



Speaker Biographies

The
Twenty Ninth Conference
of
The Samuel Griffith Society

25th - 27th August, 2017

Novotel Perth Langley
221 Adelaide Terrace
Perth, Western Australia, 6000



Honourable Ian Callinan AC QC
President of the Samuel Griffith Society

The Honourable Ian Callinan AC QC is the third and current President of the Samuel Griffith Society. He was a justice of the High Court of Australia from 1998 until 2007. He was admitted to the Queensland Bar in 1965 after studying Law at the University of Queensland. His many activities have included membership of the board of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (1997) and of the Council of the National Gallery of Australia since 2007. In addition to plays and short stories, he has written several novels including *The Lawyer and the Libertine* (1997), *The Coroner's Conscience* (1999) and *A Hero's Funeral* (2009). Since his retirement from the High Court he has conducted numerous Government enquiries. He presented his first paper to the Society in 1994 entitled "An Over-Mighty Court?".

Friday Evening Address (Chair: Stuart Wood QC)

"The Constitution and other thoughts on our present discontents"



Ms Peta-Louise **CREDLIN** was born and raised in Wycheproof in country Victoria. She was educated at Sacred Heart College in Geelong and the University of Melbourne. A strategist and policy professional, she has more than a decade of experience at the highest levels of Australian politics. Most notably, she was Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister, Hon Tony Abbott MP between 2013 and 2015, having earlier joined his office as Chief of Staff when he was elected Leader of the Opposition in 2009. Ms Credlin's tenure makes her one of the longest serving chiefs of staff to a national leader in Australia. She is currently a political contributor for *Sky News* and is the co-host of "Jones & Co" with broadcaster Alan Jones. She is also a columnist for the *Sunday Telegraph*, *Sunday Herald-Sun* and other News Corp weekend mastheads. In 2015, she received the Australian Women's Leadership Award for the ACT and in 2016, was named a joint winner of Harper's Bazaar magazine's "Woman of the Year".

“Federalism in the High Court”



The Honourable Justice Robert MacKenzie **MITCHELL** was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court of Western Australia in October 2014 and as a judge of the Court of Appeal in July 2016. Justice Mitchell obtained a Bachelor of Jurisprudence in 1989 and a Bachelor of Laws in 1991 at the University of Western Australia. He completed a Master of Laws, with distinction, at the University of Western Australia in 1997. In 1989, Justice Mitchell commenced work as professional assistant to the Solicitor General. He then completed articles with the Crown Solicitor, was appointed Assistant Crown Counsel in 1997, Senior Assistant Crown Counsel in 2000, and Deputy State Solicitor in 2008. He was appointed Senior Counsel in 2007 and was acting Solicitor General from July 2011 to February 2012. Justice Mitchell was a member of the Law Reform Commission from 2007 till 2011, a member of the Legal Practice Board and a member of the Legal Profession Complaints Committee.

“Subsidiarity and Federalism”



Dr Michelle **EVANS** is an Associate Professor in the Law School at Curtin University. She has a PhD (with Chancellor’s Commendation for academic excellence) for her thesis titled, ‘The Use of the Principle of Subsidiarity in the Reformation of Australia’s Federal System of Government’, (Curtin University, 2012). Dr Evans is also the co-author of a text-book on Administrative Law (with editions published in 2010 and 2015), and was the lead editor of the book, *Global Perspectives on Subsidiarity* (Springer, 2014). Her research interests include federalism, administrative law in a university context, and the regulation of online content. Dr Evans also has substantial experience in university management, most recently as the former Deputy Dean of the Curtin Law School. As well as having a current Legal Practice Certificate from the Legal Practice Board of Western Australia, Dr Evans is a member and Deputy Chairperson of the Prisoners Review Board, and has recently been appointed to the Consumer Advisory Committee, a statutory committee established under the *Fair Trading Act 2010* (WA).

The Sir Harry Gibbs Memorial Oration

With an introduction by Mr Peter Quinlan SC Solicitor-General for Western Australia

“The Constitution and the Zeitgeist”



The Honourable Patrick Anthony **KEANE** AC was appointed to the High Court in March 2013. At the time of his appointment he was Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia. He served as a judge of the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court of Queensland from 2005-2010 before joining the Federal Court. He is a graduate of the University of Queensland, where he was awarded the University Medal, and Oxford University, where he was awarded the Vinerian Scholarship. He was admitted to the Queensland Bar in 1977 and in 1988 he was appointed Queen’s Counsel. He was Solicitor-General for Queensland from 1992 to 2005. Justice Keane was appointed a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2015.

