

ACT OAA

DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

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Immediate Past Chair

Bruce Trewartha OAM

Branch mailbox

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Branch website

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/ACT

COMING EVENTS

A booking sheets for the following event is enclosed:

**Saturday 26 January 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**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – ACT BRANCH

Members are invited to attend the 2019 ACT Branch Annual General Meeting at 6.00 pm on **Wednesday 13 February** at the Royal Canberra Golf Club, followed by Dr Sue Packer AM, ACT Senior Australian of the Year, speaking on her work as an advocate for the rights of children. This is a free event and light nibbles will be available from 5.30 pm, with drinks at own expense. To assist with catering for this event, please book at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/80399> or contact Michael Crane DSC & Bar AM 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



It's getting very late in the year for a newsletter but we wanted to close out quickly on 2018 and remind members of a couple of important events coming up early in the new year.

Many thanks to everybody who has been involved with the Branch program this year, including our speakers, the event organisers, and of course Past Chair Bruce Trewartha OAM who did so much to set it up. Thanks also to the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA, for his generous support to our receptions.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to hear guest speaker Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC (Retd) at our Australia Day breakfast on 26 January – registration details can be found in this newsletter.

Please don't forget our AGM on Wednesday 13 February: it's very important that members come along to participate in the governance of our Branch. The Agenda is attached to this newsletter and we'll circulate other papers as necessary as soon as possible in the new year. Please note that our previous advice about the closing date for nominations for Committee and Board positions was incorrect: under our Constitution, nominations must close on Friday 18 January, 25 days before the AGM.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a peaceful and safe festive season. We look forward to seeing you in 2019.

Warm regards,

Mike Crane DSC & Bar, AM
Branch Chairman
T: 0467 719 020
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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 Government reception;
- 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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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2019

Our Annual General Meeting is your chance to participate in the governance of our Branch. Come along to have your say on the Annual Report and who represents us on the Branch Committee in 2019/20.

Join us for free nibbles (and drinks at own expense) from 5.30 pm. The AGM will start promptly at 6.00 pm. To assist with catering for this event, please book at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/80399> or contact Michael Crane DSC & Bar AM at 0467 719 020.

ACT Branch Annual General Meeting 13 February 2019

Agenda

1. Welcome and opening remarks
2. Acknowledgement of Country
3. Apologies
4. Minute of AGM held 1 March 2018
5. Matters Arising
6. Annual Report
7. Election of Branch Nominated Director and Committee for 2019-20
8. Other Business
9. Close

The nomination form for positions on the ACT Branch Committee or for ACT Director on the National Board is attached to this newsletter. Closing date – 18 January 2019.



Immediately following the AGM, Dr Sue Packer AM, ACT Senior Australian of the Year, will speak about her work as an advocate for the rights of children and perhaps say a few words about the Australian of the Year experience. Sue is an outstanding Australian and a very distinguished Canberran, so this is an opportunity not to be missed. Sue was also 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.*

STUDENT AWARDS PRESENTATION

The annual OAA-ACT Student Awards Presentation was held at the Royal Canberra Golf Club on Thursday 22 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, OBE.

The judging panel of Ms Trish Keller OAM, Ms Narelle Hargreaves OAM, Ms Elizabeth Grant AM, Mr Les Blackley OAM and Student Awards coordinator Dr Bill Maiden PSM, 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.

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The Principal of St Mary MacKillop College, Mr Michael Lee, spoke on the values of citizenship developed in the students represented at the event.

Harry Blake – Year 12 – Radford College – awarded the Order of Australia ACT Branch’s 2018 Medallion for Outstanding Individual Leadership by a Year 11 or Year 12 Student

Harry’s nomination cited his extraordinary contribution to service activity and contributions to the community during his final three years at the College. Amongst his many contributions are regular visits to assist at schools in the Gamilaraay country in north-western NSW, his faithful weekly attendance at the school’s recreational activity for people with an intellectual disability and his dedicated involvement with all school-based service and fundraising activities. He is very modest about his many commitments, accomplishments and the widespread respect he has earned through giving so much to his own and the wider community.



Hannah McGilvray and Ruan Janse van Rensburg – Year 12 – Brindabella Christian College – awarded the Order of Australia ACT Branch’s Group Community Service and Citizenship Plaque

Hannah and Ruan have displayed significant servant leadership both inside and outside their school in their roles as school captains. Their nomination indicated that the high quality of their team leadership has had a most pronounced and positive effect on the entire school. These two leaders organise leading and running the College’s charity events and assist the middle school and junior students to conduct their SRC meetings. They also organise and run social and fundraising events as well as perform the roles required of school captains. Both are also active contributors to the outside community.

