews AM**

Diaries have always been popular, perhaps because the reader is closer to the intimate thoughts of the writer. Of course, some diarists plan to have their lives selectively published — politicians for instance — but others had or have no such intention except to keep a diary for personal reference — Samuel Pepys springs to mind, having written his diary in code.

Donald Munro AM has edited the revealing and gripping diaries of his father, Lance Corporal Edward Munro MM, a stretcher-bearer with the 5th Field Ambulance of the AIF, written in the last two years of World War I. These diaries were not intended by the writer for general publication although, at some stage, Edward transcribed what he calls some of his “rottener” writing and expanded on his notes in the 1930s.

As his editor-son recalls, “This book began as a record for family purposes of the diaries together with some other family reminiscences...” The intention was to have the edited manuscript printed for family distribution.

Fortunately, the manager of Boolarong Press, Brisbane, wanted to publish it for a much wider readership. The result is a fascinating glimpse into the daily life of one of that incredible breed — unarmed stretcher-bearers who venture into the most dangerous areas to save the lives of the wounded. In editing the diaries, Donald Munro helps the reader with historical and geographical references as well as letters from other serving members of the family.

As perhaps we have come to expect, there is both humour and critical assessment of authority from the pen of this 19-year-old soldier. Stationed in Egypt in May 1916, he notes the troops’ daily diet was, “Breakfast — stew, bread and marmalade; Dinner — Bacon fat, bread and marmalade; Tea — bread and marmalade” and adds that the menu “needs no comment”.

A month later, he was captivated by France’s colourful and verdant summer countryside, of which he writes, “After the desolate desert of Egypt it was pardonable for one to assume that we were in Fairyland.” It was not to last. By December 6, 1916 Edward wrote, “The outlook at present is not very bright with the Romanians being driven back, also the Russians. The Allies are not advancing much on the Western Front. There are industrial troubles in Australia and England. Lloyd George has resigned and I’ve got a sore toe with an ingrown toenail. The cold weather is causing more casualties to the Australians than Fritz is. The number of men unfit for duty owing to the cold and wet is enormous.”

In what he describes in a diary entry dated January 15 or 16, 1918, as “My most miserable night of the war” Edward records spending a night in a tiny dugout that constantly filled with water despite making a dam of blankets wrapped in groundsheets. He notes that officers had bunks off the ground “whereas we could barely sit up”. With



Edward Charles
Munro MM, aged 20

wry humour he records that “...one of our party remarked we’re all right so long as Fritz doesn’t send a submarine along and torpedo our dam.”

There is little humour, however, in his terse but telling reports of action. He writes on May 3, 1917, “When Fritz was shelling us we were longing for our guns to retaliate but when they did we weren’t so happy for chunks of the iron were flying around. A nose cap or piece of shell struck my tin hat and knocked me down...”

He goes on, “The Germans seemed to have a special spite against the stretcher-bearers because they shelled the track from one end to the other and played a machine gun on it. It wasn’t long before one of our bearers, Private Getting, was hit in the back by a machine gun bullet.”

Later the same day, another stretcher-bearer is killed and several wounded.

He notes in his matter-of-fact way, that one of the bearers, Ben Curtis, had a leg amputated. “Ben Curtis was six feet tall and hailed from Armidale in NSW, where, I believe, his father was mayor. He had been carrying with Norman Hill, also of C Section of the 5th Field Ambulance, who was also badly wounded in the chest and was evacuated.” Edward then adds a note, “Years later I married his sister, although at that time I didn’t know he had a sister. I heard that 122 bearers had been wounded and 22 killed, which is very heavy.”

On June 2, 1917, Lance Corporal Edward Munro received his Military Medal from General Birdwood except “... When our turn came we were handed pieces of MM ribbon to wear as the medals weren’t ready for us.”

Among Edward’s letters is a poignant account to his mother of learning of his brother Donald’s death as a pilot in England.

This book reveals the day-to-day life of a young, articulate man in constant danger. It is stark, almost brutal, in its detail but, at the same time, Edward Munro cushions the reader with an innate humour.

