



The Albert Coates Memorial Trust



**Annual Report
2019-20**

ABOUT THE ALBERT COATES MEMORIAL TRUST

The Albert Coates Memorial Trust is a volunteer run, Ballarat-based organization which, since 1998, has raised funds to present scholarships for medical purposes, with a strong emphasis on regional areas.

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.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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

The Trust 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.



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Front Cover Images from left to right:

Abbey Small, Emma-Jane Norman, Ann Betts, Wayne Johnson representing his daughter Lauren Johnson, The Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Mr Anthony Howard AM, Mark McOwan, Kerryn Osborne and Deborah Bennett. This image was captured at the conclusion of the Oration.



REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN - DON MOSS

OAM FRACS FACS

The Coates Trust is delighted to report that the Scholarship programme, in the name of Albert Coates, continues to grow.

As a man who worked under considerable adversity, he would be pleased to see that the efforts to support the education of young medical and nursing graduates continues to succeed despite the current difficult times for fundraising.

Albert Coates saw “problems as challenges to find solutions”, as quoted by Dr Rowley Richards¹. During Coates’ period as a POW 1942-1945, there may have appeared to be insurmountable problems, but he found a way through, saving countless lives.

I was aware of the reputation of Coates as a retired senior surgeon, while I was undergoing surgical training at Royal Melbourne Hospital 1970-1974, but it was during my discussions with ex-POW patients in my Urology practice in Ballarat, that I heard of his extraordinary work as surgeon on the Burma-Thailand railway. He was their hero, for good reason!

At the time of the ending of the War in the Pacific, 75 years ago, Lt Col Albert Coates was in charge of the Nakompton Hospital Camp in Thailand with some 5000 patients. Not confining himself to the numerous medical and surgical problems, he arranged necessary security and administrative support following the surrender of the Japanese. Thank goodness he was in charge.

The Trust has gradually developed scholarships with the Universities involved in medical and nursing training in Ballarat, including Melbourne University Rural, Federation University, Australian Catholic University, Notre Dame University and Deakin University.

Also the Department of Health and Human Services Nursing scholarships in regional Victoria, appropriate because Coates was a strong supporter for nurses.

This has resulted in many of the newer generation of Health Workers, becoming aware of the significance of Coates and his attitudes to medical care.

The annual Coates Oration for 2019 was given by the Hon. Linda Dessau, Governor of Victoria. She gave an impressive discourse on the characteristics of “Polymaths”, those extraordinary individuals whose knowledge spans a significant number of subjects.

Coates is an excellent example, with his linguistic, medical, surgical, teaching, oratory, and leadership skills.

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold the annual lunchtime lecture by a community leader for this year or the Coates Oration for 2020. The current COVID-19 epidemic is a public health emergency that has stretched the resources of infectious disease control. It has been an illustrative experience of the role of infectious disease doctors as trusted leaders of the community and the risks and sacrifices faced by health workers.

The dropping interest rates have tested our financial sources of funds for the Coates scholarship program, but fortunately some new donors (the Leckie and McIver funds) have come to our rescue.

Our thanks to all our donors, and also to the Committee members who do so much work to support the Trust.

I am particularly indebted to Rudy Novotny who is retiring as Trustee after almost 20 years guiding the finances.

Roger Trudgeon as Hon. Sec. continues his outstanding work.

Each member of the Committee undertakes voluntary work in coordinating the scholarships and the work of the Trust.

Thankyou!

Don Moss

TRUSTEES



Don Moss OAM
FRACS FACS
Hon. Chair



Roger Trudgeon
Hon. Secretary



Neil Shiell
Hon. Treasurer



Rudy Novotny
Hon. Assist. Treasurer



Shirley McIver
Trustee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Desley Beechey



Arthur Coates



Robyn Coates



Dr Ed Davis



Gwenda McManus



Roger Mitchell FRACS

HONORARY PATRON



Walter Gherardin OAM



A class at Mt Pleasant Primary School circa 1905, where Albert received his education. The Trust currently awards annual prizes to students at Mt Pleasant PS for projects featuring the life of Albert. See page 10.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Whilst 2019 continued along standard lines, the first half of 2020 has seen a major upheaval in all our operations due to the coronavirus pandemic. The major highlight was clearly the presence of the Governor of Victoria, the Hon. Linda Dessau AC, giving the 2019 Coates Oration. The Trust has still provided its full range of scholarships over the year, whilst adjusting to a 'new normal' in its programs and administration. The new Special Care Nursing Scholarship at Ballarat Health Services has been deferred to commence in 2021.

