

THE ORDER



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'Stupid leap' gives bursary winner and Aboriginal kids a new start

Former Launceston fitter-machinist Nick Clements, seen here with Aboriginal friends, jumped into a new life in more ways than one when he broke many bones in what he calls a stupid leap into a lake. Now he is using his Order of Australia Association Foundation bursary to study for a doctorate of philosophy. His passion for history and Aboriginal studies prompted him to do a short thesis on the underlying causes of truancy in Aboriginal education, which took him to Alice Springs for three months. **Read his story on Page 3**

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Fun and games at the Games



Photo: Vicki Jones

Who will forget the triumph of the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne? Apart from Australia's overwhelming sporting performances, the City of Melbourne, the volunteers and the spectators combined to make it an event to treasure.



Maurice Gleeson OAM, president of Blind Sports Victoria with the Commonwealth Games baton.



Champions on and off the track: A former Governor of Victoria, John Landy AC CVO MBE, with South Australian Governor Marjorie Jackson-Nelson AC CVO MBE at Melbourne's Government House Commonwealth Games reception. They were the last two baton runners at the Games' opening ceremony.

From left: The President of Melbourne Cricket Club, David Jones AO OBE, chats with Ronald Walker AC CBE, chairman of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Corporation, and Sir James Gobbo AC CVO at the Victorian Premier's reception, held at the MCC at the Games' closing ceremony.



An accidental success story

The Order of Australia Association Foundation awards prizes to deserving young Australians in postsecondary vocational training.

Who qualifies and what do they do with the opportunity? Here's the story of a 23-year-old student of Launceston, Tasmania.

By Nick Clements

Three years ago I was working as a fitter/machinist at a small workshop near Launceston. I had completed my trade two years earlier (which I began straight out of high school), after which I went to North America for a year, back-packing and working in the ski fields of the Canadian Rockies.

I was only three months away from going to Africa with a local aid group to work in medical clinics in Tanzania and Kenya when I had my accident and all that came to a dreadful halt.

On November 30, 2003, while spending the weekend water-skiing with friends, I made the fateful (stupid) decision to jump off a ledge into the lake. I hit the water badly and the rest is history.

I broke four vertebrae — one of which has been replaced with a titanium cage — and spent the next three months lying down in a brace. Told I could not return to my trade, I began pondering my future.

I had never entertained tertiary education seriously; nor did I think I'd ever be accepted but, by chance, a friend of a friend discovered that I was eligible. With few alternatives, I applied and was accepted.

From the very beginning I sensed that I might have stumbled on my destiny. Having never written an essay or sat for an exam, I found myself topping most of my classes. Not only that — to my surprise and despite the daunting work load I was really enjoying studying.

I pursued social work initially but soon found my true loves — history and philosophy.

I received the bulk email about



Nick Clements: *The bursary has given me the confidence and the financial means to pursue a career that I would never have imagined.*

the Order of Australia Association Foundation bursary at the end of my first year but deleted it on the assumption that I could never win anything that amazing. After being hounded by a friend I applied and even got a first-round interview but, when I was told on Christmas Eve that I had won, I learned that I had been granted the award for three reasons:

my work with a local voluntary organisation called *Time Out*, which provides a place where suicidal youths stay with a pair of befrienders who simply listen to their problems and ensure their comfort and safety; because of my disability, which has made working extremely difficult; and because of my results at school and first-year uni.

The \$15,000 a year has made life much easier; I can't begin to explain.

I have been able to reduce my work hours significantly and to afford ergonomic aids and specialist treatment and even to move to Alice Springs for three months to do a short thesis on

the underlying causes of truancy in Aboriginal education.

Furthermore, I was allocated a mentor, retired doctor of psychology Kalev Kruup. Kalev lives in Hobart and we meet every few months for a chat and some fine Estonian finger food. We hit it off straight way. His friendship and example are invaluable.

Moreover, the bursary has given me the confidence and the financial means to pursue a career that I would never have imagined.

I hope to complete my PhD (in which I'd like to incorporate my passions for history and Aboriginal studies) in the next several years, after which I'd like to lecture at tertiary level. To date I am maintaining a high-distinction average in all subjects and feel well on track to succeeding in my goals.

