

**ALBERT
COATES
MEMORIAL
TRUST**



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MENTOR

Newsletter of the Albert Coates Memorial Trust

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Autumn 2022

We are hopeful that during 2022 we will be able to hold, in collaboration with Federation University, the Annual Sir Albert Coates Oration in October/November.

We look forward to catching up with all our loyal supporters.

VALE

Walter Gherardin OAM (1924-2022)



Walter and Winifred Gherardin (Albert Coates' daughter and son-in-law) were a central part of the history of the Coates Trust from its inception in 1998, and even before then when moves were afoot to find a way to honour the life of Sir Albert Coates.

Both Win and Wal were instrumental in spreading the word about the Trust in Melbourne and ensuring extended family and connections of Sir Albert were kept informed of events.

During the commissioning of the sculpture of Sir Albert Coates, by Louis Laumen, they were central to ensuring the sculptor captured the essence of the man, both physically and in spirit.

Walter was the editor of the Trust's quarterly newsletter for ten years producing over forty editions.

It was posted to over 400 people on the Trust's mailing list, providing news of scholarships, upcoming events and historical notes on Albert Coates.

Walter's major contribution was the research and writing of Sir Albert's biography.

This epic task must have had an impact on the family as he ploughed through the process of researching, writing, and editing the book for publication.

The Trust continues to present and sell copies of the book today, having commissioned a reprint edition a couple of years ago.

Prior to the biography, he also produced a couple of large booklets which summarised Coates' life and included a chronology, photographs, and significant documents. He also sorted through the family archives to find photographs, objects and information suitable for the Gold Museum exhibition held in 2000, during the early years of fundraising and promotion.

Win and Wal made the trip to Ballarat for our committee meetings each month over many years and were always active in supporting the development of the scholarship program which now sees ten to twelve tertiary level students assisted financially every year across five universities in Victoria.

Walter served as the Patron of the Coates Trust for many years up to the present. Whilst it has been impossible for Wal to get to Ballarat in recent times, he continued to show his support and that was greatly appreciated.

The Coates Trust honours the contribution made by Walter. We are grateful for the commitment he showed towards our objectives.

As with Winifred, his presence amongst us will be greatly missed, along with his determination to see through gaining greater public recognition of Sir Albert Coates and all that he stood for.

All of us from the Coates Trust convey our sympathy to all Walter's extended family and our gratitude for the work he so generously contributed to ensuring the Trust met its objectives.

Roger Trudgeon Secretary

Committee retirements

Two of our Coates Committee members have retired recently, both of whom were Veterans with considerable medical experience.



Mr Roger Mitchell FRACS first joined the Committee in 2007, after his retirement from his work as a general

surgeon.

Roger had been in practice with Jim Pryor, who was the inaugural Chair of the Coates Trust, and served a prominent role in the establishment of the Trust.

Roger had trained at Royal Melbourne, following service as a medico in the Army, including a term in Vietnam.

His knowledge of the armed forces, and of the experiences of the pressures on training medicos, made him a valuable help in assessing applicants for Coates scholarships at the University of Melbourne Rural Training school.



Dr Ed Davis also had served long-term for the RAAMC, both in Australia and overseas.

Indeed in his senior role, Ed was one of the pall bearers for the funeral of Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop.

Ed was a medical administrator at Ballarat Health Services, St John of God hospital and numerous regional Victorian hospitals for a total of some 33 years, so brought considerable experience to the Committee.

He provided excellent advice for the Coates scholarship programme, and has now retired to Melbourne to be closer to his family.

We are especially grateful for their contributions.

New Committee member

Ross Phillips recently joined the Albert Coates Memorial Trust Committee after retirement following 40 years working as a specialist Anaesthetist.



As a partner of the Anaesthetic Group Ballarat, Ross worked at both major Ballarat hospitals, Ballarat Day Procedure Centre, Hepburn Health Services at Daylesford and Kyneton Hospitals.

He has been fortunate to have been involved in many years of rewarding international aid work with fellow Coates Committee member, Don Moss.

Together they worked with a surgical team of volunteers travelling to New Guinea and the Pacific Island region, which was highly satisfying work, both individually and as part of a team.

Since retirement he has continued his involvement with the Ballarat medical community with a teaching appointment at Notre Dame University.

Through this position he has enjoyed ongoing relationships within the hospital, teaching medical students during their 4th year rotation at St John of Hospital in Ballarat.

Ross has a wonderful family. His wife and he had three children, who are now adults with their own partners and growing families: three delightful grandchildren filling their lives with joy daily.

Since retirement he has enjoyed spending more time with his family, including the delightful role of "grandparenting".

It has been wonderful to have the extra time to pursue some recreational activities; golfing, fishing, bush/beach walking, surfing and cycling.

Ross is looking forward to his involvement with the ACMT committee knowing the significant contribution it has made to the Ballarat community.

Generous Benefactor

Irene and Les Lillingston were great contributors to the community of Ballarat. They set up the Lillingston Charitable Trust, and following their death, the Trustees applied the main principles of their lives to the allocation of funds.

Both Irene and Les were conscious of and committed to community efforts recognising veterans of the two world wars. Les had personal involvement in conflict as a Rat of Tobruk. Irene was an avid reader of war history and keenly interested in the contribution of Albert Coates towards care of members of the force.

The Lillingston Trust have provided an amount of \$50,000 to go towards supporting trainee doctors in their education, an involvement of which Les and Irene would be proud.

The Albert Coates Memorial Trust is very grateful for this major contribution, which will be used to fund the scholarship programmes based in Ballarat.



