**Australian Institute of Administrative Law**

**Annual General Meeting**

**27 November 2019**

**Summary of events**

# Seminars

Since the last AGM on 14 November 2018, the following events have been held in Canberra:

**28 November 2018 (lunchtime seminar):** Jane Anderson, Principal Member

Veterans’ Review Board, *The Veterans’ Review Board: What’s Happening*

**13 February 2019 (evening seminar):** Dr Anna Olijnyk, lecturer at Adelaide Law School, University of Adelaide, *Burns v Corbett*

**7 November 2019 (afternoon seminar):** Prue Bindon, Barrister, Key Chambers, Canberra, *Tweet speech: It’s not free after all*.

Thank you also to Mr Michael Manthorpe PSM, the Commonwealth Ombudsman, who delivered the Michael Will Address on the topic *Being an Ombudsman in 2019* immediately before the commencement of the meeting today.

Some further seminars are planned to be held in Canberra in early 2020. Topics for these include the Productivity Commission review of the veterans’ affairs review system and recent statutory interpretation cases of interest (proposed to be held jointly with the ANU).

A range of seminars were also held by State Chapters and these are set out later in this report.

**2019 AIAL National Administrative Law Conference**

A very successful 2019 conference was held on 18-19 July at the Hotel Realm in Canberra. The theme of the conference was *People, Parliament and the Public Interest*.

The conference incorporated the 2019 AIAL National Lecture which was delivered by The Hon Justice David Thomas, President, Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

The AIAL 2019 National Essay Prize was awarded at the conference.

Many thanks to the organising committee in Canberra and the AIAL Secretariat for their efforts in arranging such an interesting and well-attended event.

**2020 AIAL National Administrative Law Conference**

Planning is currently underway for the 2020 conference by the Victorian Chapter, which will be held in Melbourne on 16-17 July. It is anticipated that a call for papers for the 2020 conference will be sent out by mid-December.

**AIAL Forum**

The Editorial Board continues to be made up of Robin Creyke, Geoff Airo-Farulla, Tara McNeilly and Peter Woulfe. Volume 96 has recently been issued with the redesigned style, format and layout of the journal pages.

**AIAL Project grants – ACT round**

In May 2019 the Executive Committee sought applications for grants for projects relating to administrative law in the ACT. It was decided that the maximum grant for each project would be $5,000 and that, depending on the quality of the applications, more than one grant could be made.

3 grant applications were received. A judging panel comprised of 3 members of the Executive Committee recommended that 2 projects be funded and this recommendation was agreed by the Executive Committee as a whole. Details of the projects are as follows:

* Funding of $5,000 to the ACT Tenants Union to prepare a handbook on renter’s experience at ACAT
* Funding of $4,500 to Canberra Community Law for a research project relating to a larger piece of work on homelessness and social security.

**AIAL website**

Robert Orr, Cain Sibley, Peter Sutherland, Callum Herbert, Margaret Tregurtha and the AIAL Secretariat have continued to work on the development of the website and on the rebranding project, in consultation with GrowthOps (formerly Voodoo). It is necessary to transition the website to a new platform – Wordpress – due to the decommissioning of the current Adobe platform. GrowthOps has been engaged to undertake this work.

The AIAL Twitter account remains active – AIAL@AIALpubliclaw.

**New South Wales**

The NSW Chapter organised the National Administrative Law Conference in 2018 under the theme*Administrative Law in the 21st Century and Beyond*. The conference was held at the UNSW Law School, Kensington, Sydney on 27 and 28 September 2018. There were an excellent range of presentations. Margaret Beazley, President of the NSW Court of Appeal and long term Chair of the NSW Chapter gave the 2018 National Lecture on Administrative Law, which is now published in (2018) 93 *AIAL Forum* 1.

Other events organised by the chapter were:

**31 July 2019:** a seminar on *Robodebt and Automated Administrative Decisions*

**18 September 2019:** a seminar on *The Use and Abuse of Soft Law in Environmental Decision Making*

**7 November 2019:** a dinner to honour Governor Beazley’s contribution to the AIAL, which was preceded by a seminar on by Chief Justice James Allsop of the Federal Court of Australia on the *Contribution of State Courts to the Development of Administrative Law in Australia*.

**South Australia**

The SA chapter has been very active over the last year, hosting a number of events.

**28 March 2019:** Penny Wright, South Australian Guardian for Children and Young People, Training Centre Visitor and Child and Young Person’s Visitor spoke about the way her office manages these three separate roles, the challenges, resourcing and reporting.

**8 May 2019:** The Hon Justice Hughes, SACAT President gave a paper entitled *The Tribunal Escape Room Experience – finding facts in 60 minutes* which provided an insight into some of the challenges experienced by tribunal members resolving disputes between unrepresented parties.

**30 May 2019:** Debra Mercurio, JusticeNet spoke about the role of JusticeNet in coordinating probono assistance for litigants and provided an analysis of some of the legal issues involved in asylum seeker litigation.

**27 June 2019:** Carren Walker, Assistant Parliamentary Counsel and AIAL Committee Member, together with the South Australian Parliamentary Research Library delivered a seminar on *Parliamentary Privilege*. Carren’s paper, which covered the legal status of privilege, was complemented with commentary from both the Speaker of the House of Assembly and the President of the Legislative Council who gave practical insights into the way the privilege operates.

**11 September 2019:** Reflections on State tribunal design and federal jurisdiction following *Burns v Corbett* with Dr Rebecca Ananian-Welsh, University of Queensland, Mike Wait SC, SA Crown Solicitor, Stephen McDonald and Anna Olijnyk, Adelaide University, and Barbie Johns from SACAT. This was organised with COAT and AACL.

Administrative Law Prizes continue to be sponsored with each of the three SA University Law Schools having awarded prizes earlier this year.

**Western Australia**

The WA Chapter hosted the following events:

**11 April 2019:** seminar presented by the Hon Justice Debra Mortimer, Federal Court of Australia on *What Judges want (and what Judges do): preparing judicial review cases and how courts review fact finding*.

**11 July 2019:** seminar presented by Mr Colin Pettit, WA Commissioner for Children and Young People, on his role and functions.

**2 September 2019:** seminar by the Hon Michael Barker QC, recently retired from the Federal Court of Australia which coincided with the WA Chapter AGM.

**Victoria**

The Chapter will organise the 2020 National Conference.