

ACT OAA

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION

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(*Student Citizenship Awards*)

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Branch website

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/ACT

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 Bruce Trewartha OAM at btrewartha@grapevine.com.au

Newsletter team

Editor, Ian Meikle AM.
Designer, Louise Brooks.
This edition was produced through the resources of "CityNews".

Archer's creative aim: Inside the centenary

DR Robyn Archer AO, creative director of the Centenary of Canberra will be the special guest speaker at the branch's annual Queen's Birthday Lunch on June 15.

Robyn is a lively talker and talented entertainer and her speech is entitled "The Centenary of Canberra. You'll never look at the national capital in the same way again."

The lunch will be held at the Boat House by the Lake, and if last year is any guide, likely to be a full house. A nationally and internationally acclaimed singer, writer and director, she has also been artistic director of The Light in Winter Federation Square, Melbourne; the National Festival of Austral-

ian Theatre, the Adelaide Festival of Arts and the Melbourne International Festival of Arts.

Robyn is an Officer of the Order of Australia, Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (France), Officer of the Crown (Belgium), awarded the International Society of Performing Arts' Citation of Merit, the Dame Elisabeth Murdoch ABAF Award for Cultural Leadership, honorary doctorates Flinders, Sydney and Canberra Universities and is an adjunct professor at the University of Canberra.

Members of the Order of the British Empire Association will join with us for this celebratory luncheon.

Enquiries and bookings to Jennifer Muir OAM on 6282 7456 by Friday, June 10. There is a separate booking sheet in the newsletter.



Centenary creative director Robyn Archer AO... to speak at the Queen's Birthday lunch.

Chairman Peter drives efficiency and value

PETER McDERMOTT, AM, CSC, the association's new national chairman, and former ACT chairman, reports on progress since he took over in February

I HAVE started a review of all our practices and procedures across the Association to ensure compliance with good business practices, processes, to improve the efficiency of our national office, and to improve the value members gain from being in the association.

The national executive has a new program of annual activities, which involves changes to the publication dates for "The Order", with the autumn edition going out in May and the spring edition published in October. We are asking members to see if they can support publication of our magazine by placing an advertisement – the rates are very reasonable and you will be reaching a select and distinguished audience.

Or if you would like to write an article for our magazine we'd love to hear from you, or perhaps you might like to send a "letter to the editor"?

THE national secretary is working with our lawyers to review our constitution to ensure it is up-to-date, and to allow us the association to receive tax-deductible gifts. Once the national committee is satisfied with the changes, we will ask the Australian Tax Office to ensure that our draft complies with the requirements of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. Once we have that approval, the draft constitution will be placed on our website for review by the membership.

WE are also streamlining our system to make it easy to manage membership through the introduction of user-friendly IT. We are about to commission a new membership management program that will allow members to check and manage their own membership details and will allow branch secretaries and regional group co-ordinators to keep you informed about association matters in a more timely fashion than has previously been possible. This will make a big change in the way we



National chairman Peter McDermott AM CSC... streamlining the system to make it easy to manage membership through the introduction of user-friendly IT.

operate and communicate with each other.

WITH the approval of the new national committee, I intend to extend the work of the association through the direct involvement of state directors (including your state director, chairman Len Goodman). Each director will take on national responsibilities for the development and progression of major activities such as membership development, extension of the regional groups program, fundraising, community engagement, communication with members etcetera.

We are also looking at a new initiative that may generate some significant fundraising, as well as another initiative to extend the reputation and influence of the Order and the Association to all Australians.

WATCH out for the next edition of "The Order", which has information and photographs from the very successful 2011 National Meeting in Hobart, and advance notice about the 2012 National Conference in Darwin. Please put the 2012 dates in your diary, and perhaps consider an extended holiday in the "Top End" around the conference.

I LOOK forward to my time at the helm of the organisation to ensure, with the support of the national board, the branches and regional groups, that the association remains strong and capable of meeting its aims of being a leading and respected organisation in the wider Australian community.

Student awards to include gap year service

By co-convenor Dr Ray Newcombe OAM

NOW in their third year, the branch's 2011 "ACT Student Citizenship Awards" for community service and citizenship activities have been extended to include significant work done in a gap year. Previously they have covered group activity from kindergarten to Year 10 and individual achievement in Year 11 and 12. Many students participate in voluntary service of note during a gap year, such as working in indigenous communities or joining an AusAID program in the Asia-Pacific, Middle East or Africa. These may now be nominated for the individual awards.

Nominations at any level may be directed through the heads of schools and colleges before the end of the third term. The awards are appreciated for the value placed on education for a life of community service as well as academic and sporting attainments.

