

ACT OAA

OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

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Prof Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt AO

Julie Long OAM

David Templeman AM

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Branch website

www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/ACT

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday 22 October 2025
OAA-ANU lecture
ANU Building 153

Tuesday 25 November 2025
OAA-ADF Oration
Ngunnawal Theatre
Russell

Thursday 27 November 2025
50th Anniversary Lunch
CSCC Yacht Club
Yarralumla

Thursday 4 December 2025
End of Year Picnic
CSCC Yacht Club Lawns
Yarralumla

2025 OAA-ANU LECTURE – WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER

Bookings for the OAA-ANU lecture with Emeritus Professor Mark Howden AC, Director, ANU Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions can be made at <https://www.anu.edu.au/events/order-of-australia-lecture-go-hard-or-go-slow-on-climate-change-whats-in-the-national-interest>. Professor Howden was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in the King's Birthday Honours *for eminent service to environmental science, to the global response on climate change and adaption, to agriculture, and to tertiary education*.

2025 OAA-ADF ORATION – TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER

Chief of Defence Force, Admiral David Johnston AC RAN will deliver the OAA-ADF Oration at Russell in November, addressing several issues including National Defence Strategy, Transformation of Capabilities and Defence culture. 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*. Bookings can be made at <https://www.sticktickets.com.au:8020/AXVC0> 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.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HONOURS & AWARDS CELEBRATORY LUNCH – THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER

Please join us at the CSCC Yacht Club to celebrate the on the 50th Anniversary of the Australian Honours and Awards System, the achievements of everyday Australians who have contributed to our nation and its communities. Our Patron Dr Sue Packer AO will be highlighting the Order's role and impacts - past, present and future, followed briefly by some very special recipients' guests. Please book at <https://www.sticktickets.com.au:8020/3R612> or complete the booking sheet with this newsletter. **Please note that bookings close early – 5 November.** Contact for this event is Mr Andrew Phelan AM at 0417 267 609 or chairact@theorderofaustralia.asn.au.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION AND PICNIC THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER

An event with difference! An informal no cost catchup with members on the lawns of Canberra Yacht Club from 5.30 pm onwards. Bring your own chairs, picnic rugs, and picnics if you like (but no BYO alcohol please), or purchase meals and drinks from Snapper & Co restaurant. Children and pets are welcome Please book at <https://www.sticktickets.com.au:8020/GBACZ> to enable an appropriate area to be secured.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Fellow Branch Members,

On 20 August, we held our annual Student Citizenship Awards evening, and I had the great privilege of hosting Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia and Patron of the Order of Australia Association, who addressed the evening and presented awards to an exceptional group of Canberra students. The evening celebrated young people who embody the values of citizenship, service and leadership through fundraising, volunteering, music, coaching, tutoring and developing programs that enrich the lives of others. Medallion Awards were presented to Diya Sreesan (St Clare's College), Lucy Jerga (Merici College) and Thomas Liu (Radford College), with Highly Commended and Commended certificates awarded to many other deserving individual students and groups from schools across all education sectors. The success of the evening reflects the dedication of our Student Awards Committee (Julie Long OAM, Dr Joe Johnson

CSC OAM AAM and Professor Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt AO) and demonstrates the positive impact young Canberrans are making in our community, with the strong support of their families, schools and education sectors.

Our Spring New Recipient Reception on 1 October was a wonderful celebration of outstanding Australian citizenship by 16 new recipients from the 2025 King's Birthday List and another from the 2025 Australia Day list, along with their families, members and guests. The evening showcased the remarkable diversity of service to our community and nation, spanning medicine, youth development through Scouting, gender equity advocacy, contemporary dance, defence leadership, veterans' support, religious ministry, music and foreign affairs, entomology, public administration, project management, child safety, and hockey. It was particularly pleasing to see several new recipients join our Association as members.

