

# ACT OAA



## SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

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Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley

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[www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/ACT](http://www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/ACT)

### COMING EVENTS

**All face-to-face events are currently suspended due to ACT Government public health orders.**

### QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY LUNCH 15 JUNE 2021



We were privileged to have Mr Ray Griggs AO, CSC as the guest speaker at our Queen's Birthday Lunch at the Royal Canberra Golf Club on Wednesday 15 June. Ray was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia in 2012 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.* As the first Chief Executive Officer of the National Indigenous Australians Agency which was formed in July 2019, his talk addressed some of the challenges in his appointment



Andrew Phelan AM, Chloe Griggs



Sam Wong AM, Gary Humphries AO

while stressing the many positives made on issues with a commitment to working with Indigenous Australia through formal and informal partnerships. Ray was a former Vice Chief of Defence Force and commented on the issues faced by service people transitioning from the ADF to civilian life. The full transcript of Ray's talk can be found at <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/act/events/>.

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## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Fellow ACT Branch Members,

This newsletter comes at a difficult time for us all, with the COVID related lockdown now extended until mid-October here in Canberra, and the way ahead still unclear. We were very lucky for almost a year but in retrospect that luck could never last while the virus was so active around the ACT borders. It seems that COVID-19 and its variations will be with us for some time yet and uncertainty may be the hallmark of our times. On behalf of the Branch Committee, I extend best wishes to all our members in the hope that you are managing as comfortably as possible.

While the sun shone, we managed four terrific events from May through to early August, and you can read reports on them in these pages. But planning for future events is very challenging at present. With great regret, the Committee has decided to cancel our Spring reception for new recipients. If it is at all possible we will re-schedule it later this year, perhaps in some modified form. We'll keep a close eye on developments and keep you posted. In the meantime, we'll refund tickets fees to those who had signed up. Sadly, for the second year running, we are not able to run a function to celebrate winners of our annual Student Citizenship Awards. Convener Dr Bill Maiden PSM, OAM and his team have been busy though, and awards will again be presented at schools when that becomes possible. Brief details about the winners are in this newsletter. As we did last year in similar circumstances, the Committee has resolved to donate the funds budgeted for the Awards function to the Foundation, to be applied to a scholarship for an ACT-based student. We have also had to postpone our morning tea with Dr Peter Pedersen AM, planned for October, until next year. There's slightly better news on the 2021 ANU Lecture, however; while we had intended to run this as a face-to-face event in November, it may be possible to conduct it online instead. Again, we'll let you know once details are confirmed.

In other Branch news, I would like to acknowledge the contribution made by Frances Rose OAM as an *ex-officio* member of the Branch Committee. Frances resigned recently to focus on other priorities. Over the past few years, she has been a prime mover in our efforts to encourage more nominations for women, and we thank her for her time and energy.

Planning for the 2022 National Conference and AGM continues apace. You will have seen in the most recent edition of *The Order* that the shape of the Conference is coming together, and we are hoping to lock in speakers over the next month or so. We have begun to work through each of the events in some detail, and it is already clear that we will have a reasonably significant need for volunteers. Duties will largely be staffing the registration desk, helping at the Association's merchandise desk, and checking people into events. If you are at all interested in helping out, it's not too early to let us know; please drop a line to our coordinators Trish Keller OAM ([pmkeller8@bigpond.com](mailto:pmkeller8@bigpond.com), 0408 234 305) or Vivien Palmer OAM ([vivien.palmer@gmail.com](mailto:vivien.palmer@gmail.com), 0438 763 896).

May I add in closing that, despite everything, this is a wonderful time to be thinking about nominations for honours and awards. There are so many people out there in our community doing wonderful things for us despite the personal risks they face from COVID, particularly if they're not yet full vaccinated. Could I ask you all please to have a hard look at who you could nominate and, consistent with the Governor-General's messaging, please think especially about women and other groups who are under-represented in the Order.

Warm regards,

Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM  
Branch Chairman

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## MORNING TEA with IAN MANSFIELD AM CSC



On Wednesday 14 July, Ian Mansfield AM CSC was guest speaker at our morning tea at the Royal Canberra Golf Club and spoke about his work over 20 years working with the United Nations and other international organisations helping war torn countries set up programs to clear landmines and other unexploded ordnance. Ian has written a book on his experiences titled “Stepping into a Minefield”. He 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. The slides from Ian’s presentation can be found at <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/act/events/>.