None of this would have been possible without the bursary, so I owe a debt of gratitude to the Foundation and all those who contributed financially to what has been no less than a godsend.

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

Summary of Bursaries 2004–05

Year	Award	Awardee	Course of Study	Tertiary Institution	Mentor
2004	Bursary	Rahul Khubchandani	Engineering and Commerce	Uni of WA	Mr Dennis Glennon AO
	Bursary	Felicia Ang	Commerce and Science	Uni of Melbourne	Prof. Adrienne Clarke AC
	Bursary	Natalie Rainger	Graduate Medical Degree	Uni of Sydney	Dr John Yu AC
2005	Bursary	Melissa Bowtell	Occupational Therapy	Uni of Queensland	Dr Cherrell Hirst AO
	Bursary	Nicholas Clements	Arts	Uni of Tasmania	Dr Karlev Kruup OAM
	Bursary	Jason Ford	Advanced Dip. Eng. (Civil)	Victoria Uni	John B Laurie AC
	Bursary	Andrew Johnson	Cert. Arts Applied Design	Victoria Uni	Harold Mitchell AO
	Bursary	Emily Bond	Cert. Animal Technology	Victoria Uni	Prof. Wayne Morrison AM

Just how 'un-Australian' are Australians?

It's "just not cricket" was a phrase that had meaning about 50 years ago when the behaviour of cricketers was of such an exemplary standard that any breach of good manners was deemed to have fallen below the pinnacle.

How times have changed.

"It's not the done thing" was a phrase my grandmother, Maud, used frequently, both to educate me in what was "the done thing" and as a commentary on the rest of the world's failure to behave in a way acceptable to her.

There is, today, an increasing and sinister use of the word "un-Australian", a direct adaptation of the late US Senator Joe McCarthy's Senate Committee on Un-American Activities. McCarthy's context for its use was any vague suspicion that an American had given comfort in thought, word or deed to communism in general and communists in particular. Among his more bizarre accusations in 1953 was one that former President Harry Truman was un-American by "aiding" many suspected communists.

I say the use of "un-Australian" by several politicians is sinister because it suggests that the behaviour they don't like is in some way subversive rather than simply behaviour of which they don't approve at the time.

There is a difference and it can be measured to some extent by the change in a range of behaviours over the years.

Forty-six years ago, as a new arrival in Australia, I was warned to be wary of Italians and Greeks. There appeared to be quite a lot of them in Adelaide from my casual observations on daily forays

By Ian Mathews AM

from the migrant hostel camp where my wife and I were living briefly. As far as I could tell, though, they seemed industrious, polite and brought with them a wonderful variety to an otherwise staid Australian diet. I asked my informant how dangerous were these Mafioso and their Greek equivalents.

"Mate," he confided, surprised at the question, "they work at weekends." This "un-Australian" behaviour was noticeable in the Adelaide of the 1960s where shops shut at midday on Saturday, petrol stations closed on Sundays, and to get a drink on Sundays you had to be a "traveller" and sign a little green chit.

In those days it was un-Australian for workers not to be members of a trades union. Now its almost un-Australian to join one.

Certainly criticism of the royal family in the '60s would have been regarded as "un-Australian" some time before republicanism found its tottery feet and at a time when there was serious consideration given to calling our prospective dollar coin the "royal".

Of more moment, it would have been "un-Australian" to have tampered with the white Australia policy, which had shaped the country, so we were told, since Federation. Nowadays it would be "un-Australian" to suggest a reversion, although several politicians flirt with sanitised variations of "the good old days".

There was little hint of such outdated prejudices when Australia opened its heart to the boat people fleeing what

was then South Vietnam. Indeed, these asylum seekers were welcomed, helped and integrated into Australian society where they first became a new wave of restaurateurs and their children have become respected doctors, lawyers and other professionals.

Ironically, what would have been deemed "un-Australian" in the 1970s — locking up asylum seekers some for years — has become standard practice for the past few years.

That's the problem with the term "un-Australian" — it tends to change as Australia changes. It would certainly be both illegal and "un-Australian" not to count aborigines in the census after the 90 per cent vote in favour of their being included as a result of the 1967 referendum. Less certain today is how "un-Australian" it would be to spend a fraction of our gambling expenditure or military spending to lift the indigenous population above Third World status.