I encourage all members to consider attending our upcoming events: the 2025 ANU Order of Australia Lecture by Emeritus Professor Mark Howden AC on 22 October, the Order of Australia Association - ADF Oration by Admiral David Johnston AC RAN on 25 November 2025, the 50th Anniversary of the Australian Honours & Awards System – Celebratory Lunch on Thursday 27 November; and our End-of-Year Celebration & Picnic on Thursday 4 December 2025. Further information on the events and booking details appear elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Once again, I thank all of the members of the ACT Branch Committee for their great voluntary work in organising Branch events and administering the Branch's affairs.

Warm regards

Andrew

BRANCH NOMINATED DIRECTOR'S REPORT



The Board met via teleconference on Friday 22 August and received the standard range of reports. In addition, Director NSW presented the NSW Branch report on the 2025 National Conference, though at that point a post-conference survey of attendees had not been conducted (the survey has since been issued but results have not yet been made available).

There was considerable discussion of the national survey and the approach to be taken: survey results have now been collated and analysed and the Board will consider next steps at its October meeting.

Best Regards

Michael Crane DSC & Bar AM

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

Rear Admiral Rachel DURBIN AM CSC RAN. For exceptional performance of duty in Royal Australian Navy senior Engineering and management positions.

Dr Rolf OBERPRIELER AM. For significant service to entomology, particularly as an insect systematist.

Mr Michael YOUNG AM. For significant service to the project management industry, and to hockey.

Ms Nanette BAK OAM. For service to the community of Canberra.



ACT STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AWARDS – WEDNESDAY 20 AUGUST 2025

Around 130 members, friends, school children and their families and school officials celebrated the outstanding community service of winners in our 2025 Student Citizenship Awards at the Royal Canberra Golf Club. We were privileged to have Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia and Patron of the Order of Australia Association present the awards to the students.



Student Citizenship Awards Judges Prof Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt AO Dr Joseph Johnson CSC, OAM, AAM, Julie Long OAM

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The following Student Awards photos are attributed to the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General.



Student Citizenship Award winners with Her Excellency the Governor General and Branch Committee members

A summary of the individual citations follow.

Diya Sreesan Year 12

St Clare's College 2025

Diya is a compassionate leader, dedicated advocate, and vibrant contributor to both her school and the wider community. Her tireless commitment to social justice initiatives and community service exemplifies the values of empathy, leadership, and active citizenship.



One of Diya's most successful contributions has been her leadership in organising the World's Greatest

Shave at St Clare's, a campaign that raised an extraordinary \$20,000 to support those battling blood cancers. This event was a significant fundraising success and a powerful awareness campaign, uniting the school community in solidarity and compassion.

Diya spearheaded the Walk for Life, a dual-location event designed to raise awareness about organ donation. She coordinated a walk for Year 12 students around Lake Burley Griffin, while also ensuring younger year levels could participate in a similar initiative at the college. Through this initiative, Diya brought a sensitive and life-affirming topic to the forefront of student consciousness, encouraging dialogue and reflection.

Diya also serves as a trusted and engaging college tour guide, welcoming prospective students and their families during major school events. She has also represented St Clare's College during outreach visits to local primary schools, sharing her passion for learning and service.

A gifted speaker and performer, Diya regularly addresses the college community at assemblies, inspiring her peers with commitment to social causes. Her involvement in performances at St Clare's and at St Edmund's

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Colleges further highlights her dynamic presence and willingness to contribute across diverse areas of school life.

Diya's leadership is marked not only by her accomplishments, but also by the grace, humility and compassion with which she serves. She leads by example, inspires through action, and consistently uplifts those around her. Diya was presented with the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia **Medallion Award for Exceptional Citizenship, Leadership and Achievement**.

Lucy Jerga - Year 12 Merici College 2025



Lucy's contribution to her community spans a diverse and impressive range of service and leadership roles. She has dedicated over 250 hours of voluntary service to both school-based and external initiatives, with her involvement intensifying throughout Years 11 and 12.

