

SA Public Service Medal Association

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NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer Edition 2020

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members and friends,

Welcome to the Spring/Summer edition of the Public Service Medal Association Newsletter. What a year we have had with Covid-19 and it is far from over at present. It follows a very challenging time over summer with bushfires and drought conditions. In addition to the losses people have experienced in terms of loved ones and health and wellbeing generally, it has impacted dramatically on our program this year.

We were fortunate to fit the Port Adelaide historical walk and lunch very early in the year. However, since then we have cancelled/deferred our visit to Old Government House, the Law Courts and the Botanic Gardens.

In arranging functions for the remainder of the year we are aware of the uncertainty around further outbreaks in Adelaide and the demographics of Association members. Would you please keep the date for our AGM and Dinner on Friday 16 October in your diaries, as well as Friday 4 December for the Christmas morning tea. Invitations for these two events will be sent out shortly.

Congratulations to the Public Service Medal Queen's Birthday Award recipients. They were:

- Mrs Jacqueline COSTANZO: For outstanding public service to the communities of the APY Lands in South Australia.
- Mr Erik DAHL: For outstanding public service to natural and cultural heritage preservation and conservation in South Australia.
- Mr David Paul ENGELHARDT: For outstanding public service to the education sector in South Australia.

A full citation is included later in this Newsletter. We are also pleased to be able to provide you with photos of the award recipients from the Australia Day investiture – the citations which were provided in our last newsletter.

The AGM is the time for the election of a new PSM Association Committee. Please let us know if you are prepared to become a Committee member for 2021.

On behalf of the Committee I wish you the best of health and wellbeing over the coming months and hope we are able to schedule some gatherings before the end of the year.

Don Plowman PSM – Association President



QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PSM RECIPIENTS

Here is more detailed information about each recipient of the **Queen's Birthday Awards**:

Mrs Jacqueline COSTANZO Basket Range SA 5138 - For outstanding public service to the communities of the APY Lands in South Australia.

Ms Costanzo is a well-respected leader who has excelled in managing services in some of South Australia's most vulnerable regions. She has managed Disability Services on the APY Lands since 2011, and has gained the trust and respect of both service providers and community members in the region.

Through her efforts there is now a shared recognition that to improve outcomes for individual families and communities, there needs to be a change in how all levels of government and their funded services engage and do business with each other and with Aboriginal communities.

The Ceduna services have developed a common agenda and now think and act collaboratively as a 'one service system' rather than individual agencies. Numerous collaborative service developments have occurred across agencies including the Vulnerable Persons Framework, The Ceduna Street Beat service, The Ceduna Supported Accommodation House, and the Ceduna Community Bus. Another highlight of her work is the contribution to the development of the Community Paramedic service for outreach health services in the community. This service is distinct to Ceduna and has won multiple awards.

Her commitment to her work on the APY lands has seen her regularly visit the area of the past eight years and she has displayed strong advocacy for, and commitment to, improving service delivery for the Anangu people and their communities. She has also applied her approach to work in disaster recovery which has seen her volunteer for two major deployments, one to Queensland and another to Cuddlee Creek and Kangaroo Island.

Ms Costanzo has diligently navigated relationships between Government and non-Government agencies, always ensuring that the community and clients are at the centre of any strategy.

Mr Erik DAHL Kersbrook SA 5231 - For outstanding public service to natural and cultural heritage preservation and conservation in South Australia.

Mr Dahl commenced employment with the National Parks and Wildlife Service in South Australia in the Belair National Park in 1976. His largely unbroken service and enduring commitment to the Department now spans 43 years.

His achievements as a Ranger are wide and varied. He has worked to support the establishment of the Innamincka Regional Reserve, to establish the landscape scale conservation initiative known as 'Bounceback' in the Northern Flinders Rangers, and he is currently the Senior Ranger charged with operational responsibility for the new Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary.

Through his work he has built and maintained productive relationships with Aboriginal communities, pastoralists, mining companies, conservation and volunteer organisations, and has acted as a mediator between stakeholders and interest groups to facilitate positive outcomes.

His broad experience spans threatened species and conservation program delivery, fire prevention and response, removal of feral pests, installation and management of assets and infrastructure, engaging with and educating park visitors, working with industry, volunteer and interest groups, and undertaking required compliance and enforcement activity. He has also supervised, trained and mentored many Rangers and he is highly respected by those who have served with him. He has also volunteered as a member of numerous Landscape Groups, Friends Groups and Tourism Groups.

Mr Dahl has made a significant contribution over many years to the National Parks and Wildlife Service in South Australia.

Mr David Paul ENGELHARDT West Croydon SA 5008 - For outstanding public service to the education sector in South Australia.

Mr Engelhardt has had a key leadership role in building the business intelligence and data capabilities of the Department of Education in South Australia. He has brought strategic vision, perseverance and an unwavering commitment to improving the life outcomes of all students through the better use of data and evidence.

