



## THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION ACT BRANCH

Serving the Canberra Region and Norfolk Island

Web: [theorderofaustralia.asn.au](http://theorderofaustralia.asn.au)

March 2007 Newsletter

### **OAA Morning Tea - change of venue- 28 March, Deakin**

Date: Wednesday 28th March 2007, commencing at 10.30am.

Venue: Embassy Motel, Hopetoun Circuit, Deakin. (Please note change of venue NOT Canberra Institute of Technology)

Guest Speaker: **Mr Malcolm Mackerras AO**, Visiting Fellow in Political Science, School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Australian Defence Force Academy

Subject: **"Why John Howard Faces Defeat".**

Cost: \$10 pp Date for return of acceptances: Monday 19th March 2007

Mr Mackerras taught political science at the Australian Defence Force Academy, a school of the University of New South Wales, for over 30 years and his particular interests have been the elections and electoral systems, in Australia and USA. He received an AO in January 2006 "For service to the community by raising public awareness of and encouraging debate about the political process in Australia and other western democracies, and through commitment to reform and improvement of the electoral system and to education."

This is expected to be popular with such a well known speaker and an election coming up but we can accommodate 110. Contact for any particulars: Russ Richards 62883986.

### **Royal Canberra Golf Club Dinner – April 13<sup>th</sup> - Welcome to newly invested awardees**

The golf club is again the venue for the Association dinner to be held on the evening of the day of investitures at Government House, **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm for 7.30pm.** New recipients and their friends and families are especially welcome to celebrate the occasion. The speaker will be the Chairman of the Association, **Ms Dina Browne AO.**

Expect to hear how the Association is looking forward as Australia progresses

Dress is black tie/dinner dress preferred (lounge suit acceptable) or mess kit.

Decorations : miniatures.

**Response is via the single response sheet so that members need only post one reply and cheque for the up coming events.**

## **Australia Day Breakfast**

### **Address by the East Timor Ambassador**

The breakfast held at Regatta Point in Commonwealth Park was attended by almost a hundred members and guests. His Excellency Hernani da Silva, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste in Australia gave an excellent talk which may be found in full under the ACT Branch on the association website, [theorderofaustralia.asn.au](http://theorderofaustralia.asn.au). The following extracts summarise his presentation.

“Timor-Leste, or East Timor as it is known in many countries, is a relatively new state. It regained its independence in May 2002 after two decades of devastating war against the military regime of Soeharto and more than 4 centuries of colonial occupation. Timor-Leste is well known to the majority of Australians, through the long history of WW II and most recently the Australian leading role in the INTERFET. The past of Timor-Leste could be divided in this way into the distant past, the period between 1901 and 1974 and the recent past from 1975 – 1998.

The present Timor-Leste might encompass the period between 1999 – 2007 and the future of Timor-Leste from 2008 onward.

When we are talking about relationship between two countries, we are inevitably touching upon the complex. I would rather concentrate on a much more simplistic approach, by looking at factual issues that evolved within and around Timor-Leste and Australia to try to explain the nature of the relationship between our two countries.

The liberation of Timor-Leste definitely provided the venue for a free and direct interaction between Timorese and Australian people to revive the long history of engagement that was interrupted by the occupation.

#### **The Future**

The principle of Timor-Leste as a sovereign state, a country that valued the ideal of democracy and justice and committed to advance peace in the region and the world shall form the platform of future relationship between Australia and Timor-Leste. These and other shared values need to be explored and nurtured.

Timorese people are expecting Australia to be one of its main partner in the region, a partnership that will promote peace, security, wellbeing and mutual support between the people and the government of the two countries.

In years to come Timor-Leste should expect close cooperation with Australia in promoting democracy, development, combating illegal traffic, people smuggling, terrorism and others. Australia could also play a very crucial role in the development of Timor-Leste human resources and the promotion of tourism, trade and investment for a reciprocal benefit for the people of our two countries.

