



NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWSLETTER

May 2007

NORTHERN TERRITORY BRANCH

Chair: Wendy James OAM

Postal Address

PO Box 2171 Parap NT 0804

Patron: His Honour the Administrator, Mr Ted Egan AO

April Fool!

Isn't that a nicer way to start than, The Editor Regrets...? Of course this is your April issue, but we've changed it so it doesn't seem quite so old when you get it in the mail. While April was being put to bed there were a glitch or two, and a complete rewrite of all the news that didn't happen. Dr Bill Wilson has worked hard on the colour supplement, and we hope this will all be in the print edition as well as on line at www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au

In this issue

Chairman's Page

Dear Diary – 2007 at a Glance

Membership Matters

Obituary – Dr Alan Walker AM

Annual or Queen's Birthday Dinner

Afternoon Tea at Craft Council

Contacts - The Branch Committee

Southern Regional Group

The Foundation – Time for tax deductible donations

Annual Dinner

Friday 8 June 2007, 6.30 for 7.00 pm
Novotel Atrium Darwin, on the Esplanade
\$40.00 per person, meal only.

Guest Speaker: Graeme Sawyer of *Frog Watch*

New appointees, partners and friends, and touring members of the Association most welcome
Dress: Darwin Rig with miniatures and neck decorations

Bookings essential:

RSVP 1 June 2007 – form on back page

This is the NT branch's main annual function. The Novotel Atrium is easily accessible, with good parking on the Esplanade. It is a short walk from the Darwin CBD and most hotels, and from Government House, Parliament and the Law Courts. More inside....

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The Order of Australia Association Northern Territory Branch – ABN 40 008 664

More on the Annual Dinner

Early Notice and whom to invite

This Newsletter is displayed on the Association's website, so it may be early enough notice to attract visitors. Maybe an Association member planning a holiday up here will read it and be able to join us – we would love to see you. To our own members - We hope to be joined by recent appointees to the Order of Australia, their partners and friends. Why not bring some guests yourselves? In particular why not bring folk who are not in the Association but could be? Or belong to the Order of the British Empire? Or have an Australia Day Council award?

Darwin Rig?

We think the technical term for ladies' dress for the dinner is After Five: for men it is Darwin Rig, as distinct from Darwin Formal. That is, make sure your husband has a long-sleeved shirt and tie and long trousers. Don't believe websites that say "no tie". A black *bow tie* and black pants counts as Formal and is a bit Over-The-Top; on the other hand one may wear an open-necked shirt in the style of the Philippine Barong. Male members of the Association may sport the Association tie, ladies the scarf. **Order form is in *The Order* No. 20, page 8.**

Decorations

As it is after 6pm, miniature decorations should be worn. One should not at the same time wear the lapel badge. If one is the possessor of a neck badge, as for example an Officer of the Order, that neck badge should be worn. We think the new broad-banded Association tie with medals is a bit much but, heck, we'll be among friends.

FAQ – Will I hear the speaker?

Yes we have joined the computer age. To most of us, FAQ meant Fair Average Quality and referred to the wool clip, now it's Frequently Asked Questions. We really do expect you will hear the speaker, because we have invested in a sound system.

Now go to back page to make your dinner reservation.

NT Committee of 2007

Chairman and National Director

Vice-Chairman

SECRETARY

Treasurer

Committee Members -

Dr Val Asche AM

Rosemary Burkitt OAM

Jim Forwood AM

Spot the Difference

Wendy James OAM

Kathleen Short OAM

Dr Bill Wilson APM OAM

Yogan Sathianathan OAM

Maisie Austin OAM

Dr David Cox AM

Alasdair McGregor OAM

Committee meets at 5.00 pm on 4th Tuesday of odd months at 16 Allen Street Fannie Bay: next meeting 22 May, 24 July, 25 September. **AGM Friday 16 November.**

Postal address Order of Australia Association, NT Branch
PO Box 2171
Parap NT 0804

Newsletter email: alsadairhelenmcgregor@hotmail.com



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SCOOP You read it here first. We welcome **Dr Bill Wilson APM OAM** to the Branch Committee as Secretary. In all the coverage of Bill's retirement, there was no hint of this!

Membership Matters

Because membership does matter, this column should be able to give up-to-date statistics. Wendy believes we are currently over the 100 mark, but we have not the information on which to say Welcome to any of you who have recently joined or rejoined. Sorry. ***Make sure we welcome you at the dinner.*** We note that **John Pinney AM** has moved to Brisbane, and we note the death of **Dr Alan Walker AM**. John will now automatically belong to Queensland Branch, unless he decides to stay with us. We all have that choice, but one does not automatically get the local newsletters if not in the Branch.

