

ACT OAA

FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Patron

Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley

Branch Nominated Director

Dr Alan Morrison AM JP

Chair

Andrew Phelan AM

Chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

0417 267 609 (M)

Secretary

Robert Altamore OAM

altamr@bigpond.com

0423 931 753 (M)

Treasurer

Phil Morrall AM, CSC

Committee

Dr Brian Babington AM

Lynne Duckham OAM

Narelle Hargreaves AM

Dr Joseph Johnson CSC, OAM, AAM

Dr Bill Maiden PSM OAM

Coralie Wood OAM

Desmond Woods OAM

Branch mailbox

GPO Box 423

Canberra City ACT 2601

Branch website

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/ACT

COMING EVENTS

Booking details for the following event are enclosed:

**Wednesday 14 February 2024
Annual General Meeting
Royal Canberra Golf Club,
Yarralumla**

**Wednesday 20 March 2024
Morning Tea
Royal Canberra Golf Club
Yarralumla**

AGM & GUEST SPEAKER - 14 FEBRUARY 2024

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



2024. Join us for nibbles (and drinks at own expense) from 5.30 pm; the AGM will start at 6.00 pm sharp and be followed at 6.20 pm with a talk by Dr Michael Moore AM reflecting on his time in ACT local government.

Michael is an Australian public health leader, academic and former ACT Minister for Health and Community Care. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in January 2017 *for significant service to community health, particularly to social policy reform, and to the community of the Australian Capital Territory.*

Book at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/47P5Q> or complete the booking sheet with this newsletter.

Contact for this event is Andrew Phelan AM at 0417 267 609 or chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au.

MORNING TEA – WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2024



The first morning tea for the year will be held on 20 March 2024 at the Royal Canberra Golf Club where the guest speaker will be Mr Ebenezer Banful OAM, multiculturalism advocate and volunteer who is passionate in assisting new overseas arrivals settle in Canberra. Ebenezer was recently named ACT Senior Australian of the Year and was awarded an OAM in June 2023 *for service to the African community, and to health.* To attend,

please book at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/HLZEE> or complete the booking sheet with this newsletter

The Association contact for this event is Dr Brian Babington at 0417550149 or brian.babington@gmail.com.

ACT OAA NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2024

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Fellow Branch Members,

Following approval by the National Board of the closure of the dormant Southern Tablelands region of NSW, the NSW and ACT Branches agreed that members in that region would be offered membership of the ACT Branch where it is more suitable for them than in any one of their adjoining NSW regions. Over the past month or so, I have had the pleasure of welcoming seven members of the former NSW region to the ACT Branch. Members who live in areas adjacent to the ACT have always been welcome at our events and we look forward to catching up with our newly transferred members in the near future.

On behalf of all members, I congratulate all of the honours recipients announced in the 2024 Australia Day Honours List, in particular the 36 recipients from the ACT and Region. Congratulations are also due to Branch member Ebenezer Banful OAM, volunteer and multicultural advocate, who is the 2024 ACT Senior Australian of the Year.

Branch events for 2024 commenced on an ACT self-government theme with Mr Gary Humphries AO, a former Senator and Chief Minister of the ACT, giving the presentation at the Branch's well-attended Australia Day Breakfast at the Hyatt Hotel Canberra. One of the points he made was that it took 166 years for self-government to come to every community on this continent – the last being the national capital. We look forward to our 2024 AGM on 14 February 2024 at the Royal Canberra Golf Club, at which Dr Michael Moore AM, former Minister in the ACT Government and internationally regarded public health advocate, will speak. On 20 March 2024, we will be holding a morning tea, also at the Royal Canberra Golf Club, at which Ebenezer Banful OAM, will be our speaker. Planning for the annual Order of Australia Association – Defence Force Oration is underway and details will be available in the next few weeks.

Monica and I are looking forward to attending the National Conference in Perth in May 2024. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Warm regards
Andrew

BRANCH NOMINATED DIRECTOR'S REPORT



The national Board Meeting was held via TEAMS on Friday 15 December 2023 with all Directors present. In addition, Frank Crawley OAM, the incoming National Treasurer (From 1 Jan 24) sat in as an observer.

The Finance Report was once more positive with a surplus still to be reduced by end of year payments, and the market value of OAA investments has increased by \$88,000 due to the recovery of the share market.

