

ACT OAA

DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

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Brian Acworth AM
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Derek Robson AM
Sam Wong AM
Ray Newcombe OAM
Duncan Smith OAM

Immediate Past Chair

Trish Keller OAM

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Email alerts

To allow easier communication, please advise email address to John O'Neill OAM at mercadier@netspeed.com.au.

COMING EVENTS

A booking sheet for the following event is enclosed:

Australia Day Breakfast, Friday 26 January 2018 at Royal Canberra Golf Club

The 2018 ACT Branch Annual General Meeting will be held at The Royal Canberra Golf Club on Thursday 1 March 2018,

The 2018 OAA National Conference will be held in Adelaide on 3 to 6 May 2018

2018 AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

PENELOPE THWAITES AM is GUEST SPEAKER



Penelope Thwaites was born in Chester, UK of Australian parents. Returning to Australia she attended Tintern Grammar and subsequently took her Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Melbourne, winning the Ormond Exhibition, and being placed first in her final year. Further studies in London led to her concert debut at the Wigmore Hall in 1974.

Since then she has performed and broadcast in over 30 countries, appearing as soloist with such orchestras as the London Philharmonic, the Philharmonia, the BBC Concert Orchestra, and with leading orchestras in Australia, Europe and the USA. Along with her career as a concert pianist, she has composed extensively for the theatre and other genres, and her musical *Ride! Ride!* was produced in London's West End. A committed protagonist for Australian composers, regularly including Australian repertoire in her programs, she founded and chaired the Performing Australian Music Competition (London 2001 and 2008) attracting participants from 20 countries.

Penelope is recognised world-wide as a leading exponent of the music of Melbourne-born Percy Grainger and has recorded over 260 tracks of his music, with a new box set on the Heritage label appearing last year. She was artistic director of major Grainger festivals in London in 1998 and 2011 and is editor of *The New Percy Grainger Companion* (Boydell 2010).

Although she has made her home in London, she returns regularly to Australia and is delighted to have a second home in Canberra. Penelope was appointed a member in the Order of Australia in 2001 *for service to music through the performance and promotion of Australian compositions in the United Kingdom and internationally* and currently serves as Chairman of the Order of Australia Association UK/Europe.

For the Australia Day Breakfast, Penelope has chosen the topic "*Canberra Connections*". Tickets for the breakfast can be purchased at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/62044> (preferred) or alternately, a booking sheet is enclosed for mail or email bookings. We hope to see you there!

For enquiries contact Phil Morrall AM, CSC on 0411 298 926 or morrall@ozemail.com.au.

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STUDENT AWARDS PRESENTATION

The annual OAA-ACT Student Awards Presentation was held at the Royal Canberra Golf Club on Thursday 23 November. This is always a special event on our calendar where the Branch can acknowledge the good citizenship examples displayed by ACT students. The presentation of plaques, medals and certificates were made by the Branch patron Gen Peter Gratton AC. The ACT Government was represented at the awards by Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, member for Yerrabi.



Charles Weston School Water Raisers

There were three group awards approved by the judging panel. These were:

“Charles Weston School Water Raisers”. Starting as a leadership project, this group of Year 5/6 students created their own small business while being encouraged and mentored by ‘Abundant Water’, a local charity developing a strong community partnership. The students were moved by their learning of the plight of people living without clean water and undertook strategies to raise money to buy water filters to enable a Laos village to have clean drinking water for two years.

his school friends showed initiative and caring for his wellbeing to raise money for an Ipad to keep him in touch with fellow classmates and classroom and sports activities while he was in Sydney. School Principal Ms. Wallace noted that the friends showed outstanding citizenship and community spirit, and Lochy’s family refer to the classmates as heroes for helping their son through the challenging time.

Fadden Primary School – Lochy’s Mates. When a student was injured and away from school for a period, a group of



Fadden Primary School – Lochy’s Mates



Marist College students

Marist College – Year 7-12 Service Learning Program, ‘Strong Minds and Gentle Hearts’.