It is a tribute to the several members of the Munro family that they have assembled so many elements of Edward’s service life and of his brothers in such an accessible form. Edward died in 1995 aged 98. Like so many dedicated diarists he has left us a most valuable legacy.

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Terrible reality in facts and fiction

Flames on the Water, Tears in the Sea

by **Con Aroney AM**

Published by CopyRight Publishing, Brisbane

RRP \$27.50

It is a curious fact that a novel can often convey atmosphere, emotion and veracity about historic events better than an academic record or forensic investigation.

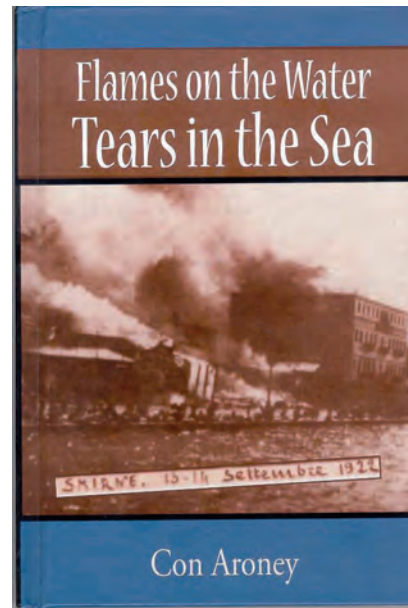
When **Thomas Keneally AO** wrote *Schindler's Ark* as a prize-winning work of fiction, it was based on copious testimony.

He observed, "To use the texture and devices of a novel to tell a true story is a course which has frequently been followed in modern writing. It is the one I have chosen to follow here, both because the craft of the novelist is the only craft to which I can lay claim and because the novel's techniques seem suited for a character of such ambiguity and magnitude as Oskar [Schindler]."

Con Aroney has woven a novel around the almost forgotten facts of the rescue of about 300,000 Greek women, children and aged refugees from Smyrna, now Izmir, Turkey, after an onslaught by Turkish forces in 1922.

Drawing on his family's history, Professor Aroney tells the grim story of yet another of the 20th century's massacres — but one that could have been infinitely worse but for the work of an American YMCA worker, Asa Jennings.

He negotiated with Kemal Ataturk for time to have the Greek refugees taken to the relative safety of Greek islands. He then bargained or blackmailed the Greek government of the day to supply ships to take the homeless thousands from the port of Smyrna. Both Greece



and Turkey regarded Jennings as a humanitarian hero and, incredibly, at one stage he represented both countries.

Con Aroney has written a riveting diary of tragic events from his family's point of view. He explains, "All major events including the battles leading up to the destruction of Smyrna, the great fire, the evacuation and aftermath are closely based on the actual historic events, although the specific military and social actions of some of the characters are in part fictionalised."

The book follows an easy-to-read diary format with many short chapters and includes helpful maps and dates.

It is a sobering commentary on civilised society that in our own lifetime we have become so inured to the litany of horrors of the Holocaust, the slaughter in Rwanda, the ethnic cleansing in the Balkans, the massacre at My Lai that the 1922 Catastrophe at Smyrna has slipped our notice. Con Aroney's novel reminds us never to forget.

[Associate Professor Aroney was made a Member in the Order of Australia for service to medicine in the field of cardiology, to the National Heart Foundation of Australia and to the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand.]

The Search for HMAS Sydney

Several members of the Order of Australia Association and other recipients of honours in the Order of Australia will see their long-time interest in finding the wreck of HMAS Sydney crowned with the publication later this year of *The Search for HMAS Sydney: An Australian Story*.

Originally the quest of the former Finding Sydney Foundation, this history of the successful search for the warship promises to answer many of the questions surrounding the loss of *HMAS Sydney* in 1941 with all 645 hands off the WA coast about 100 nautical miles off Dirk Hartog Island after it engaged the German auxiliary cruiser *Kormoran*, most of whose crew survived.

The first chapter recounts the urgent desire of bereaved families to know where their loved ones died and their long battle to achieve this.

Other chapters discuss the role of oceanography, the political elements, the search for an unknown sailor, a scientific analysis of the ship's destruction; and details of the memorial to the ship and company in Geraldton, WA.

