



THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION Northern Territory Branch

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Chairman – Ms. Sharon Mulholland AM: sharonmmulholland@bigpond.com

Secretary – Michael Martin OAM martinnt@bigpond.net.au

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

Wet/Dry 2020

Well, what a tumultuous year 2020 is turning out be!

As newsletter writer, I have to apologize for allowing the 'stay-home' protocols enforced on us by the covid pandemic to have put my brain and writing finger into hibernation. The Newsletter I had prepared for February never got published, so this news mag will be a round-up of the last 7 months!

The main reason for the pause was the news that our National Conference was cancelled for this year. Just when momentum was gathering, and we were experiencing real anticipation about the conference in May, it was called off – not a surprise, but a disappointment.

By January 2020 there had already been a good response nationwide, with registrations from over 175 delegates, and the program promised a stimulating and enjoyable three days.

That's all history, but the good news is that as far as we know, the Conference will go ahead next year in May, with largely the same program in place, and the planning committee is gearing up for it. The National Board will make a final decision depending on Covid 19, no later than October 2020.

Nora Lewis AM

Conference Launch, October 23rd, 2019 .

It is a while ago now, but since the launch event was recorded, we can recall it...

Nearly 50 members of the NT Order of Australia Association met to celebrate a convivial evening which included the launch of our proposed conference in May 2020. Chairperson Dr. Tom Lewis OAM outlined the anticipated program and encouraged members to register as soon as possible. We were also privileged to receive reports from recipients of the youth scholarship program initiated and sponsored by our branch.



Alan James AM, Sean Parnell OAM
Bob Elix AM



Ted Bailey AM
and Mr. Hugh Bradley

Mrs. Nola Bailey, Mrs. Sue Bradley AM, and



Michael Martin OAM, Rex Wilde AO, and Dom Fracaro OAM



Dr. Tonga
and Dr. Albert
Foreman OAM



Young Athlete Harry Priest expressed appreciation for his scholarship, and outlined how the money he received would assist his sporting endeavors, uniforms, and trips away from Darwin.



Since the Launch Event, the Conference planning Committee had been continuing their work in preparing many aspects of the May weekend. Ms Linda Fazeldeen AM joined the Conference planning process, bringing the benefit of her networking experience and relationship with leaders of multi-cultural groups in Darwin. We hope her involvement will continue.

Every year at the Annual National Conference Dinner, **the Order of Australia Foundation** makes a presentation, and features the recipients of the latest round of scholarships. On May 8th this year we would have met one of these - a young student from Darwin, **Shanae Kuo**, of whom you may have read in the last edition of 'The Order'.



Shanae grew up in the NT, attended Casuarina Senior College and is now in her third year studying for a Bachelor of Secondary Education at CDU. Her selection as a scholarship winner was based on her good academic results so far, and her determination to make a difference in her community. She is interested in a wide variety of projects based on her love of science, the environment, music, animal welfare, and the welfare of people experiencing disadvantage, especially in rural and remote communities.

Shanae has produced her own free community event in support of young musicians and animal welfare charities. Last year she was invited to Sydney to explore community leadership ideas at the DIGI Engage Forum, and she is also a mentor with the Beacon Foundation's *My Road* program which encourages connection with industry.

Darwin's Mrs. Judy Boland AM has been tasked with establishing a personal link between Shanae and our local NT Branch of the OAA, and providing support and guidance with her course work.

Australia Day 2020 Order of Australia Honours, NT

The absence of a local newsletter after the Australia Day meant that those Order of Australia Awardees were not celebrated here in print. These high achievers deserve our acclamation now, prior to their investiture in July – delayed because of the Pandemic.

Mr. Garry Casey AM was appointed Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the community through emergency response organizations. After surviving Cyclone Tracy, Garry served in the NT Police force, completed a Detective Course in 1979, a Negotiators Course, and training in Search and Rescue Coordination and Management. Garry joined the Northern Territory Emergency Service in 2009 and was appointed Unit Officer for the Palmerston Volunteer Unit.



