ALBERT COATES MEMORIAL TRUST

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MENTOR

Newsletter of the Albert Coates Memorial Trust

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ANNUAL SIR ALBERT COATES ORATION

The Annual Sir Albert Coates Oration, in collaboration with Federation University Australia, is to be held on **Tuesday 24th November, at 6.00 pm**, in the Geoffrey Blainey Auditorium, Federation University Australia, Chancellor Drive, Mt Helen.

This year's Orator will be the Hon. Ted Bailleu AO.

The Hon Ted Baillieu AO served as Premier of Victoria and Minister for the Arts from 2010 to 2013. He was a member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly from 1999 to 2014, representing the electorate of Hawthorn, and in 2006 was elected leader of the Victorian Liberal Party.

He is an Adjunct Professor at Swinburne University School of Design, an Honorary Enterprise Professor with Melbourne University's Faculty of Architecture, Building & Planning and a member of the Thrive Advisory Board at Queensland University of Technology.

Mr Baillieu was appointed Chair of the National Institute of Circus Arts in 2026 and was previously Chair of the Australian Heritage Council (2021-2024), Co-Chair of the Victorian Government's Cladding Task Force (2017-2019), Chair of the Victorian Government's ANZAC Centenary Committee (2013-2019) and served on the Committee of the Melbourne Cricket Club (2017-2025).

He is a Life Fellow of the Australian Institute of Architects, Fellow of the Chief of Staff Association, Chieftain of the Victorian Highland Pipe Band Association and Member of the Global Advisory Council of Tobacco Free Portfolios.

He is Patron of a number of organisations including Multicultural Arts Victoria, Public Record Office of Victoria, The Sovereign Hill Museums Association, Queenscliff Historical Museum, Friends of Auburn Uniting Church Tower, HMAS Castlemaine, Victorian Schools Rugby Union, Australia India Chamber of Commerce and Africause.

Mr Baillieu was a member of the Australian Government's Urban Policy Consultation Network (2023-2024) and the Selection Panels for the Rhodes Scholarship (2017-2021) and John Monash Foundation Scholars (2016-2023).

He is a former Trustee of the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre Trust and Board Member of the Australia India Institute, the Australia-India Council, Tourism Victoria and the Australian Children's' Television Foundation.

In 2022 Mr Baillieu was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Swinburne University. He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2020 for his service to the people and Parliament of Victoria and to international engagement.

Oration and Annual Dinner Bookings this year will be through the Trybooking Event Booking and Ticketing Platform.
The Oration will be a free event but you will still need to make a booking.

Following the Oration, the Annual Sir Albert Coates Dinner will be held at 7.30 pm, in the Albert Coates Complex, Building U, Federation University Australia, Mt Helen.

Further details for the Oration and Dinner will be sent closer to the date.

LUNCH WITH THE SPEAKER

We were treated to a wonderful presentation from Prof Mark Fitzgerald ASM at our Lunch with the Speaker in May.

Mark trained originally in Accident and Emergency in Ballarat and has since risen to the top of his profession as Director of Trauma Services at The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne and Director of the National Trauma Research Institute.

His talk was titled Advances in Modern Trauma Care and he outlined the dramatic improvement in outcomes after major trauma in recent years primarily due to the development of dedicated Trauma Centres such as the Alfred Trauma Service.

Road crash injuries are the leading cause of death for those aged 10-49 years worldwide, 1.3 million die globally from road trauma annually.
The establishment of trauma centres has reduced mortality significantly from major trauma primarily due to a team approach to patient management and the immediate availability of CT scanners and operating theatres.

His talk outlined how lucky we are in Australia, compared to many other countries, with respect to major trauma management and that is in no small measure because of people like Prof Fitzgerald who has pioneered many of the advances.

A large audience thoroughly enjoyed Mark's thoughtful and educational presentation including a number who knew Mark from his time in Ballarat and an encouraging number of medical students who are just setting out on their medical careers.

Medical Students at the Luncheon

New Committee Member

David Werda has recently joined the ACMT committee and brings a wealth of Nursing experience.

Throughout his professional life, of which over 48 years was spent in the healthcare industry, David experienced and learnt the value of teamwork.

Commencing nursing training in 1977, in Brisbane, and on its completion, David worked in a Burn Unit followed by several years in Pediatrics.
From 1984-1986, David was Assistant Director of Nursing at St Andrews, in Ipswich, followed by three years as Associate Nurse Unit Manager, in the Paediatric Oncology Unit, at the Brisbane Royal Children's Hospital.

From 1990-1997, he was a Regular Army Nursing Officer working at Puckapunyal, as Officer in Charge of Emergency and Outpatient Departments and Officer in Charge of the Treatment section 2nd Field Ambulance in Townsville.
David was the Nursing Officer in Command (OIC) of the treatment section, 1st Battalion, Royal

Australian Regiment (1 RAR) Battalion, Operation Solace in Somalia and OIC and Senior trade testing officer, operating theatres, 1st Military Hospital.

