

# ACT OAA

## DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

### Branch Patron

Dr Sue Packer AO

### 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

Mainul Haque OAM

Narelle Hargreaves AM

Dr Joseph Johnson CSC, OAM, AAM

Dr Bill Maiden PSM OAM

David Templeman AM

Desmond Woods OAM

### Branch website

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

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### COMING EVENTS

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**Sunday 26 January 2025**  
**Australia Day Breakfast**  
**Royal Canberra Golf Club**  
**Yarralumla**

**Wednesday 12 February 2025**  
**AGM & Guest Speaker**  
**Royal Canberra Golf Club**  
**Yarralumla**

### BRANCH PATRON – Dr SUE PACKER AO



Dr Sue Packer AO is the new Patron of the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia Association. The 2018 Senior Australian of the Year, Dr Packer has worked tirelessly to advocate for the rights of children since starting her career as a paediatrician in 1972. She has been a leader in child abuse prevention and treatment and a champion of the importance of early childhood environments for the

developing brain.

Dr Packer has been involved in child abuse prevention through the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect since its very early days and has treated babies and children suffering terrible trauma from child abuse and neglect.

In addition, Sue has championed the importance of early childhood environments for the developing brain, leading to recognition by education and government agencies. She was one of the driving forces behind the acknowledgement of the importance of creating child-friendly spaces in hospitals and the value of play in recovery.

In 2013 Dr Packer was Canberra Citizen of the Year in recognition of her personal efforts and significant contributions to the ACT community, particularly as an advocate for the safety and wellbeing of children. In June 2021, she was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia *for distinguished service to children through roles in health, welfare and protection initiatives.*

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### SAVE THE DATES

#### AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

A special day in our calendar is the Australia Day Breakfast where we celebrate the ACT citizens acknowledged in the Australia Day Honours. Booking details will be available soon.

#### AGM & GUEST SPEAKER

Our AGM and guest speaker event will be held on Wednesday 12 February 2025 at The Royal Canberra Golf Club. 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 2025. A nomination form is attached to this newsletter. Booking details will be available closer to the day.

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## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Fellow Branch Members,

We are delighted that Dr Suzanne Packer AO has agreed to become the ACT Branch Patron. A tireless advocate for the rights of children, Dr Packer was appointed a Member in the Order in the 1999 Australia Day List for 'service to child welfare, to paediatric medicine and to the community', and an Officer in the Order in the 2021 Queen's Birthday List for 'distinguished service to children through roles in health, welfare and protection initiatives'. She was the 2019 Senior Australian of the Year and has been very active in the Association for many years.

At the Royal Canberra Golf Club (RCGC) on 29 August, we had the great pleasure of presenting 11 Student Citizenship Awards to outstanding students and student groups from all sectors of ACT schools, in front of 80 members, parents and students, teachers and school administrators. On behalf of all our members, I sincerely thank the Student Awards Committee for their tireless work and, in particular, Dr Bill Maiden PSM OAM for convening that committee over the past seven years.

On 18 September, also at the RCGC, we celebrated local recipients of honours and awards in the King's Birthday 2024 Honours List at our Spring Reception for New Recipients.

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 to the fabric of Australian society. Now in its 15th year, the lecture has seen distinguished scholars covering topics on national security, First Nations issues, sciences, and the arts amongst others. Around 140 people attended the 2024 Lecture, given at the ANU Research School of Social Sciences on 16 October by Professor Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt AO from the Crawford School of Public Policy. Professor Lahiri-Dutt argued that to address the challenges of sustainability, we must prioritise gendered livelihoods and care and create a world that is more sustainable and gender equitable. She offered a forward-thinking yet realistic plan, placing gender equality, social justice, and sustainability at the heart of efforts to shape a better future for all.

On 17 October, David Templeman AM spoke at a Branch morning tea on the important topic 'Priorities for Emergency Management and Preventive Health'. Details of David's presentation (and many other presentations over the years) can be found on the Branch's Events page (<https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/act/events/>).