If any of you have changed your postal address, please tell us, (preferably direct to Alasdair at alasdairhelenmcgregor@hotmail.com) so that we can pass the information on to National Membership Director in Canberra, and change our own records.

In Alice Springs, the Southern Group organisers really do need support. Any member who can help **Gavin Carpenter** and the team get things moving again please offer your services, directly to them.

In Katherine, **Don Smith OAM** is the chap to talk to, to move things along.

And in Tennant Creek, lone member **Alf Chittock OAM** was visited not once, but twice on the same March day, by Gavin and Joan Carpenter, and then by Alasdair McGregor.

Southern Regional Group

(The Group is based in Alice Springs and takes in the Territory south of Elliott)

Convener Mr Gavin Carpenter OAM phone (08) 8955 0177

Mr Bern Kilgariff AM

Mrs Susan Ride OAM

Dr Alan Walker AM

Alan died on 11 April 2007 aged 75. His life's work was paediatrics in the Northern Territory. He was awarded his AM in the 1991 Queen's Birthday Honours List "for service to medicine particularly in the field of paediatrics". At that stage he had led the way in Territory paediatrics for 24 years. His funeral service at Christchurch Cathedral was

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attended by very many colleagues, medical and nursing, as well as patients and their parents. Many members of the Order were present. The Revd Pat Williams OAM conducted the service, and Dr Len Notaras AM gave one of the eulogies. Wendy James OAM arranged the flowers. Through the 16 years since Alan received his award he continued his work and received many professional honours. Charles Scarf said of Alan in 1992:

“All of us have our dreams; some forget them, while others dream on. Living a dream is not easy and only a great man can live it for the betterment of humanity.”

It was a beautiful service, arranged of course by Alan, and worthy of judicious copying. We all join Wendy in offering sincere sympathy to Anne and the family.

The Order of Australia Association Foundation

“Helps deserving young Australians from all walks of life to achieve their potential”

HOW CAN YOU HELP THEM DO THIS?

Simple: Make a tax deductible donation to the Foundation while you still pay tax *

Contact: oaafoundation@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

OR write to The OAA Foundation Secretary
Old Parliament House King George Terrace
PARKES ACT 2600

*No flippancy is intended, but from 1 July some of you may be able to access all your superannuation and other income without paying tax. For those persons there will be no tax incentive to give charitably. So they will be financially advantaged by giving before 30 June. A charitable disposition, however, remains a hallmark of membership of the Association.

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION MERCHANDISE

Please forward me: Tie(s) @ \$35 + \$1 postage
. Scarf(ves) (Polyester Twill) @ \$27.50 + \$1 postage
. Scarf(ves) (Polyester Chiffon) @ \$27.50 + \$1 postage
. Pen(s) @ \$10 = \$1 postage

() My cheque is attached; or Charge my () Visa () Mastercard

Card number Expiry date / .
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Name on card

Full mailing address

Phone ()

Fax ()

Fax or mail order to Mr Richard Rozen OAM
National Merchandise Officer
The Order of Australia Association
3/144 Were Street, BRIGHTON Vic 3186
Fax: (03) 9592 1767 Tel: (03) 9592 8068

Reminder – Members only may wear ties and scarves

Afternoon Tea

Our afternoon teas have proved popular, especially with older members having difficulty with night functions. Our next will be at 3pm on Sunday 22 July behind the Craft Council Gallery in Conacher Street, Fannie Bay by the NT Museum. The Gallery will be open. For catering, we ask you to respect the RSVP date (**13 July**) and pay in advance.

DEAR DIARY

- 25 April 2007 **Anzac Day, book laying, at Darwin Cenotaph Dawn Service.** We all saw that on ABCTV – well done Wendy.
- 8 June 2007 Friday before Queen's Birthday
Annual Branch Dinner, Novotel, Darwin RSVP 1 June
- 22 July 2007 **3pm at Craft Council, Conacher Street Darwin** – afternoon tea for members and partners to meet **Queen's Birthday awardees** and their partners: details this page RSVP 13 July
- Various dates Mayoral Receptions TBA

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Chairman Wendy plans to visit Alice Springs, perhaps in September, in conjunction with the Queen's Birthday Investiture.

