

ACT OAA

MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

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www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/ACT

COMING EVENTS

The following COVID safe events are scheduled. Booking Sheets are attached

Queen's Birthday Lunch at the Royal Canberra Golf Club
Wednesday 15 June 2021.

Morning Tea at the Royal Canberra Golf Club
Wednesday 14 July 2021.

OAA-ADF Oration at Russell
Monday 9 August 2021

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY LUNCH 15 JUNE 2021



The Queen's Birthday Lunch is one of our special events and we are pleased to have **Mr Ray Griggs AO, CSC** as guest speaker. Ray commenced as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer of the National Indigenous Australians Agency in July 2019 and is responsible for leading policy, program, and delivery reform in line with the Government's

commitment to improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Previously, Ray Griggs completed a long career in the RAN in the rank of Vice-Admiral, and in 2012 was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia *for distinguished service to the Australian Defence Force as Deputy Head Strategic Reform and Governance, Deputy Chief of Joint Operations and Chief of the Royal Australian Navy.*

To register attendance for the lunch please book on Stickytickets at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/365BQ> (preferred) or complete the attached booking sheet.

MORNING TEA WEDNESDAY 14 JULY 2021



Join us for morning tea and fellowship in the delightful surrounds of Royal Canberra Golf Club. Our speaker will be ACT Branch member **Mr Ian Mansfield AM CSC** who will talk about his experiences working overseas for 20 years with the United Nations and other similar organisations, helping war torn countries to set up programmes to clear landmines and other unexploded ordnance. Ian

was appointed a Member in the Order of Australia in June 2010 *for service to international humanitarian aid through the establishment of global landmine removal, safety and training programs.* To register attendance for the July Morning Tea please book on Stickytickets at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/PSBKA> (preferred) or complete the attached booking sheet.

OAA-ADF ORATION MONDAY 9 AUGUST 2021



The Chief of Air Force (CAF), **Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld AO DSC** will present the 2021 "OAA-ADF ORATION" and speak on "The Royal Australian Air Force's next 100 years".

Air Marshal Hupfeld was appointed an Officer in The Order of Australia in June 2015 *for distinguished service to the Australian Defence Force in senior command and staff appointments.*

To register attendance for the ADF Oration please book on Stickytickets at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/RZEIE> (preferred) or complete the attached booking sheet.

ACT OAA NEWSLETTER – MAY 2021

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Fellow ACT Branch Members,

It has been a busy couple of months since our last newsletter and more is in prospect for the rest of the year. In late March we postponed our morning tea with Dr Peter Pedersen AM as the date coincided with the centenary fly-past for the Royal Australian Air Force; we will reschedule Peter for October. But we were able to hold our morning tea in April with the Director of the National Arboretum and Stromlo Forest Park, Scott Saddler AM. This event was very well attended, and you can find a report later in the newsletter and on the website. Scott's slides – and those from the presentation after the AGM by Andrew Phelan AM – are available on request.

We have four events coming up – a breakfast for new recipients on 26 May; our 2021 Queen's Birthday Luncheon on 15 June; a morning tea with Ian Mansfield AM, CSC in July; and our 2021 Australian Defence Force Oration with the Chief of Air Force on Monday 9 August. You can find details later in this newsletter and on the website.

The planning committee for the 2022 National Conference and AGM has been very busy and is close to confirming venues for the conference itself, the conference dinner and the farewell luncheon. More details on all that in coming months.

Members will recall that in March the Committee invited responses to a short survey on our event program. Sadly, we did not receive enough responses to draw authoritative data on members' views on the program – just 18 surveys were returned from our membership of about 550, although we also received emails from several members explaining that they are no longer able to attend events. In the absence of clear guidance from members, the Committee will continue to conduct the program pretty much as it stands.

The 2021 National AGM was held on 8 May via video link. The financial report and other matters were all passed. The attendance was disappointing, with only about 30 of our 8,000 members Australia-wide sitting in, while another 60 or so had submitted proxies. We certainly hope for a better result in Canberra next year.

