



The Albert Coates Memorial Trust

ANNUAL REPORT 2025





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The Albert Coates Memorial Trust

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ABN 22 346 252 276

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- **Image of the portrait of Matron Vivian Bullwinkel by Shirley Bourne (1962 oil on canvas, ART 28389.) used on p.5 with the permission of the Australian War Memorial.**

Cover photograph of Karen Stewart printed with permission.
The photograph was taken when Karen was on duty at Great Ocean Road Health, on a night shift at 2.30 am.
Karen is the 2025 Albert Coates Rural Nursing Scholarship recipient.

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Statement of Purpose

The Albert Coates Memorial Trust provides tertiary level scholarships for health professionals in regional Australia.

The Trust also honours the life of Sir Albert Coates through publications, education programmes and associated educational awards.

Trust programmes are supported by donations, bequests and fund-raising activities.



The Albert Coates Memorial Trust is a volunteer-run, Ballarat-based organisation which, since 1998, has raised funds to present scholarships for medical and nursing purposes, focussed on regional areas in Victoria. The scholarships are awarded in areas of interest and relevance to the life and achievements of Sir Albert Coates, the Ballarat-born surgeon of the Thai-Burma Railway.

During World War 1, Albert Coates served in Gallipoli, Egypt and Flanders as a medical orderly and with the Intelligence Corps. At 46 he volunteered for duty in World War II and went as Senior Surgeon with the 2/10th AGH of the 8th Division to Malaya. Captured by the Japanese in Sumatra, he was taken to Burma. As a surgeon on the infamous Thai-Burma railway, he saved hundreds of lives and gave inspired leadership to those with whom he served.

Albert Coates—Prosector

Albert Coates photographed in 1930, aged 35. He was seated with a group of prosectors from the Anatomy School, University of Melbourne. Prosectors were trained in preparing a dissection for demonstration, usually in a medical school or hospital. Coates had 'obtained the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in 1924, Doctor of Medicine in 1926 and Master of Surgery in 1927. In 1927 the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons was formed, creating a new fellowship course for surgeons. 'Coates taught anatomy to the first group of Melbourne candidates for the fellowship.' (Photograph and quotes from *The Albert Coates Story*, Albert Coates and Newman Rosenthal, 1977, p.43.



Photo Source: Robyn Coates.

TRUSTEES



Mr Don Moss OAM
FRACS FACS



Roger Trudgeon MA
Hon Secretary



Neill Shiells
Hon Treasurer



Shirley McIver
Trustee



Gwenda McManus
Trustee

Trustees, Committee and Auditor

COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Robyn Coates



Arthur Coates



Desley Beechey JP
RN, RM,
Grad Dip. Admin
Masters Midwifery



Dr Jeff Sargent



Dr Ross Phillips



Bill Bahr

AUDITOR



Jason Hargreaves
Director at CountPro

Jason Hargreaves FCPA. B. Com. ASIC Registered Auditor, approved SMSF Auditor. In 2024 the Coates Trust engaged Jason Hargreaves from CountPro Audit Pty. Ltd. as its Auditor. We thank Jason and his team for their work this year, and look forward to working with them in the future.

CountPro Audit Pty Ltd is a locally owned and operated professional services firm providing tailored accounting, audit, tax and strategic services to businesses.

Report from the Chair

Don Moss OAM FRACS FACS

The Coates Oration for this year was presented by Grantlee Kieza OAM, author of his recent biography “Sister Viv”, the story of Lieutenant Colonel Vivian Bullwinkel, the sole nurse survivor of the massacre of 21 nurses on Radji Beach in 1942. His lecture covered the story of her life, but also some of the stories of the other nurses killed on that day. I was captured by the number of them with a connection to Ballarat or other towns in the western district of Victoria. It stunned me that three of the nurses killed had direct connections to the city of Ballarat, which established the Australian ex-Prisoners of War Memorial. These connections were little known, even among the medical and nursing community I have worked in for over 40 years.

