



NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWSLETTER

NORTHERN TERRITORY BRANCH
PO Box 2171 Parap NT 0804

September 2012

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Patron: Her Honour the Administrator, the Hon. Ms. Sally Thomas AM.

Chairman's Message

The theme of the very successful Order of Australia Association's 26th National Annual Conference this year was "Darwin, Australia's Front Door". (See report by Conference Chairman Wendy James)

Our neighbours are becoming our friends on a number of fronts. This has been reinforced by great events since the conference. The first was the visit of the Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono AC who was given a dinner in Parliament House for about 200 Territorians. Since then, the Pitch Black air manoeuvres over the Top End have included the Indonesian, Thai, Singaporean and Australian air-forces. The second significant event was the opening of the Confucius Centre, a co-operative learning centre funded by the Chinese and Australian Governments and housed at the Charles Darwin University. The third has been the commencement of work on the Japanese Inpex project - estimated to cost over 50 billion dollars, boosting local growth in population and industry. We also had a visit from Jose Ramos Horta, Nobel Peace Prize winner and President of East Timor.



This year, 2012 is an exciting time for the Northern Territory. Apart from the first Order of Australia Association conference held in the Top End we are experiencing other significant events and anniversaries. Seventy years ago on the 19th of February 1942 the first of 64 air raids took place, effectively demolishing the city. The Federal Government has at last recognised this day as a National Day of Remembrance. The President of the USA, Barack Obama, visited the memorial to the American destroyer sunk in the Darwin Harbour and our PM, Julia Gillard made several of her frequent visits.

One of our members, Yvonne Forrest OAM, tells of the fears in 1941, of bombing attacks on places like Melbourne. Fears that the Yarra River could be used as a marker for locating important sites. When on 19th February 1942 bombs did fall in Darwin, schools close to the inner city in Melbourne were evacuated at very short notice. For example, within 2 weeks of the bombing, her school sent 380 pupils to four resort houses in Marysville and there they stayed until late 1944 when the RAAF vacated their school. Marysville, sadly, was totally destroyed by fire in 2008.

The explorer, John McDouall Stuart, 150 years ago, was the first to traverse Adelaide to the coast of the NT and back again; an amazing feat of courage and endurance (Burke and Wills in fact reached the coast first but died on the way back). Many functions this year are commemorating Stuart's significant event in our history. One was held in the centre of Darwin by his statue; another was a visit to Point Stuart in Arnhem Land where he had reached the coast. Several of our members were involved in leading this excursion. Stuart's route led to another celebration - 140 years ago the completion of the Overland Telegraph from Adelaide to Darwin and ultimately the world, via Java.

Dr Valerie Asche AM
NT Branch Chairman

Profile of Queen's Birthday Awardees

This year the investiture of the order was conducted by the Governor General. I urge all awardees to join the Order of Australia Association, learn about our scholarship program and consider attending the Annual Conference next February in Canberra.

Daphne Read AO

Daphne is at present Chairman of the Board of Somerville Community Services. Now retired, she had a long and successful career in teaching in the NT. She was National Executive Director of the Royal Life Saving Society of Australia for 5 years. Other important posts have been as Chairperson both of the NT Disability Advisory Council and the NT Water Safety Advisory Council. She has served on the NT Housing Appeals Committee. Perhaps we know her best in the last 10 years as we enjoyed the Schools Spectacular *The Beat*, of which Daphne was Director.

John Hardy AM

John came to the Territory in 1971 as a pilot. After a year he moved to the Old Darwin Hospital to pursue his other skill - that of radiography. However the opportunity arose to go back to his first love, aviation, when he became a partner in setting up the company *Airnorth*. This airline has a proud history and today flies internationally daily to East Timor. John and his family founded and run *Hardy Aviation*. Assisted by his wife, 2 sons and a daughter it is one of the well known Territory airlines. John generously offers joy rides in their vintage plane, the DC3, in aid of charity. John has been Commodore of the Darwin Sailing Club on two occasions and supports many local organisations including Rotary, the Darwin Symphony Orchestra and Lord's Taverners.