The book will be published by NewSouth Publishing, under the imprint of UNSW Press. For more information access www.newsouthbooks.com.au

Pick a biography

The Australian National University's E-Press in association with the National Centre of Biography has published *Dictionary of World Biographies* by Barry Jones AO.

Before its launching last November by the Chancellor of the ANU, **Gareth Evans AC QC**, **Phillip Adams AO** and Barry Jones held a public conversation on dictionaries of biography. Mr Jones said, "Despite — or because of — my advancing years I was exhilarated by the challenge to rethink and rewrite my positions on great historical figures after many years of deep reading, travel and reflection."

The Dictionary of World Biography was first published in 1996.

The new edition is on sale in hardback and available as an E-book or pdf at <http://epress.anu.edu.au/titles/anu-lives-series-in-biography/dictionary-of-world-biography>

NSW Newsletter



Incorporating NSW Branch Newsletter No 146

Farewell planned for our State Governor and Branch Patron

Following the recent public announcement that the Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Marie Bashir AC CVO will complete her term of office on 26 September 2014, the Branch Committee extended an invitation to her and to Sir Nicholas Shehadie AC OBE to be guests of honour at a farewell Luncheon. This was accepted and the function will be held in the Strangers' Dining Room at Parliament House, Sydney on Wednesday 30 July.

Throughout her 13 years both as Governor and as Patron of our Branch, Her Excellency has been an untiring and generous supporter of our Association and its work and a regular attender with Sir Nicholas at our functions. Her speeches on these occasions have always been both timely and thought-provoking, adding a special dimension and significance to these events.

Apart from being present regularly at Branch functions, Government House has been made available to us to hold annual ceremonies when recipients of our John Lincoln Youth Community Service Awards have received their citations from the Governor personally. Also, representatives of the Branch Committee are invited to attend all investiture ceremonies, which provide an opportunity for new awardees to be introduced to the Order and encouraged to join the Association. This opportunity is

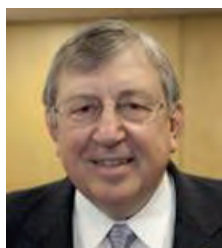
also taken for us to acknowledge and thank the Governor's personal staff for their unfailing courteous assistance and co-operation with us in the organisation of our Vice-regal events.

The registration form for the Luncheon has been distributed with this newsletter. Copies can also be downloaded from the Upcoming Events page in the NSW Branch section of the Association's website, at www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au. Note the timing of the function is 11.30am for 12 noon.



An admired and respected Governor

Meet our new Hon Treasurer



Peter Falk OAM

The committee is pleased to announce the appointment of Peter Falk OAM FCA F Fin as Hon. Treasurer of the Branch in succession to Reg Chirgwin OAM who retired from the position at the 2013 Annual General Meeting.

Peter, who is a client adviser with Bell Potter Securities Limited in Sydney, was awarded the Medal of the Order in the 2007 Australia Day Honours List for service to sport, particularly Rugby Union football, and to the community as a fundraiser for medical and ex-service organisations and he joined the Association shortly afterwards.

He has had a lifelong involvement with sport, which began as an 18-year old with rugby union in 1958. His playing career included 260 games, 69 of which were first grade for Easts Rugby Club and also a tour of Japan in 1967.

Following his playing career, Peter continued his involvement in the sporting field and from 1967-2001 served successively as Treasurer, Director and President of the Eastern Suburbs Rugby Club. He was also closely involved in the administration of Sydney Rugby Union and NSW Rugby Union. Nationally, he was an office-bearer on the Council of the Australian Rugby Football Union from 1972-1992. He managed the 1995 team to the World Cup in South Africa and the 1996 undefeated world tour to Italy and the United Kingdom as well as a number of overseas tours by younger emerging players.

He is the Trustee and Treasurer at St Vincent's Clinic Foundation and a member of the Sydney Legacy Corporate Advisory Panel.

Coming Events

Thu 1 May 2014 – 12.15pm for 12.45pm. Reception for 2014 Australia Day Order of Australia award recipients. At NSW Parliament House, Sydney. Further information: John Archer OAM, tel. (02) 9150 7243 or 0407 919 235.

