



# The Order of Australia Association

## NSW Branch Newsletter

### May 2024

Patron: Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of NSW

PO Box 561, Parramatta, NSW 2124 | [www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/nsw](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/nsw)



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Dear NSW Members,

As I am settling into my new role, the new NSW Branch Committee has been formed with most portfolios allocated. Now our work begins, including meeting with our regional group chairs to strengthen our regions, increase membership and arranging functions both regionally and in Sydney.

The 2024 King's Birthday Investitures will be held at the end of May and we look forward to attending the Investiture ceremonies at Government House Sydney to represent and promote our Association. We will also hold the annual luncheon for the KB24 New Recipients and their guests at NSW Parliament House in June.

It was decided to form an Under 60's group to target our younger members and get them involved in our activities, as well as aiming to recruit younger new award recipients. Anyone in the under 60 age group that is interested to be involved please let me know.

I am happy to announce that the Young Australian Leaders are now under our auspices as a subcommittee of the NSW Branch and will be coordinated by our newly co-opted member Helen Clarke. We also need your help to promote our Youth Community Service Awards which are an excellent NSW Branch Initiative.

I look forward to seeing some of you at the National Conference in Perth!

Kind regards

*John*

**Dr John Gullotta AM**

NSW Chairman

Email: [chairnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:chairnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au) | Mobile: 0418 233 069

Our Congratulations to our Patron  
**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC**  
on her reappointment as Governor of New South Wales



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Our Congratulations to  
**Ms Samantha Mostyn AO**  
who will be sworn in as Australia's 28th Governor-General  
from the 1st July 2024





## From your NSW National Director David North OAM

At the upcoming Annual General Meeting of the Order of Australia Association to be held on Saturday 18 May at the Perth National Conference I will commence my second year as New South Wales Branch Nominated Director.

It has been an honour and a privilege to represent our Branch and be a part of the opportunities to improve and introduce new benefits to our 8,198 members in the Association and the over 2000 members in New south Wales.

Over the past year, the National Board through the Branches and the Regional Groups have worked on four strategic goals:

**Membership** – To grow the value of membership of the Association.

**Promotion** – To encourage and promote nominations and support diversity in nominations for invaluable contributions to the community.

**Growth** – To build membership for the future of the Association.

**Community** – To invest in community partnerships and projects.

I believe we are now starting to see the results of the initiatives that have been taken.

The appointment of our new Governor General, Samantha Mostyn AO to commence on 1 July 2024 will provide the Association with opportunities to explore new approaches to our four strategic goals.

A new Association four-fold brochure is now available, and the front cover magnificently reads – *Your personal invitation and application to join us.* Association membership embraces the spirit of our core mission. To celebrate and promote outstanding Australian citizenship, by exemplifying significant achievement and service.

At the Perth Conference in May the Association's long-awaited Social Media policy and platform will be presented. This is an outstanding step towards providing the Association with a greater social media exposure and promoting membership and providing information to our members promptly.

Kind regards

*David*

**David North OAM**

NSW Branch Nominated Director

Email: [dirnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:dirnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)

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## New Members

The Order of Australia Association NSW Branch welcomes the following new members and we look forward to meeting you at our upcoming events.

**Professor Jacqueline Close** AM

**Emeritus Professor Michael J Eyles** AM

**Professor Paul R Harnett** AM

**Mr Nicholas Maksymos** AM

**Ms Avril C Henry** AM

**Emeritus Professor Carolyn L Geczy** AM

**Mr Bruce J McDonald** AM

**Mr Peter W Morris** OAM

**Mrs Susan C Dunn** OAM

**Mr Brian White** OAM

**Mr Anthony Kwong Ming Pang** OAM

**Mrs Lorraine G Mairinger** OAM

**BRIG Raymond L Burnard** AM

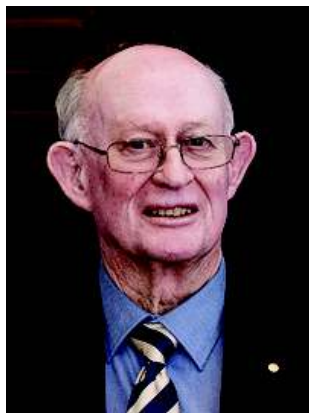


### 2024 National Conference – Hyatt Regency Perth

A reminder to register for the upcoming 2024 National Conference in Perth on 16-19 May. If you have not booked yet please check the OAA Website or click the link

[www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/national-conference-2024/](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/national-conference-2024/)

We look forward to seeing you all there!