Dr. Jan Hills AM was appointed Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to veterinary science, and to the community. Jan was celebrated – since 1964 – as the first woman to establish a full-time veterinary practice in the Northern Territory, servicing Darwin, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs, Katherine and Gove. Her volunteer work in the community has been focused on NT history and Heritage. She pioneered and drove the concept and development of an interpretive museum relating to Batchelor town, beginning with the establishment of the Batchelor Museum Development Association in 2008. Jan has also been a passionate member of the NT National Trust (and Treasurer), spearheading the refurbishment of Audit House as a Trust precinct.



Mr. David Ross AM was appointed Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the Indigenous Community in Centralia. Mr. Ross was the Director of the Central Land Council from 1989 – 1994 and 2000 – 2019, representing the Aboriginal peoples of Central Australia. His long-standing experience in Indigenous Affairs includes being a Commissioner of ATSIC and the Chairman of the Indigenous Land Corporation. He has an Associate Diploma in Business Management from the South Australian Institute of Technology. Mr Ross has family ties to the Kaytetye people of Central Australia.

Dr. Michael Bowden OAM was honored for his service to the Indigenous Community of the NT. Michael John Bowden OAM was an Australian rules football player and Indigenous advocate. Bowden played 59 matches for the Richmond Football Club in the VFL between 1967 and 1971. Following his playing career he became an educator in the Northern Territory and a passionate advocate for Indigenous communities, for which he received his Medal.

Sadly, Dr. Bowden passed away this year in April from Motor Neurone Disease. Colleagues and friends remember him as a fierce footballer, inspiring educator, and compassionate family man. The Darwin and wider AFL community is still in mourning.

Mr. Connell Brannelly OAM and Mrs. Coralie Brannelly OAM were honored for their service to the community of Darwin, mainly through charity work in association with the Palmerston Lions Club, of which Connell is president. He and Coralie lead teams of volunteers running fund-raising bar-b-ques, Brekkie in the Park at Gunn, collecting for family help packs to be distributed by the Salvation Army during the Covid crisis, and supporting the Asthma Foundation and Beyond Blue, among other causes.



Mrs. Robyne Burridge OAM was honored for service to people with a Disability. Highly regarded as an advocate, leader and activist in the disability sector, Robyne co-ordinated the NT Government's celebration of the International Year of Disabled Persons from January to December 1981, later serving as a ministerial advisor. For the last 8 years Robyne has led the Focus-A-Bility project. In 2015 she was appointed as Somerville Services' inaugural Ambassador.



Mrs. Rosemary Plummer OAM was honored for service to the Indigenous Community of the Northern Territory. Rosemary is a founding and current member of the Papulu Apparr-kari Indigenous Language Centre, founder and current member of the Barkly Regional Arts. She represented Tennant Creek in ATSIC, 2003, and has been a Teacher in the Pinarra Aku Children Language Program, Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi, since 2011. A former field officer in the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Rosemary has campaigned against domestic violence, and has written several books, from *"Tribal Woman"* in 2005 to *"Black Mother"* in 2015.

Mr. Derek Pugh OAM was honored for service to education in the Northern Territory. Derek is a historian, and the author of several travelogues, science, and history books. His book, *Tambora: Travels to Sumbawa* and the *Mountain that Changed the World*, won the Territory Read Best Non-Fiction in 2016. Other celebrated books are: *Darwin: Origin of a City, 1869*, *Escape Cliffs*, *The First Northern Territory Expedition*, *Fort Dundas*, *The British in North Australia*, *Turn Left at the Devil Tree*, and *Tammy Damulkurra*.



Dr. Meg Simmons OAM was honored for service to oral health in outback communities. Meg and her husband Bruce arrived in Alice Springs in 1974, where she served as the Clinical Manager, Oral Health. Although planning to stay for only one year, she served in this position till 2018 and as a senior dentist at the Flynn Drive Dental Clinic. Among her awards and recognitions, she received the Outstanding Regional Supervisor Awards (Flinders NT Supervisors Awards, 2018) and the Chief Ministers Medal for Outstanding and Meritorious Service in the NT public sector (2011).

