

Conference on the Future of Australian Legal Education

I think I can safely say without fear of contradiction by any of the participants that our Conference held from Friday 11 to Sunday 13 August was a huge success.

Here are some comments that have been received since the Conference:

"I thought the conference a brilliant success...It was exceptionally well organised, beautifully compered, elegantly catered and intellectually stimulating."

"The conference was excellent and I am really grateful to everyone at the AAL for the opportunity to be not only involved, but to have sat on such an interesting and distinguished panel."

"I came home after the conference feeling better informed, as well as invigorated and inspired!"

"Thank you for an extremely interesting, relaxed and highly organised conference. "

"Congratulations on running such a splendid Conference. It really went so very smoothly and attendees thoroughly enjoyed themselves."

As all Fellows will be aware, the Conference celebrated not only the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Academy, but also the 90th anniversary of the launch of the Australian Law Journal and the 30th anniversary of the issue of "the Pearce Report" on Australian Law Schools, and was sponsored by the Academy and Thomson Reuters as the publisher of the ALJ.

There were 162 registrants for the Conference and 100 registered for the Conference dinner held in the Strangers' Dining Room, Parliament House, Sydney.

There were four plenary sessions and eight concurrent sessions. It must be a concern of any conference organiser that one or more concurrent sessions might not attract support, but all eight concurrent sessions drew a sizeable attendance.



(Above) Professor Martha C. Nussbaum giving her plenary address.

(Below) An engaging question and answer session.



The Academy is indebted to many people for making the Conference such a success. They include the keynote speaker, Professor Martha Nussbaum of the University of Chicago Law School and Philosophy Department, Chief Justice Allsop for making the Federal Court available and chairing the

first plenary session, Justice Virginia Bell AC who was our after dinner speaker at the dinner on the Saturday evening, and of course the chairs and speakers at all the sessions.

Finally, thanks are due to the Conference Organising Committee. In addition to Justice Francois Kunc and me, the Organising Committee comprised:

Justice Alan Robertson, Deputy President of the Academy
Emeritus Professor David Barker AM, Hon Secretary of the Academy (whose recent book, *A History of Australian Legal Education*, received much honourable mention at the Conference)
Emeritus Professor Rosalind Croucher AM
Professor Natalie Klein
Professor Simone Degeling
Professor Brian Opeskin
Professor Michael Coper
Dr Nuncio D'Angelo
Fiona McLeod, President of the Law Council of Australia
Stuart Clark AM, former President of the Law Council of Australia

Thanks are due in particular to the Academy's Secretariat, Claire Hammerton for her efficiency and diligence in undertaking the heavy administrative load associated with staging the Conference.



The Conference gala dinner at the Strangers' Dining Room, NSW Parliament House.

A number of participants suggested that the Academy might perform a useful role in connection with legal education. This is something that will be discussed at the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

Annual General Meeting

Please note that the annual general meeting of the Academy will be held on Monday 25 September at 4.05 pm at the Federal Court in Sydney.

The formal notice of the AGM and accompanying documents will be sent to members within the next few days.

Essay Prize for 2017

The closing date for entries for the Prize to be submitted fast approaches. It is 31 August. 65 expressions of interest were received by the closing date 30 June. Fellows may recall the topic for this year's Essay prize is:

How well do Australian legal institutions respond to climate change? How could that response be improved?

The Judging Panel for the Prize comprises the following Fellows:

Professor William Gummow AC
The Hon Justice Pamela Tate
Professor Rosemary Lyster

In due course the Newsletter will inform readers of the winner of the Prize.

Event held in Perth on Monday 17 July 2017

As foreshadowed in previous Newsletters, on Monday 17 July, Professor Erika Techera, Director of the University of Western Australia Oceans Institute spoke at a meeting of Fellows on "Bringing science, technology and

law together to solve the illegal fishing challenge”.

The meeting was held at the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth and was followed by a dinner at Post Restaurant, Como Treasury Hotel.

Joint Badging of Event in Tasmania

The Academy was recently invited to be a joint supporter of an event in Hobart on Thursday 24 August.

It was held at the Law School of the University of Tasmania under the title "Does our Justice System Work? Perspectives from the bench" and the illustrious panellists were the Hon Robert French AC, the Hon Peter Heerey AM, QC, the Hon Chief Justice Alan Blow OAM, and Chief Magistrate Catherine Geason.

The other sponsors of the event were the University of Tasmania and the Law Society of Tasmania.

