

## Events

Notwithstanding the Coronavirus pandemic, AAL events have been going ahead remotely. Two further events are about to occur based in Sydney and one in Brisbane but because they are being held remotely Fellows may register and attend wherever they are, time zones permitting. Overseas Fellows are welcome to participate!

### Forthcoming – Academy of Law/Academy of Science

In what I hope is becoming a tradition, the two Academies are conducting a Joint Symposium on Wednesday, 19 August 2020 between 5 PM and 6:15 PM.

The subject is *The Reception, Quality and Evaluation of Scientific Evidence in Australian Courts*.

It is to be an online event.

A panel of experts on science and law will be asked questions by the Hon Justice Virginia Bell AC of the High Court of Australia on the topic of scientific proof and legal proof.

Panel members will be:

The Hon Justice Mark Weinberg AO QC, Reserve Judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria and formerly a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia,

Professor David Balding FAA, Professor of Statistical Genetics, University of Melbourne,

Tim Game SC, President of the New South Wales Bar, whose principal practice is in Criminal Law,

Professor Carola Vinuesa FAA, Professor of Immunology Co-Director, Centre for Personalised Immunology, Australian National University.

The event will be conducted remotely. It is therefore important, if you wish to attend, to register for the event [here](#). I understand the maximum number of participants the technology

can accommodate is 250.

Those who registered when it was hoped that the event would be conducted in person will have their registration fee for refreshments refunded.

### Event held in Western Australia

On Wednesday 24 June, Ms Jessica Kerr, a PhD candidate in the School of Law at the University of Western Australia led a “roundtable” discussion in the area of her research, *“Making Judges in Commonwealth Judiciaries”*.

The roundtable was held on the Microsoft Teams platform. The event was for Fellows only and 16 Fellows throughout the country attended.



Ms Jessica Kerr

Ms Kerr’s talk was followed by a lively discussion on what improvements could or should be made to the appointment of judges, including broadening the field from which judges are chosen and judicial education pre-and post- appointment.

I am grateful to Professor Ralph Simmonds on the organising committee and to Justice Craig Colvin for chairing the event.

### Event held in the Australian Capital Territory



Prof Don Rothwell

On Thursday 18 June Professor Don Rothwell led a discussion on “Covid-19 and the International Cruise Industry”.

The Chair was Professor Stephen Bottomley.

The event lasted for an hour on the Zoom platform.

About 20 Fellows participated in the event.



Prof Stephen Bottomley

## Event held in New South Wales

Last Tuesday the Academy held its first public online event.

It was the first part of a two-part event “COVID-19: What effect as the pandemic had on legal practice, courts and on the law schools and how are they each responding?”

The Chair and two of the seven panellists attended, not in a court room, but in a specially equipped room on level 16 of the Law Courts Building. The remaining panellists attended by means of Microsoft Teams.

The speakers were Allsop CJ, Justice Julie Ward, Chief Judge in Equity, Ms Pauline Wright, President of the Law Council of Australia, Ms Jocelyn Williams, Barrister, Sydney, Professor Michael Legg of the University of New South Wales and Ms Jessica Der Matossian, Registrar, Digital Practice of the Federal Court.

Justice Kunc of the Supreme Court of New South Wales kindly chaired the event.

The event was a resounding success, both in terms of content and in terms of technology.

## Forthcoming – New South Wales

The second part of this event will be held at 5 PM on **21 July 2020**. The speakers will be:

The Hon Justice Derek Price AO, Chief Judge, District Court of New South Wales, Judge Graeme Henson AM, Chief Magistrate of New South Wales, Professor Lesley Hitchens, Dean, Faculty of Law, UTS, Professor Tania Sourdin, Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Newcastle, Ms Rose Khalilzadeh Barrister, Sydney Mr Richard Spurio, Managing Partner, Allens, Ms Karen Pedersen Group General Counsel, Lendlease

Because the platform will be Microsoft Teams it is necessary to register for the event, so please do so as soon as possible. You will find the link [here](#).

## Forthcoming – Queensland

Justice Peter Applegarth and the Queensland planning committee is organising an event next month, based in Brisbane, to mark the 100th anniversary of the death of Sir Samuel Griffith and to celebrate his life and legacy. He died on 9 August

1920. The plan is to have four or five individuals on a panel, each speaking for approximately 10 minutes on an aspect of Sir Samuel Griffith’s life. It is proposed to take the format of a webinar. I will circulate further details as soon as they are available.

## Renewal of Membership

All Fellows will have received their notice of subscription for the 2020 – 2021 year.

As previously advised the subscription for the year has been reduced from \$400 to \$200 because of the Coronavirus.

The notice of renewal which you would have received already, tells you how to renew online. When you click on “View invoice online” you will be taken to the website and you have to click on “LOG IN” in the top right-hand corner of the screen. Please let the Secretariat know if you have any difficulties.