The Honorable Roger Steele OAM was honored for service to the people and Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory. Growing up in the bush, Roger always expressed a love for the Territory, becoming member of the NT Legislative Assembly from 1974 to 1987, representing Ludmilla until 1983 and Elsey thereafter. Roger served as Minister for Industrial Development and Minister for Transport and Works from 1978 to 1980, Minister for Primary Production and Minister Assisting the Treasurer from 1980 to 1982, and Minister for Primary Production, Minister for Transport and Works and Minister Assisting the Treasurer in 1982 to 1983. He then became Speaker of the House from 1984 to 1986. Roger has been described as a titan of the Territory.



AGM, February 28, 2020

Again, this is history, but this evening was very well attended. It focused on preparations for the National Conference, as well as ratifying the committee for 2020.



Members of the Association
enjoying the AGM



The Committee elected that evening was:

Chairperson: Dr. Tom Lewis OAM
Deputy Chairperson: Ms. Sharon Mulholland AM
Secretary/Treasurer: Mr. Michael Martin OAM
Committee: Mrs. Wendy James OAM, Mrs. Nora Lewis AM
Mr. Alan James OAM, Mr. David Da Silva AM



The Committee acknowledges with gratitude the supportive committee work of Mr. Luke Gosling MHR, OAM, and Mr. Alastair McGregor OAM, who both retired from the NT executive group.

Committee Update:

With the retirement only this month of long-standing Chairperson Dr. Tom Lewis OAM from the NT executive, and some other personnel changes, the NT Branch committee is now headed up by Ms. Sharon Mulholland AM. The NT branch committee chose Ms. Sharon Mulholland as chair until the AGM, scheduled for October 2020.

We celebrate Tom's eminence – vested in his service as a Naval Officer, teacher, Palmerston City Alderman and internationally acclaimed military historian and author, and are honored that he has worked so long for the NT Branch of the Order of Australia Association.

Our long-serving Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Michael Martin OAM will be retiring from that position at our AGM later this year, and these two positions ideally need to be separated. Nora Lewis AM will be relinquishing the position of NT director on the Board, though staying on the committee, so we need new people to fill these vacancies.

Please consider continuing your work and service to the community by nominating to join the committee at the AGM in October!

OAA at the Cenotaph

In normal times, the NT Branch always has a presence at the ceremonies commemorating the Bombing of Darwin on February 19 and Anzac Day, but the pandemic prevented this.

Dr. Tom Lewis, well-known military historian, marked the February event with the release of his latest book *Darwin Bombed*, written for upper primary and lower middle school students. It is full of illustrations, contains all the essential information about the first air raid which flattened the northern capital, and has a host of interesting detail to hold the interest of school children.

Lesson in war for students

LINA ZUCCARELLI

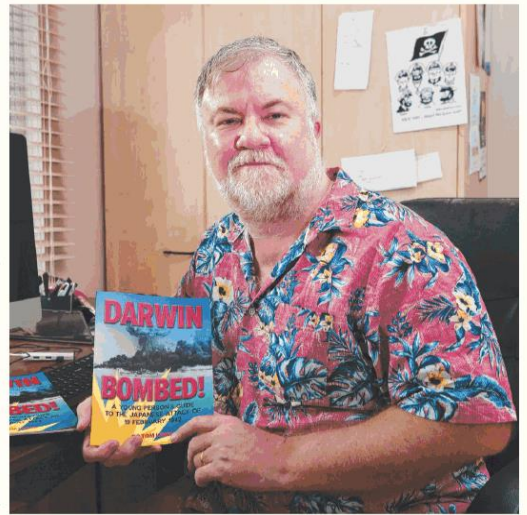
A DARWIN author is getting kids interested in history with a new children's book.

Darwin Bombed! is the latest title to be published by military historian Tom Lewis, who wrote the children's book due to a lack of children's literature surrounding the history of the Darwin bombing.

"All children, by the time they leave primary school should know that northern Australia was attacked in World War II," Dr Lewis said.

"If you don't sort of manage to get it into their (the students) heads, then they'll grow up and won't know it."

Darwin Bombed! is aimed at an audience between the ages of eight and 14, and Dr Lewis hopes the book will enter classrooms as part of the school curriculum.



