



NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWSLETTER

October 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

Notice of Annual General Meeting and Dinner

**The Annual General Meeting of the Northern Territory Branch
will be held on
Friday 23 November 2006 at 7.00 pm
Brolga Room, Novotel Atrium, 100 The Esplanade, Darwin**

Business

To confirm the minutes of AGM2006
To receive chairman's report, treasurer's report, and Southern Region report
Election of officers
Any other business

Guests of members are welcome to observe AGM

Dinner will follow AGM at 7.30 pm **\$45 a person**
Drinks (at own expense) from 6.30 pm
@ bar adjacent to Brolga Room

**Speaker: Dr Helen Garnett PSM
Vice-Chancellor CDU**

RSVP (with payment if possible) by **13 November** to Secretary
PO Box 2171
Parap NT 0804

Or phone **Bill Wilson** **8941 5847**
email **billwilson2@mac.com**

Dress: Darwin Rig with Miniatures (neck decorations for AC and AO)

Nomination forms and Dinner booking and apologies, see back page

NT Committee of 2007

Chairman and NT National Director	Wendy James OAM
Vice-Chairman	Kathleen Short OAM
Secretary	Dr Bill Wilson APM OAM
Treasurer	Yogan Sathianathan OAM
Committee Members -	
Dr Val Asche AM	Maisie Austin OAM
Rosemary Burkitt OAM	Dr David Cox AM
Jim Forwood AM	Alasdair McGregor OAM

Committee meets at 5.00 pm on 4th Tuesday of odd months at 16 Allen Street Fannie Bay.
Next meeting: 25 September, 20 November. **AGM Friday 23 November.**

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

Newsletter email: alasdairhelenmcgregor@hotmail.com

NT Committee of 2008

Several of the Committee will not seek re-election at the AGM – see Chairman's Page. Please think seriously about nominating yourself. Yes, the form on the **back page** does provide for a nominator and a seconder – just you fill in and sign the form, and we will complete the blanks. **Don't be put off** nominating by your distance from Darwin – a great deal can be done by e-mail and conference phone. We are currently strong in membership but weak in activities, especially outside Darwin. We know it: you know it: make a difference.

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

Southern Regional Group

Everyone from Elliott south is a member of the Southern Group. (**Kenneth** Warriner AM lives at Newcastle Waters, and the boundary is elastic enough to include the homestead.) In hindsight, we should have moved the imaginary line north into an uninhabited area.

On 18 October the **Mayor of Alice Springs** is hosting a reception for Honours Recipients. We hope many of you will be able to attend. Similar functions have been well received in Katherine and Darwin. NT Chairman Wendy James plans to be in the Alice for this.

Soon our patron, **Ted Egan AO**, relinquishes the administratorship and after a short break will return with Nerys to Alice Springs and a private life. He has been so active as patron that we entertain no doubt that he will be an active and valued member of the Group. **Ted and Nerys** have been great supporters of the Association, and the bottom line is we thank them heartily.

DEAR DIARY – Note change of date for AGM

- 20 August 2007 Chairman Wendy James at National Committee Meeting, Melbourne
(Report in this *Newsletter*)
- 19 September Lord Mayor of Darwin's Reception for Order of Australia
(Report in this *Newsletter*)
- 18 October **Mayor of Alice Springs Reception** for Honours Recipients by
invitation; Chairman plans to visit Alice Springs for this
- 23 November **Annual General Meeting and Dinner**, Novotel Atrium Darwin
Details, front page; nomination and booking forms, back page
- 14 – 17 February **National Conference, Canberra**
Brochure on www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au website

Queen's Birthday Functions

When we promised you a report (see last *Newsletter*) we didn't think it would be so late. But then, we never promised you *news*.

Members were among the guests of our patron the Administrator, at the Queen's Birthday Reception at Government House. The venue is delightful, and it was a great time to catch up with folk. There were 52 at the dinner which followed at the Atrium, including Alderman Heather Sjoberg chairman of the Australia day Council and John and Glenda Worrell of the Royal Commonwealth Society NT. Wendy displayed our new Banner. The meal and the company were good. Financially, we came out ahead.

