

# ACT OAA

## JUNE 2017 NEWSLETTER

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Trish Keller OAM

### Branch mailbox

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### Branch website

[www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/ACT](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/ACT)

### Email alerts

To allow easier communication, please advise email address to John O'Neill OAM at [mercadier@netspeed.com.au](mailto:mercadier@netspeed.com.au).

### COMING EVENTS

**Booking Information provided here for the**

**Multi-Faith Observance  
Sunday 13 August 2017**

**Booking sheets for the following events are enclosed:**

**John James Village Garden Care  
Saturday 15 July 2017  
and**

**Second Reception  
Commonwealth Club  
Thursday 14 September 2017**

## THE 2017 MULTI-FAITH OBSERVANCE TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY 13 AUGUST 2017



The Annual ACT Branch Multi-Faith Observance (MFO) will again be held at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, 15 Blackall Street, Barton at 2.00 pm on Sunday 13 August and involve inspirational speakers from a number of faiths.

The theme this year will be “Wisdom for Life”.

This event will be co-hosted by The Order of Australia Association and the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture and moderated by the Executive Director, Rt Reverend Professor Stephen Pickard. Contact for the MFO is Mr Sam Wong AM on 0433 947888 or email [samson.sl.wong@gmail.com](mailto:samson.sl.wong@gmail.com). The event is free but to assist with catering we ask that you register your attendance by following this link: <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/54432>.

At the conclusion of the Observance, afternoon tea will served, and there will be an opportunity for a guided tour of the Centre's beautiful grounds.

The Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture had its beginnings in 1993 under the auspices of the National Council of Churches in Australia and its constituency comprises the majority of Christian churches in Australia. The Centre was developed from a vision for a national ecumenical centre and place to promote reconciliation. On 2 June 1998, the Centre was established under the authority of Charles Sturt University in collaboration with the Anglican diocese of Canberra and Goulburn and with the approval of the National Council of Churches in Australia, a School of Theology (based on St Mark's National Theological Centre) is conducted there. In 2000, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II planted the first tree of reconciliation. The site now consists of the Chapel, the Great Cross, Pilgrim Walk and Labyrinth, the Bible Garden, George Browning House, Mural Wall, Humanitarian Aid Workers' Memorial, the Meeting Place, and the vision of the ACC&C is “Wisdom for The Common Good”.



*Rt Rev Professor Pickard*

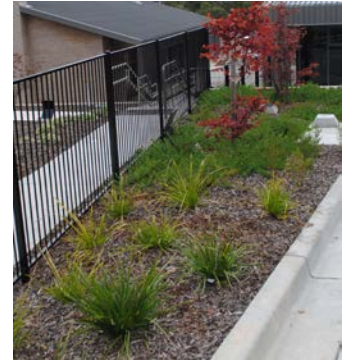
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## BOOKING SHEET FOR

### JOHN JAMES VILLAGE OUTREACH – GARDEN CARE - SATURDAY 15 JULY

In the last newsletter we mentioned we are looking for members to continue to support for the Leukaemia Foundation's John James Village at Garran as part of the community outreach of the ACT Branch of the OAA, by providing maintenance to keep their gardens in good order.



John O'Neill OAM has arranged for a working bee for Saturday 15 July from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, but even if you can only spare an hour it will be a help. Whether you're a gardener or not, there's a job for everybody as we work to help keep the Village grounds tidy and attractive. Our efforts will assist in reducing administrative costs for the Village, so that their precious funds can stay focussed where they should be. Many hands working together will lighten the load and make for a more social occasion. We look forward to seeing you there. Please bring your favourite gardening tools and gloves as there are a limited number of tools available at the Village.

Association insurance will cover this activity and John will also coordinate with the Village for a BBQ at the conclusion of the day at no cost to the Association, or any Members attending.

Contact John O'Neill OAM for more information.

To register attendance, go to <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/53764> (preferred), ring John on 0414406913, email at [mercadier@netspeed.com.au](mailto:mercadier@netspeed.com.au) or mail the booking slip below to:

Mr. John O'Neill OAM  
25/51 Leahy Close  
NARRABUNDAH ACT 2604

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#### GARDEN CARE

Name and Postnominals.....

Contact details for noting:

Address:	
Phone:	Mobile Number:
E-Mail:	

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## THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION ADF ORATION

By Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO, CSC, RAN, Vice Chief of The Defence Force 25 May 2017



The ACT Branch were privileged to have Vice-Admiral Griggs give an enlightening Oration to the members and guests on the role of the Australian Defence Force as the best trained and prepared military force that the country can afford, and how it accommodates the societal changes that have developed in recent years.

He said the ADF is competent, apolitical, effective, professional and contemporary; force able to meet any challenge presented, and capable of defending our nation and our national interests against the threats we face, with the job to safely execute the lawful direction of Government.

Despite the outstanding operational efforts of the ADF and our many successes, he said that there are some who maintain that it is not focused on the mission and is distracted by other issues. On this, Admiral Griggs addressed what he believed the ADF's role in society should be.

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Admiral Griggs noted that the ADF are not undertaking a social experiment, they are a war fighting organisation, one that has been on continuous operations in multiple theatres since 1990, maintaining the paramount ability to fight and win.

He said they are however, trying to build a better ADF, not only technologically, but culturally and behaviourally and cannot do that by remaining anchored in a cultural context of past decades, which reflected vastly different societal views and norms to that of the society we are part of today. To that end, the ADF have made changes to the conduct of military justice, Navy traditions, have addressed the abuse that occurred in earlier decades and focused on the unique contribution service people make without excluding an individual because of their gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Admiral Griggs participated in a following Q & A session

The full text of the Oration is on our website at <http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/branches/act/index.php>

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## THE OAA QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON 13 JUNE 2017

### GUEST SPEAKER THE HON DR BRENDAN NELSON AO



The ACT Branch was honoured to have Dr Nelson as guest speaker at the Annual luncheon held to celebrate the honouring of ACT citizens in the Queen's Birthday awards.

Dr Nelson commenced as Director of the Australian War Memorial on 17 December 2012. Prior to this, he was the Australian Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg, the European Union and NATO (2009–12). He was National President of the Australian Medical Association before being elected to the Federal Parliament as Member for Bradfield. Dr Nelson served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, Minister for Education, Science and Training, and Minister for Defence. In November 2007 Dr Nelson was elected leader of the Liberal Party of Australia, serving as Leader of the Opposition until September 2008. The following year he retired from federal politics before taking up his ambassadorial appointment.

Dr Nelson spoke on the connections between citizenship, love of country and the service of more than 2 million Australians who have worn their country's uniform since Federation. His powerful and thoughtful presentation provided members and guests with a personal perspective on the sacrifices that have been made by our brave service personnel for over a century. He made a case for our citizens to deeply appreciate those that gave all for their country and our way of life. Dr Nelson discussed how he regularly made the trip from Brussels to the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial at Ieper, where he observed the Last Post ceremony; and how that experience became the inspiration for the ceremony now conducted each day at the Australian War Memorial.

Dr Nelson participated in a Q&A session and gave some insight into further enhancements to be made to the already extensive innovations he has made at the Australian War Memorial.



*Helen Bielenberg OAM and Joy Nicholls*



*Jocelyne MacLeod and Margaret Royds OAM*

*Photos Courtesy of City News*

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