

ACT OAA

NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

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Gabrielle Cooper OAM

Immediate Past Chair

Bruce Trewartha OAM

Branch mailbox

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Branch website

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/ACT

COMING EVENTS

Booking sheets for the following events are enclosed:

**Student Awards Presentation
Thursday 22 November 2018
at Royal Canberra Golf Club.**

**Saturday 26 January 2019
2019 Australia Day Breakfast
Royal Canberra Golf Club.
Guest Speaker – ACM Sir Angus
Houston AK AFC (Ret'd)**

**Wednesday 13 February 2019
ACT Branch AGM
Royal Canberra Golf Club**

STUDENT AWARDS – THURSDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2018

Members are encouraged to attend our 2018 Student Awards Presentation at 6.00 pm on Thursday 22 November at the Royal Canberra Golf Club to celebrate and recognise outstanding community service and good citizenship amongst ACT students. This is a free event and light refreshments will be available. To assist with catering, please book at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/78049> or complete the booking sheet with this newsletter. Contact is Michael Crane at 0467 719 020.

AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST - 26 JANUARY 2019

Members and guests can enjoy breakfast at the Royal Canberra Golf Club to celebrate Australia Day and acknowledge the achievements of recipients in the 2019 Australia Day Honours List. Our special guest speaker will be Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC (Ret'd). Sir Angus retired from the Royal Australian Air Force in July 2011 after serving for 41 years. He was Chief of the Australian Defence Force from 2005-2011 and prior to that was Chief of Air Force for four years.



He was Chair of the Anzac Centenary Advisory Board from 2011-2013 which provided strategic advice to the Australian Government in relation to the planning and implementation of the Anzac Centenary.

Sir Angus is Chancellor for the University of the Sunshine Coast. He chairs a number of boards and also serves as a board member for numerous organisations. He is a visiting fellow of the Australian National University National Security College and the South Australian Special Envoy for International Trade and Investment. In addition, he is the Ambassador/Patron of a number of charitable organisations. Sir Angus has been awarded honorary doctorate degrees from the University of South Australia, the Australian National University, the University of New South Wales and Griffith University.

Sir Angus was appointed a Knight of the Order of Australia in January 2015 *for extraordinary and pre-eminent achievement and merit in service to Australia, through distinguished service in the Australian Defence Force, continued commitment to serve the nation in leadership roles, particularly the national responses to the MH370 and MH17 disasters, and in a variety of roles in the community.*

Please book at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/78048> or complete the booking sheet with this newsletter.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



This month we are calling for nominations from people willing to serve on the Branch Committee and as the ACT Branch Nominated Director on the National Board. In addition, the National Board will shortly call for nominations for the Executive Committee positions on the Board. These are all important roles and we need good quality people to fill them. There's more detail in the pages below: please read it carefully and consider whether you can help in the coming year.

Since our last newsletter we've had another three great events – our second reception for new recipients for the year (19 September), the 2018 Order of Australia Association – Australian National University Lecture (3 October), and morning tea with Di Johnstone (17 October). You can find reports later in this newsletter and in the next edition of *The Order*.

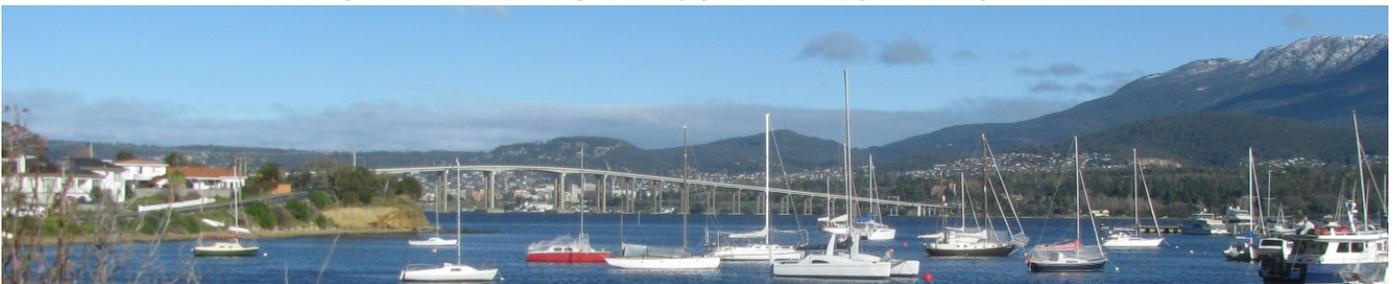
Don't forget that the presentation of our 2018 Student Awards will be held at the Royal Canberra Golf Club on Thursday 22 November. The Awards are our major community outreach activity for the year, and it would be great to see Branch members turn out in strength to support it and celebrate the achievements of some terrific young Canberrans. The event is free so all you need to do is register and come along.

