

**ALBERT
COATES
MEMORIAL
TRUST**



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MENTOR

Newsletter of the Albert Coates Memorial Trust

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The Annual Sir Albert Coates Oration, in collaboration with Federation University Australia, is to be held on **Wednesday 16th November, at 6.00 pm**, in the Geoffrey Blainey Auditorium, Federation University Australia, Chancellor Drive, Mt Helen.

The Oration will be delivered by **Laureate Professor Peter Doherty**.

Peter Doherty is an 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).

The Oration will be followed by the **Albert Coates Dinner at 7.30 pm** in the Albert Coates Complex, Building U, Federation University Australia, Mt Helen.

During the Dinner several scholarship awardees will speak detailing the study they have been able to undertake due to the financial support from the Albert Coates Memorial Trust.

It is essential to book for the Dinner.

The cost of the two course dinner will be \$65 per head.

Bookings may be made online through EFT

Payment: BSB 633 000

Account # 144 729 282

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

Phone Bookings and Enquiries to Neil Shiells: 0438 422 455

Email: bereng7@gmail.com

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

From the Chairman

The period 2019 to 2022 has clearly been totally disrupted by the COVID19 pandemic.

Illness, hospitalizations and deaths have risen to an alarming extent.

At the same time, Governments have placed major limitations on the community, restricting movements and meetings in efforts to restrict the spread of illness. The Albert Coates Trust, like all other voluntary bodies, has had major disruptions to fund-raising, and missed the usual meetings such as our Coates Oration, luncheon lectures and the annual dinner.

At the same time, interest rates have dropped precipitously, resulting in our major source of funds from the Australian Legion funding, reducing from \$29 000 to \$6 500 over that period.

Yet, the Trust has managed to maintain their scholarship programme.

Sir Albert Coates 80 years ago, showed us the way. Adaptation and innovation.

In his work in the POW camps on the Burma-Thailand railway, he was faced with illnesses unheard of in his medical training.

Debilitated men with ulcerated gangrenous legs, sepsis and affected by malaria and amoebic dysentery.

He was to care for them without access to hospital sterility or operating equipment, with no antibiotics or regular drugs.

As an adaptation he performed the necessary amputations using a primitive knife as a scalpel, two artery forceps and a carpentry saw.

Without anaesthetics, he was able to depend on spinal cocaine injection using the fluid obtained from natural sources by fellow POWs, who were pharmacists before the war.

Bamboo was used to make stretchers and beds, eating utensils, splints and bedpans. Jungle leaves were used as towels. Tin lids were used as reflectors as there were no operating lights.

Without trained nurses and few medical orderlies, he encouraged volunteers to perform the tasks.

The list could go on.

But under extraordinary conditions he managed to “make-do” to save the lives of thousands of his men.

Without any sense of realistic comparison, the members of the Coates Trust have been encouraged that we have been able to “make do” to continue our scholarship programme in Coates name.

Monthly meetings of the Trust have changed to Zoom teleconference, enabling those in isolation, or absent from Ballarat, to participate fully.

With reduced funding at present from the Victorian Veterans Council, we needed alternative funding sources. Three private funding Trusts (the Leckie, Lillingston and McIver Trusts) have enabled our

scholarship programme to continue effectively unchanged.

Indeed, the Leckie funding has enabled commencement of funding support for a new nursing appointment in post-graduate neonatal nursing at Ballarat Health services.

Albert Coates was an amazing man, and we are delighted that many scholarship applicants and recipients, and indeed University teachers, now know of his work as a direct result of the Scholarship programme.

He sought no publicity but would have been delighted with our support of the future health workers.

Don Moss
OAM FRACS FACS

Battle for Australia 1941-1945 Commemoration Day - Wednesday 7th September 2022

Several members from the ACMT were able to attend this Annual Event held at the Shrine of Remembrance.

Each year, four students from schools throughout Victoria are chosen to present a small segment concerning members of the Forces who were involved in battles in Darwin, on the Kokoda Track, at Milne Bay, The Coral Sea and the Bismarck Sea and in other fierce actions on land, sea and air and in the POW Camps during World War 2.

