

Welcome to the second Newsletter for 2025.

Vale Emeritus Professor Harold Luntz AO

It is with sadness that I bring to the attention of Fellows that AAL Fellow **Harold Luntz AO** died on 29 January 2025 at the age of 87.

He was an expert on torts law.

He published *Assessment of Damages for Personal Injury and Death* in 1974, the fifth edition (with Sirko Harder) being in 2021 and covering the wider field of the general principles of tort law.

He was a founder and long-term editor of the *Australian Torts Law Journal*.

From 1986 to 1988 he was Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Melbourne. He held the George Paton Chair of Law until his retirement in 2002, continuing to teach as an Emeritus Professor until 2008.

He was awarded his AO in 2019 “For distinguished service to legal education, as an academic and editor, to professional development, and to the community.”

He made a great contribution to legal understanding and legal education. He, and his kindness, will long be missed.

2025 AAL First Nations Scholarship

The Australian Academy of Law again offers the AAL First Nations Scholarship tenable in 2025 for a First Nations final year law student* studying for the LLB or JD or combined Law degree at any Australian law school, or the Diploma in Law through the NSW Law Extension Committee.

The amount of the award is A\$6000 for one year only.

The successful applicant may, additionally, have the opportunity of being mentored for up to a year by an AAL Fellow.

Applications based on the Selection Criteria below are through nominations by the respective Law Deans to the AAL Secretariat by the closing date of 28 March 2025 at 5pm (AEDT). Each Law Dean may nominate one Final Year First Nations law student.

Interested applicants should contact their respective Law Deans to seek to be nominated.

They must provide their academic transcripts, CVs, Personal Statements of no more than 500 words and a list of their existing sources of financial sponsorship (if any).

**A final year law student” means a person who will complete the LLB or JD or combined Law degree, or the LEC Diploma in Law, by April 2026.*

Selection Criteria

1. Academic ability and likelihood of success;
2. Not normally in receipt of any other substantial scholarship or award;
3. Proposed post-graduation career path evincing a commitment to the law and/or legal practice.

Shortlisted applicants may be required to attend an interview in April 2025 with the Selection Panel.

The winner will be announced by the end of April 2025.

[A copy of the Notice is here.](#)

2025 AAL Essay Prize

The Australian Academy of Law is pleased to announce the offering of its Annual Essay Prize for 2025.

The amount of the Prize is \$10,000. The essay topic for the Prize in 2025 is as follows:

"Where has *Bird v DP* [2024] HCA 41 left the law of vicarious liability in Australia? How does it differ from the law in other common law jurisdictions? Should there be a legislative response to *Bird* and, if so, what should be its scope?"

The essay is to be a maximum of 8,000 words (excluding the abstract).

The Prize is open to anyone, wherever resident, who is studying or has studied legal subjects at a tertiary level, or who is working or has worked in a law-based occupation. There is no limit by reference to the age or seniority or experience of, or position held by, a person who may submit an entry. Accordingly, judicial officers, legal practitioners, legal academics and law students are all eligible to submit an essay.

The deadline for the submission of an essay is 31 August 2025 and this time limit is strictly observed. Single-authored or multiple-authored essays will be accepted, but authorship must be original.

The [Essay Prize Rules can be accessed here](#).

For more information please see the [website here](#).

Forthcoming AAL events

ACT Michael Coper Roundtable 20 March 2025 5:00pm – 7.00 pm AEDT

Venue: High Court of Australia, Parkes, ACT

Fellows only

Ms Anne Trimmer AO, solicitor and past President of the Law Council of Australia, one of the AAL's Foundation Fellows, will speak on the impact of AI on legal practice.

Ms Trimmer is a former managing partner of Macphillamy Cummins & Gibson and subsequently a partner at Minter Ellison, where her practice focused on corporate governance and technology contracting. She was CEO of the Medical Technology Association of Australia (2006-13) and Secretary General of the Australian Medical Association (2013-18).

Ms Trimmer was awarded an Order of Australia in 2020 in recognition of her distinguished service to the law, and to the legal profession, to healthcare standards and policy, and to education.

Ms Trimmer has a long-held interest in how law is practised and in the dynamics of legal practice as a profession.

The **Hon Mary Finn** will chair the event.

[The flyer is here. Please register.](#)

Wednesday 2 April 2025 - 5:00pm – 6:15 pm AEDT

Online and at Court No 1, Level 8, Federal Court, 305 William Street, Melbourne

Whistleblower protection in Australia

What does effective protection for whistleblowers look like? Is there a need for an independent Whistleblower Protection Authority to independently investigate claims of harm against those who speak up about wrongdoing in the public and private sectors? What are the gaps in the existing protections for whistleblowers under federal laws and what investigative and enforcement powers could an independent authority exercise?

