

AUSTRALIAN HONOURS

Australia followed Canada in introducing a distinctive set of honours which closely followed the Canadian system. The Australian honour system began in 1975 with the creation of the Order of Australia to recognize service to the nation or humanity, as well as the Australian Bravery Decorations and the National Medal. (The Australian photographs are used with the permission of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra, Australia.)

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ORDER of AUSTRALIA



The Order was established with five grades on 14 February 1975. The top grade, Knight / Dame was discontinued in 1986. The current recipients retained their titles but no new titles were awarded after this date and all British knighthoods to Australians were also stopped as well. Then on 24 March 2014, Prime Minister Tony Abbott, to the great surprise of many, reintroduced the level of Knight / Dame for Australians of 'extraordinary and pre-eminent achievement and merit' in their service to Australia or to humanity at large. Up to 4 will be appointed each year with the outgoing Governor-General Dame Quentin Bryce and the incoming Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrave (all future Governor-Generals will be the Principal Knight / Dame of the Order) being the first appointments. Prince Philip was also knighted. Unlike New Zealand when they reintroduced Knighthoods, no current Companions automatically became Knights / Dames.

The in 2015, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull reversed the Tony Abbott decision and **removed Knights and Dames from the Order of Australia.**

ORDER of AUSTRALIA

The insignia feature the golden wattle flower as the central emblem; an individual ball of wattle blossom has been developed into a simple convex gold disc featuring rich texture of beads and radiating lines to accentuate the central circlet, which represents the surround sea. The wattle flower and colours of gold are taken from the Commonwealth Coat of Arms. The ribbon is royal blue with three sizes of individual balls of wattle blossom in the continuous down the centre.

Companion of the Order of Australia (AC)

Awarded for eminent achievement and merit of the highest degree in service to Australia or to humanity at large.

Canadian Recipients of the Companion (AC)

Sir Peter Drury Haggerston Gadsden, GBE, AC, formerly the 452nd Lord Mayor of London and born in Mannville, Alberta: "For service to Australian/British relations, particularly as Chairman of the Britain-Australia Bicentennial Committee"

Sir Nigel Hubert BOWEN, AC, KBE, Born in Summerland, B.C. "In recognition of service to Political Services". Formerly attorney-General and Chief Justice of Australia.

Officer of the Order of Australia (AO)

Awarded for distinguished service of a high degree to Australia or to humanity at large.

Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

Awarded for service in a particular locality or field of activity or to a particular group.

Canadian Recipient Member of the Order of Australia (Honorary)

Ms. Anne Raymond, AM (Posthumous)

Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)



The medal, awarded for service worthy of particular recognition, is worn on the left breast. Two Canadians have been gazetted as receiving this medal (Honorary).

Canadian Recipients

1985 Miss Ruth Alexandra Barber, OAM
1999 Mrs. Nancy Mary Melick, OAM

1

¹ Nicole Kidman, AC receives her Companion of the Order of Australia from the Governor General, Major General The Honourable Philip Michael Jeffery, AC, CVO, MC. He wears the Companion of the Order of Australia.

AUSTRALIA BRAVERY DECORATIONS

All awards are for military personnel or civilians. The medals all have the Australian Coat of Arms and the Federation Star and are ensigned with the Crown of St. Edward and are suspended from the ribbon on the left breast from a bar inscribed 'For Courage'. The decorations came into effect on 14 February 1975 and all may be awarded posthumously.

Cross of Valour (CV)

Awarded only for acts of the most conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme peril. The cross is gold containing two cross forms to depict it as a cross among crosses. It has the Australian Coat of Arms and the Federation Star on the obverse and is ensigned with the Crown of St. Edward. It is worn on the left breast suspended from the ribbon by a bar inscribed 'For Valour'. The ribbon is three stripes of magenta, blood red, and magenta; the centre stripe slightly larger than the others representing the colours of blood. Only three have been awarded.



