

ACT OAA

DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

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Narelle Hargreaves AM
Dr Bill Maiden PSM OAM
Andrew Phelan AM
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Branch website

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/ACT

COMING EVENTS

**Australia Day Breakfast at the Royal Canberra Golf Club
Wednesday 26 January 2022.
A booking sheet is attached.**

**Annual General Meeting and Reception at the Commonwealth Club
Wednesday 16 February 2022.
A booking sheet is enclosed.**

**Morning Tea at the Royal Canberra Golf Club with Peter Pedersen
Thursday 10 March 2022.
A booking sheet is attached.**

AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST



Join us for breakfast at the Royal Canberra Golf Club on 26 January 2022 to celebrate Australia Day and acknowledge the achievements of recipients in the 2022 Australia Day Honours List. Our special guest speaker will be much-loved Canberra journalist and former ABC broadcaster Genevieve Jacobs AM. Genevieve was appointed a Member in the Order of Australia on Australia Day 2021 *for significant service to the broadcast media, and to the community*. You can book at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/RCIC0> or use the

attached booking sheet.

AGM and WELCOME RECEPTION - 16 FEBRUARY

Our AGM is an important opportunity to participate in the governance of our Branch. The AGM will start promptly at 5.30 pm.

The AGM will be followed at 6.00 pm by our postponed reception for Queen's Birthday 2021 recipients of honours and awards in the Order of Australia. Please come along to congratulate new recipients, welcome new members, and share fellowship with existing members in the ambience of the Commonwealth Club. Book at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/OOGTW> for the reception or use the enclosed booking sheet at the Notice of AGM.

MORNING TEA with Dr PETER PEDERSEN – 10 MARCH



Join us for morning tea at the Royal Canberra Golf Club to hear Dr Peter Pedersen AM, who will talk about Sir John Monash the man rather than the general. Peter is one of Australia's leading military historians and was appointed a Member in the Order of Australia in January 2020 *for significant service to military history as an author and researcher*. To attend this event book at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/DT1KE> or use the attached booking sheet.

STOP PRESS-VACCINATION MANDATE: On 10 December, the National Board has decided that from 31 March 2022, attendees at all Association events must be double vaccinated for COVID-19 or have a medical exemption, with partial vaccination acceptable until 31 March. In the ACT, by registering for any of the events promoted in this newsletter, you are declaring you are at least partially vaccinated or have a medical exemption.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Fellow ACT Branch Members,

It seems difficult to believe that December is here already and that our Association year is drawing to a close. We've had a mixed 12 months, escaping much of the COVID-related turmoil that has beset the country, but losing several events due to the lockdown that ran here in the ACT from August until October. Now there is further uncertainty with the emergence of a new variant that is yet to run its course. As I said in September, it seems that COVID-19 will be with us for some time yet.

Still, in early November we were able to run a terrific 2022 ANU Lecture online with Professor Peter Yu AM and you can read a short report of that event in this newsletter and on the website. I would once again like to express my thanks to Vice Chancellor Brian Schmidt AC and all the team at the University for their support. I would also like to thank those members who represented us at investiture ceremonies at Government House in late November. While we were not able to run a

central presentation ceremony for our Student Citizenship Awards, certificates were presented in schools in early December, with Committee and judging panel members in attendance to represent us. On behalf of all members of the Branch, I thank Dr Bill Maiden PSM, OAM and his panel for their hard work on this very important community outreach event.

Turning to the new year, you'll find details above for our Australia Day Breakfast with journalist and former ABC radio presenter Genevieve Jacobs AM. In a slight departure from tradition, we've re-scheduled the reception for Queen's Birthday 2021 new recipients to follow the Branch Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 16 February at the Commonwealth Club. In March we hope that we'll at last be able to have morning tea with Dr Peter Pedersen AM, having had to re-schedule him twice this year. We do hope you will join us at these events so we can make a strong start to 2022.

In particular, the AGM is an important opportunity for members to participate in the governance of the Branch. The agenda and nominations forms for positions on the Branch Committee are enclosed and other papers will be available on the website from 21 January. If you haven't previously served on the Committee (or even if you have!), please consider giving it a go.

Of course, the Branch is now increasingly focused on the coming National Conference and AGM. We've provided some additional details later in the newsletter to give more of a flavour of what to expect and we hope and trust that members from Canberra and the region will give the Conference their full support.

In closing, I wish all members of the Branch a very happy festive season; fingers crossed that most will be able to spend it with their families.