Vivian Bullwinkel was born in Kapunda SA, but did her nursing and midwifery training in Broken Hill. In 1939 she shifted to work in a small private hospital in Hamilton, Western Victoria, before moving to the Jessie McPherson Hospital in Melbourne. Here Viv met Sr Olive ‘Dot’ Paschke, a Dimboola nurse who had trained at Queen Victoria Hospital and was now Assistant-Matron. They enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) early in 1941. Olive was transferred to Malaya, while Viv commenced military training in Puckapunyal. Here she met Ballarat born Sr Clarice Hartigan, who undertook her nursing training at The Melbourne Hospital 1927-29 (later the RMH). After working in Singapore, prior to the Japanese invasion, the nurses were ordered eventually to leave on the ship ‘Vyner Brooke’. Also among the 65 nurses on board, were Sr Beth Cuthbertson, who was born in Stirling SA, but completed her nursing training at Ballarat Base Hospital, and Sr Kath Neuss, born in Mollongghip, a small rural town just outside Ballarat. She had trained at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney. Also among the nurses were Mona Wilton and Wilmar Oram, both from Warrnambool Base Hospital, and of Western District Victoria origin. The ship was bombed by the Japanese, and the passengers who survived abandoned it into lifeboats. Many were injured, and a number drowned including Dot Paschke and Mona Wilton.

Among the survivors who landed on Radji Beach on Bangka island, a large group of 22 nurses had surrendered to the Japanese soldiers but were forced into the sea and machine-gunned. Only Bullwinkel survived, with the deaths of the three Ballarat nurses (Cuthbertson, Halligan and Neuss) added to the drownings of Paschke and Wilton. They are all listed on the Australian War Memorial plaque in Canberra, but neither Dot Paschke nor Mona Wilton are recognized on the Australian POW Memorial in Ballarat, presumably because they had not become official prisoners of war. Only Beth Cuthbertson is recognized in the plaque at the Ballarat Health Services, since she was the only one who was a local trainee, or working at the hospital on enlistment. Wilma Oram was the only nurse survivor of the five from western Victoria, though Vivian Bullwinkel had earlier worked at Hamilton.

Following the three years, which they spent as Prisoners of War, both Vivian Bullwinkel and Albert Coates returned to work in Victorian hospitals, and indeed worked together. Viv became Matron at Fairfield Infectious Disease Hospital (FIDH) 1959-1977, was awarded an MBE in 1973 and AO in 1993. Coates worked as Honorary Consultant surgeon at RMH and FIDH, and was chairman of the Fairfield Hospital’s board 1956-1961. They worked hard together with Sr Betty Jeffrey to establish the Nurses Memorial Centre, where Coates was president 1956-61. His daughter, Winifred, followed him later as president of the NMC, and also served as Trustee for the Albert Coates Memorial Trust.

Sr Vivian Bullwinkel was a remarkable contributor to her community, as was Sir Albert Coates. But each of the nurses who volunteered to serve were courageous and skilled supporters of the soldiers. I hope the sacrifice of these nurses with Ballarat connections will not be forgotten. Lest we forget!

Don Moss, Hon. Chair



Matron Vivian Bullwinkel portrait by Shirley Bourne.

Printed with the permission of
the Australian War Memorial.

At the time the portrait above was painted, Sister Bullwinkel was
Matron of Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital in Melbourne.

Secretary's Report

Roger Trudgeon MA

In the past year the Coates Trust delivered fifteen scholarships to undergraduate doctors and nurses, and to registered nurses wanting to extend their qualifications. Scholarships ranged in value from \$1,500 to \$5,000.

The 2024 Coates Orator, Grantlee Kieza OAM, gave an engaging address on the life of Sister Vivian Bullwinkel, the sole survivor of the Bangka Island massacre who went on to contribute so much to the nursing profession. The oration filled the auditorium at Federation University's School of Mines Campus with ninety attending. A poignant aspect of the Dinner was the attendance of a niece of Lt. Col. Vivian Bullwinkel, Sister Vivian Linnane, and also a relative of Sister Beth Cuthbertson, Melville Charles. Beth was a nurse from the Ballarat Base Hospital prior to WW2 and was one of the nurses killed at Radji Beach. Moving speeches by four scholarship recipients were the highlight of the Annual Coates Dinner following the Oration.

The Lunch with Speaker function in May featured Charles Zhang speaking on Chinese heritage in Ballarat, how that history is being preserved and presented now, and plans for the future. Charles has dedicated his life to several key projects including the Ballarat Chinese Library, Victory House Museum, and the Chinese Australian Historical Association Ballarat.

A significant development in the operations of the Trust was the redesign of the website, completed by Wayne Hines of Virtual Bean. The new site is easier to navigate, has a gallery of images and includes more content for students researching Sir Albert Coates. For the first time the website can be used to make online applications for the Rural Emergency Nursing Scholarships.