Our thanks go out to ongoing sponsors of the Trust, W&D Finance, the Sebastopol Bowling Club, the Glenyis Mclver Trust and several generous individual donors. More than ever, this help enables the Trust to continue its work.

Membership of the Trust remained the same through the year with Neil Shiells being elected as Treasurer of the Trust and Rudy Novotny becoming Assistant Treasurer. This was part of a succession plan, with Rudy stepping down from his Trustee position at the next AGM. I add my personal thanks to Rudy for so many years of reliable and hard-working service to the Trust. He has shepherded the funds of the Trust in a meticulous and skilful fashion and I have valued both his sage advice and deep commitment to our organization. Thank you, Rudy.

My thanks to all the Trustees and Committee members for their many individual contributions to the work of the Trust. Everyone has different roles to play and this ensures a broad program of activity can be completed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the present extremely low interest-bearing financial climate, the ACMT is pleased to report a better performance than expected, in relation to Income, Equity and Scholarships granted during 2019- 20. 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. Please refer to the following Tables, Charts, Comparisons and the Financial Audit Report for specifics details for the financial year.

It is noted that the Income for 2019- 20 is 2.78% higher than the previous year. This is a very credible result, given the impact of low interest payments and loss of revenue from the cancellation of the Annual Luncheon. Scholarships awarded for the Financial Year at \$39,800

The Trust values its links to the Victorian Veterans Council (VVC) and appreciated the new chair of the VVC, Roger Clifton, attending the Coates Oration and saying a few words on behalf of the Council at the dinner.

The declining level of interest rates is impacting more each year on the income received from the VVC's invested funds left to the Trust by the Australian Legion of Ex-Service Men and Women.

The Mount Pleasant Primary School projects saw a handover to Shirley Mclver and Ed Davis as the Trust representatives working with the students. Elizabeth Trudgeon and I provided some handover orientation, having been involved with the school's Coates projects over several years. Our thanks to the school for their ongoing enthusiasm for this programme.

The pandemic has seen the Trust move to conducting its meetings on Zoom and has meant arranging the scholarships according to slightly different timetables. Most courses continue to run remotely and the levels of applications remain strong amongst undergraduate students. Nursing scholarships are being deferred where necessary due to the great demands on nurses and the changes in priorities as health services focus on the pandemic.

The next year will provide many challenges, but the need for strong training support for regional medical and nursing students and staff has never been greater.

Roger Trudgeon Hon. Secretary



are 7.57% lower than last Year! In order to maintain this level of Scholarships, the ACMT had to contribute \$14,000 from its Corpus of Funds, which it fortunately built up over the years for such challenging times.

Equity of the Trust is up by 6.04%, however this includes \$50,256 which is allocated for a new Nursing Scholarship to commence very shortly at \$10,000 p.a. for 5 Years!

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 Woman through the Victorian Veterans Council, who



contributed \$21,000 this year. This particular annual donation is totally linked to prevailing interest rates and consequently is reducing each year!

However, "Other Donations" have increased by 50.4%, mainly due to a repeated \$10,000 donation from the Glenys McIver Trust and others.

It is also relevant to mention that both the 2020 and the 2021 annual W & D Donations were actually received this financial year, with a positive impact on the total! The Trust has a Scholarship carryover of

\$75,436 into the new financial year.

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 Sam Maskell CPA once again, for making himself available on a voluntary basis.

Neil Shiells Hon. Treasurer

ACMT- Financial Report 2019- 2020 (Summary)