Of course, you can always find details of past and coming events on the Association's website. (<https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/act/events/>).

Finally, in this edition we draw your attention again to the 2019 Annual Conference, to be held in Hobart from 11 – 14 April next year. The Tasmanian Branch Committee has put together a terrific program that offers plenty of opportunities for fellowship and sightseeing. As a Hobart boy, I can thoroughly recommend the Apple Isle as an outstanding tourist destination. And if you've been watching the real estate market, you'll know that something special is happening down there. Time to check it out!

Mike Crane DSC & Bar, AM
Branch Chairman
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OAA 2019 NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN HOBART



Full details of the 2019 National Conference, to be held in Hobart from 11 to 14 April 2019, are now available on the Association's website. The theme for the Conference is *Making the Difference*, and the Tasmanian Branch has put together a wonderful program of supporting events, including:

- a reception at Tasmania's historic Government House;
- a reception hosted by the Tasmanian Government;
- a commemorative service at the iconic Anglesea Barracks, the oldest Army barracks still in use in Australia; and
- options for tours to numerous nearby tourist attractions.

If you haven't been to Hobart, or it's been a while, consider making the most of this wonderful opportunity to see something of the Apple Isle while participating in the Association's governance at the Annual General Meeting and hearing inspirational speakers address topical issues at the Conference.

Details and the registration form can be found at: <http://tashost.com.au/oaa/registration.php>

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MORNING TEA WITH DI JOHNSTONE AM



On 17 October, members were privileged to hear retired diplomat and branch member Di Johnstone AM tell her story. This focused on her early diplomatic life and work as co-founding donor, ongoing collaborator and financial supporter of the **Ifa Lethu Foundation**, a non-profit foundation based in Tshwane, South Africa, established in 2005, and devoted to the development and economic growth of the creative arts sector in South Africa. Di worked for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) from 1973-2004 including as Australian Ambassador to Nepal.

Di started her diplomatic career with a posting to South Africa in 1974, at the height of apartheid, and she was shocked at the discrimination and police state oppression of black South Africans. She determinedly ensured that information about black South Africa was reported and took official visitors and journalists to the townships to see the living conditions.

She was introduced early to black township artists. As many were political activists and they produced powerful artistic commentaries on apartheid and township life, their work was considered subversive. Di quickly developed a fascination with the vivid and dramatic art.

Because the art was politically unacceptable it was largely uncollected by public institutions and major galleries. To help promote the art, she held an exhibition in her flat in Pretoria, with black artists in attendance and had her lease cancelled as a result. Most of the art was bought by diplomats and journalists and left the country. Di had promised artists that she would return the art she possessed to South Africa after majority rule came.

Di left South Africa in 1976 after her life changing experience there, knowing the value and importance of Australia's multicultural democracy. She had further postings to Africa a few years later, including to (then) Southern Rhodesia and Kenya, (including official visits to Uganda, Ethiopia and Somalia). Her final diplomatic appointment was in 1986 as Australia's first resident Ambassador to Nepal.

She returned to South Africa as in 1994 as a UN observer for the Freedom Elections for majority rule and followed this by exhibiting her collection at the South African High Commission, and at an Africa festival alongside fellow diplomat Bruce Haigh who had also collected years before. Her art collection was transported to South Africa for the opening of the Monash campus in Johannesburg and in 2003 was handed over by the Australian High Commissioner to the Mayor of Tshwane as a gift to the South African government and people. More donations followed, including Bruce Haigh's larger collection, and in 2005 the Ifa Lethu Foundation was formally established. The Foundation now has over 600 pieces of struggle era art donated or loaned by diplomats and others. The Foundation is also a leader in South Africa's creative arts sector. See <http://www.ifa lethu.org.za/> for more information.