Our Branch Nominated Director, Alan Morrison AM, is unavailable to provide a national report this month, but I can advise that the Board met on 16 April. It resolved to seek additional year of birth data for members to assist in actuarial calculations, and many of you will have received an email request to provide your birth year. The Board also conducted its annual review of the Association's strategic plan and identified several short-term goals for 2021.

So, as you can see, quite a lot has been going on. I will continue to keep you posted and I look forward to seeing you at our events in coming months.

Warm regards,

Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM

Branch Chairman

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VALE

We regret to advise the recent passing of the following ACT Branch members and pay our respects for their contribution to the Association and the Australian community.

Mr Collin Freeland AO - Queen's Birthday 1988 – In recognition of public service.

Commander Colin Benson OAM – Australia Day 1985 - In recognition of service to the SA Police Force.

Mr Frank Boyle OAM - Queen's Birthday 1991 – In recognition of service to the community.

Mrs Barbara Silinis OAM - Queen's Birthday 2009 – For service to the Lithuanian community of Canberra.

ACT OAA NEWSLETTER – MAY 2021

MORNING TEA with SCOTT SADDLER AM



On Tuesday 27 April, 34 members enjoyed a morning tea with Branch member Scott Saddler AM as guest speaker. Scott is the Executive Branch Manager for the National Arboretum and Stromlo Forest Park. Scott talked about the Arboretum from inception in 2005 to today and gave insights into the management and future plans for the development of the Arboretum into a complete tourist destination. Scott expressed his appreciation for the valuable support the Friends of the Arboretum provide in helping with the maintenance of the 44000 trees in 100 forests over 250 hectares and for the sponsors that have provided facilities and gardens in the precinct. As a proud Wiradjuri man, Scott said how he valued the encouragement provided by his elders in his youth and has in turn provided mentoring to indigenous youth. The Arboretum has a proactive role in the celebration and inclusion of indigenous Australian people and their culture. More information on the National Arboretum can be found at <https://www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au> .

Scott was appointed a Member in the Order of Australia in June 2020 *for significant service to public administration, and as a supporter and mentor of Indigenous youth*. Slides from Scott's talk are available on request from Michael Crane at Chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au



Frances Rose OAM, Bill Maiden PSM OAM, Neville Exon AM



Robert Macauley, Jean Macauley OAM

WELCOME TO NEW OAA MEMBERS FROM THE 2021 AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Dr Paul Craft AM - For significant service to medicine, to oncology, and to professional organisations.

Mr Allan Williams AM – For significant service to business tourism, and to the community.

Mr Chris DIENER OAM – For service to people with a disability, and to youth through Scouts.

Emeritus Professor John HARDY OAM - For service to tertiary education, particularly in the humanities.

Mr Abdul HASHIM OAM - For service to the multicultural community of the Australian Capital Territory

Mr George WAINWRIGHT OAM – For service to veterans.

FROM THE 2020 QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

WGCDR Steven PARSONS OAM – For meritorious performance of duties in Very Important Persons Operations at the Air Mobility Control Centre, and in the provision of airbase support and cultural reform as Commanding Officer of Number 13 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force.

Mrs Rosanna KOBIELA-HORN OAM – For service to table tennis.

ACT OAA NEWSLETTER – MAY 2021

MEET OUR MEMBERS

BRIAN O'KEEFFE AO



The involvement of Branch member Brian O'Keefe AO in air traffic management over five decades has resulted in his becoming one of the most influential Australians in world aviation safety. Brian first applied his electronics engineering knowledge to radio installations, setting the groundwork for the design of the Instrument Landing System (ILS) which became the standard in Australia for many years. This allowed pilots to conduct an instrument approach to landing if they were unable to establish visual contact with the runway.

Brian was the co-developer of a high accuracy optical electrical tracking system which became part of the Microwave Landing System (MLS). In 1967 he presented a paper to the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) to replace ILS with MLS. He led the Department of Transport MLS program to produce and test an MLS system (later known as INTERSCAN). This more accurate landing system was adopted in 1978 by ICAO as the world standard technology for assisted landing.