## Annual Essay Prize – Volunteers needed for the judging panel

The essay topic for the Prize in 2020 is as follows:

*“The impact of a new and widespread contagious disease on pre-existing contractual obligations.”*

*Note: Earlier ‘new’ outbreaks of infectious diseases may be taken into account.”*

The deadline for the submission of an essay is 31 August.

This year, eligibility to submit an essay is more limited than in previous years. This year, generally speaking, eligibility is limited to those who have recently obtained their legal qualifications.

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

I am very grateful to the Hon. Professor William Gummow AC QC who has again indicated his willingness to chair the judging panel.

Please may I have two further volunteers to complete the constitution of the judging panel.

## Application for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Status

The legislation has again been delayed, for reasons having nothing to do with the merits of the AAL’s application. I hope, when Parliament resumes in

August, the Bill will be passed, although there is no guarantee that this will happen.

## **Publication of Selected Papers and Speeches of The Hon Robert French AC**

This book, *The Tuning Cymbal: selected papers and speeches of Robert French* was published by Federation Press on 7 July 2020.

The editor is Professor Robert Pascoe, Dean Laureate and Professor of History at Victoria University, a long-time friend of Mr French. The writing and publication of it was sponsored by the Academy.

As stated in the publisher's blurb, the book is divided into ten parts, each reflecting an aspect of the Hon RS French's career such as Indigenous issues, human rights, public law, commercial dispute resolution and the judicial system. Mr French's contributions are put into context through commentaries by leading legal academics and practitioners, being Kevin Lindgren, Professor Megan Davis, Fiona McLeod, Jennifer Batrouney, Professor Anne Twomey, Professor Emeritus Cheryl Saunders, Russell Miller, Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon, Chief Justice Tom Bathurst and Professor Carolyn Evans.

A small committee of Directors of the Academy has had the oversight of the publication on behalf of the Academy, namely, the Hon Ralph Simmonds, Professor Brian Opeskin, Professor Gino Dal Pont, Kevin Lindgren and me. Of course, Mr French himself was also closely involved.

### **Life Fellow**

#### **Kevin Lindgren AM QC**

Life Fellows are defined as persons who have given distinguished service to the Academy or to the law nationally and/or internationally.

The Board unanimously agreed with the unanimous recommendation of the Membership Committee that Kevin Lindgren more than satisfied this description. The Board noted what I then said as Deputy President, which I next summarise.

Kevin Lindgren's lifetime of work and achievement in the law would be reason enough to make him a Life Fellow. Qualifying in its own right has been his tireless work as President of the AAL.

He was elected as President at the Annual General Meeting in November 2011. (He did not expect there to be a vacancy but several former officers had completed three successive terms as directors and were therefore prevented by the Constitution as it then stood from being considered for re-election – this included then President the Hon Robert Nicholson.)

Kevin Lindgren wrote some 89 Newsletters, the primary means by which Fellows are informed of Academy events and which contribute immeasurably to the cohesion of the Academy.

He has presided over the move of the Secretariat from the Australian National University in Canberra to its much more satisfactory location in the Federal Court in Sydney. This was a major realignment.

The number of Fellows has probably trebled during Kevin Lindgren's presidency.

The Patron's Address was inaugurated, the first one being given by the Chief justice of Australia in October 2012.

The annual essay prize has been established. Other prizes to students have been established.

The Academy has sponsored the publication of works of scholarship, including the publication of "The Future of Australian Legal Education" in 2018, a joint venture between the Academy and the Australian Law Journal collecting the papers given at the conference held in Sydney in 2017. A closer relationship with the ALJ has been another feature of Kevin Lindgren's presidency.

He has organised and presided over a very substantial increase in the amount of activity by the Academy in each of its centres in the capital cities.

None of this would have been possible without Kevin Lindgren's tireless efforts on behalf of the Academy. The Academy thanks him profoundly.

## 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.

**Dr Dominic O'Sullivan QC**  
Barrister, Queensland

**The Hon Murray Kellam AO**  
Formerly Justice of the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court of Victoria

**Professor Lyria Bennett Moses**  
Director, Allens Hub for Technology, Law and Innovation and Professor, University of New South Wales

**Professor John Sharkey AM**  
Commercial Arbitrator, Victoria

## Personalia

If any Fellow wishes to have noted in the Newsletter a significant step taken by them or by another Fellow, please let me or the Secretariat know, since otherwise I can only rely on the media. To know what other Fellows have achieved enhances the collegiality of the AAL.

## Signing on

In the last Newsletter, Kevin Lindgren remarked it would be the last of the Newsletters to go out over his signature as President. Correspondingly, this is my first.

As noted above, the Board unanimously adopted a unanimous recommendation of the Membership Committee that Kevin Lindgren be invited to be a Life Fellow. He accepted that invitation and a Life Fellowship has been conferred on him.

I do not expect my next Newsletter to be as long as this one, but the enormous contribution of Kevin Lindgren as President of the Academy needs to be fully recognised.



Alan Robertson  
President



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