Di briefly touched on her local community engagements, highlighting involvement with recently established Pets and Positive Ageing Inc which helps make it possible for older pet owners to live in aged accommodation with their companion animals and to access in-home pet support at times of financial and medical difficulties and as a volunteer with the Pet Assistance and Wellbeing Service (PAWS). Other commitments include Friends of the Albert Hall, Deakin Residents' Association, ACT Rescue and Foster Inc, and as long standing volunteer at Domestic Animal Services and the RSPCA. She has established the (private) For Animals Foundation and is Patron of Animal Care for Seniors at Home (Cairns). She collaborated with (then) Alzheimer's Australia ACT and others on a pilot to deliver dog therapy for dementia residents.



Joan Buchanan AM, Di Johnstone AM

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She was given an award by UN Women, International Women’s Day 8 August 2013, as one of the *Canberra Centenary: 100 Years, 100 Great Women*.

Di was appointed a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia on Australia Day 2015 *for significant service to international relations through support for creative arts in South Africa, and to the community of Canberra*.



Ifa Lethu fossil casters



Boy with Flute by David Mbele



Untitled', by Hugh Nolutshungu,

OAA-ANU LECTURE

On 3 October 2018, members and guests were privileged to hear Professor Ann McGrath AM, Director of the Australian Centre for Indigenous History, deliver the 2018 Order of Australia Association – Australian National University Lecture, entitled *Time Immemorial: dates, history and the deep human past*. The lecture sketched an outline of the work Professor McGrath is leading as part of the Kathleen Fitzpatrick Australian Laureate Fellowship.



Professor McGrath began by explaining that the methods employed by traditional western historians – literature, anthropology, linguistics and so on – stand in contrast to indigenous ways of recording history, which include stories around the campfire, dance, song and rock art. Western accounts, she said, reduce history to dates, whereas she feels it is important to humanise the story.

She went on to say that there is a particular problem in Australia, where there has long been a sense that prior to 1770 the continent was ‘historyless’. British settlers conceived Australia as a new world, free of the problems of the old (European) world, and indigenous history was ignored.

A further issue is differing understandings of time. For western historians, history only becomes history when it is framed by dates and periods. In contrast, Australian aboriginals have a sense of ‘everywhen’ – the idea that there is a deep past that is also present and future, in which spirits live on.

Professor McGrath then introduced the term ‘time immemorial’, which is an expression found in western law, poetry, identity and history. In law, it connotes the idea that something has been enjoyed for so long that the owner no longer needs to prove that they own it. This principle has been adapted by indigenous peoples for strategic purposes. In the United States, the Cherokee used it in two cases in 1831 and 1832

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against the US Government to show that long occupation established ownership of their land. Indigenous Australians drew on the Cherokee argument in their land rights cases in the 1970s.

Professor McGrath said that her project will analyse Australia's indigenous narratives alongside relevant new scientific evidence in order to create a big picture history of Australia. Through critiquing the evolution of traditional western disciplines, especially the world history/pre-history divide, the project will develop future-oriented trans-disciplinary techniques for researching the deep human past. She said that this work will transform the scale and scope of history, and that fresh 'periodisations' and understandings will reorient this history in its wider global context.

Professor Ann McGrath was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2007 for *service to education, particularly in the fields of indigenous history, as a teacher, researcher and author, and through leadership roles with a range of history-related organisations*. She was appointed a Member of the Order in 2017 for *significant service to the social sciences as an academic and researcher in the field of indigenous history, and to tertiary education*.

The OAA-ANU Lecture was established in 2010 with the aim of further recognising the contribution made by academic members of the Order of Australia to the fabric of Australian society.

The ACT Branch of the Association is grateful to the Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Brian Schmidt AC, for his continuing support in this important community outreach endeavour.

RECEPTION FOR QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY RECIPIENTS – 19 SEPTEMBER 2018.

The ACT Branch welcomed six new members to the Association at a reception held at the Commonwealth Club, Yarralumla. The reception followed their investiture at Government House on 6-7 September. This event was generously sponsored by the ACT Government.



Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM, Jennifer Bowker AO, Colin Thomson AM, Robin Creyke AO, Dianne Anderson AM, Kanti Jinna OAM, Frank Owen OAM,

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Frank Owen OAM, Dianne Anderson AM, Elizabeth Grant AM



Jyoti Jinna, Dianne Firth OAM



Bill Maiden PSM OAM, Frances Rose OAM, John O'Neill OAM



Lynne Thomson and Kerry O'Kane

NEW OAA MEMBERS

We would like welcome the following new members to our Branch.

