

ACT OAA

MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER

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Narelle Hargreaves AM
Trish Keller OAM
Bill Maiden PSM OAM
Alan Morrison AM
Sam Wong AM

Branch mailbox

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Branch website

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/ACT

COMING EVENTS

Booking sheets for the following events are enclosed:

Thursday 4 April 2019
Morning Tea
Royal Canberra Golf Club.

Thursday 2 May 2019
Reception for New Recipients
Commonwealth Club

SAVE THE DATES

Tuesday 25 June 2019
OAA-ADF Oration

Sunday 18 August 2019
Multi Faith Observance

MORNING TEA with JENNY BOWKER AO



Members and guests are invited to attend our first morning tea of 2019 on Thursday 4 April at the Royal Canberra Golf Club to hear Branch member Jenny Bowker AO talk on "Pack and Follow" about her experiences as a quilt maker and textile artist, and her life travelling the world as the wife of a diplomat. She will bring along examples of her own work and work by other textile artists and tentmakers.

Jenny was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honours *for distinguished service to Australia-Middle East cultural relations through the preservation of traditional creative and visual arts, and as a textile artist and educator.* Please book at <https://www.sticktickets.com.au/82681> or complete the booking sheet with this newsletter. Contact for this event is Michael Crane DSC & Bar AM at 0467 719 020.

RECEPTION FOR NEW RECIPIENTS

We hope you can join us to welcome and celebrate with ACT and area citizens awarded in the 2019 Australia Day Honours. This event will be held at The Commonwealth Club Yarralumla on Thursday 2 May and will follow the investitures to be held at Government House on 10-12 April 2019.

Please book at <https://www.sticktickets.com.au/82246> or complete the booking sheet with this newsletter.

THE OAA-ADF ORATION

TUESDAY 25 June 2019. The 2019 Oration will be delivered by the Chief of the Defence Force, General Angus Campbell AO, DSC who will speak on "Security Challenges in the Next 20 Years". The Oration was established in 2011 with the aim of further recognising the contribution made by military members of the Order of Australia to the fabric of Australian society. Please book at <https://www.sticktickets.com.au/83786> or contact Michael Crane DSC & Bar AM at 0467 719 020.



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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Welcome to our first Branch newsletter for 2019. Our year is already well underway, with the Australia Day Breakfast with Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC, our Branch AGM and an evening with Dr Sue Packer AM, all successfully completed. You can find reports about all these events below and on the website. We're now looking forward to morning tea with Jenny Bowker AO on 4 April and our first reception for new recipients on 2 May – again, you can find details below. We're still working on a speaker for our Queen's Birthday Luncheon, but we do know that our Australian Defence Force Orator this year will be the Chief of the Defence Force, General Angus Campbell AO, DSC. Unfortunately the date for the Oration has slipped a little this year, but please pencil Tuesday 25 June in your diary now.

I'm pleased to advise that a full Branch Committee was elected at the AGM on 13 February. I congratulate all those who were elected, particularly Alan Morrison AM who joins us for the first time, and Past Chair Trish Keller OAM, who rejoins after a break to take on the role of Branch Membership Officer. Unfortunately, Professor Gabrielle Cooper OAM had to step down almost immediately after the AGM because of increased work commitments. I would like to thank Gabrielle and all the 2018 Committee for their service. In the meantime, there is now a casual vacancy on the Committee so please let me know if you are interested in stepping up.

In the pages below you will find quite a long piece on two Special Resolutions that will be on the agenda of the National AGM in Hobart. There is still time for you to register and attend the AGM and National Conference in person, and I commend that to you, but if you're not able to come, I strongly encourage you to have your say by giving your proxy either to the National Chair or to me as ACT Branch Chair. Please do take the time to participate in these important decisions.

Finally, may I congratulate all new recipients of honours and awards in the Australia Day list, and welcome those who have already joined the Association. A very special well done to Branch Committee Member Narelle Hargreaves AM on her promotion in the Order on Australia Day; to Dr Sue Packer AM on being announced as 2019 Senior Australian of the Year; and to Jenny Bowker AO and Di Johnstone AM for terrific articles in the most recent issue of *The Order*. It's wonderful to see ACT folk continuing to contribute to Australian society in such significant ways.

Warm regards,
Mike Crane DSC & Bar, AM
Branch Chairman
T: 0467 719 020
E: Chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

OAA 2019 NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN HOBART



There is still time to register for the 2019 National Conference, to be held in Hobart from 11 to 14 April 2019, and details are 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.

If you haven't been to Hobart, or it's been a while, join the ACT contingent and make 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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2019 AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST.