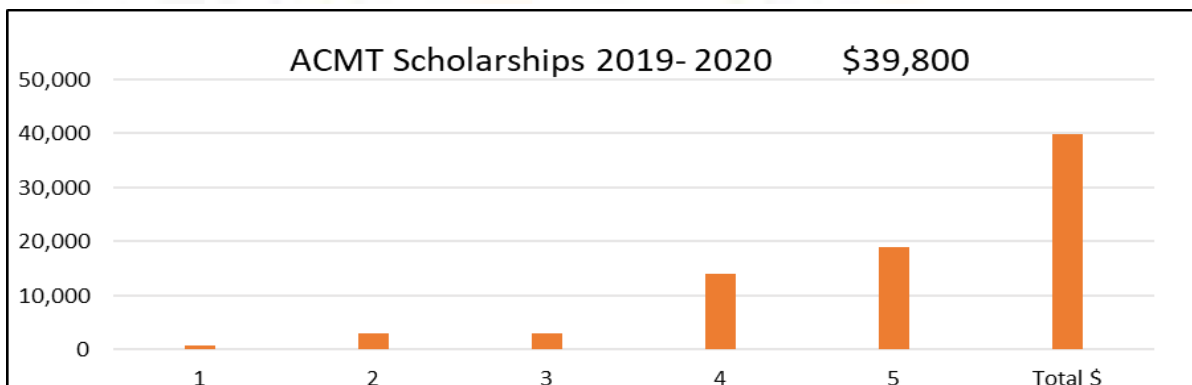
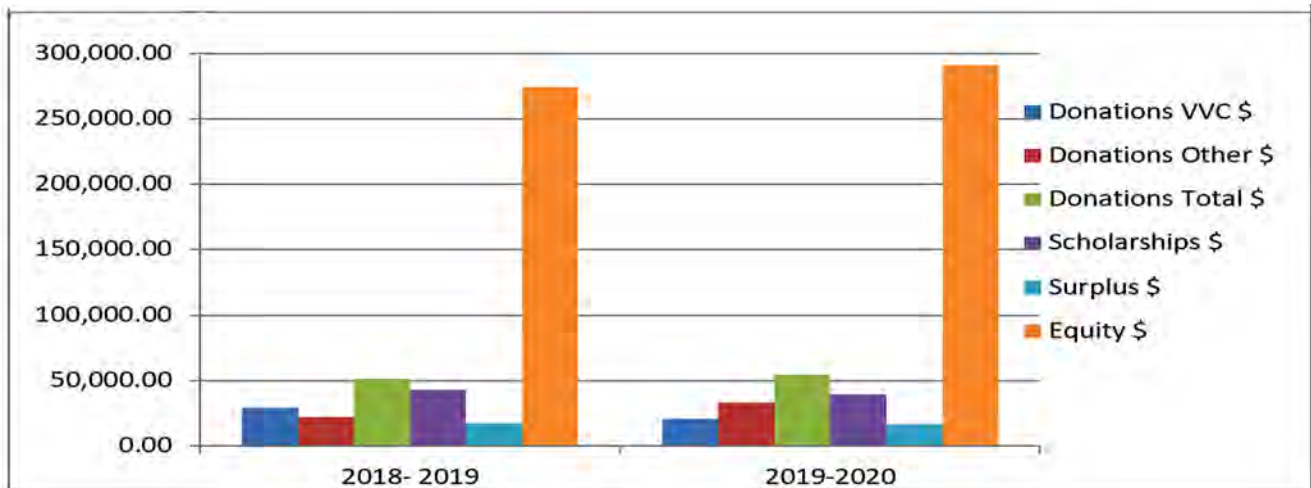
Objectives	Outcomes
To provide substantial Scholarships at Tertiary Graduate and Post-Graduate Levels, focusing predominantly on the Medical and Nursing Professions.	12 Scholarships awarded totalling \$39,800
To seek Donations and Income at Private, Institutional and Corporate Levels to sustain ongoing Scholarships.	Total Income for the financial year \$70,768 <i>Donations</i> \$54,716 <i>Interest</i> \$8,910 <i>Functions</i> \$6,465 <i>Book Sales</i> \$677
To minimise Operating costs of the Trust.	Total Expenses- excl. Scholarships \$14,381 <i>Oration</i> \$4,756 <i>Printing & Stationery Including \$7,085 for the reprint of the Coates Biography</i> \$7,985 <i>Misc. Other</i> \$1,640
To continue to grow the Trust's Equity.	Total Equity \$291,175 <i>Increase</i> \$16,586