Members of the association with educational contacts are encouraged to suggest nominations via the relevant educational institution and are welcome to attend the presentation of awards on a date to be advised in early November.

The branch acknowledges our awards sponsor ACTEW Corporation and endorsement by the ACT Department of Education and Training; the Association of Independent Schools of the ACT; the Catholic Education Office Canberra and Goulburn and the ACT Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Further details are in the ACT Branch section of the OAA web site: www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au



Phoebe Davies receives her award from The Order of Australia Association's ACT patron Gen Peter Gratton AC, OBE.

Humbled in the company of achievers

ONE would lack feeling or hope for society if not humbled by the privilege of representing the branch and celebrating with awardees and their families the investitures at Government House.

General and Military Order of Australia citations about human endeavour, achievement and service beyond the norm appear limitless, as does the recognition of distinguished service decorations, meritorious service awards and for bravery.

So it was, when I was accompanied by committee members Trish Keller OAM (on Thursday, April 14) and Bruce Trewartha OAM (Friday, April 15), that Governor General Mrs Quentin Bryce AC honoured 96 Canberra region men and women.

OUR new members' welcome function will be held at the Regatta Point Business Centre, 6pm-7.30, on Wednesday, May 18. Please join us to hear 2010 recipient and branch member Dr Allan Hawke AC speak about "Looking Back in Retrospect". A booking form was in the February Newsletter, through our web site or call convener Diane Kargas AM on 6295 2222 or 0407 742108.

IN further evidence of Australia as a free, democratic and open "lucky country", the Chief of Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston AC AFC, delivered an insightful and thought-provoking inaugural "OAA-ADF Oration" on April 19 to an audience of branch members and a group of military recipients of the Order. ACM Houston opened our minds to Australia's present and future strategic alliances and engagements – and answered a number of questions with candor. There is a separate synopsis in the newsletter and his full text is available on our website, www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au

THE annual Queen's Birthday Lunch, on Wednesday, June 15, this year features Dr Robyn Archer AO who, as creative director, will whet our appetites with an insider's account of what's in store for Canberra's Centenary in 2013. There's a booking form within the newsletter and convener



Good men all... chairman Len Goodman and son Brigadier Wayne Goodman AM, right, with Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston AC AFC at the inaugural "OAA-ADF Oration".

Jennifer Muir OAM is taking the calls. Members of the Order of the British Empire Association will join us for the lunch where we will also acknowledge Canberra region Queen's Birthday Honours awardees.

APART from celebrating our city's 100 years as Australia's national capital – the ACT branch will host the 2013 National Conference in the February. Preliminary plans include promoting Canberra and helping to dispel media and political misinformation of you and me being responsible for taxes and all-things governmental!

AUGUST DATE: While your diary (hard cover or Blackberry version!) is open – how about reserving Sunday morning, August 21 for your Branch Annual Multi-Faith Observance? It will be held at the RMC Chapel of St Paul from 11 am. Full details in the next newsletter.

CONGRATULATIONS to past ACT Branch chairman Air Commodore Peter McDermott AM CSC who has been elected chairman of the national association. Also re-

elected at the Hobart National Conference were ACT members Col. Roger Dace AM QGM (Ret'd) as national secretary, Colleen Thurgar AM as membership secretary, Adjunct Prof Brian O'Keeffe AO Foundation secretary and Deputy national chairman is former NSW Chairman Bill Galvin OAM.

THE third series of ACT Schools Citizenship Awards will soon be launched and I commend conveners Dr Ray Newcombe OAM and Trish Keller OAM for their leadership of this program – in which we all can share as a benefit of our association membership. This, together with our National Foundation, makes us partners in encouraging young Australians to equip themselves for future leadership and service.

I look forward to sharing fellowship with you through our range of Branch functions.



Len Goodman
AO, chairman

Houston targets Defence challenges

ACM Houston outlined Australia's strategic environment and future challenges facing the Australian Defence Force in preparing Australia's military to meet this uncertainty.

* With the 2009 Government Defence White Paper the most comprehensive Government statement on Defence ever produced – as a vital planning document that will guide future defence commitments and future capabilities.

* The Government decided that Australia's defence policy will continue to be founded on the principle of self-reliance in the direct defence of Australia, but with a capacity to do more when required – which means is that the ADF must be able to deter and defeat armed attacks on Australia.

He then spoke about "Force 2030" saying that today's capability decisions will benefit the nation 20 or 30 years down the track; military capability can take a decade or more to develop, procure and introduce into service; the need train our people to operate and maintain equipment.