Our Guest speaker was Frogwatch's **Graeme Sawyer**, whose talk was most entertaining, informative, and well-received. The raffle prize, a **cane toad trap** and a bottle of wine, was won by retiring Bishop of Darwin, **Ted Collins AM**. Doubtless he will put the trap to good use as he plans to be in Darwin a few months of each year.

Afternoon Tea - 22 July

We welcomed several new recipients of awards in the Queen's Birthday List among the 25 or so who came to our Afternoon Tea at the Craft Council Gallery on 22 July. We may even have new members as a result of it. It provided an opportunity to buy from the very pleasant water-colour exhibition within the gallery. Patron Ted Egan and Nerys Evans honoured us with their presence. Congratulations to Wendy and her tiny band of helpers for the catering and general organisation. It was a pleasant event, and we cleared \$156, but it was a lot of work for Wendy and her Few. A pity more did not attend, and a pity that commercial purveyors of afternoon teas are not interested in such an event during the tourist season.

Lord Mayor's Reception

The new Lord Mayor of Darwin, Garry Lambert, on 19 September was pleased to continue what is becoming annual tradition and hold a reception for members of the Order at the Civic Centre. A good crowd, perhaps 70, mainly members of the Association and their partners, attended, among them three new recipients of the OAM from the Queen's Birthday List, **Stewart Cox, Michael Martin** and **Peter Murphy**. In a display of jingoism the Lord Mayor suggested the Commonwealth Government had wasted an opportunity by not creating the Order of Australia on 19 February 1976, the anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin. Instead, the Queen and PM Gough Whitlam chose Valentine's Day. "Isn't it romantic..."

Membership Matters

Secretary **Bill Wilson** has for the moment taken over the membership portfolio from Alasdair McGregor. The first step was to prove Bill a member! Difficulty is that the rolls are maintained in Canberra, and sometimes we drop off the roll before we drop off the perch – the reverse is bad enough, but easier to take.

Has anyone knowledge of **June Cunningham OAM** of 5/7 Lorna Lim Terrace Driver? She joined us on 15 August 1994. We have not had local mail returned yet, but National Office lists her as missing. If you receive this, June, please call Bill on 8941 5847.

Welcome **Carole Mansfield OAM** of Fannie Bay. Carole was in the Bali List.

Jack Larcombe OAM

Jack Larcombe OAM died on 27 August. Older Territorians knew well his services to football and government. Our sympathy and condolences go to Roma and the family. Jack's Medal was awarded in the Queen's Birthday Honours of 1985 for public service and for service to the community. He was formerly a member of the Association.

Bob Collins AO

The Hon. Bob Collins AO died on 21 September. He had been leader of the opposition in the NT Legislative Assembly, then went into the Senate. He served in several portfolios in the Hawke and Keating Governments from 1990 to 1996. He was made AO in 2004 for his public service. Our sympathy and condolences go to Rosemary and the family.

September Investiture

Branch Secretary Dr Bill Wilson APM OAM and Pat Wilson OAM represented us at the Darwin Investiture to honour and congratulate recipients of awards in the Queen's Birthday List. We hear with pleasure that several are taking up membership of the Association.

Postnominals – Who Cares?

July 2007 Newsletter of NT Anti-Discrimination Commission has a story about the Mawul Rom Pilot Project launch at the Supreme Court on Darwin. That community law project is important, especially in these times of Intervention, but we note here that one of the co-chairs was "Rev Djiniyini Gondarra OMA"!

Finally, what does it mean *to be awarded an Order of Australia?* That only makes sense where there is but one grade, as in *he was awarded the Thistle*. It is an ugly shorthand.

Nominating for Awards

We received a sheet of A4 paper recently either as a Government mail-out or in junk mail. On the two heavily sponsored sides were all one needed to nominate someone for Australian of the Year 2008 – complete the form, lick down the sides, post to National Australia Day Council Reply Paid. Or, nominate on line. Compare that with a nomination to the Order of Australia. Navigate a website, coordinate three or four referees etcetera, etcetera. Yet both [australianoftheyear](http://australianoftheyear.com.au) and [itsanhonour](http://itsanhonour.gov.au) are Commonwealth Government websites.