Conference Chairman's Final Report

(Looking very pleased with herself)



I am pleased to tell you that the 26th National Annual Conference held in Darwin on April 12th- 13th 2012 was an outstanding success. Letters received from delegates and guests since the event have been overwhelming in their praise and congratulations. I take this opportunity to thank those who contributed towards this success.

First and foremost, I must thank the members of the Conference Committee, who gave the benefit of their exceptional skills, experience and commitment for twelve months.

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| • Michael Martin OAM | Finance, Treasurer, Accounting |
| • Alan James OAM | Marketing, Event Management, Public Relations. |
| • Dr. Valerie Asche AM | NT Branch Chair, Community Relations. |
| • Hon Grant Tambling AM | C/- Recorder, Protocol, Wise Counsel. |
| • John Flynn AM | Transport, Business Skills. |
| • Nora Lewis AM | Musician, Singer, Teacher, Music Events |

Thanks also must go to the following for outstanding support:

- Pearl Ogden OAM - Historian who conducted five History Tours during the Conference.

- Andrew Bruyn AM - Master of Ceremonies of the Official Opening, AGM, and the Gala Annual Dinner. Andy set the right note of relaxed formality for a wonderful evening.
- Agentur, Marketing & Event Management/Consultancy. Managing Directors Britta Decker and Marijana Joerder contracted to manage delegate registrations, public relations and marketing. Their professional expertise and willingness to work outside their contract gave the Conference the professional edge that raised it to the highest level. Our thanks to them for their invaluable assistance.
- The Darwin Convention Centre – General Manager, Malu Barrios, and staff worked closely with our committee to ensure the best outcome for the Conference, she regarded the OAA Conference as a prestigious event. The Gala Annual Dinner was an outstanding example of international standard food, wine and service.
- The National Committee of the Association – Deputy National Chairman Bill Galvin OAM liaised between the National and NT Conference Committees throughout the year. As Conference Chairman I valued his experience and support.



- National President The Hon Shane Stone AC, PGDK, QC - During his three year term as President, Shane has focused on raising awareness in the community about the Order of Australia Awards. He raised this to a new level at the National Conference when he initiated an unprecedented program of table sponsors whose financial contributions allowed us to invite over 200 community leaders as guests to the Annual Dinner. The result was an outstanding success due to his concentrated efforts. My heartfelt thanks to these wonderful Sponsors. Details of sponsors and financial results are presented by Treasurer Michael Martin in this Newsletter.



Over 400 people attended the Annual Dinner of the Association. Three Foundation Scholarships were Awarded. Guests were welcomed by the One Mob aboriginal dance group and during the dinner by the light hearted music of the Rhondalla Band.

The guest of honor was Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO, the Administrator of the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, due to a late apology by the Governor General. Her Honour the Honorable Sally Thomas AM, Administrator of the Northern Territory was also in attendance. Prof Bashir was given a trumpet fanfare especially composed for the occasion by Nora Lewis AM. The special ambience of the evening, excellent food, wine, music, formalities, flowers and a sense of friendship and community made it a night to remember.



Northern Territory members of our association can be proud that they hosted a National Annual Conference, the first to be held in the Northern Territory, one that will long be remembered as (we think) the best ever.

Wendy James OAM
NT National Conference Chairman.

Financial Benefits of the National Conference being held in Darwin

A report by Secretary/Treasurer

One of the reasons that the Executive Committee sought out the Annual conference in Darwin was that it perceived an excellent opportunity to raise some revenue. Obviously as proud Territorians we wanted to show case Darwin but this was a good opportunity for some financial gain.

Having looked at previous conferences it was obvious that the only avenue that would have a significant contribution to a major profit was sponsorship which had not been pursued in most previous conferences. We were asked to keep the registration at no more than \$100 so there was little profit there.

