

ACT OAA

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Patron

Gen Peter Gration AC OBE (Retd)

Branch Nominated Director

Dr Alan Morrison AM JP

Chair

Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM
Chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au
0467 719 020 (M)

Secretary

Robert Altamore OAM
altamr@bigpond.com
0423 931 753 (M)

Treasurer

Terry O'Brien OAM RFD

Committee

Lynne Duckham OAM
Narelle Hargreaves AM
Bill Maiden PSM OAM
Phil Morrall AM, CSC
Andrew Phelan AM
Coralie Wood OAM

Branch mailbox

GPO Box 423
Canberra City ACT 2601

Branch website

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/ACT

COMING EVENTS

**The following COVID safe events
are scheduled.**

**Australia Day Breakfast at the
Royal Canberra Golf Club
Tuesday 26 January 2021.
A booking sheet is attached.**

**Annual General Meeting and guest
speaker at the Royal Canberra Golf
Club
Tuesday 16 February 2021.
A booking sheet is attached.**

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

An OAA Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) will be held online at 2.00 PM ESDT on Thursday 17 December to consider a proposed new Constitution for the Association. The ACT Branch Committee voting recommendation is detailed in this newsletter and a registration and proxy voting form is attached.

AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

We are pleased to have Branch member Dr Brian Walker AO as our Australia Day Breakfast speaker. Brian has a long association with the CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology in leading roles, and among his many awards and recognitions is as a joint recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 (as a member of the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Control). Dr Walker was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia on Australia Day 2020 *for distinguished service to science, particularly to ecosystem ecology and research, and to professional scientific bodies*. To register attendance for the Australia Day Breakfast, please book on Stickytickets at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/VWI7A> (preferred) or complete the attached booking sheet.



ACT BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Branch AGM will be held at the Royal Canberra Golf Club at 6.00 pm on Tuesday 16 February 2021. Nominations are called for the Branch Committee and our Branch Nominated Director. Please consider whether you would like to serve on the Committee or the National Board. The nomination form is enclosed, and the Treasurer role needs to be filled for 2021.



Immediately following the AGM, Branch Committee Member Andrew Phelan AM will speak about his experiences at the High Court of Australia, where he served for more than a decade as Chief Executive and Principal Registrar. In the 2019 Queen's Birthday honours, Andrew was appointed a Member in the Order of Australia *for significant service to judicial administration*.

To register attendance for the AGM, please book on Stickytickets at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/CO5FL> (preferred) or complete the attached booking sheet.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Fellow ACT Branch Members,

The period since our last newsletter has seen the Branch come to life again following our COVID-19 hiatus. In October we welcomed new recipients from the Australia Day and Queen's Birthday 2020 lists at two breakfasts at the Commonwealth Club, and just a couple of weeks ago we had a terrific Australian Defence Force Oration with the Chief of Joint Operations, Lieutenant General Greg Bilton AO, CSC. You can find reports on these events later in the newsletter and on the website.

As 2020 draws to a close, there is still one very important event remaining – the Extraordinary General Meeting to consider a proposed new Constitution for the Association, which is to be held online on Thursday 17 December at 2.00 PM ESDT. There's a reminder later in the newsletter, along with a recommendation from the ACT

Branch Committee on how to vote. Please don't miss this opportunity to help shape the future of the Association.

The Committee is now looking to the new year and planning is well underway for our annual Australia Day Breakfast. A booking sheet is attached or, better, register online. Please don't forget that we are also seeking nominations for the 2021 Branch Committee, particularly a new Treasurer. Our Branch Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 February at Royal Canberra Golf Club and, in keeping with recent practice, there will be a speaker afterwards – Andrew Phelan AM.

I'm sorry to advise that our Branch Patron, General Peter Gration AC, OBE (Retd), will stand down at the end of this year. General Gration and Anne have given sterling service to the Branch over many years and it's more than time that we gave them a well-deserved break. On a happier note, I am delighted to announce that Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley has graciously agreed to be our next Patron. There are still a few formalities that need to be worked out, but we look forward to welcoming Her Excellency soon.