Generous donations continue to underpin the work of the Trust, both from organisations like the Victorian Veterans Council through to other trusts and individuals.

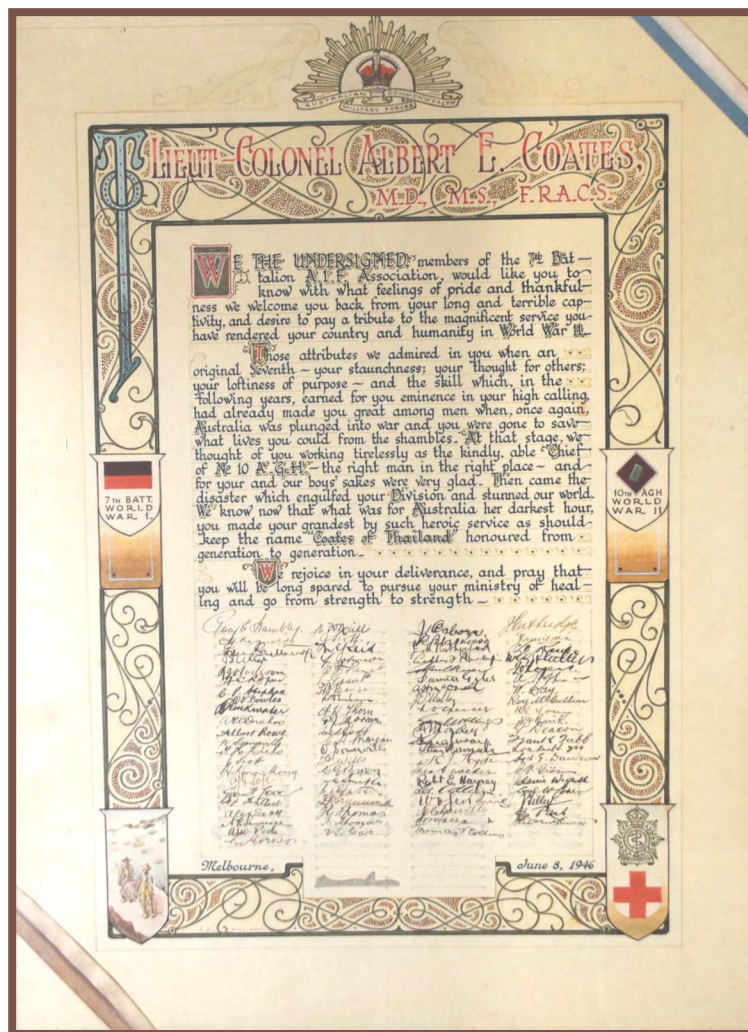
The VVC funds are based on a donation made by the Australian Legion of Ex-Service Men and Women many years ago. Neil Shiell's financial report acknowledges the Trust's thanks to our donors.

In May 2025, the Trust was presented with a very significant illuminated address originally presented to Albert Coates on June 8th 1946.

The document expresses the gratitude of members of the 7th Battalion, AIF Association, for the leadership, medical skill, self-sacrifice and humanity exhibited by Albert Coates in the POW camps on the Thai-Burma Railway.

The Trust is honoured to receive this iconic object from Ken Pizze, on behalf of the Pizze family. Ken's late wife, Dorothy Pizze, was the daughter of Albert Coates. We thank Ken and the wider family for their kindness.

The Coates Trust relies on the volunteer contribution of its trustees and committee members who actively conduct the work of the Trust. Thank you to everyone involved in the many activities required to keep the organisation and its programs running.



Illuminated address presented to Albert Coates in 1946 by members of the 7th Battalion, AIF Association.

Roger Trudgeon, Hon. Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Neil Shiells

Our investment income has been good due to the current interest rates. The ACMT is pleased to again report a better performance than expected in relation to Income. All Scholarships granted during 2024 - 25 were as we budgeted for except for the Regional Nursing Scholarships which didn't require the full amount.

Although earnings from investment income are always an important factor, the Trust is managing its investments with a low to moderate risk factor and periodic reviews.

It is noted that the Income from donations continued in 2024- 25 thanks to our great supporters. Scholarships were budgeted for the Financial Year at \$57,500 but only required \$48,880. Equity of the Trust includes \$10,000 left from the Leckie family Neo-Natal Nursing Scholarship at Ballarat Health Service. This financial year was the 4th of 5 scholarships at \$10,000 P.A.