"Un-Australian" was banded about after the Cronulla Beach riots earlier this year. This was largely because the compound word carries with it the implication that some foreign taint has caused the criticised behaviour.

The reality is, however, that whatever happens in Australia — riots, biases, drinking habits and behaviour on the sports arena — is Australian. Nothing that happens in this country is un-Australian. All we can hope to do is improve the behaviour.

Ian Mathews is a former editor and editor-in-chief of *The Canberra Times*. He is editor of *UNity*, the national publication of the United Nations Association of Australia.

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berg, Townsville, Far North Queensland & Torres

Strait Islands Group, Rockhampton

South Australia

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Tasmania North-Western, Northern, Southern

Victoria

Barwon, Cent. H'lands, Goulburn Valley & North East,

Loddon Campaspe, Gippsland, Mornington Peninsula,

Eastern Suburbs.

Western Australia

Great Southern (Albany), Lower South West

(Bunbury)

Northern Territory

Alice Springs

Conference leads to planning for future of the Association

By Neil R Conn AO
National Chairman

From a national perspective, the highlight of the last few months has undoubtedly been the national conference in Perth.

Our Western Australian colleagues, led ably by conference organiser David Wilcox AM, are to be congratulated on putting together an outstanding event.

Amongst many pleasant memories for me would be the moving multifaith observance in the chapel at Trinity College and its clear message of tolerance and respect.

Another would be the official dinner amongst the magnificent surroundings and soaring organ music of Winthrop Hall at the University of Western Australia.

Yet another would be the thoughtful and provocative oration by Sir Guy Green AC KBE CVO [see page 9], delivered in the equally inspiring surroundings of St George's Cathedral.

he concluding lunch cruise along the Swan River made a sparkling finale to a great four days.

At the annual general meeting, members were treated to an eloquent and motivating address by Sir Charles Court AK KCMG OBE on your Foundation.

We will be circulating Sir Charles's message in the near future because he captured in simple but persuasive terms — he's lost none of his renowned political skills! — the reasons why so many of us believe this should be a central activity of our organisation.

Not the only activity, I assure you, since fellowship and local activities are still core responsibilities of the association right around Australia and overseas, but one which can unite us in a national task.

A subcommittee of the national board has been thinking hard about how the future of the Foundation can be assured, and I hope to be able to report back to you soon on what the board concludes that we should recommend to members.

Similarly, the subcommittee pondering possible strategic directions for the Association has made considerable progress sorting out the issues.

I know that many of you are concerned about these matters, so watch this space!

Changing of the guard



Present and past directors of the OAA at the National Conference dinner in Perth in February. Back row, from left: ACDRE Peter McDermott AM CSC, ACT chairman; Bryce Saint OAM, SA chairman; Mick Davis AM, Queensland vice-chairman; Wolfgang Grimm AM, NSW chairman; Sir Guy Green AC KBE CVO, national president; David Wilcox AM, immediate past chairman, Western Australia.

Front row, from left: Alasdair McGregor OAM, immediate past chairman, NT; Jim Leedman AM, national secretary; Colleen Thurgar AM, national membership secretary; Colonel John Wertheimer AM RFD, Victorian chairman; Dr Neil Conn AO, national chairman; Dina Browne AO, deputy national chairman; Colonel Rod Willox AM RFD ED, WA chairman; Wendy James OAM, NT chairman; Clarrie Byrne OAM, Tasmanian chairman.

Active in Tasmania



The conveners of two fundraising events for the OAA Foundation held in Launceston, Mrs Pat Igoe AM, chairman of the Northern Regional Group, Tasmanian branch, and Mrs Faith Layton AM, immediate past chairman, with David Jones AO OBE, President of the Melbourne Cricket Club, who was guest speaker at one of the events. A Dutch auction raised \$3000 for the foundation.



A group of Tasmanian members at Government House, Hobart, on January 27 for an event in support of the Order of Australia Association Foundation.

