



Government House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

9 August 2021

The Governor-General is pleased to announce the following honorary appointments  
and award in the Order of Australia:

#### HONORARY OFFICER (AO) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION

**Senator Roy BLUNT** United States of America  
For distinguished service to Australia's bilateral  
relationship with the United States of America, in  
particular to the joint Free Trade Agreement.

#### HONORARY MEMBER (AM) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION

**Professor Antonella RIEM NATALE** Italy  
For significant service to Australia's bilateral  
relationship with Italy, particularly through the  
promotion of Australian literature internationally,  
and to cultural exchange programs.

#### HONORARY MEDAL (OAM) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION

**Mr David Edwin CREWE** New Zealand  
For service to the performing arts, and to the community of Maleny.

By His Excellency's Command

**Paul Singer MVO**  
Official Secretary to the Governor-General

**APPOINTED AN HONORARY OFFICER (AO)**  
**IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF**  
**AUSTRALIA**

**Senator Roy BLUNT** United States of America  
For distinguished service to Australia's bilateral relationship with the United States of America, in particular to the joint Free Trade Agreement.

A long term advocate of Australian the United States' Congress, Senator Roy Blunt has demonstrated ongoing and consistent support for Australian-US bilateral relations over a sustained period.

One example of his significant contribution was while serving as Republican Whip in the House of Representatives (2003-2009) and his role in setting up and executing the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement (AUSFTA). This work resulted in a unique new visa - the E3 visa - that has enabled highly-skilled Australians to enter and work in the United States of America. As of 2019, in AUSFTA's 15th year of operation, there were 5,275 approved E3 visas.

Arguably, the AUSFTA has made Australia's economic ties with the United States more important and widespread than with any other nation.

Senator Blunt's dedication and support for Australia and its interests has seen him spearhead a powerfully symbolic Senate Resolution that commemorated the Centenary of Mateship - 100 years of Australians and Americans as fighting allies in every major conflict. Similarly, through The Australian American Leadership Dialogue he has provided unique insights on American politics to Australian stakeholders and political leaders. Moreover, he was an establishing member and co-chair of the bipartisan Senate Friends of Australia Caucus (established in March 2017), which has developed into an essential tool for Australia's liaison with the US Congress.

Senator Blunt has focused on deepening, broadening and modernising Australian - US bilateral engagement, including in frontier technologies, national security matters and intelligence cooperation. For many years he hosted rotations of Australian university interns in his office as a means of broadening institutional ties between Congress and young Australians.

Senator Blunt has acted as a confidante to Australian Ambassadors to the United States and held many significant events with Australian ministers and visitors.

**APPOINTED AN HONORARY MEMBER (AM)**  
**IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF**  
**AUSTRALIA**

**Professor Antonella RIEM NATALE** Italy

For significant service to Australia's bilateral relationship with Italy, particularly through the promotion of Australian literature internationally, and to cultural exchange programs.

Professor Antonella Riem Natale's connection with Australia has spanned over three decades. She has dedicated her decorated academic career to studying, promoting and teaching Australian literature and history, with particular focus on Indigenous Australian culture including contributing to over 150 publications.

She has hosted a number of international conferences on Australian themes, writers and cultural aspects, involving many academics, writers and artists from around the world. Moreover, as Dean of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at the International University of Udine, and President of the Italian Deans, she has supported the bilateral people-to-people links between Italy and Australia.

Since 1995, she has facilitated an international cultural-exchange scheme between both Italian and Australian students, establishing formal partnerships with major Australian universities - a commitment that was further consolidated with her appointment as Pro Vice Chancellor in 2014. Within Italy and Europe, she has collaborated in international scholarly networks assiduously promoting Australian literature and culture, translating Australian poems into Italian as well as guiding and assisting many undergraduate, graduate and PhD students in their research and theses relating to Australia.

Also as editor-in-chief of the international online journal *Le Simplegadi*, and Director of the book series *ALL* of Forum University Press, she has been prolific in publishing works of Australian writers' poetry, prose and/or academic work. In February 2018 she was awarded the Center for Partnership Systems (CPS, California) first prize honouring scholars who distinguish themselves in the dissemination of partnership studies in different fields of academic study and research. This inaugural prize was in acknowledgement of her international scholarly work on partnership studies, in particular for the publication of *'A Gesture of Reconciliation: Partnership Studies in Australian Literature'*, 2017. According to the preface written by Professor Emerita Coarl Ann Howels, the book gives voice to Professor Riem Natale's insights into a diverse range of Australian literary texts.

**AWARDED A MEDAL (OAM)**  
**IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF**  
**AUSTRALIA**

**Mr David Edwin CREWE** New Zealand  
For service to the performing arts, and to the community of Maleny.

In 2007, Mr David Crewe moved to Maleny on Queensland's Sunshine Coast and became involved with the Maleny Players, a small community playhouse, eventually becoming President of the group. His involvement developed the group into a thriving community production venue of plays and pantomimes involving constituents of different backgrounds and ages.

He produced and directed plays in Maleny, and toured productions to the surrounding hinterland. These plays encouraged and unearthed local talent, some of whom would never have dreamed of performing on the stage. He wrote several original libretto, collaborating with local artists to put to music, and produced and directed several pantomimes. He also led initiatives to raise \$40,000 from the community and the Caloundra City Council for extensions to the community playhouse and organised volunteer labour and tradesmen to carry out the project. The profits made from his productions were donated to other notable charitable organisations that support veterans and victims of natural disasters around the world.

Mr Crewe has made a notable contribution to the Maleny community, enriching the lives of theatre performers and patrons with his work ethic, supportive manner and professional approach. With his leadership, talent and drive he transformed the Maleny Players and the Maleny Playhouse into prominence in the district as an organisation to harness talents and to encourage amateur performers.