All donations received during the year are gratefully acknowledged. These were numerous and significant. In particular the Trust acknowledges the ongoing support of the Legion of ex-Service Men and Women through the Victorian Veterans Council. This particular annual donation is totally linked to prevailing Interest rates and consequently has improved with the current Interest Rates. These funds are used in the following years scholarships. We thank the Glenyis McIver Trust which has again supported us with a donation of \$10,000 and we welcome the LJM Foundation which donated \$10,000. It is also relevant to mention repeated donations from Arthur and Robyn Coates, John Davis, Don and Sharon Moss, Laurie Prosser plus many other generous people who have kept us on the right side of the balance line.

Our reporting responsibilities with the ATO, Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission and the Victorian Veterans Council (Legion) are all up to date. The audited accounts are attached to this report. It is appropriate to thank CountPro Audit Pty Ltd. for completing this years Audit.



Neil Shiells
Hon. Treasurer

DONORS 2024-2025

Victorian Veterans' Council
Glenyis McIver Charitable Trust
L J M Foundation
Arthur and Robyn Coates
John Davis Holdings
Don and Sharon Moss
Laurence Prosser
Robert and Noelle Hinchey
Ex POW and Relatives Association
Marion M Maddern
H W Menadue
Other donations

In 2024-2025 the Albert Coates Memorial Trust received donations totalling \$78,036.

The Trust greatly appreciates the support of many people who make significant contributions towards its work.

Auditor's Report

Neil Shiells



The Albert Coates Memorial Trust

22 346 252 276

Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 60-40 of the Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 to the Trustees of The Albert Coates Memorial Trust

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2025, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

CountPro Audit Pty Ltd
CountPro Audit Pty Ltd

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JH", written over a dotted line.

Jason Hargreaves
Director

12 August 2025

180 Eleanor Drive, Lucas, VIC 3350

The Albert Coates Memorial Trust

22 346 252 276

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
Note	\$	\$
Book Sales	182	200
Donations	78,073	70,985
Function Income	8,406	7,742
Interest Income	24,458	18,681
Administration Expenses	(3,471)	(64)
Function Expenses	(6,705)	(7,316)
Legal and Professional Fees	(550)	-
Postage and Freight	(1,251)	(833)
Printing and Stationery	(456)	(858)
Purchases	-	(137)
Scholarships	(48,880)	(38,000)
Surplus before Income Tax	49,806	50,400
Income Tax Expense	2(a) -	-
Surplus for the Year	49,806	50,400
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year	49,806	50,400

The Albert Coates Memorial Trust

22 346 252 276

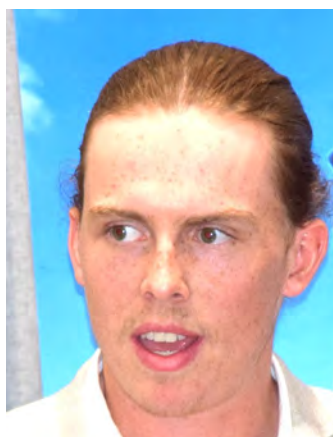
Statement of Financial Position As At 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
Note	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3 496,460	446,434
Trade and Other Receivables	-	217
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	496,460	446,651
TOTAL ASSETS	496,460	446,651
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and Other Payables	3 -	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	3 -	-
NET ASSETS	496,457	446,651
EQUITY		
Retained Earnings	496,457	446,651
TOTAL EQUITY	496,457	446,651

Scholarship Recipients 2024 -2025

The Albert Coates Memorial Trust is grateful to the following major sponsors of the Annual Scholarship Program.

The Victorian Veterans Council, The Leckie Family, LJM Foundation, Glenyis McIver Trust, Irene and Les Lillingston Trust.



Federation University,
Ballarat

William Gilbert
Albert Coates Biomedical
Science scholarship \$3,000



University of Melbourne Rural Clinical School

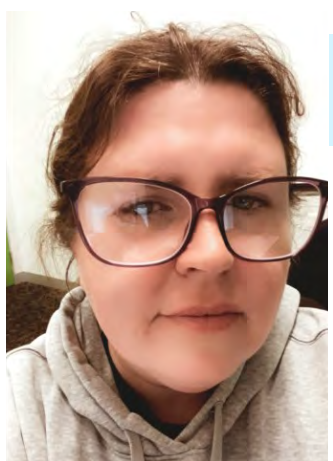
Jessica Irwin, Doctor of Medicine, MD student
\$3,000.