Dr Tom Lewis with his children's book about the bombing of Darwin PICTURE: KATRINA BRIDGEFORD

Another tribute is from local bard and musician, NT OAA member Mike Foley OAM:

For King and Country

*C'mon cobber up you go - Looks like you've taken a nasty blow
Up and over me shoulders you go, Let's get you back to safety*

*Bullets are flying like angry bees, Mud at times almost up to me knees
I'm doin' me best - it'll be a tight squeeze, I just gotta keep on movin'.*

*This bloody place is so full of holes, We don't want to fall into any of those
We'd never get out - oh goodness knows... 'Are y' doin' alright there matey?'*

*There's a dressing station not far away, Hope to hell I don't lose me way
Hang in there cobber - you'll be OK, I'll have you out'a here in no time.*

*Why, oh why does this madness go on? Death all around but I gotta move on
I ain't gonna let ya be one of those, son, Hang on to me Cobber, I'm with ya'.*

*I can see a red cross in the distance mate, How're y' doin' up there? I hope I'm not late
I'm prayin' y' won't have too long to wait, You'll be up and about in no time.*

*Here we are - let me put you down, The medics are busy but will soon be around.
I'll pray for you son that you're safe and sound; For you this war is over.*

*Hey there cobber, can I have a quick drink? Then it's back to the line and the fighting I think
What a terrible place - life on the brink ... My duty to King and Country.*

Mike F Foley OAM

Queens Birthday Order of Australia honours, NT



The Hon Jane Aagaard AM has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory and to the Community. Jane joined the NT Department of Mines and Energy in 1986 and became active in the community of Darwin, helping to establish the Brolga Awards and the NT Sports Awards. In 1992 Jane organized the 50th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin, and 9 years later entered Parliament representing the electorate of Nightcliff, holding that seat till 2012. In 2005 Jane became the 8th Speaker of the NT Legislative Assembly.

Mrs. Jeanette Annictomatis AM has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the Northern Territory through representational roles, and to youth through Guides. Through 2012 -2015 Jeanette was an Alderman in the City of Darwin representing Lyons Ward, and served on the Local Government NT Committee (LGANT), contributing to the development of the Towards 2020 Strategic Plan. From 2008 to the present Jeanette has also been the Honorary Consul for the UK in the NT, but many in the community will remember her fondly for her work in partnership with her husband John while he served as Administrator of the NT from 2000 – 2003.



Mrs. Sarah Brown AM has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to community health, remote nursing, and the Indigenous community.



Sarah was a remote area nurse at Balgo Health from 1997-8, then became the Remote Area Clinic Manager to the Atitjerri and Oenpelli Communities for 4 years. After a year in the Cape Barren Island (Tasmania) Aboriginal Progress Association, Sarah returned to the NT, where she has been CEO of the Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation, and Purple House, an Alice Springs-based not-for-profit organization which supports Indigenous renal patients in remote communities, for the last 16 years.

Mrs. Noel Padgham-Purich AM has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the NT Legislative Assembly, and to the community. Mrs. Padgham-Purich was a member of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly from 1977 to 1997, representing Tiwi until 1983, Koolpinyah until 1990 and Nelson thereafter. Noel was the Territory's first female Cabinet Minister, and championed women's rights. She served as Minister for Housing and Conservation from 1983 to 1984 under Paul Everingham and Ian Tuxworth. Noel retired in 1997 but has maintained a busy schedule caring for her animals and promoting animal welfare.



Mrs. Elizabeth Reid AM has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to people with a disability, to youth and social inclusion. Elizabeth has been President of the Australian Federation of Disability Organizations (AFDO) for nearly 7 years. From 2000-2010 she was the National Disability Coordination Officer for the NT, and has followed that by 10 years of service with YouthWorx, which focusses on young people accessing training and employment. Elizabeth's career has been dedicated to ensuring others achieve their potential to participate fully in their community.

Mrs. Nyurpaya Burton OAM , Mr. Vincent Namatjira OAM, Mrs Tjunkaya Tapaya OAM, and Mr. Peter Mungkuri OAM have all been honored for their service to Indigenous visual art and to the community. These artists are or were from Alice Springs, but they are also described as South Australian artists because the APY lands straddle the border area. Clearly both SA and NT wish to claim them!

