

## THE AUSTRALIAN RHODES REVIEW



### HIGHLIGHTS //

Running a School in a Pandemic:  
Elizabeth Stone  
Current Scholar: Nicholas Salmon  
National Secretary's Update



## A LETTER FROM THE ARSA PRESIDENT

A few months ago I succeeded Tim Orton (Australia-at-Large & Magdalen 1986) as ARSA President and RSA Chair. I want to express my immense gratitude to Tim for his seven years at the helm. Tim increased the ambition and output of both ARSA and RSA. His leadership helped reinvigorate the special Rhodes bond we all share. His determination to increase Scholar engagement strengthened our local Rhodes community and the financial security of the Australian Scholarships.

I am delighted to present this next issue of *The Australian Rhodes Review* to you. This edition includes a brilliant article about the challenges of running a school during a pandemic by Elizabeth Stone (Australia-at-Large & University 1998), the Principal of The Queenwood School for Girls; an obituary of Australia's leading international lawyer, Judge James Crawford, by Simon Chesterman (Australia-at-Large & Magdalen 1997); and an article by Sarah Crowe (Maritimes & Trinity 1981) describing her drive to improve the vision of disadvantaged people in Papua New Guinea. Inside you'll also find an update from National Secretary Peter Kanowski (Australia-at-Large & St John's 1983) and an article on page 11 from Scholar in Residence Nick Salmon (Victoria & Worcester 2020) describing his unusual time in Oxford. This issue also contains the usual features, including news of various alumni events and personal updates from Senior Scholars.

Thank you to all those Scholars who have paid their 2021 ARSA membership fees. I encourage those who have not yet paid to please do so. ARSA relies on Scholar support and memberships fees to conduct its activities, including the publication of this newsletter. [You can pay online by clicking here](#), or by direct credit using the [ARSA Membership Renewal Form](#).

Also, I hope you are able to join me and support the Scholars Fund this year, especially given the extraordinary challenges young Scholars in Residence have faced during the pandemic. If you are able to help our youngest cohort, please consider doing so before 30 June. Giving online using your credit card is simple. [You can click here to donate online](#). If you would prefer to give by an electronic funds transfer (EFT) or cheque, [please use our Australian donation form found here](#). All donations are tax deductible.

I hope you enjoy reading this latest issue of *The Australian Rhodes Review*. Please contact the Editor, Gillian Fullilove, at [gillian.fullilove@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk](mailto:gillian.fullilove@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk) to submit an article, or personal update or make a suggestion.

Best wishes,

Chloë Flutter (New South Wales & Hertford 1999)

President, ARSA

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## RUNNING A SCHOOL IN A PANDEMIC

by Elizabeth Stone (Australia-at-Large & University 1998), Principal of The Queenwood School for Girls

Like any other enterprise, we were scrambling as lockdown loomed in March 2020. When it came, sooner than anyone expected, our workplace was like most: laptops, Zoom, videoconferencing. The difference was that the person at the other end might be five years old, in her first few weeks of school, and unable to read or write (let alone log on to a computer).

Schools are always rich and complex environments, and the pandemic played out in particularly diverse ways, given that our population of staff and students is aged from 4 to nearly 80 years old and our daily activities range from classroom lessons to massed singing to contact sports. Schools were an essential service because of the childcare required for frontline workers, and we are also living communities, with bonds and obligations that go well beyond those of most institutions.





The challenges and responsibilities might have begun with finding a way to deliver lessons online, but we quickly found ourselves considering an unexpected range of questions: how to support the mental health needs not just of our students and staff, but of parents who were under extreme stress trying to work from home while supporting their children's remote learning; how to support elderly alumnae who were isolated in their own homes; how to deliver lessons in everything from playing the trumpet to furniture design; how to support our most recent graduates who were unexpectedly isolated as their university life disappeared within a few weeks of starting and risked being stranded without adequate social networks; and, memorably, what to do when we discovered the day before reopening that our school buses had been used during the lockdown to transport overseas travellers into quarantine.

As Principal, my first and most urgent task was to provide clarity – clarity of direction and communication. Already in January, as international students were returning to Australia for the new school year, school leaders were facing risky decisions amidst conflicting currents of information, often being roundly criticised by politicians or members of their school communities. It became clear that coordinating our approach with geographically proximate schools would ease the pressure on everyone: when all the local schools implement the same approach, it generates more confidence and decisions are less likely to be challenged. By convening a regular forum with other principals, we quickly established greater consistency and the generous and collaborative approach by all gave us the benefit of a tremendous brains trust.

Another essential responsibility was to filter the fire hose of news about COVID-19 and convey the essentials with clarity, honesty and credibility. In the early days, this meant reading every article and paper I could find, including somewhat obsessively tuning in to direct briefings from WHO clinicians in Wuhan. I still remember explaining to the community what 'flattening the curve' meant before it passed into general parlance. Later, it meant assiduous attention to and consultation with senior public health officials. I cannot commend highly enough the women and men in the relevant agencies and government departments. Amongst so many other pressures, they took the time to consult with school principals and listened carefully to our advice about what was and wasn't workable. More than once, I saw a direct link between the announcement of new public health regulations and the feedback we had provided to them 24 hours before. The quality of our government and public health infrastructure was plain to see in the flexibility and effectiveness of their response.

