

ACT OAA

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION ACT BRANCH

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Co-opted member:

Ray Newcombe OAM
(Student Citizenship Awards)

EMAIL ALERTS

Your committee can keep you briefed faster (and cheaper) if we have an email address. We understand perfectly the ongoing need for a paper-based newsletter, however we can save valuable funds, resources and time talking directly to you via the net. Please register with Len Goodman at lgoodman@ozemail.com.au.



Branch chair ELIZABETH SCRIVENER urges members to come out to play...

Welcome reception for new chums

I'M sure you join me in congratulating all new ACT and surrounding area recipients of awards announced in the Queens Birthday Honours List. We look forward to meeting up with many at our reception at the Commonwealth Club on September 30. If you haven't already responded, I urge you to come along and enjoy a pleasant evening with friends, old and new. There is a booking form on page 4.

Citizenship awards

OUR Schools Citizenship Awards program is progressing well and I am grateful to Dr Ray Newcombe OAM and Ms Trish Keller OAM for their energy and enthusiasm in organising this worthwhile program.

The three schools systems in the ACT – Department of Education and Training, the Catholic Education Office and the Association of Independent Schools have distributed information and nomination forms to schools. A selection committee has been appointed and will consider nominations at the beginning of October. Successful students will be notified in mid October and presentations of medallions and certificates will be made in November.

Morning tea

OUR Morning Tea, held on August 5 was a relaxed and enjoyable event. We listened to a wonderful presentation on the Canberra Glassworks by its CEO, Ms Ann Jakle (pictured), who spoke passionately about the development of the centre and her vision for the future of the Glassworks. We learnt about the number of glass artists who have been trained in the



ACT and are now becoming recognised worldwide for their creativity with glass and about the possibilities for expanding the Glassworks involvement with the community through education programs and exhibitions.

New chair

CONGRATULATIONS to the new Chair of the Council of the Order of Australia, Professor John Hay AC. Details of his appointment are outlined further on page 4.

Speakers' kit

SOME years ago an "OA Speakers' Kit" was developed that allowed members to better publicise the Order through presentations to various service organisations and interested groups. An update by PM&C is being considered by staff at Government House and when developed will be a useful addition to our promotion of the Order.

Rhodanthe says mum knows baby best

Branch member Rhodanthe Lipsett OAM tells MEGAN HAGGAN about her tireless passion for the very young...

NEW mums need to feel empowered to make informed decisions about caring for their babies, says midwife and author Rhodanthe Lipsett OAM – and they need help to appreciate that they know their babies better than anyone else.

“One of the hardest things about new motherhood is when the lady over the back fence, with five kids of her own, is telling you what to do – and even professional people have different points of view to tell you,” Rhodanthe, now in her 80s, told “CityNews”.

She wrote “No One Right Way”, a handbook for new parents particularly in the first few weeks of a baby’s life, to present a range of different solutions to common questions and problems.

Rhodanthe began her career as a midwife in 1947 at Broken Hill, where the seeds of the book were sown when she saw rigid hospital rules bent to help a frightened indigenous teenager give birth.

“I realised there was no one right way to do things, and I’ve never forgotten that.”

Rhodanthe moved to Canberra in 1951 to work at Canberra Hospital, later moving into community care at Maternal and Baby Health Centres and visiting rural mums and their newborns.

“We opened a clinic in O’Connor, which was out in the sticks back then.

“I did country visits to Tidbinbilla, Royalla and Parsons Creek, and the mums loved it, as they were so isolated. And if ‘Blue



Rhodanthe Lipsett... “Nobody will know your baby better than you do.”

Photo by Silas.

Hills’ came on the radio we stopped and listened – it was sacred!”

Rhodanthe donates part of the royalties from “No One Right Way” to charities including a College of Midwives project to encourage indigenous women to train as midwives; the Australian Breastfeeding Association; and PANDSI, the support group for antenatal and post-natal depression. Different solutions are appropriate to different babies, she says. Some babies like to be wrapped snugly when it’s time to sleep;

others want their hands free, for example. “I wrote the book with the view that it offers some information, these are options, but nobody will know your baby better than you do,” Rhodanthe says.

Story and photo courtesy of “CityNews”

“No One Right Way”, \$49.95, is available from selected bookstores and from the Australian College of Midwives on 6230 7333.

National review of Association’s finances

A REVIEW of the National Association’s financial position is under way, and will be given detailed consideration at the next National Committee Meeting in Sydney early in September. As well as branch operating structures being examined, future AGM and conferences will be under discussion.

A significant number of our members have, over several annual OAA conferences, expressed concern at the rising cost of attending the National AGM & Conference. All branches are being invited to consider whether the current model and structure of the National Conference remains relevant to the needs

and expectations of the membership, and have been asked to outline suggested alternative models.

It is unlikely that any endorsed structural changes would be implemented before the 2012 National Conference. (The ACT has offered to host the 2013 conference).



