

Welcome to the third Newsletter for 2025.

Congratulations

Please join me in congratulating AAL Fellow **Graeme Hill SC** on his appointment as a judge of the Federal Court of Australia, with effect from 2 April 2025. He will be based in Melbourne.

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 have lodged an application 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 regained 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

Vale the Hon Roger Gyles AO KC

It is with sadness that I bring to the attention of Fellows that AAL Fellow the **Hon Roger Gyles AO KC** died on 2 March at the age of 86.

Roger was appointed Queens Counsel in 1975 and was President of the NSW Bar Association from 1985 to 1987, and of the Australian Bar Association in 1986.

From 1999 to 2008 he was a judge of the Federal Court of Australia and subsequently an Acting Judge of Appeal of the Supreme Court of NSW.

In December 2014 Roger was appointed the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor.

In 2000 he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for service to the legal profession and the judiciary, particularly as a Royal Commissioner and Special Prosecutor, and to the community.

He and his industry, wise counsel and collegiality will be greatly 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 contact
AALSecretariat@academyoflaw.org.au

AAL Research Grant Scheme 2025

Applications are open for an Australian Academy of Law Research Grant and may be made by anyone, whether a student (undergraduate or postgraduate), a professional academic, a practitioner or a judicial officer and in each case whether still "in practice" or not.

The total amount available for this financial year is **A\$25,000**.

Applications must be made by **30 April 2025**.

Applicants must be either:

- (a) Australian citizens or permanent residents; or
- (b) any other person, provided that either:
 - (i) they are conducting their research at or through an Australian university; or
 - (ii) the subject matter of the research is predominantly a matter of Australian law, even if with a comparative theme.

The proposed research may be empirical, theoretical, doctrinal or practical.

The criteria are the extent to which the proposed research accords with the AAL's objects; its importance; its originality; its feasibility and its value for money.

The amount of each grant will depend on the nature and quality of the applications both individually and comparatively. Nevertheless, individual grants might be in the order of \$5,000.

Approved projects should finish by 31 December 2025. Each project therefore must be achievable, including funding acquittal, within that period.

The AAL will not have intellectual property rights in the research but would stipulate that its funding be appropriately acknowledged. Unless the candidate objects due to (for example) other publishing commitments, the AAL has the right (but not the obligation) to publish the finished research on its website, with appropriate attribution.

Details and Application Form are available [here](#)

FORTHCOMING AAL EVENTS

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

Online and at Court No 1, Old High Court, Supreme Court of Victoria, 450 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne

Free public event

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 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. 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 is here. Please register.](#)

ACT Event Thursday 3 April 2025

5:15 pm – 6:30 pm AEDT

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?*”



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

[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*.

RECENT EVENTS

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

Venue: High Court of Australia, Parkes, ACT

Fellows only

I thank **the Hon Mary Finn** for the following report:

On Thursday 20 March the first Michael Coper Roundtable was held for this year at the High Court in Canberra. The topic for discussion was the impact of AI on legal practice.

Ms Anne Trimmer AO, a Foundation Fellow of the Academy, presented an interesting and comprehensive paper on the topic. In her paper she emphasised the continuing rapid development of AI, and its uses, but also its associated dangers and pitfalls for the profession, particularly in relation to court proceedings.

A wide ranging discussion among the Fellows present followed Anne's presentation, with reference to relevant decisions of Australian and United States Courts and drawing attention to attempts here and overseas, particularly in European jurisdictions, to regulate the use of AI.

The AAL is very grateful to Anne for making herself available in Canberra to lead this Roundtable, and also to the Chief Justice, the Chief Executive Officer and staff of the High Court for again providing a conference room and administrative assistance for this latest Roundtable.

The **Hon Mary Finn** chaired the event.



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