2020 has been a difficult year in so many ways and we have all had to adapt to a varying degree. Fortunately, one thing that hasn't changed is the recognition of outstanding Australian citizenship through the Order of Australia, so the Association's role in celebrating and promoting such citizenship remains important. On behalf of the Committee, I wish all Branch members a safe and peaceful festive season (we have our fingers crossed that you'll be able to share it with family), and we look forward to seeing you at our Breakfast on Australia Day.

Warm regards,

Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM

Branch Chairman

E: Chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

T: 0467 719 020

DIRECTOR'S REPORT



I attended the National OAA Board meeting held on 23 October using 'Teams'.

The Board had considered whether to purchase ZOOM licenses but concluded that the board meetings should stay with TEAMS. The Branches will decide whether they wish to use ZOOM or TEAMS as their preferred communication platform.

The Board endorsed an Executive Committee recommendation that:

- The EGM will be conducted online at 1400 EDST on 11 Dec 2020 (now changed to 17 December 2020).
- The 2021 AGM will be held on Saturday 8 May 2021

Finance Report. The National Treasurer presented the Financial Reports which were received and adopted by the Board.

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It was noted that Mrs. Tara Clouten Abbott from Eighty20 Accounts Pty Ltd has been appointed as bookkeeper for the OAA from 9 October 2020. The Chairman was to write to Mrs M. E. Grant (CMS) to express the Board's appreciation to her and her staff for their attention to the affairs of the OAA since their appointment in early 2018.

The National Treasurer also presented the 2021 Budget which was adopted by the Board.

Audit and Risk Committee. The Deputy National Chairman presented the Audit and Risk Committee Report. The Discrimination and Harassment Policy was discussed and referred back to the A&R Committee for amendment. The 'Communications with New Recipients Policy' was adopted as a Procedure.

The board adopted a Self-Assessment Policy. The National Chairman will send each Director the Deloitte's Board Skills Matrix for completion. The outcome will be discussed in February 2021.

Strategy and Membership Committee. A Third-Party Benefits Programmes Paper was reviewed. It was agreed there did not seem to be any value in the OAA joining any such scheme at this stage.

The Order Survey had responses from 5.5% of the membership. An Executive Summary appeared in the November edition of *The Order*.

Constitution and By-laws Committee. Changes suggested by members in the Draft Constitution were discussed and approved. The Chair of the Committee, Professor Robin Watts AM, was to make the amendments.

Dr Alan Morrison AM JP
direct@theorderofaustralia.asn.au
Director

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING TO CONSIDER AND, IF AGREED, ADOPT A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR OUR ASSOCIATION: THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER AT 2.00 PM ESST

All Branch members should by now have received instructions from the National Secretary on how to register for the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) and how to make a proxy vote. If you haven't, please call or email our Branch Chair and he will arrange for a replacement to be sent to you. Importantly, if you intend to lodge a proxy vote, you must lodge your proxy form no later than Wednesday 9 December.

The ACT Branch Committee has considered the proposed new Constitution in some detail as it has evolved over the course of the year. The Committee considers that the draft is a more modern document than the current Constitution, and that it is fit for purpose to serve the Association's needs for the foreseeable future. The Committee therefore recommends that Branch members support the special resolution as set out in the papers provided by the National Secretary.

THE 2020 OAA – ADF ORATION with LIEUTENANT GENERAL GREG BILTON AO CSC 17 NOVEMBER 2020



The 2020 Oration was delivered by the Chief of Joint Operations, Lieutenant General Greg Bilton AO, CSC. General Bilton began by explaining something of Joint Operations Command and his role. He next presented a high-level review of Australia's prevailing strategic circumstances before describing how they impact ADF operations. General Bilton spoke briefly about the high regard in which he holds the men and women of the Defence Force, and concluded by touching on domestic operations such as the ADF's contributions to bushfire relief and the COVID-19 crisis. The Oration was followed by a keen Q & A session with the appreciative audience. The Oration is available in DropBox [here](#). The ACT Branch is grateful to the Chief of the Defence Force for his continuing support of this event.