Sun shines for Professor Hay

Professor John Hay AC is the new Chair of the Council for the Order of Australia

The Governor-General, Ms Quentin Bryce AC, as Chancellor of the Order of Australia, has agreed to the appointment of eminent academic Professor John Hay AC, as the new Chair of the Council for the Order of Australia.

Professor Hay has been a key figure in the advancement of higher education in Australia, serving as Vice-Chancellor of Deakin and Queensland Universities. Professor Hay has also served with distinction on

a diverse range of state and national committees ranging from the arts, science, technology, innovation, information systems, city planning and economic development. In 2004, Professor Hay was made a Companion in the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours list. He was also awarded a Centenary Medal for contributions to Australian higher education.

"Professor Hay is a distinguished Australian who brings to the Council for the Order of Australia a valuable range of skills and knowledge," Ms Bryce said. "We look forward to his

leadership in this important role."

Professor Hay replaces Sir James Gobbo AC CVO who was Chair for eight years, after serving as a community member of the Council for 11 years.

"Sir James has made an enormous contribution to the Council and we are immensely grateful for his tireless work with the council spanning two decades of service," Ms Bryce said. "I would like to express my appreciation and wish him the very best in his future endeavours," Ms Bryce said. Professor Hay will serve for a term of two years.



Governor General Quentin Bryce AC.

Dates for your diary...

• Multi-faith Observance

THE Burgmann College Chapel on the ANU Campus will this year host the Order's ACT Branch Annual Multi-Faith Observance at 10am on Sunday, November 1.

The college is itself a unique interdenominational partnership between five Christian churches and the chapel, while

expressing its Christian ethos, welcomes and encourages multi-faith dialogue through the inter-cultural make up of the college's 350 residents, nearly 30 per cent of whom are international students. The branch's observance on November 1 will feature participation from various faith communities as well as an Aboriginal smoking ceremony.

Please mark in your diaries now, full details in the next newsletter of call convener Len Goodman, AO on 0409 442345.

• AGM and Christmas dinner

Wednesday, November 25, booking form in the next newsletter.

Blooming history of our floral emblem

IT is part of our national emblem; the basis for our national colours and features prominently on the Order of Australia – the nation's highest honour – but how many people know its history?

In a first of its kind, a "family tree of trees" will be on display at the Australian National Botanic Gardens to explain the history behind Australia's national floral emblem – the golden wattle.

To celebrate Wattle Day (September 1), anyone visiting the Gardens until September 15 will have the opportunity to see a live, interactive plant display showing the family tree of wattles. The exhibit will show



more than 50 species of wattles arranged on the lawn of the Rock Garden.

The display will explain the location of each species throughout Australia and its position on the evolutionary

tree of Acacias based on their genetic relationships.

Acacia is the largest genus of plants in Australia with more than 1000 species distributed from tropical rainforest to semi-arid regions. The display will highlight the variation of this species in leaf shapes and sizes.

Research into wattles is being undertaken at the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research – a joint venture between CSIRO Plant Industry and the Australian National Botanic Gardens.



Opt for email, please

IN the winter edition of "The Order" magazine, members received a green-coloured insert offering the option to receive notices and financial statements for annual general meetings by email rather than by mail. Given the association's thousands of members, this will obviously save costs and conserve paper. Your ACT Branch Committee supports this initiative and, if you have not already done so, urges you to opt for email by advising the National Secretary Col. Roger Dace AM QGM as soon as possible, please. Email him at oaasecretariat@ozemail.com.au or by mail at The Order of Australia Association, Old Parliament House, King George Terrace, Parkes, ACT, 2600.



COCKTAIL RECEPTION

30 SEPTEMBER 2009

Members are invited to attend our next Reception to welcome the new recipients of the Order of Australia

DATE: Wednesday, September 30 2009
TIME: 6 – 7.30pm hours
VENUE: Garden Room -
 Commonwealth Club, 25 Forster Crescent
 Yarralumla ACT 2600
COST: \$35 per person (new recipients free)
DRESS: Lounge suit with lapel insignia or miniatures

ENQUIRIES:

Evol McLeod OAM -
 6286 2081 (h) 0406 378889 (m)
RSVP by Wednesday,
 September 23 to:
 Evol McLeod OAM
 97 Beasley Street
 Torrens ACT 2607

Cocktail Reception September 30

Name and postnominals _____

Guest Name and postnominals: _____

Dietary Requirements _____

Contact details for noting:

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Facsimile: _____

Mobile No.: _____

Address: _____

_____ Area Code _____

E-mail: _____

Payment instructions:

My cheque for \$ _____ is enclosed.

OR

BANKCARD

MASTERCARD

VISA

Card no.:

Expiry date /

last 3 numbers on the reverse of the card _____

Signature _____ Sum authorised \$ _____

Name on the card _____