Sun 18 May – 12 Noon-3.00pm. Blue Mountains/Hawkesbury/Nepean Regional Group Annual Luncheon. At Yarramundi House, University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury Campus (formerly Hawkesbury Agricultural College), Londonderry Road, Richmond NSW. Dress: Jacket and tie with full-size medals and insignia. Cost: \$45.00 per person; a cash bar will operate. Further information and bookings (by 2 May): Lindsay Callaghan OAM (Regional Convenor) – tel. (02) 4739 4128 or mobile 0412 280 975.

Fri 30 May – 11.30am for 12 Noon. Illawarra Region Mid-Year Luncheon. At Dapto Leagues Club, Cnr Station Street and Bong Bong Road, Dapto NSW 2530. Further information: Lynn Wilson OAM JP, tel. (02) 4244 0424 or mobile 0466 989 914.

Sat 14 June – 12.30pm. Central West Regional Group Region Annual Luncheon. At The Beekeepers Inn, 2319 Mitchell Highway, Vittoria NSW 2799 (approx 22km on your left driving from Bathurst to Orange). Contact Regional Convenor Mrs Audrey Hardman OAM, tel. (02) 6367 5034.

Wed 25 June – 10.00am. Hunter Regional Group Morning Tea. At Fingal Haven Retirement Village, 44 Farm Road, Fingal Bay NSW. Contact Regional Group Convenor Mrs June Cameron AM tel. (02) 4954 7005 or Charlie Stevens OAM tel. (02) 4948 7729.

Wed 23 July – 10.00am. Hunter Regional Group Morning Tea. At Cardiff RSL Club, 45 Macquarie Road, Cardiff NSW 2285. Contact Regional Group Convenor Mrs June Cameron AM tel. (02) 4954 7005 or Charlie Stevens OAM tel. (02) 4948 7729.

Wed 30 July – 11.30am for 12.00 Noon. Branch Annual Luncheon. An opportunity to farewell our State Governor and Branch Patron, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Marie Bashir AC CVO, and Sir Nicolas Shehadie AC OBE. Registration form included with this magazine. Further information: John Archer OAM, tel. (02) 9150 7243 or mobile 0407 919 235.

Chairman's Message



Firstly, as Chairman of NSW Branch of The Order of Australia Association, I congratulate the new recipients of an award in The Order of Australia Honours List announced on Australia Day 2014. I look forward to meeting many of you and your guests at the New Recipients Welcome Luncheon to be held at Parliament House on Thursday, 1 May 2014.

The Order of Australia Association held its Annual National Conference in Melbourne in February and I congratulate the Victorian Branch and all of the people involved in this well planned and executed Conference.

As to the National Board Meeting agenda at the Conference, an election for a new National Secretary was held, and I congratulate our NSW Branch Secretary Mrs Colleen Wardell OAM on being elected to the position of National Secretary. Colleen has taken over from Col. Roger Dace AM QGM (Retd.), who has held this position for the past five years. I thank Roger for the help and advice which he has given me in my current role with the NSW Branch; I wish him and his wife Sue all the very best for the future.

At the National Board Meeting prior to Conference, a motion was tabled to have all of the States/Territories Branch Newsletters included as a section of *The Order* magazine (National Magazine), being a trial for twelve months. This trial is an effort to cut back the cost to the Branches for the editing, printing and postage of their individual Newsletters. The motion was passed and *The Order* Magazine will now be printed in this format and mailed out four times a year for this trial period.

We, the Branch Chairmen, were assured that *The Order* magazine will also have each Branch's booking forms for upcoming functions and events inserted in the respective magazine, the same as we (NSW Branch) have had until now, thus saving the extra cost of postage. It was stated that one of the advantages of this is that all members will know what is happening in other Branches, we will learn from one another and perhaps have the opportunity to attend their activities if we are in the area at the time.

As Chairman of NSW Branch, I welcome our new Committee member Mr Peter Falk OAM, to the NSW Branch Committee. Peter has taken up the position of Branch Treasurer and is well aware of the responsibilities involved. I am very pleased to have him as a member of our team.