The Service Learning Program runs over five years for participants, and at workshops, Marist students initially learn about cultural awareness and people in need. They are challenged to step up beyond the Marist community and help those in need. In years 10-12, students spend time once a fortnight in the community participating in a variety of service projects, mostly supporting students with special needs at Woden School and Malkara School. Over 350 students have participated in the program over five years. Senior Marist students attended the awards ceremony to represent the Service Learning Program.

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There were two individual awards presented.



Sam Stubbs and Leah Smith

Ms Leah Smith from Calwell High School. Leah has made a huge contribution to the community through her fundraising efforts with “Sweet Charitea”, founded by her family after a health crisis. Leah developed a unique understanding of the effects that chronic medical conditions and poor health has on families. Leah’s continued support of “Sweet Charitea” has provided her with a developed sense of community spirit, generosity and selflessness which she has imparted to others. Deputy Principal Mr Paul Campenhout noted that young people like Leah will be the ones to carry on the fundraising legacy and whose children and future families will benefit from the research that will be funded from community led initiatives like “Sweet Charitea”.

Sam Stubbs from St Edmunds College. Sam was part of the Youth Ministry team from St Edmunds that won an OAA group award last year. The judging panel was moved by the individual contribution that Sam has continued to make as a fine example for young people. Sam approaches his service activities with humility and initiative.

He spends much of his school holiday time and weekends contributing to St Vincent de Paul Society, the MaryMead organisation and Camp Quality. He has a genuine passion to support those in need.

The judging panel of Ms Narelle Hargreaves OAM, DR Elizabeth Grant AM, Mr Les Blackley OAM, Adj Prof Brian O’Keefe AO and Mr Bill Maiden OAM, with Student Awards coordinator Ms Trish Keller OAM were impressed by the quality of nominations where the students exhibited initiative, concern for others, leadership and made contributions reflecting the values inherent in active Australian citizenship.

MORNING TEA WITH DUNCAN SMITH OAM AT JOHN JAMES VILLAGE 18 OCTOBER 2017



*Trish Keller OAM, Duncan Smith OAM,
Sue Packer AM*

At our Morning Tea at the John James Village, members were moved by a very personal talk by Mr Duncan Smith OAM on his cultural journey as a Wiradjuri man. Duncan spoke of growing up in the NSW mid west and learning the ways of his elders, and his later work supporting indigenous youth. Duncan is the founder of The Wiradjuri Echoes, a Canberra based indigenous dance group and is a member of the Branch Committee. Duncan was awarded an OAM in the Queen’s Birthday Honours in 2016 “*for service to Indigenous youth, and to the community.*”

The venue for the morning tea also gave members the opportunity to see firsthand the Leukaemia Foundation’s John James Village which provides accommodation and support to people from around the Southern Tablelands region being treated for blood cancers, and which our Association continues to support. Duncan has a prominent art work ‘Scar Tree’ displayed at the facility, shown in the background of the accompanying photo. Thanks to John O’Neill OAM for organising the function.

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ACT BRANCH AGM – 1 March 2018

The annual ACT Branch Annual General Meeting will be held at 6.00 pm on Thursday 1 March 2018 at the Royal Canberra Golf Club. The formal advice of the AGM, with nomination forms for positions will be forwarded in accordance with the rules of the Association.

Members are encouraged to consider nominating for Branch Committee positions. Our National Secretary Mr Phil Morrall AM CSC is currently acting as both Branch Secretary and Treasurer and as Phil will be resigning these positions, it is particularly important to have Committee members keen to fill these roles.