By working together in a principle of mutual respect and support, the future will be brighter and colorful for our people and our countries.”

### **Queen’s Birthday Luncheon at Commonwealth Club, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June ,12-2pm. Advance notice- details in the next newsletter**

A luncheon will be held at the Commonwealth Club the day after the long weekend to mark the Queens Birthday Honours List. Hosted by the Chairman.

## **Chairman's Report**

The National Conference in Sydney has just been held and was well attended with over 400 registrants. Mr Bill Galvin OAM and the NSW Committee are to be congratulated on the very high standard achieved. The social events at Parliament House, Government House and other venues were superbly presented and challenge our Branch members to provide a stimulating time and to actively participate when we act as hosts next year.

Roger Dace has put forward an innovative program for the 2008 conference in Canberra which is intended to take the Association forward and to have a number of choices for our local members to enjoy as well as entertaining for the visitors. Please fill out the response sheet so that your participation is included in the plans. The forum on matters of national significance is bound to inform and consolidate issues of universal interest. We hope to see you enjoy the social network and participate.

The National Office Bearers were elected :

President: Dr Neil Conn AO  
Chairman: Ms Dina Browne AO  
Deputy - Chairman : Air Commodore Peter McDermott AM. CSC  
Secretary: Mr Jim Leedman AM  
Membership Secretary: Colleen Thurgar AM

Our immediate Past –Chairman, Peter McDermott is to be especially congratulated on becoming National Deputy -Chairman.

Ray Newcombe

## **National Conference 2008 – Letter from Roger Dace**

The 2008 National Conference of our Association will be held in Canberra between Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2008. This letter is to inform you of what your Branch Committee proposes to offer for the Conference, and to seek your support for and engagement with this major event.

The following is an outline of the major events. The Office of the Governor-General has indicated His Excellency's in-principle agreement to support the conference.

- Thursday 14 February A Civic Reception at the High Court
- Friday 15 February Visits to the ANU, Parliament House, and the AIS plus a range of other tourist opportunities. In the evening, a Reception at Government House.
- Saturday 16 February AGM, a National Debate, Dinner at Parliament House.
- Sunday 17 February Multi-faith Observance at the Australian War Memorial, followed by guided tours of Anzac Parade and the AWM.

**ANU Visit.** 9.30AM – 1.30PM The Vice Chancellor of the ANU has agreed in principle to sponsor a visit to the ANU for a series of briefings by internationally recognised ANU academics. The briefings will be held in the new lecture theatre of the John Curtin School of Medical Research. We hope that the Vice-Chancellor will welcome visitors and talk about some of the problems facing Universities in general; there will be a morning tea, the presentations, and then lunch in the Great Hall of University House. While the final selection of topics will be made closer to the event the following broad areas seem likely: (a) Medical Research, (b) Physics (c) The Asia Pacific Region.

**Parliament House Visit.** 10.00AM – 1.30PM We hope to facilitate a behind-the-scenes visit, to include a morning tea with our local Senators and Members, followed by a lunch.

**Australian Institute of Sport Visit.** 2.00 – 4.30PM. Exclusive access to see our athletes undertaking the final stages of their training at the AIS in the lead-up to the Beijing Olympics, and to visit new sports medicine facilities. The visit will be undertaken in small groups of not more than 25, each with an AIS athlete guide. The visit will include time with the athletes.

**National Forum.** Your Committee is proposing to replace the Oration (that has been a feature at recent conferences) with a National Forum. The aim is to engage the membership in a balanced debate on current subjects of national significance. It is premature to specify the topic or topics but the event will be relevant to the goals of the Association.

TV coverage of the debate may be sought to help raise the profile of the Association and the Order more generally, and to encourage high profile guest speakers to participate.

In addition to these relatively conventional aspects of a conference your Committee would like to offer three additional reasons for interstate members of our Association to attend the Canberra conference. These would require support by the ACT membership.

