



THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION

*To foster love of and pride in Australian citizenship and
to uphold the high principals and prestige of the Order of Australia*

**OAA UK/Europe Newsletter No 17
September 2017**

Chairman: Penelope Thwaites AM

Committee: Dame Valerie Beral AC DBE, Margaret Humphreys OAM CBE, Hazel Murphy AM, Brian Cloughley AM,
David Milligan OAM, Kathleen Milligan OAM, John Bond OAM.

Dear OAA Members,

Autumn greetings to all. Keats' *Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness* is upon us.
Have we actually had a summer?

Requiring immediate action if you are interested

Dinner for the OAA UK/Europe, hosted by Kings College London.

The date: Wednesday 8 November 2017
The time: 6.30 for 7pm (tbc)
Venue: Kings College London, Strand WC2R 2LS
Dress: Lounge suit/cocktail dress
Medals: Miniatures

Important:

As a seated dinner, I am informed that places are now limited to 16.
10 -11 places are currently available.

There will be an administration fee of **£20 per person** attending

**Individual Members will take priority if they reply in writing with payment
by Monday 16 October**

After that, Members may reserve a place for one guest, if any places are still available.
A "First come, first served" policy will operate.
We are happy to keep a small reserve list in case of last minute changes.
Please supply contact numbers/email addresses for those on the reserve list.

*Fees, along with contact details should be sent by cheque, made out to
Order of Australia Association UK
To : The Secretary, 23 Lyndale Avenue, London NW2 2QB*

Only applications with fees received by 16 October will be given priority.

We are very grateful to KCL for offering this event and look forward to it.

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Reception hosted by Acting High Commissioner, Mr Matthew Anderson PSM followed by OAA Choral Evensong at St Mary-le-Bow

Wednesday 27 September

Members who were unable to attend this event missed a quite exceptional talk from Deputy High Commissioner Matt Anderson PSM, our host at the pre-service Reception. As a group of twenty, we were well placed in the intimate surrounds of the Bruce Rooms. Matt (his preferred name) speaks with a rapidity that compels serious concentration. He began with his own experience – as the first Duntroon Military College graduate to be taken on as a trainee in DFAT, his time as Head of Mission in the Solomon Islands and later in Afghanistan. He paid tribute to the courageous quality of his team in that dangerous posting, and what they had been able to achieve in terms of assisting housing and education in the region. He touched briefly on the children's books he has written, giving background on Australia's military history. He then moved on to the unique story of Australia House (a number of our guests were visiting for the first time), the grand vision of its designers, and by contrast, the various films which have made use of its fabulous interiors – from Harry Potter to James Bond! 2018 is the Centenary of the High Commission's completion and various events are at the discussion stage.

In response to questions from the floor, and in particular, current major topics, Mr Anderson gave his views on the positive possibilities ahead in our new relationship with a global Britain. Australia had been the first to offer a post-Brexit free trade deal, and the various meetings he had attended had illustrated the unique relationship between Australia and Britain. A final question on "Who will win the Ashes?" brought a highly diplomatic response!

Matt joined us at the Service to read one of the lessons, (your Chairman reading the other). St Mary's is truly the most beautifully designed and cared for church. For the service taken by the Rector, the Revd George Bush, we again enjoyed the singing of the Lloyd's Choir, directed by Brian Bendle. All agreed it was even stronger and lovelier than last year. St Mary's would like to have us back, and I and the committee would very much like to see a stronger response from our membership. It is not just for the regular church-goer, but an event - especially with the Australia House participation – that reaches out to many fields of interest: architecture, history, music, politics and much more. And the OAA banner hangs there in the church. The OAA act of commitment is incorporated into the service and spoken by members. I was moved to hear the choir sing my parents' Bi-Centennial hymn *For Australia* to Purcell's *Westminster Abbey* tune, joined by the congregation. The whole occasion was managed by the quietly efficient and welcoming Matthew Power.

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I am probably not alone in wondering how often these Newsletters actually get read...too many of us suffer from Inbox fatigue. Yet this is the only way there can be some co-ordination of our special Regional Group. (That is what we are – we are not a Branch but a Regional Group, reporting back to the OAA National Secretary in Canberra. The By-laws on the OAA web-site give details)

News from Australia

As most Members will be aware, the OAA National Executive now changes every two years. The details of the new Officers are given on the web-site. The new National Chairman, Major General Barry Nunn AO and his team have begun a review of various important issues. Privacy rules (also outlined on the OAA web-site) now take organisations into legal territory and demand scrupulous respect. Hence, our own surveys within the OAA UK/Europe which you will all have received, to ascertain and record each member's wishes on this matter. It has been strenuous and I thank our Secretary for her support to me in the work of making sure that we are implementing our Association's rules and respecting the wishes of our members. Members can express to us in writing their individual wishes on this at any time.

The important statement from the new Chair, which he has authorised to be shared with our Members, is also attached to this Newsletter Please be sure to read it as it affects us all.

Forthcoming events

The Kings College London dinner in November brings to an end our programme for 2017 . While the Committee will continue to confer, we would welcome comments and ideas from the wider group of all our members. In reality all the committee are busy people with their own fields of work (as are many Members). We have nevertheless managed to achieve three interesting and distinctive events in 2017 with input from particular members beyond the committee. It is right that the OAA UK/Europe should develop its own style, rather than just mirror generalised events . But that style is dependent on individuals who will contribute in practical ways. Grateful thanks to all who have done so this year.

News from members

Mr James Hogan AO

We are delighted to welcome as a new member of our UK group Mr James Hogan AO. Mr Hogan has been recognised and awarded for his distinguished career in aviation and business and was until recently CEO of Etihad Airways. We look forward to hearing more from him in the future.

Ms Yvonne Kenny AM

Yvonne Kenny AM, who chairs the Australian Music Foundation UK, has let me know about her nine brilliant young Finalists in the AMF awards performing at Wigmore Hall on the morning of **Wednesday 4 October at 10.30am**. The event is free and all OAA members are welcome. Tea/coffee will be served. If you are interested in attending, please email your name and those of your guests to the AMF Administrator: sas@australianmusicfoundation.org

I look forward very much to meeting members on 8 November and wish everyone a happy and productive 2017 and 2018,

Penelope

Penelope Thwaites AM
Chairman OAA UK/Europe