Grantlee Kieza OAM, Jessica Irwin, University of Melbourne Rural Clinical School, and Don Moss OAM, during the presentation of her certificate.

University of Melbourne
Graduate Diploma of Surgical Anatomy



Jane Song \$1,500
Joint recipient of The Albert Coates Award in the Graduate Diploma of Surgical Anatomy. I am very grateful to be receiving the Albert Coates award. I am going to begin my training in Radiology with RANZCR from next year (2026), at Austin Hospital.



Federation University,
Ballarat

Sarah Ozog
Albert Coates Nursing
scholarship \$3,000



Federation University,
Ballarat

Eugene Bortolin
Albert Coates Nursing
scholarship \$3,000

Thiri Thet \$1,500 Joint recipient of the Albert Coates award in the Graduate Diploma of Surgical Anatomy

Scholarship Recipients 2024 -2025

Karen Stewart

RIPRN course

Department of Health Victoria

Rural Nursing scholarship 2025

\$3,385.

Great Ocean Road Health Service
Apollo Bay.

See page 13 for a response from
Karen Stewart regarding her
scholarship.



L to R: Grantlee Kieza OAM, Karen Stewart and Don Moss OAM



Nicholas Spark.

Nicholas Spark

Deakin University

Doctor of Medicine 4th Year \$3,000

Nicholas is a Ballarat based student in the rural training scheme. He has learned that three of his grandfather's uncles served in WW1, all killed in action.

Nicholas has worked on a research project on the usefulness of telehealth in Pain Management in rural cancer treatment. He is active in sport, and interested in music.



Lana Dodd

Australian Catholic University

Bachelor of Nursing and Paramedicine \$3,000

Lana was attracted to a nursing/paramedic degree by the challenge of helping 'change people's lives'. Throughout her schooling in Ballarat Lana was in the student leadership senate, AC House Captain, Rowing co - captain, and in recent years has been actively involved as a row coach and a leader in her local football and netball clubs. Lana stands out as a mature leader.

Scholarship Recipients 2024 -2025

9. Victoria University - **Inaugural scholarship, Bachelor of Paramedicine.**

In 2025 the Coates Trust sponsored a new scholarship at Victoria University, Footscray. Scholarships are awarded in the Bachelor of Paramedicine degree and are valued at \$5000, with these funds to be spent in years 3 and 4. The Coates Trust thanks Victoria University for its cooperation in the creation and operation of this award.

Inaugural Recipient: Sophie Hulbert (\$5,000 split over 2 years)



10. Leckie Family Special Care Nursing scholarships for 2025. Sponsor: Leckie Family. Four scholarships of \$ 2,500 each.

All recipients are employed by Grampians Health in the Special Care Nursery, Ballarat Base Hospital.

L to R: **Brooke Croton, Jessica Bray, Neil Leckie, (ACMT), Letisha Guy, Tracey Calleija, Desley Beechey, (ACMT).** Nurses studying either Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma of Health, (Neo-natal Care).



11. University of Notre Dame

Melissa Howlett

Doctor of Medicine elective
\$3,000

Pictured:

Dr Ross Phillips, Melissa Howlett, Mr Don Moss

Responses from Scholarship Recipients

Karen Stewart

Associate Nurse Unit Manager at Great Ocean Road Health, Apollo Bay, studying Rural and isolated Practice (Scheduled Medicines) RN Course.



Karen Stewart
Great Ocean Road Health

After working as a Critical Care nurse in large metropolitan hospitals for twenty years, my husband and I decided to give our boys a more rural upbringing and relocated to Apollo Bay. In 2021, I commenced work at Great Ocean Road Health and quickly became aware of the differences and challenges faced by rural health centres. This includes providing the community with 24 hour access to GPs and Nurse Practitioners.

I am extremely proud to receive a scholarship from the Albert Coates Foundation and with this scholarship I will be completing a Rural and Isolated Practice for Registered Nurse's course. This qualification will enable me to provide the Apollo Bay community with greater access to primary health care by being able to supply and administer certain medications in accordance with a Primary Clinical Care Manual. This means that for presentations within our urgent Care, the on-call GP or NP does not have to leave the medical centre, can concentrate on sicker patients, or we don't have to wake someone up at 4am for a treatment plan. This all assists with flow through the Urgent Care and the health service. This financial assistance has given me the opportunity to study whilst continuing to work part time and be a mum. I would like to sincerely express my appreciation to the Albert Coates Trust for supporting me to achieve my goal of providing great care to my community.