I was grateful, then, to be in a position where I could speak with authority to my community about the latest health information and respond effectively to all manner of questions driven by understandable fears. In the early stages, when there was much debate about schools remaining open, it was clear that parents were suffering from too many sources of information and too much to process. Interestingly, a number of our school newsletters went viral. I had responses from parents all over Sydney who had nothing to do with our school, and their gratitude clearly arose from their hunger to understand how to apply this tsunami of information to their decisions about their children's safety.

Staff had a similar hunger for information as they tried to assess the risk to themselves and their families. There was no option for us to send everyone off to work at home full-time: we were still accepting children of essential workers every day and we also knew that sustaining quality teaching would be increasingly difficult with everyone working in isolation. So the leadership team was constantly checking in with colleagues, whether they were working remotely or on campus, and significant attention and resources were directed to sustaining their wellbeing.

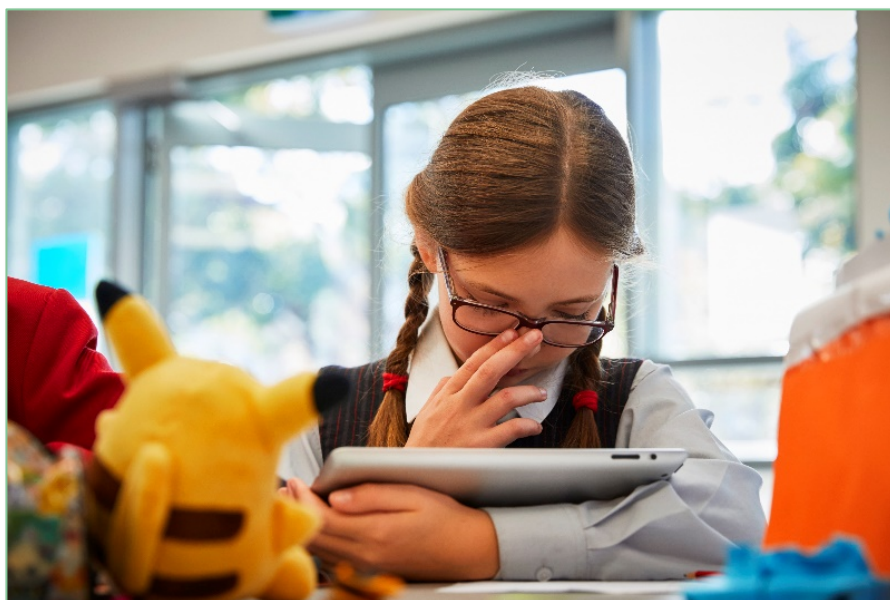


The asymmetry of the pandemic has been startling. While I, along with many of my colleagues, attended work every day, many of my friends are still working entirely at home over a year from the onset. In our school, all teachers (except for those individuals at high risk) continued to come to work three days per week during lockdown. While some would have preferred to remain at home, many welcomed the opportunity to leave the house. It was evident, however, that the return to a normal working pattern was much easier psychologically for those who had not spent long, unbroken periods at home and thus we have not experienced the reluctance and anxiety that have been common in other workplaces.

At the same time, I am conscious of our immense good fortune compared to the international experience. Colleagues in the United Kingdom and the United States have spent over a year in remote learning. Some children who have been attending school in masks have never seen their teacher's face. We are certainly seeing some lingering effects in 2021 in the students' wellbeing and social interactions, but this pales into comparison with other jurisdictions.

Finally, I am aware as never before of the importance of distributed leadership. I have no idea how to teach five-year-olds online when they can't read, concentrate or follow instructions. I have not the faintest inkling of how to rehearse a music ensemble via Zoom. Nor am I equipped to devise a creative and effective art lesson through a screen. At the beginning of all this, I had no idea how to deliver remote learning to best effect. I didn't know how to structure the day to minimise fatigue or foster social engagement. But I didn't have to.

Now, we know how to do all of this – but the discoveries are not mine. My job was to look after my colleagues and clear the decks for them. I have nothing but respect for their achievements.





## SCHOLARS IN THE NEWS

*Australian Rhodes Scholars are often in the news. Here is a sampling of Scholars making local headlines.*



Photo credit: Arsineh Houspian for  
The Australian Financial Review

John Wylie (Queensland & Balliol 1983) has stepped down from his role as President of the State Library of Victoria after nine successful years in the job. Read the full article: [John Wylie farewelled at State Library Victoria](#).

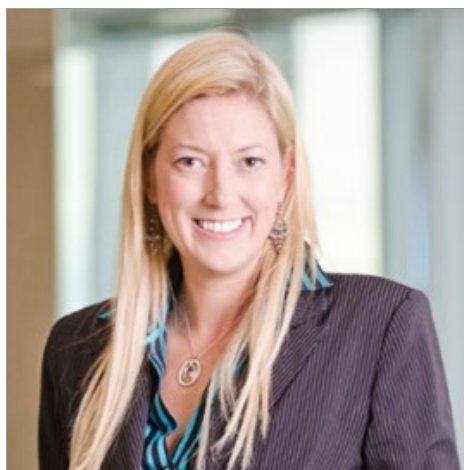


Photo credit: Swift Outcomes

Congratulations to **Rachel Swift (Australia-at-Large & Green 2004)**. She was recently preselected as the Liberal Party candidate for the federal seat of Boothby, South Australia. See the story: [Rachel Swift will succeed Nicolle Flint as the Liberal candidate for Boothby](#).

