



NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWSLETTER

NORTHERN TERRITORY BRANCH
PO Box 2171 Parap NT 0804

Sept 2011

Conference 2012 Chair: Wendy James
Tel: (08) 8981 2715 Fax: (08) 8981 6033
Email: wendy-james@bigpond.com

Patron: His Honour the Administrator, Mr. Tom Pauling AO, Q.C.

Message from the NT Chairman

Member of the NT Branch becomes Donor to the OAA Foundation

It was a pleasure to meet up again with the NT philanthropist Terry Baldwin. He and his wife Ellinor have become Associate Foundation Members (\$1,000 per year for 5 years) of the OAA Foundation. Terry is very keen to help young Australians to become our future leaders.

The NT Branch has just concluded two years with our OAA Foundation Scholar, Rebecca Evans, when she graduated from Charles Darwin University this year. I think she was fortunate to attend our University and this was confirmed this month when some of the Chancellors of the 40 odd Australian Universities met in Darwin. They were impressed by the scope of CDUs innovative programs, buildings, liason with secondary schools, new medical school and indigenous teaching.

We are looking forward to meeting many interstate members of the Order in April next year. Our NT hospitality will, as usual, be warm and welcoming.



Valerie Asche AM
Chairman

From the Conference 2012 Chairman

Update on National Conference - Darwin 12th - 13th April 2012.

The two day Program and Registration Form for the National Conference in April next year has been finalized . It will be published in the November issue of the National Magazine "The Order" as well as on the Conference website <http://www.tashost.com.au/oaant/>



Interest is coming from all States, I believe one of the reasons is that this will be the first OAA National Conference held in the tropics. The NT Branch is proud of the fact that members hosted National Executive Committee Meetings in Darwin in 1993 and 1998 during Eddie Quong's long and successful term as Chairman. In those days Branches could send more than one delegate to the meeting and many took the opportunity to come North. I have met many of them and they are still talking about the wonderful time they had in Darwin. I hope this Conference is just as memorable..

The NT Branch is launching the Conference at a cocktail party with local members at the Darwin Turf Club, Fannie Bay on 22nd September. Michael Martin, Secretary/Treasurer of the Branch has arranged the function as you can see from his report

elsewhere in this newsletter. We hope you will come with a guest and enjoy getting together with other members at 5.30 to 7.00pm for FREE finger food and drinks. Please remember to RSVP to Michael on martinnt@bigpond.com.net.au or tele: 0401 112 794.

The Conference Committee is pleased and honored to announce that the Governor General, Ms Quentin Bryce AC will be attending the National Conference. The Governor General is the Chancellor of the Order of Australia and Patron of The Order of Australia Association. We look forward to welcoming her to the Conference and to Darwin.

The Theme for the Conference is "Australia's Front Door" This will open up many aspects of Australia's history and in particular the history of the Northern Territory. The first day of the program lists the Oration. We are delighted to announce that long time Territorian and eminent Australian the Hon Austin Asche AC QC will be the Orator, he has indicated that he will develop the theme "Australia's Front Door" for his talk, this is one Oration that should not be missed.

On the 14th April, the day after the Conference ends, our committee is offering a morning tour free of charge that will take participants to the famous Parap Markets with its fabulous Asian food stalls, fresh coffee and tropical fruit then on to the new Military Museum and a talk by Mr. Tom Lewis OAM about Darwin's military history and the 70th Anniversary of 64 bombing raids by the Japanese on Darwin during World War 2 in 1942. Hopefully he will also mention the fact that there were other places in the Territory that suffered aerial attack though none as serious as those on Darwin.

The deadline for Registrations is 10th March 2012 and I hope we will have many Territory members booked in by then for what promises to be a great two days. The new Medina Vibe Hotel complex in the Waterfront Precinct has given us an excellent discounted daily rate. The hotel is only two steps and a jump from the conference venue. There are four excellent restaurants and a Coffee Club virtually next door and there is the tourist precinct on Stokes Hill wharf. Be early with your registration to take advantage of this discount.

Wendy James,
Chairman NT Conference Committee.

From The Secretary - Mr Michael Martin OAM

Launch of 2012 National Conference

Details of the Launch are:

Venue	Function Centre Darwin Turf Club Fannie Bay
Time and Date	5.30pm to 7pm Thursday 22 September 2011
Refreshments	Finger food Wine Beer and Soft drinks
Cost	Free
RSVP	to Michael Martin at martinnt@bigpond.net.au Or ring on 0401 112 794

Annual General Meeting

Note your diaries that the AGM will be held on Wednesday 23 November at Framed Gallery 55 Stuart Highway Stuart Park. Refreshment will be made available and this is a good opportunity to meet with your fellow members. A notice will be sent to you in late October 2011.

