

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION Northern Territory Branch

PO Box 2171, Parap NT 0804



Chair - Alan James OAM

ChairNT@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Secretary – Prof. Jai Singh AM

jai.singh@cdu.edu.au

Patron: Her Honour the Administrator, The Honourable Vicki O’Halloran AO
December 2021



Mr. Alan James OAM has succeeded Mr. Andy Bruyn AM as Chairman of the NT branch of the OAA. Alan brings a wealth of managerial experience and administrative expertise to the committee. Alan has also been appointed NT Director to the National Board of the Order of Australia Association.

Alan was born in Katherine, NT, then a town of only a couple of thousand people, and his family later moved to Darwin. When he was 17, Cyclone Tracy struck the city, and Alan found work soon afterwards sorting through the rubble with government clean-up gangs.

In the 1980’s while organising Territory tours for elite groups like the Australian Chamber Orchestra he saw an opportunity to take the touring artists into Aboriginal communities as part of his itinerary planning. It was on one of these visits – to Yirrkala in Arnhemland – that Alan met Dr. M Yunupingu AC, who wanted to form a band and was in search of a manager. The band became a reality, of course, as Yothu Yindi. They went on to record six albums with Mushroom Records and toured the world many times. In 1993 Alan won AIM Northern Territory Manager of the Year. In 2001, their hit song “Treaty” was named as one of ARIA’s 30 top Australian songs of all time and in 2012 the band (along with Alan) was inducted into the ARIA Hall of Fame. In 2005 Alan was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for his contribution to the arts, in particular, Indigenous arts.

Alan established and was CEO of the not for profit Yothu Yindi Foundation from 1990 to 2010. As part of this work he established and ran the annual Garma Festival for twelve years turning it into the nations most respected indigenous cultural festival.

In 2013 Alan became General Manager of Darwin Entertainment Centre which was struggling financially. He engaged with a business-minded management board, adopted a more creative artistic programme, and revitalised the Centre, over 6 years.

The NT Chapter looks forward to Alan’s leadership in the Order of Australia Association.

Alice Springs Mayoral Christmas Dinner

Approximately 40 invitees attended the traditional Mayoral Dinner on December 7 with Mayor Matt competently displaying his BBQ cooking skills, and his Executive Team, providing highly professional waitperson duties.

NT Branch Chairman Alan James OAM, provided an overview relating to the 'Order of Australia Association', and outlined a number of progressive ideas including the potential to establish of a number of geographically-sensible 'sub-committees'.

Awardees really appreciated meeting each other, and partners, in this relaxed setting.



Senior Territorian of the Year



Congratulations to NT Chapter Committee member Mrs. Robyne Burrige OAM, as NT Recipient of the honor of Senior Australian of the Year for 2022.

Highly regarded as a leader, advocate, activist and mentor in the disability sector, Robyne has worked tirelessly for practical support for folk with a disability. With a refreshingly open and positive approach to her own experience of cerebral palsy and the challenges it presents in daily life, she has helped many in the community understand the issues

surrounding various forms of handicap.

Best wishes in Canberra, Robyne!