Session 2 - Indigenous Affairs and Federalism (Chair: Bevan Lawrence)

“Passing the Buck: Has the diffusion of responsibility for the Aboriginal people in our federation impeded closing the gap?”



The Honourable Chief Justice Wayne Stewart **MARTIN** AC was born in 1952 and attended North Perth Primary School and Christchurch Grammar School. He graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) in 1973 from the University of Western Australia and was an articled clerk with Lavan & Walsh, Perth. He completed a Master of Laws from the University of London in 1975 and was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 1977. After being a Senior Litigation Partner with Keall Brinsde, Perth from 1984 - 88, he joined the Independent Bar in 1988 and was appointed a Queens Counsel 1993. From 2001 - 2003, he was Counsel assisting the HIH Royal Commission in Sydney. He served as President WA Bar Association from 1996 - 1999, Chairman of the Law Reform Commission of WA from 1996 - 2001, and was President of the Law Society in 2006. On 1 May 2006, he was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Western Australia, a Judge of the Court of Appeal, and Chief Justice of Western Australia. He was appointed a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2012.

“Government not Gridlock”



The Honourable Tony **ABBOTT** MP was educated at St Ignatius' College Riverview, and has degrees in economics and law from Sydney University and an MA in politics and philosophy from Oxford, which he attended as a Rhodes Scholar. He was elected to the Australian Parliament in 1994 as the Member for Warringah. Prior to entering the Parliament, he was a journalist with *The Australian* newspaper, a senior adviser to Opposition Leader John Hewson, and director of Australians for Constitutional Monarchy. Between 1996 and 2007, he was successively parliamentary secretary, minister, cabinet minister and Leader of the House of Representatives in the Howard government. During this time, he served as Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business, Minister for Health and Ageing. In 2009, Mr Abbott was elected Leader of the Opposition, and in 2013, he was elected the 28th Prime Minister of Australia. He served in that role for 2 years.

“In Defence of the Senate”



Senator James **PATERSON** was educated at McKinnon Secondary College and the University of Melbourne. He has worked as a special adviser for Senator Mitch Fifield, and as an intern for U.S. congressman Lincoln Díaz-Balart. He then worked as a writer for the Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry before joining the Institute of Public Affairs as editor of the IPA Review publication. In the IPA, Senator Paterson was promoted to director of communications and development, before being promoted to deputy executive director in September 2014. Elected to the Senate for the State of Victoria in May 2016, Senator Paterson now sits on a number of Senate and Joint Standing Committees.

“Lessons from the European Union”



Professor Neville **ROCHOW** SC has degrees from the University of Adelaide (LLB (Hons), LLM) and Deakin University (LLM). Called to the Bar in 1988, he was appointed a Senior Counsel in 2008. He is currently a Professor of Law (Adjunct) at Notre Dame University and an Associate Professor (Adjunct) at the University of Adelaide Law School. He is active in pursuit of his interests in the areas of interfaith dialogue, philosophical analysis of law and religion, and matters that impact upon freedom of conscience, religion and association.

“Workplace Rights and the States”



Mr Daniel **WHITE** holds a bachelor of industrial relations with first class honours and a bachelor of laws from the University of Western Australia, and a Masters of Employment and Labour Relations Law from the University of Melbourne. An experienced lawyer with a strong background in industrial relations, particularly in the resources, rail, construction and maritime/shipping sectors, Mr White is currently a Special Counsel with Mills Oakley in Perth, and is centrally involved in the ongoing debate of reforming Australia’s industrial relations system.

“The Unconstitutionality of Outlawing Political Opinion”



Dr Augusto **ZIMMERMANN** was educated at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro and Monash University. Formerly an Associate Dean (Research) and Director of Postgraduate Studies at the School of Law at Murdoch University, Dr Zimmerman now serves as a Commissioner with the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia, and a senior lecturer at Murdoch University. A prolific academic writer and the author of numerous articles and books, Dr Zimmermann has been awarded the 2012 Vice Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Research, and also been awarded two consecutive Murdoch School of Law Dean’s Research Awards in 2010 and 2011.

Saturday Evening Address (Chair: Honourable Ian Callinan AC)

“Fake News, Federalism, and the Love Media”



Mr Chris **KENNY** began his career as a park ranger before deciding to pursue a career in journalism. His first position was at *The Murray Pioneer* in Renmark, followed by *The News* in Adelaide, before moving on to television at the ABC's *7.30 Report*. He later covered state and federal politics for the Ten Network and Channel Nine Adelaide, while writing columns for *The Sunday Mail*, *The Advertiser* and *The Adelaide Review*. Mr Kenny left journalism in 2000 to become a political adviser, where he served as Chief of Staff to South Australian Premier Rob Kerin, before spending more than five years as Media Adviser and then Chief of Staff to the Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer. Mr Kenny returned to media in 2008. He is a columnist and associate editor at *The Australian*, anchors “Heads Up” on *Sky News*, and is a regular panellist on *Paul Murray Live*. Mr Kenny has published two books: “State of Denial” in 1993, and “Women’s Business” in 1996.