16 November 2007 **Annual General Meeting and Dinner**, Darwin, details TBC.

Key to Colour Supplement

The Big Picture

The Hon Austin Asche AC QC, Freeman of the City of Darwin, with Dr Val Asche AM

Photos From Functions,

Top left to right – The New Leaders: National President Dr Neil Conn AO and National Chairman Ms Dina Browne AO at National Conference; Alasdair McGregor OAM, NT Chairman Wendy James OAM and Gavin Carpenter OAM at the conference; at Wendy's reception for new recipients, Alasdair again, Mrs Sue Bradley AM and Earl James AM

Centre left to right – National Treasurer Geoff Vincent AM and National Secretary Jim Leedman AM; Kevin Davis AM and Nan Giese AO OBE celebrate with Austin Asche; Joe Sarib OAM and Marion Sarib celebrated too

Bottom left to right – Gary Swanson and Kath Phelan AM at the function for Austin; the man himself, the Hon Austin Asche AC QC receiving the certificate of Freeman of the City of Darwin from the acting Lord Mayor Bob Elix, on 29 January; new Deputy National Chairman, Air Commodore Peter McDermott AM CSC at National Conference

Editor's note: Our thanks to Bill Wilson for formatting these photos by mainly Wendy, and preparing the original captions, on which these are based. One should not criticise journos for the total fatuity of Social Notes captioning. There is an art to it, and some of us don't have it.

Chairman's Page

The dragon flies are swooping, there is a hint of Dry Season in the air and plans are in hand for our Annual Queen's Birthday Dinner on 8 June. I look forward to seeing you again as we celebrate the cooler weather and the pleasure of meeting again for the first time in 2007.

The National Conference held in Sydney in February was a great success. It is not easy to run a conference in a large city and keep everyone relaxed and happy, but the NSW Conference Committee excelled in every way and did just that. The social events were enjoyable and different and included High Tea at Parliament House where we were all thoughtfully seated for the afternoon tea and entertainment. The State Reception held on the lawns of Government House overlooking the sparkling harbour was a special experience and the excellent Annual Black Tie Dinner was made even more memorable when His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffrey AC presented the OOA Foundation Bursary Prizes.. The four young men and women responded with outstanding "off the cuff" speeches and we all felt ridiculously proud of them! Hopefully next year we will see a young Territorian receive one of these generous \$45,000 bursary prizes.

The Northern Territory was represented by Alasdair and Helen McGregor, Gavin and Joan Carpenter and Earl and me. Earl found himself quite enjoying the role of an "accompanying person" and it was great to have him there. The 2008 conference will be held in Canberra and



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the programme being planned should coax many members to attend, so do think about it. *The Order* will keep you informed about the details and dates.

The day long Director's meeting, the AGM and Regional Groups meeting kept me busy. I am always impressed at the depth of experience the Directors bring to the meetings, and feel proud to be one of them. Dr Neil Conn AO has been elected National President, Ms Dina Browne AM National Chairman and AIRCDRE Peter McDermott AM CSC is now Deputy National Chairman.

On the local scene - Australia Day medal recipients were congratulated by the NT Branch Committee in March at a drinks and nibbles get together at my home. I attended the Anzac Day Memorial Service on 25 April and placed a book at the Cenotaph which was later presented to the Casuarina Senior College by the RSL President. On 15 April Bernie Kilgariff AM represented the Branch in Alice Springs at the Investiture of Miss Virginia Mitchell OAM and Sergeant Vincent Johnson APM. My sincere thanks to Mrs Joan Higgins OAM who has retired from the Alice Springs Southern Region Committee because of ill health. Joan established the committee and we appreciate her contribution.

On a sad note, our deep and sincere sympathy is extended to Anne Walker and her family following the death of her husband Dr Alan Walker AM.

I wish you well and look forward to seeing you at the dinner on 8 June.

Wendy James OAM

22 July, Afternoon Tea at Craft Council

I shall attend the Afternoon Tea at the Craft Council:
(name)

I will be accompanied by:
(name)

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The Order of Australia Association Northern Territory Branch – ABN 40 008 664

@ \$10.00 per person

My cheque to “Order of Australia Association NT Branch” for \$ is enclosed

RSVP by 13 July 2007 to PO Box 2171 Parap NT 0804

All enquiries to **Kathleen Short (08) 8985 5175**

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Annual Queen’s Birthday Dinner, Darwin

Apology

I am not able to attend the Queen’s Birthday Dinner and I ask that my apology be recorded.

Post to **PO Box 2171 Parap 0804** or phone Kathleen Short **(08) 8985 5175**

Acceptance

RSVP by 1 June 2007 to PO Box 2171 Parap NT 0804

I (name)
shall attend the Dinner at Novotel Atrium, Esplanade, Darwin on Friday, 8 June 2007 at 6.30 for 7.00 pm.

I shall be accompanied by
and
@ \$40.00 per person.

My cheque to “Order of Australia Association NT Branch” for \$ is enclosed

(Please pay with booking if you possibly can, to allow Yogan Sathianathan our treasurer a fun night too.)

The meal will be a two course “alternate drop”: **please indicate below** if you require e.g. a vegetarian meal.

All enquiries to **Kathleen Short (08) 8985 5175**

NB – we may refuse refunds on cancellations after 3 June.