

Personalia

I am sure that all Fellows would wish to join me in warmly congratulating Mr Mark Livesey QC and Dr Chris Bleby SC (I am using their pre-appointment descriptions) on their recent appointments to the Supreme Court of South Australia and to the about to be established South Australia Court of Appeal.

That Court will be established once amendments that were made last year to the Supreme Court Act 1935 (SA) are proclaimed.

Subscription for 2020 - 2021

Clause 8.1 of the AAL's Constitution provides that the Directors may, from time to time, determine the annual subscription and that until they determine otherwise, the subscription is to be \$400.00 (other than for Life Fellows and Overseas Fellows).

The Board of Directors is conscious of the fact that the Coronavirus pandemic has had a detrimental effect on the level of income of many Fellows.

Although the effect of the pandemic would have varied as between Fellows and categories of Fellows, the Board has decided as a one off event to reduce the subscription for 2020-2021, and, to that end, has resolved as follows:

"THAT, pursuant to clause 8.1 of the Constitution, the annual subscription for the year 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 payable by each Member other than for Life Fellows and Overseas Fellows, be \$200.00."

Fellows can expect to receive from the Secretariat notice that the subscription of \$200.00 is payable. Under clause 8.3 of the Constitution it is payable by 31 July.

Application for Deductible Gift Recipient Status (DGR)

Fellows will recall that the then Assistant Treasurer, The Hon Stuart Robert MP advised on 5 April 2019 that the Government had agreed to list the Academy specifically as a DGR. This involves, and is subject to, an amendment to Div 30 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

Following the amendment of our Constitution by special resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 12 June last, the Australian Taxation Office advised that its public fund requirements were met.

Since then, we have been waiting for the amending

legislation to be enacted.

I wrote to Senator Zed Seslja MP, Assistant Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters on 14 April 2020 and one of his staff called me in response to say that the legislation would have gone before the March sittings of the Parliament but for the Coronavirus and that it is expected that it will receive some priority in the August sittings.

Fellows will be informed once there is more to report.

Joint Symposium to be held by the AAL and the Australian Academy of Science (AAS)

Fellows will recall that in 2018 and 2019 the AAL and the AAS have jointly sponsored a symposium. It has been held in Sydney in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Council of the AAS.

A similar event has been planned for this year, on Wednesday 19 August.

The flyer for it is attached.

Of course, it is conceivable that the coronavirus pandemic may necessitate its postponement. Since 19 August is three and a half months away, it was thought best to plan and to take registrations on the basis that the event would proceed. If circumstances make that impossible, the registration fee of \$25.00 will be refunded to those who have paid it. The event is free for Fellows of both Academies and for students.

As the flyer shows, the topic is *"The Reception, Quality and Evaluation of Scientific Evidence in Australian Courts"*.

There will be an emphasis on criminal law and procedure.

We have been most fortunate in securing as Chair, The Hon Justice Bell AC of the High Court, and as legal panellists, The Hon Mark Weinberg AO QC and Mr Tim Game SC, all Fellows of the Academy.

Coronavirus and the holding of events online

In the last Newsletter reference was made to the postponement of several Academy events due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

But it should be possible to arrange for roundtables to be conducted online. Fellows in Canberra and Perth are

progressing this.

It would be a proper use of funds, I suggest, for the Academy to pay for the use of a platform for that purpose. I understand that Zoom is free for 40 minutes but that would not be long enough.

ACT

On a date to be fixed in June, Professor Don Rothwell will lead a discussion at an online Michael Coper Roundtable on international law issues associated with COVID-19 and cruise ships; and

Professor Sally Wheeler, Dean of the ANU College of Law will lead a Michael Coper Roundtable discussion on BREXIT on 26 August, it is hoped in person in the High Court, where many of the roundtables in Canberra have been held.

Western Australia

On 24 June, Ms Jessica Kerr a PhD candidate in the School of Law in the University of Western Australia will lead an online roundtable on the area of her PhD research, namely, the judicial systems of the Commonwealth. A flyer for this event is in the course of being prepared and should be issued within the next few days.