Mrs. Nyurpaya Burton OAM was born at Ernabella and worked there as a teacher, a position she held for over fifteen years. Nyurpaya has devoted the latter part of her career proudly representing Anangu and working to create



a better future for the next generation. To this end she has worked as a Director of Amata Council, a Director for NPY Women's Council, and has also made a significant contribution as a long standing Director of Tjala Arts. Nyurpaya has received industry recognition for her innovative weaved sculptural works and installation pieces, many of which have been acquired by institutions and museums in Australia and abroad.

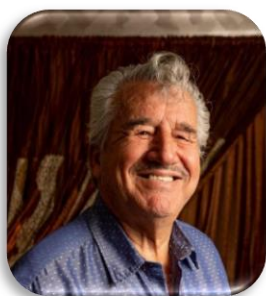


Vincent Namatjira OAM was born in Alice Springs and spent his early years at Hermansburg, but now lives in Indulkana, in South Australia. Vincent's work has been nominated for the Archibald Prize several times, and won the Ramsay Art Prize in 2019. He is the great-grandson of the Arrente watercolour artist Albert Namatjira.

Mrs. Tjukaya Tapaya OAM was born in Antalya, in the Northern Territory, but grew up in Ernabella, SA, and is now a board member of the Ernabella Arts Centre. Tjunkaya is most recognized for her batik work, being one of the most well-known batik artists in Australia. Her works also include acrylic paintings, weaving, ceramics, wood carving and printmaking. Most of Mrs. Tapaya's paintings depict places and events from her family's dreaming stories, but her work has been shown in exhibitions around the world. Tjunkaya is a powerful speaker, member of the NPY Women's Council, and leader of the Nintintjaku Project, an inter-generational teaching project working with Ernabella Anangu School and APY Women's council Youth team.



Mr. Peter Mungkuri OAM works with the Iwantja Arts Centre, which encourages and supports artistic excellence and cultural development within the community, and provides opportunity, training, and career development for practising artists. In 2017 Mr Mungkuri won the inaugural \$100,000 Hadley's Art Prize in Hobart with Ngura Wiru (Good Country), an ink drawing on archival paper that depicts his birthplace near the tiny settlement of Fregon, or Kaltjiti as it is also known.



Mr. Stephano Christofis OAM was honored for service to the Greek Orthodox community of Darwin. Stephano has been a voluntary cantor for St Nicholas in **Darwin** since 1990. He spends around eight hours a week preparing for and helping to lead church services, as well as funerals, weddings and christenings. His love for the church and community have driven a passion to inspire the younger generation.



Mrs. Janice Grice OAM was honored for service to the community of Darwin. A prominent Darwin business identity and former Barge Express owner, Mrs. Grice is commended for her extensive charity work.

Mrs. Lisa Mumbin OAM was honored for service to the Indigenous community of the NT. A Jawoyn leader, Lisa has been working for decades advocating for indigenous Territorians, including in the areas of General and Primary Health Care, Women's and Children's Health Program, StrongBala Men's Health, and the Gudbinji Chronic Conditions Program. Lisa said being awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia had encouraged her to keep up her work into the future.



OAA Insignia Replacements

Have you lost or had medals stolen? Enquiries can be made to the...

Medals and Purchasing Officer, Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat,
Government House, YARRALUMLA ACT 2600 or by email: serviceawards@gg.gov.au

When requesting a replacement medal set, main medal or clasp set, the following information needs to be provided, with a Statutory Declaration, to the Secretariat stating:

- full name of the recipient; phone contact details; address for all correspondence
- full title of the award with advice as to whether an organisation or the individual will be responsible for the cost of the replacement insignia.

Other items such as lapel pins, miniatures or ribbon bars may be purchased at any time.

As the prices are subject to change at short notice, please phone the Medals and Purchasing Officer on (02) 6283 3659 to obtain current prices.



Vale

The Northern Territory Chapter of the Order of Australia Association wish to express its sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of **Mrs. Doris Ford OAM** who died on May 30th. Doris was a member of the OAA Executive Committee, including Chair, for almost 20 years until her retirement from it in 1998. She also held close ties with the Legacy Club.