Warm regards  
Andrew

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## NATIONAL BOARD REPORT

The National Board met via TEAMS Friday 18 October 2024 and details include:

Kathy Wooldridge OAM, the National Membership Director, informed the Board she would be retiring in April 2025 and was not seeking re-nomination.

### REPORTS

All Branches provided a 2025 Draft Business Plan and the National Secretary presented the Summary Report of all the Plans which met the objective of the process which was to introduce a more formal approach to annual planning to support Branch Budgets.

The National Treasurer presented Financial Reports, and the Key aspects include:

- The portfolio of our investments for the last 3 months has performed well. The details of the portfolio are contained within the Investment Committee report.
- The Net Equity is \$1,500,969.57.
- National is ahead of Budget as are all Branches except SA and NT.
- The National Secretary to advise Branches that our insurance does not cover any contractors.

The National Treasurer presented the Investment Report which was received and noted by the Board which requested the Investment Committee review the performance of the current investment

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provider. The value of the Investment as advised by Netwealth as of 29 September was \$2,048,045.20 and the portfolio is performing well.

The National Membership Director (NMD) presented the Membership Report. There are 8159 current members including 521 in the ACT. Conversion rates have slightly increased over the base 2018 year- 2018 was 37.4% and 2024 was 39.6%.

The Governor-General's Office are still working on their plan to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Order of Australian Honours and Awards system and confirmed the Mint and Post office are making commemorative coins and stamps for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Order of Australia.

## **Sydney Conference Sydney 2025**

The Deputy National Chairman presented the Conference Report, the key aspects being:

- 142 Conference registrations and 147 Gala Dinner registrations.
- Early bird registrations close January 2025.
- Speakers are being invited; and
- Logistics are proceeding and sponsorship to-date is \$15,000.

## **Darwin Conference 2026**

The Director NT advised that a Branch meeting will be held on 29 October to discuss the Conference Concept, fund raising/sponsorship, the Hotel/s and determine if a PCO is to be appointed.

## **Executive Committee**

The National Chairman presented the Executive Committee Minutes 10 October 2024 and The key aspects were;

- The Sydney Conference is progressing as expected.
- The 2025 Consolidated Budget will be discussed at a Special Board Meeting to be held on Friday 8 November at 1130 AEDT.
- Discussions are continuing about the Management of the Merchandise.
- The Order magazine will continue as a 28-page magazine published 4 times per year.
- The 'History of the Award and the Association' written by Kathy and Peter Wooldridge will be included in the February edition of *The Order*.

## **Marketing Committee**

The Marketing Committee Chairman presented the Marketing Committee Minutes and the key aspects were;

- A member survey is still a work in progress.
- The Governor General's Office has confirmed that the OAA Membership Brochure is included in the Medal Packs.
- The Social Media implementation is proceeding slowly.
- The Governor General will continue to provide two articles per year for *The Order*, Rob Ayling will continue as the link between the OAA and the Office. the Governor General is interested in the Conference and will be hosting a function for OAA Foundation scholarship recipients.

## **OAA FOUNDATION REPORT**

The National Secretary presented the Foundation Report for September on behalf of the Foundation Secretary.

The key aspects of the report were:

