

ACT OAA

JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

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Prof Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt AO

Julie Long OAM

David Templeman AM

Desmond Woods OAM

Branch website

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/ACT

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday 20 August 2025
Student Citizenship Awards
Royal Canberra Golf Club
Yarralumla

Wednesday 24 September 2025
New Recipient Reception
Royal Canberra Golf Club
Yarralumla

STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

At 6.00 pm on Wednesday 20 August, the Branch will conduct the presentation of its annual Student Citizenship Awards to ACT public and independent school students whose community service was assessed as outstanding by our judging panel Julie Long OAM, Professor Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt AO and Dr Joe Johnson CSC, OAM, AAM. The event will be held at The Royal Canberra Golf Club and bookings can be made at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/1TC6S> or on the enclosed booking sheet. This is our special outreach program, and we hope you can join us. Light refreshments will be served. Branch member attendance is limited to accommodate students, parents and teachers at this event.

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

RECEPTION FOR NEW RECIPIENTS

Please join us to welcome and celebrate with ACT and area citizens awarded in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours. This event will be held at The Royal Canberra Golf Club, Yarralumla on Wednesday 24 September and will follow the investitures to be held at Government House.

Please book at <https://www.stickytickets.com.au:8020/06MTY> or complete the booking sheet with this newsletter. Contact for this event is Mr Andrew Phelan AM at 0417 267 609 or chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au.

2025 OAA-ANU LECTURE

We are that pleased that Branch member Professor Mark Howden AC has been confirmed as the guest speaker for the ANU Lecture to be held in mid-October. Professor Howden is the Director, ANU Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions and he shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with other Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) participants and Al Gore. He was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours *for eminent service to environmental science, to the global response on climate change and adaptation, to agriculture, and to tertiary education.*

2025 OAA-ADF ORATION

Chief of Defence Force, Admiral David Johnston AC RAN will deliver the OAA-ADF Oration in November. He was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours *for eminent service to the Australian Defence Force through strategic stewardship and capability integration.*

Booking arrangements for both events will be provided later.

ACT OAA NEWSLETTER – JULY 2025

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Fellow Branch Members,

I warmly congratulate all the recipients of honours and awards announced in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours List, in particular the recipients from the ACT and Region. It was a great privilege to be able to write to 49 local recipients to congratulate them, invite them to our New Recipients' Reception at the Royal Canberra Golf Club on 24 September 2025 and suggest that they join our Association. I am very pleased with the response so far.

Our King's Birthday Luncheon at the Royal Canberra Golf Club was very successful, and I thank Professor Steve Robson for his engaging, informative and helpful comments on contemporary public health issues in conversation with Committee member David Templeman AM. I thank all the Committee members who helped organise the event.

Our next event will be the ACT Student Citizenship Awards evening, to be held on 20 August 2025. More information on the awards and the awards ceremony will be announced in the next month or so. Other events are being planned, and I make mention of the Order of Australia Association - Australian Defence Force Oration, which was established in 2011 with the aim of further recognising the contribution made by military members of the Order of Australia to the fabric of Australian society. I am delighted that the Oration this year is to be delivered by Admiral David Johnston AC RAN, the Chief of the Defence Force. It is to take place at a time and date to be arranged in November.

I look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible at our future events.

Warm regards

Andrew

BRANCH NOMINATED DIRECTOR'S REPORT



The Association's Board met by video link on Friday 20 June. The Board noted routine reports from the Treasurer, the Membership Director, Board Committees, the Secretary of the Foundation and some branches.

The Treasurer also reported that the Sydney Conference in May had been very successful and was likely to generate a reasonable surplus: a motion of thanks to the NSW Committee was recorded.

Director Queensland reported that there has been a change of dates for the 2026 Conference due to a conflict with major sporting events to be held in Brisbane in the original period. The new dates are 16-19 April 2026. It seems likely that Government House Brisbane will be unable to accommodate planned numbers for the vice-regal reception, so the Queensland branch committee is investigating options for an alternative venue.

The Chair of the Marketing Committee (Director NSW) reported that discussions with Victoria Branch regarding options for delivery of merchandise sales are ongoing (the existing agreement between the Board and Victoria Branch expires in November).

The Board discussed a planned survey of members designed to inform planning for 2026; the Marketing Committee is working with branches to finalise the survey, which is to be issued later this year.

Best Regards

Michael Crane DSC & Bar AM

ACT OAA NEWSLETTER – JULY 2025

ACT BRANCH MEMBERS ENJOYED THE 2025 OAA NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Mike Crane DSC & Bar AM, Meredythe Crane, Andrew Phelan AM, Madeleine Johnson, Joe Johnson CSC AM AAM, Monica Phelan, Peter Barclay OAM, Dot Barclay,

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS FROM THE 2025 KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Professor Mark HOWDEN AC. For eminent service to environmental science, to the global response on climate change and adaptation, to agriculture, and to tertiary education.