ACADEMY EVENTS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN THE REMAINDER OF 2017

The Austin Asche Oration on Law and Governance to be held in Darwin on Tuesday 19 September 2017

As noted in previous Newsletters, the Seventh Austin Asche Oration in Law and Governance will be held in Darwin on Tuesday 19 September.

The speaker will be Mr Ed Santow, Human Rights Commissioner of the Australian Human Rights Commission.

Mr Santow's address will be entitled "Making detention safe: can we grasp a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity?"

The focus of Mr Santow's address will be the decision by the Commonwealth Government to ratify the *Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture* by December 2017.

This annual Oration, which is sponsored jointly by the Academy and Charles Darwin University, is one not to be missed.

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

Patron's Address on Monday 25 September

As noted in previous Newsletters, the Patron's Address for 2017 will be given by Overseas Fellow, Professor the Hon James Crawford AC SC, a Judge of the International Court of Justice.

For more information, please see the flyer **attached**. To register for the event, go to: www.academyoflaw.org.au/event-2609119

May I draw readers' attention to an error that appeared in the earlier version of the flyer for this event. It said that it was to be held in the Banco Court, Supreme Court of New South Wales, Level 13, Law Courts Building, Queen's Square, Sydney.

That is where last year's Patron's Address was given by Mr Justin Gleeson SC.

In accordance with our practice of alternating between the Courts, this year's Patron's Address is scheduled to be held in the **Federal Court, Court No 1, Level 21**, Law Courts Building, Queen's Square, Sydney.

[The familiar danger in the use of precedents!!]

Victoria's event for 2017 to be held on Monday 23 October 2017

The Hon Justice Michelle Gordon of the High Court of Australia will deliver the address for the Victorian event this year on Monday 23 October at Court One, Level 8, Federal Court of Australia, 305 William Street, Melbourne.

Justice Gordon's topic will be "Corporations and Corporate Insolvency Jurisdiction of the Federal Court – From Passer-by to Chameleon Lodger "

Please see the **attached** flyer for more information and for registration details.

Queensland's event on Thursday 26 October 2017

Professor Sarah Derrington, Academic Dean and Head of School, TC Beirne School of Law, University of Queensland will give the address at the Queensland event this year.

Professor Derrington's topic will be "Trends in Legal education".

As usual, the lecture will be given at that splendid venue, the Banco Court, Level 3, Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law, 415 George Street, Brisbane.

For more information and registration details see the flyer **attached**.

South Australia's event for 2017 to be held on Wednesday 1 November 2017

South Australia's Academy event for 2017 will be held on Wednesday 1 November at the Law Theatre 1, Ligertwood Building, Law School, University of Adelaide, North Terrace, Adelaide.

The speaker will be Emeritus Professor Gillian Triggs, immediate past President of the Australian Human Rights Commission.

Professor Triggs' topic will be "The Rule of Law in a Post Truth Environment".

For more information and for "How to register" please see the flyer **attached**.

Western Australia's event for 2017 to be held on Wednesday 29 November

Fellows in Perth have been fortunate in having secured as the speaker at the Academy's event in Perth this year, the Hon Robert French AC, immediate past Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia and immediate past Patron of the Academy.

The event will be held at 5.30 pm at the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth.

Mr French's topic will be: "Rationality and reason in administrative law – would a roll of the dice be just as good".

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

Possible Evening Event in Sydney, January 2018

Justice Alan Robertson wishes to gauge the level of interest in a possible evening event (reception and dinner) in Sydney in January 2018 in association with the Supreme and Federal Courts Judges' conference which begins informally on Saturday, 20 January 2018 and continues until Wednesday, 24 January 2018. The association with that conference will be no more than that a greater number of Fellows than usual will be in Sydney at that time.

As with a similar event in Perth this year, both Fellows and their partners would be welcome.

The preferred evening would be Tuesday, 23 January 2018. Would those who may be interested please contact Justice Robertson directly by email at:

Justice.Robertson@fedcourt.gov.au

40th Anniversary of the Federal Court of Australia Conference – 8 & 9 September 2017

Fellows may be interested to read details of this important event, which can be found at: <https://law.anu.edu.au/event/conference/40th-anniversary-federal-court-australia>

New Members

I am sure that all Fellows join me in extending a warm welcome to the following distinguished lawyer who has accepted the Board's invitation to become a Fellow of the Academy since the last Newsletter:

The Hon Justice Michael Buss



Kevin Lindgren

President

kevlindgren@gmail.com

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