

ACT OAA



MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

Patron

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Branch Nominated Director

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Chair

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Terry O'Brien OAM RFD

Committee

Lynne Duckham OAM
Narelle Hargreaves AM
Bill Maiden PSM OAM
Andrew Phelan AM
Coralie Wood OAM

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www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/ACT

COMING EVENTS

All ACT events planned for the immediate future have been cancelled due to COVID-19 and consideration of the health and safety of our members.

This includes the previously advertised Reception for New Recipients scheduled for 13 May 2020.

At National level, the 2020 National Conference scheduled for 7 – 10 May in Darwin has also been cancelled.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & GUEST SPEAKER

The ACT Branch Annual General Meeting was held on 19 February 2020 at the Royal Canberra Golf Club.

The election of officers resulted in welcoming Lynne Duckham OAM and Andrew Phelan AM as new members for the Branch Committee.

In accordance with Association rules, the ACT Branch Nominated Director was appointed by the Branch Committee at the meeting on 18 March following the Annual General Meeting. Dr Alan Morrison AM, as the only nominee for the position, will assume the role following approval of the National finance report for 2019.

Immediately following the AGM, Branch member Professor Jane Dahlstrom OAM spoke about her journey as a pathologist. She underlined the importance of pathology as a discipline and sketched some of the changes she has helped make to the profession in Canberra and internationally. She also touched on the importance of Canberra's Peter Herdson pathology teaching museum, and illustrated using several specimens from the museum which she had brought along. Members enjoyed the presentation and the following Q & A session. Jane was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in June 2019 *for service to medical education and to pathology*.



Professor Jane Dahlstrom OAM with specimens from the Peter Herdson Museum

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Fellow ACT Branch members

On Wednesday 18 March, the Branch Committee decided to cancel Branch events for April, May and June as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was a particularly difficult decision given that two of our most popular and important events, the Autumn reception for new recipients and the Queen's Birthday luncheon, fall in this period. Even though our numbers at these functions are generally less than the current government limit of 100, the Committee felt that any large gathering could put the health and well-being of our members at risk, and on that basis was not prepared to proceed.

On Thursday 19 March, the Association's Board went further, deciding that all Association face-to-face activity should cease immediately. This includes Board and Branch Committee meetings, which will need to be conducted electronically until further notice. If

we have your email address, you will by now have seen an e-News advice to this effect.

I know that these decisions will be disappointing for many, but I believe strongly that they are the correct decisions in the circumstances.

Those who have already signed up for the reception on 13 May will receive a full refund via the Sticky Tickets website. If you have not received a refund by the end of March, please let me know.

The National Secretary is developing a plan for the conduct of this year's Annual General Meeting, and will advise as soon as arrangements are settled. In addition, a new resource will soon be available on the Association's website that will provide information about the Association's response to COVID-19.

The Branch Committee will review its decision in mid-May in consultation with the Board and I will keep members informed as events unfold. In the meantime, the Board and Branch Committees are looking for innovative ways for members to maintain contact during the pandemic— if you have any bright ideas, please sing out!

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact a Branch Committee member.

Warm regards,

Mike Crane DSC & Bar, AM

Branch Chairman

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WELCOME TO NEW OAA MEMBERS FROM THE 2020 AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Dr Brian WALKER AO - For distinguished service to science, particularly to ecosystem ecology and research, and to professional scientific bodies.

COLONEL Andrew McBaron AM – For exceptional service as the Director of Officer Career Management – Army, Career Adviser for General Service Officer Lieutenant Colonels, and Staff Officer Grade One Establishments.

Ms Cathi MOORE AM - For significant service to young women, and to the community.

Dr Peter PEDERSEN AM - For significant service to military history as an author and researcher.

AIRCDRE Kenneth ROBINSON AM CSC - For exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force in international engagement, personnel management and administration, and combat support development and sustainment.

Dr Graeme WORBOYS AM - For significant service to conservation and the environment, and to the community.

Dr Adele CHYNOWETH OAM - For service to public history.

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Dr Sarah MIDGLEY OAM – For service to the LGBTIQ community.

Mr Edmund WHEELER OAM - For service to the community through road safety initiatives.

2019 ACT BRANCH STUDENT AWARDS



Narelle Hargreaves AM, Dr Bill Maiden PSM, OAM, Samuel Freeman, Dr Justin Garrick (Head of School)

Samuel Freeman (Year 11 - Canberra Grammar School)

Samuel has an extensive and diverse history of volunteering and community service which commenced when he was just four years old. His volunteering service has supported organisations such as Legacy and the Salvation Army. His generosity has been recognised by his being awarded Lions and Fred Hollows awards, two ACT Children's Week awards and becoming a 2019 finalist in the NSW/ ACT Young Achiever Awards. In addition, he has earned several school awards for exemplary community service and volunteering commitment at his school.

As a keen sportsman, Sam has given many hours to teaching students, of all ages, skills in Taekwondo and yachting.

For his sustained, dedicated community work Sam has been rewarded with the ACT Branch student award of the Medallion for Outstanding Community Service and Citizenship and School Plaque.

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Samuel was presented with his awards at a full school assembly on 26 February.

The Student Awards were managed by Dr Bill Maiden PSM OAM with assistance from judges Elizabeth Grant AM, Narelle Hargreaves AM, Les Blackley OAM and Trish Keller OAM.

OAA-ANU LECTURE – ADMIRAL CHRIS BARRIE AC (RETD) - WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH

Members ventured out on a rainy night to attend our annual ANU lecture, held at Theatre 2, Cultural Centre, Kambri Precinct, ANU, delivered by Admiral Chris Barrie AC (Retd) on the subject “**It’s an Honour - Reflections**”.

Admiral Barrie challenged the audience to think critically about the design and execution of our honours and awards system to ensure that it is inclusive and free of the perception of bias. He pointed to the role that the Association has in this important task. As a former Chief of Defence Force, Admiral Barrie had the opportunity to recommend many people for an Australian honour, and participate for four years in the selection process. Admiral Barrie was appointed a Member in the Order of Australia in 1994 *in recognition of service to the Royal Australian Navy, particularly as Deputy Maritime Commander and Chief of Staff, Maritime Headquarters*. He was appointed an Officer in the Order in 1998 *for distinguished service to the Australian Defence Force as Deputy Chief of Naval Staff and Vice Chief of the Defence Force* and appointed a Companion in the Order in 2001 *for eminent service to the Australian Defence Force as Chief of the Defence Force*.

The ACT Branch appreciates the continuing support of Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Schmidt AC for the OAA-ANU lecture.



Admiral Chris Barrie AC



Michael Crane DSC and Bar, AM,

Admiral Chris Barrie AC

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 Tim Terrell AM - Australia Day 1994 – For service to administrative law.

Mr. Leon Garry OAM – Queen’s Birthday 2005 – For service to the community, particularly through Volunteer Rescue Association and Binalong Volunteer Bushfire Brigade.
