



Australian Ambassador to the US, His Excellency the Honourable Joe Hockey and Mrs. Melissa Hockey.

NEW FACES IN NORTH AMERICA

Australia's new Ambassador to the United States, former Federal Treasurer His Excellency the Honourable Joe Hockey, arrived in his new post in Washington, DC, in late January 2016 in the same manner that his predecessor, the Honourable Kim Beazley AC, in the midst of a snow-storm. But that did not diminish the warmth of his welcome.

Within days of his arrival, he met with The Order of Australia Association – North American Regional Group Chair, Gregory Copley AM, and agreed to take over the mantle of Honorary Vice-Patron of the OAA-NARG, a position begun by the Honourable Kim Beazley six years earlier. "We're looking forward to making the Joe and Melissa Hockey and their family welcome in Washington," Greg Copley said. "It's the first time in decades that we've had a young family living at the Australian Ambassador's Residence, and they have arrived at an exciting time in US politics as well as in US-Australian relations."

But in Canada, too, there have been developments for the Order. The High Commissioner to Canada, former Australian Federal Police Commissioner His Excellency Tony Negus APM, was invested

as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the 2016 Australia Day Honours List. There are only a few holders of ranks in the Order of Australia in Canada, but High Commissioner Negus has expressed a strong interest in support the OAA-NARG, possibly with activities centered around the High Commission in Ottawa.

Australian Dr Carolyn McGregor AM, the Canada Research Chair in Health Informatics and Professor at the Faculty of Business and IT, University of Ontario Institute of Technology, has already participated in OAA-NARG events in Washington, DC, and is helping to see the "North American Regional Group" spread its wings outside the US, where most of the Group's members reside.

The next major outing for the OAA-NARG is participation in the ANZAC Day activities on April 25, 2016, in Washington, DC, where the Group lays a wreath at the Dawn Service, the Gunfire Breakfast, and the Washington National Cathedral services.

For the most part, however, given the widely-dispersed membership of the Group, the OAA-NARG mostly serves as a

point of contact for visiting Order holders, both from within its large area, and Australia and the international community.

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Australian High Commissioner of Canada, His Excellency Tony Negus AO APM.