Margaret Mansfield, Ian Mansfield AM CSC, Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM

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## WELCOME TO NEW OAA MEMBERS FROM THE 2021 QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

**Mr Julian CRIBB AM** - For significant service to science communication.

**Mrs Nerida CULLEN OAM** – For service to the community of Goulburn.

**LCDR Leo FARRELLY (Retd) OAM** - For service to youth, and to the community.

**CMDR Paul FOTHERGILL OAM** – For meritorious performance of duty in the recognition of service for current and ex-serving members, as the Director of Navy Honours and Awards.

**Mrs Catherine PARSONS OAM** - For service to choral music.

**Mrs Lesley SOWELL OAM** – For service to the community of the South Coast.

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## MEMBERSHIP HARDSHIP OPTIONS

The National Membership Director, Helene Bender OAM, has asked the Branch to advise members of the availability of deferred payment options in cases of hardship. She provided the following message:

*Members currently experiencing hardship that impacts on their annual or three-year membership renewal or Lifetime by Instalment payment, should advise me using the contact details below, and I will talk with them regarding deferral options.*

*Our hardship option has been taken up by members over the past eighteen months, and all have paid their membership by the agreed extended date. The hardship option does not relate solely to COVID-19; we acknowledge floods, droughts, fires, and other challenges that cause hardship. Should you require any additional information please don't hesitate to contact me.*

*Helene Bender OAM  
National Membership Director  
Order of Australia Association  
E: natmbrdir@theorderofaustralia.asn.au*



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## THE 2021 OAA-ADF ORATION ON MONDAY 9 AUGUST 2021



The Ngunnawal Theatre at Russell Offices was at COVID safe capacity with members and guests for the 2021 OAA-ADF Oration, **“The Centenary of the RAAF, and our vision for the future”** which was delivered by the Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld AO, DSC. Air Marshal Hupfeld touched briefly on the Air Force’s first 100 years, before turning to current issues and some thoughts on the future. The Oration was followed by a lively Q & A session, with fellowship and refreshments to complete the evening. The full transcript of the Oration is at <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/act/events/>.

Air Marshal Hupfeld was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia in January 2015 *for distinguished service to the Australian Defence Force in senior command and staff appointments*. The Association is grateful to the Chief of the Defence Force for his continuing support to this important community outreach event.



*Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld AO DSC,  
Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM*



*AVM Kym Osley AM CSC, AVM Leigh Gordon AO CSM, AIRCDRE Damien Keddle AM*



*Kimberley van Leeuwen, WGCDR Suzanne Keddle,  
Louise Hupfeld*



*ACM Sir Angus Houston AK AFC, AVM Kevin Paule AO,  
AVM Bill Henman AM*

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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.

**Emeritus Professor Christopher Bryant AM** – Queen’s Birthday 2000 - For service to science communication, particularly through the National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science, the National Science and Technology Centre’s Science Circus, to education and to research in the field of parasitology.

**Mr Bernard Clark OAM** – Australia Day 2018 – For service to naval and general marine ship design and

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## 2021 ACT STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

The Student Awards are an important community outreach for the Association to acknowledge and reward good citizenship in the ACT student body. Following last year's COVID-19 hiatus for the ACT Branch Student Awards, the Branch has awarded the following students with commendation certificates after consideration by the judging panel of the 2021 nominations from schools and colleges.

- **Jake Johnson (Year 5)** and the school's '**Children's Parliament**', from the new Margaret Hendry Primary School in the suburb of Taylor, were awarded Certificates of Commendation for sustained community service at their school. Jake has demonstrated leadership skills in helping younger children and working in the school's grounds presentation. The seven children elected to the 'Children's Parliament' volunteer their time to positively effect change through community service, which improves conditions for all at Margaret Hendry School.
- **Carl Thygesen (Year 5)** is a student at St John Vianney's Primary School, Waramanga. Carl is regarded as a valued and reliable helper who strives to help and serve others in the local community and through dedication, Carl demonstrates excellent service to his church community. His outstanding efforts have been recognised with a Highly Commended Certificate.
- **Sophie Thorp (Year 12)** and **Sam Harding (Year 12)** are students from Canberra College and have demonstrated outstanding and sustained student leadership throughout their high school years and especially in college during the COVID-19 outbreak. They made significant contributions to building a vibrant and cohesive student community at a time when students were facing the challenges of learning in isolation. Both have been awarded Highly Commended Certificates.