Session 5 - Federalism and Western Australia (Chair: Bill Hassell AM)

“Western Australia and the Goods and Services Tax”



Dr Mike **NAHAN** was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1950 as one of 13 children and grew up on a small farm, later graduating with a bachelor's degree in economics from Western Michigan University, before graduating with a master's degree in agricultural economics and a doctorate in economics from the Australian National University. Dr Nahan worked as a policy director with the IPA, and between 1995 and 2005, he was Executive Director of the IPA. Dr Nahan was elected to the Parliament of Western Australia as the member for Riverton in 2008. In 2013, he was appointed the Minister for Finance, and Minister for Energy, Citizenship and Multicultural Interests, and from 2014 to 2017, he was the Treasurer of Western Australia. Since the 2017 election, Dr Nahan has served as the Leader of the Opposition.

“Western Australia and Secession”



Senator David **LEYONHJELM** has been a Senator for the State of New South Wales since July 2014. He has a degree in veterinary science from the University of Melbourne, and Bachelor of Laws and Master of Business Administration from Macquarie University. Senator Leyonhjelm has worked as a veterinarian, as a marketing manager, industry development manager, and then as an agribusiness consultant, where he was the founding director of Baron Strategic Services. He was first elected to the Senate at the 2013 election. and was re-elected at the 2016 election.

Session 6 - Indigenous Affairs and the Constitution (Chair: Rebecca Weisser)

“Enough is enough”



John **STONE** was educated at Perth Modern School, the University of Western Australia (BSc Hons, 1950) and then, as a Rhodes Scholar, at New College, Oxford (BA Hons, 1954). He joined the Australian Treasury in 1954, serving in a number of posts at home and abroad, including as Australia's Executive Director in both the IMF and the World Bank in Washington, DC (1967-70). In 1979 he became Secretary to the Treasury, resigning from that post – and from the Commonwealth Public Service – in 1984. He has since been, at one time and another, a Professor at Monash University, a newspaper columnist, a company director, a Senator for Queensland and Leader of the National Party in the Senate (1987-90) and Shadow Minister for Finance. In 1996-97 he was a member of the Defence Efficiency Review, and in 1999 a member of the Victorian Committee for the No Republic Campaign. A principal founder of The Samuel Griffith Society, he has served on its Board of Management since its inception in 1992 and was Editor and Publisher of its Proceedings until 2010. A festschrift in honour of Mr Stone was published in Volume 22 of the proceedings of the Society,



Mr Keith **WOLAHAN** was born in Dublin and has degrees from the University of Melbourne (BA/BCom), Monash University (LLB(Hons)), and the University of Cambridge (MSt). After completing articles at Mallesons Stephen Jaques, he was admitted to the legal profession in 2006, and called to the Victorian Bar in 2010, where he has acted in a number of high-profile matters, including representing a commando team commander charged with manslaughter for a civilian casualty combat incident in early 2009, following which all charges were dismissed as being wrong in law. Mr Wolahan has served in the Army Reserve since 1996 and completed his officer training through Duntroon. He later qualified as a commando, serving several periods of full-time service, including one tour of Timor Leste (2007) and three combat tours in Afghanistan (2008, 2009/10, 2014). In the 2011 Australia Day Honours he was decorated with a Commendation for Distinguished Service for performance of duty in action as a platoon commander.

Special Address to mark the 25th anniversary of the Samuel Griffith Society



The Honourable Nicholas **HASLUCK** AM is a novelist, poet, and former judge. Born in Canberra, he studied law at the University of Western Australia, then Wadham College, Oxford, before returning to Australia to become a practising lawyer in Perth. He was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1988, and from 1990 to 2000, served as President of the Equal Opportunity Tribunal (WA) for ten years. In 2000, he was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Western Australia. He has written 11 novels, short story collections, collections of poetry, and works of non-fiction. He has been shortlisted for the Miles Franklin award on two occasions, and won The Age Book of the Year Award for *The Bellarmine Jug*, and the Western Australian Premier's Book Award. He served as Chair of the Literature Board of the Australia Council and later as Chair of the Commonwealth Writers Prize. He was recently awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters by the University of Western Australia. He is the son of former Governor General Sir Paul Hasluck, who delivered an address launching the first ever volume of the proceedings of the Samuel Griffith Society.