As the Captain of Merici's Social Justice Team, Lucy has planned, led and participated in multiple key events, including the Empowering All Abilities Sports Day, the Gift of Life Walk, and the Merici College Winter Sleepout to raise awareness of homelessness.

In 2024 and 2025, Lucy represented Merici College in the ACT-wide St Vincent de Paul Justice Network, where she collaborated with student leaders from other schools to share best practice in social justice initiatives and participate in outreach projects such as the Vinnies "Joes" holiday camps for vulnerable children.

Lucy's service also extends to Marymead, supporting programs aimed at vulnerable families and children in the Canberra region. Whether assisting with event coordination or supporting young participants, she offers her time generously and with purpose. Her ability to connect with people of all ages and backgrounds with empathy and respect is particularly notable.

At school, Lucy has been a core student ambassador, regularly volunteering for Open Days, Talk and Tours, and primary school transition workshops, welcoming visitors and sharing her passion for the Merici community. She has taken initiative in liturgical life as well, reading at community Masses and coordinating aspects of the Merici College, International Women's Day Soirée. Lucy leads with humility. She is motivated by genuine care for others and a strong sense of justice.

Lucy was presented with the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia **Medallion Award for Exceptional Citizenship, Leadership and Achievement**.

Thomas Liu - Year 12 Radford College Senior School 2025

Thomas Liu consistently displays leadership that benefits Radford College, as well as demonstrating concern for others in the community. Thomas fosters a culture of inclusion and belonging within the Radford College community and has demonstrated exceptional leadership, organisation and project management skills. Thomas's work over the past few years has had a positive impact on the school's inclusion policy and approaches, and the legacy of their work will continue to be built upon by generations of Radford students. Thomas has built an inclusive society at Radford, showing the ability to lead with kindness and to create safe spaces without seeking recognition, ensuring every student feels seen and valued.

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This year, as Captain of the Media Crew, Thomas has given many hours of their time after school and on weekends to provide media support for college celebrations, assemblies, music and performing arts events, in the form of live camera projection, event recording and audio-visual support. Knowledge and leadership is being shared with the younger students and helping them develop their Media Crew Skills.

Thomas's concern for others in the community extends to senior citizens at Calvary Haydon Aged Care and Retirement Living in Belconnen. The Media Crew's involvement in multiple visits to Calvary to provide music entertainment, time to chat with the residents and value their life stories, shows their dedication to sharing time with all groups in the community.



Thomas was presented with the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia **Medallion Award for Exceptional Citizenship, Leadership and Achievement.**

St Mary MacKillop College Year 12 Cohort 2025



The Year 12 cohort of St Mary MacKillop College has exemplified outstanding citizenship through their unwavering commitment to the broader community, raising \$101,433 for cancer research through the Cancer Council's Relay for Life initiative by 250 students on school grounds for more than 12 hours.

Among all Relay for Life events held nationwide, the students at St Mary MacKillop College achieved the highest fundraising total of any group across Australia and the MacKillop Catholic College Year 12 Cohort were presented with the ACT Branch of the Order

of Australia **Group Award for Citizenship, Leadership and Achievement.**

Georgia Karle - Year 12 Burgmann Anglican School 2025

Georgia consistently demonstrates leadership, and a strong sense of civic responsibility taking on coaching roles for several age group football teams. In recognition of her outstanding service to the sports program, leadership, and playing ability, she was awarded the 'Footballer of the Year Award' in 2024.

Beyond sport, Georgia takes initiative in leading charity events outside of school including raising funds for childhood brain cancer research. Her leadership is demonstrated within the school community and her passionate advocacy for important social issues.