Almost 100 members and guests gathered to celebrate Australia Day and the achievements of recipients in the 2019 Australia Day honours list, and hear our guest speaker, Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC. Sir Angus spoke about two significant anniversaries occurring in 2019: he first described the 1919 Great Air Race, won by two Australian pilots, Ross and Keith Smith, and the subsequent development of a commercial air route between London and Australia, before observing that 2019 marks the 20th anniversary of no flying fatalities in the Royal Australian Air Force. While praising the extraordinary achievements of early aviators, he contrasted their approach to risk with the modern culture that has transformed the Air Force's safety record.



Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC



Derek Robson AM, Sir Angus Houston, Lady Liz Houston, Ann Gratton, Gen Peter Gratton AC OBE,



*Sir Angus Houston, Ross Dunn OAM
(Australia Day Honours recipient)*



Bill Crews AO, Karlie Crews, David Buring AM

SEEKING A WEBMASTER!

Are you a computer guru with an eye for what makes a good story? We're looking for somebody with solid computer skills and a flair for basic desktop publishing to take on the role of webmaster for the ACT Branch pages on the Order of Australia Association website.

The job involves working with the Branch Chair and newsletter editor to keep our pages up to date. It mostly involves posting upcoming events and reporting on completed events and takes just a couple of hours each month. You can do it from your home computer and we'll provide all the training necessary for you to work behind the scenes on the website.

This is a great way for somebody with the right skills to make a contribution to the Branch without needing to sign up for the Committee. If you would like more information, please contact Mike Crane (T: 0467 719 020; E: Chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au).

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & EVENING WITH SUE PACKER AM

Members and guests gathered at the Royal Canberra Golf Club, Yarralumla on 13 February 2019 to participate in our governance and hear the 2019 Senior Australian of the Year, Dr Sue Packer AM, speak about her Australian of the Year experience.

The AGM saw the 2018 Annual Report accepted and a new Branch Committee elected. Our experiment with providing AGM papers only in electronic format was very successful and this approach will be retained, saving considerably on postage costs and volunteer time.

Sue began her talk by describing the ‘surreal’ experience of the months and weeks leading up to the announcement of her award, the realities of the presentation night, and the whirlwind of Australia Day in Sydney. She spoke of her delight at being able to share a day with all 34 Australian of the Year finalists and the wonder of a ride around Sydney Harbour with the other winners aboard the ferry *Victor Chang*. She went on to explain that she has always been passionate about children, even while growing up, and that this had led to her becoming a paediatrician and eventually to her work in the child abuse sector. She shared a range of insights from her experience and exhorted all adults to be more interested in children, and to encourage their curiosity. In response to a question, she even gave advice on successful grand parenting! We are very proud to have Sue as a member of the ACT Branch and wish her every success during her tenure as Senior Australian of the Year.



2019 NATIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

Two special resolutions have been placed on the Agenda for this year’s National Annual General Meeting in Hobart. Both were put forward by petition, the first by Associate Professor John Harden AM from Queensland, the second by the Mr Tony Metcalf OAM from South Australia.

The National Board has considered the special resolutions and does not support them. It will recommend to members that they vote against them. This recommendation and an explanation of the Board’s position will be in the AGM papers you will receive shortly.

Your Branch Committee has also considered the special resolutions from an ACT Branch point of view and similarly does not support them. The Branch Committee also recommends that you vote against the special resolutions.

The special resolutions are set out below, along with an explanation of the Branch Committee’s position. You should read this in conjunction with the Board’s recommendations and explanations in your AGM papers.

Whichever way you think on these issues, it is important that you exercise your right to participate in the governance of the Association. These are important matters and we should all play our part in deciding on them. If you are not going to the AGM in Hobart, please complete and return the proxy voting slip that will be contained in your AGM papers by the return date.

The Board will recommend that you give your proxy to the National Chairman, Barry Nunn AO. The Branch Committee suggests that you follow that recommendation. Alternatively, if you are not comfortable doing that, you could give your proxy to our Branch Chair, Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM.

If you would like further information, please contact Mike on Chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au or 0467 719 020.

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Special Resolution 1 (Associate Professor John Harden AM). *That new arrangements be established, by mutual agreement between the OAA Branches and the OAA Board, for an equitable distribution of member subscription funds between the OAA Board and the OAA Branches.*

The ACT Branch Committee has considered this Special Resolution and does not support it for the following reasons:

- The process for determining the distribution of funds to branches is actually working well. Last October, the Board doubled the per-head grant for the October 2018 payment and promised to maintain the payment at that level for the two payments in 2019. This gave us good certainty for budget planning for this financial year. The Board has undertaken to provide similar certainty in future years.
- It is unclear from the resolution what 'mutual agreement' or 'equitable distribution' mean. There may be eight different definitions in the eight branches, which would make a consensus very difficult. This has the potential to complicate and slow the process of arriving at a sum to be distributed each year.
- There are extant mechanisms for branches to seek additional funding from the Board should that be required.
- On balance, from an ACT perspective there is no need to change the current process.

Your Branch Committee recommends that you vote AGAINST Special Resolution 1.