Mr Morgan Murphy presents the donation cheque, on behalf of the Lillingston Charitable Trust, to Neil Sheils and Don Moss

Mt Pleasant Primary School Awards

In December 2021, Shirley McIver and Arthur and Robyn Coates had the pleasure of attending the Year 6 Graduation evening at Mt Pleasant PS.

Prior to this, Shirley and Robyn had viewed presentations, on the life of Sir Albert Coates, completed by the children, using the resources of “The Museum in a Suitcase” established by Elizabeth and Roger Trudgeon, with the assistance of the Ballarat South Rotary Club, some years ago.

Shirley and Robyn were most impressed with the children’s projects, using various media, and their knowledge of Coates was outstanding.

They were most grateful to the classroom teacher Mrs Leah Lacny for the support she had given to the children.

It was interesting to note that the school’s key words were Respect, Responsibility and Resilience, characteristics displayed by Sir Albert Coates during his life and encouraged in all the children.

Each child received a copy of “Glimpses of Sir Albert Coates” and the prize winners a monetary award.

Photos show ACMT Trustee Shirley McIver presenting the Awards.

These awards are made possible through donations from the Sebastopol Bowling Club and Arthur and Robyn Coates.



Jorja Lee – 1st prize



Belinda Arkell – 2nd prize



Bella Fellows – 3rd prize

Highly commended –
Lilli Coon, Amelie Napitupulu,
Orion Grover and London Rankine.

Thank You

Sir Albert Coates Scholarship Progress Report

To the Albert Coates Memorial Trust

I would like to thank the Trust once again for supporting me with my studies and providing me the opportunity to engage with activities especially over the summer period without having to worry about finances.

Over the past few months, since being awarded this scholarship, I have been fortunate enough to undertake a research project in Neuroscience at the Melbourne Brain Centre, involving an investigation of the effects of antiepileptics.

I am in the midst of writing a paper to publish our findings.

Through this research project, I was also given the opportunity to attend a PhD oration in Neurosurgery and had some placements with the Neurology team at Royal Melbourne

Hospital.

It was an invaluable experience and I am very thankful that I had the opportunity to do this.

Over the summer, I worked as a retail assistant and I have continued working as a COVID-19 vaccinator not just for the adult population, but also the paediatric population which has been a very rewarding experience.

Lastly, I spent the remainder of my time working on a couple of projects including a quality assurance revision of the current practice guidelines on epidural analgesia for Goulburn Valley Health in Shepparton.

The university semester started in late January and I am back on placements at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, currently with the Emergency Psychiatry and Neuropsychiatry teams. I have been learning so much every day and I am incredibly grateful to be in this privileged position.

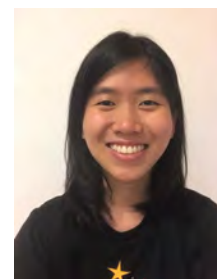
The scholarship the Trust has given me is more than a financial relief.

It is an immense encouragement and assertion of my potential to be a good physician or surgeon in the future and for this, I am very grateful.

Thank you for supporting students like myself and I hope that the Trust will continue to impact many lives like mine in the years to come.

Yours sincerely

Angelina Koh



AWARD UPDATES

BALLARAT HEALTH SERVICES PERI-NATAL AWARD

The inaugural recipient of this award, funded by a generous donation to the ACMT by a Bequest from the



Leckie family, was Deborah Parkinson - seen here at work. Deborah was very grateful for the award to further her studies.

RURAL EMERGENCY NURSING AWARD

This year applicants from the Hume Region of Victoria can apply for the Rural Emergency Nursing Award.

The Hume Region is located in northeast Victoria covering a geographical area of 40,700 square kilometres, with the three largest cities Shepparton, Wodonga and Wangaratta.

Approximately 276,300 people live in the region, with the greatest concentrations in Greater Shepparton, Wodonga and Wangaratta.

Communities across Hume are supported by a range different health services.

From large regional services such as Goulburn Valley Health and Albury Wodonga Health, to smaller rural services such as Beechworth Health Service and Seymour Health, to multi-purpose services such as Corryong Health and Alpine Health.

In total, there are 19 publicly funded health service in the Hume region. Goulburn Valley Health, Albury Wodonga Health and Northeast Health Wangaratta operate emergency departments.

Many other health services across Hume operate rural urgent care centres.

Staff from the Department of Health look forward to working with members of the Albert Coates Memorial Trust to help promote and distribute scholarships to post graduate trainees who are undertaking rural emergency nursing studies.

ORATION SPEAKER

We are delighted to announce that Laureate Professor Peter Doherty is to be the speaker at the Federation University Sir Albert Coates Oration to be held later in the year.



Peter Doherty is Australian immunologist and pathologist who, with Rolf Zinkernagel of Switzerland, received the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1996 for their discovery of how the body's immune system distinguishes virus-infected cells from normal cells.

After leading a research group at the Wistar Institute, Philadelphia, and teaching at the University of Pennsylvania (1975–82), Peter headed the department of experimental pathology at the John Curtin School of Medical Research in Canberra (1982–88) and served as chairman (1988–2001) of the department of immunology at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, where he still holds the Michael F Tamer Chair of Biomedical Research.

In 2002, he joined the faculty of medicine at the University of Melbourne, and from 2014, has been at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, a joint venture between the university and the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Peter is the author of many books, including *The Beginner's Guide to Winning the Nobel Prize: A Life in Science (2005)*, *Sentinel Chickens: What Birds Tell Us About Our Health and the World (2012)*, *The Knowledge Wars (2015)*, *The Incidental Tourist (2018)* and most recently *An Insider's Plague Year (2021)*.

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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), at the University of Notre Dame (medical) and Deakin University (medical).

A Peri-Natal Scholarship is offered at Ballarat Health Services.



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