



**The Albert Coates
Memorial Trust**

**Annual Report
2021-22**



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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TRUSTEES



Don Moss
Chair



Roger Trudgeon
Hon. Secretary



Neil Shiells
Hon. Treasurer



Shirley McIver
Trustee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Bill Bahr



Desley Beechey



Arthur Coates



Robyn Coates



Ross Phillips



Ed Davis



Gwenda McManus



Roger Mitchell



Jeff Sargent

Vale Walter Gherardin OAM. The ACMT Patron



Walter Gherardin OAM

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.

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

His major contribution was the research and writing of Sir Albert's biography, "Against The Odds".

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.

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.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Don Moss

OAM
FRACS FACS

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 \$6500 over that period. Yet the Trust has managed to maintain its 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, septic 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, 2 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. As the Treasurer's report shows, our total scholarship support for nurse and medical training has remained at \$33,300 annually.

Our two Veteran medicos Ed Davis and Roger Mitchell have retired but we have gained Veterans Bill Bahr and Jeff Sargent. More recently Dr Ross Phillips, retired anaesthetist has joined the Committee. We are very lucky to have such a group of skilful volunteers to serve many functions for the Trust. Roger Trudgeon and Neil Shiells are foundation members of the ACMT, wonderful servants as Secretary and Treasurer. At the same time, we are sad to lose our Patron Walter Gherardin. Walter had contributed so much, including writing the biography “Against The Odds”, a great read and available from the Trust direct.

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



SECRETARY'S REPORT — Roger Trudgeon

MA (Museum Studies)

The last financial year has presented a significant challenge for the usual operations of the Trust. The committee and Trustees have continued to meet on Zoom and communicate at a distance. With the cancellation of the Lunch with Speaker and the Oration functions, important promotional and fund-raising activity was curtailed. It was unfortunate that scholarship recipients have not been able to be publicly acknowledged at the Oration function.

The Trust was very fortunate, however, to gain several significant donations that have enabled the continuation of the full scholarship program, with some minor adjustments to the requirements of practical placements funded in some scholarships. Our thanks go out to ongoing sponsors, the Glenys McIver Trust and W&D Finance for their generous support. As the Sebastopol Bowling Club was closed for extended periods in 2020 and 2021 they were not able to assist us, however Robyn and Arthur Coates kindly replaced that support with their generous donations.

The Trust acknowledges the support of the Victorian Veterans Council (VVC). The low interest rates are having an increasingly serious impact 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 Trust is continually addressing this challenge. Several other very generous individual donors have ensured the Trust's obligations to fund the scholarship program could be met. We thank all our supporters in these trying times.

The new Special Care Nursing Scholarship at Ballarat Health Services was able to commence in 2021, with the first scholarship of \$10,000 going to Deborah Parkinson. We are so grateful to the Leckie family for supporting a five-year program of awards at Ballarat Health Services.

Membership of the Trust saw the retirement of Rudy Novotny at the Annual Meeting in

September. His position remained vacant for the remainder of the financial year. We thank Rudy for his tireless service to the Coates Trust over so many years.

We are grateful to Neil Shiells for his work in taking on the Treasurer's role.

Two new members joined the Committee in 2021, in Bill Bahr and Jeff Sargent. Bill recently retired from a career in the financial services sector and having long-time connections with the military community. He is President of the Prisoner of War Memorial Committee in Ballarat. Jeff Sargent has worked as an orthodontist in Ballarat for many years. He has a background of 10 years working full-time in the RAAF as a dentist and has a strong interest in military history.

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.

Despite the lockdowns in 2020, the Mount Pleasant Primary School Coates projects were still completed by the Year Six students and the prize money was equally divided amongst the 15 participants. Certificates were also provided for each student.

The pandemic continues to set challenges for the Coates Trust, but the need for its services are greater than ever with the financial challenges faced by students and the growing need for regional medical and nursing professionals. The Trust is committed to ensuring the provision of scholarships remains as our core priority.

Roger Trudgeon



TREASURER'S REPORT — Neil Shiells

Our investments remain on extremely low interest-bearing till their maturity The ACMT is pleased to again report a better performance than expected, in relation to Income, Equity and Scholarships granted during 2021- 22.