Australia Day was celebrated in fine style by 120 Members and guests aboard the *Captain Cook III* cruising on Sydney Harbour. During the four-hour cruise everyone enjoyed the colours, sounds and excitement which accompanied the special festivities on the Harbour. These included the traditional annual ferry race, decorated water craft of all types and sizes, the 21-gun salute fired from McMahon's Point and the fly-past by RAAF aircraft. Most impressive was the playing of the Australian National Anthem by the RAN Band from high up on one of their ships anchored in the Harbour, in the presence of the Governor, Professor the Honourable Marie Bashir AC CVO, who had arrived on the ship shortly before by helicopter. Amidst all of this festive excitement our members and guests enjoyed sumptuous food and beverages.

Once again this year, my wife, Carol, and I were invited to attend the Australia Day Reception organised by the Maltese Community Council of NSW on Sunday, 2 February 2014 at the Parramatta Town Hall. I thank Mr Frederick Fenech OAM, the President of the Maltese Community Council of NSW, for this invitation as it is always a great pleasure to attend these functions, to celebrate with their members and guests, everything that this great country, Australia, has to offer, and the contribution that the Maltese community and their families and friends make to our Australian community. Official guests attending on the day included the following people:

- His Excellency Mr Charles Muscat, High Commissioner for Malta
- Mr Ronald Sharpe OAM, Chairperson, The Order of Australia Association — NSW Branch
- Mr Kevin Conolly MP, State member for Riverstone
- Clr Lisa Lake representing Ms Michelle Rowland MP, Shadow Minister for Citizenship and Multiculturalism, Shadow Assistant Minister for Communications and Federal Member for Greenway.

- Clr Greg Cummings representing the Hon Nathan Rees, MP and former Premier of NSW.
- Dr Geoff Lee MP State member for Parramatta, representing the Hon Victor Dominello MP, State Minister for Citizenship and Communities.

My sincere thanks go to Mr Fred Fenech and his committee for all of their work and commitment to these annual celebrations.

My thanks to the Committee Members of the NSW Branch for their help and commitment to the members of the Order of Australia Association.

To all of our members and guests, thank you for your help and support, and I look forward to meeting with you at our various functions and events throughout the cities and towns of NSW.

Ron Sharpe OAM (Branch Chairman)



The Order of Australia Association New South Wales Branch

Patron: Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Marie Bashir AC CVO Governor of New South Wales

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Hon Secretary Mrs Colleen Wardell OAM | (02) 9680 2618

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Mr Garth Doyle OAM | (NSW Regional Groups Co-ordinator)

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Mr Andrew Gullotta OAM | Mob 0418 440 680

Rear-Admiral Tony Hunt AO RAN (Rtd)

(Young Endeavor Co-ordinator) | (02) 9332 4976

Mr Peter King AO | (02) 9489 3899

Mr King Lee OAM | (02) 9265 6499

Mr Jim McAlpine AM | (02) 4869 3103

Mrs Silvana Vidoni OAM | (Merchandising Officer) | (02) 9550 0049

Co-opted member

Mrs Mary Doughty AM (Documents Archivist) (02) 9419 7062

Memorabilia For Sale to Association Members

Item	Price (incl. P&H)
Neckties (traditional style)	\$42.00
Neckties (new style)	\$42.00
Scarves (chiffon, navy)	\$32.00
Pens	\$12.00
Association brooches	\$22.00
Association lapel badges (see image below)	\$17.00
Cuff links (boxed)	\$40.00
Car stickers (57mm x 78mm)	\$6.00

Please mail your order with accompanying cheque payable to 'The Order of Australia Association NSW' to:

Mrs S Vidoni OAM,
68 Carlisle St, Leichhardt NSW 2040

Telephone (02) 9550 0049
for further information.



NSW Regions — Regional Groups Co-ordinator: Garth Doyle OAM (Mobile: 0409 850 511)

Far South Coast

The Far South Coast Regional Group's 2014 event program began on Australia Day with a celebration at Batemans Bay, attended by members, guests and newly recognised awardees.

Last month, separate get-togethers to greet new recipients were held at Moruya on 8 March and Bega on 15 March. The first was an afternoon tea at the Dr MacKay Community Centre, the guest speaker John Gillett OAM, a 2014 Australia Day recipient recognised for his service to the Eurobodalla Shire.

