



## THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION Northern Territory Branch

PO Box 2171, Parap NT 0804

Chairman – Ms. Sharon Mulholland AM: [sharonmmulholland@bigpond.com](mailto:sharonmmulholland@bigpond.com)

Secretary – Michael Martin OAM [martinnt@bigpond.net.au](mailto:martinnt@bigpond.net.au)

*Patron: Her Honour the Administrator, The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO*

November 2020

This little newsletter will wrap up 2020 – something none of us will be sad about. Thank goodness the healthy state of the NT allowed us to get together in October – more on that below – and the attendees were all glad to see each other again in real life!

### **Message from Chairperson Sharon Mulholland AM**

As 2020 draws to a close, despite many challenges faced, we are fortunate to have been free from community transmission of COVID19 here in the Northern Territory. The year has provided many of us with time to reflect on what is important and the significant role community service plays in our everyday lives.

I would ask you to please use this time to nominate inspiring Territorians for their hard-work, service and dedication in the community or workplace. I encourage you to consider diversity of culture, and gender as well as to recognise the outstanding achievements and service of young Territorians.

Members of your Executive Committee have begun a training program for those wishing to become familiar with the process of nominating someone for an Order of Australia award and we have written to a wide range of multi-cultural groups to inform them of the award process and to offer our assistance.

In that regard I thought it useful for us all to reflect on the formation of our association and the system of honours and awards. The Australian system of honours and awards was established in 1975. At this time, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia, approved the institution of the Order of Australia- 'an Australian society of honour for according recognition to Australian citizens and other persons for achievement or meritorious service'.

The Queen is the Sovereign Head of the Order of Australia and the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia is the Principal Companion and as Chancellor is charged with the administration of the Order.

For several years after the establishment of the Order of Australia in 1975, awardees had been holding informal gatherings, initially in Victoria in 1978 followed quickly by NSW in the following year. Their success led to a group from NSW approaching Sir Zelman Cowen the then Governor-General with a proposal to form a national Association with State and Territory Branches. With Sir Zelman's strong support this occurred, with the Order of Australia Association being officially founded in Canberra on Saturday 26 January 1980. Since that time, the Governors-General have graciously agreed to be the Patron of the Association, which by the end of 2019 had over 8,000 members.



## **Refresher Training Program in Nominating for an Order**



As mentioned above, Alan James OAM has spearheaded a move to run some small workshops, with the assistance of the Hon Luke Gosling OAM MP, to update people on the Order nomination process and to ensure that the multicultural cross-section of our community is represented in nominations. The first of these meetings was held on Tuesday Nov 24, and those attending found it helpful. Members of your NT Executive Committee and chapter were joined by staff from Luke's Office and the Office of the Chief Minister, and by Dr Edwin Lourdes Joseph JP, President Multicultural Council of the NT and Vice Chair Australia Day Council NT.

Alan James has said; "I think the most productive element of the session was the provision of a clear understanding of the core principals underlying the nomination process as well as the practical elements. Unravelling misunderstandings of how the nomination process works is possibly the most important element of a training session. Dr. Joseph has agreed to facilitate a future session inviting leaders from the multicultural & ethnic communities in the new year."

## **Constitution Update**

The Order of Australia Association was established in 1980 as an Association within the Australian Capital Territory governed by Articles of Association. In 1986 the Association was reconstituted as an Association Limited by Guarantee within the Australian Capital Territory register of the then National Companies and Securities Commission, governed by a Memorandum of Association. In 2012 the Memorandum of Association, as amended, was replaced by a formal Constitution.



We have received advice from the national association Chairman of the intention to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on Thursday 17th December 2020. The purpose of this EGM will be to consider and, if agreed, adopt a new constitution for our Association. The proposed new constitution is the result of considerable work throughout our Association over the last two years. It has involved broad consultation with Branches and members and the seeking of expert opinion.

Some of you may well ask why a New Constitution? The Association constitution was originally adopted over 30 years ago and thus predated the enactment of the Corporations Act, the formation of the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) and the establishment of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC) that regulates the not-for-profit sector. Although some amendments have subsequently been adopted, the existing Association constitution does not address some current governance requirements and its structure is not in keeping with modern practice. Rather than an extensive redrafting of many of the clauses of the existing document it was deemed more appropriate to adopt a 'template' recommended by the ACNC and prepare a new constitution. The new proposed constitution has the support of your Executive Committee and I encourage you all to participate in the voting process.

## Social Event October 15



We enjoyed an evening of less distance in October at a gathering at the Entertainment Centre – demonstrated, for a start, in the supportive turn out of members and partners. As already reported in “The Order” magazine, our guest speaker was Professor Len Notaras AM, celebrated as founder of the Darwin Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre, and its Executive Director since 2009. With interesting visuals, Dr. Notaras gave a most uplifting presentation on his work and that of the Australian Medical Assistance Team (AUSMAT) nationally and internationally.

Professor Len Notaras AM  
Right: Robyne Burrigge OAM  
with Hon Peter Styles



Below: Peter Whelan AM,  
Robert Wilson OAM,  
Dr. Jai Singh OAM



Above: Jan Hills AM, Jan Grice OAM,  
with Rosemary  
Burkitt,



## Presentation to the Hon Austin Asche AC QC

Luke Gosling OAM reports on a significant part of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific at USS Peary Memorial, Esplanade on Saturday, 15 August 2020...

“One of the great privileges of my life has been to present WW2 veteran and former Administrator of the Northern Territory the Hon Austin Asche AC QC with a Victory in the Pacific Commemorative Medal on behalf of a grateful nation.”



## **Vale Mike Reed AM**

It is with great sadness that I advise you of the recent passing of Mike Reed AM. First elected to the Legislative Assembly in March 1987, Mike was a visionary Territorian and an integral figure during the CLP Governments of the 1980s and 90s. He served as the Member for Katherine for 16 years, retiring in 2003.

Mike was Deputy Chief Minister from 1995 until 2001 during which time he served as Treasurer and he also held many other Ministerial portfolios including Health and Community Services, Primary Industry and Fisheries, Mines and Energy, Lands, Planning and Environment, Tourism, Police and Parks and Wildlife.

Mike was at the forefront of the recovery of Katherine after the Australia Day floods in 1998 and the NT's response to East Timor self-determination in 1999. Mike entered politics after a career with the NT Conservation Commission where he was a Wildlife Ranger and a Regional Manager. Mike was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2005 Australia Day honours for service to the Northern Territory Parliament and to the community of Katherine.



He was also a passionate ornithologist and historian and became a popular author on birdwatching and World War Two in the Northern Territory. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife, Ann Reed and his children.

*Sharon Mulholland AM*

## **Annual General Meeting**

The NT branch Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in Darwin on the 4th February 2021 and you will shortly receive a draft agenda and call for nominations for a number of vacancies on your Executive Committee.

Sharon and the OAA NT committee would like to wish you all a safe, healthy and happy festive season and a more prosperous, less challenging and stable 2021.



*N. Lewis Ed.*