Star of Courage (SC)

Awarded for acts of conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme peril. A six pointed, silver star, with the Australian Coat of Arms and the Federation Star on the obverse, ensigned with the Crown of St. Edward and worn on the left breast suspended from the ribbon by a bar inscribed 'For Bravery'. The ribbon is blood red, magenta, blood red, the magenta being wider than the other two stripes.

Bravery Medal (BM)

Awarded for acts of bravery in hazardous circumstances. It is a bronze, circular medal with the Australian Coat of Arms and the Federation Star on the obverse, ensigned with the Crown of St. Edward and worn on the left breast suspended from the ribbon by a bar inscribed 'For Bravery'. The blood red ribbon has seven thin magenta stripes equally spaced inside the ribbon.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Awarded for other acts of bravery, which are considered worthy of recognition. The Commendation is a silver-gilt badge featuring a sprig of wattle mounted on a blood-red backing ribbon.

Awarded to a Canadian:

2005 Mr. Daniel Derrek Finlay

Group Bravery Citation

Awarded after 5 March 1990 for a collective act of bravery by a group of persons in extraordinary circumstances that is considered worthy of recognition. The Group Citation for Bravery is a bronze and silver rectangular badge, with a multi leaf sprig of wattle representing the nature of group participation - the coming together of the many to create a single entity.



AUSTRALIAN GALLANTRY DECORATIONS

Established in 1991 to recognise acts of gallantry in action by members of the Australian Defence Force and certain other persons.

Victoria Cross for Australia (VC)

Essentially the British Victoria Cross design. It has been awarded 14 times (4 times for Afghanistan). Awarded for most conspicuous gallantry in the presence of the enemy.

Star of Gallantry (SG)

Awarded for acts of great heroism or conspicuous gallantry in action in circumstances of great peril. A gold-plated Commonwealth Star ensigned with the Crown of St. Edward. The obverse has a superimposed central device of a smaller Commonwealth Star, with the inner star surrounded and partly overlapped by stylised flames. The ribbon is dark orange with thin upside-down orange chevrons.

Medal of Gallantry (MG)

Awarded for acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances. The Medal of Gallantry also has the flame motif and the ribbon is light orange with thin upside-down dark orange chevrons.

Commendation for Gallantry

Awarded for other acts of gallantry. Awarded on a dark orange background.



AUSTRALIAN CONSPICUOUS SERVICE DECORATIONS

Awarded for non-warlike situations to members of the Australian Defence Forces and certain other persons in recognition for outstanding or meritorious achievement or devotion to duty. They may be awarded posthumously. All are worn from the left breast.

Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)

Awarded for outstanding devotion to duty, or outstanding achievement. The design features the Southern Cross as a symbol of Australia and a wreath of laurel leaves as a symbol of peace. The ribbon is sandy yellow with green diagonal stripes (like DFC ribbon).

Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)

Awarded for meritorious achievement or devotion to duty. A circular medal with the Southern Cross and a wreath of laurel leaves on it. The ribbon is sandy yellow with thin green diagonal stripes (like the DFM ribbon).

Nursing Service Cross (NSC)

Awarded in recognition of outstanding devotion and competency in the performance of nursing duties or for an act of exceptional dedication in the performance of such duties. The cross is a four stepped straight armed cross cast in silver, ensigned with the Crown of St. Edward. The obverse bears a transparent red enamel cross insert radiating from the centre of the cross. The ribbon is white with a wide central red stripe and thin yellow outer edges.



AUSTRALIAN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE DECORATIONS

Established on 15 January 1991, the decorations are accorded to members of the Australian Defence Forces and certain other persons for distinguished command and leadership in action or distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations. They may be awarded posthumously.

Distinguished Service Cross (DSC)

Awarded for distinguished command and leadership in action. A modified Maltese Cross of nickel-silver, ensigned with the Crown of St. Edward. The obverse bears a central device of the Commonwealth Star (six pointed) superimposed on a disc of flames. The ribbon is silver with a broad ochre red stripe.

