



FROM THE NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

As we prepare for this issue of 'The Order' we have Easter upon us and for those of our members who celebrate this season we wish you a happy time with your family full of Easter blessings.

The Queen's Birthday Honours announcement will soon be made and for those of us involved in membership of the Association we hope that there will be celebrations around the country and that many of those recipients will join our Association. As I have said before, but I think is worth remembering, once a recipient receives their reward there will be no further contact from the office of The Order of Australia, so that joining the Order of Australia Association gives each person the opportunity to meet and share experiences with others who have been honoured by our country in this way.

We continue to urge all of our members to nominate others known to them who have served their country and community in all walks of life. We have produced a short leaflet which is a guide to nominating a person for an honour in the Order of Australia. Please ask someone on your local committee for one of these leaflets, or maybe take some to

distribute to others known to you. There has been a change recently announced through the Prime Minister's Department that 'Her Majesty has agreed to changes that allow the Council for the Order of Australia to consider nominations of permanent residents of Australia for honorary awards'. This is a different honorary award to that which has been available since 1980. These previous honorary awards are processed by the Honours, Symbols and Legal Policy Branch of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Prime Minister recommends awards to the Governor-General. In addition there have been increases granted in the number of Awards in each category except in the Medal category.

Our membership fluctuates around 8,000, excluding the more than 400 life members with no known address. It would be good to make a further gain on this number so we need to nominate more of the wonderful people in the community going above and beyond the call of duty.

Please use our web-site and if you have any suggestions for improving it, or what it has to offer please contact us. Also remember that Member Zone is up and running and has been upgraded in recent times.

Best wishes to all and travel safely

Jane Arthur AM
National Membership Director



UNITED KINGDOM

OAA UK/EUROPE DINNER AT THE ARMY & NAVY CLUB FEBRUARY 2017

On Friday, 10 February 2017 twenty members and guests of the Order of Australia Association UK/Europe attended a dinner at the Army & Navy Club, Pall Mall, London. A member of both the Club and of the OAA UK/Europe, Brian Cloughey AM had initiated the proposal to hold the dinner at this venue and it certainly proved to be an excellent suggestion.

Pre-dinner drinks were enjoyed in the impressive Wellington Room. Guests then proceeded to the Library where a magnificent candle-lit table awaited us. The beautifully presented meal was enjoyed by all.

The recently appointed Deputy High Commissioner to London, Mr Matthew Anderson PSM, was our Guest of Honour and guest speaker. Prior to taking up this appointment, Matthew had been Australia's Ambassador to Afghanistan and he gave a very informative insight into the often dangerous living and working conditions of the staff employed at the embassy in Kabul.

Matthew's excellent presentation was very well received and appreciated by all those present.

This UK/Europe Branch will have its usual OAA Service at St Mary's le Bow in 27 September 2017. Travelling members and friends are most welcome to attend



The Branch continues its support for Aboriginal Students at Oxford University.

Local OAA Members give wonderful support to the Branch's events at Australia House.

Congratulations to Penelope Thwaites AM for her continued outstanding efforts together with other local members.