Lieutenant General Bilton was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia in the 2020 Australia Day honours *for distinguished service in the appointments of Deputy Commanding General of the United States Army in the Pacific, Deputy Chief of Joint Operations and Commander Forces Command*.

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The annual Order of Australia Association – Australian Defence Force Oration is an initiative of the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia Association. The Oration was established in 2011 with the aim of further recognising the contribution made by military members of the Order of Australia to the fabric of Australian society. The Oration brings together Defence Force and other recipients of the Order to create a closer understanding of each other's commitment to service as recognised through the Australian Honours system.

WELCOME TO NEW RECIPIENTS

The Branch conducted two COVID safe events to welcome ACT and area citizens who received honours and awards in the 2020 Australia Day and Queen's Birthday lists. These events were conducted as breakfasts at the Commonwealth Club. We were pleased to see that so many of these recipients have become members of the ACT Branch of the OAA. The Branch is grateful to the ACT Government for their support of the events to welcome new recipients.

The following recipients were welcomed at the event held on Wednesday 21 October 2020.



Margaret Cornwell OAM



Claudia Hyles OAM



*Dr Joe Johnson CSC, OAM
& Madeleine Johnson*



Cathi Moore AM



Anna Prosser OAM



Adrian Rumore OAM



Anne Walsh OAM



Edmund Wheeler OAM and Sandra Wheeler

The following recipients were welcomed at the event held on Wednesday 21 October 2020.



CAPT Shane Craig AM RAN



Eric Chalmers AM and Trish Chalmers



Dr Adele Chynoweth OAM



BRIG Alison Creagh AM, CSC



*AIRCDRE Graham
Edwards AM*



*Barbara Griffiths and
Richard Griffiths OAM*



*Rosanna
Kobiela-Horn OAM*



COL Andrew McBaron AM



*Emeritus Professor
John O'Callaghan AM*

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Rex Packer OAM and Meryl Packer OAM



Dr Peter Pedersen AM



AIRCDRE Ken Robinson AM, CSC



BRIG Isaac Seidl AM



Dr Brian Walker AO

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.

BRIG David BURING AM – Australia Day 1992 – In recognition of service to the Australian Defence Force as Director General Service Conditions.

Mr Leslie BLACKLEY OAM – Australia Day 1995 – In recognition of service to education.

BOOKING SHEET & NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2021

Our Annual General Meeting is your chance to participate in the governance of our Branch. Come along to have your say on the Annual Report and who represents us on the Branch Committee in 2021/22.

The AGM will be held at the Royal Canberra Golf Club, Yarralumla and will start promptly at 6.00 pm.

ACT Branch Annual General Meeting Tuesday 16 February 2021

Agenda

1. Welcome and opening remarks
2. Acknowledgement of Country
3. Apologies
4. Minutes of AGM held 19 Feb 2020
5. Matters Arising
6. Annual Report
7. Election of Branch Nominated Director and Committee for 2021-22
8. Other Business
9. Close

The nomination form for positions on the ACT Branch Committee or for ACT Director on the National Board is attached to this newsletter. Closing date – 22 January 2021.

Immediately following the AGM, Branch Committee Member Andrew Phelan AM will speak about his experiences at the High Court of Australia as Chief Executive and Principal Registrar.

Due to COVID safe requirements it is essential to book for this event. Any questions, please contact Michael Crane DSC & Bar AM at 0467 719 020.

RSVP by Friday 12 February 2021.

1. Register online (preferred) at StickyTickets <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/CO5FL> or

2. Mail or email booking slip to:

Mike Crane DSC and Bar, AM

23 Norman St.

DEAKIN ACT 2600

Chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Name and Postnominals:

Guest name(s) & Postnominals:

Phone:

(also include guest phone)