Distinguished Service Medal (DSM)

Awarded for distinguished leadership in action. A circular medal ensigned with the Crown of St. Edward. The obverse bears a central device of the Commonwealth Star (six pointed) superimposed on a disc of flames. The ribbon is silver with three medium ochre red stripes equally placed on the ribbon.

Commendation for Distinguished Service

Awarded for distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations. A sprig of wattle mounted on a ribbon (replaces the MID).



AUSTRALIAN OCCUPATIONAL RELATED HONOURS

Public Service Medal (PSM)



Awarded to recognize outstanding service of members of the government public service and other government employees including those in local government. An annual quota exists. A circular nickel-silver medal ensigned with the Commonwealth Star in nickel-silver. The obverse shows human figures representing a range of occupations and activities. The central focus of the medal showing flour planetary gears spaced equally around a sun gear at its centre is the 'wheels within wheels' image, signifying the machinery of government and is surrounded by the words 'Public Service'. The gold medal has six green stripes, the left stripe narrow and the next one larger with each of the next five stripes getting smaller left to right.

Australian Police Medal (APM)



Awarded to serving members of Australia's Police Forces, from any of the States, Territory, or Commonwealth, to recognized distinguished service. A circular nickel-silver medal ensigned with the Crown of St. Edward in nickel-silver. The obverse bears the effigy of the Queen on the Commonwealth Star, superimposed over a pattern of fluted rays. The ribbon is three equal stripes, white, navy and white.

Ambulance Service Medal (ASM)



Awarded to recognize distinguished service by members of the civilian ambulance services. A medal of silver and bronze coloured metals features the Maltese cross and in the centre of the medal is a 7 pointed Commonwealth Star surrounded by 24 dots representing 24 hours a day. The ribbon is white, with red/silver/red chevrons.

AUSTRALIAN OCCUPATIONAL RELATED HONOURS

Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM)

Awarded to members of any Australian Fire Service be they a full-time or voluntary member to recognize distinguished service. A circular medal. A circular medal with a cross superimposed on it. A circular, copper-nickel medal ensigned with the Crown of St. Edward in copper-nickel. The obverse bears the effigy of the Queen superimposed over a seven-pointed star of flames. The ribbon is five stripes, green, gold, centre red flame, gold and green.



Emergency Service Medal (ESM)

Awarded to recognized outstanding service by members of emergency services including state emergency services and voluntary emergency organizations and to persons who render distinguished services relating to emergency management, training or education. A medal of silver and bronze coloured metals and features a triangular form, in the centre of which is a 7 pointed Commonwealth Star surrounded by 24 dots representing 24 hour a day service. The ribbon is an orange and white chequer pattern edged in a vertical blue stripe.



**OCCUPATIONAL RELATED
OVERSEAS SERVICE MEDALS**

The Police Overseas Medal
The Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal
The Australian Antarctic Medal

AUSTRALIAN SERVICE MEDALS

Australian Service Medal 1945-1975



The Australian Service Medal 1945-75 (ASM 45-75) was approved in 1995, and may be awarded for service in, or in connection with prescribed non-warlike operations during the period commencing on 3 September 1945 and ending on 16 September 1975

Australian Active Service Medal 1945-1975



The Australian Active Service Medal 1945-1975 (AASM 45-75) was approved in 1997. It may be awarded for service in, or in connection with prescribed warlike operations from 3 September 1945 until 13 February 1975.

Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) after 1975

The Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) was introduced in 1988 to recognize service in prescribed warlike operations since 14 February 1975. A clasp is presented for each qualifying theatre or action.

Awarded to Canadians with Clasp:

Timor Leste 1

2011 Warrant Officer Dominic Thomas Clarke

International Coalition Against Terrorism 4

2014 Captain Carson Choy
2014 Captain Bradley Hardiman
2011 Major Jason C. Kenny
2011 Captain Douglas B. Publicover



The Australian Service Medal (ASM) after 1975

The Australian Service Medal (ASM) was approved in 1988, and may be awarded for service in, or in connection with a prescribed non-warlike operation. A clasp is presented for each qualifying theatre or action.