ACMT- Donations received Financial Year 2019- 2020

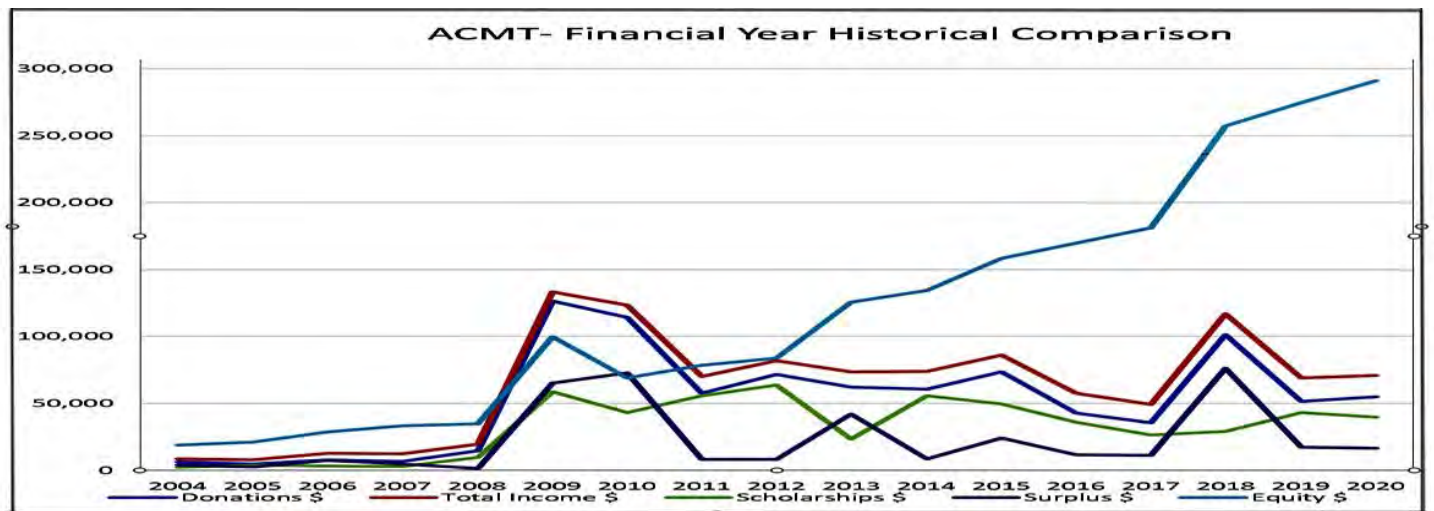
Total \$54,716

Donor	Purpose	Amount \$
Various	ACMT- General	366
Wal Gherardin	ACMT- General	500
Tony Coates	ACMT- General	500
Sebastopol Bowling Club	Mt. Pleasant Primary	600
Sharon Moss	ACMT- General	2,500
Ballaarat Club	Pryor/Arts Scholarship	2,500
John Davis	ACMT- General	2,750
W & D Finance	Bio- Medical	3,300
A & R Coates	ACMT- General & Mt. Pleasant Primary	5,200
W & D Finance	Bio- Medical	5,500
Glenys McIver Trust	To be determined	10,000
VVC/ Australian Legion	Nursing and Medical	21,000

ACMT- Financial Comparison 2019- 2020



Source	Type	Institution	Amount \$
1. Sebastopol Bowls	Coates/ Projects	Mt Pleasant Primary School	800
2. Ballarat Club/Pryor	Visual Arts	Federation University- Ballarat	3,000
3. W & D Finance	Biomedical	Federation University- Ballarat	3,000
4. ACMT	Nursing	Federation University- Ballarat	3,000
	Nursing/Paramedic	Australian Catholic University	2,500
	Emerg. Care Nursing	Western District Health	6,000
	Medical	Deakin University	2,500
5. VVC/ Legion	Medical	Notre Dame University	2,500
	Medical	Melbourne University Commercial	2,500
	Surgical	Melbourne University RACS	5,000
	Nursing	Deakin University	3,000
	Nursing	Deakin University	6,000





Albert Coates Memorial Trust

AUDITOR'S/ TREASURERS REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2019-2020

The Statement of Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet for the ACMT is properly drawn up and gives a true and correct view of financial affairs and operations for the Year.

The Total Equity of the Trust as at 30/06/2020 is \$291,174.97

The above also includes an ATO/ GST credit of \$880.83, of which \$710.00 refund has been claimed for the June 2020 quarter.

Income & Expenses (Summary).

