

ACT OAA

MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

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Membership Secretary

Lynne Duckham OAM

Committee

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Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM
Derek Robson AM
Sam Wong AM
Ray Newcombe OAM
Duncan Smith OAM

Immediate Past Chair

Trish Keller OAM

Branch mailbox

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www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/ACT

Email alerts

To allow easier communication, please advise email address to Lynne Duckham at lynneduckham@gmail.com.

COMING EVENTS

Booking sheets for the following events are enclosed:

Morning Tea at The Arboretum –
28 March 2017

Reception for Australia Day Awardees
4 May 2017.

The 2017 OAA National Conference
will be held in Brisbane on 20-23
April.

For information:

Phone: 0437 089 885 or email
Marjorie.voss@bigpond.com

THE 2017 NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN BRISBANE

There is still time to register for the 31st National Conference of The Order of Australia Association to be held in Brisbane on 20-23 April 2017 with the theme “*INNOVATING FOR SOCIETY*”.



A great program has been developed by the Queensland Branch, with events to be held in historic venues including the Albert Street Uniting Church and the Brisbane City Hall.

The National Oration will be delivered by ACT Branch member, the Honourable Penny Wensley AC, a former diplomat who was Australian Ambassador to the UN, and Governor of Queensland from 2008 to 2014.

A special event at the Conference is the Scholarship Awards Ceremony where The Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarships will be presented to young Australians undertaking their degree or double degree. These scholarships are offered for selected universities and specific courses of study and are awarded to students who have a combination of academic excellence, leadership potential, community involvement and a need for financial assistance to complete their studies.

More details of the Conference and a registration form are in the Summer issue of The Order magazine. We hope you can attend and be part of the ACT representation.

MORNING TEA AT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM

Join members and guests at our next event on Tuesday 28 March 2017, a morning tea at The National Arboretum. This will be hosted by branch member Max Bourke AM, and followed by an optional Arboretum



Conservation walk guided by Max who is an agricultural scientist and a member of the Friends of the National Arboretum with 10 years connection to The Arboretum. See the booking sheet with this newsletter.

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RECEPTION FOR AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS AWARDEES 4 MAY 2017

The ACT Branch members will honour and fellowship with recipients of the 2017 Australia Day awards in The Order of Australia at a reception to be held at 6.00 pm on Thursday 4 May 2017 at the Commonwealth Club, Yarralumla following the scheduled investiture of awardees by the Governor General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) at Government House on Friday 28 April 2017. Contact for this event is Michael Crane DSC & Bar AM on Mob: 0467719020 or email mandmcrane@live.com. A booking sheet is with this newsletter.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 21 FEBRUARY 2017

The annual General Meeting of the ACT Branch was held on 21 February 2017 and the Committee was elected as follows: Bruce Trewartha OAM (Chair), Phil Morrall AM CSC (Treasurer & Minutes secretary), Lynne Duckham (Membership Secretary), Brian Acworth AM, Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM, Derek Robson AM, Sam Wong AM, Ray Newcombe OAM, Duncan Smith OAM, and Trish Keller OAM.

We welcome Duncan Smith as a new member of the committee. Duncan was awarded a Medal of The Order of Australia in the 2016 Queen's Birthday Honours "*For service to Indigenous youth, and to the community.*"

AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST 2017

Topic - Living with Islam and a Divided America - Challenges for Contemporary Australia



This is a summary of the address by OAA National President Philip Flood AO to the ACT Branch of The Order of Australia Association on Australia Day, 26 January 2017.

Philip provided a personal view of some current issues that Australia is facing, noting the crucial benefits of Australia being a stable liberal democracy firmly founded on the rule of law, and the only nation with sovereignty over an entire continent.

We should be more concerned than we are about the extent and depth of our understanding of our Asian neighbours and what it means for Australia to live with Islam. In the last two decades, we have learned forcefully that we have no choice.

The largest Islamic country in the world is our neighbour Indonesia. It is a complex country with a population of over 250 million, the fourth most populous country in the world. Some 87% of Indonesians (or 220 million) are Muslim, nearly 10% are Christian and 3% identify as Buddhist, Hindu and other religions..

Islam came first to the province of Aceh, in the north, and developed in a way that was very different from countries such as Saudi Arabia and Iran. Islam in Indonesia was less strict in form and in practice, including dress.

Militant Islam has recently become stronger in Indonesia. Saudi Arabia has used its oil wealth to spread the pernicious Wahhabi form of Islam to Indonesia. But benchmarked against other Muslim-majority countries, Indonesia is a beacon of tolerance and pluralism. Indonesia has shown that Islam is compatible with democracy, economic development, and capable of peaceful coexistence with other religions.

All major political parties in Australia have supported strong measures against terrorism, irrespective of its origin. Public concern has also led to calls to prohibit Muslim immigration to Australia.

Banning immigration by members of any religious group would be an admission of a lack of confidence in our values, but we should not be timid about acknowledging that there are issues with Islam that worry Australians.

The overwhelming majority of the approximately half a million Muslims in Australia are good citizens contributing to our society. We expect their leaders to denounce Islamist terrorism and to cooperate fully with authorities in dealing resolutely with those who seek to inspire or commit terrorism. We expect our Muslim community to accept unconditionally that there is no place for sharia law in Australia. Our message to Muslims should be the same as that to all: we will not tolerate those who want to mess with our values and our freedoms.