Karen Stewart

David Newland

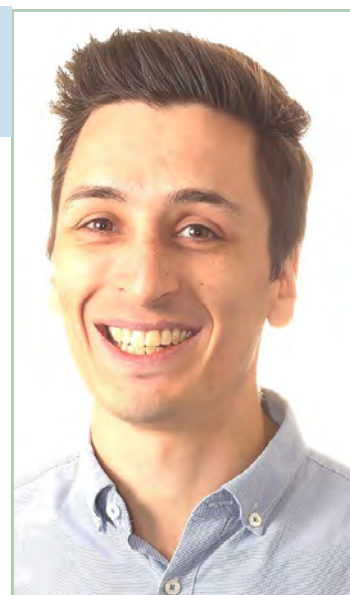
2024 Graduate Diploma of Surgical Anatomy, University of Melbourne.

I'm currently PGY6, working as an unaccredited ENT registrar for the last couple of years, currently at The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital.

Trying my best to navigate the uncertainty that comes with the unaccredited subspecialty space and SET application.

Thanks again,
David Newland

PGY6 Sixth year of post graduate medical training.



2024 Albert Coates Oration



2024 Orator, Grantlee Kieza OAM

Sister Vivian Bullwinkel

At the age of 26 in 1942 Vivian Bullwinkel was the lone survivor of the massacre at Bangka Island when Japanese soldiers marched a group of 21 nurses into the water of the remote beach to be executed. Having survived this horror, Vivian was to spend the following three years as a prisoner-of-war, helping many others to survive. Following the war, Vivian returned to a distinguished career in nursing, working tirelessly in the service of others.

Grantlee Kieza Biography

Ballarat-born Grantlee Kieza OAM is the author of more than twenty critically-acclaimed books including biographies of great Australian figures such as Vivian Bullwinkel, John Monash, Banjo Paterson and Hudson Fysh, the founder of Qantas. Grantlee's father came to Ballarat in 1950 as part of the large post-war Polish migration, but his mother was descended from a Scottish family who had arrived on the Victorian goldfields in the 1850s. His first home was in Humffray Street, where his grandfather had established a dairy farm in the 1920s, after serving with the railway engineers on the Western Front in World War 1.

Grantlee worked as an award-winning journalist for major Australian newspapers in Brisbane and Sydney for four decades. He held senior editorial positions at The Daily Telegraph, The Sunday Telegraph and The Courier-Mail and was awarded an OAM for his writing, as well as three Queensland Media Awards and two Australian Sports Commission Awards. In 2018 he was inducted into the Australian Boxing Hall of Fame for both his sports-writing and his work as an assistant trainer for some of Australia's greatest fighters, including world champion Jeff Fenech.

Journalist Grantlee Kieza OAM

presented the 2024 Oration. He spoke on one of his recent books 'Sister Viv', a biography of Sister Vivian Bullwinkel. He detailed her life, speaking about her childhood, the years of training, and her early nursing experience. The horrific experiences of the 21 Australian nurses caught up in the Bangka Island massacre were described, emphasizing the bravery and resilience of Sister Viv. A brief overview was then given of her career in nursing, including Sister Vivian's role in organizing the rescue of Vietnamese orphaned babies and children from Saigon in 1975.



Daniel Moloney Director, Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global and Engagement) at Federation University Australia.



L to R: Colleen Kieza, Grantlee Kieza, Roger Trudgeon



Grantlee Kieza, OAM, Karen Stewart, Don Moss, OAM
Department of Health Victoria Rural Nursing scholarship.

Presentations to Scholarship Recipients at the 2024 Oration

The 2024 **Coates Oration** included presentations of certificates and Coates biographies to three of the 2024 scholarship recipients.



Grantlee Kieza OAM, Jessica Irwin, University of Notre
Dame, Doctor of Medicine elective.



Grantlee Kieza, William Gilbert, Bachelor of Biomedical
Science, Federation University Australia scholarship.

2024 Student Presentations at Coates Oration Dinner



William Gilbert
Bachelor of Biomedical Science,
Federation University Australia.



Jessica Irwin
Doctor of Medicine elective,
University of Notre Dame.



Karen Stewart
2025 Dept. of Health, Rural Nursing
scholarship recipient.



