

**ALBERT  
COATES  
MEMORIAL  
TRUST**



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# MENTOR

**Newsletter of the Albert Coates Memorial Trust**

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**Cancellation of Lunch with Speaker**

Unfortunately, due to the COVID 19 restrictions on meetings, we will be unable to hold our Lunch with the Speaker, which usually has been held in the first half of the year.

**A Note from the Chair**

The Covid 19 pandemic has disturbed many community activities and the Albert Coates Memorial Trust has not been immune! Because of restrictions on public gatherings, both the luncheon talks and the Coates Oration were not held for 2020, and similar problems appear likely for 2021.

These events are primarily for public benefit, plus raising some funds for the Trust. Money raised goes directly to fund the Scholarship programme for nursing and medical students.

An additional problem has been, that a majority of our scholarship funding has come from a financial grant from the Victorian Veterans Council.

This was based on interest from invested funds that originated in the Legion of Australian Ex-Servicemen and Women.

Since interest rates have steeply dropped over recent years, the annual amount has reduced from \$60,000 to a predicted \$7000 for 2020-21.

The ACMT Scholarship programme awarded approximately \$40,000 in awards for the last financial year, so we have been forced to start using our funding reserves.

While we are in discussion with the VVC about possible additional support, the Trust is keen to learn of any other possible avenues to maintain this worthwhile programme.

Grants from the Leckie and McIver family bequests have been particularly appreciated to help with this funding shortfall.

Many Charitable organizations have similar problems this year, but it is vital that programmes of community support for our future student graduates are not overlooked.

The skills and the stresses on our health workforce has been especially evident during this pandemic.

They deserve our utmost appreciation!

Don Moss

**Rudy Novotny Retirement**

After more than seventeen years of service to the Coates Trust, Rudy Novotny has retired from being a Trustee.

Rudy's primary role has been as Treasurer, a job he undertook with great energy and enthusiasm.

He introduced the Trust to the world of computer-based accounting, followed by online account keeping.

Over the last twenty years the Coates Trust budget has steadily grown each year as the number of scholarships and levels of donations increased.

Equally, the expectations of compliance with government and banking regulations have increased dramatically.

Rudy was always across these changes and introduced many improvements into our accounting systems.

Rudy had a broad view of his role as a Trustee and brought great wisdom and foresight to our discussions.

He was meticulous in his record-keeping and ability to report precisely on the state of our accounts.

Everyone connected with the Trust is greatly appreciative of all that he has done.

Thank you, Rudy, for such long and loyal service.

Roger Trudgeon



## VALE

During the pandemic, two long time associates of the Albert Coates Memorial Trust have died.

**Marie Pryor** was a strong supporter of the Albert Coates Memorial Trust from its inception, working alongside her husband Dr Jim Pryor and continuing after his death in 2001. Marie was an active committee member and Trustee of the ACMT and her support and presence will be greatly missed.



**Dorothy Pizey** was the youngest daughter of Sir Albert Coates and from the beginning worked with her sister Winifred Gherardin in offering the family's support to the ACMT. She was keen to attend as many activities as possible and offer financial support to the ACMT. We will miss seeing her at our events.



## SCHOLARSHIP UPDATES

### NOTRE DAME 2020

James Blomberg is a Notre Dame final year medical student in Ballarat who was awarded a Coates scholarship for 2020.



James was a trained physiotherapist who undertook medical training and hopes to eventually work in a regional area.

His Father was a Navy Veteran in WW2, and his maternal grandfather served in WW1.

James and his wife have new-born twins, and they have transferred back to Perth for family support where James commenced as an intern at Royal Perth Hospital in January 2021.

### NURSE PRACTITIONER AWARD RECIPIENT: Jeen Mariam Lal



I am Jeen Mariam Lal, a clinical nurse specialist in the Emergency Department of Mildura Base Public Hospital. I am currently doing my Masters in Advanced Nursing Practice Nurse Practitioner through The University of Melbourne 2021. I consider myself very fortunate to be chosen by the Albert Coates Memorial Trust. I was granted an Albert Coates Memorial Scholarship which would ultimately help me to achieve my lifetime dream to be a Nurse Practitioner. There are so many reasons for me to take this serious career decision.