Georgia is a positive role model who encourages others, supports her peers, and promotes inclusive values. She exemplifies the principles of good Australian citizenship through her everyday actions and attitude. Georgia was awarded the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia **Commended Award for Citizenship, Leadership and Achievement.**



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Lachlan Lloyd - Year 12 Radford College Senior School 2025



Through his 14 years at Radford, leadership has been an integral part of Lachlan's school life. In Year 2 he started his own fundraiser for the Fred Hollows Foundation. In Year 11, he was Karri House Vice-Captain and attended a Round Square exchange to Aiglon College in Switzerland as an ambassador for the College. In his final year at Radford, he is the College Captain and has modelled the importance of setting and working towards personal goals and encouraged others to strive for their best in all areas of school life. Lachlan is a leader who speaks regularly to the wider College community at significant school events.

Lachlan was the College "Ambassador" for "The Push-up Challenge", encouraging students and staff to get involved and donate money to Lifeline. He has also played a significant role leading the Menslink program in the Junior School, fostering a positive help-seeking mindset.

This year, Lachlan completed over 120 service hours in areas including co-curricular at the College, mental health and fundraising. Lachlan also donates blood/plasma and volunteers at a dialysis clinic in Garran, and is passionate about improving hospital and national infrastructure systems.

Despite a spinal injury, Lachlan has competed for his college in triathlons and skiing and contributed to the music program. Lachlan was presented with the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia **Highly Commended Award for Outstanding Citizenship, Leadership and Achievement**.

Winnie Herring - Year 12 Canberra Grammar School 2025



Winnie is the Vice-Captain of the School and a member of the school's Service Council, and she discharges her duties in a manner grounded in service, humility and inclusivity.

She has worked to build a lasting partnership between her School and Garran Primary School. To achieve this, Winnie has formed a group of Year Nine students to visit the school and engage with pupils at Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two. She has trained the group, prepared engaging resources and has collaborated with staff and students at both schools.

An elite athlete, Winnie has completed over 100 hours with Little Athletics training at Woden, giving willingly of her own time to this valuable community activity.

Winnie, was presented with the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia **Highly Commended Award for Outstanding Citizenship, Leadership and Achievement**.

Violet Roberts & Elke Nicholls - Year 6 Hawker Primary School 2025

Violet and fellow student Elke are key member of the Hawker Primary school's Little Mitty environmental group. Together, they have made a significant and lasting impact on both the school and the wider community.

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They are dedicated to promoting sustainable environmental practices within the school community. Their initiatives include contributing to the school newsletter, creating an informative PowerPoint presentation on responsible recycling including the ACT container deposit scheme, and fundraising to construct a Lids4Kids outdoor bench made entirely from recycled plastic lids.

Through all their efforts, Violet and Elke have consistently demonstrated exceptional citizenship, creativity, leadership, and commitment to sustainability. Their teamwork and environmental stewardship have helped create a more responsible and eco-conscious community.

Violet and Elke were each presented with the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia **Highly Commended Award for Outstanding Citizenship, Leadership and Achievement.**



Mose Taiatini - Year 11 St Edmund's College 2025

Mose has demonstrated exemplary leadership as the leader of the St Edmund's College Student Voice Council. Mose worked collaboratively with the College Leadership Team and emerged as a role model for his peers in the process.



A passionate and inspiring Christian leader, he has encouraged many fellow students to engage more deeply with their faith. Mose has distinguished himself in the

creative and performing arts. He co-founded the College Gospel Choir, creating a space for musical expression and spiritual connection. Under his leadership, the choir secured high-profile opportunities, including performances at Parliament House and collaborations with other choirs at the Sydney Opera House.

He has also been active role in all fundraising efforts across the College, leading initiatives for Rice House and supporting numerous school-wide events with energy, compassion, and purpose.

Mose embodies the values of citizenship, leadership, and achievement in every aspect of his school life. He is a young man of vision, faith, and generosity—a true inspiration to those around him.—Mose was presented with the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia **Commended Award for Citizenship, Leadership and Achievement.**

Kate Riley - Year 12 Burgmann Anglican School 2025

Kate consistently demonstrates leadership, kindness, and a strong sense of civic responsibility. Since 2021,

Kate has coached Under 14 girls' basketball teams also refereed tournaments and interschool competitions on behalf of Burgmann College.

