

ACT OAA

FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

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Immediate Past Chair

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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:

First Reception, Thursday 17 May 2018 at the Commonwealth 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

REMINDER OF ACT BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 1 March 2018

You will have received in the January newsletter, the formal advice of the annual ACT Branch Annual General Meeting to be held at 6.00 pm on Thursday 1 March 2018 at the Royal Canberra Golf Club, Yarralumla.



At 7.00 pm, following the AGM, Branch member Bill Stephens OAM will talk on **“Memories as National Treasures”** regarding the National Library’s Oral History Collection for which he has recorded over 200 interviews since 1985, specialising in personalities from the performing arts. Bill received his OAM in 2017 for service to the performing arts through a range of roles. Refreshments will be provided and this event will be at no cost.

TOUR OF THE NGA ART OF WAR EXHIBITION Wednesday 14 March 2018

Dr Anna Gray AM, Emeritus Curator, National Gallery of Australia has kindly offered to host a tour of the *Arthur Streeton: the art of war* exhibition for OAA members at 10.00 am on Wednesday 14 March 2018. Register at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/65194> or contact Phil Morrall AM CSC on 0411298926 by 13 March to reserve a place to see this exhibition with the curator. Meet in the NGA foyer before 10.00 am. Dress: Neat casual with lapel pin.

Bringing together key works from collections around Australia and overseas, an important survey exhibition of Arthur Streeton’s war art is at the NGA. Streeton’s contribution to the Australian war effort was significant. He served with the Royal Army Medical Corps at the Third London General Hospital in Wandsworth from 1915 to 1917 before leaving for the Western Front as an official war artist in May 1918.



There is no cost for this tour and members can gather afterwards in the NGA cafe for tea and coffee at their own expense.

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MORNING TEA AT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM - 17 APRIL 2018

At 10.00 am on Tuesday 17 April, members and guests can enjoy a morning tea in the Terrace Room at The National Arboretum, and hear **Ian Sayers OAM, ED** tell “MY STORY”. Ian was honoured in the 2018 Australia Day awards *for services to veterans and their families, and to the community*, and is one of our newest members. In addition to his work with veterans and Rotary, Ian’s community work includes being a volunteer guide for four years at the Arboretum, and as part of the morning tea, Ian will provide a tour of the Bonsai garden, which is adjacent to the Terrace Room. We hope you can attend. Book on <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/65195> or contact Phil Morrall AM CSC on 0411 298 926 by 16 April 2018. The cost for the event is \$20.00. Dress: Neat casual with lapel pin.



RECEPTION FOR NEW AWARDEES - 17 MAY 2018

The ACT Branch holds bi-annual receptions as an opportunity for members to honour and fellowship with new recipients of awards in The Order of Australia, and the next reception will be held at 6.00 pm on Thursday 17 May 2018 at the Commonwealth Club, Yarralumla following the scheduled investiture of Australia Day awardees at Government House two weeks earlier. See the booking sheet enclosed with this newsletter.

SAVE THE DATES

2018 OAA-ADF ORATION

The 2018 OAA-ADF Oration will be delivered by the Chief of Joint Capabilities (CJC), **Air Vice-Marshal Warren McDonald AM CSC** at 5.30 pm on Thursday 24 May 2018 at the Nggunawal Theatre at Russell Offices. Air Vice-Marshal McDonald was appointed a Member of The Order of Australia in June 2015 *for exceptional performance of duty as Officer Commanding Number 92 Wing, Director General Capability Planning – Air Force, and Commander of Air Mobility Group*. Now in its eighth year, the ADF Oration is a special event for the ACT Branch. Booking arrangements for this event will be provided in the next newsletter.



2018 QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY LUNCH

We are fortunate to have **Mr Glenn Keys AO** as the guest speaker at the Queen’s Birthday lunch on Friday 15 June 2018 at The Royal Canberra Golf Club. He is the co-founder of Canberra-based Aspen Medical, a provider of healthcare solutions. In 2013 Glenn was appointed to the Board of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and in November 2014 was awarded the 2015 ACT Australian of the Year. He is a Board Member of the National Capital Authority & was appointed Chair of the Canberra Business Chamber in Feb 15. Glenn is the founder and Chair of Project Independence, housing for people with an intellectual disability. He is a member of our Branch and was appointed an Officer of The Order of Australia in June 2017 *for distinguished service to the community of the Australian Capital Territory through contributions to disability support programs, and to business and commerce as an advocate for corporate social responsibility*. Booking arrangements for this event will be provided in the next newsletter.



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2018 AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

GUEST SPEAKER - PENELOPE THWAITES AM



Penelope Thwaites AM, Chair of the Order of Australia Association UK/Europe, gave a very personal address to our members and guests on her topic “Canberra Connections”. Born in the UK to Australian parents, Penelope grew up in Melbourne. After having made her home in London to establish her career as a concert pianist, she made regular visits to Canberra to visit her parents - now in Campbell, enjoying the clear air and bush of the capital. She paid tribute to her parents, Michael and Honor Thwaites for their contribution to the city.

Her father received an AO for his literary achievements including the Kings Gold medal for poetry, and her mother, with great effort, was able to bring about the establishment of the Remembrance Nature Park behind the War Memorial, with a space dedicated to aboriginal troops who had fought and died in various wars. Penelope also outlined her musical career, including appearing as soloist with orchestras in Europe and Australia. She talked of the importance to her of including Australian composers in her repertoire and she founded and chaired the Performing Australian Music Competition (London 2001 and 2008), attracting participants from 20 countries.

Penelope also discussed her speciality of playing, researching and recording the music of Melbourne-born Percy Grainger and she is editor of *The New Percy Grainger Companion*.

Although she has made her home in London, Penelope returns regularly to Canberra where she has family, and loves both countries as home. Penelope was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2001 *for service to music through the performance and promotion of Australian compositions in the United Kingdom and internationally*. The full text of Penelope’s address can be seen on our website at <http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/act/about-us/>



Peter Thwaites, Penelope Thwaites AM, Malcolm MacKerras AO



Bruce Trewartha OAM, Malcolm Beazley AM, Penelope Thwaites AM, Maureen Etherington, Dan Etherington AM, Len Goodman AO



Penelope Thwaites AM, Margaret Beamish

Penelope will be playing at a ‘Musical Personalities’ event sponsored by the Berrima District Music Group at 2.30 pm on Sunday 8 April 2018 at 81 Southey Street, Mittagong. The admission is \$25 and includes an afternoon tea. Contact Chris Tilley on 0413 736 026 if you would like to attend.

VALE

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

Professor David Curtis AC – Australia Day 1992 – In recognition of service to medicine and science, particularly in the fields of research and administration.