We nurses are always praised everywhere, by everyone for our sacrifice and care provided to our patients. I am so happy and satisfied being a nurse in the Emergency Department as our team is the best and we come across a lot of critical presentations on a daily basis.

One of the main reasons I hailed from my homeland (India) to beautiful Australia is because of the wide acceptance and autonomy for nurses in this wonderful country.

I have been nursing since 2006 and I believe we nurses can get empowered to achieve greater heights and meet higher community needs.

It was difficult and surprising for me to accept the fact that there is not even one Nurse Practitioner in Mildura community where there are plenty in other places.

I felt it as a true calling for me and I am determined to make a beginning by being the first nurse practitioner in

Mildura. If I achieve it, by God's Grace, I am sure many would follow me and I can empower more nurses in my region.

Obviously obtaining approval for the programme was very tough but there appeared an angel from heaven to help me. Her name is Sally Wragg - my nurse unit manager who supported me and showed me nurses can truly make a difference.

Mildura is my hometown, a very fast growing regional suburb. The health needs of the community are increasing as more people, especially elder citizens, are moving from cities to Mildura for a peaceful lifestyle.

On the other hand many health practitioners/ specialist services are moving from regional areas, including Mildura, to metropolitan cities for personal and professional development. This way the need for more health practitioners in regional areas like mine is very high. By being a nurse practitioner I felt I could contribute to meeting the health needs of the Mildura community

I am from a very simple family with financial needs and a lot of commitments as a full time mother .

That's when I heard of Sir. Albert Coates, the Trust and its services. I am so impressed by the way the Albert Coates Memorial Trust functions since all the Trust members are so humble, honest and very approachable. Even for my interview I felt that I am talking to someone I already knew. The scholarship programme is helping me greatly to make the tough journey a bit lighter for me.

Thanks a lot to the brave Sir Albert Coates and the Memorial Trust for realizing the needs of the Mildura community and helping me to achieve my unique dream.

**DEAKIN UNIVERSITY AWARDEE FOR 2020**

Conor Dickson comes from regional Victoria, and is completing his medical training at Deakin University, based in Ballarat. His long term aim is to work as a rural GP. He is to complete his fourth year elective at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. He is one of seven children, and finds the financial stress of his university training quite difficult.



**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY AWARDEE FOR 2020**

Jacqueline Chester is completing her double degree in Nursing and Paramedics. She has a strong history of Veterans in her family, and has been completing her studies under considerable financial stress. Her community involvement includes working for St Johns Ambulance, Junior tennis coaching and Scouting Victoria.



**FEDERATION UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA AWARDS**

Each of the three scholarships presented this year included a grant of \$3,000, a copy of the Coates biography and a certificate. The program received a total 131 application across the three disciplines, by far the most in Nursing. For many years W&D Finance has sponsored the Biomedical Science Scholarship and this year they also sponsored one of the Nursing awards. This year the University tested an online application process and this in turn allowed for a digitized assessment and selection process, with a spreadsheet used to present all the data about each student.

The emphasis with the Federation University scholarships is to acknowledge academic achievement in the face of hardships or challenges.

**Nursing**

It was decided to present two nursing scholarships this year.

**Leanne Norrie**

(Mount Helen Campus)  
Leanne is a mature age student who returned to study in 2019, having commenced her course some years before. Following the death of her husband Leanne has worked part-time in a school to support her family. Despite these and other challenging issues Leanne has achieved excellent results at the High Distinction level for all but one of her subjects. She demonstrates a great determination to achieve her goal of becoming a nurse, without losing sight of caring for her family and showing compassion for those around her.

**Tammy Lee Chatwin**

(Churchill Campus)  
Tammy Lee is the first person from her family to attend university. She is wanting to serve as a role model to her children that secondary and tertiary education is accessible and viable for her own children and others from the indigenous who would not expect to follow the higher education path. The family's life has been impacted by the bushfires last summer and by Covid-19. Until recently, Tammy Lee had no computer at home and studied at the library to get online access. In the context of all these and other challenges, Tammy Lee has achieved distinctions and high distinctions in her subjects.

