

Welcome to the first Newsletter for 2021.

Personalia

Please join me in warmly congratulating two Fellows on their appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO).

The Honourable Trevor Riley AO QC

For distinguished service to the judiciary as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory, to the law, and to the community.

Mr Bret Walker AO SC

For distinguished service to the law through a range of roles, particularly to national security and civil liberties, and to professional legal associations.

Planning Events for 2021

It is time to plan events for early 2021.

I encourage Fellows, particularly co-ordinating Fellows, in each jurisdiction to identify a subject and a speaker for one or more local events in 2021.

I am available to assist.

Plan now for February and March 2021 when lawyers with practising certificates are looking for CPD/CLE points!

Updated AAL page on Wikipedia

Fellows may be interested to see the result of recent work by me on this page:

[Australian Academy of Law - Wikipedia](#)

Updated pages on AAL's website

There have been improvements made by Susan Jenkins, the Secretariat, to the AAL's website.

There is now a full list of the committees and the members of those committees:

<https://www.academyoflaw.org.au/Board-Committees>

and there is also a page showing the present officeholders:

<https://www.academyoflaw.org.au/Officeholders>

First Annual Report

Directors and others are in the process of compiling the Academy's first annual report. If you have a subject matter which you would like to see in the report, or if there is some material which you would like to see included in it, please get in touch by email.

My aim is to have the Annual Report published by April 2021.

Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Status

I suggest that if a Fellow wishes to make a donation, he or she contact the Secretariat in the first instance to obtain details of the relevant bank account. If the Fellow would like the donation to be used for a particular purpose, he or she should contact me in the first instance.

The Research and Expenditure Committee of the Academy continues to work on ideas for the use of the AAL Public Fund, which will, in due course, be placed before the Board of Directors.

Idea for a scheme whereby academics could spend a day with a judge

I have had only one written response (positive) to this proposal.

Do you think it would be a good idea to look at establishing a system whereby (relatively junior) academics may spend a day or two with a judge to gain firsthand experience of how a court runs? If a sufficient number of Fellows think it is a good idea then I will have a basis for planning how it may be done. Chief Justices, Chief Judges and other heads of jurisdiction would need to be consulted. It may be that there would be interest in academics visiting tribunals as well. Please let me know by email.

Events

Most AAL events have been going ahead remotely. This means that Fellows may register and attend wherever they are, time zones permitting.

Forthcoming

Regulatory Enforcement of Directors' Obligations

This event will be held at 5 PM AEDT on Monday, 22 February 2021. It is being held in association with the New South Wales Bar Association. I am grateful to Mr Tim Game SC, Ms Anna Mitchelmore SC and Mr Michael Izzo SC, all of the New South Wales Bar, for their ideas and assistance.

The speakers will be:

Justice David Jackson (Supreme Court, Queensland)

Justice Robert Bromwich (Federal Court)

Professor Jennifer Hill (Bob Baxt AO Chair in Corporate and Commercial Law, Monash University)

Dr Ruth Higgins SC (New South Wales)

The chair will be John Sheahan QC.

The speakers will focus on:

- Issues in trials where corporate and individual respondents are sued (only the latter having privilege).
- The privilege against self-incrimination
- Reducing the overlap between criminal offences and civil penalties
- Forensic and ethical aspects of the constitution of proceedings
- The international context

The topic is of the first importance. Please put this date in your diary. A flyer will be available and circulated soon.

Event with the Australian Law Reform Commission – Tuesday 2 March 2021, 5:30 PM

As you may be aware, the ALRC is currently inquiring into Federal Judicial Impartiality. In

conjunction with the Australian Academy of Law, the ALRC will hold a panel discussion of the various issues from a variety of perspectives.

It is hoped that the seminar will be held in Court 1 of the Federal Court Building in Sydney and, depending on the Covid restrictions then in place, we will invite limited in-person attendance and/or a mix of in-person and on-line participation.

The Chair will be the Hon Justice Sarah Derrington.

The panellists will be:

The Hon Justice Michael Lee

The Hon Judge Matthew Myers AM

Professor Gabrielle Appleby

Mr Chris Merritt

A flyer will be circulated soon, but please put 2 March 2021 at 5:30 PM in your diary.

2021 Austin Asche Oration in Darwin – 27 March 2021

Chief Justice Susan Kiefel AC, the Academy's Patron, will give this address in Darwin on 27 March 2021 at 5 PM. It will be held in the Grand Ballroom, Hilton Darwin, 32 Mitchell Street.

This annual event is sponsored by Charles Darwin University and by the Australian Academy of Law.

The working title of the Oration is "*Judicial Independence – From what and to what end?*"

It will be the Tenth Austin Asche Oration in Law and Governance. Fellows may recall that the 2020 Austin Asche Oration was cancelled due to travel restrictions imposed by the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Please put the evening of Saturday 27 March 2021 in your diary.

Ideally, the event will be live streamed but at the very least it will be recorded.

Recent events

Book launch

The Tuning Cymbal – Selected Papers and Speeches of the Hon Robert French AC

Edited by Robert Pascoe

Published by The Federation Press

Sponsored by the Australian Academy of Law

This online book launch was held by the Australian Academy of Law on 15 December 2020.

The speakers at the online launch were:

Justice Virginia Bell AC

Professor Adrienne Stone

Professor Gino Dal Pont

The Hon Robert French AC

Professor Robert Pascoe

New Fellows

Please 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.

The Hon Justice Robert Mitchell

Judge of Appeal, Supreme Court of Western Australia

Professor Jeannie Paterson

Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Centre for AI and Digital Ethics, The University of Melbourne

Kevin Lindgren has proposed a useful innovation. It is that each organising committee should invite a newly elected Fellow to attend a Roundtable, so that the new Fellow may make or renew their acquaintance with Fellows in their geographical area. If he or she wishes, the new Fellow could lead a discussion at this "inaugural" Roundtable on a topic of his or her choosing.

Website – biographical details

Space has been made on the Academy website under the name of each Fellow for you to show your biographical details, if you wish. Please attend to this yourself. Instructions on how to access the Fellows-only part of the website and add or change biographical details were attached to earlier Newsletters. If you need help, please contact the Secretariat. I suggest that entries be no longer than 150 words, although links to further biographical information may be included.

Publication on AAL Website

I encourage all Fellows to put forward material for the 'Fellow spotlight' on the webpage.



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President

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