SYDNEY WELCOMES NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2007



The Order of Australia Association 2007 Conference, to be held in Sydney from February 22 to 25, is already generating enormous interest and support from members across the nation and overseas.

Conference chairman Bill Galvin OAM has enlisted the support of national industries together with a dedicated Order of Australia Association (New South Wales) committee, to ensure that members enjoy their time in Sydney.

Wide range of tours

The program of events, which has been distributed, includes a wide range of tours to complement the conference. The city is Australia's iconic face to the world — its international visitor flag-bearer. More than half of all international visitors come to Sydney — and two thirds of international business visitors.

According to the International Visitor Survey, seven of the top 10 most popular attractions in Australia are in the City of Sydney area, headed by Sydney shopping and the Opera House.

Whether it's walking or relaxing on a harbour ferry, window-shopping (or serious shopping) or strolling along a beach, Sydney offers the lot.

Some of its historic highlights include:
In 1817 the Bank of NSW opens for business in a house leased from Mary Reibey in Macquarie Place. The first deposit, of £50, has been accepted three days earlier from Sgt Jeremiah Murphy and the first loan, of £25, is made to

What can members expect from the history of Sydney? Where has Sydney come from? – Milestones for members to visit in February.

Owen Connor, of Minto.

In 1841 Isaac Nathan, the first musician with a European reputation to settle in Australia, arrives in Sydney and later opens an academy of singing in Pitt Street, Sydney.

In 1876 the western railway line from Sydney to Bathurst is opened, allowing the Blue Mountains to be crossed by train. The main construction feat is the zigzag section near Mount Victoria, built at a cost of £25,000 a mile. Tours are available from Sydney daily.

In 1883 Burns Philp and Co. Ltd is formed by the amalgamation of the various businesses of James Burns and Robert Philp. Burns Philp & Co. becomes one of the largest maritime companies in Sydney. Its former headquarters, in **Bridge Street**, is a landmark heritage building, designed by Arthur and George McCredie and constructed in 1898–1901.

The McCredies are the same architects who design the white ceramic-faced Mark Foy's building (now Downing Centre Court Building).

These two contrasting buildings demonstrate clearly the versatility and eclecticism of this Sydney architectural

firm and are worth a visit by members in nearby Bridge Street.

Diverse and colourful

The City of Sydney has a diverse ethnic mix, half of its residents having been born overseas. Almost 30 per cent of the resident population speaks a language other than English — and there are restaurants to match. Apart from English, the most common languages spoken at home are Chinese, Indonesian, Greek and Russian.

More than a quarter of residents attend an educational institution, including just under one in five of those aged 15 and over undertaking a post-school course. There are 18,736 residents attending either a TAFE or university, nearly 9,000 full-time.

Ultimo is home to the main campus of the University of Technology and the largest TAFE in NSW, and to International Grammar School. The Sydney radio and television studios of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation are located in Ultimo too, as is Sydney's Powerhouse Museum.

The City of Sydney Local Government Area covers approximately 26.15 square kilometres. This includes the former City of Sydney, comprising the central business district; the historic **Rocks**, where settlement began; **Millers Point's** two-tiered park, Clyne Reserve, overlooks Sydney Harbour and is landscaped with native gardens.

Stunning views of Sydney Harbour and the Harbour Bridge are available from



the Sydney Observatory. The area has its upmarket pockets, like Observatory Hotel, on Kent Street, but it is also home to the traditional street-corner pubs and the shabby terraced houses on the hill are reminiscent of the raffish atmosphere once typical of the whole area. The peaceful, leafy streets are a delight to wander in.

It is an area steeped in history and includes the Colonial House Museum, the Hero of Waterloo pub, the Garrison (or

Holy Trinity) Church and the volunteer-run Garrison Gallery Museum

Pymont, with its 100-year-old bridge, has been transformed from a freight hub into a leisure, entertainment and commercial venue, giving part of the harbour back to the people of Sydney.

The new Darling Harbour opened in 1988 and Pymont Bridge's swing span was restored to full working order. A new addition, the Monorail, runs above.

The Sze Yup Temple and Joss House is to be found in Victoria Road, in historic **Glebe**. The temple was built by immigrants from the area known as Sze Yup, in the province of Kwongtung, China. This is one of only four such temples in Australia.