## From your Youth Community Service Award Convenor Frank Kelleher OAM

As convenor, I would like your assistance in promoting and encouraging nominations for the 2024 Youth Community Service Award which is offered by the NSW Branch,

The award was established in 1993 and was formerly titled the 'John Lincoln Award'. All NSW School Principals will receive an emailed invitation to nominate a student on May 1, and 2 with subsequent reminders before the closing date of June 7 2024.

We would like to encourage more rural and regional nominations and also new schools that have not been involved before. Promotion would simply entail a personal contact with the Principal or senior staff member to alert them to the invitation to nominate, as it can easily be overlooked in the daily stream of email correspondence received.

Our Chairman and I, strongly urge you to contact school Principals that you know, or are involved with, in your local areas to participate in this excellent project by nominating their worthy students!

**Table 1. Youth Community Service Awards 1993 – 2023 by number of nominating schools and number of awards made, for NSW Regions.**

Region	Number of Schools	Total Awards
Greater Sydney	134	353
Western Sydney-Blue Mtns	28	48
SE Tablelands & Riverina	23	30
Central West & Orana	14	25
Illawarra & Shoalhaven	19	71
North Coast	19	45
Hunter	16	24
Central Coast	13	34
New England & Northwest	10	34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>664</b>

**TOTAL AWARDS BY GENDER 1993-2023 - FEMALE = 394 MALE = 270**

The Award is very competitive with only 25 awarded each year (this has varied in some years as 26 were awarded in 2023). Some Principals in past years, have made comments such as "I don't think we have anyone good enough for that award". I find that in most cases there may be a deserving student who could be successful, if only they are nominated.

Regardless all unsuccessful nominees receive an official Order of Australia Association NSW Certificate of Commendation for their community service. This certificate is posted to their Principals for presentation at a school function, which is often on school awards night. The certificate is a valuable inclusion for their CV, providing recognition for their community service activities.

There is a limit of one Award per school, but sometimes two may be awarded where students are involved in different community service initiatives and are worthy candidates.



Although signed off by the Principal, the process of identifying and nominating a worthy student is almost always done by a staff member – sometimes by direction but more often by a staff member who is close to the student body and aware of community service activities undertaken by one or more students at the school.

Some respondents have been critical of the Award not recognising group projects by more than one student working together. However when group projects were recognised in the early years of the Award, this resulted in a limited number of schools taking out most of the Awards. Hence in fairness, group projects were no longer accepted from around 2010, where it has continued as a single award per school. There have been a few exceptions where two have been awarded for different projects within one school. The single award has been a very positive outcome, as there is now a much wider geographical spread of Awardees.

Some school staff embrace the Award enthusiastically and submit nominations every year, many of them successful. When that staff member leaves, usually nominations from the school stop, unless a new “Champion” is appointed and picks up the reins.

Please get behind this project of the NSW Branch as it showcases young leaders in our community and encourages them to become strong leaders of the future!

Feel free to contact me for further information or any questions you may have.

Kind regards

*Frank*

**Dr Frank Kelleher OAM**

Convenor, Youth Community Service Award

Email: [convenoryouthawardnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:convenoryouthawardnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au) | Mobile: 0427 644 397

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## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **OAA National Conference Sydney 1-4 May 2025**

The theme of our 2025 Conference is  
CELEBRATE | MOTIVATE | NOMINATE “Inspiring Australian Achievers”

**Early Bird Registrations will open at the Perth National Conference!**



THE  
ORDER OF AUSTRALIA  
ASSOCIATION

**NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE  
SYDNEY 1-4 MAY 2025**

 **Sofitel Sydney Wentworth**





## From your Regional Group Co-ordinator David North OAM

I am looking forward to visiting each of our fourteen regional group events this year.

