



PERSONALIA

The Hon Justice Sarah Derrington

On behalf of all Fellows, I extend warm congratulations to Academy Fellow Professor Sarah Derrington, Academic Dean and Head of School, T C Beirne School of Law, University of Queensland on her recently announced appointment as the President of the Australian Law Reform Commission for a five-year term. She has also been appointed a judge of the Federal Court of Australia, from which she will be seconded during her tenure as President of the ALRC.

Professor Derrington's lecture at the Academy's 2017 Queensland event on 26 October was noted in the last Newsletter.

The Hon Justice Richard Niall

I also extend warm congratulations to Academy Fellow Richard Niall, who was earlier this month sworn in as a Judge of the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court of Victoria.

Kristen Walker QC

In further important news I extend warm congratulations to Academy Fellow Kristen Walker QC who was appointed as the Solicitor-General for Victoria, to succeed Justice Niall.

SECRETARIAT—CONGRATULATIONS, BEST WISHES AND FAREWELL

Perhaps by now all members of the Academy know that our most efficient and unfailingly polite and helpful Secretariat, Claire Hammerton, is about to take maternity leave from the Federal Court and will therefore not be available to look after the affairs of the Academy.

Claire's last day will be 22 December 2017.

It is difficult to describe adequately what a boon it has been for the Academy to have had the benefit of Claire's services.

On behalf of all Fellows I congratulate her and wish her well on this joyous occasion and thank her for her services to the Academy.



Claire's temporary (until 10 August next year) replacement will be Julie Greig of the Adelaide Registry of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia.

There will be a "handover" from Claire to Julie in Sydney in December when I and some of the other Directors will have the opportunity to meet her.

On behalf of all members I welcome Julie, with whom we look forward to working.

RECENT EVENTS

Third and final event in the Ethics series in Sydney on Monday 29 November

The third and final event in the Ethics series was held in the Federal Court of Australia on Monday 29 November.

The topic was "How to be ethical in the practice of the law: can it be taught?"

All three events in the Ethics series have drawn large attendances and this one was no exception. There was an audience of between 180 and 200.



From left to right: Professor Lesley Hitchens, Professor Adrian Evans, Dr. Justine Rogers, the Hon Patricia Bergin SC (Chair and moderator), Paul Monaghan, Arthur Moses SC and Dr. Simon Longstaff

I strongly recommend to Fellows in other States and Territories that they consider holding one or more events based on an Ethics theme.

Of course, it is important to get the right Chair and panellists, but the Ethics related topics also seem to have proved inherently attractive to the profession.

At the conclusion of the event, Life Membership of the Academy was conferred on Emeritus Professor David Weisbrot AM.



From left to right: Emeritus Professor David Weisbrot AM. Receiving his Life Membership to the Academy from President Kevin Lindgren

Western Australian event for 2017 held on Wednesday 29 November

The Academy hosted its Annual WA Chapter Lecture on Wednesday, 29 November 2017 at the Federal Court of Australia in Perth. The lecture was presented by the Hon. Robert French AC, who spoke on the topic of “Rationality and reason in administrative law – would a roll of dice be just as good?”



From left to right Hon. Robert French AC, Hon. Robert Nicholson AO KCSJ, President Kevin Lindgren, Hon. Justice Michael Barker and the Hon. Ralph Simmonds.

At the conclusion of the event the Hon Robert Nicholson AO KCSJ was invested as a Life Member of the Academy.

The event was a success, with over 40 people attending. Refreshments were served afterwards.



President Kevin Lindgren presenting the Hon. Robert Nicholson AO KCSJ, with his life membership of the Academy

Meeting of Fellows in ACT on Thursday 30 November 2017

16 Fellows met at the High Court on Thursday 30 November for what is expected to be the first of a series of “round tables” for local members of the Academy (actually for any members who may find it convenient to attend).



From left to right: Emeritus Professor Michael Coper, Hon. Mary Finn and Justice Richard Refshauge (ret)

As foreshadowed in the last Newsletter, recently retired Justice Richard Refshauge of the ACT Supreme Court spoke on “Lawyering, Prosecuting and Judging: Career Reflections”.

Emeritus Professor Michael Coper has provided the following account: “The discussion flowed seamlessly, as you would expect in such an impressive and congenially sized group, ranging over Richard’s long connection with the ANU and the Canberra community, his early career in practice, the ethical and strategic dimensions of prosecuting, and the challenges of being a Supreme Court judge, including, for example, the challenge presented by the unrepresented litigant.”



Local Fellows at the ACT round table

The next ACT event will be a public lecture on Friday 16 March 2018, in which ANU Professor James Stellios and Federal Court Justice John Griffiths will present on the subject of ‘The Federal Court and the Constitution’. A flyer for the event will accompany the next Newsletter.

Academy Prize of \$1,000 presented to best Honours student’s presentation at UTS

For the third year UTS has hosted a conference at which national Honours students from Australian law schools have been able to elaborate orally on the subject of their Honours theses to other students.

At least one member of staff is also present. He or she, and the students in the audience, make comments and ask questions of the student presenting.

This year the event was held on Saturday 2 December.

Thirty four students presented (they have gone through a selection process). They presented at three contemporaneous one-hour sessions held throughout the day.

The students came from 12 Australian universities.

The Academy presents a prize of \$1,000 to the student who is assessed the best by the academics who arrange the event.

The winner this year was Ms Zoe Brereton of the University of Queensland (UQ Law).

The President and Vice President presented Zoe with the Academy’s cheque for the amount of the prize.

One of the academics present gave the following account of Zoe’s presentation:

Zoe pulled us in from the outset with her compelling socio-legal account of the interpretation and application of the concept of consent rape by fraud cases in India. With an engaging and personal style, she took us on a

journey with her, to Delhi, where on a research trip she was confronted by narratives of women victimising men by exploiting new legislation that criminalises rape. Her presentation was exceptional in that she didn't rely on her notes. Rather she talked to us about her experiences and provided a fascinating historical and contemporary account of the development of the concept of consent in India. A salutary reminder that law itself doesn't change the treatment of vulnerable people, including women. Much broader shifts in cultural mindsets are required.



The President, prize winner Zoe Brereton, Deputy President, the Hon Justice Alan Robertson

Evening reception/dinner event for Fellows in Sydney to be held on Tuesday 23 January 2018

It is your last chance to join 38 other Fellows and their partners for a reception and dinner at 7 for 7:30 PM on Tuesday, 23 January 2018 at level 20, Law Courts Building, Queens Square, Sydney. Please notify Deputy President Justice Alan Robertson directly at Justice.Robertson@fedcourt.gov.au if you wish to attend but have not already confirmed.

Partners will be very welcome. The cost is \$125 per person, including drinks and wine.

The occasional after-dinner speech will be given by Justice Mark Weinberg AO of the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court of Victoria.

New Members

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 Melissa de Zwart
Professor James Stellios

Christmas

The Secretariat will not be available from 23 December 2017 to 7 January 2018 due to the Christmas holiday period.

I take this opportunity to wish all Fellows a safe and enjoyable holiday season



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