	2018- 2019	2019- 2020	Change
Income	\$68,852.81	\$70,768.30	+2.78%
Expenses	<u>\$51,484.29</u>	<u>\$54,181.82</u>	+5.24%
Net Earnings	\$17,368.52	\$16,586.48	-4.50%
Donations	\$51,416.55	\$54,716.00	
Scholarships	\$43,060.00	\$39,800.00	
Equity	\$274,588.94	\$291,174.97	

Comments and Financial Highlights for the audit period:

- Donations from the VVC were \$21,000 in the reporting period, Private Donation were \$33,716.
- The Trust is fortunate to have a \$75,436 Scholarship carryover into the new financial year (VVC/ \$19,480, Leckie Estate \$50,256, Other \$5,700). This is critical for Cash Flow as Scholarships payments will commence early in the new financial year!
- The Trust has NO financial Liabilities to report.

12 Scholarships/ Awards for 2019/20

			\$43,060
▪ Ballarat Club/ Pryor	Visual Arts	Federation Univ.- Ballarat	\$3,000
▪ W & D Finance	Biomedical	Federation Univ.- Ballarat	\$3,000
▪ Private/ ACMT	Coats/ Projects	Mt Pleasant Primary School	\$800
▪ VVC/ Legion	Medical	Notre Dame University	\$2,500
▪ VVC/ Legion	Medical	Melbourne University Comm.	\$2,500
▪ VVC/ Legion	Surgical	Melbourne Univ. RACS	\$5,000
▪ VVC/ Legion	Nursing	Deakin University	\$3,000
▪ VVC/ Legion	Nursing	Deakin University	\$6,000
▪ ACMT	Nursing	Federation University	\$3,000
▪ ACMT	Nursing/ Paramedic	Australian Catholic University	\$2,500
▪ ACMT	Em. Care Nursing	Western District Health	\$6,000
▪ ACMT	Deakin University	Medical	\$2,500

Samuel Maskell- CPA
Hon. Auditor

Neil Shiells
Hon. Treasurer

Sir Albert Coates Oration 2019

Her Excellency, the Honourable Linda Dessau AC

The Coates Oration is sponsored by Federation University Australia in association with the Albert Coates Memorial Trust. Below is a summary of her address delivered on Thursday 28th November 2019.

After acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land, Federation University and the life of Albert Coates, Her Excellency moved to the focus of her address.

In the weeks prior to the Oration, she had visited many Universities and TAFE Colleges and reflected on the outcomes of these institutions and the need to create multi-disciplined thinkers.

"We need people whose knowledge spans a significant number of subjects. People able to draw on complex bodies of knowledge to solve specific problems," she said.

She explained that over the previous four years, as Governor, she has discovered the Sciences and now better understands the intersection between the sciences and the arts and therefore to appreciate just how much we need multi-disciplined thinkers who can traverse the arts and the sciences.

The Governor explained that she had been educated in a school system when science and art were often quarantined from each other.

As Governor she has seen prosthetic hands being 3D printed and appreciated the marvels of engineering science in our rapidly changing world.

She quoted from the Foundation for Young Australians' report, suggesting that it's more likely that a 15 year old will experience a portfolio career, potentially having 17 different jobs over five careers in their lifetime and noted the belief that 60% of children attending school today will work in a career that does not currently exist.

She noted that 60 years ago C.P. Snow, delivered a

lecture at Cambridge called '*The Two Cultures and the Scientific Revolution*'. He contended that practitioners need to apply the insights gathered from art to inform the study of science. And vice versa.

To illustrate her point, she then spoke about Leonardo da Vinci and his achievements in so many spheres. Also Canada's Governor-General, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, who is a decorated astronaut, an engineer, science broadcaster and company director, speaks six languages, pianist and singer.

Her final illustration was that of the life and achievements of a Victorian, Sir John Monash. His qualification in Arts, Science, Law and Engineering. He qualified as a municipal surveyor, a water supply engineer and a patent attorney. She then reminded us how he was able to contribute to so many areas of military and civil life.

Before concluding the Governor mused, "When I stand in the setting of one of Victoria's excellent educational institutions, I wonder about the next polymath or polymaths being incubated right here."

The full text of the Governor's Oration can be found here.

https://www.governor.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-11/Sir%20Albert%20Coates%202019%20Oration_0.pdf



Sir Albert Coates Dinner 2019

Following each Oration, the Trust holds a dinner during which friends and supporters can converse and mingle. At this dinner short presentations are made. Among those given at this Oration were three past or present scholarship awardees who shared their experiences of work and study. For all students who receive scholarship encouragement their lives are changed, but for some that change is dramatic and the stories are seared into our memory.

