

ACT OAA

NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

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Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley

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Committee

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COMING EVENTS

Booking details for the following event are enclosed:

**Monday 6 November 2023
OAA-ANU Lecture
ANU**

**SAVE THE DATE
Friday 26 January 2024
Australia Day Breakfast**

OAA-ANU LECTURE – MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2023



Professor Kieran Kirk AM, Dean ANU College of Science, will deliver this year's OAA-ANU lecture on *Humanity's ongoing battle with infectious disease* at the ANU at 6.00 pm on Monday 6 November 2023 at the Kambri Cultural Centre.

For most of humanity's history, infectious disease has been an expected cause of death. Microscopic pathogens - viruses, bacteria, parasites - cause a range of diseases, many of them potentially fatal. The development of vaccines, and of antimicrobial drugs, has been a triumph of medical science in which the ANU has played a significant role. And yet vaccine-resistant and drug-resistant pathogens are continually emerging, necessitating the ongoing development of new vaccines, new drugs.

In his address Professor Kirk will reflect on the contribution ANU has made, and continues to make, to the development of measures to prevent and treat infectious diseases, including bacterial infection, viral diseases such as smallpox, and the parasitic disease, malaria.

Professor Kirk was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in January 2023 *for significant service to science education and research, and to professional organisations.*

To attend this event you can book at

<https://www.anu.edu.au/events/humanitys-ongoing-battle-with-infectious-disease>

ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Schmidt AC will be opening the event, which will be followed by a Q&A session with Professor Kirk to be facilitated by Branch Chair Mr Andrew Phelan AM who will also deliver the vote of thanks.

A post-event reception will be organised in The Gallery, Kambri Cultural Centre from 7-8pm.

Bookings are facilitated by the ANU, and the Association contact for this event is Dr Brian Babington at 0417550149 or brian.babington@gmail.com.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Fellow Branch Members,

Since the last newsletter we have hosted two major events. On 24 August, at the Royal Canberra Golf Club, we had the great pleasure of presenting 18 Student Citizenship Awards to outstanding students and student groups from all sectors of ACT schools, in front of 140 members, parents and students, teachers and school administrators. It was wonderful to have received a message of support from our Branch Patron, Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley. On 20 September at the Commonwealth Club, we celebrated 22 local recipients of honours and awards in the King's Birthday 2023 Honours List at our Spring Reception for New Recipients. I am very pleased to have welcomed 16 ACT recipients from that list who have joined the Association.

Our next event is the 2023 *Order of Australia Association - The Australian National University lecture* on 6 November 2023, in which **Professor Kiaran Kirk AM** will present on *Humanity's ongoing battle with infectious disease*. Booking details for this free lecture are set out elsewhere in the Newsletter.

I look forward to catching up with as many of you as I can at future Branch events.

Warm regards
Andrew

BRANCH NOMINATED DIRECTOR'S REPORT



The National Board Meeting was held via TEAMS on Friday 18 August 2023 and Noel Hender OAM, BEM was appointed as the Director for South Australia.

The Finance Report was again positive showing a current national surplus and a portfolio valuation of \$1,820,486.36 as of 30 June. The Variation Report showed that the actual income was more than budget and the expenses were less than budget.

Three applications for grants for Branch activities were considered, none of which were fully approved.

Applications from the SA Branch and NT Branch resulted in awards of partial grants of \$1000 and \$6500 respectively with a recommendation that they utilise their existing funds to fund their requests.

An application from the ACT branch to support the Student Awards was rejected and the reply to the Branch suggested that they also utilise their existing funds to fund their request.

The National Membership Director presented her Report, some of the key aspects of which were: -

- There has been a healthy flow of new recipients joining the Association,
- The nomination process has been updated,
- Magnetic Lapel Pins are being trialed,
- Dr. Caroline Hoffman AO has replaced Andrew Koo AM as Chair of the UK Branch.

The National Chairman advised that his comments that the Association would not comment on the Voice at the Geelong Conference were carefully considered and had been discussed with some members of the Board immediately prior to the forum. He also noted that the conference received a healthy surplus primarily due to the high level of sponsorship, and the Executive Committee discussed whether the national share of the surplus should go towards a Foundation Scholarship.

Planning for the Perth Conference in 2024 was progressing well.

The Conference Committee for the Sydney conference in 2025 had its first meeting on 29 July 2023.

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The Audit and Risk Committee addressed several Associations Policies: -

- The G1 Policy Development Policy has been re-written to reflect the current practice and will be sent to Branches for review,
- More discussion was needed before deciding which social media platform to recommend to the Board for association use, and
- The National Secretary will prepare a Policy for consideration by the Committee to meet requirements from the 2023 Annual Information Statement, where all charities are required to report their related party transactions to the ACNC.

The Strategy Committee recommended, and the Board agreed that: -

- National payment be made for popular merchandise items to enable each Branch to have them on display at events for members to be able to view, and the Merchandise Committee develop a procedure for Branches to enable members to pre-order merchandise prior to an event,
- The National Treasurer will discuss with branch Treasurers the consideration of EFT payment options for members at events,
- The Strategic Plan 2023-2026 Version 7 be approved,
- The National Secretary will distribute the Plan to Branches, and the Strategy Committee will review the implementation and monitoring of the Plan,
- An article on the Strategic Plan will be included in the November copy of the Order, and
- An information session will be included in the Members Forum at the Perth Conference.