Major General Colin KAROTAM AO. For distinguished service as the Head of Military Strategic Planning, First Assistant Director General Expeditionary and Transnational Intelligence and Commander Defence Signals Intelligence and Cyber Command.

Mr Thomas ROGERS AO. For distinguished service to public administration, and leadership and administration of Australia's democratic electoral system.

Major General Mark ASCOUGH AM CSC DSM. For exceptional service to the development of the Australian Defence Force's intelligence capability as Commander 6th Brigade and as Director General Operations Intelligence.

Ms Christine FAULKES AM. For significant service to education, to business, and to the community.

Brigadier Peter EVANS (Retd) OAM KStJ. For service to veterans, and to the community of Canberra.

Mrs Carol GATHERCOLE OAM. For service to the community as a swimming teacher.

Mr Colin GREEF OAM. For service to veterans, and to the community.

Mr Hieu Huy HOANG OAM. For service to the community of Canberra.

Mr Iain (Fred) SMITH OAM. For service to music and foreign affairs.

Mr Nigel WEBSTER OAM. For service to child safety, and to veterans.

FROM THE 2025 AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Colonel Thomas MCDERMOTT AM CSC. For exceptional service as the Headquarters Joint Operations Command lead planner for the development of an Australian Defence Force operational contingency plan in support of Australia Defence Force Operations.

ACT OAA NEWSLETTER – JULY 2025

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 Gregory Cornwell AM – Queen’s Birthday 2008 – For service to the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly, and to a range of community organisations. *Greg was a Liberal Party member of the Legislative Assembly from 1992 to 2004 and Speaker of the Assembly from 1995 to 2001. He was also a member of the pre-self-government House of Assembly from 1975 to 1986.*

MAY RECEPTION FOR NEW AWARDEES

Sixty Branch members and guests gathered at the Royal Canberra Golf Club on 21 May to welcome six new recipients of honours in the Australia Day awards. This followed their investiture at Government House in April. We have nine new members from the Australia Day awards. The Branch welcomes the contribution made by the ACT Government towards facilitating the welcome event. A selection of photos taken at the event are provided below.



Prof. Andrew Blakers AO, Brig. Matthew Campbell AM, RADM Jonathon Earley AO CSC RAN, Prof. David Headon AM, Alice Tay OAM, Andrew Phelan AM, Dr Peter Sawczak AM



Monica Phelan, Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt AO, Winston Phillips OAM



Jean Bennett OAM

ACT OAA NEWSLETTER – JULY 2025



Hilton Kobus AM, John Lawrence OAM, David Cossart OAM, Hashim Abdul Rahman OAM, Warwick Gresty, Ebenezer Banful OAM



Margaret Cornwell OAM, Garth Setchell OAM, Edmund Wheeler OAM, Sandra Wheeler, the late Greg Cornwell AM

**National
Conference**
Brisbane 16-19 April 2026
📍 Ridges Southbank Hotel



ACT OAA NEWSLETTER – JULY 2025

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE AUSTRALIAN HONOURS SYSTEM AT THE CANBERRA MUSEUM & GALLERY

Exhibition until **31 August 2025**.

Monday – Friday 10.00 am – 4.00 pm, Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays 12.00 – 4.00 pm.

Location: **Corner London Circuit and City Square.**

This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Australian Honours system, which was established in 1975 to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of Australians in diverse and wide-ranging fields. Awards include the Emergency Services Medal, Australian Sports Medal, Bravery Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Nursing Service Cross, Order of Australia Medal, and many more.

This exhibition showcases a selection of medals, artworks, photographs and audiovisual footage that tell the story of 50 years of the Australian Honours Awards and highlights the achievements of some of the ACT's Honours Awards recipients, several of whom are Branch members.

KINGS BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON – WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE

Fifty five members and guests enjoyed our King's Birthday Luncheon at the Royal Canberra Golf Club,



David Templeman AM, Professor Steve Robson

where Professor Steve Robson, in conversation with Committee member David Templeman AM, made engaging, informative and helpful comments on contemporary public health issues in Australia, and followed by a Q & A session with the guests. Steve was the President of the Australian Medical Association from 2022 to 2024. He has been practicing medicine for 35 years and currently works with the National Health and Medical Research Council, is Chief Medical Officer for Avant Mutual and is passionate about equitable access to healthcare, the economics of preventative care, and the mental health and wellbeing of doctors.



Mainul Haque OAM, Michael Moore AM, Sam Wong AM



Peter McDermott AM CSC, Jacqui King OAM