- Chair Helen Nugent confirmed the patron status with the Governor General.
  - The Governor General confirmed a Roundtable with new awardees would take place at admiralty House on 25 November 2024.
  - Interviews have been conducted for the five potential scholarship awardees at the four universities – Sydney, UTS x 2, Southern Cross and Monash.
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- Interviews have been conducted for the five potential scholarship awardees at the four universities – Sydney, UTS x 2, Southern Cross and Monash.
  - Investment value as of 30 September 2024 was \$3,460,221.
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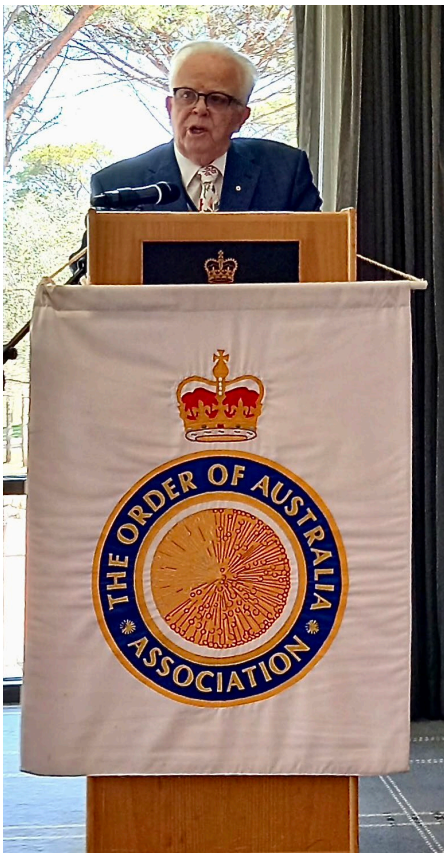
## VALE

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.

**Mr Peter RADTKE OAM** – Australia Day 2006 - For service to military aviation history, particularly through the Aviation Historical Society of the Northern Territory.

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## MORNING TEA WITH DAVID TEMPLEMAN AM THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 2024



Forty members enjoyed a morning tea and fellowship and heard ACT Branch member David Templeman AM talk on *Priorities for Emergency Management and Preventive Health*. David has long-standing senior executive/CEO and board experience, primarily with a significant focus on community wellbeing, public health and teacher education. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in January 2023 for *significant service to community health administration and governance*. The text slides from David's talk can be accessed at: <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/act/events/>



Vikki Templeman, Charlie Templeman, David Templeman AM



Frank Cox AO, Phil Morrall AM, CSC



The Hon Margaret Reid AO, Dr Joe Johnson OAM

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## ACT STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS – THURSDAY 29 AUGUST 2024

Eighty members, friends, school children and their families and school officials celebrated the outstanding community service of winners in our 2024 Student Citizenship Awards at the Royal Canberra Golf Club.

### **Amelia Tattam – Year 12 – University of Canberra Senior Secondary College Lake Ginninderra**



Amelia's nomination cited examples validating exceptional leadership, community service and civic engagement. Her achievements have been recognised previously through the Australian Defence Force Long Tan Youth Leadership and Teamwork Award and, earlier this year, she received the Capital Chemist Citizenship Scholarship for demonstrating outstanding leadership skills and participation in community activities.

In addition, her nomination cited commitments to positive change that have tangibly affected her schools, her community and even ACT legislation. As a particular example of Amelia's commitment to improve the lives of others, her nomination cites the example of her initiatives and efforts as an active team member in addressing issues affecting young women and girls in advocating for free feminine health products in all ACT schools, an initiative which has subsequently been passed into ACT law.

For Amelia's sustained and conspicuous leadership and community service throughout her high school and college years she was awarded the Association's Medallion and Plaque Award for outstanding community leadership and achievement.

### **Ananth Ravi – Year 11 – Radford College**

Ananth is a Year 11 student who is committed to many and diverse activities within his school and community. Indeed, his nomination provides an extensive list of his involvement in a wide variety of sporting, neighbourhood and school citizenship activities. In his school community-mindedness, he is regarded as a role model in undertaking his many contributions and achievements and someone who quietly goes out of his way to help others with the satisfaction of doing so rather than for seeking attention.

Examples of his volunteering for events and causes include the Royal Canberra Show, the National Multicultural Festival, the Australian Multicultural Action Network, the Leukemia Society, the Cancer Council, Floriade and the Nara Festival.

His many energetic contributions and leadership roles and activities within his school and community resulted in Ananth being awarded the Branch's Highly Commended Award.