AUSTRALIAN MEDALS for LONG SERVICE

Australian Defence Long Service Medal (DLSM)



15 Years (Clasps for 5 years)
Officers, Other Ranks, Regular, Reserve
The only current military Long Service Medal.

Australian Defence Force Service Medal (DFSM)

15 Years
(12 of which must have been in the Regular Force).
After 20 April 1999 the DFSM was replaced by the
Defence Long Service Medal (DLSM) (above).



Australian Reserve Force Decoration (RFD)



15 Years (12 of which must have been in the
Reserve Force).
A bar is added for each additional 5 years of
service.
After 20 April 1999 the DFSM was replaced by the
Defence Long Service Medal (DLSM).

Australian Reserve Force Medal

15 Years
(12 of which must have been in the Reserve Force).
A bar is added for each additional 5 years of
serve.
After 20 April 1999 the DFSM was replaced by the
Defence Long Service Medal (DLSM).



Australian National Medal

15 years diligent service that includes government organizations such as ambulance, correctional, emergency, fire and police forces, and voluntary organisations such as lifesaving or search and rescue groups.

The National Medal is Australia's most awarded civilian medal.

A clasp is awarded for each for additional 15 years served. In 1999, provision was made for an individual's service to be aggregated more easily across different qualifying organisations.



AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE MEDAL



The newest of the Australian medals is the Australian Defence Medal established on 20 March 2006. It recognizes qualifying efficient service of current and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) Regular and Reserve personnel, including National Servicemen, who have served since the end of World War II. The eligibility criteria require the completion of an initial enlistment period or four years service, whichever is the lesser. The criteria also include those who could not serve the four-year qualifying period or complete an initial enlistment period for one or more of the following reasons:

- the death of a member during service;
- the discharge of the member as medically unfit due to compensable impairment;
- the discharge of the member due to a prevailing discriminatory Defence policy, as determined by the Chief of the Defence Force or his or her delegate.

Description: The Australian Defence Medal is a circular medal comprised of cupro-nickel. The obverse features the Commonwealth Coat of Arms with a sprig of wattle with the top outer edge inscribed with the words 'The Australian Defence Medal'. The reverse is ensigned with the Crown of St Edward and includes the words 'For Service', surrounded by a wreath of wattle.



Ribbon: The ribbon colours include the black and red colour of the Flanders poppy and two white stripes to divide the red into three segments to denote the three services of the Australian Defence Force.

Issued: Over 208,000 medals.

AUSTRALIA CENTENNIAL MEDALS

Anniversary of National Service 1951 - 1972

Approved on 10 October 2001 to follow in order of precedence all Long Service Medals.

Awarded to commemorate the service of persons who gave service under the "national Service Act" of 1951, as the act was in force from time to time between 1951 and 1972, or who gave other service in discharge of the obligation to serve under the act.



Centenary Medal

Created at the conclusion of the centenary year of the Commonwealth Government to honour living persons who have made a contribution to Australian society of government. In addition, all Australian citizens born on or before 31 December 1901 who celebrated the centenary of federation have an entitlement to the medal. There are estimated to be 3,000 Australian centenarians. Current and former holders of certain offices will also receive the medal.



Description: A circular, silver medal showing the seven pointed Commonwealth Star, in the centre of the star, a circular ring with the words CENTENARY OF FEDERATION - w001 -. Inside this ring is "an indigenous styling of Aboriginal traditions at the heart of the continent". There are 100 dots around the outer edge of both the obverse and reverse, symbolizing 100 years of federation.

Ribbon: Dark blue with centre gold stripe and three equally spaced crimson stripes within the gold.

Issued

At 30 June 2006, there have been 15,841 medals awarded. 6 to Canadians in 2003.