

ACT OAA

APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER

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Committee

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

Branch mailbox

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Branch website

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/ACT

COMING EVENTS

Booking sheets for the following events are enclosed:

Thursday 2 May 2019
Reception for New Awardees
Commonwealth Club

Tuesday 11 June 2019
Queen's Birthday Lunch
Royal Canberra Golf Club.

SAVE THE DATES

Tuesday 25 June 2019
OAA-ADF Oration

Sunday 18 August 2019
Multi Faith Observance

RECEPTION FOR NEW RECIPIENTS

Time is getting close for bookings to close for the Reception and we hope you can join us to welcome and celebrate with ACT and area recipients in the 2019 Australia Day Honours. This event will be held at The Commonwealth Club Yarralumla on Thursday 2 May and follows the investitures held at Government House on 10-12 April 2019.

Please book at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/82246>, complete the booking sheet with this newsletter, or contact Michael Crane DSC & Bar AM at 0467 719 020.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON



We are happy to advise that the speaker for our 2019 Queen's Birthday Luncheon will be Her Excellency Lady Lynne Cosgrove. The Luncheon will be held at the Royal Canberra Golf Club on Tuesday 11 June. In addition to her role in vice-regal activities, Lady Cosgrove has been actively involved in the welfare of partners in the defence community and became the inaugural Patron of Partners of Veterans Australia. She has worked with numerous voluntary organisations supporting aged and disabled people, and endangered Australian wildlife. Please book for this event at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/84995>, complete the booking sheet with this newsletter, or contact Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM at 0467 719 020.

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.stickytickets.com.au/83786> or contact Michael Crane DSC & Bar AM at 0467 719 020.



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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Only a few weeks have passed since our last newsletter, but already so much has happened. In this edition, you can read about our wonderful morning tea with Jenny Bowker AO, who gave a light-hearted but thought provoking account of her journey as a diplomat's wife and textile artist. You can also read brief reports on the most recent National Board meeting, the National AGM and Members' Forum and the National Conference, which were all very successfully held in Hobart from 11 to 14 April. You will see that both special resolutions on the AGM Agenda failed to achieve the required 75% support and were therefore defeated. In my view, however, the level of support they received (45 and 38% respectively) will require that the Board further examine both issues. I would particularly like to thank those Branch members who took the opportunity to participate in the governance of our Association by either attending the AGM in Hobart in person or lodging a proxy vote with the National Secretary.

Our next event is our first reception for new recipients for the year, which is to be held at the Commonwealth Club, Yarralumla, on Thursday 2 May. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to share fellowship and celebrate with recipients of honours and awards in in the 2019 Australia Day list. Then on Tuesday 11 June, join us at the Royal Canberra Golf Club for the 2019 Queen's Birthday Luncheon, with guest speaker Lady Lynne Cosgrove. And on Tuesday 25 June, please come along to the 2019 Australian Defence Force Oration, which this year will be presented by the Chief of the Defence Force, General Angus Campbell AO, DSC. Registration is open on Sticky Tickets for all three events, and you'll find the details later in the newsletter.

I'm delighted to announce that the casual vacancy on our Branch Committee arising from the resignation of Professor Gabrielle Cooper OAM has been filled by Ms Coralie Wood OAM. Coralie brings another new perspective to the Committee and she is very welcome. And thanks to National Membership Officer, Heather Willis, the Committee is now enjoying holding its bi-monthly meetings in the delightful ambience of Old Parliament House, a move thoroughly in keeping with the Association's goal of upholding the prestige of the Order of Australia.

Warm regards,

Mike Crane DSC & Bar, AM
Branch Chairman

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REPORT ON THE NATIONAL BOARD MEETING HELD IN HOBART ON 11 APRIL 2019

The Board met in Hobart to discuss a range of matters in preparation for the National AGM. The National Chairman has issued a summary of outcomes which we hope will soon be posted to the Association's website, but in very brief outline, the Board:

- **agreed** to continue developing the concept of centralised book keeping, with one Branch (likely the ACT) to be used as a trial;
 - **confirmed** its intention to continue managing life member reserve funds in accordance with actuarial advice, despite requests from some branches to draw down a greater proportion of the reserve as income;
 - **committed** to more transparent communication with branches, including removing 'in-confidence' restrictions from Board papers wherever possible;
 - **agreed** in principle to adjust the 2019 budget to reflect the new Treasurer's advice regarding inaccurate budget assumptions, subject to review of revised figures;
 - **appointed** four members of the Queensland Branch to the Branch Committee to overcome irregularities in the Branch's election process;
 - **agreed** to continue work on developing a revised Constitution; and
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- to continue work on developing a revised Constitution; and
- **elected** non-Branch nominated directors Barry Nunn AO, RFD, ED (Chairman), Paul Wheelton AM, KSJ (Deputy Chairman), Phil Morrall AM, CSC (Secretary), Muriel Barasso OAM (Treasurer) and Helene Bender OAM (Membership Director).

