

EVENTS IN AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Fellows in the ACT are to be congratulated on having already held two events this year.

Roundtable

A “roundtable” for Fellows was held at the High Court on Wednesday 21 February and attended by an audience of sixteen fellows, some local and some from interstate.

Professor Kim Rubenstein and Professor Margaret Thornton led a discussion on “Section 44 of the Constitution and Dual Citizenship”.

There was lively participation by the audience of 16 Fellows.



From left to right: Professor Margaret Thornton, the President Kevin Lindgren, the Hon Mary Finn and Professor Kim Rubenstein

Public Lecture

On Thursday evening, 15 March, Professor James Stellios of the ANU College of Law presented a paper which he and Justice John Griffiths of the Federal Court had written and presented at a conference held last year to mark

the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Federal Court.

The title of the paper was “The Federal Court and the Constitution”.

Professor William Gummow AC QC, former Justice of the High Court and of the Federal Court provided a commentary.



From left to right: The Hon Justice Alan Robertson, Professor William Gummow AC QC, Professor James Stellios and Professor Michael Coper AO.

The event was held in the Common Room, University House, ANU.

The audience numbered 60 and the event was followed by refreshments.



ESSAY PRIZE

The topic for the annual essay prize this year is:

“Rights and freedoms under the Australian Constitution: what are they and do they meet the needs of contemporary Australian society?”

Attached to this Newsletter is the notice of the offering of the Prize.

All Fellows are encouraged to publicise the Prize by whatever means are available to them.

The amount of the Prize is \$10,000.

This is the fourth year in which the Prize has been offered.

While the quality of entrants in past years has been high, the Organising Committee and Judging Panel would have liked to see a larger number of essays submitted.

Please encourage anyone who you think might have an interest in submitting an essay to read the attached notice.

A COLLABORATION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

Through the good offices of Academy Fellow, Justice Stephen Gageler, there will be a collaboration between the AAL and the Australian Academy of Science later this year, probably in August in Sydney.

The idea springs from meetings that have taken place in the United Kingdom initiated by the Royal Society and the Edinburgh Royal Society and members of the English Judiciary.

Briefly, there has been a dialogue between interested scientists and judges on topics of common interest.

This is not the place to go into detail.

Justice Gageler and I met with the members of the Council of the Australian Academy of Science who seemed to support the implementation of a

similar idea here. Their President, Professor Andrew Holmes, AC PresAA FRS FTSE, in particular, is enthusiastic.

There will be a joint committee comprising three members from each Academy to engage in preliminary discussions and planning.

It is envisaged that at the first joint seminar, the topic will be “Are you sure?”

The three members of our Academy who will serve on the committee, at least initially, are the President, the Deputy President and The Hon Annabelle Bennett AO SC.

PATRON'S ADDRESS IN MELBOURNE THIS YEAR

This year the Patron's Address will be delivered by Dame Sian Elias GNZM, PC, QC, Chief Justice of New Zealand, an overseas Fellow of the AAL.

The venue will be the Federal Court of Australia, 305 William Street, Melbourne.

The date for the Patron's Address is Thursday, 18 October 2018.

A flyer will be issued in due course.

This will be the first time that the Patron's Address will be held in Melbourne.

In 2019 the Patron's Address will be held in Brisbane when the Hon Chief Justice Susan Kiefel AC will deliver the Address.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE SERIES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Readers will recall that last year a series of three events on an Ethics theme were held in Sydney.

They proved to be very popular in the sense of attracting large audiences and active audience participation in the time allocated for questions.

This year the Organising Committee has decided to hold three generally similar events based on the theme, *Access to Justice*.

They are to be held in the Banco Court of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, Level 13, Law Courts Building, Queen's Square, Sydney.

The first event will be held on Monday 30 April on *Access to Justice: the Breadth of the Concept of Justice*.

The subsequent events will be held in July and October on dates to be fixed.

A flyer for the event on 30 April is **attached**.

Fellows are encouraged to attend and to publicise the flyer by whatever means may be available to them.

NORTHERN TERRITORY EVENT (THE ANNUAL AUSTIN ASCHE ORATION) ON MONDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2018

The Hon Robert French AC, former Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, has agreed to deliver the annual Austin Asche Oration in Darwin on Monday 17 September 2018.

This event is sponsored each year jointly by Charles Darwin University and the Academy and is always a highlight in the calendar of legal events in the Territory.

A flyer will be issued in due course.

QUEENSLAND EVENT ON THURSDAY 4 OCTOBER 2018

A major event for 2018 will be held on Thursday 4 October when the Hon Philip Cummins AM, Chair of the Victorian Law Reform Commission and formerly a Judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria, will give a lecture on *Litigation Funding; Access and Ethics*.

The venue will be the Banco Court of the Supreme Court of Queensland.

A flyer for the event is **attached**

WESTERN AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND TASMANIA

The events in these States have yet to be planned.

Committees

It would be good to have a wider spread of members of the Academy's committees.

The Committees are:

Membership Committee:

Chair: The Hon Justice Alan Robertson

Prizes and Scholarship Committee:

Chair: Professor Bee Chen Goh

Finance Committee:

Chair: The Hon Justice John Digby

Website and Publications Committee:

Chair: Mr Michael Murray

VALE BOB BAXT

It is with sadness that I inform members that Emeritus Partner and Fellow of the Academy, Bob Baxt, passed away last Sunday 11 March.

Bob had a long career both as an academic and a legal practitioner. He was a renowned author and law reformer. He had great energy and was prolific in his commentary on legal issues.

There are too many highlights from Bob's career to record here but it is worth noting that as recently as last week he was awarded the degree of Honorary Doctorate of Laws by Monash University.

NEW FELLOWS

I am sure that all Fellows join me in extending a warm welcome to the following distinguished

lawyers who have accepted the Board's invitation to become Fellows of the Academy since the last Newsletter:

Associate Professor Gabrielle Appleby

Mr Scott Atkins

Mr Joseph Catanzariti

Professor Simon Evans

Professor Steven Freeland

Professor Tania Sourdin

Kevin Lindgren



Kevin Lindgren

President

kevlindgren@gmail.com

0414 914 827