Nominations for the Committee of the Association

At the AGM elections will be held for the following positions

- Chairperson
- Deputy Chairperson
- Secretary/ Treasurer
- Southern Region representative
- Committee Positions

Please consider standing for any of the above positions and **complete the attached form**.

If you would like more information on the Committee and the role you could play please contact

Val Asche	89484778	or
Wendy James	89812715	or
Michael Martin	0401 112 794	

Email Addresses

Some of you would have noticed that mail from the Association is now being sent out by email as well as postage. If you are receiving your correspondence by postage but would prefer email please send your email address to Michael Martin at martinnt@bigpond.net.au or Newsletter Editor Earl James at

ebmjames@bigpond.com .

Email is the preferred method but we understand that a number of members do not have access to it so postage will always be available where required.

From the Editor



Darwin's First Hotel

The Order of Australia was instituted by Her Majesty the Queen on 14 February 1975. It was established as “an Australian Society of Honour for the purpose of according recognition to Australian citizens and other persons for achievement or for meritorious service.” The Order consists of The Sovereign, the Governor-General of Australia, the Prince of Wales, and such members that the Governor-General may appoint. The Governor General is Chancellor of the Order and is charged with its administration.”

People who have been awarded an Honour by the Order of Australia are eligible to join the Order of Australia Association which was created to, among other things:

promote loyalty to the Crown; afford the means for members to conduct commemorative functions from time to time; to encourage continuing meritorious awards; foster awareness of Australia's history, traditions and culture; and generally, to promote good citizenship and encourage a sense of national unity amongst Australians.

These are laudable objects but apart from the creation of the Order of Australia Association Foundation I have seen little tangible evidence that the Association has been achieving them. I was awarded my Honour in 1994 and when our illustrious Branch Chairman, Eddie Quong, invited me to join. I asked him “what does the organisation do?” He answered in vague terms that indicated a predilection for intra-membership fellowship and enjoyment of each other's company. So I did not join. I had enough intra-membership fellowship with the many other organisations that I was involved with at the time. I did not join until many years later when my wife became involved in Branch and National affairs. I joined because I didn't want to be just another “accompanying person” at functions and conferences.

And all the time I have been a member I have gone on wondering what we could be doing to achieve some of our objects. I do not know what other Branches do in this regard. Perhaps someone in one of them could enlighten me as to what they do to achieve them. I'm sure few members would be interested in fund raising efforts like those carried out by Rotary or Lions clubs, but raising significant donations from corporations for the benefit of our Foundation might be one way. Trying to overcome the inordinate lack of knowledge in our community about the political structure of the country might be another. This could be achieved by offering regular lectures to schoolchildren by members with the time to do so. Promotion of the history of this country to governments and the education authorities could be another. Surely the objects of our association are worthy of discussion by members. Indeed there is a Member's Forum at each conference which is provided to cater for just such discussion.

Talking about history, did you know that Darwin was created in 1869 for just one purpose? It was to be the terminal of an Overland Telegraph Line from Adelaide and the point at which an undersea communication cable would come ashore from Asia. The city has developed considerably since then. The photo above shows what accommodation was like in the early days while the one below gives a view of the Waterfront Precinct as it is today. The conference venue is in the foreground with the Vibe-Medina Hotel complex directly behind it. Come and stay there for a few days. Greet each morning with a swim in the lagoon followed by breakfast at the Coffee Club.



Today's Modern Waterfront Complex



*To foster love and pride in Australian citizenship and
to uphold the high principles and prestige of the Order of Australia*

**THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION
Northern Territory Branch**

PO Box 2171, Parap NT 0804
Chairperson – Val Asche AM

Patron: His Honour the Administrator Mr. Tom Pauling AO QC

Committee Nomination Form 2011/2012

I..... (Please Print)
would like to nominate for the following position on the
NT Branch of the Order of Australia Association

Position:

Nominated By:

Seconded By:

Signed:

Please post to Secretary, NT Branch, OAAssociation, PO Box 2171, Parap NT 0804
or email to martinnt@bigpond.net.au by 20 November 2011

FOR YOUR DIARY:-

Annual General Meeting:	23 November 2011
Venue:	Framed Gallery, 55 Stuart Highway, Stuart Park
Positions Vacant:	Chairperson Deputy Chair Secretary/Treasurer Southern Region Representative Committee Positions

If you have received this newsletter by post it means we do not have your email address. If you have email please advise the Editor on ebmjames@bigpond.com or the Secretary on martinnt@bigpond.net.au