Dianne North (Our Branch secretary) and I realise we have quite a challenge replacing Chris and Gail Dunne, but we are eager to meet as many regional Order of Australia Association members as possible.

It is hoped on our visits we will be able to provide information and resources from the New South Wales Branch and the National Board of the Order of Australia Association. I will be writing to our Regional Group Convenors for a list of their planned activities.

Our Branch Chairman, Dr John Gullotta, is eager to receive photos and stories of our Regional Group events for the Branch Newsletter and website.

In this year I would like to encourage that Convenors exchange their Regional Group's news bulletins and extend invitations to neighbouring Regional Groups to attend their events. The benefits of such actions can improve event attending numbers, engender fellowship within the Order of Australia Association, and provide different ways to hold events.

To plan the Branch Chairman's – Regional Group Convenors Audio-visual meetings can convenors let me know if Fridays May 31, August 30, and November 29 possibly late afternoon 4 pm may be appropriate and if Zoom or Team platform is preferred.  
E: [dirnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:dirnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)

During our visits Dianne and I hope we can encourage Regional Groups to commence planning attending the Order of Australia Association National Conference in Sydney on 1 – 4 May 2025. It may be even possible to encourage Regional Groups to get together to organise group transport.

I look forward to sharing a successful year with our Regional Group members.

Kind regards

*David*

**David North OAM**

NSW Branch Nominated Director

Email: [dirnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au](mailto:dirnsw@theorderofaustralia.asn.au)



# Sydney Doctor elected as new Chairman of The Order of Australia Association NSW Branch



The new NSW Branch Committee for 2024

Back Row (L-R) Mr David North OAM, Ms Sophie Scott OAM, Dr John Gullotta AM, Mrs Louise Paisley OAM, Mr Romano Di Donato OAM, Front Row (L-R) Dr Frank Kelleher OAM, Dr Geoffrey Glascock AM, Ms Martha Jabour OAM, Mrs Dianne North OAM, Mrs Trish Wetton OAM

Sydney GP, Dr John Gullotta AM has been elected Chairman of The Order of Australia Association NSW Branch.

After serving as Deputy Chairman and Councillor of the Order of Australia Association NSW Branch (OAA NSW), as well as Metropolitan Coordinator, Events and Public Relations Manager for the past five years, he was elected unopposed to the top job.

Dr Gullotta said, "I am humbled and honoured to be elected to such a prestigious role and strive to continue the good work of the Association to celebrate and promote outstanding Australian citizenship".

He went on to highlight the importance of membership, diversity and youth in the future of the Association.

"Membership is the lifeblood of any organisation and it is extremely important that the OAA NSW adapts to current times and aims to recruit and retain members especially younger

members and those from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

As the youngest Chairman and the first of Italian heritage elected, since the formation of the Association in 1980, I am extremely proud and I will make it my mantra to see membership as a top priority," he said.

"I am excited to be working with a dynamic and enthusiastic NSW Branch Committee. Ms Martha Jabour OAM as Deputy Chairman, Mrs Diane North OAM, Hon Secretary, Mrs Louise Paisley OAM, Treasurer, Mr David North OAM, National Director and NSW Committee members, Mr Romano Di Donato OAM, Mrs Trish Wetton OAM, Dr Geoffrey Glascock AM, Dr Frank Kelleher OAM, Ms Sophie Scott OAM, Mr Harold Sharp OAM and Mr Garry Smith AM. They all bring varied experience and specialised skill sets to the committee and I look forward to working with them," Dr Gullotta said.

Dr Gullotta, a Specialist General Practitioner of over 30 years,

graduated with honours from the University of Newcastle in 1991, after completing a degree in Pharmacy at the University of Sydney in 1986.

He has an extensive involvement in academia, medical organisations, media and community service.

Dr Gullotta is Past President and Fellow of the Australian Medical Association (AMA) NSW and was a Councillor of the Federal AMA for 20 years. He is strongly involved in charity work and is the Immediate Past Chairman of the AMA NSW Charitable Foundation and Past President of the Rotary Club of Maroubra.