The speakers will be:

Professor A J Brown AM who is professor of public policy and law in the School of Government & International Relations, Griffith University, where he specialises in public integrity, accountability, governance reform and public trust.

In 2023 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for services to the law and public policy, particularly through whistleblower protection.

Ms Kylie Kilgour who is a Deputy Commissioner of the National Anti Corruption Commission. Prior to her appointment as a Deputy Commissioner, **Ms Kilgour** was a Deputy Commissioner of the Victorian Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC). She was the CEO of the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants, a Deputy Secretary in the Victorian Department of Justice and Community Safety, a legal aid policy adviser in the UK and a community legal centre lawyer in NSW.

The **Hon Pamela Tate AM KC** will chair the event.

The flyer will be available shortly.

ACT Event Thursday 3 April 2025

5:15 pm – 6:30 pm

Courtroom 3, Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory, Knowles Place, Canberra City.

In this free public event, **Professor Philip Pettit AC** will present a paper entitled “*Can Regular Corporations be Socially Responsible?*”

I will be the chair.

The **Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory Lucy McCallum** welcomes guests to this event.



Professor Pettit is the Laurance Rockefeller University Professor of Politics and Human Values at Princeton University where he has taught political theory and philosophy since 2002, and for a period that began in 2012-13 holds a joint position as Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy at the Australian National University, Canberra. He was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2017. In 2023 Professor Pettit published *The State* (Princeton University Press), a major new account of the state and its importance.

[The flyer is here. Please register.](#)

7 May 2025 NSW Compulsory voting

5:15 pm – 6:45 pm AEDT

Venue: **Court 1** Federal Court of Australia Courts Building, Queens Square, Sydney

In this free public event, **Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC** will speak on *Compulsory voting in Australia: its history and purpose*. **The Hon Arthur Emmett AO KC** will provide a commentary.

Queensland introduced compulsory voting in 1915. The Commonwealth followed in 1924. Victoria introduced compulsory voting in 1926, New South Wales and Tasmania in 1928, Western Australia in 1936 and South Australia in 1942.

I will chair the event.

[The flyer is here. Please register.](#)

Wednesday 18 June 2025 – Dinner at Gray’s Inn

If you will be in London on 18 June, UK based Overseas Fellows please note, do let me or the Secretariat know if you wish to attend this evening event. Partners are invited too.

I thank **Desmond Browne CBE KC**, for his great help. He has arranged for the dinner to take place at the Small Pension Room in Gray’s Inn, located next to Chancery Lane station. The address of Gray’s Inn is 8 South Square, London.

The likely cost will be £100 per person.

Sir Ross Cranston has kindly agreed to be the speaker.

If you wish to attend, please notify the Secretariat as soon as possible. Numbers are limited, as the accompanying photograph shows.



30 October 2025 - Melbourne

AAL Patron’s Address

I am pleased to advise that the new Chief Justice of Victoria, the **Hon Richard Niall**, has agreed to give

the 2025 AAL's Patron's Address. The date is 30 October 2025 in the Banco Court, Supreme Court of Victoria. The working title of **Chief Justice Niall's** address is *Lessons in mathematics*.

Donations to the AAL

The AAL's current status as a deductible gift recipient (DGR) expires on 1 July 2025 by virtue of a condition in schedule 5 to the *Treasury Laws Amendment (2020 Measures No. 2) Act 2020*. We are presently in the process of seeking to renew our status, but that involves a legislative amendment which is likely to take some time. If we are successful in our application our DGR status may be re-gained retrospectively, but that cannot be regarded as certain.

In other words, if you are considering making a gift within the next 12 months please note that at this stage tax deductibility is 100% certain only if your donation is made by 30 June 2025. Donations may be made via the website:

<https://academyoflaw.org.au/Donations>

or directly to:

AAL Public Fund,
NAB BSB: 082514
Account No: 424765242

The Humanity of Law

A photograph which has been attracting attention on LinkedIn is this one, taken at the book launch in November 2024 of *The Humanity of Law - Selected Essays* of **James Allsop**. The photo was taken by **Michael Murray**.



From left to right, Chief Justice of Australia the Hon Stephen Gageler AC, who launched the book, the Hon Andrew Bell, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, and two former Chief Justices of the Federal Court, the Hon James Allsop AC and the Hon Michael Black AC.

You can [buy your copy of the book here](#).

Publication of the proceedings of the joint event with the AIJA and the ALJ: *Enduring Courts in Changing Times*

Lastly, my favourite AAL photograph from 2024, taken by **Michael Murray** at the book launch in July 2024. I posted the photo on LinkedIn where it has had more than 13,000 impressions:



From left to right, the Hon Robert French AC, former Chief Justice of Australia, the Hon Tom Bathurst AC KC, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales and the Hon Andrew Bell, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales

You can buy your copy of the book [here](#).

Handwritten signature of Alan Robertson in blue ink.

Alan Robertson
President

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