The certificates will be presented to students at the respective schools and colleges at a suitable time after lockdown ends and later newsletters will have more details. The Branch appreciates the work by Student Awards coordinator Dr Bill Maiden PSM, OAM and fellow judging panel members, Elizabeth Grant AM, Narelle Hargreaves AM, and Trish Keller OAM, to make the awards program a success.

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## BRANCH NOMINATED DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Board met online on 20 August and ongoing COVID-19 concerns will force the December meeting online as well. Some 18 months after taking up my position, I still have not met most of my Board colleagues in person!

There was good financial news for members as COVID does not seem to have harmed the Association's financial position. We have a consolidated profit for FY20/21 of \$78,935 which enabled the Board to increase our funds invested by a further \$50,000 in July and to move \$200,000 of our cash holdings into higher earning accounts on the advice of our financial advisor.

The news was not so good on membership. A review of the data on conversion of OA recipients to OAA members shows a downward trend from 2018 to 2021. There was a general discussion on how to address this issue.

There was some discussion on risk management. Following consultation with the branches, a more comprehensive plan had been drawn up, which with some minor modifications, was agreed by the Board. Charters for the Constitution and Scholarship Committees were received and adopted.

The Board considered a report on planning for the 2022 National Conference by the ACT Branch and noted that this is progressing well.

The Board discussed the selection and handover procedure for a new President to replace Heather Ridout AO at the end of her tenure next year. It was agreed that Heather would Chair the 2022 AGM with the incoming President taking up the role at the conclusion of the meeting.

The Board decided that the National Futures Day planned for December would now be held in conjunction with the 2022 Conference, and that branches may apply for up to \$1,000 to support planning for this event.

Dr Alan Morrison AM JP

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## WELCOME TO NEW RECIPIENTS

At a COVID safe breakfast at the Commonwealth Club, the Branch welcomed ACT and region citizens who received honours and awards in the 2021 Australia Day list. We were pleased to see that most 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.



John Hardy OAM

The following recipients were welcomed on Wednesday 26 May 2021:

**Mr Paul Craft AM, Mrs Genevieve Jacobs AM, Mr William Kelly AM, Mr Allan Williams AM, Mr Hashim Abdul Rahman OAM, Mrs Coralie Amos OAM, Mr Christopher Diener OAM, Professor John Hardy OAM, Mrs Wanda Horky OAM, Mr Jeremy Pitchford OAM, Mr Lakshman Prasad OAM, Mr Roger Wainwright OAM.**



Roger Wainwright OAM

Congratulations to current member and 2019 Senior Australian of the Year, **Dr Sue Packer AO** who was upgraded from AM for *distinguished service to children through roles in health, welfare and protection initiatives*.

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## MEET OUR MEMBERS

### Mrs NERIDA CULLEN OAM



New member Nerida Cullen was recognised in the 2021 Queen's Birthday honours with a Medal of the Order of Australia *for service to the community of Goulburn* and followed earlier recognition in 2013 as Goulburn Woman of the Year.

Nerida said she is motivated by the enthusiasm, generosity and resilience of those she interacts with. "Country towns by their nature encourage people to contribute to the vitality and viability of their communities, otherwise these communities stagnate. It has been my privilege to contribute to the ongoing success of Goulburn and rural and regional NSW."

Nerida has been active in many aspects of community work including fundraising for Goulburn Hospital. She is President of the BDCU Goulburn Hospital Fundraising Inc which has raised over \$400,000 for needed equipment and has been a member of the Community Consultative Committee for Goulburn Health since 2015. In the Education field she has been a Board Member of the Country Education Foundation of Goulburn and District, former President of the Board of Southern Tablelands Community College, and former President of Goulburn Rostrum Club.

Nerida has also served as a member of the Community Advisory Group, South-East Local Land Services and is a former Director and Deputy Chair of the Goulburn Rural Lands Protection Board and its successor, the Tablelands Livestock Health and Pest Authority. She is on the NSW Farmers Goulburn Branch executive committee and has also been a board member of TALGA (The Australian Lavender Grower's Association) promoting this emerging industry. Nerida has been a member of the Goulburn Agricultural, Pastoral and Horticultural Society since 2003 and is now Patron.

She is a former Director for the ACT/New South Wales branch of *Australian Women in Agriculture* which is committed to ensuring that women influence the agricultural agenda.

Her support for rural women was shown with her positions as former Co-Chair and Member of the State Advisory Committee, Rural Women's Network and Co-Chair and Member of the New South Wales Rural Women's Council from 2011-2012. She has also been active in the local Country Women's Association branch and was President of Soroptimist International Goulburn.