Tracey Calleija
2023 –2024 Leckie Family Special Care Nursing
Scholarship recipient. \$10,000

Mount Pleasant Primary School projects

The Museum in a Suitcase Albert Coates projects completed in 2024 reveal the research work undertaken, creative presentation ideas, and thoughtful writing and ideas expressed about Albert Coates. Each of the nine students who participated in the project receives a framed certificate and a book about Albert Coates. Presentations were made to each student who developed their own project.

First prize of \$300: Madeline Harwood – Maddy created a diorama of a room in Albert Coates' house, with accompanying information about the life of Albert Coates.

Second Prizes. (\$150 each)

Annabelle Stephens. Annabelle created a diorama of a medical area in a prisoner-of-war camp on the Thai-Burma Railway and prepared historical notes on the Albert Coates story.

Glennischa Op Den Buijsch. Glennischa produced a detailed printed booklet on the life of Albert Coates with a mix of text and photographs to tell the story, highlighting important aspects of his life.

Third prizes valued at \$50.00 each.

Vincent Jenkins. Vincent produced an impressive, framed canvas with aspects of Coates' life linked to the school's guiding principles of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience.

Tahliah Baltas-Brew. Tahliah created a collage-based poster with text and photos about Coates.

Project Participants: Ruby Lacy, Zac Conder, Charlie Taylor, David Obadina.

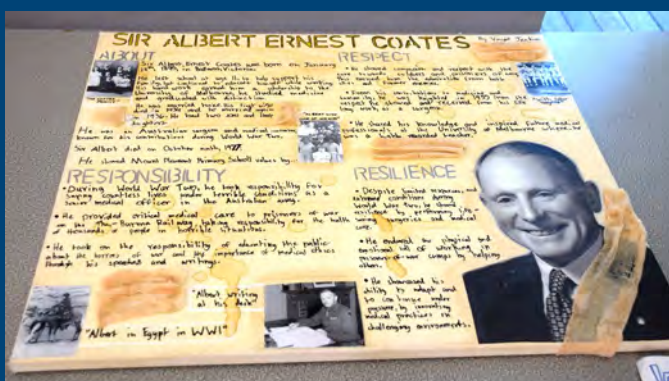
Congratulations to all the students who participated in the Coates project and to the prize winners.



Mount Pleasant Primary School

As part of Mount Pleasant Primary School's 150th Anniversary, the Coates Trust presented a display and information table highlighting Sir Albert Coates' association with the school. Celebrating 20 years of year 6 student prizes, the display included several of the Albert Coates projects created during those years. The event included a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony and historical displays about the school and the local area.

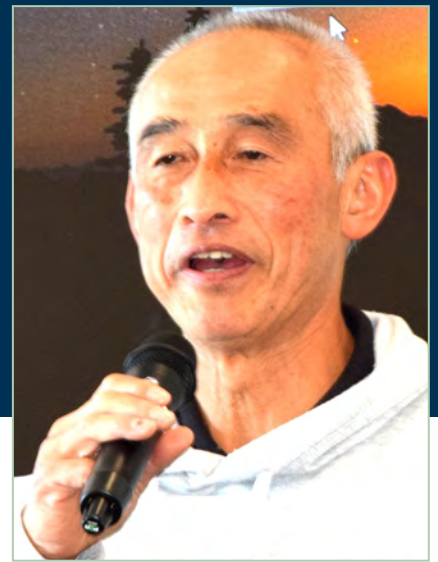
150th Anniversary Year of Mount Pleasant Primary School



Lunch with Speaker

Charles Zhang

13th May 2025



Charles Zhang addressed an audience of 75 people, commencing with an outline of Chinese history in Victoria, beginning with the Chinese who were present during the late 1830s and 1840s some working as shepherds for pastoralists. During the 1850s gold rush, thousands of Chinese arrived in Victoria, many walking from Robe to avoid the onerous entry tax introduced by the Victorian Government. At this time one of four gold diggers in Ballarat were Chinese. Charles re-enacted the walk from Robe with his son in 2013. He continued the story through the remainder of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century's White Australia policy and its severe impact on the local Chinese community.

Charles spoke of major projects preserving and presenting local Chinese history, heritage and culture. The Ballarat Chinese Library holds thousands of Chinese language documents and images which can assist researchers. Projects here include researching Chinese graves in district cemeteries to consolidate in one place a record of Chinese people buried in Victoria. The Victory House Museum project has been developing over the past couple of years since a 1900 house lived in by a Chinese family was purchased to preserve it as a significant residence of a Chinese mine owner's house which remained in the family's ownership for over a century. The museum should open in the coming year.



