

ALBERT  
COATES  
MEMORIAL  
TRUST



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# MENTOR

Newsletter of the Albert Coates Memorial Trust

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**Lunch with the Speaker - Dr Christine Ball**  
“Chloroform, cobras and the evolution of modern anaesthesia”  
**Tuesday 27th June 2023 at 12.30 pm at the Ballarat Yacht Club**

Christine Ball is an anaesthetist at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne and co-convenor of the Master of Perioperative Medicine at Monash University, where she is an Adjunct Associate Professor. Chris has been involved in the study of the history of anaesthesia for over 30 years and has written many publications on the subject, including the book *The Chloroformist*, published by Melbourne University Press in 2021.

She has been an Honorary Curator of the Geoffrey Kaye Museum of Anaesthetic History since 1989, a position she still holds. She is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and the current Wood-Library Museum Laureate of the History of Anaesthesiology.



**It is essential to book for the Lunch with the Speaker**

Cost - \$30.00

Bookings may be made online using EFT.

Please ensure you **record your name** with your online payment

Account details - ACMT

BSB 633 000

Account # 144 729 282

Phone Bookings and Enquiries to Neil Shiells: 0438 422 455

Email: bereng7@gmail.com

Dietary requests to Neil also.

**2022 Sir Albert Coates Oration and Dinner**

An almost full auditorium (with many watching online) attended the Annual Sir Albert Coates Oration, at Federation University Australia, on 16th November 2022 and were enthralled by Nobel Prize winner and Immunologist, Professor Peter Doherty.

His address was entitled ‘In times of crisis: from Coates to COVID and Climate Change’



His oration can be read in full by clicking on this link.

[http://www.albertcoates.com.au/images/documents/2022\\_11\\_Coates\\_Oration\\_Doherty\\_Nov22.pdf](http://www.albertcoates.com.au/images/documents/2022_11_Coates_Oration_Doherty_Nov22.pdf)

If you would prefer to watch the oration, click the link below.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o2gxZrOY\\_hl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o2gxZrOY_hl)

Following the Oration, 110 guests enjoyed dinner and listening to past ACMT awardees share their stories of how the award had benefitted their study.

## 2022 AWARDEES AT FEDERATION UNIVERSITY NOVEMBER 2022



Roger Trudgen, Zibusiso Sigidi, Karen Zipkas, Carolyn Ching, Rachel Grant, Neil Leckie, Deborah Parkinson, Matthew Scott, Elle-Louise Smith, Duncan Bentley, Prof. Peter Doherty & Don Moss

The photo shows James being presented with his award certificate by Jeff Sargent, Committee member of the ACMT.



## The Leckie Scholarship Awards 2023

Three nursing students at Grampians Health Ballarat were awarded scholarships for 2023. **Manja Jose** was awarded \$2550 towards her studies for the Master of Health (Neonatal Care) at Federation University.

**Belinda Howlett** and **Casey Moore** were each awarded \$2550 to go toward their study for the Graduate Diploma of Health (Neonatal Care) at Federation University. In addition Casey was granted an additional \$1000 for her IT expenses. The Leckie scholarships awarded, on behalf of the Albert Coates Memorial Trust, are all contributing to the expansion of Neonatal Nursing at Grampians Health Ballarat.

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

### Deakin University 2023

From a strong list of applicants, two awards were made to Deakin University students for 2023. Each award is for \$2500.

**Thomas Anderson** is a trained physiotherapist who is a late entry student to Medicine.

He has been under considerable stress after his father (a long-term Army Veteran) died by suicide in 2022.

Tom is enthusiastic to work in a rural area after graduation.



**Alana Orr** grew up in a working class background in a rural area. She has had tough times with family illness, and personal health issues. Despite this, she is passionate to work in a rural area, and help her patients overcome the disadvantages so often accompanied in poorer communities.



## The University of Melbourne Rural Clinical School 2022

James Grant was the University of Melbourne Rural Health award winner for 2022. The award was for \$2500. James used his award to help fund his elective by visiting a cardiovascular unit at a University teaching hospital in Kathmandu.

## Regional Emergency Nursing - Hume Region

This year applicants from the Hume Region of Victoria applied for Rural Emergency Nursing Awards.

In total, there are nineteen publicly funded health services in the Hume region, stretching from Seymour to Corryong and across to Albury-Wodonga.

Goulburn Valley Health (Regional City of Shepparton), Albury-Wodonga Health and Northeast Health Wangaratta all operate emergency departments.

Four awards were made.

- \* **Kevin Okumu** from North East Health, Wangaratta awarded \$2000 - Kevin is currently a Unit Manager at Wangaratta and is studying for a Graduate Certificate in Critical Care Nursing at the University of Melbourne and hopes to be a nurse practitioner in critical care nursing.
- \* **Gurjit Sangha** from North East Health, Wangaratta awarded \$6000 works in the

Emergency Department and is studying for a Graduate Certificate in Critical Care Nursing at the University of Melbourne and hopes to gain in depth theoretical knowledge and nursing skills to provide best possible care to acutely ill patients

\* **Stephanie Vick** from Goulburn Valley Health, Shepparton awarded \$4000 - is the associate nurse manager of the critical care unit and is studying for a Master of Advanced Nursing practice at University of Melbourne - she wants to develop critical thinking skills required to practise safely and effectively in the ED and CCU settings and to contribute and work collaboratively in a multi-disciplinary team.