I am generally well satisfied with the way the Board is working together collegiately to manage the Association's affairs at national level. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Mike Crane DSC & Bar, AM
ACT Branch Nominated Director

NATIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The National AGM was held on Saturday 13 April at the Grand Chancellor Hotel in Hobart. 119 members attended and there were a total of 936 proxy votes spread over 30 holders.

The procedural motions relating to the Minutes of the previous AGM and the various reports were all accepted. In relation to the two special resolutions:

- Special Resolution 1 (Queensland, relating to funding) was defeated with support of about 45%.
 - Special Resolution 2 (South Australia, relating to the Constitution) was defeated with support of about 38%.
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NATIONAL MEMBERS' FORUM

The Members' Forum was held on Saturday 13 April following the AGM. A number of interesting ideas were raised, including such matters as the need to find ways to assist members who struggle to pay subscriptions, and a proposal for an Association identification card to assist those who no longer have a driver's licence. The Forum continues to provide a useful vehicle for members to raise matters with the Board without disrupting the AGM process.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Thirteen members of the ACT Branch attended a highly successful National Conference in Hobart from 12 to 14 April. A detailed report will be provided in the next edition of *The Order* but, in outline, the conference included:

- A reception at Government House, hosted by the Governor of Tasmania, Her Excellency Professor Kate Warner AC;
- Tours of two local industries, Liferaft Systems Australia and Incat;
- The National Oration, presented by the Honourable Lara Giddings, former Premier of Tasmania;
- A Symposium featuring five outstanding speakers;
- An official dinner and the Foundation Awards;
- A service of reflection at Anglesea Barracks, with guest speaker the Honourable Brendan Nelson AO; and
- A farewell lunch and handover to the Northern Territory Branch.

It was difficult to find any aspect of the Conference that could have been improved upon, and there will be much that we can learn from the Tasmanian Branch as we prepare to host the event in 2021. We will shortly be asking for volunteers to form our Committee for the 2021 Conference, so please consider whether this is something you could do.

BRANCH RECEIVES DISCOUNT ON STICKY TICKETS

We are happy to announce that Sticky Tickets Australia Pty Ltd now supports the ACT Branch as a not for profit organisation with a 20 per cent rebate on our event booking fees.

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MORNING TEA with JENNY BOWKER AO

Members and guests were treated to a fascinating talk by Branch member Jenny Bowker AO at our first morning tea of 2019 on Thursday 4 April at the Royal Canberra Golf Club. Jenny talked on her personal experiences as a quilt maker and textile artist, and her life travelling the world as the wife of a diplomat, particularly in the Middle East from where she gained inspiration for many of her art works. The audience were privileged to see a number of her stunning creations. 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*. Members will have seen Jenny's story in the most recent edition of *The Order* with the striking award winning quilt image 'After the last sky' gracing the front cover.



WELCOME TO NEW OAA MEMBERS

FROM THE 2019 AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Mr. Anthony Nutt AO – For distinguished service to parliament and politics of state and national level, and as Federal Director of the Liberal Party of Australia.

Colonel Andrew Abbott AM - For exceptional service as Commanding Officer School of Armour and Chief of Staff 1st Division/Deployable Joint Force Headquarters.

Professor David Widdowson AM – For significant service to higher education in the field of international trade and customs.

Mrs Paulene Cairnduff OAM – For service to horticulture.

Mr Ross Dunn OAM - For service to the community through victims of crime advocacy and support.

Mrs June McPhie OAM – For service to the law.

Mr David Richards OAM - For service to the community through charitable initiatives.

Mrs Jane Smyth OAM - For service to the community of Canberra.

THE 2019 MULTI-FAITH OBSERVANCE TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY 18 AUGUST



Rt Rev Stephen Pickard

The Annual ACT Branch Multi-Faith Observance (MFO) will again be held at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, 15 Blackall Street, Barton at 2.00 pm on Sunday 18 August and involve inspirational speakers from a number of faiths.

This event will be co-hosted by The Order of Australia Association and the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture and moderated by the Executive Director, Rt Reverend Professor Stephen Pickard.

The Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture had its beginnings in 1993 under the auspices of the National Council of Churches in Australia and its constituency comprises the majority of Christian churches in Australia. The Centre was developed from a vision for a national ecumenical centre and place to promote reconciliation.



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.

Mr Stewart East AM - Australia Day 1990 – In recognition of service to business, commerce and to the community.