### **Mimi Ruge – Year 6 – Forrest Primary School**



Mimi's nomination states that "she is a student who goes 'above and beyond' in everything she does without wanting validation or acknowledgement of her school and community service work."

Examples of her contributions to her community include her newsletter and flyer articles to promote the school's 'Donation Club' which supports four different charities: 'Roundabout', 'Lids 4 Kids' which processes bottle lids into plastic limbs for child amputees, 'Buk Bilong Pikinini' books for Papua New Guinea children and 'St John's Care'.

Mimi was a joint recipient of the 2024 Rotary 'Earlyactor of the Year Award' voted by the District Rotary Club officials.

Mimi was awarded the Association Branch's Highly Commended Award for admirable citizenship and leadership.

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## **Flynn Elsworthy – Year 6 – Forrest Primary School**

Flynn has proven himself to be an excellent and charitable school leader. His nominators describe him as “an outstanding Year 6 school leader: selfless, caring and committed to making a positive change and encouraging students, staff and families to take affirmative action in the community”.

He exhibits energetic leadership within groups that work to support others such as the school’s ‘Earlyact’ Club. Examples of his contributions are his working on a popcorn and paddle pop stall to raise money for the school’s ‘Story Dog’ program and his eager involvement in a group which worked closely with a parent volunteer to raise awareness of bullying. His enthusiasm helped the group raise over \$1100.00 in their ‘Do It For Dolly’ stalls.

For Flynn’s strong citizenship spirit, he was awarded the Association’s Certificate of Commendation for committed leadership and community service



## **Ashton Osborne – Year 5 – Radford College**



Ashton is a Year 5 student who has shown extraordinary initiative and drive in community service and citizenship in support of homelessness. In his desire to do something to help those who ‘live rough’, he set an ambitious goal of creating 500 emergency food packs comprised of non-perishable items such as cereal, noodles, long-life milk, tinned tuna and beans.

He determined to make 10 packs per week for a year or until he reached 500 packs, achieving his goal two months ahead of schedule and raising \$5,200.00.

Due to his success, Ashton found himself participating in television interviews with both the local ABC and Channel 9’s ‘The Today Show’ as ‘Aussie of the Day’. In addition, he has undertaken further fundraising by creating a Facebook and ‘GoFundMe’ page which has raised another \$1000.00.

Ashton’s outstanding community service and initiative resulted in his being awarded the Branch’s Medallion and Plaque Award.

## **Indie Gocevski – Year 6 – Sts Peter and Paul Primary School**

Earlier this year, Indie joined an enterprise with two friends who previously had been working on an initiative dedicated to supporting children and women, and especially mothers, in the field of brain cancer. This enterprise involves making earrings to sell at pop-up stalls, local businesses and through word-of-mouth to raise money to donate to the Australian Brain Cancer Foundation which supports women in cancer research. Indie has spent countless hours assisting in making earrings, playing her part in enabling the enterprise to make a profit.

Her nomination states that Indie supports this enterprise in every way and never seeks praise for her hard work. Indeed, the nominators are aware that Indie has big dreams for the future, “hoping to continue her charity work in other forms to benefit the vulnerable within our community”.

For her admirable work and good citizenship in supporting her community Indie was awarded the Branch’s Certificate of Commendation.



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## Hannah Hosick – Year 12 – Canberra Grammar School



Hannah is an active and dedicated leader as Vice-Captain in her Student House at Canberra Grammar School who has demonstrated sustained involvement in supporting her school community. These include initiating a photography club, her involvement in the Sony Camp which demonstrated her desire to aid disadvantaged children, and tutoring Year 8 students who are struggling with school work. Other students respect Hannah and often seek her out for guidance and assistance.

Further evidence of her enthusiasm to contribute to school life can be found in her participation in her helping organise fundraising to support educational institutions in Sri Lanka and in her school's Sustainability Club which aims at promoting environmental awareness and sustainability. Outside her school, Hannah is a regular volunteer at her grandmother's church.

Hannah was awarded the Association Branch's Highly Commended Award for exemplary leadership and community spirit.

