

Award of inaugural Annual Essay Prize

The inaugural Annual Essay Prize of the Academy was presented to Ailsa McKeon at a ceremony held in the Queensland Court of Appeal Conference Room on Wednesday 28 October.



Those present were, in addition to Ailsa McKeon, her proud parents, Mark McKeon and Janet Wight, and the President, the following Fellows of the Academy attended: Chief Justice Kate Holmes, the President of the Court of Appeal, Justice Margaret McMurdo AC, Justices Roslyn Atkinson AO and Philip McMurdo of the Supreme Court of Queensland, Justices Andrew Greenwood and James Edelman of the Federal Court of Australia, the Hon Margaret White AO, formerly a Judge of Appeal of the Queensland Court of Appeal, and Professor Bee Chen Goh, Director of the Centre for Peace and Social Justice, School of Law and Justice, Southern Cross University.



Fellows will recall that the prize was \$10,000. Ailsa says that she hopes to have a career in international criminal law and, to that end, to study overseas next year. She says that the money will be of assistance in connection with postgraduate studies or attaining a professional qualification in the United Kingdom next year.

The prize winner has previously written or co-written academic legal articles.

Again, our thanks to the Judging Panel of Professor William Gummow AC, Professor Gillian Triggs and Mr Russell Miller AM for their work in judging the essays submitted.

Western Australian event for 2015

The annual event of the Academy in Western Australia was held in Courtroom 1, Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth.

The speaker was Professor Frank S Alexander, the Sam Nunn Professor of Law at Emory University School of Law.

An audience of approximately 20 heard Professor Alexander speak on "Neighbourhood Stabilization Strategies for Vacant and Abandoned Properties", a subject that held a particular interest for residents of Perth because steps taken there earlier this year to recover possession of publicly owned properties received considerable attention in the media.

Following the lecture, the Academy hosted a dinner attended by Professor and Mrs Alexander.

Annual General Meeting of the Academy

The annual general meeting of the Academy was held on Tuesday 27 October.

The following were elected as office holders for the ensuing year:

President: The Hon Kevin Lindgren AM QC
Vice President: The Hon Justice Alan Robertson
Treasurer: The Hon Justice John Digby

Other Directors:

The Hon Justice John Mansfield AM
Emeritus Professor David Barker AM
Professor Paul Fairall
Professor Michael Adams
Professor Michael Coper
Professor Rosemary Owens AO
Professor Brian Opeskin
Professor Rosalind Croucher AM
Professor Bee Chen Goh
Professor Les McCrimmon

The meeting recorded its appreciation of the contribution made over the years by Professor David Weisbrot AM, whose workload as Chair of the Australia Press Council has led him to decline re-nomination as a director, and therefore as Vice President.

The AGM dealt, of course, with the other matters on the agenda that had been distributed to all members of the Academy with the notice of the meeting.

Following the meeting, Professor Croucher gave an outline of “the Freedoms Inquiry” of the Australian Law Reform Commission, of which she is the Commissioner in Charge.

Professor Rosalind Croucher AM re-appointed as President of the Australian Law Reform Commission

On 15 October, the Attorney-General, the Hon George Brandis QC, announced that Professor Rosalind Croucher AM, has been re-appointed as President of the ALRC.

Ros Croucher, who is a director of the Academy and Chair of its Projects Committee, had been appointed as a full-time Commissioner of the ALRC in February 2007, and as its President in December 2009.

The reappointment is for a further term of three years.

On behalf of the Academy I congratulate Professor Croucher on her reappointment

Remaining State and Territory events for 2015

The following is the current position regarding State and Territory events planned for the rest of 2015 (see, too, under “Events” on the Academy’s website: www.academyoflaw.org.au).

Australian Capital Territory

On Thursday 19 November, Fellows in Canberra will be holding an event in the ACT Supreme Court, 6 Knowles Place, CANBERRA.

There will be two speakers, Professor Richard Collier, FAcSS, FRSA of Newcastle University, UK, and Professor Margaret Thornton, FASSA, FAAL of The Australian National University.

The topic will be “[Balancing on a Tightrope: Law & Life in Legal Practice](#)”.

Please click on the link above for this event, which all Fellows, in particular, those in the ACT are encouraged to attend.

New Members

On behalf of the Academy and its members I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to Sir Ross Cranston who has accepted the Academy’s invitation to become an Overseas Fellow since the last and recent Newsletter dated 20 October which noted six new Fellows and two Overseas Fellows.

Overseas Fellows

Sir Ross Cranston

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Lindgren". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a long, sweeping underline.

Kevin Lindgren

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4 November 2015