Warm regards,

Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM

Branch Chairman

E: Chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

T: 0467 719 020

2021 OAA-ANU LECTURE BY PROFESSOR PETER YU AM – 4 NOVEMBER 2021



Members and guests enjoyed the online 2021 OAA-ANU Lecture by Professor Peter Yu AM whose theme was **Looking forward, Looking Back**. In a poignant address, Peter reflected on his experiences growing up as an Indigenous person and his hopes for a better future for Indigenous people. Peter was appointed a Member in the Order of Australia in June 2021 *for significant service to the community, particularly to Indigenous cultural and political organisations*. The Association is grateful to the Vice-Chancellor of the University for his continuing support to this important community outreach event. You can view the lecture at <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/act/events/>. This online event was a first for the Branch and the national online membership were invited to participate.

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BRANCH NOMINATED DIRECTOR'S REPORT



The Board meeting on 15 October was held using TEAMS. The next face-to-face meeting is now planned to take place in Canberra in May 2022.

The Treasurer reported that the Association's current year surplus stood at \$294,614.00 after a deduction of the portfolio valuation. The underlying profit was \$69,102.00.

The National Membership Director reported on the Membership Review, much of which was covered in the November issue of *The Order*. The Board also considered reducing fees for pensioners but concluded this was not practical due to difficulty in establishing entitlements and the impact on the Association's finances.

The Board did not support a proposal to expand membership categories.

The Board noted the work done by the ACT Planning Committee for the 2022 National Conference.

The Board was attended by the Foundation Secretary, Paul Wheelton AM, KStJ, who advised that:

- Funds were increasing from some states;
- Swinbourne College Scholarship would be awarded at the Victorian 2023 Conference; and
- Member donations received are allocated to the relevant State/Territory.

The Board considered a summary of Branch discussions with HE the Governor-General and Mrs Hurley.

There was a general discussion about the effects of COVID-19 vaccination. The Board agreed that:

- The OAA has a duty of care to ensure that activities are conducted in accordance with the Public Health Orders in each State/Territory;
- At this stage there is no consistency/clarity between States/Territories; and
- There needs to be an OAA policy to address the issue once there is some clarity.

STOP PRESS: At the meeting on 10 December, the Board decided that from 31 March 2022, attendees at all Association events must be double vaccinated for COVID-19 or have a medical exemption, with partial vaccination acceptable until 31 March.

Dr Alan Morrison AM JP
ACT Branch Nominated Director

AWARD for Narelle Hargreaves AM



The Government of Japan announced on 3 November the 2021 Autumn Conferment of Decorations on Foreign Nationals for their outstanding contribution to their respective areas.

Two Australians were recognised in this announcement, Dame Olivia Newton-John AC DBE and ACT Branch Committee member Ms Narelle Hargreaves AM, who was awarded "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays" for her contribution to enhancing interregional exchanges between Japan and Australia through promoting sister-city exchanges. Narelle is Chair of Canberra Nara Sister City Committee and has supported the Sister City relationship since its beginnings in 1994.

Narelle was awarded an OAM in 2008 and was upgraded to a Member in the Order of Australia on Australia Day 2019 *for significant service to children and young people in the Australian Capital Territory and to education*. She was announced as 2016 Canberra Citizen of the Year for her deep commitment to vulnerable children and young people in the ACT in her roles as an Official Visitor for Children and Young People in the ACT with Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, President of the ACT Children's Week Committee and as Chair of the Non-Government Schools Education Council.

Narelle spent 14 years as a principal in ACT schools and a further 10 as Director of Schools and International Education, which demonstrated her strong leadership and passion for the welfare of young people.

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2022 NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AGM: *CELEBRATING SERVICE*

Further to the outline provided in the November edition of *The Order*, our Planning Committee can now advise more details of speakers for the National Conference:

- 2022 Order of Australia Association Oration. The Hon Shane L Stone AC, QC, Chair of the Council for the Order of Australia and Coordinator-General, National Resilience and Recovery Agency.
- Professor Brian Schmidt AC, Vice Chancellor and President, Australian National University (TBC).
- Ms. Jane Halton AO, PSM, former Secretary of Department of Health and Department of Finance (TBC).
Panel Discussion, Public Service – Hosted by Brendan Nicholson.
 - Mr Paul Symon AO, Director General, Australian Secret Intelligence Service.
 - TBC.
 - TBC.
- Panel Discussion, Community Service – Facilitator - TBC.
 - Mrs. Jenny Bowker AO, quilter and textile artist.
 - Dr Sue Packer AO, paediatrician and child advocate.
 - Mr. Scott Saddler AM, Executive Branch Director for the National Arboretum.
- Commemorative Service. – Matt Anderson PSM, Director of Australian War Memorial

We're working hard to fill in the gaps and to confirm a speaker for the Farewell Luncheon on Sunday 22 May, but of course COVID uncertainties continue to complicate schedules for potential speakers, particularly those who work full time.