Mrs Dianne Anderson AM - For significant service to the community through support for not-for-profit choral societies and music events.

Professor Colin Thomson AM – For significant service to medical research, particularly to research ethics, to education, and to professional organisations.

Venerable Emeritus Anne Ranse OAM – For service to the Anglican Church of Australia and to the community.

MEET OUR MEMBERS – ROBIN POKE AM

Robin Poke AM joined the ACT Branch after being appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2013 Australia Day honours *for significant service to the sport of rowing and the Olympic movement as an administrator, journalist and author.*

Robin was born in West London some eighteen months before the end of World War II and his earliest memories are of bombed buildings opposite his family home.

His abiding interests have always been sporting, notably rowing and rugby. Introduced to rowing by his father, Royce, who was largely responsible for regenerating his Thameside club following war service, Robin was coxswain of the club's first eight in 1957 that competed with distinction at Henley Royal Regatta. He was also for several years an enthusiastic member of his school Old

Boys' rugby club, and was vice-captain for a time.



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Robin migrated to Sydney in 1969 and worked in all areas of the media – print, radio and television – and private and public sector public relations. He was founder editor of SBS Radio News, Sydney, a senior reporter with Radio Australia, Melbourne, had several years with Capital Television in Canberra, and then was at the forefront of media liaison with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. Among major episodes with which he was involved were the 1996/97 Southern Ocean rescues and the 1998 Sydney to Hobart yacht race. Robin also worked on a freelance or contributor basis with ABC radio and television, with SBS Television and the *Canberra Times*, and for four years was Head of Corporate Communication at the University of Canberra.

Robin had also continued his long involvement in rowing. He won state championships in three states over ten years to 1980 before turning his hand to administration. He founded the national magazine *Australian Rowing*, was twice manager of Australian squads at world rowing championships, and for many years honorary media director for the national rowing federation, covering national and international events for all media. He was media liaison officer with the Australian team at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, in 2000 was the senior journalist in the Australian Olympic Team's Office at the Main Press Centre, Sydney, then in 2004 was Coordinator of the Team's Press Centre Office in Athens. Robin was also for many years President of the ACT Olympic Council.

He is now a sports historian and author. His first book, a biography of Olympic sculling gold medallist Peter Antonie, was published in 2007, while he was principal editor of *Olympic Gold*, which featured biographies of every Australian individual gold medallist, published in 2012. He is close to completing a two-volume history of Australian rowing.

Robin continues to row, and has been a medallist at both the Australian and World Masters Games and has also run several marathons.

Robin has a Bachelor of Communication degree from the University of Canberra majoring in journalism and a Master's degree in sports history and is also completing a PhD - on rowing history. He is a member of the Australian Society for Sports History, the International Society of Olympic Historians, and is a Visiting Fellow with the Centre for Olympic Studies, University of Technology, Sydney.

Robin is a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Canberra, and in 2011 he was a finalist for ACT Senior Australian of the Year.

Robin has three adult daughters and four grand-children. His wife, Lesley, died in 2010.

NOMINATIONS FOR BRANCH COMMITTEE AND NATIONAL BOARD POSITIONS

We are now calling for nominations for people to serve on the Branch Committee in 2019/20. This is something in which many hands really do make light work, but I have to say it has not been easy to keep the Branch going this year without all the people we need to do the job. And it will be even more challenging for us next year, when Past Chair, Bruce Trewartha OAM, has to stand down - Bruce will leave very big shoes to fill.

I ask all Branch members to consider seriously whether you can afford just a little time to help with this task. The jobs themselves are not individually onerous, but they quickly become so when people have to do more than one. And let's not forget that there's great satisfaction to be had from contributing to the Association's work. In particular, we urgently need a Branch membership officer, and in the new year we will need a new editor for our newsletter. Please don't wait to be asked personally: that just makes it more difficult for all of us. If you would like to know more about what's involved, please contact me on the details below.