From starting with a small unit of four staff, he has built a Directorate of 40 staff which has resulted in all South Australian government schools having access to a consistent range of performance and lead indicators. He has been the driving force in the development and implementation of student well-being surveys since 2012. Through this, all government schools in South Australia receive information on the wellbeing of their students, which can be used to support students and promote the importance of engagement in schooling and mental health in their communities.

He has also been instrumental in the development of data sharing agreements with several State Government agencies, which seeks to improve service delivery. His other achievements include: Foundation Director of the Fraser Mustard Centre; national leadership in progressing education data linkage and non-cognitive measurement instruments; representing the Department and the Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs Senior Officials Committee (AEEYSOC) on national and cross government committees; with the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) National Committee; as a founding member of the SA NT DataLink Steering Committee Chair of Expert Reference Group; and as Project Manager of the South Australian Department for Education and Child Development and Telethon Kids Institute. Mr Engelhardt has made a significant and lasting impact on the education system in South Australia

INVESTITURE OF THE AUSTRALIA DAY 2020 PSM RECIPIENTS



Dale Lambert

Ted Mah



Deborah Pearce

Jan Cornish



Don Plowman PSM (right) with His Excellency the Governor Hieu Van Le and Mrs Van Le (centre), Lieutenant Governor of South Australia Prof Brenda Wilson (left), Commissioner for public Sector Employment Erma Ranieri (centre right) and key government department representatives (back).
Photos courtesy of Tom Roschi

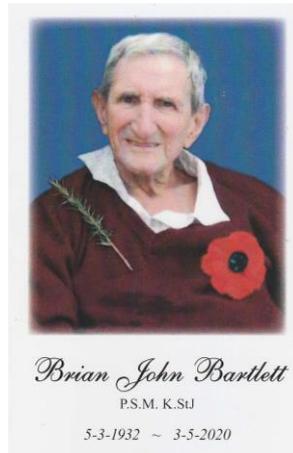
I attended the Awards Investiture at Government House on 8 September for the four Australia Day PSM recipients. I thought you would be interested in the procedure followed, which needed to comply with COVID-19 protocols. If you think back to your own ceremony, the layout did not change much with the Governor and ceremonial dignitaries at the front of the hall. However there were only two of us apart from the Protocol people in the hall itself. There were five chairs behind us and each recipient was ushered in with their families/friends, while the Governor made the presentation, then all left before the next recipient came in. There was no gathering over drinks and unfortunately, I did not meet any of the recipients.

Don Plowman

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OTHER PSM RECIPIENT NEWS

Vale Brian Bartlett PSM KStJ



We were all saddened to hear of the passing of popular Association member Brian John Bartlett on 3 May 2020, aged 88 years. Brian was awarded his PSM in January 1991 for services to Apprentice training whilst he was Deputy Chair of the Industrial and Commercial Training Commission.

A career public servant, Brian worked for a number of state government agencies during his long working life including the Audit Department, the State Printing Office, Hospitals Department and Department of Labour, before finishing in the Department of Training, Employment and Further Education.

Brian was one of the founding members of the PSMA in 1992 and was a very active on the Committee, serving as Secretary /Treasurer from 1997 to 2001, plus other stints later as Treasurer. He was noted for his sound administration in these Executive roles and was instrumental in establishing and maintaining the original Register of Members, containing all the contact information and award details.

Brian's other great interest was St John Ambulance, for whom he served in a volunteer capacity for 52 years. In recognition of his contribution he was awarded the Knight of the Order of St John.

Dene Cordes, who worked closely with Brian during those early years of the Association, said 'Brian was highly regarded, especially for his wit and sense of humour that would come to the fore at dinners, meetings and site visits. He will be remembered fondly.'

Brian is survived by his wife of 65 years, Claire, who also took a great interest in Association activities, even after Brian was no longer well enough to attend functions.

Vale Robert Schwartz PSM

Vice President, Stuart Hocking recently alerted us to the sad passing of another PSM recipient in May this year, Robert Glen Schwartz. Rob was a colleague of Stuart's in Treasury, where he served as Assistant Under Treasurer for 25 years. Rob played key roles in the establishment of the South Australian Financing Authority and the introduction of the GST. He was awarded the PSM for services to public financing in 2017. Speaking in Parliament following his death, Rob was described by current State Treasurer, Rob Lucas as "not only a good man but also an outstanding public servant".

Margaret Edwards

Margaret Edwards, Gerald's wife, had a bad fall a few months ago, breaking her hip. While recovery has been slow Gerald is pleased to report Marg is very much better and moving around quite freely. We wish Marg all the best in her recovery.

MEMBER STORIES ON IMPACT OF COVID-19

The Hon Justice Greg Parker PSM

Supreme Court of South Australia

The Covid 19 pandemic has required the South Australian Courts to adapt their processes and procedures in the interests of public health.