**Home Hosting – Accommodation.** A significant cost for interstate visitors is hotel accommodation and this will deter some potential delegates. Would you be willing to consider offering B&B for an interstate couple for the duration of the conference, against a nominal payment of \$20 a head per day to help you offset any costs?

**Home Hosting – Dinner Party.** Would you be willing to host a small dinner party in your home, to follow the Civic Reception on the Wednesday evening, for one or two interstate visitors or couples? Guests to bring the wine!

**ACT Club Visits.** After the Governor-General's Reception on the Friday evening would you be willing to 'guide' a small number of interstate visitors to your favourite local Club for Dinner? Everyone to pay their own way.

#### ***HOW CAN I HELP?***

It is inevitable that any conference with in excess of 500 participants carries a significant administrative overhead. Can you help? In particular we are seeking help from Branch members to bring their expertise (or just their much appreciated labour) to bear in the following areas:

1. A Conference Web Page – to be linked with the Association's Web site
2. Conference Registrations
3. Musical accompaniments (to be varied and representative of the talents in the ACT)
4. Home hosting coordination
5. ACT Club visit coordination
6. Printing and Publications
7. Advertising and Sponsorship (Very important if we can reduce costs to members)

If you are willing to help with the 2008 National Conference please complete and return the response sheet.

Roger Dace AM, QGM, 2008 National Conference Coordinator 277 Fernleigh Drive, GOOGONG, NSW 2620. If you have any comments, queries or suggestions please email me at [r.dace@bigpond.net.au](mailto:r.dace@bigpond.net.au)

Conference Response Please Post include this with your function response sheet or post separately

OAA-ACT  
PO BOX 1267  
WODEN, ACT, 2606

National Conference FEB 14-17 2008

From: .....

Phone Numbers: .....

Email .....

Address:  
.....  
.....

I hope to attend all or some of the Conference events Yes or No

I am willing to help with the 2008 Order of Australia National Conference as follows:

- 1. Home hosting – B&B 14 – 17 February Yes or No
- 2. Home hosting – Dinner Party 14 February Yes or No
- 3. Club Dinner Visit – 15 February Yes or No

I am willing to help with the Conference's management and administrative arrangements as follows (tick or circle)

- 1. Conference Web Page – to be linked with the Association's Web site
- 2. Conference Registrations
- 3. Musical accompaniments (to be varied and representative of the talents in the ACT)
- 4. Home hosting coordination
- 5. ACT Club visit coordination
- 6. Printing and Publications
- 7. Advertising and Sponsorship (Very important if we can reduce costs to members)
- 8. Other

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(If you have any comments, queries or suggestions please email Roger Dace at [r.dace@bigpond.net.au](mailto:r.dace@bigpond.net.au) )

Function Response Please Post this with your cheque (fold in or clip) to :

Functions  
OAA-ACT  
PO BOX 1267  
WODEN, ACT, 2606

I and my guests will be attending the following events:

Name for nametag with post-nominals:

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**Morning Tea** – March 28<sup>th</sup>  
Embassy Motel. Hopetoun Circuit, Deakin Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 10.30 am - 12 am

**Mr Malcolm Mackerras AO**  
Cost: \$10 per person (Return sheet by Monday 19th March 2007). Contact for any particulars: Russ Richards 62883986. Attending: (tick) Guest number:

Names: .....Amount: \$

**Dinner**– April 13<sup>th</sup>  
Royal Canberra Golf Club, Yarralumla  
**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm for 7.30pm.** The speaker will be the National Chairman of the Association, **Ms Dina Browne AO**. Cost: \$ 75 per person  
Dress is black tie/dinner dress preferred (lounge suit acceptable) or mess kit, with miniatures.

Return acceptances by April 7<sup>th</sup>. Contact for any particulars: Shirley Meldrum 62956302 or Liz Scrivener 0403980830

Attending: (tick) Guest number:

Names: .....

.....

.....Amount: \$

Total cheque enclosed : \$ .00