The other was at the Bega Cheese Heritage Centre. Members and guests enjoyed morning tea at this attractive venue.



Gathered at the Moruya function were, from left, Warren Sharpe, Huon Hassall, John Gillett, John Glover, Colin Pearson, Maureen Baker, Jenny Butt (Regional Group Convenor), Garth Doyle, Ron Goodwin, Faye Oakley, Mary Atkinson, Peter Atkinson and Colin Watson (sitting).

Hunter

The Hunter Region Group of the Association held their annual Australia Day Luncheon at Cardiff RSL Memorial Club on Saturday 1 February 2014. The 142 attendees were welcomed by Mrs June Cameron AM, Regional Group Convenor. The Awabakal People were recognised as traditional owners of the land.

A special welcome was extended to guests Ron Sharpe OAM, Chairman NSW Branch of the Order of Australia Association; Garth Doyle OAM, Regional Groups Coordinator of the NSW Branch; Syd Lynch, President of the Cardiff RSL Sub Branch who was accompanied by Peter Taylor. The singing of the National Anthem was led by Val Harvey Hamilton OAM.

Mrs Cameron acknowledged and congratulated the 14 local awardees present who had been honoured on Australia Day 2014:

Barbara Jean McPhee AM. For significant service to physiotherapy as a practitioner in occupational health, and as an author.

William John Storer AM. For significant service to the visual arts, particularly through the development of regional and community museums.

Edward George Atchison OAM. For service to the community of the Hunter Valley through service and sporting organisations.

Andrew John Dawes OAM. For service to athletics as a wheelchair track and road coach.

Gael Davies OAM. For service to the arts, and to the community.

Maddison Gae Elliott OAM. For service to sport as a Gold Medallist at the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

Kendall Murray Ferguson OAM. For service to the community of Putty.

William Patrick Hopkins OAM. For service to industrial relations, and to the community.

Mr Iain Valjean Jensen OAM for service to sport as a Gold Medallist at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Major James Charlton Horton OAM (Ret'd) for service to veterans and their families.

Mr Nathan James Outteridge OAM for service to sport as a Gold Medallist at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Pastor Grahame Edward Prictor OAM for service to the Scouting movement, and to the Uniting Church.

Mr Dennis Robert Trigg OAM for service to the community of Lake Macquarie.

Major Peter Morton Green OAM (Military Division) for meritorious service as Regimental Sergeant Major of the Incident Response Regiment, the 8th Combat Engineer Regiment, and the 16th Aviation Brigade.

The Loyal Toast was proposed by Laurie Kelly AM RFD ED. After Ron Sharpe OAM gave a brief address and proposed the Toast to the Order, Garth Doyle OAM made a presentation on behalf of the NSW Branch of a Certificate of Appreciation to Laurie Kelly in recognition of his ten successful years as Convenor of the Hunter Regional Group.

Professor Geoffrey Kellerman AO then introduced the guest speaker, Dr Jeanette Dixon AM, who gave a very interesting presentation on Living and Working in Space. A former Principal of the Residential NSW School of Space Science in Newcastle from 2005-2008, she is serving as Scientist in Schools for the Australian Government, working with primary teachers and students to provide inspirational science lessons.

Her presentation at the luncheon centred on the training of astronauts, the hazards of living in space and returning to earth, her visits to Cape Canaveral Space Centre; she kept those present enthralled. Jeanette then displayed samples of moon rock which she has on loan from scientists at the Johnson Space Centre in Texas; she is the only person outside the USA who has been entrusted with samples brought back from the moon.

John Miner OAM thanked Jeanette for her enlightening talk and made a presentation to her in appreciation.

Mrs June Cameron AM then closed proceedings and thanked all who had assisted in making the luncheon a successful and enjoyable occasion.

Charlie Stevens OAM



At the Newcastle lunch, from left, Garth Doyle OAM, Bill Hopkins OAM, Ken Ferguson OAM, Barbara McPhee AM, Grahame Prictor OAM, Bill Storer AM and June Cameron AM.