Philip also addressed Australia's relationship with the United States under President Donald Trump whose inaugural address gave a broad picture of his ambition, but It will be some time before we know the precise direction of his

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strategic, economic and trade policies. America will have to share greater space with a resurgent China, but the US will remain for many decades the strongest strategic power globally.

He said that Australia's alliance with the US is robust, our political and military standing in Washington is high, and certainly high enough for us to speak frankly with the Americans if we believe their policies risk threatening elements of the global order of value to us. The alliance is an expression of many values held in common, of core shared interests between our peoples – including investment and trade – and reflects the fact that the United States is the most important shaper of our strategic environment. America's presence has been a net positive in terms of peace in our region.

He believes it would be extraordinarily foolish to move away from the alliance and that any such move would be rejected by an overwhelming majority of Australians. There are powerful reasons why we should have a good relationship with the Trump Administration.

The full text of the speech is at The Order of Australia Association website at:

<http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/branches/act/documents/ACTAustdayBFastSpeech-PhilipFlood.pdf>



Members and guests at the Australia Day Breakfast

COMING EVENTS



Dr. Nelson

Thursday 25 May 2017 - THE OAA-ADF Oration – VCDF VADM Ray Griggs AO CSC RAN at the Ngunnawal Theatre, Russell Offices.

Tuesday 13 June 2017 - Queen's Birthday Lunch at the Royal Canberra Golf Club – with Guest Speaker the Hon Dr Brendan Nelson AO, Director of the Australian War Memorial.

Sunday 13 August 2017 – The OAA Multi Faith Observance at The Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Barton hosted by the Executive Director, the Right Reverend Professor Stephen Pickard.

Thursday 26 October 2017 – OAA-ANU Lecture – Guest Speaker Distinguished Professor Chennupati Jagadish AC – Topic 'Nanotechnology: Opportunities and Challenges' at the Australian Centre on China in the World, ANU, Acton.



Rev. Pickard



VADM Griggs



Prof. Jagadish

'THE ORDER' MAGAZINE

We hope you are enjoying the Summer 2017 issue of The Order magazine with many fine articles and a cover story on Ballarat. Most members received their copies between 17 Feb and 8 March 2017. There was a postal problem with some deliveries, which seems to have been resolved satisfactorily. If you did not receive a copy of the Summer 2017 issue please contact Bruce Trewartha OAM at btrewartha13@gmail.com or 0439887480.

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Following the AGM on 21 February, there was a presentation by Branch member Dr Dan Etherington AM of "**A Coconut Odyssey**" which was well received by the members present, and was followed by a keen Q&A session. Dr Etherington described the 'adventurous journey' he had been on since 1976 in inventing the simple unique technology to empower village communities to produce Virgin Coconut Oil at a farm level. Dan then explained the remarkable change in the understanding of the health impact of coconut oil, from being viewed as 'dangerous' to becoming a new 'superfood' and the range of coconut products available. He concluded his talk by briefly mentioning the Niulife Foundation. 'Niulife' is a play on words. 'Niu' (pronounced 'New') means 'coconut' in the Pacific, and in a real sense Virgin Coconut Oil brings 'New Life' to both the producer and the consumer. Dan was appointed a Member in The Order of Australia in 2008 *"For service to international trade, particularly the design, manufacture and distribution of coconut oil extraction technology, and through contributions*

to sustainable agricultural and economic development in the South Pacific region."

The Niulife Foundation was formed in 2013 by Kokonut Pacific

It is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission.



A prime objective of the Foundation is to support the **Coconut Technology Centre (CTC)** which we have established in the Solomon Islands. The building phase was completed in 2016 and attention has turned to training and research. Through the Foundation, Kokonut Pacific Pty Ltd, as a for-profit Social Enterprise, is providing the CTC with core funds. However, we are seeking additional funds and support for specific projects. These include:

- Developing and introducing computer tablet education resources.
- Establishing a coconut seedling nursery and training farmers to do the same.
- Developing & testing DC graters with solar panels and battery storage
- Trialling Postie bikes for extension workers
- Charcoal production
- Continuing gasifier trials
- Developing coconut shell powder
- Testing Mobile phone reception boosters

Donations can be made by cheque made out to the **Niulife Foundation** and sent to PO Box 4088, Hawker, ACT 2614. Or, you may donate by Direct Debit to the **Niulife Foundation's** account with ANZ Bank: BSB 012964 Account # 3887 19045. Please send an email confirming your payment to: dan@kokonutpacific.com.au with an address for posting a receipt.

For those needing a Tax Deductible Receipt please send the funds to Australian Relief and Mercy Services (ARMS) at Westpac BSB: 032730 Account: 184565 specifying NIULIFE (i.e. give NIULIFE as the Reference) and send a confirmation email to canberra@arms.org.au with address for posting the receipt.

Under its **Niulife** brand, Kokonut Pacific sells Virgin Coconut Oil and a wide range of other coconut-based food products. Our slogan is "***This is the oil that changes lives***". This is true for both the enriched lives of village producers and the improved health of Western consumers.

Please visit www.niulife.com.au for more information.