## Nate Keeley – Year 6 – Forrest Primary School

Nate is an enthusiastic leader and contributor to life at his school and, in so doing, demonstrates his desire to be a good citizen. He is an active member of the 'Forrest Squad' comprised of hard-working Year 6 students who assist in promoting his school, running school assemblies, meeting with guests to the school, and generally supporting staff and students. He is also an active contributor to the school's 'Earlyact' Club.

Examples of his citizenship and community-mindedness are evident in his attendance at netball gala days and his work in helping to organise and run a highly successful popcorn and paddle pop stall to raise money for the school's 'Story Dogs' program. He also eagerly assisted in working with a group to raise awareness of bullying at the 'Do It For Dolly' stalls and helping to raise \$1100.00 for this cause.

His nominators describe Nate as a "curious, open-minded, principled learner who models integrity in all he does". For his strong community spirit and citizenship, Nate was awarded the Association Branch's Certificate of Commendation.



## Nicholas Lawrance -Year 12 – Canberra Grammar School



Nicholas provides strong leadership and energy to his school's activities. These traits have positively affected his school community.

Nicholas' nominator is impressed with his efforts to support the school community by his exceptional support towards younger students as a Year 7 leader in 2023. He also generously undertakes additional duties and responsibilities related to other Student Houses at the school. In this capacity, he demonstrates reliable leadership, with his nominator stating that "He sets a fine example for the younger students with his warm and caring nature, making sure that they all feel known and valued."

In addition, Nicholas has been involved in many school activities which demonstrates his community spirit, including a strong commitment to his school's 'Sustainability Club', his involvement in the 'Lids 4 Kids' project and his interest in helping disadvantaged children through his participation in the Sony Camp.

For his strong community spirit and leadership, Nicholas was awarded the Association's Branch Certificate of Commendation.

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## Olivia Nicol – Year 6 – Forrest Primary School

Olivia is the President of the Forrest Primary School's 'Earlyact Club', a large group of senior students which works to support community and even international organisations.

Olivia is passionate about issues concerning poverty, children's rights and helping those less fortunate than herself. Her nominators state that when she sees an area of need, she summons the assistance of others, including families and school staff, to achieve her goals and she fulfills each commitment. She is aware of and keen to commit to many local, national and global issues affecting the lives of those less fortunate having seen first-hand the impact of poor living conditions and poverty. She has been instrumental in setting up a Donation Hub in the school's library which supports four different charities.

Olivia was also a joint recipient of the 2024 Rotary 'Earlyactor of the Year Award' voted by the District Rotary Club officials.

Olivia was awarded the Association's Highly Commended Award for exemplary citizenship and leadership.



## Group Award

### 'Earlyact' Club – Forrest Primary School



Forty-seven Senior Primary students are members of Forrest Primary School's team of enthusiastic and willing students who are part of its own Rotary 'Earlyact' Club. Their work is to raise awareness in our community for several worthy causes and organisations.

Students work in groups, or individually, to research how to best support organisations who are working to alleviate the issues they are investigating. They then decide the best method to advocate for the cause and how they can assist by raising awareness, running a donation drive or fundraising.

Some examples of the club's community-mindedness and participation in supporting worthy causes are:

- A team worked to run a highly successful popcorn and paddle pop stall to raise money for the school's 'Story Dogs' program;
- A group worked with 'Roundabout Canberra' to set up a donation bin and two discos to raise money for the charity;
- A group held a crazy hair day to raise money for 'Plastic Oceans' as they are very concerned about plastic in the oceans and its terrible impact on sea life;
- Many students worked closely with Earlyact coordinators to organise a Cancer Council 'Biggest Morning Tea' event at the school. With prizes and a cake stall, the event was a success with nearly \$1,000.00 being raised for the ACT Cancer Council;
- Future issues that students are investigating include; supporting a charity that is working on removing some turtle species from the endangered list, raising money for the school community to create new garden spaces in the playground and to assist the ACT RSPCA with the ongoing care of abandoned animals.