As Captain of Guraguma House at Burgmann, Kate has taken the lead in organising and running school carnivals and house events and has led other charity initiatives across the Senior School, demonstrating a deep commitment to service.

Kate sets a strong example for others through her encouragement, her support of fellow peers, and her



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dedication to inclusivity. Her actions and positive outlook embody the core values of responsible and engaged citizenship. Kate was presented with the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia **Commended Award for Citizenship, Leadership and Achievement**.

St Thomas More's PS Mini Vinnies Branch 2025

The St Thomas More's Mini Vinnies Branch includes students from Years Three to Six and this group has developed a strong, active partnership with the local St Vincent de Paul Society to participate in joint initiatives and fundraising events, learning about the realities of poverty and social justice in both a theoretical and practical context.

The group has established and maintained a student supported food pantry for the parish. This initiative supports struggling families within the school and parish community and also helps students develop a sense of support.

The Mini Vinnies group leads the school's fundraising efforts for Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Through whole-school events the students educate their peers about global poverty and social injustice

The Mini Vinnies group have developed connections with Aloysius Morgan Retirement Village and Southern Cross Care Nursing Home, engaging with elderly residents through letter writing, performances, and seasonal gift giving.

The Mini Vinnies branch at St Thomas More's Primary School represents an outstanding model of student citizenship. The St Thomas More's Mini Vinnies were presented with the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia **Group Award for Citizenship, Leadership and Achievement**.



Ashima Kinloch-Paul - Year 10 Canberra Grammar School 2025

Ashima is an active Year 10 member of the School's Service Council in which she demonstrated initiative, leadership and commitment to activities both within the school community and the broader community.

She has undertaken visits to HOME in Queanbeyan, a facility for people living with mental health issues, and helps with the coordination of the collection, packing and distribution of Anglicare food items for homeless people.

Ashima's most significant contribution has been through the Kyodo Shuho Karate Academy in Fyshwick, where she has taken on a volunteer coaching role and has dedicated over 200 hours to mentoring students.

Ashima's selfless approach and dedication have made a impact within her House and Year Group, where she continues to set a strong example.

Ashima was presented with ACT Branch of the Order of Australia **Highly Commended Award for Outstanding Citizenship, Leadership and Achievement**.



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Radford College Junior Council 2025

The Radford Student Council is a dedicated and enthusiastic group of upper-level primary students who demonstrate an ongoing commitment to both the life of the College and the wider community. Their service and leadership is evident in a broad range of initiatives designed to foster compassion, empathy, and meaningful engagement with others.

They fundraise to support “Compassion” sponsored children in Brazil, which helps to improve their education, health, and overall wellbeing and also raise support families staying at Ronald McDonald House by providing comfort items, toys, and daily essentials at what is often a very difficult time for the families involved.

Students also collect stationery items for Roundabout Canberra, support the Anglicare Winter Appeal and the Capital Region Community Service Christmas Appeal, distributing over 100 hampers filled with food and gifts to needy families in the Belconnen community.

The Radford Student Council exemplifies the very best of student-led service, initiative, and civic responsibility. Their sustained efforts are not only making a tangible difference in the lives of others but are also shaping these young leaders into compassionate, active citizens of the future.

The Radford Junior School Council were presented with the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia **Group Award for Citizenship, Leadership and Achievement**.



Amber Smith - Year 12 Radford College Senior School 2025

Amber is a high academic achiever with maturity and a commitment to improving the lives of others. As House Vice-Captain of Karri in Year 11 and a Round Square ambassador to Aiglon College in Switzerland, she led with humility, purpose, and compassion in her interactions with her peers and staff.

In her final year at Radford, Amber served as College Captain, and her leadership has fostered a strong sense of belonging for all students. She has led and collaborated on several initiatives and supported Junior School staff by attending carnivals and camps and encouraging younger students to reach their potential. Through the “World’s Greatest Shave,” Amber has generously contributed her time to raise funds for cancer research in Australia.