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.

It is noted that the Income for 2021- 22 impacted due to the cancellation of all our fund raisers and the loss of some donors due to the Covid 19 Virus Pandemic. We received a major boost from the Lillingston Trust of \$50,000.

Scholarships budgeted for the Financial Year at \$44,800. Unfortunately our emergency medicine Scholarship lacked applications due to Covid.

Equity of the Trust included \$50,000 from the Leckie family which is allocated for a new Nursing Scholarship that has now commenced this financial year 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 Women through the Victorian Veterans Council who contributed

\$6,500 this year. This particular annual donation is totally linked to prevailing Interest rates and consequently has reduced each year. VVC has informed us it will drop to \$2,000 in 2022-23. This has highlighted the need for the ACMT to widen its sources of funds.

However, other donations have increased mainly due to a repeated donation from the Glenyis McIver Trust which was again \$20,000 making them our major sponsor. As already mentioned The Lillingston Trust donated \$50,000 Many other generous people have kept us on the right side of the balance line. It is also relevant to mention that W & D Finance donation of \$6,000 and repeated donations from Arthur and Robyn Coates, \$5,000 Don and Sharon Moss \$5,000 and John Davis \$3,000.

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



Albert Coates Memorial Trust

July 2022

AUDITOR'S/ TREASURERS REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2021-2022

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.

Income & Expenses (Summary).

	2020- 2021	2021- 2022	Change
Income	\$58,162.81	\$103,980.44	+78.8%
Expenses	<u>\$30,653.17</u>	<u>\$34,846.77</u>	+13.7%
Net Earnings	\$27,509.64	\$69,133.67	+151.3%
Donations	\$51,355.00	\$97,582.73	
Scholarships	\$32,300.00	\$33,300.00	
Total Assets	\$318,465.88	\$387,579.59	+21.7%

Comments and Financial Highlights for the audit period:

- Donations from the VVC were \$6,500 in the reporting period, Private Donation were \$91,082.73. in total. Lillingston Trust \$50,000 & Glenyis McIver Trust \$20,000
- The Trust has NO financial Liabilities to report, the BAS/ GST reporting is completed quarterly.

9 Scholarships/ Awards for 2021/22

			\$33,300
▪ McIver Trust	Nursing	Federation University	\$3,000
▪ ACMT & W&D	Visual Arts	Federation University	\$3,000
▪ ACMT	Nursing/ Paramedic	Australian Catholic University	\$0000
▪ ACMT	Medical	Deakin University	\$2,500
▪ Robyn & Arthur Coates.	Coates/ Projects	Mt Pleasant Primary School	\$200
▪ Sebastopol Bowling Club	" "	" "	\$600
▪ VVC/ Legion	Medical	Notre Dame University	\$2,500
▪ VVC/ Legion	Medical	Melbourne University Anat. 20& 21.	\$6,000
▪ McIver Trust	Medical	Melbourne University Rural	\$2,500
▪ VVC/ Legion	Emergency Nursing.	CoVid Interrupted.	\$0000
▪ W & D Finance	Biomedical	Federation Univ. – Ballarat	\$3,000
▪ Leckie Family	Neo-Natal	Ballarat Health Service	\$10,000

Samuel Maskell- CPA
Hon. Auditor

Neil Shiells
Hon. Treasurer

SCHOLARSHIPS and RECIPIENTS 2021 - 2022

University of Melbourne & Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Surgical Anatomy

Recipient: **Matthew Dunn**

Scholarship Value:

\$1,500.00



Matthew, Don, Quentin Fogg and Mohamed Umar

Surgical Anatomy

Recipient: **Mohamed Umar**

Scholarship Value:

\$1,500.00

University of Melbourne/ Rural Health Sir Albert Coates Surgical Scholarship

Recipient: **Angelina Koh**

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

Angelina was born in Singapore but came to Australia for schooling and has since taken up Australian citizenship. Since being awarded this scholarship, she has been fortunate enough to undertake a research project in Neuroscience at the Melbourne Brain Centre, involving an investigation of the effects of antiepileptics.