Special Resolution 2 (Mr Tony Metcalf OAM). *That the Board, at the conclusion of this meeting, make arrangements for a complete external review of the Constitution and By-laws (rules) of the Order of Australia Association, including a consultation mechanism for taking into account the skills and experience of the current membership at large, and the commercial concessions now offered to Not-For-Profit organisations, with a first draft to be presented to the Futures/Strategy meeting being arranged in June 2019, and with the objective of presenting completed documents for decision by the general membership at the next AGM in Darwin in 2020.*

The ACT Branch Committee has considered this Special Resolution and does not support it for the following reasons:

- The Board has received legal advice that our current Constitution is compliant with regulatory requirements, but acknowledges that there is scope for it to be improved. For this reason, the Board has initiated a deliberate constitutional review process that is now well under way. The Special Resolution ignores these facts and the status of the work already undertaken, should a new external review begin, is unclear.
- An external review would be expensive and, by definition, would not allow us to use the considerable expertise we have amongst our members.
- The proposed timeline is very aggressive and likely unachievable.
- On balance, from an ACT perspective there is no need for an external review of the Constitution.

Your Branch Committee recommends that you vote AGAINST Special Resolution 2.

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.

The Hon Justice Jeffrey Miles AO - Queen's Birthday 1994 – For service to the law and to the community.

Dr Sydenham Dobbin AM – Australia Day 1986 – In recognition of service to the community, particularly in the field of dental health.

Allan Rainbird AM – Queen's Birthday 1990 – For Public Service.

Joyce Griffin OAM – Australia Day 2005 – For service to youth through the Guiding movement.

Rhodanthe Lipsett OAM – Australia Day 1992 – For service to infant health and the care of mothers and babies.

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SUPPORT RADIO 1RPH



Branch Secretary Robert Altamore OAM, Vice-President of Radio 1RPH is inviting OAA members to attend the **Annual Dinner for Radio 1RPH**. The guest speaker will be His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, accompanied by Her Excellency Lady Lynne Cosgrove.

Topic - “Highlights of his Governor-Generalship and Military Career.”

Venue: Royal Canberra Golf Club, Bentham St, Yarralumla.

Date: Wednesday 1 May, 2019. **Time:** 6.00 pm **Cost:** \$95 per person, or \$720 for a table of eight.

There will be pre-dinner drinks from 6.00 pm followed at 6.30 pm by an alternate two course menu with tea and coffee, with a cash bar. Vegetarian and special dietary requirements can be catered for on request to Carey at RCGC on 6282 7000 - 10am to 3pm.

Bookings are essential. Payment by direct transfer to BSB 112-908, Account 050124079, Account name - Print Handicapped Radio. In the payment description please include “Your name – dinner”. Bookings close on Monday 22 April 2019.



Enquiries, including price and payment arrangements, can be made to Station Manager Jenni Rush Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm, phone 6241 4076 or to Robert Altamore OAM on 0423 931 753.

WELCOME TO NEW OAA MEMBERS

AIRCDRE William Henman AM – QB 2015 – For exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force in coalition planning, command and control of joint air operations and strategic capability development.

Mr Arthur Skimin OAM – AD 2013 – For service to the community particularly veterans and their families.

FROM THE 2019 AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Mr Gary Humphries AO - For distinguished service to the Parliament of Australia, and to the Legislative Assembly of the ACT.

Dr Wilfred Armarego AM - For significant service to biochemistry and molecular biology.

GPCAPT Stuart Bellingham DSC AM CSC - For exceptional service in Joint air-land terminal attack systems development; support to operations; and major airborne capability sustainment for the Australian Defence Force.

Mr Terence Birtles OAM – For service to the community through a range of roles.

AIRCDRE Philip Byrne OAM (Retd) - For service to the community through a range of organisations.

Mr David Gill OAM – For service to the community of Wagga Wagga.

Ms Susan Healy OAM - For service to people with a disability.

Ms Nicole Johnston OAM - For service to nursing.

Dr Peter McCawley AM – For significant service to the Asia-Pacific region through economic advisory roles.

Mr Peter Munday OAM - For service to the community through charitable organisations.

Dr Margaret Shore OAM - For service to the international community of Indonesia through education programs.

Mrs Rose Shorney OAM - For service to the performing arts through musical direction.

CONGRATULATIONS TO AN UPGRADED MEMBER FROM THE 2019 AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Mrs Narelle HARGREAVES AM - For significant service to children and young people in the ACT, and to education.

FATHER OF FLUORIDATION in NSW



The passing on 22 February of Branch member Dr Syd Dobbin AM, former Mayor of Yass, was a reminder that he was instrumental in 1956 in making Yass the first town on the Australian mainland to have a fluoridated water supply. In recognition of his determined efforts to promote fluoridation, he was appointed a member of the Order of Australia in 1986 *In recognition of service to the community, particularly in the field of dental health*. He continued his passionate advocacy throughout his life.