The Marketing Committee reported:

- Advertising in The Order has attracted no interest to date,
- A Welcome Kit for new members has been prepared,
- The NT Director has had success in having channels 7, 9 and 10 show information about the OA nomination process,
- The three Geelong Conference YouTube videos were well received, and
- It has requested Branches to promote OAA merchandise,

The Board agreed that there should be a meeting 2 to 3 times a year between the Executive and the Branch Chairs, and that the first meeting be held in September. It also agreed that that an Assistant National Treasurer should be appointed as a non-Board Director.

The next Board meeting to be held by TEAMS on Friday 20 October 2023.

Dr Alan Morrison AM, JP
ACT Branch Nominated Director

WELCOME TO NEW OAA MEMBERS FROM THE 2023 KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Commodore Nicole CURTIS AM – For exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force in operational health, policy and capability.

Mr Barry CAMPTON OAM - For service to veterans and their families.

Mr Robert CLYNES OAM - For service to the law, and to the legal profession.

Mrs Elizabeth HARDING OAM - For service to youth.

FROM THE 2023 AUSTRALIA DAY BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Mr Geoffrey PAGE OAM – For service to literature as a poet.

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MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR JAMES INGRAM AO FAIIA

Branch Chair Andrew Phelan AM represented the Association at the memorial service for life member, James Ingram AO FAIIA. The service was held at the Australian National University on 9 August 2023.



Jim's career included appointments as Australian Ambassador to the Philippines, Australian High Commissioner to Canada, and inaugural head of the Australian Government's Aid Agency (1975-81) where, with Sir John Crawford he was instrumental in establishing the Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research. The highlight of his career was his 10-year (1982-1992) term as head of the United Nations' World Food Programme, which he reformed to enable it to become the world's largest humanitarian agency and in 2020 the programme was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. At the photo, shown speaking at the service is Cindy McCain, the newly

appointed Executive Director of the World Food Programme, with the Hon Gareth Evans AC KC looking on after giving his address. The Hon Dr Penelope Wensley AC, former Australian Ambassador to the UN and former Governor of Queensland is standing at the right.

Mr Ingram, who passed away in February at age 94, was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in the 1984 Australia Day Honours *for public service*.

SPRING RECEPTION FOR KING'S BIRTHDAY RECIPIENTS

Branch members gathered at the Commonwealth Club on 20 September to welcome 22 new recipients of honours in the King's Birthday awards. This followed their investiture the previous week at Government House. It is pleasing to see that 16 King's Birthday recipients have joined the Association. The Branch welcomes the contribution made by the ACT Government towards facilitating the welcome event. A selection of photos from the event are provided below.



Kings Birthday reception – New recipients



Mrs Jaishri Falcetta OAM



Ebenezer Banful OAM



John Crotty OAM



Mainul Haque OAM



Robert Clynes OAM



Barry Campton OAM

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OAA-ANU LECTURE – MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2023



Professor Kieran Kirk AM will deliver this year's keynote on *Humanity's ongoing battle with infectious disease* at the T2 lecture Theatre at the Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU on 7 November 2023.

Professor Kirk is Dean of ANU College of Science. After completing his PhD at the University of Sydney in 1988 he worked as a Research Fellow at the University of Oxford before returning to Australia in 1996 to head the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the ANU Faculty of Science. From 2009 to 2014 he was the Director of the newly-formed ANU Research School of Biology in the College of Science, and since 2014 he has served as College Dean.

Kieran's research has focused primarily on the biology of the malaria parasite, and on antimalarial drugs. He was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (FAHMS) in 2017 and appointed Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2023 Australia Day Honours. In addition to his ANU role Kieran is the Chair of the Australian Wine Research Institute in Adelaide, and Chairs the Board of Clonakilla Wines, a family-owned winery in the Canberra District.

Professor Kirk was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in January 2023 *for significant service to science education and research, and to professional organisations.*

To attend this event you can book at <https://www.anu.edu.au/events/humanitys-ongoing-battle-with-infectious-disease>

The annual Order of Australia Association - The Australian National University Lecture was established in 2010 with the aim of further recognising the contribution made by academic members of the Order of Australia to the fabric of Australian society. Now in its 14th year, the lecture has seen distinguished scholars covering topics on national security, first nations issues, sciences, and the arts amongst others.

VALE

We regret to advise the recent passing of the following ACT Branch member and pay our respects for his contribution to the Association and the Australian community.

VADM Robert WALLS AO – Australia Day 1992 – For service to the Royal Australian Navy, particularly as Director General Naval Policy and maritime doctrine.



Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley

**The Order of Australia Association (ACT Branch)
2023 Student Citizenship Awards
Royal Canberra Golf Club, Thursday 24th August**

It is a pleasure to send you this message on the occasion of The Order of Australia Association (ACT Branch) 2023 Student Citizenship Awards.