She is now back on placements at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, currently with the Emergency Psychiatry and Neuropsychiatry teams.



University of Notre Dame Australia Surgical Elective

Recipient: **Jack Brownrigg**

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

Jack comes from a military family that originates in Yarrawonga, with forebears who served in WWI and WW2.

His aim is to become an Orthopaedic Surgeon living and practicing in country Victoria, hopefully in Ballarat, and also to serve as a part time surgeon within the Australian Army.

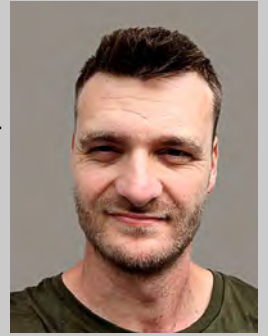


Federation University Biomedical Science

Recipient: **Troy Naismith**

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

Troy is a second year Bachelor of Biomedical Science student at Mt Helen and when he finishes his degree plans to study for a Doctor of Medicine degree which he hopes will lead onto medical research into areas such as causes of death such as cancer, coronary heart disease and dementia.



2nd Year Nursing

Recipient: **Jessica Scott**

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

Jessica is a mum with two young children studying to be a Nurse and the award of the scholarship will be of great benefit as she continues with her studies.

Federation University Jim Pryor Visual Arts

Recipient: **Karen Zipkas**

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

Karen is studying Visual Arts at Federation University, Churchill and hopes to fulfil a long held dream with a career in Visual Arts.



Deakin University Surgical Elective

Recipient: **Matthew Scott**

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

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.



SCHOLARSHIPS and RECIPIENTS 2021 - 2022 Cont'd

Leckie Scholarship

Ballarat Health Services Neonatal Nursing

Recipient: **Deborah Parkinson**

Scholarship Value: **\$10,000.00**

Deborah, pictured here at work, completed her Bachelor of Nursing and Graduate Diploma of Midwifery at Federation University and is employed at Ballarat Health Services as a Graduate Support Midwife in the Special Care Nursery and a Clinical Nurse Specialist in the Maternity Unit.



She is studying for a Masters of Health - Neonatal Care at Federation University, and her aim is to work with unwell neonates in the Special Care Nursery environment.

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.



Photos show ACMT Trustee Shirley McIver presenting the Awards.

Jorja Lee – 1st prize



Belinda Arkell – 2nd prize



Bella Fellows – 3rd prize

Highly Commended – Lilli Coon, Amelie Napitupulu, Orion Grover and London Rankine. Each child received a copy of "Glimpses of Sir Albert Coates" and the prize winners a monetary award.

Message Excerpts From Scholarship Awardees

I am honoured to be the recipient, especially considering the award's distinction and Albert Coates' story. I look forward to giving back to the community once I have completed my studies and begin my medical science career. Thank you for your confidence in me and help in achieving my goals.

Troy Naismith

I was overcome with emotion and thrilled to hear I was successful. This scholarship means my two young children and I can live a little easier while I continue with my studies. Words cannot truly

express how appreciative I am of your support. Thank you again,
Jessica Scott

My most heartfelt thanks for awarding me the Albert Coates Memorial Scholarship, 2021 Jim Pryor Visual Arts Award. As a mature student it is especially gratifying to be awarded without my age being a barrier to success. I have dreamed about completing a visual arts course for many years and it is so encouraging to receive this financial support.

Karen Zipkas

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' Council



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.

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. 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.



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

The Leckie Family Donation of \$50,000.00 in 2021 has enabled the Trust to support the training scheme for Neonatal Nursing Scholarship at Ballarat Health Services for each of the following five years.



Glenyis Mclver, lived, worked, married, and made a huge contribution to many organisations in Ballarat during her life of 87 years. After her death in 2013 the Glenyis Mclver Charitable Trust was established which aims to support local Ballarat community organisations to make a difference in the Greater Ballarat Area. The Albert Coates Memorial Trust is extremely grateful for the generous donation received this year from the Glenyis Mclver Charitable Trust



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.



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.



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



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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