The financial Review Framework project was discussed, with an examination conducted of the budgets and business plans of those Branches that had submitted them. There would be a face-to-face review at the meeting of Directors and Branch Chairs at the National Conference in Perth in May.

The National Membership Director presented a table of the conversion rates of honours awardees for branch's membership and indicated that she would be further refining the results.

The Perth Conference preparations are on track and the National Chairman Indicated that it was the intention of the Governor General to attend the conference. The Sydney conference has contracted a conference organiser and plans were proceeding well, but it was noted that the costs of the conference in Sydney were likely to be high.

The Chairman of the Marketing Committee noted that there had not been a rush of applicants to advertise in 'The Order' but the Committee was working on encouraging selective advertising. He also noted that one of the factors which could be slowing awards for honours was the long gap between the nomination and the award. Despite this there was still a need for a greater diversity in applicants.

ACT OAA NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2024

The proposed changes in the membership fees were agreed.

The Chairman reported on the OAA Foundation's financial performance with six scholarships confirmed and announced for 2024.

The National President reported that she recently had a productive meeting with the Governor General, highlighting with him the increasing lag in award decisions, the possible use of emails to contact recipients, Branch involvement in investiture ceremonies, school curriculum and conference planning.

The Board also considered a plan for further social media development by a sub-committee of the Board's Marketing Committee to be chaired by the National Membership Director.

The next meeting of the Board to be held by TEAMS on Friday 16 February 2024.

Dr Alan Morrison AM, JP

ACT Branch Nominated Director

WELCOME TO NSW REGIONAL MEMBERS TRANSFERRING TO THE ACT BRANCH

Dr Robyn ALDERS AO – January 2011 - For distinguished service to veterinary science as a researcher and educator, to the maintenance of food security in developing countries through livestock management and disease control programs, and to the Australian poultry industry.

The Hon Prudence GOWARD AO – January 2023 - For distinguished service to the people and Parliament of New South Wales, and to women's affairs.

Mr Hedley SIMONS AM – June 1991 – For service to business and commerce, particularly retailing.

Mrs Rowena ABBEY OAM – June 2023 - For service to local government, and to the community of Yass.

Ms Elizabeth DALMAN OAM – January 1995 - In recognition of service to contemporary dance.

Rev Colin RUSH OAM – January 2022 - For service to the community of Wagga Wagga.

Mr Gordon WADE OAM - January 2010 - For service to the welfare of veterans and their families through the Goulburn Sub-Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia, and to Legacy.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Dr Marianne HORAK AO – June 2023 – For distinguished service to entomology, to taxonomic and phylogenetic research, and to philanthropic endeavours.

Dr Sunita DHINDSA OAM – June 2023 - For service to the Indian community of the Australian Capital Territory.

Mr Ivan SLAVICH AM – January 2024 - For significant service to business, and to the community through governance and philanthropic endeavours.

OAA-ANU LECTURE – MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2023

Professor Kiaran Kirk AM, Dean ANU College of Science, delivered the 2023 OAA-ANU lecture on *Humanity's ongoing battle with infectious disease* at the ANU Kambri Cultural Centre following an introduction by ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Schmidt AC.

In his address Professor Kirk dealt with a complex subject in a form for the audience to easily understand the issues regarding the development of vaccines, and how vaccine-resistant and drug-resistant pathogens are continually emerging, necessitating the ongoing development of new vaccines. He also reflected on the significant contribution that the 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.*

Following the lecture, a lively Q&A session with Professor Kirk was facilitated by Branch Chair Mr Andrew Phelan AM. The lecture can be accessed at the link [Humanity's ongoing battle with infectious disease](#).

A post-event reception was held in The Gallery, Kambri Cultural Centre.

ACT OAA NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2024

The Branch is particularly appreciative of the strong support that the retiring ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Schmidt AC has provided for the OAA-ANU Lecture over many years.



Andrew Phelan AM, Professor Kiaran Kirk AM & ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Schmidt AC



Penny King, Roxanne Missingham OAM



Professor Kiaran Kirk AM & Andrew Phelan AM at ANU lecture Q & A



Dianne Trewartha, Jenny Tyrrell

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2024

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 2024/25.

The AGM will be held at the **Royal Canberra Golf Club**, 71 Bentham St, Yarralumla and will start promptly at 6.00 pm.