We are also calling for nominations for the ACT Branch Nominated Director on the National Board. I am coming towards the end of my first year in this position, I'm eligible for another term, and I am prepared to continue in 2019/20. But it's important that we consider all the talent that's available to us to get the best possible Director on the Board. The position description is attached to this edition of the newsletter. Please

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consider whether this is something you would like to do and, again, contact me if you would like to know more. There is a nomination form attached to this newsletter.

Finally, the National Board will very soon be calling for nominations from people interested in serving as members of the Executive Committee of the Board. These positions include National Chairman, National Deputy Chairman, National Secretary, National Treasurer and National Membership Director. The position descriptions will be published along with the nomination form in the next edition of *The Order*. These are the senior leadership positions of the Association and they must be filled by people with appropriate skills, knowledge and experience. If you think you are right for one of these roles, please put your hand up. Again, I'm available to chat, and of course the current National Secretary, Phil Morrall AM, CSC, is also based here in the ACT and would be delighted to help.

Mike Crane DSC & Bar, AM

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SUE PACKER AM – ACT SENIOR AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR



Sue Packer AM

Photo: ACT Government

Congratulations to Branch member Dr Sue Packer AM, who has been named ACT Senior Australian of the Year and will go forward to the Australian of the Year ceremony in January 2019. Dr Packer's nomination follows a lifetime of work which began in 1972 when she became a paediatrician, and worked to protect and enhance the rights of children, and in 1990 she began working with the child-at-risk health unit which conducts medical assessments for children who reside in ACT and surrounding NSW where there are concerns about abuse and neglect. This involves working with the child protection system, police services and health services. Her work has included caring for abused children and babies, and she was named Canberra Citizen of the Year in 2013 "in recognition of her personal efforts and significant contributions to the ACT community, particularly as an advocate for the safety and wellbeing of children." Sue also belongs to a number of community and professional organisations related to child welfare. She was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in January 1999 *for service to child welfare, to Paediatric medicine and to the community.*

MORE OA NOMINATIONS FOR WOMEN



Narelle Hargreaves OAM

ACT members Narelle Hargreaves OAM, Frances Rose OAM and Bill Maiden PSM OAM are members of a Branch subcommittee formed to encourage and inform organisations in the Canberra community on nominating worthy women, emphasising the ease with which nominations can be made. We thank City News for promoting the subcommittee's efforts with an interview with Narelle which is at the link <http://citynews.com.au/2018/order-for-more-extraordinary-women/>

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MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS REMINDER

If you are paying your membership subscription by direct debit, please include in the reference section, your invoice number and, if possible, your name.

If you have any doubts or concerns, please call our National Membership Officer, Heather Willis, on 02 6273 0322 and she can explain what you need to do.

SAVE THE DATE – ACT BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 13 FEBRUARY 2019

Early advice that the AGM for the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia Association will be held on Wednesday 13 February 2019 at The Royal Canberra Golf Club in accordance with the rules of the Association. As stated earlier, all Branch positions will be available for nomination, with a form attached to this newsletter.

POSITION DESCRIPTION: BRANCH NOMINATED DIRECTOR

Purpose of the Position

A Branch Nominated Director is a National Board Member.

Responsibilities

1. Member of the National Board,
2. Reports to the Board Chairman,
3. Regularly attends board meetings and important related meeting,
4. Makes serious commitment to participate actively in Board/Committee work,
5. Volunteers for and willingly accepts assignments and completes them thoroughly and on time,
6. Stays informed about Committee matters, prepares well for meetings and reviews and comments on minutes and reports,
7. Gets to know other Board members and builds a collegial working relationship that contributes to consensus,
8. Is a partner with the Board in achieving the National Organisation's mission,
9. Plays a leading role in effective representation of the Association and in fundraising activities, and
10. Performs other responsibilities assigned by the Board

Accountabilities

- a. Responsible representation of issues of importance to the nominating Branch,
 - b. Support decisions that are in the best interests of the National Organisation,
 - c. Represent the National Organisation position in all Board deliberations,
 - d. Ensure the long term financial viability of the National Organisation,
 - e. Ensure growth in the membership is a priority,
 - f. Increasing awareness of the Association and of the Order in the community, and
 - g. Awareness of the needs of, and involvement with the members of the Association in all locations.
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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.

Ms Elvie MUNDAY OAM – Australia Day 1993 – For service to the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust.

Mr George HOWE OAM – Queen's Birthday 2010 – For Service to the performing arts as a carillonist.