Desley Beechey ACMT introduced the speaker.

A highlight of Charles' talk was his presentation of a short AI generated documentary which showed dozens of historical photographs of Chinese community activities in Ballarat from 1901. The photographs had been enhanced in clarity and in many cases had been animated to give a movie-like view of the events. The film was shown during the 2025 Ballarat Heritage Festival in May.

The talk was followed by a busy question and answer session where Charles exhibited his extensive knowledge of Ballarat's Chinese history. The Coates Trust is grateful to Charles for his fascinating presentation and generous sharing of his knowledge. Roger Trudgeon



75 guests attended the Lunch with Speaker

Commemorations at the POW Memorial Ballarat

The Albert Coates Memorial Trust donated 18 books to the POW Memorial over the year, attending events on November 11th, 2024, the 21st Anniversary on February and Anzac Day. The books include the Coates biography and a selection of Primary and Secondary texts. The POW Committee advised during the years that all but five Ballarat schools now have the Coates biography in their libraries.



L: Bill Bahr, Chair, POW Memorial Committee, speaking at the 2024 Remembrance Day Service on 11th November.



R: Mr Don Moss, Chair ACMT, and Gwenda McManus, Trustee, placing books at the Remembrance Day service.



Greg Manning, Melbourne, and Dawn Manning, Hobart, attended the 21st Anniversary of the launching of the POW Memorial., 9th February 2025. Their father, Ex-POW, David Manning, played an important role in the development of the Coates Trust.



Presentation of Coates Trust book gifts to schools, 9 February 2025.



Bugler, Simon Marcollo, a teacher at Ballarat High School, and the Band of the Royal Australian Navy performing during the 21st Anniversary Service, February, 2025. Simon has been the Bugler for ANZAC Day & Remembrance Day since 2010.

Anzac Day 25 April 2025



Bill Bahr, Chair, ex POW Memorial Committee, speaking at the ANZAC day service.



Elizabeth Trudgeon lays flowers at the Montevideo Maru Memorial in memory of her uncle.



Above left: Neil Shiells, ACMT, pays his respects.

Left: L to R: Bill Bahr, Gwenda McManus, Neil Shiells, and Roger Trudgeon, (all ACMT) at the POW Memorial.

SUPPORTERS

The Albert Coates Memorial Trust is grateful for the support of the following organisations which have sponsored scholarships, and the many individuals who have given financial and practical support.



The Australian Legion of Ex-Service Men and Women has been a very generous contributor to the Trust's work through a major corpus of funds administered by the **Victorian Veterans' Council**. These funds underpin very significant awards in rural emergency and critical care nursing, training for Rural and Isolated Practice Endorsed Registered Nurse Certificate (RIPRN) and a number of other scholarships offered by the Trust.

The Leckie Family donation of \$50,000 in 2021 has enabled the Trust to support the training scheme for a Neonatal Nursing scholarship at Grampians Health for five years.

The Lillingston Trust, set up in memory of Irene and Les Lillingston, provided \$50,000 which is used to support trainee doctors in completing their qualifications.



The Glenyis McIver Charitable Trust, established in 2013, has provided generous support, over a number of years, to the Coates Trust towards the scholarship programme.

The Trust is grateful to the **L J M Foundation** for its generous contribution this year of \$10,000 towards our scholarship programme.



The Victoria University has supported the development of a new scholarship for the Bachelor of Paramedicine course.

Photographs: Elizabeth Trudgeon and Robyn Coates.

Thank you to FRP for printing the Annual Report.



Since 2001, the Trust has worked closely with the **University of Melbourne** and the **Royal Australasian College of Surgeons** in formally presenting the Sir Albert Coates Scholarship in the Post Graduate Diploma in Surgical Anatomy.



Since 2000, **Federation University Australia (Ballarat)** has been a key supporter in helping co-ordinate the promotion, selection and presentation of Coates Trust scholarships. The University presents the Coates Oration each year providing generous practical and financial support.



The Trust appreciates the long term support of the **Sebastopol Bowling Club** in sponsoring the annual Mount Pleasant Primary School 'Museum in a Suitcase' project.



The support of University of Notre Dame, University of Melbourne Rural Clinical School, Deakin University and the Australian Catholic University is greatly appreciated in the provision of scholarships.



The Trust thanks Ballarat Legacy for hosting the ACMT monthly Committee meetings.

Albert Coates Memorial Trust

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