\* **William Wallace** from North East Health, Wangaratta awarded \$4000 - currently working in the Emergency Department and is studying for a Master of Advanced Nursing practice at the University of Melbourne - he hopes to have the enthusiasm and commitment to investigate means to improve inter-service collaboration within the region.

## Australian Catholic University Nursing/Paramedicine

**Chloe Charnstrom** was the ACU awardee for 2023. Chloe comes from a single parent family, and her mother is now wheelchair bound, after multiple cancer treatments.



Chloe does much of her mother's care, in addition to her ACU University training for her Nursing/Paramedicine career. She has also undertaken part-time work as a PCA in aged care.

Both her grandfathers served in WW2. The award is valued at \$2500.

## Mt Pleasant Primary School Awards

Each year the ACMT gives monetary awards to several year 6 students at Mt Pleasant PS, who complete projects concerning Sir Albert Coates, a former student of their school.

These are made possible through the generosity of the Sebastopol Bowling Club and Arthur and Robyn Coates.

Shirley Mclver and Robyn Coates met with the children prior to them beginning their projects, with Robyn presenting a PowerPoint presentation on the life of Albert Coates followed by many questions from the children.

Each child was given a handout to take home to their family, to give some background, on the life of Albert Coates and perhaps extend the family's knowledge.

Using resources from a "Museum in a Suitcase", developed by Elizabeth and Roger Trudgeon, the children prepared their projects, using various forms of media, with support from their teachers Mrs Dean and Mrs Lacny.

Each of the students presented their projects to Shirley Mclver and Robyn and Arthur Coates - they had a very good knowledge of Albert Coates and their projects were creative and well prepared. They included a diorama, games, computer presentations using Minecraft, PowerPoint presentations and posters.



Awards were presented at the Graduation ceremony, in December, by Trustee Shirley Mclver, with all children who participated receiving a copy of "Glimpses of Sir Albert Coates" and the four prize winners receiving monetary awards.

1st prize - two winners - Nick and Cash - \$250  
2nd prize - Kamal - \$200  
3rd prize - Blade - \$100



## NAMING OF FORECOURT AND GARDEN AT AMA BUILDING IN PARKVILLE

April 24th was a beautiful autumn morning when over 60 invited guests crowded into the forecourt of the AMA building, in Royal Parade, to name it in honour of Sir Albert Coates and to similarly name a garden in honour of Sir Rupert Downes.



The AMA Heritage and Archive Committee (HAC) is working to acknowledge the contribution of past presidents, and this was another step.

We were welcomed by Dr Gerald Segal, Chair of the HAC, before **Andrew Coates**, Albert's grandson, had eight minutes to summarise Albert's life and achievements. He did it excellently.

I was allotted five minutes to give a summary of the formation of the ACMT, its operation, and its on-going work. As I said on the day, "The first big task was to raise \$100 000.00 to erect a statue in Sturt Street. The money was raised, and the statue unveiled in the year 2000. This was before my involvement, but I think it was an enormous achievement."

I hope I conveyed the importance of our work today where fund raising continues and many scholarships are awarded; that all members of the Trust are volunteers and expenses are kept to a minimum; and hopefully the Trust's work will continue long into the future.

**Mrs Susan Grant**, the granddaughter of Rupert Downes, told us about his life and contribution. As the majority of guests were Albert's family and supporters of the Trust, we knew little about him, hence were very interested.

Rupert Downes was born in in Adelaide, in 1885, but resided in Malvern and was educated in Victoria.

He was a surgeon, academic, army medical officer and military historian. He served in the first World War, firstly at Gallipoli.

After the withdrawal from there, he was appointed Assistant Director of Medical Services (ADMS) of the newly formed Anzac Mounted Division.

The rest of his service then is a fascinating story in itself.

During the inter-war years, he worked in most major Melbourne hospitals, was instrumental in establishing the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, was chairman of the Red Cross National Council, Victorian State Commissioner of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, president of the St John Ambulance Association and chairman of the Victorian Civil Ambulance Service.

He became the Army's most senior medical officer.

In 1935, he became President of the Victorian branch of the AMA, known then as British Medical Association.

After the Munich Crisis in 1938, he like many, believed that another war was imminent, so he toured military and other medical centres around much of the world.

As war broke out, he campaigned with some success for the establishment of major military hospitals in the state capital cities.

What followed, was five more years of military service.

His life was cut short in a plane crash near Cairns in 1945.

I highly recommend a web search for more information.

Other speakers were Dr Walter Heale, Dr Allan Mawdsley, and Dr Jean Douglas. All speakers were thanked by AMA CEO, Mr Stephen Burrell, before Dr Jean Douglas laid an ANZAC Day wreath.

All guests were invited into the AMA Council Room for lunch.

Arthur Coates

## ALBERT COATES MEMORIAL TRUST

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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.

**Albert Coates Memorial Trust Committee**



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Treasurer: Mr Neil Shiells

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