He is the recipient of many awards including the Inaugural University of Newcastle Alumni Medal and the University of Sydney 2007 Alumni Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Service "for his energetic contributions to medicine, medical education and pharmacy, as well as for his service to the Italian-Australian community in Sydney".

In 2004 he was awarded one of Italy's top honours of "Cavaliere, Ordine Della Stella Della Solidarietà Italiana" OSSI, (Star of Italian Solidarity) "for his outstanding contribution to the Italian-Australian Community".

Dr Gullotta's extensive contribution to the profession and community service was highly acknowledged when in 2007 he was appointed Member in the Order of Australia, AM for "service to medicine through a range of executive roles with professional medical associations and as a general practitioner, and to the Italian community".

The Order of Australia Association is an incorporated body of recipients of Order of Australia Awards or appointments in the

Order of Australia. They have over 8000 members nationwide with over 2300 in NSW alone. The national body and each State and Territory Branch undertake activities in support of the community and social activities for members. We also promote and encourage the nomination of our fellow Australians for awards within the Order.

Their underlying principle is to support the Order of Australia and recognise the contribution of its members to the Australian and international communities and for the good of the Association, embracing the cultural and religious diversity of all Australians including indigenous Australians, the traditional custodians of the land, to promote activities and attitudes which foster harmony, unity and shared futures where all are treated with respect and dignity.

Our aim is to raise public awareness about The Order of Australia, promote high quality

nominations for appointments and awards that reflect the gender and diversity of the Australian community along with supporting young Australians as they prepare for their careers.

Dr Gullotta looks forward to raising awareness of the Order of Australia Awards as well as raising the profile of the Association amongst all fellow recipients, with a special focus on younger recipients, as well as the community at large.

"As Convenor of the OAA National Conference to be held in Sydney on 1-4 May 2025, I urge all Order of Australia recipients to join our Association and also to come to Sydney and attend what will be a showcase conference with the theme of CELEBRATE, MOTIVATE, NOMINATE. "Inspiring Australian Achievers". It will be a fantastic opportunity to reflect on our values and sense of community as well coming together in recognition and celebration," Dr Gullotta said.



Dr John Gullotta AM and Romano Di Donato OAM, Committee Member



A group of from the AGM Standing L-R: Ms Sophie Scott OAM, Mrs Mara Gullotta, Dr John Gullotta AM, Mr Adriano Calahan OAM Seated L-R: Mrs Suzie Falk, Mr Peter Falk OAM and Mr Alfredo Bovic OAM

**Napoli canta**  
presented by  
EDAL PROMOTIONS

**Francesco Merola**

**Manuela Villa**

non lo perdete! **MARCONI**

**Australian tour**  
Saturday 27 April 2024  
7:30 p.m.

**SYDNEY**  
**DOLTONE HOUSE**  
At: Marconi Club  
Bossley Park NSW  
doors open 6.30pm

**TICKETS**  
**0418 426 307**



## In Memoriam

We remember our members that have recently passed as well as their selfless service and the significant contribution they made to our community.

*Forever in our hearts*



**The Hon Richard Francis Edmonds AM**  
**Mr Peter Francis Thorley AM**  
**Mrs Rosalind M Strong AM**  
**Professor Michael Francis O'Rourke AM**  
**Miss Pamela Perry OAM**  
**MAJ Geoffrey Reginald Bateman OAM**  
**Mrs Claire Wendy Cornish OAM**  
**Mr Richard G Humphry AO**  
**Mr Robert O Albert AO RFD RD**



We are currently looking for sponsors and partners for our 2025 National Conference in Sydney. If you would like to be involved in sponsoring this milestone event, or know someone that can, then please contact the Conference Convenor, Dr John Gullotta AM on [drjohngullotta@bigpond.com](mailto:drjohngullotta@bigpond.com) for further details and a sponsorship package.



THE  
ORDER OF AUSTRALIA  
ASSOCIATION

**NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE  
SYDNEY 1-4 MAY 2025**

 **Sofitel Sydney Wentworth**



*On behalf of our Chairman and the NSW Branch Committee  
Thank you for reading!*