



“AUSTRALIAN HONOURS”

“Service Above Self” is second nature to Rotarians. But we all know fellow members who go “above and beyond” in service to their community – and indeed our nation.

They seek no reward beyond mere satisfaction that they have made a difference in the lives of individuals or society in general.

We recognise their commitment by Clubs contributing to our Rotary Foundation or by a District or sometimes an RI Award.

But while many Rotarians have also been honoured by our Nation through the *Order of Australia*, certainly there are others well deserving of recognition – but have never been nominated – or sometimes unsuccessfully. How often have you searched the Australia Day and Queens Birthday Honours List to identify recognised Rotarians? Even for those Rotarians receiving awards, how often do you see the word 'Rotary' mentioned?

That's why an “*Australian Honours Advisory Panel*” has been established under the aegis of the Rotary Institute to “*Encourage the nomination of worthy Australian men and women for the Order of Australia recognition*”.

The Panel will alert, facilitate and advise on the ready availability of *Order of Australia* Honours information – how to access nomination criteria and forms and tips for their effective submission to the Honours Secretariat, and the importance of selecting the most effective referees, in order to assist in maximising potential success - and the level of award.

National panel members are: PDG Len Goodman AO (Convenor); PDG Bob Aiken AM and Noel Trevaskis OAM, RIDE for 2016-18. D9800 Correspondence Liaison Person is PP Bob Slater AM, Rotary Club of Kew, bob_slater1@outlook.com; 0418 317 057

The Panel has set up a new “*Australian Honours*” web page <https://rotaryaustralianhonours.wordpress.com/> or, with appreciation to RDU, an access link from their website. The Panel's web page includes links to the Honours Secretariat official “*It's An Honour*” web site; Eligibility and How to Nominate; Honours Lists; where to seek discrete and confidential advice from Panel members and, where available, from Liaison Members in participating Districts, which have also established a link back to the Panel's site.

The Convenor, PDG Len Goodman, having given service to the *Order of Australia Association* as ACT Branch Chairman and as a member of the National Board, now has an appreciation of Honours procedures and has received invitations to attend Investitures – where one listens in awe to the citations of Australian men and women who give of themselves in voluntary, community service. But there remain many more deserving of such recognition. Here's an opportunity to make that possible.

The procedure for nominating is, at first glance, daunting but should not be a barrier to acknowledging deserving service. Only a percentage are successful, so wording needs to be succinct and point scoring, and time from lodging an application to successful announcement can take 18 months to two years, so planning is critical. Nominations should be kept confidential, and at no stage should the nominee be alerted. Any Rotarian or Club that is considering nominating a Rotarian, or a worthy person recognised by Rotary, should first access the website and then if assistance is required, contact the D9800 Correspondence Liaison Person Bob Slater