The NT Branch was lucky to have our National President and Territorian Shane Stone committed to raising significant sponsorship for the benefit of our Branch. As he had dual roles it was agreed that moneys raised would be shared between the National office and NT Branch. This arrangement certainly helped defray the National expenses and was a "win - win" situation. Shane then developed a sponsorship program to attract a Platinum Sponsor, Gold Sponsors and then Silver Sponsors. Other sponsors were found with product.

Xstrata Mines proved a very generous platinum sponsor and donated \$25 000. Our Gold sponsors were Paspaley Pearls (Nick , Roslyn and Marilyn), Powertrans (Jim and Jenny Cooper), North West Constructions (Joe and Sarina Randazzo) and Coombes Property Trust (Peter and Helena Coombes). Our Silver sponsors were Michael Hannon's Buslink and Charles Darwin University. In addition, Nicholas Paspaley AC also donated \$45,000 to the Order of Australia Foundation to fund the first Indigenous scholarship at CDU. Another first for the Territory!!!

Sponsorships received helped the Branch put on perhaps the best-ever Conference. Certainly the Annual dinner, which attracted 402 members and guests, was outstanding. Total sponsorship received was \$45 000. In addition some 20 companies paid \$1300 for a table at the dinner and donated 6 seats at each table which were filled by local NT community representatives. The overall profit for the NT Branch was some \$15 000 which provides a capacity to undertake some good community work in the future. A major use of these funds will be the promotion of the Order throughout the Territory communities.

Michael Martin OAM
Secretary/Treasurer

Nominations for Awards

Attached to this Newsletter is a flyer produced by the Association's President, the Hon Shane Stone AO, QC, which outlines the details of the Australian Honours System. Please use it when nominating people for awards, to educate others about the system and its awards, and how to make nominations for awards.

For information and assistance contact:-

Wendy James OAM, 16 Allen St., Fannie Bay NT 0820

Tel: 8981 2715 Email: wendy-james@bigpond.com

Vale -Nan Giese AO

The Northern Territory was saddened by the death of Nanette Giese AO. She had contributed enormously to the life of the Territory in education, theatre, music and the arts. She was also a member of the Order of Australia Association for many years. The following is a review of her life that appeared in The Australian, May 22nd.

ONE of the champions of education and the arts in the Northern Territory, Nancy (Nan) Giese AO, OBE, MBE, doctor of education, honoris causa, has passed away.

Mrs Giese, who was 90, played a pivotal role in carving out of the Top End's harsh environment a community that had access to higher



education and a vibrant cultural life.

"From the time she arrived in Darwin in 1954 Nan was dedicated to building our community and she achieved an enormous amount for the people of the NT," said Barney Glover, vice-chancellor of Charles Darwin University. "Nan spent almost six decades working tirelessly as a pioneering spirit in a fledgling community. It is the framework she contributed to building on which Darwin has flourished."

While active in the arts, perhaps the former teacher's most significant contributions were in the field of education. At the time she arrived in Darwin, Mrs Giese found locals were forced to send their children to southern or eastern states to complete their schooling to matriculation level. At the time Darwin was without any higher education facilities. She saw the Territory's best and brightest with no option but to leave and perhaps never to return. She became deeply involved in establishing a post-school education sector in Darwin, including the Darwin Community College and as commissioner of the NT Vocational Training Commission.

Following a period as chair of the council of the Darwin Institute of Technology in the 1980s, Mrs Giese was appointed the inaugural deputy chancellor of the Northern Territory University. In 1993 she succeeded Austin Asche to become its second chancellor (which became Charles Darwin University in 2003), which she held for 10 years. During this time, Mrs Giese was instrumental in the establishment of the university's extensive art collection and fostering its musical life. In 2009 she was bestowed the title Emeritus Chancellor in recognition of her long service in university governance.

