

Recent Events

ACT

The first Michael Coper Roundtable for 2020 was held at the High Court on the evening of Wednesday 19 February.

Graeme Neate AM spoke on "Native title--concepts, challenges and creative outcomes".

Graeme Neate has a longstanding close association with, and interest in, the development of the recognition of native title in Australia, extending back to before his term as President of the National Native Title Tribunal from 1999 to 2013. He dealt with some of the personalities involved in the Gove Land Case (*Milirrpum-v-Nabalco Pty Ltd* (1971) 17 FLR 141), the Land Rights Commission (the Woodward Royal Commission) chaired by Justice Edward Woodward which sat from 1973-1974, the responses of the Whitlam and Fraser Governments, the passing of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*, and the work of the first Aboriginal Land Commissioner, Justice John Toohey, under that Act, as well as the advent of the *Mabo* case, the passing of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the work of the National Native Title Tribunal.

We were treated to some interesting anecdotes as well as some revelations gained from Graeme Neate's archival research.

The audience of seventeen Fellows and the eleven who attended the dinner subsequently took full advantage of the opportunity to pose questions to a speaker who has such an immensely rich experience in and knowledge of the area of native title.



Mr Graeme Neate

Western Australia

The Western Australian chapter of the Academy held its first ever roundtable on 27 February 2020. The event was held at 1.00 pm at the Supreme Court of Western Australia, David Malcolm Justice Centre in Perth.

The event featured a presentation followed by questions of Professor Kate Lewins of the law school at Murdoch University. The topic was "Cruise Ship Passengers and Australian Law - Contracts, Consumer Protection, Convention?" There was a full house of Fellows and members of Perth's maritime law community, numbering 21 in all.

Professor Lewins is a distinguished scholar in this field. See her monograph for Sweet & Maxwell *International Carriage of Passengers by Sea* (2016, 418 pp).

With recent developments in concern for the spread of the corona virus, and the pending decision of the High Court in *Moore v Scenic Tours*, the presentation could not have been more topical



Professor Kate Lewins & The Hon Justice Craig Colvin

Forthcoming Events

The Northern Territory

As foreshadowed in previous Newsletters, The Hon Susan Kiefel AC, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, has agreed to deliver the annual Austin Asche Oration in Law and Governance on Friday 3 April 2020.

As in previous years, the Oration, which is sponsored jointly by Charles Darwin University and the Academy, will be held in the Nitmiluk Lounge, Level 4, Parliament House, Darwin.

The title of the Oration will be "*Judicial Independence--from what and to what end?*"

The importance of the topic is obvious. The Chief Justice has provided the following synopsis:

“Australian lawyers might think the phrase 'judicial independence' to be clear in its meaning. Yet even in our federation it may have different connotations. So too does constitutional context in other jurisdictions give it a different meaning. History teaches us that judicial independence of thought is not always vigorously pursued and that judicial independence is not always a force for good. These reflections may be seen to raise two questions about judicial independence: independence from what and to what end? And those enquiries may illuminate what judicial independence can and should mean to us.”

This event is always the major event on the legal calendar in Darwin and all Fellows are encouraged to attend and to invite others to do so.

The link to register is [here](#)

New South Wales

The topic of the first public event for 2020 in New South Wales will be “*WHISTLEBLOWING—what is it, who does it, when is it lawful, when is it mandatory?*”

The event will be held on Wednesday 25 March 2020 at 5.00 pm in Court Room 1 of the Federal Court, Level 21, Law Courts Building, Queens Square, Sydney.

Those participating are as follows:

Chair:

The Hon Justice Julie Ward

Chief Judge in Equity, Supreme Court of New South Wales

Panellists:

Professor A J Brown

Professor of Public Policy & Law in the Centre for Governance & Public Policy, Griffith University

Professor Robert Deutsch

Senior Tax Counsel, Tax Institute and Professor of Law, University of New South Wales.

Ms Connie Carnabuci

General Counsel, Australian Broadcasting Commission.

Mr Bret Walker SC

Former President of the NSW Bar Association and Law Council of Australia; former National Security Legislation Monitor

The flyer for the event, which includes provision for registration, can be found [here](#)

Australian Academy of Law/Australian Academy of Science Event

As in 2018 and 2019, the two Academies have agreed again to hold a joint symposium.

The event will be held on the evening of Wednesday 19 August 2020 at 5.00 pm in Sydney.

The topic will focus on the reception and evaluation of expert scientific evidence in the courts.

Once the further details are decided upon, a flyer will be prepared and distributed

Nomination of Individuals to Become Fellows

The Membership Committee thinks it desirable to redistribute to Fellows the **attached** document with a view to informing them of what the Committee looks for when assessing nominations.



Kevin Lindgren

President

kevlindgren@gmail.com

0414 914 827