**Biomedical Science**

(Mount Helen Campus)

**Mary-Lee Fenech**

Mary-Lee achieved her almost straight range of high-distinctions in

a context of enormous challenges. Mary-Lee has a goal of working in the field of nephrology. She has demonstrated an unshakeable commitment to achieve her goals and has a positive attitude to dealing with her challenges.

**BALLARAT HEALTH SERVICES PERI-NATAL AWARD 2021**

Applications for this award will close in early May.

**MT PLEASANT PRIMARY SCHOOL AWARDS FOR 2020**

Each year the Albert Coates Memorial Trust awards monetary prizes to children in Year 6 at Mt Pleasant Primary School who complete projects on the life of Albert Coates. Due to the difficult school year experienced by Victorian children during 2020, the children completed individual and group projects which were varied in their presentation.

'Sir Albert Coates Museum' prepared by Bryce Buist was an outstanding work as was 'The Game of Life' by Payton Smith.

'A Timeline of Sir Albert Coates's Life' by Tess Hood, Indie Hunter and Freya Wollensack was adjudged the best group project.

A Highly commended group project was awarded to Paige Lacy, Scarlett Morriss and Savannah Hussey-McDonald.



**THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE/RACS  
ALBERT COATES SCHOLARSHIPS IN  
ANATOMY FOR 2020**

were awarded to:

- Alexander Chua
- Deepika Gunda
- Wesley Teoh

**MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY RURAL  
TRAINING SCHOOL**

The Coates Surgical Scholarship awardee for 2020 is Sarah Loria.

Sarah is now a 4th year student undertaking her Doctor of Medicine Degree. She spent her 3rd year at the clinical school in Ballarat having grown up near Hamilton, and hopes to eventually train as a surgeon and work in a regional area.

She has a strong family involvement in the Australian Armed services, with her mother's great uncle killed in action at Passchendaele in 1917.

Sarah's great uncle on her father's side served in Vietnam in 1968-69.

**THANKS**

**To the donors of the Albert Coates  
Scholarship at Australian Catholic  
University**

I would like to offer my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to be awarded this scholarship as a second-year student at Australian Catholic University.

The impact that this award has had has not only benefitted my academic achievements this year but also my personal life.

This scholarship has enabled me to dedicate more time towards studying rather than focusing on earning a casual income to keep up with costs associated with rent, bills, university fees and other financial commitments.

As a result of this, I have noticed an improvement in my academic results and the consistency of results throughout the year.

Seeing this improvement has motivated me to continue to achieve academic excellence, to strive towards my passion

to work as a graduate healthcare professional.

Further, the scholarship has reduced my financial reliance on my family whilst living away from home.

Therefore, receiving this scholarship has reduced much of the previous financial insecurity, whilst also reinforcing my confidence and self-pride that I am capable of achieving my personal and academic goals with resilience and effort.

I feel privileged to have been selected, motivated to continue to improve academically, and proud of my achievements this year despite the obstacles faced.

I am currently a 2nd year student studying a Bachelor of Nursing and paramedicine at Australian Catholic University, Ballarat.

Despite the COVID-19 delays to study and healthcare placement opportunities this year, I feel grateful that I was able to continue to progress through the course in an online format and continue to achieve results of which I was proud. We were also able to maintain classroom interactions via attending weekly practical classes which was very helpful to my understanding of the content and my progression through each unit.

This year had a focus on trauma and medical theory and practice from both a nursing and paramedic perspective which I found to be very interesting and exciting, knowing that I will be able to implement these skills once the opportunity to attend community placements arises.

This has kept me feeling motivated throughout the year and excited for the academic years and clinical experiences to come.

Jacqueline Chester  
2020 Albert Coates Scholarship  
Recipient

**ALBERT COATES MEMORIAL  
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Donations to the ACMT are tax deductible

The Albert Coates Memorial Trust sponsors a range of student scholarships at Federation University Australia and the University of Melbourne.

In association with the Department of Health, Victoria, it also offers scholarships for the post-graduate training of rural emergency care nurses.

Scholarships are also offered at the Australian Catholic University (nursing/paramedics) and at the University of Notre Dame (medical).

During 2019 a new scholarship at Deakin University's medical school was awarded for the first time.

**Albert Coates Memorial Trust  
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