Brian was elected chairman of the ICAO committee that worked to have an integrated system of communication, navigation, surveillance, and air traffic management accepted at a world-wide ICAO meeting in 1991. He was subsequently elected First Vice-President of the ICAO General assembly in 1992.

He held several key strategic and operational roles in the Department of Transport including First Assistant Secretary Airways Operation Division and in 1988 was appointed General Manager Advanced Systems Development for the Civil Aviation Authority, a position he held until retirement in 1997.

In recognition of his international contribution, Brian received many awards including being inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington DC in 1997 and in 2004, receiving the Edward Warner Award, ICAO's highest honour.

In 1992 Brian was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia *for service to civil aviation, particularly international civil aviation.*

Acknowledgment to Engineers Australia

TRISH KELLER OAM



Scott Saddler AM, Trish Keller OAM

Trish Keller OAM is a former Chair of the ACT Branch of the OAA and currently a member of the 2022 OAA Conference committee. Trish was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2006 *for service to the community, particularly through programs initiated at the Narrabundah Primary School, and to education.* She retired after a distinguished career as an educator and primary school principal. Trish had been the principal of Giralang Primary School since 2007 and was the principal of Narrabundah Primary School from 2000 to 2006. During her time at Narrabundah Primary School, Trish set up the innovative Koori classroom, a place where

indigenous students, parents, and community members could feel comfortable and where other schools could learn about Indigenous culture.

ACT OAA NEWSLETTER – MAY 2021

Another of Trish's Narrabundah projects was to get local businesses to provide food for students whose families were unable to give them breakfast. Trish has always believed in making the school an integral part of the community and has worked hard to achieve equity and excellence for vulnerable groups.

Trish also nurtured a caring and inclusive environment at Giralang primary. She developed the school's unique relationship with the Rats of Tobruk Association and the special opportunities that has created for the association and the school.

She was involved in establishing the school-based Student Citizenship Awards program which the Branch runs on annual basis to recognise those ACT students who show examples of good citizenship. She continues as a judge on the panel to select the students for the awards.

Recently Trish was re-elected the Chair of Friends of the National Arboretum, and at our recent morning tea, guest speaker, Executive Branch Manager of the Arboretum, Scott Saddler AM acknowledged the significant contribution she has made to the Arboretum.

A SPECIAL EVENT - THE 2021 "OAA-ADF ORATION" ON MONDAY 9 AUGUST 2021



The Chief of Air Force (CAF), Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld AO DSC will present the 2021 "OAA-ADF ORATION" and speak on "**The Royal Australian Air Force's next 100 years**".



Air Marshal Hupfeld was appointed an Officer in The Order of Australia in June 2015 *for distinguished service to the Australian Defence Force in senior command and staff appointments.*

Prior to becoming Chief of Air Force in 2019, Air Marshal Hupfeld held

several senior positions including Head Force Design and Chief Joint Operations.

The OAA-ADF Oration was established in 2011 and this year continues the tradition of senior defence staff providing an insight to different aspects of the Australian Defence Force. Branch members are strongly encouraged to attend the oration, regardless of whether you have a military background, and to invite family and guests to accompany, as the OAA-ADF Oration embraces military and general recipients of the Order of Australia to create a closer understanding of each other's commitment to service.

The Oration will commence at 5.30pm, in the Ngunnawal Theatrette. Members and guests are asked to be seated by 5.25pm. The Theatrette is accessed from the foyer of Building R1, Russell Offices - the large block to the rear and to the left of the Russell Hill complex, looking from the "Eagle" monument, and backing onto Constitution Ave. There is ample parking adjacent to Russell building R1.

Light refreshments will be served after the Oration courtesy of the ADF - with the event concluding at 7.00 pm. **REGISTER** at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/RZEIE> for this free event and see the detailed booking sheet enclosed with this newsletter.