The awards recognise and celebrate outstanding citizenship and the wonderful contributions that some students make to the ACT community. I congratulate the winners and nominees, indeed all involved in this important community initiative.

I was delighted to hear that nominations were received from all three education sectors, ensuring the awards are truly representative. The nominations were of a particularly high standard and the lengths some students went to in support of others were truly amazing. As will be evident this evening, the quality of our young people and their determination to make a positive difference to their community is inspiring and uplifting.

I want to acknowledge the people behind the successes being celebrated: families, school principals and heads of education sectors. Your support and teachings are a big part of this evening's celebration.

Similarly, I want to recognise the efforts of members of the ACT Branch of the Association in organising this event and for continuing to promote and celebrate Australian citizenship and diversity.

L. Hurley

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2023 STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS PRESENTATION

The Branch annual Student Citizenship Awards presentation was held at the Royal Canberra Golf Club on Thursday 24 August 2023. There were a record 18 awards presented on the night with students from public, independent and church schools honoured for a wide range of significant contributions. The Branch patron, Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley was unable to attend, but sent the event a message which is enclosed.

The judging panel, Mrs Narelle Hargreaves AM, Ms Lynn Fletcher OAM, Dr Joe Johnson OAM and convenor Dr Bill Maiden PSM, OAM assessed the nominations. A selection of winners are highlighted here.



Mila Costa, a student in Year 4 at Canberra Girls Grammar School, and **Zara Skepev**, a Year 3 Canberra Grammar School student, initiated and led a selfless and highly passionate fundraising campaign to support children suffering from brain cancer. Working together, over six months they diligently handcrafted thousands of pairs of earrings. The culmination of their hard work and dedication was a most successful pop-up store on the lawns of Manuka, where they raised over \$14,000.00.

Both students were awarded the Association Branch's top Medallion Plaque Award for outstanding community service and citizenship.

Mila Costa and Zara Skepev

Shiori Ishikawa (Year 12, Canberra College), whose nomination contained many high-level examples of her leadership and community service. Her nomination concluded that her leadership, her community-mindedness, and inclusive nature in reaching out to support students across her college was significant in changing the culture of the college's community.

Shiori's conspicuous leadership skills, and passion for making a positive impact in her community, resulted in her being awarded the Association's Medallion and Plaque Award for outstanding community leadership and achievement.



Shiori Ishikawa



Samia Farhana, (Year 10 at Islamic School of Canberra), is an active and caring citizen who is an energetic volunteer in the support of others. She participates in volunteering in the school garden, assisting clean up her neighbourhood on 'Clean Up Australia Day', and collecting donations.

Samia also has a leadership role in her community in the planning and organising events at her local mosque. She has found her work at a special needs school has been a rewarding experience creating a relationship with students who need it most. In addition, she works with the Young Muslim Sisters Association, where she assists in providing a safe and supportive space for girls in the community. She has also been involved in fundraising efforts to support those affected by the recent earthquake in Turkey. Samia was awarded the Branch's Highly Commended Certificate for significant community involvement.

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Samia Farhana

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Nikhel and Nakul Babu

significant contributions to their schools as student leaders. Their student leadership roles and community service resulted in their being awarded the Branch's Plaque Award for outstanding leadership and community service.

Nikhel and Nakul Babu are twins who are currently in Year 11 at Gungahlin College, ACT, and their nomination attests to their highly active involvement in many aspects of high school and college life with many examples of leadership and community service provided, such as in fundraising for worthy causes.

For example, in 2023, as part of the 'Empower Program' at Gungahlin college, Nikhel and Nakul have been working on the college's 'Passion Project' 'Grow your own food' to create awareness of this ACT government initiative which promotes healthy, safe and sustainable environments for the present and future generations of Australia. They distributed numerous vegetable and herb plants grown at home at this event and at other forums.

In the last several years, both have made



Katherine Polette

commitment to serving others in his community being most apparent. He is a valued member of Gungahlin College who is very active in contributing to this community in many ways. Examples include supporting his peers on a regular basis with their academic work in the college library, volunteering work at the college's breakfast club, and in his church community. He undertakes leadership roles in the 'EMPOWER' program. His constant willingness to contribute to his community demonstrates excellent citizenship and he was awarded the Branch's Plaque Award for outstanding community leadership.

Katherine Polette (Year 12) strives to make Canberra College a positive, memorable and equitable place. She volunteers to address college assemblies to promote community building activities, such as running the fundraising bake sale for 'Relay for Life'. She was also a driver of the Canberra College Clothes Swap this year which ran throughout Environment Week.

Katherine's leadership skills were demonstrated with her co-conducting a forum in 2022 designed to hear the voice of Year 11 students and was successfully repeated this year.

Katherine's generosity of spirit has been evident in her significant roles in the College's Harmony Day and she was awarded the Branch's Plaque Award for outstanding citizenship and leadership.

The nomination of **Eleison Bejar** (Year 12 Gungahlin College) provided many high level examples of his volunteering



Eleison Bejar