Trust members are always aware of the responsibility of choosing scholarship awardees and would like to award many more to the worthy applicants that apply. The limitations are financial but with the continued generosity of sponsors and supporters the work of the Trust will play a significant role in medical and nursing education.



Roger Clifton, Chair of the Victorian Veterans Council



Emma-Jane Norman, Abbey Small & Kerry Osbourne



Ed & Merrin Davis with Mark McOwan

SCHOLARSHIPS and RECIPIENTS 2019 - 2020

Surgical Anatomy **University of Melbourne & Royal Australasian College of Surgeons**

Recipient: **Dr Wen-Shen Lee**

Scholarship Value: **\$5000.00**



Don Moss with Wen-Shen Lee



Sir Albert Coates Surgical Scholarship, **University of Melbourne/ Rural Health**

Recipient: **Mark McOwan**

Scholarship Value: **\$2,500.00**

Mark McOwan

Surgical Elective **University of Notre Dame Australia**

Recipient: **Francis Ratnakumar**

Scholarship Value: **\$2,500**

Surgical Elective **Deakin University**

Recipient: **Conor Dickson**

Scholarship Value: **\$2,500.00**



Conor Dickson



2nd Year Nursing **Federation University**

Recipient: **Emma-Jane Norman**

Scholarship Value: **\$3,000.00**

Emma-Jane Norman

Jim Pryor Visual Arts **Federation University**

Recipient: **Ann Betts**

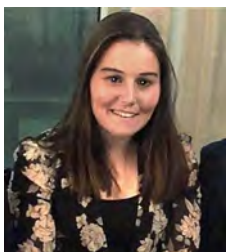
Scholarship Value: **\$3,000.00**

Nursing Paramedic **Australian Catholic University**

Recipient: **Jacqueline Chester**

Scholarship Value: **\$2,500.00**

Jacqueline Chester



Biomedical Science **Federation University**

Recipient: **Lauren Johnson**

Scholarship Value: **\$3,000.00**

Graduate Certificate Nursing Practice - Emergency Care

Deakin University

Recipient: **Melissa Gardner**

Scholarship Value: **\$5,000.00**

Master of Nursing (Emergency), La Trobe University

Recipient: **Bambi Reichman**

Scholarship Value: **\$5,000.00**

Certificate in Emergency and Critical Care **Deakin University**

Recipient: **Elise Wright**

Scholarship Value: **\$5,560.00**

Coates Projects at Mt Pleasant Primary School

Each year the Albert Coates Memorial Trust awards six monetary prizes to children in Year 6 at Mt Pleasant Primary School who complete projects on the life of Albert Coates.

Awardees for 2019 were:

Ned Murnane - First Prize

Kiera Anderson - First prize

Michelle Carter - Highly Commended

Lynken Hilverts - Highly Commended

Nina Tregonning - Commended

Max Lamers - Commended



Nina & Ned

Michelle & Kiera



Max & Lynken



Sponsors

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



Victorian Veterans



The Australian Legion of Ex-Service Men and Women has been the most generous contributor to the Trust's work through a major corpus of funds administered by the **Victorian Veterans' Council**.

These funds support a variety of nursing and other scholarships.



W & D Finance continues to generously support the sponsorship of the Biomedical Science scholarship at Federation University Australia.



Since 2000, **Federation University Australia (Ballarat)** has been a key supporter in helping coordinate the promotion, selection and presentation of three Coates Trust scholarships.

In presenting the Coates Oration, it has kindly sponsored the production of invitations, mail outs and other costs. The Trust gratefully acknowledges the ongoing generosity of the University.



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 Postgraduate Diploma in Surgical Anatomy.

The graduation ceremony, at University House and social gathering afterwards, is a great opportunity for Trust members and Coates family members to meet with academic staff and graduates of the course.



The Trust appreciates the support of the **Ballaarat Club** which generously funds the Jim Pryor Visual Arts Scholarship at Federation University Australia.



The Trust appreciates the generous support of the **Sebastopol Bowling Club** which sponsors the Mount Pleasant Primary School **Museum in a Suitcase** project awards.



The Trust is grateful to **Ballarat Legacy** for hosting the meetings of the Coates Trust and assisting in a variety of other ways.



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