

# ACT OAA

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION

ACT BRANCH

**Patron**

General Peter Gratton AC OBE

**Chair**

Derek Robson AM

**Secretary**

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Brian Acworth AM

**Committee**

Trish Keller OAM  
Dr Andrew Lu OAM  
Ian Meikle AM  
Jennifer Muir OAM  
Ray Newcombe OAM

**Immediate past Chair**

Len Goodman AO

**Branch mailbox**

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**Branch website**

[www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/ACT](http://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](mailto:btrewartha@grapevine.com.au)

**Newsletter team**

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

## A sentence or two from the chief magistrate!

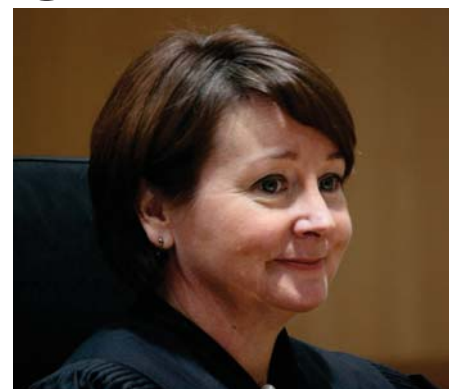
LORRAINE Walker, the ACT's first female Chief Magistrate, is our guest speaker at the Branch's annual Australia Day breakfast at the Southern Cross Yacht Club at Yarralumla on January 26.

Appointed in October after 18 months on the Magistrate's Court bench, she is a 42-year-old mother of four boys. Self-described as a "Ten Pound Pom", she migrated to Australia with her family as a seven-year-old in 1971.

The family settled in Sydney, where she later graduated in law and was progressively admitted to the bar in the Supreme Courts of NSW, England and Wales, ACT and the High Court of Australia.

Her career spans three years in the RAAF; five as a Senior Crown Prosecutor in the UK; four in Canberra as a partner with Barker and Gosling and, from January 2000 to 2011, a self-employed barrister-at-law in Canberra.

She is active in professional and community affairs, the CIT, ACT Chamber



Chief Magistrate Lorraine Walker... guest speaker at the Australia Day breakfast.

of Commerce and Industry, is an RAAF Specialist Reservist and has a particular interest in health law.

Recreationally, she loves gardening, watching the "Crownies" (of course!) on TV, plays an occasional game of soccer and enjoys the rock band AC/DC!

There is a booking form with the newsletter and members are urged to secure a place as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. This event is a sell out every year.

## SEEN AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



National President Peter McDermott with incoming ACT Branch Chairman Derek Robson and his predecessor Len Goodman.



Alexander Gancarz and Liz Scrivener.



Valerie Blackley and Rosemary Morrall.



Bob and Janet Newman with Jennifer and Peter Radtke.

# Awards for students who care

PATRON General Peter Gration AC, OBE again presented the third annual ACT Branch Student Awards for Citizenship and Community Service at the Great Hall, University House on November 3. The awards and event, organised by Branch Committee members Dr Ray Newcombe OAM and Trish Keller OAM, are growing in interest every year. The individual winners for citizenship

and community service were awarded to Natalia Nuutinen, of Melba Copland Secondary School, Jeeven Nadanakumar, of Marist College and Gemma Armarego, of St Clare's College. The school award went to Giralang Primary School. A certificate of commendation was awarded to Rachel Crampton Smith, of Melba Copland Secondary School.



Duncan Smith performs at the Acknowledgement of Country ceremony. Photo by Peter McDermott.



Individual prize winners for 2011, from left, Natalia Nuutinen, patron Gen Peter Gration AC, OBE, Jeeven Nadanakumar and Gemma Armarego, of St Clare's College.



Rachel Crampton Smith with patron Gen Peter Gration. Rachel was awarded a certificate of commendation.



Giralang Primary School students perform a welcome dance at the the awards ceremony. Photo by Peter McDermott.



Patron Gen Gration congratulates Giralang Primary School deputy principal Andrew Macleod and students Alana Hayduk and Hunter Cross.



Linda Baird, of the ACT Education Directorate, MLA Steve Doszpot, 2011 Branch Chairman Len Goodman AO, Trish Keller OAM and MLA Alistair Coe.