OAA-ANU LECTURE



*Prof Brian Schmidt AC, Prof Chennupati Jagadish AC
Bruce Trewartha OAM*

On Thursday 26 October, Branch members, guests and ANU staff and students attended the Australian Centre on China in the World, ANU, Acton to hear an enlightening OAA-ANU Lecture with Guest Speaker, Distinguished Professor of Physics, Chennupati Jagadish AC, with the Topic '*Nanotechnology: Opportunities and Challenges*'. Professor Jagadish gave the audience a fascinating insight into the world of nanotechnology with the wide range of current and potential applications which reach into everyone's life. The lecture can be viewed at the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jnf4DnxSL4>

In January 2016, Professor Jagadish was appointed a Companion in The Order of Australia "*For eminent service to physics and engineering, particularly in the field of nanotechnology, to education as a leading academic, researcher, author and mentor, and through executive roles with national and international scientific advisory institutions.*"

The annual OAA-ANU lecture has become a special event for the Branch and is strongly supported by the ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Schmidt AC, who introduced Professor Jagadish to the audience.



Len Goodman AO, John O'Neill OAM, Derek Robson AM

MEETING TO REMEMBER BRIGADIER GARTH HUGHES AM

Branch member BRIG Garth Hughes AM (Retd) passed away on 1 December 2017 and he requested no funeral service. Friends of Garth have arranged for an informal gathering at the Royal Canberra Golf Club at 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm on Thursday 21 December for friends and former Army colleagues to remember him. There are no booking arrangements, just come along on the day.

VALE

We regret the recent passing of the following ACT Branch members and pay our respects for their contribution to the Association and the Australian community.

BRIG J. Garth Hughes AM – Queen's Birthday 1982 – For service to the Australian Army.

Mrs Patricia Hill OAM – Australia Day 1991 – For service to the community, particularly aged people.

Dr Peter Ilbery OAM – Queen's Birthday 2001 – For service to the community, particularly through the recording of the history of the air training school at Uranquinty

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SUMMARY REPORT – OAA BOARD MEETING - 4TH NOVEMBER 2017

To keep members informed of the ongoing work of the OAA Board, a brief summary of issues addressed at the 4 November 2017 meeting has been provided by the National Secretary Phil Morrall AM, CSC.

1. OAA Website – an outline design of a new OAA website has been completed, and was demonstrated to the meeting. Associated with this will be an extensive and comprehensive cloud-based administrative support facility.

2. Finance – Financial results to end September were considered and a draft Budget for 2018 tabled. The Association has to the end September 2017 generated a profitable result, and 2018 is expected to generate a small surplus. The Life Member Fund balance is sufficient only to allow the drawing of \$18 per life member, with the contribution of annual members then required to generate the \$40 per head required annually to cover national costs, including the payment of the Branch Administrative Grant (BAG).

Work has been initiated to optimise costs and improve income, with all options to be brought to the Board at its February 2018 face-to-face meeting.

The proposed standard chart of accounts was agreed. National accounts are to be established with 'Xero' as a cloud-based accounting system from 1st January 2018. Branches will be invited to migrate their accounts to the same cloud-based system, utilising their own spreadsheet or other systems in the interim.

3. Constitution and Bylaws – Proposed changes to the Association Constitution were reviewed and agreed for consideration by the May 2018 National AGM.

Work was begun on a review of the Bylaws and Model Rules, with the intention of condensing them into a single document, supporting the Constitution. Anomalies in both are to be addressed.

It was determined that the length of tenure for all positions on the National Board (except for the National Chairman) and Branch Committees should be standardised at five years, with immediate effect.

4. AGM 2018 – arrangements for conduct of the 2018 AGM, including nomination and election processes, were agreed.

5. National Strategy 2017 – the proposed National Strategy update was agreed. Branches are to be invited to integrate their own strategic considerations and action plans with the elements of the national strategy.

6. Audit and Risk – work is proceeding on the completion of a comprehensive risk register for the organisation.

7. Conferences – pleasing progress was reported with both the 2018 Adelaide and 2019 Hobart conferences.

8. National Project – it was decided, subject to agreement with the OAA Foundation, to establish a 'named' scholarship within the Foundation, funded directly by the Association, supplemented by member donations. Funding is to be included in the 2018 budget.

9. Meeting Plan – it was agreed that a Board teleconference should be held in December, followed by a face-to-face meeting in Melbourne in February 2018.