Photo: Hannah McGilvray and Ruan Janse van Rensburg

Lauren Murphy – Year 6 – Holy Spirit Primary School – Highly Commended Certificate

Since the age of seven, Lauren has shown her initiative in thinking of ways to financially support those less fortunate in her community. Over that time she has individually, or engaged her friends, to help raise considerable funds through, for example, a cupcake and cookie stall, a cafe at her house, selling painted gift cards, a recycling service, and the making and selling of string puppets. She is highly regarded as a determined, courageous and caring leader within her school’s student body.

Photo: Ms Anna D’Amico, Lauren Murphy, Dr Bill Maiden PSM, OAM



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Maddy Garfarth - Year 11 – St Mary MacKillop College – Highly Commended Certificate

Over the last five years, Maddy has immersed herself within the community by selflessly donating her time to the ‘Sweet ChariTea’ initiative. Amongst other things, her volunteering work has involved social media marketing, communication with sponsors and packing gift bags in supporting fundraising for Canberra Hospital’s Paediatric Unit. In addition, she has packed kits for child birthing in third world countries and door knocked for Vinnies. She has demonstrated a long-term and sustained generosity of spirit in her volunteering work.



Michael Lee, Maddy Garfarth, Caitlyn Williams, Ellen Scott, Gen Peter Gration AC OBE Photo: Aidan Brunskill.

Ellen Scott and Caitlyn Williams – Year 10 – St Mary MacKillop College – Highly Commended Certificates

In conjunction with the National Council of Young Women Australia’s ‘Sister Act’ program, Ellen and Caitlyn have researched, collaborated, designed and presented a leadership program in ACT Catholic High Schools designed to combat gender balance issues in the workplace and develop the leadership skills of young women. They initiated and led a series of workshops for aspiring and potential female leaders across three Catholic High Schools, engaging guest speakers to help develop skill sets in confidence-raising, communication, interpersonal relations, networking and leadership.

Ava Starling – Year 6 – Forrest Primary School – Highly Commended Certificate



Ava is an outstanding school citizen who goes above and beyond in caring about, and supporting others in her community. Examples of her long-term initiatives and leadership include persuading her school of the need to use recycled toilet paper, organising a dress-up day to fundraise for the World Wildlife Fund and educating her school’s student body of declining quokka numbers. She has also organised a book drive for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation which resulted in a collection of 18 boxes of books to send to disadvantaged school libraries in remote communities.

Photo: Gen Peter Gration AC OBE, Ava Starling

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MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Some members may have noticed that the Association is now taking a slightly more businesslike approach to reminders about overdue membership subscriptions. A few words of explanation might be helpful.

Over the years, the Association has been quite lenient on overdue subscriptions, maintaining non-financial members “on the books” for some time. In part, this reflected an understanding that subscriptions are easily overlooked but, in some cases, it also reflected a simple reluctance to talk about the subject of money.

Of course, this approach is unfair to those who do pay their subscriptions promptly. It also imposes a cost to the Association in terms of providing services (such as *The Order*) that are unpaid for. And it generates additional work for those volunteers and staff who have to administer our membership and financial records.

Accordingly, the Board recently agreed to introduce a new approach to renewals, as follows:

- The National Office will issue an ‘invoice’ about a month before renewal is due – by email if the Association holds an email address for the member, otherwise by mail.
- If an invoice remains unpaid, the National Office will issue a reminder by mail about a month after renewal was due.
- If the invoice remains unpaid after another month, the National Office will advise the Branch Membership Officer, who may follow up by phone or email.
- If the invoice remains unpaid after six months, the member will be removed from the membership roll.
- Should the required subscription subsequently be paid, the member will be re-enrolled.

There have been one or two small glitches in the transition to this new process, and we apologise unreservedly to any members who have been inconvenienced or felt uncomfortable. But we trust you will understand the importance of keeping our membership and financial affairs in good order.

Should any member have any questions or concerns about these arrangements, please don’t hesitate to contact the Branch Secretary.

NEW ASSOCIATION DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT POLICY

Branch members should be aware that the Association has recently introduced a new Discrimination and Harassment Policy. Some may wonder why a policy like this is necessary in an organisation like ours. There are two reasons. First, it is a requirement of our insurance that we have such a policy in place. But more importantly, in our increasingly complex world, the Association should articulate its expectations of our behaviour towards one another so that we all understand our responsibilities and rights clearly. The broad approach taken by the policy aligns with guidelines set out by the Australian Human Rights Commission.

The policy is now available on the Association’s website (<https://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Discrimination-and-Harassment-Policy-Dec-18.pdf>) or by email request to the Branch Secretary. The Branch Committee strongly encourages members to read it. Questions or concerns should be directed to the Branch Chairman.

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.

Dr Frank Hambly AM – Queen’s Birthday 1993 – For service to tertiary education as Executive Director, Australian Vice-Chancellors committee.