Woolloomooloo, home of the old wool wharves, is now the place to be seen for eateries of all sorts — quick as well as upmarket; exciting **Kings Cross** with its colourful nightlife needs no introduction; and adjacent **Rushcutters Bay** is home to yachtsfolk — harbour and deep-sea.

Of course, every Sydney suburb has its history, its special features, its eateries and characters. The fun is in discovering them.



Have you applied for your official Order of Australia Association plaque? See the rear of the address sheet of *The Order* for more details and the order form. The sale of this plaque assists the Order of Australia Association Foundation's fund-raising.

Cause and effect: donations translate to action

A former National President of The Order of Australia Association and former Premier of Western Australia, Sir Charles Court AK KCMG OBE, and Rahul Khubchandani, who received an inaugural Order of Australia Association Foundation Bursary in 2004, told members at the Association's annual meeting in Perth in February what a difference the Foundation can make.

During his term as national president [1986–1989] Sir Charles Court was concerned that the Association at both state and national levels “seemed to be in danger of being seen as something of a social and inward-looking activity of a rather selfish nature”.

He recalled there were “a number of valiant efforts by individuals and groups to undertake projects which gave us a chance to remind the wider community that we were more than a gathering of people who had been recipients of awards under the Order of Australia.

“Rather were we a gathering of people who had achieved and been worthy of their awards within the Order and who wanted to continue doing meaningful things within the community and more than be just a social gathering of people honoured within the Order.

“It was also my great ambition during my term as national president to get people to understand that receiving an award within the Order was not in any way the end of one's activities in the community. Rather was it an inspiration to go on and do more and do it even better.”

He welcomed the later decision to create the foundation, an award of a national character which would be directed at young Australians and in the field of education.

Drawing attention to mentors for each award winner from within the Order, Sir Charles made the point that the foundation does not seek to compete with Rhodes scholarships or Monash but seeks examples where an award could make a monumental difference to the recipient.

“It is vital that all state branches and their members take an active interest in the foundation, its work and its awards and results achieved by awardees,” he said. “Above all, individual members can help through the contribution of financial donations to the foundation — which are tax-deductible.”

Challenging members, he said, “Like all these things, if everyone contributes consistently, even in a modest way, the end result can be tremendous.

“It is something for all of us and not something that can be left to the famous Australian ‘dirty dozen’ that my dear old dad used to often refer to. He believed that, in far too many things, these small groups are left to do all the work and carry all the burden while others go merrily on their way — ever ready to criticise but not do their share of the work involved.

“It seemed an odd saying when I first heard it as a little chap, but I soon learnt

the truth of it in real life. Let us have a good hard look at ourselves and make sure it does not apply to the Order of Australia Association.

“If you find any pockets of it, don't be afraid to give the offenders a good old ‘dig in the ribs’ — to use another famous old saying. In fact, in preparing for these comments, I have already reminded myself it's about time I sent another cheque!”

Rahul Khubchandani, now in the middle of his course studying electrical/electronic engineering, told the conferees, “If there's one thing I've learnt from my interaction with members of the Association, it is that there's more to life than what you learn in university.”

He volunteered at the beginning of the 2005 academic year for the Renewable Energy Vehicle — a 100% student-run engineering project that brings together students from multiple engineering and non-engineering disciplines, all working towards a common goal.

“Our team aims to demonstrate the viability of renewable energy technology in modern-day transport systems, by designing and constructing a full-sized car, powered exclusively by a hydrogen Proton Exchange Membrane fuel cell,” he said.

Ultimately all the energy used to fuel this vehicle would be derived from the sun. The goal was to drive the fully functioning REV around Australia in July.

With nearly 100 students involved, each individual had a small but key role.

“My role amidst all of this lies with the hydrogen team — the group responsible for designing and constructing the car's fuel cell,” he said.

“The practical hands-on experience I have gained from it, and the knowledge

that I'm working towards something revolutionary that will potentially benefit society as a whole, is incredibly rewarding; yet it is a research project and somewhat removed from real-world engineering.”

Working during the summer vacation with consulting engineers Connell Wagner, he said, he had “never before ... faced such a steep learning curve — yet I have valued every day of it.