The National AGM and Members' Forum will be held at Hotel Realm on the morning of Saturday 21 May. It is important that as many ACT Branch members as possible attend as we only get the opportunity here in Canberra once every eight years. You won't need to register for the Conference to attend the AGM and Forum (though of course we hope you will), as a separate registration will be available free of charge.

The Conference Dinner at the National Arboretum will feature the presentation of five Foundation Scholarships to young people from around Australia, making this an event not to be missed. Through the generosity of volunteers from the Friends of the Arboretum, the Arboretum Giftshop and Bonsai Garden will be open for delegates to visit before the dinner starts. Members are reminded that the Dinner is a Conference event, so you will need to register for the Conference to be eligible to attend.

Registration for the Conference, AGM and related events will open coincident with the February edition of *The Order*. Our strong preference is that you register online through our Sticky Tickets event management platform. Registering online will help reduce the administrative load on our committees so please give it a go. That said, there will be a hard copy registration option for those who prefer it. In accordance with the Association's policy, delegates to the Conference and associated events must be double vaccinated for COVID-19 or have a medical exemption.

Finally, thanks to those Branch members who have put their names forward as volunteers, but we need more. Please sign up to help by contacting our coordinators Trish Keller OAM (pmkeller8@bigpond.com, 0408 234 305) or Vivien Palmer OAM (vivien.palmer@gmail.com, 0438 763 896).

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

Ms Rebecca GODDARD OAM - For service to Australian Rules football, and to women in sport.

LTCOL Peta MANTEL AM – For exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force in the fields of medical intelligence, health leadership, and epidemiology and disease surveillance.

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 Peter Bailey AM OBE – Australia Day 1998 – For service to the law, particularly as an advocate and educator in the area of human rights at national and international levels, and to the community.

Mr Ian Mathews AM – Australia Day 1992 – For service to journalism.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2022

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 2022/23.

The AGM will be held at the Commonwealth Club, Yarralumla and will start promptly at 5.30 pm.

ACT Branch Annual General Meeting Wednesday 16 February 2022

Agenda

1. Welcome and opening remarks
2. Acknowledgement of Country
3. Apologies
4. Minutes of AGM held 16 Feb 2021
5. Matters Arising
6. Annual Report
7. Election of Branch Nominated Director and Committee for 2022-23
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 – 21 January 2022.

The AGM is a free event. Should Branch members wish to attend the AGM but not the reception, please contact the Branch Secretary, Robert Altamore (altamr@bigpond.com; 0423 931 753).

New recipients are welcome to attend the Branch AGM at 5.30 (but may not vote unless they have joined the Association) or may arrive from 6.00pm for the reception.

At 6.00 pm, immediately following the AGM, a reception to welcome Queen's Birthday recipients will be held.

X.....X

Booking sheet for 2022 AGM reception for QB 21 recipients

Due to COVID safe protocols of The Commonwealth Club and the Association, it is essential to book for this event. Any questions, please contact Michael Crane DSC & Bar AM at 0467 719 020.

DATE – Wednesday 16 February 2022. TIME – 6.00 pm

COST - \$60.00 (New recipients please use your Promo Code to activate your complimentary tickets).

DRESS - Lounge Suit/Business Attire with Miniatures.

RSVP by 5.00 pm Thursday 10 February 2022.

1. Register online (preferred) at StickyTickets <https://www.sticktickets.com.au/0OGTW> or
2. Mail or email booking sheet to:
Mike Crane DSC and Bar, AM
23 Norman St.
DEAKIN ACT 2600
Chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Name and Postnominals:

Guest name(s) & Postnominals:

Dietary requirements

Payment instructions:

My cheque to OAA-ACT for \$_____ is enclosed or MASTERCARD VISA

Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: ____/____/____ CCV: _____

Signature: _____ Sum authorized: \$_____

X.....X

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

If you are receiving this newsletter by mail, we do not have your email address. If we have it, you can be advised of online presentations such as our OAA-ANU lecture and the recent OAA Victorian Branch Virtual Lunch, receive the newsletters electronically, and messages from the National Office and the ACT Branch. If you currently get a hard copy of *The Order* magazine, that preference will not be affected by providing your email address to the Branch Secretary, Robert Altamore at altamr@bigpond.com.