ACT Branch Annual General Meeting Wednesday 14 February 2024

Agenda

1. Welcome and opening remarks
 2. Acknowledgement of Country
 3. Apologies
 4. Minutes of AGM held 15 Feb 2023
 5. Matters Arising
 6. Annual Report
 7. Election of Branch Nominated Director and Committee for 2024-25
 8. Other Business
 9. Close
-

ACT OAA NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2024

The AGM is a free event, but registration is requested for catering purposes. From 5.30 pm, light snacks, tea and coffee will be available with other drinks at own expense. AGM Documents are available on the Association Website ACT Page <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/act/about-us/>. Please print them off if you wish to bring them to the AGM, as copies will not be available there.

New recipients are welcome to attend the Branch AGM at 6.00 pm, but may not vote unless they have joined the Association, or they may arrive from 6.20 pm immediately following the AGM, to hear a talk by Dr Michael Moore AM who is an Australian public health leader, academic and former independent member of the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly who served as Minister for Health and Community Care in the Liberal minority government led by Chief Minister, Kate Carnell AO and later, Gary Humphries AO. He will speak reflecting on his time in ACT local government.

X.....X

Booking sheet for 2024 AGM and Dr Michael Moore AM talk

DATE – Wednesday 14 February 2024.

TIME – 5.30 pm

VENUE – Royal Canberra Golf Club, Yarralumla.

COST - Free

DRESS - Lounge Suit/Business Attire with Miniatures.

1. Register online (preferred) at StickyTickets <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/47P5Q> or

2. Email booking sheet to:

Mr. Andrew Phelan AM

Chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au

Any questions, please contact Andrew Phelan AM at 0417 267 609.

Name and Postnominals:

Guest name(s) & Postnominals:

Dietary requirements
.....

2024 AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

We were privileged to have Gary Humphries AO as the guest speaker for the annual Branch Australia Day Breakfast held at the Hyatt Hotel, Yarralumla. Gary was a senator for the ACT from 2003 to 2013, Chief Minister of the ACT from 2000 to 2001, and a member of the ACT Legislative Assembly from its inception in 1989 until 2003.

In his presentation, Gary explored some of the research he has undertaken as part of his PhD thesis at the ANU. He is writing a history of ACT self-government, describing events in which he was sometimes a participant. He explained that it took 166 years for self-government to come to every community on this continent – the last being the national capital. He discussed the reasons for this, and the fears of local residents that self-government would mean the end of generous Commonwealth spending in Canberra. This was evident in the referendum for ACT self-government held in 1978 and rejected by 63.75% of the voting residents.

Gary described the fractious result from the first ACT election, where anti-self-government MLAs made up almost a quarter of the parliament! A highlight was to see and remember the voting sheet that included 117 candidate names and was about a metre long, which took election staff hours to unfold and weeks to count, with party names which included *Party! Party! Party!* and *Sun-Ripened Warm Tomato*. He outlined the machinations that led to the formation of the first ACT government in May 1989; a group of new MLAs gathered on the morning the government was to be elected in an attempt to elect Liberal leader Trevor Kaine as the first chief minister, but when Kaine stormed out of the meeting in a huff, the plan broke down. Instead, ALP leader Rosemary Follett was elected Chief Minister later that day – the first woman to lead an Australian government.

ACT OAA NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2024

Gary said that he considered the real purpose of studying history was to understand human nature better and guide us in making better decisions by understanding how well our predecessors made similar decisions. He said that one question his thesis (also soon to be a book) would try to answer was: considering all the original anxiety about self-government, has it been a success or have people's fears of 1989 been realised?

Gary's presentation was well received by the 82 attendees, most of whom have been keen observers of the ACT self-government process over the years, and they appreciated the detailed insights that Gary was able to relay to them.

A branch member, Gary was appointed an Officer of The Order of Australia in January 2019 *for distinguished service to the Parliament of Australia, and to the Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory.*



Michael Moore AM, Rosemary Follett AO, Gary Humphries AO,
Andrew Phelan AM



Gary Humphries AO, Andy Anderson OAM



Merydith Crane, Frances Rose OAM



Deb Bampton, Michael Moore AM



Lynne Duckham OAM, Rosemary Follett AO, Elizabeth Woods



Peter McGrath AM, Jim Waddell AM, Alison Waddell