He remained a Reserve Officer until 2004.

David was awarded the Australian Active Service Medal (Somalia), Australia Defence Medical, Meritorious Unit Citation, Army Combat Badge and Return from Active Service Badge.

From 1998 to 2024 he held senior global and national medical corporate roles in training.

David is a Trustee of the National Australian Ex-Prisoner of War Memorial and currently the senior vice president of Legacy Ballarat.

Recent Scholarships

Deakin University

Renee Beitzel is the Deakin University scholarship recipient for 2026.
Prior to enrolling in her Doctor of Medicine degree, she worked as a nurse in Rockhampton for five years.
Renee has spent the past two years at the Rural Training School, in Ballarat.

The Rural Training school enables students to experience hands-on clinical placements within regional health services and hospitals in Ballarat. Whilst studying, Renee continues to work as a nurse part-time to help pay her university expenses.

Renee's long-term plan is to work as a rural/ regional GP with emphasis on emergency work. Renee's maternal great grandfather served in France, during the First World War, her own grandfather served in the Navy and she has a nephew currently in the services.

Her scholarship is valued at $5000.

University of Notre Dame

The Ballarat Rural Clinical School of Notre Dame University is located in the historic Baileys Mansion, on the St John of God Hospital Campus, in Drummond Street North.

A scholarship valued at $5000 is awarded to one final year medical student from the University of Notre Dame, to assist with an elective placement of their choice.

The awardee this year is Lisa Corbett who hopes to undertake her elective, in October 2026, in the Emergency Department, at Groote Schuur Hospital, in Cape Town, South Africa.

Lisa would like to develop procedural and clinical reasoning skills in a high-volume trauma Emergency Department, in the under-resourced health care system of South Africa.

She intends to apply the learnings from her elective to a future career in regional critical care and emergency medicine in Australia.

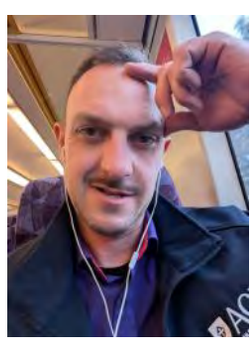
Two of Lisa's great, grandfathers served at Gallipoli during the First World War.

In her scholarship application, Lisa wrote,
These experiences have taught me that excellent healthcare depends as much on humility, empathy and relationships as clinical knowledge.
Sir Albert Coates embodied these qualities, particularly when he later negotiated peace with the same nation that had imprisoned him.
That capacity to extend dignity even to those who have caused harm is, to me, one of his greatest lessons.

Also

Sir Albert Coates' example asks not where medicine can take us, but where our skills are most needed.

Australian Catholic University Nursing/Paramedicine



The Australian Catholic University Ballarat Campus scholarship awardee for 2026 is John Sullivan.

John is studying for a Bachelor of Nursing Degree and hopes one day to train as a Nurse Practitioner.

John is a St John Ambulance Volunteer and has contributed more than 580 hours working at community events at 88 different locations.

John's grandfather served with the RAAF in Papua New Guinea during World War 2.

Australian Catholic University Ballarat Campus is located in Mair Street, at Carn Brea, a beautiful two storey building, originally built as a home by Cornishman Cyrus Bath Retallack for his large family.

It has been used as an educational institution for many years beginning with the Sisters of Mercy (Sacred Heart College), Queen's Church of England Girls' Grammar School, Aquinas College and now Australian Catholic University

The University of Melbourne Rural Clinical School

Matthew Chu has been awarded the scholarship for 2026.

Matthew is a third year Doctor of Medicine student, at The University of Melbourne Rural Clinical School (MU RCS), in Wangaratta.

He was born in Hong Kong and shifted to Albury, when in year eight, and on completion of his secondary schooling, studied Radiography at Deakin University, when he initially failed to gain entry to medicine.

Matthew worked as a Radiographer for several years, until commencing medicine in the MU RCS, in 2024, with his first year in Wangaratta.

Matthew enrolled in the Australian Army, in the active reserves in 2021, seeking leadership training as well as support.

During his interview, Matthew displayed excellent knowledge of Sir Albert Coates, with Coates' example perhaps encouraging him to train further as a surgeon.

ALBERT COATES MEMORIAL TRUST

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Donations to the ACMT are tax deductible.

The Albert Coates Memorial Trust sponsors a range of scholarships for medical, nursing and para-medicine training.
This includes scholarships at:
Federation University (Nursing and Biomedicine);
Melbourne University (post-graduate Anatomy and Rural Clinical School);
Deakin University (Medicine);
Notre Dame University (Medicine);
Australian Catholic University (Nursing/Paramedicine) and Victoria University (Paramedicine).

Scholarships are offered to regional registered nurses in post-graduate courses, and to Peri-neonatal nurses at Grampians Health (Ballarat Health Service).

Scholarships are also awarded at Mt Pleasant Primary School.

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