Southern Highlands

Sixty members of the Southern Highlands Regional Group and guests assembled at the Old Town Hall, Bowral, on 21 February for their annual reception to honour recent recipients of awards.

They were greeted by Margaret Smith AO, Group President, and included Councillor Juliet Arkwright, Mayor of Wingecarribee Shire Council.

Four members of the NSW Branch Committee were present: Jim McAlpine AM representing Branch Chairman Ron Sharpe OAM; Garth Doyle OAM, Colleen Wardell OAM and Malcolm Longstaff OAM, accompanied by their spouses. At the outset, warm tributes were paid to the late Cynthia Parker OAM who had served for many years as Group co-convenor.

The six recent Southern Highlands awardees present were introduced by Margaret Smith and included those announced on the Queen's Birthday in 2013 and on Australia Day this year:

Susan Hawick AM for significant service to education, particularly through the school counselling profession.

Janet Laverty OAM for service to the community of the Wingecarribee Shire

Edna McGuinness OAM for service to the community of the Southern Highlands

Audrey Stuart OAM for service to the community of the Southern Highlands

Dr Jim Watts AM for significant service to primary industry, particularly wool production.

David Wells OAM for service to the preservation of cricket history.

Introducing the recipients, Margaret briefly interviewed each, discussing the contributions for which they were nominated. David Wells's interview emphasised the value of preserving our cricketing heritage.

The presence of Rina Hore, CEO of the International Cricket Hall of Fame, recalled that Sir Donald Bradman, a Bowral man early in his career, was appointed AC in 1979.

Proceeds from the function were donated to the National Braille Music Camp held annually at Frensham School, Mittagong.



Margaret Smith AO (centre) with, from left, Dr Jim Watts AM, Susan Hawick AM, Janet Laverty OAM, Edna McGuinness OAM, Audrey Stuart OAM and David Wells OAM. [Megan Drapalski photo].

New England/North-West

On Sunday 9 March, my son Michael and I attended a morning tea held at the Westpac Helicopter Rescue Service base at Tamworth Airport.

Our Regional Convenor David Evans OAM welcomed everyone before introducing the newly-recognised awardees present: Charles May AFSM, Peter Wakeford OAM, Earl Kelaheer OAM, Meg Larkin AM and David Leonard OAM.

Barry Walton, New England and Northwest Region Co-ordinator for the Service, spoke to us about the wonderful work performed by their crews in day-to-day operations. He also acknowledged and thanked the many volunteers in the community for their continuing support of this lifesaving community service.

We then visited the Hangar to see the helicopter and were briefed by crewman Shaun Maher who showed us the range of equipment carried on board on rescue missions, after which questions were invited.

My thanks go to all members of the New England/North West Regional Group Committee, especially Stack Haycock OAM, for the planning and effort behind what was such an enjoyable and informative function. **Ron Sharpe OAM (NSW Chairman)**



At the Westpac Helicopter Rescue Service base at Tamworth Airport, from left, Charles May AFSM, Peter Wakeford OAM, Earl Kelaheer OAM, Meg Larkin AM, Ron Sharpe OAM (NSW Chairman), David Leonard OAM and Michael Sharpe (son of Ron Sharpe OAM NSW Chairman).

Reminder

Places are still available for our Reception for new awardees at Parliament House, Sydney, Thursday 1 May at 12.15pm for 12.45pm.

Bookings and enquiries: John Archer OAM, (02) 9150 7243 or 0407 919 235. Registration form was included with January newsletter.

'What the Official Secretary Saw — some personal reflections'

This was the title of an Australia Day 2014 Address delivered by Malcolm Hazell CVO, AM, former Official Secretary to the Governor-General and Secretary of The Order of Australia at a function in Canberra arranged by the ACT Branch. The following is an extract of his remarks:



Malcolm Hazell CVO AM

As a former Secretary of the Order of Australia, it is a delight to be among so many distinguished members of the Order today, including, of course, those for whom I had the pleasure of personally signing your warrant, and to pause and reflect with you on just some of those achievements. These awards were some of more than 6000 made from more than 11,000 nominations considered by the Council for The Order of Australia during my five and a half year tenure as Secretary.