To nominate a person for an award in the Order, go to www.itsanhonour.gov.au and follow the prompts to obtain a lengthy and comprehensive form.

Chairman's Report

National Committee Meeting 20 August 2007 held at Hilton Airport Hotel, Melbourne

I flew to Melbourne on 19 August, enjoyed an informal dinner with most directors at the hotel that evening, attended the all day meeting of National Committee and flew back to Darwin on 21 August.

Chairman Dina Browne chaired her first full National meeting and Dr Neil Conn attended in his capacity as National President. New directors were welcomed, Pat Igoe from Tasmania, David Game from South Australia and Geoff Neilson from Victoria.

Agenda items included –

Finance-

The Treasurer, Geoff Vincent, presented an “Investment Growth Strategy Paper” to explain the background behind the investment strategy of growth rather than the income. The strategy was approved. To date our Treasurer has been very successful with his careful Share investments for the Association which is one of investment rather than trading.

Budget - There has been a rise in certain costs over recent years but the Association will have a small surplus in 2007-2008.

Membership-

Branch membership as at 4 August was 8295, including 5629 Life Members.

Due to delay of notification of Honours List from OOA the States and Territories will in future send out their congratulatory letters prior to the National Chairman's letter.

Future Directions-

The Strategies Plan 2007-2012 was presented by Deputy National Chairman Peter McDermott. With a few minor changes the Strategy was endorsed for the National Committee Meeting in February and has been sent to all Branches for final input.

Foundation-

Production of Receipt books for Foundation donations are in hand. The ‘Prizes’ for students will now be called ‘Scholarships’. Twelve Scholarships have been awarded since 2004 and funding is available for another five in 2007. Two Scholarships have been funded by our Association for the first time and I am hoping an NT student will be a recipient in the near future.

Banner-

The word Association had been omitted from the first banners and this is regarded as misleading. The template is to be corrected for future use.

Web master's Report

Total Sessions 10,087

Hits 61,548

Application for Membership Forms will be put on web site in future.

Wendy James

Chairman NT Branch

Editor's Warning

We went to the Association website www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au to check for nomination forms for Order of Australia (we used to have them on the old site) and to look at the Application for Membership forms. We aroused a McAfee Site Advisor warning “After entering our e-mail address on this site, we received 4 - 5 e-mails per week. They were very spammy.” So maybe we need to take care. We found a form for change of address.

Nomination Form 2007-08

AGM 7.00 pm Friday 23 November
Brolga Room Novotel Atrium Hotel

Post to PO Box 2171, Parap NT 0804 by 13 November 2007
Ore-mail to billwilson2@mac.com

I **accept nomination** for the office of.

..... (chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, Committee member)
of the Northern Territory Branch of the Order of Australia Association. I declare that I am a
financial member of the Association.

Signature of nominee

Proposed by * Seconded by *
(financial members of the Association)

*Secretary can find proposer and seconder – just *you* sign as nominee!

AGM Apology I shall be unable to
attend the AGM and ask for my apology to be recorded.

RSVP to PO Box 2171 Parap NT 0804 before AGM

Or e-mail to billwilson2@mac.com

Dinner Acceptance

(Please pay with booking if you can, to give treasurer a fun night too.)

RSVP to PO Box 2171 Parap NT 0804 by 13 November

I (name) **shall attend** the Dinner at 7.30pm
on Friday 23 November 2007 at Novotel Atrium Hotel. I shall be accompanied by.
..... (name/s) at **\$45** per person

My cheque to “Order of Australia Association NT Branch” for \$ _____ .00 is enclosed,
or

I have deposited \$ _____ in Branch account **065903 06904038** and will confirm details by
email to Yogan at tax6@bigpond.com

The meal will be in the form of table service Christmas Dinner. Please **indicate** if any of
your party requires e.g. a vegetarian meal.

NB - We may refuse refunds on late cancellations