This year students from Christ Church Grammar, Aitken College, Lilydale High School and Kyneton High School gave presentations.

Each student was presented with a Ted Lynes Memorial Certificate honouring the work done by former ACMT Chairperson, Ted Lynes, in the organisation of the Ceremony. They also received a copy of *Against the Odds*, the biography of Sir Albert Coates donated by the ACMT.

These were presented by Ted's daughter, Sally Beddgood.



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

University of Notre Dame Australia Awardee 2022

The awardee for 2022 for this scholarship is Gracie Hay, who was born in Alice Springs and grew up in rural Aboriginal communities, including Uluru.

She saw from a young age that remoteness and regional status can be associated with negative health outcomes.

Reduced accessibility to healthcare resources, longer wait times, reduced continuity of care and less access to preventative health care, all lead to higher rates of chronic conditions, mental health problems and lifestyle diseases.

Gracie was impressed by the story of Sir Albert Coates and his service to others despite appalling working conditions.

Her great-grandfather was a GP who enlisted and served as an Australian Army doctor in Port Moresby, PNG during World War 2, and her grandfather, also a GP, served in the Australian Army Reserve as a doctor.

Gracie has arranged to do her student elective at Haydom Lutheran hospital in rural Tanzania, and looks forward to the challenge of learning and working in a hospital that is geographically isolated, carries large patient loads and health challenges including malnutrition and infectious diseases.

She figures the resilience and resourcefulness modelled by Coates may be an essential travelling companion!



Federation University Australia

2022 Nursing

Zibusiso Sigidi
Fiona Weir

2022 Visual Arts

Rachel Grant

Deakin University 2022 Scholarship Awardee

Matthew Scott has been awarded the Albert Coates scholarship at Deakin University for 2022.

Matt was born just over the NSW border from Echuca. He saw in his family and neighbours, the negative effects of return from military service in PNG post WW2, with difficulty accessing necessary care for their mental health.

Matt had initially trained as a pharmacist, but was moved to train as a medico after seeing the paucity of rural support for the local farmers affected by the millennium drought.

He hopes in the long term to complete training in psychiatry and return to work in a rural area.



University of Melbourne/Royal Australasian College of Surgeons - Surgical Anatomy Scholarships

2021 Matthew Dunn and Mohamed Umar



Matthew Dunn Don Moss Quentin Fogg and Mohamed Umar at a recent presentation

2022 Arthur Ashton



BALLARAT HEALTH SERVICES PERI-NATAL AWARD

This new scholarship, funded through a generous donation from the Leckie Family, was awarded to Deborah Parkinson.

In thanking the ACMT, Deborah writes:

I am currently 18 months into my Masters of Health Neonatal Course and have completed four units ... I received high distinctions for each of the subjects I completed last year and have recently received a Dean's award for academic excellence.

More importantly, the course has increased both my knowledge and confidence working with students and graduates in the special care environment. I have found myself in situations where I have had to support graduates during neonatal resuscitation/intubation and have felt much more competent and confident doing this.

Being an extra person who is not part of the EFT allows me to be a resource for the graduate and other junior staff when the unit staff haven't got the capacity to teach.

The course has given me the tools to not just teach the basics, but also to touch on some more advanced principles with graduates. Recently I assisted in a paediatric post grad. study day and was able to confidently present a component on CPAP.

The advanced lactation unit has been an excellent update on my breastfeeding knowledge and allows me to be giving up to date best practice advice to the women in special care and the midwifery unit as part of my education support role.

I am now moving onto the research component of my course having completed an introduction to research unit this semester.

Going forward I am looking to do some research into women's experience of preeclampsia as part of my minor thesis. Ideally, I'd like to explore the experience of pre eclampsia from the women's perspective, focussing on issues such as separation from their newborn, bonding, relationships etc.

I thank you again for the opportunity to pursue these studies and am grateful for the support of the Albert Coates Memorial Trust.

Deborah Parkinson
Graduate Support Midwife



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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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