Amber is a talented flautist, a skilled cricketer, and outstanding in Snowsports. She has represented the College in rowing at the New South Wales (NSW) Championships and the NSW Head of the River.

Amber was presented with the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia **Commended Award for Citizenship, Leadership and Achievement**.

St Jude's Primary School Prayer and Youth Ministry 2025

The Prayer and Youth Ministry Peer Group has demonstrated sustained community service and outstanding citizenship through their active commitment to the faith life of the school which helped foster a spiritually reflective and inclusive environment that uplifts the entire school community.

The group takes an active role in supporting Vinnies Winter Appeal and Project Compassion and led a school-wide campaign to collect items for people experiencing homelessness during the colder months. They designed informative presentations to visit classrooms to share stories about the realities of homelessness and encouraged students to show how generosity helps others.



A further commitment was the organisation of a retreat day for Year 4 students preparing to receive their First Eucharist. The peer group planned and facilitated a series of reflective and engaging activities, shared their personal faith journeys, and helped younger students explore the meaning and significance of the sacrament. Their leadership and presence made the day spiritually enriching and memorable for all involved. The St Jude's Primary School Prayer and Youth Ministry Peer Group were presented with the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia **Group Award for Citizenship, Leadership and Achievement**.

Brayden Fowler - Year 11 St Edmund's College 2025

Brayden is a Year 11 School Leader known for his desire to serve, which is a quality that reflects both his character and the quiet strength of his leadership. His impact on St Edmund's College is both broad and deeply personal, demonstrating his unwavering dedication to service, community, and faith.

Brayden has coached junior students in rugby and cricket, and played a vital role in numerous school fundraisers, including raising an impressive \$1,163 for Treacy House. As a key member of the Student Voice Council, Brayden has worked closely with the College Leadership Team, consistently advocating with conviction and clarity to strengthen student life and outcomes.



Brayden, alongside Mose Taiatini, jointly founded of the College Gospel Choir which stands as a testament to their vision and passion. This enables students to express both musical talent and spiritual devotion. Under their leadership, the choir has performed at Parliament House and the Sydney Opera House

His contributions to sport, service, faith, and the arts, have been impactful on the community of St Edmund's College. Brayden was presented with the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia **Commended Award for Citizenship, Leadership and Achievement**.

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Emily Passlow & Emma Osborne-Laverty - Year 12 Radford College Senior School 2025



Emily and Emma are dedicated individuals committed to enriching the lives of those within both Radford

College and the wider Canberra community. They are held in the highest regard by both staff and students alike and their efforts are marked not only by initiative and collaboration, but also by a generosity of spirit that is far-reaching and deeply

personal.

Their commitment to service, community, and leadership is perhaps most exemplified in her advocacy for menstrual equity. They initiated a project to ensure equitable access to period products within the College by conducting research and writing a proposal to overseeing the allocation of budget and the installation of free products in campus bathrooms. This initiative modelled quiet, yet powerful leadership, grounded in empathy and purpose.

As Sustainability Captains, they have led by example, organising community “Clean Up” events, and encouraged a collective responsibility for the environment and an awareness of the impact of waste.

As active members of the Radford Awareness and Service group, they helped raise funds and awareness for those in need within the Canberra community. Emily has volunteered with the Anglican Schools Embracing Ministries holiday program for children with disabilities, where she undertook specialised training and provided daily support to ensure each child felt valued.

Emily and Emma have exemplified the very best of leadership: quiet integrity, thoughtful action, and genuine care for others. Each were presented with the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia **Commended Award for Outstanding Citizenship, Leadership and Achievement**.

Canberra Sanskrit School 2025

The Canberra Sanskrit School has provided free or low-cost language classes for children aged 5 to 18. Lessons are rooted in traditional wisdom literature, which teach universal values of honesty, non-violence, duty, and compassion.

