

STATE AND TERRITORY EVENTS

First in a series of three “Access to Justice” events in New South Wales

On Monday 30 April in the Banco Court of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, the first of this year’s series of theme-related events was held.

The theme for all three is “Access to Justice” and the particular title of the first was “Access to Justice: the Breadth of the Concept of Justice”.

We had 83 people registered to attend and nearly all did so. An estimate is that the audience numbered 70-80, comprising academics, practising lawyers and others working in the legal aid and related sectors, students and members of the public. Several senior members of the judiciary attended, including the Chief Justice of New South Wales, The Hon Tom Bathurst AC.

The Chair and panellists at the event were as follows:

Chair: The Hon Chief Justice John Pascoe AC CVO, Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia.

Panellists:

- The Hon Justice Sarah Derrington, a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia and President of the Australian Law Reform Commission;
- Mr Edward Santow, Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission;
- Mr George Newhouse, Principal Solicitor at the National Justice Project;
- Mr Chris Povey, Chief Executive Officer, JusticeConnect.



From left to right: Chris Povey, George Newhouse, Chief Justice John Pascoe AC CVO, Edward Santow and Justice Sarah Derrington

The event can be regarded as having been very successful in providing a forum for the expression of a wide range of perspectives on access to justice, including, for example, class actions and the position of homeless people. The holding of the event was consistent with one of the objects of the Academy: “To promote the continuous improvement of the law and of the operation of the legal system”.

Favourable comments were made by members of the audience with several inquiries made as to the subsequent events in the series.

For the first time for such events refreshments were provided and a charge of \$25.00 per head was made to cover the cost. However, this charge was not made in the case of Fellows of the Academy or students or certain groups from the not-for-profit sector.

The amount collected covered the catering costs-- a happy result!

A goodly number stayed for the refreshments, as did the Chair and panellists. This provided an opportunity for further discussion of the issues raised in the debate.

If the Organising Committee in any of the other States and Territories would like to explore doing something similar, by all means call me for more information.



The second in the series of three “Access to Justice” events in New South Wales will be held in late July and will be entitled “Financial barriers to access to justice” and the third and final one in the series will be entitled “Non-financial barriers to access to justice” and will be held in late October.

Flyers for these further two in the series will be provided in due course by way of attachment to future Newsletters.

Patron’s Address in Melbourne on Thursday 18 October 2018

Fellows, particularly those in Melbourne, are reminded that the Patron’s Address this year will be given on Thursday 18 October at the Federal Court by Dame Sian Elias GNZM, PC, QC, Chief Justice of New Zealand.

It is expected that the flyer for the event will accompany the next Newsletter.

Queensland event Thursday 4 October

The annual public event in Queensland this year will be held on Thursday 4 October 2018 when The Hon Phillip Cummins AM will deliver a lecture on “Litigation Funding: Access and

Ethics”. As will be well known to Fellows, Mr Cummins is the Chair of the Victorian Law Reform Commission which has published its Discussion Paper on “Access to Justice: Litigation Funding and Group Proceedings”.

We are fortunate that The Hon Justice Sarah Derrington has agreed to give a commentary. The Australian Law Reform Commission, of which her Honour is the President, is conducting an inquiry into class action proceedings and third party litigation funders.

As in past years, the event will be held in the Banco Court of the Supreme Court of Queensland.

A flyer for the event is **attached**.

Northern Territory event on Monday 17 September

The annual Austin Asche Oration, which is sponsored jointly by the Academy and Charles Darwin University, will be delivered by The Hon Robert French AC at Parliament house in Darwin on Monday 17 September 2018.

The subject of Mr French’s address will be “Free Speech and the Law on Campus—Do we need a Charter of Rights and Freedoms just for Universities?”

Mr French has observed that the topic has attracted national and international discussion and has surfaced in the popular press.

It is worth noting too that the Hon Austin Asche AC QC is a former Chancellor of Charles Darwin University.

A flyer for the event will issue within the next fortnight.

COLLABORATION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

I am pleased to inform Fellows that this collaborative effort, which was reported on in the last Newsletter, has now advanced to the

extent that we have the date, the venue and the Chair.

The symposium will be held in the evening of Friday 24 August.

The venue is the Federal Court of Australia's ceremonial court, Level 21, Law Courts Building, Queen's Square, Sydney.

The Chair will be The Hon Stephen Gageler AC, Justice of the High Court of Australia.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, the topic will be "*Are you sure?*"

The panellists will comprise two scientists and two lawyers and the audience will be drawn from both the legal and scientific communities.

Fellows are encouraged to enter this important event for the AAL in their diaries.

A flyer for the event will issue in due course.

ANNUAL ESSAY PRIZE

We have had the largest number of expressions of interest ever from individuals who intend to lodge an essay. The closing date for expressions of interest is 30 June and at present (8 May 2018) the Secretariat has received no less than 114 expressions of interest.

Past experience suggests that only a small proportion of these will actually submit an essay. Nonetheless, the number of expressions of interest suggests that the number of submissions is also likely to be larger than it has been in previous years.

The closing date for the lodgement of essays is 31 August.

The topic this year is:

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

Attached is the notice of the offering of the Prize.

We are fortunate that Professor William Gummow AC has again agreed to chair the Judging Panel.

I invite other Fellows to let me know if they would be willing to be a member of the Judging Panel of three. If we have more than two expressions of interest from Fellows we will be guided by the desirability of having representation on the Panel from the Judiciary, Academe and Legal Practice.

APPLICATION FOR LISTING AS A "DEDUCTIBLE GIFT RECIPIENT" UNDER DIV 30 OF THE *INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT ACT 1997*

The Board of Directors decided to seek listing as a "deductible gift recipient" (DGR).

Gifts to a DGR are allowable deductions for income tax purposes in the hands of the donor.

The AAL has engaged the services of solicitors Speed and Stracey, a firm which has much experience in this area, to provide guidance and assistance in connection with the Academy's application.

Mr Robin Speed of that firm is a Fellow.

The application was lodged with the office of the Treasurer and the Department of the Treasury on 27 April.

We have been alerted to the fact that the process is usually very protracted.

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:

Professor Carolyn Evans

The Hon Justice David Jackson

Professor Rosalind Dixon

Professor Andrew Lynch

A/Professor Gabrielle Appleby

The Hon Chief Justice John Pascoe AC CVO

The Hon Jeffrey Miles AO

Dr David Neal SC

Kevin Lindgren

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Lindgren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kevin Lindgren

President

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