The most significant change has related to juries. Indictable (i.e. more serious) offences must be tried before a jury unless, in the case of a State offence only, the defendant elects for trial by judge alone. However, an indictable offence against Commonwealth law may only be tried before a jury. Social distancing requirements cause great difficulty for jurors as they must spend many hours together in close proximity in the jury box and the jury room. For that reason, jury trials were suspended. In a small number of cases, jury trials have proceeded using two court rooms. The jurors are spread across the public gallery of the courtroom where the trial is being conducted and use the second courtroom for their deliberations. This is not ideal. While more than the usual number of defendants have elected for trial by judge alone, the pandemic has caused a delay for criminal trials in the District Court and Supreme Court. Juries are not used in the Magistrates Court, where less serious crimes are dealt with. In all courts, where possible, greater use has been made of the excellent video links to prisons.

Because juries are not used in civil trials in South Australia, social distancing has been more easily managed than in criminal matters. Where possible, civil proceedings have been conducted by audio visual link or telephone. At times, that has been frustrating due to the audio-visual link (AVL) dropping out. I had to abandon use of the AV link in an appeal where the (very costly) submissions being made by two Sydney QC's kept dropping out at their end. I finished the hearing by phone. Most interlocutory (i.e. preliminary or procedural) work has been done "on the papers" where the judge considers written submissions in private. Where proceedings have been conducted in court, the usual social distancing and hygiene requirements have been met. Numbers in the public gallery have been limited, courts are cleaned several times daily, hand sanitiser is provided, lawyers must bring their own water rather than use jugs provided by the court, documents must be emailed in advance rather than handed up in court and so forth.

I anticipate that some of the changes forced by the pandemic may become the norm. In particular, I refer to the greater use of AVL and phone hearings and the deciding of matters on the papers. These changes should reduce costs and enhance efficiency.

Val Smyth PSM

Member of the SA Divisional Advisory Board Australian Red Cross & volunteer with the Emergency Services Section

What a challenging year 2020 has turned out to be. We began with incredible heat, bushfires and now Coronavirus/COVID-19. All our lives have been changed this year and even within the association we have not been able to continue with our usual social events.

As this new emergency has unfolded and we live through these challenging times with Covid-19, Red Cross with whom I am a volunteer in the Emergency Service Section and a SA Divisional Advisory Board member certainly did not sit on its hands with the establishment of call services to many people across SA in relation to the Pandemic. For some months this has involved teams of Red Cross volunteers including myself making telephone calls to identified vulnerable people in most cases every day except Sundays. Volunteers usually worked about a three-hour shift and often did several of these each week according to the need at the time.

As the SA service need has now reduced, a number of our SA Red Cross volunteers are now currently involved in a national service which deals with people needing social welfare calls across Australia. With high levels social distancing restrictions in some areas still very much in place – the need for calls to isolated people can be significant. For some folks this has been their only contact with another person for weeks and the calls have been very humbling and worthwhile. Those rung vary from younger people with specific problems to amazingly positive folks well into their nineties and even a lady of 103 who was still out working in her garden on a regular basis! So, for myself, and many others the last few months have been very busy, but not with anything we could ever have expected.

While in my career years working in the Emergency Management Unit in SA Health, I was involved in the early stages of Pandemic planning I had always hoped it would never be necessary to implement such plans, clearly that was not to be.

I feel very privileged to be living in SA where such a great effort and response has been achieved by so many people and wish to say a heartfelt thanks to the many hundreds who are working so hard to keep us all safe.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

As you will know we had plans to visit a number of interesting places this year, but for the moment these tours have had to be put on hold because of the COVID-19 restrictions. We have deferred these tours until 2021 when it is hoped they can be run.

Public Service Medal Association – remaining events for 2020

- AGM and Dinner – **Friday 16 October** at Living Choice Function Room, Fullarton
- Christmas morning tea – **Friday 4 December** at 11 Wilgena Avenue, Myrtle Bank

SA PSMA website

Have you visited the website recently? Don't forget our website is live and can be found at: <http://www.sapublicservicemedal.asn.au/>

Slowly but surely we continue to add more information. If you have something to share - especially photos please let Andy know. This site belongs to all of us, so let us make it of value to us all.

Do you know any of these people?



We are updating our contact details and are looking for the people listed:

2000 Ronald Mark Shanks (road traffic)
2004 Margaret Ann Simmons (criminology)
2006 Geoffrey Raymond Rogers (Indigenous education)
2013 Lynne Symons (education)
2014 Pauline Mary Barnett (criminal law)
2014 Kristen Cook (health)
2017 Joyleen Thomas (indigenous affairs)

We are also looking to update the details of the following people.

Kerry Colbung (2009), Phillipa Duigan (2010), Gaye Lieven (2002), Jane Lemon (2015), Ian Mannix (2012), Michelle Patterson (2012), Marcia Stewart (2004), Oleg Sharoglazor (2004).



If you have interesting articles or story to share with members please submit them to Val Smyth. We welcome the opportunity to share knowledge with each other.

If you have a new or changed email address- please let our Secretary, Andy McPharlin know (address at the top of the newsletter).

ASSOCIATION OFFICE BEARERS/COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2019-20

Position	Name
President	Don Plowman
Vice President	Stuart Hocking
Secretary/Treasurer	Andy McPharlin
Newsletter Editor	Val Smyth
Committee Members	Chris Dearman
	Greg Parker
	Sue Ireland
	Mehdi Doroudi