“... University study doesn't teach you how industry operates, and that's one thing I am definitely learning at Connell Wagner.”

On another project, he was given the role of design engineer for an upgrade of a Bluescope Steel factory production line safety system in WA.

“The best part of this last project is that I wasn't just sitting at a desk working on my computer — I was getting on-site experience too, being able to follow the project through from initiation to the final testing and commissioning stages of the new electrical design,” he said.

He is now back at university, majoring in both electrical engineering and commerce, with little spare time “but these experiences I've spoken of have helped me learn to balance life matters with study”.

THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION MERCHANDISE



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REMINDER – MEMBERS ONLY MAY WEAR TIES AND SCARVES

The rule of law — historians challenged

Although most Australians would cite democracy as the most important characteristic of the way we are governed, an even more important element is the rule of law, says the President of the Order of Australia Association, Sir Guy Green AC KBE CVO.

He was giving the Order of Australia 2006 Oration at the national conference in Perth in February.

He said, in part, “Despite its fundamental significance, the rule of law is given little prominence in our society. [Although] the operation of the political system is given extensive coverage, the ramifications and the application of the rule of law are given much less attention in the media or in the general community.

“That failure to recognise the priorities at the most fundamental level of our system epitomises the theme I would like to explore in this oration: a widespread lack of understanding of the full significance of our legal and constitutional system and its institutions.

“To begin with, consider the tendency to blur the distinction between government and Parliament. In media reports and popular usage the words ‘government’ and ‘Parliament’ are routinely interchanged. ...

“I recognise that the blurring of the distinction between government and Parliament is partly a reflection of the fact that a government with a majority in the lower house of Parliament usually has the capacity to determine what the Parliament does; but that is not always the case and, in any event, constitutionally the distinction is crucial.

“A serious consequence of not recognising the distinction between Parliament and government is the diminution of the role and authority of Parliament as a distinct and important institution of our system. That reduces its significance as a component of our political system but, more seriously, it can also erode its position as the supreme law-making authority in our system. That is especially the case when a government decides that it will no longer enforce a particular Act of Parliament.”

Acknowledging that instances were rare, Sir Guy said it was a matter of serious concern that they occurred at all. He went on:

“It is also a matter of concern that, when such decisions do become public, they do not usually attract much comment; but they should — a decision by a government that it proposes not to enforce a particular statute should be greeted with public outrage because it is plainly unconstitutional. Section 1 of the Bill of Rights (1689), which is now entrenched as part of Australia’s constitutional heritage, provides *That the pretended powers of suspending of laws or the execution of laws by regall*



Sir Guy Green AC KBE CVO

authority without consent of Parlyament is illegall.

Sir Guy gave examples of ministers’ and governments’ suspending statutes to suit policies of the day despite their being unconstitutional. He went on:

“I do not necessarily question the motives of governments [that] make announcements of this kind; in most cases they are actuated by pragmatic rather than seriously improper considerations but that does not alter the fact that, whenever governments decide that they will not enforce a law or that they will take some action [that] has the effect of defeating the operation of a statute, they display a disturbing degree of contempt for or ignorance of a fundamental principle of our constitutional system. ...”

On the issue of whether Australia should sever its links with the Crown — “the so-called republican debate” — Sir Guy pointed out that most commentators had not appreciated that amending the Commonwealth Constitution would have had no effect at all on the constitutions of the states or the offices of their governors. Most believed a “yes” vote for a republic would affect the states automatically. He went on:

“That revealed a failure to appreciate a core characteristic of the Australian federal union, which came into existence in 1901. This is enshrined in Section 106 of the Commonwealth Constitution, which provides that, upon federation the constitution of each state will continue until altered in accordance with the Constitution of that State.

“In other words, Section 106 affirmed that each state is a self-governing polity which has the sole responsibility for determining what its constitutional arrangements will be and, of course, that includes the right to decide what sort of head of state [it wants]. ...”

He added that if the Commonwealth or the states had decided to sever their links with the Crown, “All that severing our links with the Crown would have meant is that governors-general and governors would no longer be appointed by or represent the Queen; but the fact that governors-general or governors ceased to represent the Queen would not of itself have required any significant change to our system.

