

## Feedback

### Letters

Dear Anne, I read with great interest your article about “The Education of David Morrison”. I have known him over many years, both professionally and personally, and I think you captured his passion and personality extraordinarily well.

I do need to correct one small issue as the author of *Not for Glory: A Century of Service* by medical women to the Australian Army and its Allies. First, my name, and secondly, the fact that the book is exclusively NOT about the Nursing Corps.

As you would be aware, nursing narratives dominate the female experience of war, both here and elsewhere. *Not for Glory* is dedicated to the women of the medical (non-nursing) professions, that is, the female doctors, battlefield surgeons, physiotherapists, medical scientists etc whose stories are far less recognized, but nonetheless have made a very significant contribution to our nation’s military history over the last 100 years.

Among these women are the first Australian (and

only woman doctor) to receive a Military Medal (for services on the Western Front during WWI), Australia’s only women ever to be awarded a Medal for Gallantry (earned during the Kibeho massacre in Rwanda) and many many other women who have served with distinction in non-nursing roles while contending with the prejudices of society, the Army and the profession.

I am a tremendous admirer of your work and I hope, if you get the opportunity, you will enjoy reading the narratives of some truly exceptional Australian women.

With warmest regards

**Susan Neuhaus**

*Editor’s note: I take full responsibility for, and sincerely regret, these two inexcusable errors. We have corrected the article so please download the latest version. My apologies to the two authors of this important book. Please see our review of Not for Glory on page 62.*

## Our evenings with Lt. General David Morrison and Adam Goodes

I HAVE BEEN PRIVILEGED RECENTLY to host conversation events with two outstanding Australian men. Held within just weeks of each other, both were spell-binding occasions, to judge by audience reactions on the night and the feedback we have had since.

The purpose of these events is to raise funds to enable the continued publication of ASR, but they are more than that. They have become worthwhile

events in their own right, and the events add to the Australian story. By holding conversations with people who have important things to say, we can also learn more about ourselves and about who we are as a people. Both of my recent guests were exceptional in this respect.

General David Morrison, the Chief of the Australian Army, told us about how he came to make the video address in which he told his soldiers who



could not conform to Army standards of behaviour towards women to “get out”. This video is [now on YouTube](#) and has been viewed more than 1.5 million times. As I described in my [ASR profile of General Morrison](#), he subsequently met one-on-one with three young women who had been severely mistreated by the Army. Their stories “are imprinted on my psyche and will remain there for the rest of my life”, he told the Sydney audience.

It is rare to hear any leader speak so frankly about the shortcomings of his organization, and to hear the head of the Army do so was especially startling. The fact that he had betrayed the trust of the soldier and her mother left an “indelible mark” on him, he told me. “She did trust me with her daughter and I let her daughter down,” he said.

The audience included a number of former and aspiring soldiers, including a schoolgirl who hopes to join the Australian Defence Force Academy



General David Morrison was a lively and passionate guest.

next year. The [video of our conversation](#) is now available on my website and has already been viewed one thousand times. I am sure you will find it as compelling as did the audience on the night.



Adam Goodes admitted he was so shy when he joined the Sydney Swans at 17 he “couldn’t look anyone in the eye”.

**O**N 7 APRIL AT THE CITY RECITAL HALL, Adam Goodes, Sydney Swans champion footballer and 2014 Australian of the Year, amazed us all. When he first joined the Swans at the age of seventeen he was already an Aboriginal role model but, he told us, “I didn’t know what it meant to be Aboriginal”.

It took many years of study, friendship and mentoring by that other Swans legend and Indigenous leader, Michael O’Loughlin, for Adam to come to terms with who he is.

Adam talked frankly and, at times, emotionally about “the baggage we carry around as Aboriginal people”. It’s always there, he said. He described his “hurt” when a young girl called him an “ape” from the sidelines during an Indigenous round match

in Melbourne in 2013, and how he felt when he was booed during football matches while he was Australian of the Year.

It was inspiring to hear Adam talk about what moved him to become a White Ribbon Ambassador, and to do everything in his power to make women safe from violence. At the end of our talk, the audience was on its feet, cheering Adam. You could feel the admiration—and the love. It was the first standing ovation we have had since my very first conversation with former Prime Minister Julia Gillard in September 2013. You can watch the video of [my conversation with Adam](#) on our website.

Finally, I am able to bring you the video of my conversation with double Academy Award winner



Above: General Morrison with colleagues from the Male Champions of Change, Simon Rothery, CEO of Goldman Sachs Australia, and Cochlear Non-Executive Director Glen Boreham; and with girls from MLC School, below.



When the audience rose to its feet at the end of his conversation with Anne Summers, Adam Goodes was surprised and humbled.



Adam's fans included Professor Gillian Triggs and Anna Bligh, at left with Anne Summers. Above: Adam with former Swans team-mate, mentor and cousin, Michael O'Loughlin. Below: Audience questions were frequently affectionate.





Don't feel you've missed out: videos of past conversations are now available on [www.annesummers.com.au](http://www.annesummers.com.au).

[Cate Blanchett](#) last June. I apologize for the delay but am also so pleased that we now have a website that can host all of these wonderful conversations.

Please make sure you visit the site towards the end of May to catch up with the video of the conversation with my next conversation guest, Australia's Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick. I will be talking with her in Sydney on 7 May. If you can, you might want to be there. [Tickets are still available.](#)

I am proud of these conversation events and look forward to hosting more of them—and bringing them via video to those of you who were not able to be present in person.

  
ANNE SUMMERS

## Team movements

We say goodbye to Ricky Onsman, our digital director, and thank him for his great work in helping develop *ASR* and, before that, Anne's various websites. We welcome our new digital producer, Jay Cooper, who has designed our fabulous new website. [www.annesummers.com.au](http://www.annesummers.com.au)

And farewell to Helen Johnstone, our partnerships manager, whose last day with us was 17 April and whose new baby is due in just a couple of weeks. Helen has done an extraordinary job bringing in sponsors and partners to help give *ASR* and our Conversation events a firmer financial footing. We are very grateful for all her efforts.