# It's goodbye to a busy year...

HAVING been privileged to serve as Chairman of our ACT Branch for two years and on the Branch Committee for the maximum five years, I am delighted to welcome the election of Derek Robson AM at the AGM on 24 November 24 as Chairman for 2012.

I will join Derek and the elected Committee for one more year as Immediate Past Chairman.

This past year has been surprisingly busy as we further developed the policy of providing choices in the events and functions offered to you as Association members. These started with the clarion call from former Governor General, Maj-Gen Michael Jeffery AC AO (Mil) CVO MC, in his Australia Day address "Australia – Challenges and Opportunities"; the special "Ballets Russes" morning tea and tour at the NGA, the inaugural "OAA-ADF Oration", the second "OAA-ANU Lecture", celebrity speakers at lunch and receptions and our Multifaith Observance at the RMC Chapel.

But beyond those member-oriented events lies the ongoing fundamentals which our membership supports – our expanding "ACT Schools Citizenship Awards" and our National Foundation.

The much valued sponsorship of the Schools Awards by ACTEW Corporation over 2010-11 and continuing into 2012



Outgoing **LEN GOODMAN AO** steps down

has enabled us to raise the profile of these important awards and, as a result, seen a growing interest by schools and colleges. The Foundation awarded three post-graduate scholarships in 2011 and one of our ACT 2009 awardees, Mark Hassall, was announced as a Rhodes Scholar this year.

BEHIND all of these Branch activities there has to be an enthusiastic band of "workers". It is an added privilege for me to thank them most sincerely for their time and energy in planning, convening and managing Branch affairs, events and functions.

Grateful thanks to Secretary Bruce Trewartha OAM; Treasurer Brian Acworth AM; Diane Kargas AM; Trish Keller OAM; Dr Andrew Lu OAM; Ian Meikle AM, Jennifer Muir OAM; Dr Ray Newcombe OAM and Derek Robson AM – and their partners – for support. Here I include my wife Joyce. Our Patron, Gen Peter Gratton AC OBE and his wife Anne are ardent supporters and diligent attendees at functions.

SADLY we farewelled several Branch members over 2011 and, where possi-

ble, we have extended condolences. We have initiated an invitation for partners to remain "friends" and attend functions. We also acknowledge Branch members' achievements

YOU are invited to read the full version of the 2011 Annual Report by logging on to our website [www.theorderofaustraliaassociation.org](http://www.theorderofaustraliaassociation.org) then click on the link to the ACT Branch at the top right. If unable to do so please ask Secretary Bruce for a copy.

I conclude, as I did in my Annual Report, with the view that the core of our Association centres on the fact that we share common values and equalities – irrespective of background or achievement. I leave you with a verse by Edgar Guest that has long inspired me:

Isn't it strange

That princes and kings

And clowns that caper in sawdust rings

And common folk like you and me

Are builders of eternity?

Each is given a bag of tools

A shapeless mass and a book of rules

And each must make 'ere life has flown

A stumbling block or a stepping stone!

My you enjoy a happy and peaceful Christmas and a bounteous New Year.

## ... and hello from our new chairman

I AM honoured to have been appointed as your Chairman for the coming year and look forward to working with you all to enhance the standing of our Association in our region.

I particularly look forward to working closely with the Committee to bring our expectations to reality. I most sincerely thank Len Goodman for his personal efforts and leadership over the past two years as our Chairman. There is no doubt that, under Len's guidance, we have advanced the cause of the association right across our area of influence.

THE ACT Branch will be hosting the Annual Conference in Canberra in 2013 and there is also much to do to ensure that the Association is appropriately involved in the



Incoming chairman **DEREK ROBSON AM** gets his feet under the desk

broader ACT celebrations planned for the same year. We may need to examine our programs and activities, but for the moment, I believe we have the mix of events about right. Regardless, there is no doubt that we are coming up to a most exciting period.

I THANK those who took the time to attend our AGM. This is the time for each of us to be involved in the operations of the Association and make our feelings known. I am pleased to report that there was a general feeling that the Association was

achieving its aims and that it was in good shape. The AGM has given the Committee a number of issues to consider and I am especially conscious of the challenge to consider returning to the arrangement where we subsidised all new recipients at their first function invitation.