I would encourage Fellows in the various States and Territories to plan roundtables for local Fellows. I suggest that usually the number of Fellows who can be expected to attend a roundtable is 10-20.

As a separate matter, it should be possible, if the speaker and local Fellows agreed, for Fellows elsewhere in the country to “participate”.

Annual Essay Prize

Again, the notice of the offering of the Annual Essay prize is [attached](#) and I would encourage all Fellows to make it widely known.

Fellows are invited to indicate a willingness to serve on the Judging Panel. Professor William Gummow has again kindly agreed to chair the Panel. Therefore we will need two further Fellows to serve on the Panel

Change of Roles

The last Annual General Meeting of the Academy was held in Brisbane on 31 October 2019, and in the first Newsletter after it ([2019] No 7 dated 5 November 2019) I wrote:

“I announced to the Annual General Meeting my intention to resign from the position of President towards the middle of 2020. Having performed the role of President for some 8-9 years I feel it is time for a change in leadership. I proposed that I should be replaced as President by the Deputy President Justice Alan Robertson.”

The time has come.

The Board of Directors has agreed to a proposal submitted

by the Deputy President and me.

I have given notice of my resignation from the office of President with effect from 30 June (ie on and from 1 July), and our Deputy President, Justice Alan Robertson, has given notice of his resignation from the office of Deputy President with effect from the same date. Alan Robertson will retire from the Federal Court on 9 May 2020.

The Board has agreed that Alan Robertson occupy the office of President, and that I occupy the office of Deputy President from 30 June until the end of the next Annual General Meeting.

It has been a great honour for me to have been the President of the Academy since my election at the AGM held on 18 November 2011.

In particular, it has been a privilege and pleasure to have had contact with so many of Australia’s finest lawyers—the Fellows of the Academy.

Then why resign?

I think it best to do so now when the Academy is so active and when we have such a splendid Deputy President willing to take over.

I would like to acknowledge with thanks his support and that of the Hon Treasurer, Justice John Digby and the Hon Secretary/Public Officer, Professor David Barker AM, as well as that of all present and past Directors and our present Secretariat, Ms Susan Jenkins and past Secretariats, for me as President and for the work of the AAL.

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 Tim Stephens
Professor of International Law, University of Sydney Law School

Ms Sonia Brownhill SC
Solicitor General for the Northern Territory

Mr Tim Game SC
Senior Counsel Forbes Chambers, Principal Practice in Criminal Law, President of the NSW Bar Association.



Kevin Lindgren

President

kevlindgren@gmail.com

0414 914 827



AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF LAW JOINT SYMPOSIUM

The Reception, Quality and Evaluation of Scientific Evidence in Australian Courts

DATE: Wednesday 19 August 2020, 5.00pm – 7.00pm
PLACE: Federal Court - Court No 1
 Level 21 Law Courts Building,
 Queen's Square, Sydney
 The symposium will be followed by refreshments

A panel of experts on science and law will be asked questions by The Hon Justice Virginia Bell of the High Court of Australia on the topic of scientific proof and legal proof. The panel will discuss how it is used as evidence, how it is assessed and the peer review system.

Moderator

The Hon Justice Virginia Bell AC

Judge of the High Court of Australia

Panel members

The Hon Justice Mark Weinberg AO QC

Reserve Judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria and Formerly a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia

Tim Game SC

Senior Counsel Forbes Chambers, Principal Practice in Criminal Law, President of the NSW Bar Association

Professor David Balding FAA

Professor of Statistical Genetics
 The University of Melbourne

Professor Carola Vinuesa FAA

Professor of Immunology
 Co-Director, Centre for Personalised Immunology, ANU

To register for the event visit
[Australian Academy of Law – Events](#)
 By 14 August 2019

FELLOWS OF BOTH ACADEMIES AND STUDENTS MAY ATTEND FREE OF CHARGE

OTHERS ARE ABLE TO REGISTER FOR \$25 INCLUDING GST

For lawyers this event may count as MCLE/CPD