For its excellent and considerate work in support of its community, the Forrest Primary School's 'Earlyact' Club was awarded the Branch's Group Plaque Award. Flynn Elsworth, Mimi Ruge, Nate Keeley and Olivia Nicol accepted the award on behalf of the group.



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## ACT BRANCH RECIPIENTS' RECEPTION

WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2024.

Around 50 members and guests enjoyed a reception at the Royal Canberra Golf Club to celebrate recipients of honours and awards in the Kings Birthday and Australia Day 2024 lists and their families.



*Andrew Phelan AM, CMDR Paul Pelczar OAM, RAN, WO1 Warrick Butterworth OAM, Dr John Aspley Davis AM, Dr Chi Lai OAM, Air Commodore Veronica Tyler AM, Dr Benjamin Field OAM. Front - Esther Davies OAM*

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## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2025

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 2025/26.

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 12 February 2025

#### Agenda

1. Welcome and opening remarks
  2. Acknowledgement of Country
  3. Apologies
  4. Minutes of AGM held 14 Feb 2024
  5. Matters Arising
  6. Annual Report
  7. Election of Branch Nominated Director and Committee for 2025-26
  8. Other Business
  9. Close
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## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER FROM THE 2024 KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

**Dr Chi Wing LAI OAM** – For service to medicine as a general practitioner, and to the community.

## FROM THE 2024 AUSTRALIAN DAY HONOURS

**Mr Isaac COTTER OAM** - For service to the Maori community of Australia and New Zealand.



Michael Crane DSC & Bar, AM, LTGEN Natasha Fox AO, DSC, Andrew Phelan AM

## OAA-ADF ORATION – THURSDAY 25 JULY 2024

Around 60 Members and guests attended the 2024 Order of Australia Association – Australian Defence Force Oration with [LTGEN Natasha Fox AO, CSC](#), Chief of Personnel for the ADF. LTGEN Fox provided members and guests with a very clear view of the personnel opportunities and challenges for the ADF, in particular the issues with recruitment. She is responsible for ADF recruiting, enabling careers, professional education and military learning, health support, support services, military justice, support to families, different pathways to service and transition from service. The full text of LTGEN Fox's oration can be accessed at:

<https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/act/events/>

## THE 2024 ANU ORDER OF AUSTRALIA LECTURE

WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2024



Branch member **Professor Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt AO** delivered this year's keynote: *A Possible World: Transforming Gender Relations for Sustainability* at fully booked event at the ANU Research School of Social Sciences. The annual ANU lecture has been an important event in our Branch calendar for 15 years.

The text of Professor Lahiri-Dutt's lecture can be accessed at: <https://theorderofaustralia.asn.au/act/events/>. The video of the lecture can be viewed at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yi0EuHjCT3s>

Professor Lahiri-Dutt was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia in 2023 for *distinguished service to natural resource management research and innovation, to gender equality, and to tertiary education.*



Professor Janine O'Flynn; Mr Andrew Phelan AM; Professor Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt AO



Andrew Phelan AM, Professor Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt AO

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION LIMITED - ACT Branch



**Nominations for ACT Branch Office Bearers and  
Committee or ACT Director for 2025/26**

**Nomination forms are to be returned by email to:  
The Secretary OAA-ACT Branch at  
Chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au  
By 5.00 pm on Friday 17 January 2025**

I..... as a Member of the Branch

Hereby nominate.....

- 1) For the position of .....  
On the ACT Branch Committee for 2025/26
- 2) For the position of ACT Director  
On the OAA National Board for 2025/26

(Please delete non-relevant position).

.....  
(Signed - Nominator)

(Date).....

I..... as a Member of the Branch

Hereby second the above nomination.

.....  
(Signed – Secunder)

Date.....

I..... as a Member of the Branch

Hereby accept the above nomination.

(Signed).....

Date.....