Being Secretary of the Order was a high point of my career and a great privilege, in offering constant association with the nation's highest exemplars of service to the community and the nation. Although nothing is ever perfect, I can tell you that the Order is held in high regard here and especially overseas for its apolitical nature and impartial recognition of Australians of singular merit.

I made inputs to recent major reviews of the Honours systems of both the UK and Canada, and the overwhelming comment made to me was that the Australian model was regarded as 'best practice'. Our honours and awards are scrupulously independent of political intervention thanks to the role of the independent Council for the Order of Australia, currently chaired by Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, and the Honours Secretariat located at Government House, Canberra, and not within a government department.

I reflected only recently on some of the hundreds of awards presented by the Governor-General as Chancellor of the Order at Investiture Ceremonies at Government House. Investitures are special occasions not only for the individuals honoured and their families, but also for their communities. I recall, for example, when Nicole Kidman was invested with her AC in 2007. Here was an Australian gracing the world's stages and cinemas everywhere. She said that for her, her AC meant more to her than any of her Oscars or Logies. High praise indeed. And like so many others, she was humbled and inspired after hearing the citations for the awards given to her fellow recipients.

It's not just at the AC level, but especially with the medals of the Order, the OAMs and in between too that we hear some amazing, heart-warming stories of people who give so much to their communities, selflessly, voluntarily, and endlessly. Theirs is just like the service many of you here today have given over the years – for which this country has acknowledged and thanked you ...



When the Sail Training Ship Young Endeavour arrived in Sydney on 1 February after completing a 10-night voyage from Devonport (Tasmania), Weslee Audsley was judged by her fellow youth crew and the ship's staff to have exhibited outstanding leadership qualities during the voyage. She is seen receiving her certificate from Rear-Admiral Tony Hunt AO RAN (Retd) at a ceremony on board shortly after the vessel berthed at Woolloomooloo.

Order of Australia Association

MERCHANDISE

The Order of Australia Association is delighted to offer an extended range of merchandise to its members.

You may now choose from our ever popular products plus an extended range of new items introduced for the National Conference in Melbourne. We have also introduced credit card facilities to make your purchasing even easier.

If you think of other products that may be of interest to members, drop us a line with your suggestions so it can be researched by the merchandise committee.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	PRICE	POSTAGE & HANDLING	QUANTITY ORDERED
Gold* Cufflinks in Gift Box	35.00	7.00	
Gold* Brooch	20.00	2.00	
Gold* Lapel Badge	15.00	2.00	
Blue/Gold Metal Pen (new Style)	5.00	1.00	
Traditional Tie - Navy (Middle logo)	25.00	2.00	
Tie Navy/Gold (Middle Logo)	40.00	2.00	
Corporate Tie - Maroon/Black/White	25.00	2.00	
Corporate Tie - Navy/Aqua/White	25.00	2.00	
Ladies Scarf - Navy/Gold/White	30.00	2.00	
Car Decal - Reverse print for inside of window	5.00	1.00	
Key Ring - 35mm Gold in gift box	10.00	8.00	
Drink Coasters - Pack 4 with Holder - metal	40.00	8.00	
Wine Glasses Pack 2 laser etched with logo	25.00	5.00	
Travel Bag - Navy with logo and external pockets	40.00	10.00	
Softshell Laptop & Document Bag (Black)	30.00	10.00	
Golf Towel - Navy with hook & loop	18.00	8.00	
Playing Cards - standard pack	3.00	1.00	
OAA Pen in presentation box	10.00	2.00	

* Refers to Gold Colour not actual gold plating.

Note: Only members may wear ties, scarves, badges, brooches & cufflinks

TOTAL MERCHANDISE	
TOTAL POSTAGE & HANDLING	
TOTAL ORDER	

EMAIL, POST OR FAX YOUR ORDER TO Mr Richard Rozen, OAM, National Merchandise Officer
The Order of Australia Association 3/144 Were Street, Brighton Victoria 3186 Phone 03 9592 8068 Email rozenr@bigpond.com

Payment ☐ Cheque / Money Order enclosed ☐ Please debit my Credit card

Name _____ Phone _____

Postal Address _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Email _____

☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa Card Number _____ Expiry Date _____

Authorised Signature _____