“That follows from the fact that virtually all the constitutional and legal functions performed by governors-general and governors are derived from Australian or state law, not from the fact that they represent the Queen. That is a very important aspect of our system and a very important aspect of our sovereignty as a nation but the republican debate revealed that very many people were not aware of it.”

Sir Guy drew attention also to “... a widespread failure to appreciate that the maintenance of an independent judiciary, which is essential for the maintenance of the rule of law, is in turn heavily dependent upon the maintenance of an independent legal profession. ...”

He questioned also what he called the marginalisation of the law in Australia by the neglect of many Australian historians.

“There are at least 60 recognised scholarly general histories of Australia but, amongst the stories about convicts, politics, governors, gold, squatters, bushrangers and all the rest of the iconic themes beloved of Australian historians, there is hardly a mention of the development of our laws and legal institutions. Given the major role [that] they have played in shaping Australian society, that is a truly remarkable omission,” he said.

Full text is available from the National Secretary. Phone & fax: (02) 6273 0322 <oaasecretariat@ozemail.com.au>

Replacing Order of Australia lapel pins

The Association is *not permitted* to supply replacements for Order of Australia lapel pins, or replace lost or misplaced Order of Australia insignia. All requests for such items should be directed to:

**The Director of Honours
Honours Secretariat
Government House,
CANBERRA ACT 2600**

Learning from land-mine victims and doctors

In a recent postcard to members of the Order of Australia Association board, 2004 bursary awardee Natalie Rainger writes from Cambodia, "Over the summer holidays I have been volunteering in a children's hospital in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The practical experience I have gained here will be invaluable when I return to commence my paediatric term in Australia in March. The hospital was founded by volunteers in '98 in an attempt to help the many children affected by land mines and the poverty that is pervasive here. I have learnt a lot from the doctors here and have been humbled by the innate courage and integrity of the people here despite their struggles.

"I would never have been able to fulfil this dream without the support of my ... Foundation scholarship. I want to express my thanks for your continued support and faith in my potential."

Historian wanted

The Order of Australia Association seeks a voluntary historian to research our past, collate materials, organise our archives. He/she will need some computer skills. Living in Canberra an advantage but not essential. Contact the National Secretary, The Order of Australia Association Limited, Old Parliament House, King George Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600; ph 02 6273 0322; fax 02 6273 0041; email oaasecretariat@ozemail.com.au

Text book for republicans — and others

Head of State: the Governor-General, the Monarchy, the Republic and the Dismissal
By David Smith KCVO AO
Published by Macleay Press, Sydney
[ISBN 1 876492 15 5] RRP \$49.95
pp358
Reviewed by Ian Mathews AM

If — or, indeed, when — Australia becomes a republic, some of the credit will have to go to Sir David Smith, even though he may not appreciate it.

The simple reason is that, devoted as he is to the monarchist cause, he has demonstrated in this book what is so lacking in the campaign for a republic: fact, detail, logic and a willingness to dissect flawed arguments.

Both camps in this debate are long on rhetoric and dodgy assertions. Both sides appeal to the emotions.

David Smith has no hesitation in showing his colours but every assertion, challenge, point of view is backed by solid research — and not a little personal knowledge.

Sir David was Official Secretary to five governors-general which, apart from being head of a department of state, made



Professor David de Kretser AO

Professor David de Kretser AO has been appointed Governor of Victoria. He has been director of the Institute of Reproduction and Development at Monash University since 2002. Born in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in 1939, he settled in Australia in 1949 and was educated at Camberwell Grammar School, University of Melbourne and Monash University.

In addition to holding many senior positions at Monash, he is the recipient of distinguished US awards in the field of endocrinology and in 2001 was named

him privy to the conduct of the nation's affairs — but it is not this confidential knowledge he draws on. Indeed, he is scrupulous in observing the confidences to which his position gave him access. He relies on public information, published documents and personal observation.

He was, for instance, involved intricately in the comings and goings surrounding the dismissal of Prime Minister Whitlam in 1975 and was therefore in a position to challenge the many highly coloured and incorrect "exclusive" reports by senior journalists who were not on the scene at the time.