The extent of her contributions to the Northern Territory are also reflected in the honours she received: in 1970 she was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire; in 1977 appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire; in 1997 appointed Officer of the Order of Australia; in 2003 received the Centenary Medal and the Administrator's Medal, and in 2004 was awarded a Doctor of Education, honoris causa from the university.

"Nan remained vitally involved in the life of the university right up until her unexpected death. There are very few people who could match her in terms of dedication to creating a strong community in the Territory," Professor Glover said. "She not only was a person who has left an invaluable legacy for this community, but was also a truly delightful woman and an inspiration to so many. She will be deeply missed."

Next Social Function (Incorporating the AGM)

The Branch Committee has agreed to hold a social event on 23 October which will incorporate the **Annual General Meeting**. A formal notice will be sent with a proposed agenda in the next month but please note your diaries.

Jim Cooper AM has graciously offered his personal antique car museum for this occasion and I ask that you note your diary

Details are:

Date	Tuesday 23 October from 5pm to 7pm
Venue	Auto Evolution, Lot 1666 (near No. 110) Coonawarra Road, Winnellie

RSVP to Michael Martin at martinnt@bigpond.net.au or ring 0401 112 794 by 9 October

Refreshments will be provided by the Committee

Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarship Awards

Each year the Foundation, in consultation with the scholarship donors, offers scholarships to certain tertiary institutions who then call for nominations. The candidates are assessed for their potential as future leaders in their field of study and their community involvement as well as their need for financial assistance.

Scholarships to the value of \$40,000 were awarded to three inspiring young people at the gala dinner during the Annual Conference. They were:

Alexandra Grigg of Uraidla, SA, enrolled in a double degree of Bachelor of Economics with Bachelor of Finance at the Adelaide University;

James Broinowsky of Battery Point, Tasmania, enrolled in the Degree of Viticulture and Oenology at the University of Adelaide; AND

Karynne Lake, of Farrar, a suburb of Palmerston in the Northern Territory, enrolled in the Bachelor of Social Work at Charles Darwin University



The NT Branch of the Association is very proud of the fact that another of the twenty seven scholarships so far awarded by the Foundation has finally gone to a Territorian. This is the second. Karynne already has a Bakers Certificate from the TAFE in Adelaide and a Hospitality Certificate through the Australian Hotel Association, Queensland. She was formerly an Assistant Manager of a cafe in Katherine, NT then moved to be a receptionist at a Distribution Centre in Broome then became a Support Worker in a Women's Refuge in the same town.

She aspires to work in child protection with special emphasis on the placement of foster children. As a mother of two children she is passionately embracing her Social Work Degree course because she can combine her life experiences with sound theory.

*Funding for Karynne's scholarship was generously donated by:
Nicholas Paspaley AC*

From the Editor

This is my last newsletter.

I have supported my wife in her activities with the Order of Australia Association during the time she was a committee member then President of the Branch and while she was Chair of the 2012 Conference Committee. During all of those periods she did a remarkable job and I am very proud of her. The production of very irregular newsletters was just one way in which I helped but now I have decided to quit,

The Branch is now seeking a willing replacement.

Earl James

A Montage of photos from the Annual Dinner



Master of Ceremonies Andy Bryun AM



National Chairman A/Com Peter McDermott AM and conference Orator the Hon Austin Asche AC QC



National Chairman and wife Heather, Wendy James. Her Hon the Administrator, Josephone Stone AM and President Shane Stone AC QC



MC Andy warmly greeting the Lord Mayor of Darwin Katrina Fong Lim



Prof Bashir and the NT Administrator The Hon Sally Thomas



Mandawuy Yunupingu and wife Yalmay



Mr Denis Hearne, representing Xtrata, a Platinum Sponsor of the Foundation



The Board of the Foundation



Wendy James and Prof Bashir



Daphne Read AO, Val Asche AM and Nora Lewis OAM



The Guest of Honour leaving the Dinner accompanied by President Shane Stone and Chair of the Foundation Mr Hugh Morgan