He said the Strategic Reform Program would fundamentally overhaul the entire organisation, producing efficiencies and creating significant savings, which the Government has agreed to reinvest in capability.

Turning to The ANZAC spirit he emphasised our current operations and the outstanding young men and women of the ADF who are deployed far from home to defend our nation and our national interests that at this time of year it is always important for us to reflect upon our ANZAC spirit.

Dealing with operations, ACM Houston said that he did not go a day without seeing the spirit of the ANZACs reflected in the men and women of today's Australian Defence Force and that he could not be prouder of the men and women serving on operations under his command. He said:

* Today, the ADF works to bring peace, disaster relief, humanitarian assistance, and security to many areas around the world.

* Our commitment continues with our presence in Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, the Solomon Islands, Egypt, Iraq, Sudan and our coastal waters here at home.

* There are approximately 3300 ADF

On April 19, branch members were invited to Russell to attend the inaugural "Order of Australia-Australian Defence Force Oration" by the Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston AC AFC. This is the synopsis on his speech



Jean Salisbury OAM, left, Barbara Coe, Derek Robson AM and Nicole Armstrong.

servicemen and women deployed around the world. Of these, 400 are actively protecting Australia's borders and offshore maritime assets.

On Afghanistan, he said that our efforts continued to progress well with Operation Slipper having up to 1550 personnel and around 800 additional personnel deployed across the broader Middle East.

* We are very focused on training and preparing the Afghan National Army to meet our objective – to transfer security responsibility to the Afghans as soon as they are ready and reminding us that establishing an effective government and security structure in Afghanistan was always going to be an extremely challenging task.

He reminded us about the ADF response to natural disasters

* The ADF's response and recovery operations in Queensland, Victoria, WA and the NT following a summer of natural disasters, the largest ADF response to a civil emergency to date, with the equivalent of an entire joint brigade group of about 3500 people at short notice and during normal stand-down for the Christmas/New Year period.

On women in combat, he advised



John O'Neill OAM, left, Joyce Goodman, David Marshall AM and CDR Ivan Ingham AM.

that currently, 93 per cent of all ADF employment categories are open to women and women have been deployed on operations for many years with about 230 women currently deployed overseas, including in Afghanistan where they are supporting frontline operations.

"We are now looking at the standards required for the remaining seven per cent of roles, so that they can be opened to women who meet the necessary standards," he said.

"I know the community is divided on this topic, but I am firmly of the view that women should be able to work in any position in the ADF for which they meet the demands of the job – and that includes direct combat roles."

The full text of ACM Houston's speech is on the association website, www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au



Members and guests are invited to a special 2011 Queen's Birthday Lunch

SPEAKER: Dr Robyn Archer AO, "The Centenary of Canberra: You'll never look at the national capital in the same way again."

Robyn is Creative Director Centenary of Canberra (2013), Artistic Director of The Light in Winter Federation Square, Melbourne, the National Festival of Australian Theatre, the Adelaide Festival of Arts, and the Melbourne International Festival of Arts. Her reach is global as a singer, writer, and director and she is the only Australian member of the European House of Culture. Robyn is an Officer of the Order of Australia, Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (France), Officer of the Crown (Belgium), awarded the International Society of Performing Arts' Citation of Merit, the Dame Elisabeth Murdoch ABAF Award for Cultural Leadership, honorary doctorates Flinders, Sydney and Canberra Universities and is an Adjunct Professor University of Canberra.

Members of the Order of the British Empire Association will join with us for this celebratory luncheon

DATE: Wednesday, June 15
TIME: 12.30 – 2.00pm
COST: \$69
PLACE: "Boathouse by the Lake", Grevillea Park, Menindee Drive.
DRESS: Jacket and tie/day wear; lapel badge
RSVP: By Friday, June 10

**Booking slip below
to be mailed to:**

Mrs Jennifer Muir OAM
 2/9 Bisdee Street,
 HUGHES ACT, 2605

ENQUIRIES AND BOOKINGS: Mrs Jennifer Muir OAM | Ph: 6282 7456

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY LUNCH

Name and postnominals _____

Guest Name(s) and postnominals: _____

Dietary Requirements _____

Contact details for noting:

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Facsimile: _____

Mobile No.: _____

Address: _____

_____ Area Code _____

E-mail: _____

Payment instructions:

My cheque to OAA-ACT for \$ _____ is enclosed.

OR

MASTERCARD

VISA

Card no.:

Expiry date /

Signature _____ Sum authorised \$ _____

Name on the card _____

Please Note: Credit Card payments and Cheques may not be processed until the actual event. Please also note that SEPARATE Registration Forms are required for each OAA/ACT Branch Event to facilitate our booking processes. Thank you.