In 2024 and 2025, students co-designed and led cultural outreach events in collaboration with senior citizens’ groups in Belconnen and Gungahlin. These included multilingual storytelling, cultural songs, and shared meals, creating intergenerational bonds and highlighting the values of empathy and inclusivity and a group of middle and high school students launched a "Sanskrit Storytime for seniors" program in partnership with local aged care homes. These monthly storytelling sessions aim to reduce loneliness, foster cross-generational dialogue and uplift both the youth and elders through meaningful connections.



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The school actively supports recently arrived refugee families by offering community integration through free conversational English and Sanskrit learning sessions, often led by students themselves under teacher guidance.

Student representatives from the school spoke at the 2023 National Community Languages Education Conference in Sydney and again at the ACT Harmony Day 2025 celebrations. Students have translated key public documents including COVID-19 safety materials, mental health brochures, and aged care pamphlets into Sanskrit and Hindi, promoting accessibility and inclusion for linguistically diverse communities.

The Canberra Sanskrit School was presented with the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia **Group Award for Citizenship, Leadership and Achievement**.



OCTOBER RECEPTION FOR KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS RECIPIENTS

At the Royal Canberra Golf Club on 1 October the Branch hosted a reception for King's Birthday Honours recipients at one of our best attended receptions with near 100 members and guests in attendance to honour and congratulate the 17 new awardees. The Branch expressed appreciation for the support provided by the ACT Government for this event.



Helen Dalley Fisher AM, Fred Smith OAM, Dr Elizabeth Dalman AM, CDRE Anthony Klenthis AM CSC RAN, David Cocking OAM, Thomas Rogers AO, Andrew Phelan AM, Neville Tomkins AM, Colin Greef OAM.

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Christine Faulks AM, BRIG Peter Evans OAM (Retd), RADM Rachel Durbin AM CSC RAN, The Reverend Mary Farmer OAM, David Luck OAM, Dr Rolf Oberprieler AM, Edward Chapman OAM, Nigel Webster OAM, Harry Hoang OAM, Andrew Phelan AM



David Luck OAM and Margaret Brookes

Branch member David Luck was awarded Medal of the Order of Australia on Australia Day 2025 *for service to people with a disability*. He led People with Disabilities ACT as President from 2016 to 2022 and Vice-President from 2015 to 2016, making a lasting impact through advocacy.

David has volunteered for 30 years as Co-Convenor for the ACT Support Group of Polio NSW and supported Polio Australia advocacy since 2008.

He has also volunteered with MS Australia, Community Aid Abroad (now Oxfam Australia) from 1980–1995, co-founded the Belconnen Fun Run, and served with Red Cross since 2012.

His public sector roles include Research Manager at the Bureau of Transport and Communications Economics in the 1990s and the Communications Research Unit in the 2000s.

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 David WILLIAMS OAM – Australia Day 2019 - For service to the community through a range of organisations.

Mr David LEWIS OAM - Australia Day 1999 - For service to rugby union football.

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Enjoy Spring shopping at the OAA Merchandise Shop including

New tote bag



\$12.00

Silk scarf



\$52.00

Cuff Links



\$35.00

Cap



\$21.00

Enquiries Barb 0413 008 571

All items in the OAA range can be purchased at
www.theorderofaustralia.asn.au/shopping-cart



VISIT TO THE ABC STUDIOS 10 SEPTEMBER 25



Committee member Mainul Haque OAM organised a visit for members to the ABC Studios on Northbourne Avenue. It was a privilege for our members to enjoy a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at how the ABC brings radio and television to life.

We were warmly welcomed by ABC Canberra staff, who were generous with their time, patiently answering our many questions and sharing valuable insights into the workings of Australia's national broadcaster. Morning tea was kindly provided, adding to the relaxed and friendly atmosphere and making the visit even more memorable.

It was a wonderful opportunity for learning, connection, and reflection. Sincere appreciation was extended to Julie Doyle, Head of ABC Canberra, for graciously welcoming our members to the ABC Canberra studios.