This is a good move, but we will need to raise additional funds for this.

With this in mind, I hope that we can have a black-tie evening early in the New Year, with some associated fundraising, so that we can make an attempt to build our financial resources.

Every good wish for the coming festive season and I look forward to our continuing to work for the benefit of the Association – and Australia.

## SEEN AT THE ANU-OAA ANNUAL LECTURE...



Len Goodman AO, 2011 Branch Chairman, guest lecturer Prof John Warhurst AO, and Branch patron Gen Peter Gration AC OBE.



Brig John Salmon OBE (Ret'd), Anne Gration and David Marshall AM.



Air Cdre Peter McDermott AM CSC, Bob Newman OAM, Elizabeth Grant AM



ANU students Brady Warren, Amy Grant and Jack Taylor with Joyce Goodman

## Branch history link in Barton trees

DID you know about the grove of Honey Locust trees opposite the entrance of the R G Casey Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade building in Barton?

It was a gift to the nation in 1979 from the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia Association in recognition of the service to the community by members of the Order, under the chairmanship of Jim Leedman AM. The initiative was negotiated through the then-National Capital Development Commission.

The Honey Locust was chosen for its bright green leaves and yellow flowers to represent traditional Australian colours. The grove is a public place and also provides a leafy retreat for nearby public servants. Then-Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia and Chancellor of the Order, Sir William Deane AC KBE unveiled a plaque on Canberra Day, March 12, 1997 and on February 14, 2000 then-Branch Chairman Elizabeth Grant AM unveiled a second plaque to mark the 25th Anniver-

sary of the Order of Australia Association. I appreciate Les Blackley OAM reminding me of this unique landmark. Les then kindly undertook to arrange for the NCA to assume responsibility for maintenance of the trees.

Thank you Les – and thank you NCA. Why not pay the grove a visit and reflect on the Association of which you are an integral part, now in its 36th year?

**Len Goodman AO**



# Members and guests are invited to attend the 2012 Australia Day Breakfast

**RSVP** by Friday, January 20:  
 Booking slip below to be mailed to:  
 Mr. Bruce Trewartha OAM  
 OAA-ACT Branch  
 16 Vansittart Crescent  
 Kambah ACT 2902

**DATE:** Wednesday 26 January 2012  
**TIME:** 7.45 am for 8.00 am  
**PLACE:** Southern Cross Yacht Club, Mariner Pl, Yarralumla  
 (ample, accessible parking), overlooking Lake Burley Griffin.

## CELEBRATE AUSTRALIA DAY AND HONOURS ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SPEAKER:** Chief Magistrate of the ACT, Lorraine Walker, delivering the Australia Day address "Ten Pound Poms Let Us Rejoice". Lorraine Walker is the ACT's first female Chief Magistrate, appointed in October 2011 after 18 months on the Magistrate's Court bench. A 48 year old mother of four boys, she is a self-described Ten Pound Pom immigrating with her family in 1971, settling in Sydney where she later graduated in Arts and Law. She was progressively admitted to the Supreme Courts of NSW, England and Wales, ACT and the High Court of Australia. Her Honour's career spans three years in the RAAF; five as a Senior Crown Prosecutor in the UK; four in Canberra as a Partner with Barker and Gosling and from January 2000 to 2011 a self-employed Barrister-at-law in Canberra. She is active in Professional and Community affairs, has been on the board of the C.I.T and the ACT Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is an RAAF Specialist Reservist, has a particular interest in health law and mental health issues, loves gardening, watching "Crownies" on T.V., plays an occasional game of soccer and enjoys the rock band AC/DC!

Lorraine Walker came out as a seven year old to "a better life in Australia" and she declares "I think the Ten Pound Pom thing came true!"

**COST:** \$40.00 per person.  
**DRESS:** Jacket and Tie/Day wear; Neck decorations, full medals to be worn.

**ENQUIRIES:** Bruce Trewartha OAM | 6231 0281 (h) | 0439 887480 (m)

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

MASTERCARD

VISA

Card no.:

Expiry date /

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Sum authorised \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name on the card \_\_\_\_\_