Although his observations and anecdotes are illuminating and entertaining, the strength of this book is in its detailed analysis of the origins, role and conduct of the office of governor-general. After all, this is the job that, in an Australian republic, is up for grabs, whether it retains the same name, or we coin some other title.

David Smith examines in considerable detail the republican argument that Australia should not have a foreign head of state. Stated baldly, probably most people would agree or at least would prefer that it was the only point of difference between republicans and

People

Victoria's Father of the Year. Married to Janice for 44 years, he has four sons. His recreations are squash, fishing and tennis.

He was made an Officer in the Order of Australia in 2000.

Turkish filmmaker honoured

On his first visit to Turkey as Governor General, His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (Retd) conferred an honorary Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) on Tolga Ornek, a highly regarded Turkish filmmaker.

Mr Ornek wrote, produced, and directed the documentary film *Gallipoli*, launched last year to critical acclaim. Mr Ornek has made a significant contribution to developing greater understanding in Turkey and Australia of the history of the Gallipoli campaign and the experience of ordinary Australians from all sides of the conflict.

He has published the companion book to the film, also called *Gallipoli* and has an extensive private collection of photographs from Gallipoli, some of which now form the basis of the Australian War Memorial's exhibition in the new Gallipoli Peace Park's visitors' centre.

monarchists. As he points out, quoting persuasive sources, the Governor-General is not an invention of Australia's former colonial rulers but a creation of those Australians who drafted, polished and honed our unique constitution.

As a passive republican I would prefer not to be troubled by the many arguments David Smith puts forward with supporting arguments. It's not because I'm necessarily persuaded that I should become a monarchist but because I see the need for somebody — anybody — on the republican side of the fence to match Sir David's exposition.

It is not enough to refer back to arguments aired at the Constitutional Convention 1998 with its grandstanding on both sides, its behind-the-scenes deals and its myopic opinions, to which he refers.

We don't need yet more rhetoric. It is, rather, recognition that for any watershed change in a country's governance, such as the change to a republic, there needs to be a defining benchmark. Sir David has established it.

This book review was first published in *Stand To*, the publication of the national headquarters of the Returned & Services League of Australia.

Members always on the move



After a multifaith observance, part of the national conference in Perth. From left: Professor Geoffrey Bolton, Mr Adis Duderija and Dr Sabina Yasmeen (Muslim), Archbishop Barry Hickey (Catholic), Her Excellency Mrs Jeffrey, His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC, Bishop Brian Kyme (Anglican), Venerable Ajahn Cattamalo (Buddhist), and Rabbi David Freilich OAM.



The Governor-General and Mrs Jeffrey with prefects from Trinity College, Perth, and the organist who took part in the multifaith observance.



Sharing the moment: Executives of both the Order of Australia Association and the Association's Foundation at the Association's annual general meeting in Perth in February. From left: OAA president the Hon. Sir Guy Green AC KBE CVO; OAA Foundation director Mrs Diana Jones AM; OAA chairman Dr Neil Conn AO; the Hon. Sir Charles Court AK KCMG OBE; OAA Foundation treasurer Mr Darvell Hutchinson AM; OAA Foundation bursary awardee 2004 Mr Rahul Khubchandani; OAA Foundation director Mr Harold Clough AO OBE; and OAA Foundation secretary Adjunct Professor Brian O'Keefe AO.

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They went to Perth and loved it



Former Prime Minister the Hon. Gough Whitland AC QC, a founding member of the Order of Australia Association, with the new WA branch chairman, Colonel Rod Willox AM RFD ED, at the OAA reception at Government House, Perth, in February.



The Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC, with the Order of Australia Association president, Sir Guy Green AC KBE CVO, at the Association's reception at Government House, Perth, in February.



At the OAA's annual meeting in Perth in February, from left, Wendy James OAM, new Northern Territory branch chairman; Pamela Peterson, of the OAA's national secretariat; and Alasdair McGregor OAM, immediate past chairman of the branch.



A former Premier of Western Australia, Sir Charles Court AK KCMG OBE, and Lady Court AM MBE, photographed while attending the Order of Australia Association's reception in Perth in February.