Clinton Free (New South Wales & Balliol 2000) was profiled in [The Australian Financial Review](#) back in February. His work researching white collar crime is fascinating.

Jen Robinson (Australia-at-Large & Balliol 2006) was featured on the ABC's *Australian Story* a few months ago. [Find out more about her life and career](#).

[The Sydney Morning Herald](#) reported that Disability Discrimination Commissioner **Ben Gauntlett (Western Australia & St John's 2003)** went through the National Disability Insurance Scheme's independent assessment trial and said the experience was unsatisfactory and may breach international law.

**Malcolm Whyte (Queensland & Balliol 1947)** wrote an excellent piece in *The Conversation* about the correlation between winning Olympic medals and a country's wealth. It seems the most successful nations at the Olympic Games are often the poorest. [Read Malcolm's analysis](#).

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## SCHOLAR, ADVOCATE, JUDGE: JAMES CRAWFORD, 1948–2021

by Simon Chesterman (Australia-at-Large & Magdalen 1997)

This article first appeared in *The Interpreter*, published by The Lowy Institute, on 2 June 2021.

[Read the original article.](#)

*Australia's leading international lawyer appeared in more than 100 cases, delivering many a memorable argument.*

James Crawford, who passed away on Monday, was the most influential Australian international lawyer of all time.

Many of us in the field hope for some measure of success as scholars, advocates, or perhaps as a judge. Crawford's greatness in all three areas might have been infuriating had he not retained his humour, his modesty and his dedication to mentoring his students – actual and adopted.

As a student himself he moved from Adelaide to pursue a doctoral degree at Oxford, where he was one of the first supervised by the prominent international lawyer Ian Brownlie.

A passing comment in Brownlie's book that the literature on the creation of states was somewhat sparse led Crawford to propose a doctorate on the subject. Brownlie initially tried to dissuade him, given the size of the project. The resultant thesis was beyond the binding capacity of the local printers and now squats in the Bodleian Library as two fat volumes.

Among subsequent doctoral students (I was one of Brownlie's last), it was rumoured that the examiners agreed only to read the first volume if Crawford could point to relevant sections of the second during his oral exam. It was also said that he was the reason for the introduction of word limits on subsequent theses – something unnecessary in the centuries prior to his arrival.

Crawford was responsible for some groundbreaking decisions, but also for rare instances of laughter in the World Court.

The significantly shorter book that was published in 1979, *The Creation of States in International Law*, launched an academic career that saw him rise to Challis Professor (1986) and later Dean of Sydney Law School (1990–92), culminating in the Whewell Chair in International Law at Cambridge (1992–2014), where he also directed the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law.

Among his other distinctions, he was the first Australian elected to the UN International Law Commission (ILC), where he shepherded through draft articles on the responsibility of states. This fundamental topic had been on the agenda of the ILC since 1949, and four previous special rapporteurs had either completed their terms or died while trying to move the draft forward. More pragmatist than diplomat, Crawford jettisoned the most controversial sections to get broad agreement on a final text that was endorsed by the General Assembly in 2001.

It was as an advocate that Crawford achieved greater prominence, appearing in more than 100 cases across every form of international tribunal. He argued some 30 cases before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), notably on behalf of Australia in the East Timor case against Portugal (1995) and the Whaling case against Japan (2014) — though his very first ICJ case was representing Nauru against Australia (1992). (In all three, Crawford himself was on the side that ultimately prevailed.)





*James Crawford, left, during 2004 proceedings at the ICJ for an advisory opinion on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (Michel Porro/Getty Images)*

While some of us do find international law extremely interesting, it would be a stretch to call it entertaining. Crawford was responsible for some groundbreaking decisions, but also for rare instances of laughter in the World Court. During oral arguments over the legality of Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence, he deftly suggested that the declaration itself might be distinguished from the more controversial question of secession. He illustrated this with a declaration of his own.

"Members of the Court," he said. "I am a devoted but disgruntled South Australian." He went on to declare the independence of South Australia.

What effect did his statement have? None. Was it unlawful? Of course not. Was it effective? Probably not. The court gratefully embraced the distinction and answered a far easier question than the one that Serbia had attempted to ask – focusing on the legality of the declaration rather than whether Kosovo could or had in fact seceded from the former Yugoslavian territory.

In another case that ended up before the ICJ, concerning the Chagos Archipelago, Crawford represented Mauritius against Britain in earlier proceedings at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in 2014. He memorably demolished an argument that the right of self-determination emerged only in 1970 – meaning it would have been no help to the affected population. The implication was that self-determination had played no role in the global decolonisation movement through the 1960s, which led to the creation of dozens of new states. This was akin, he argued, to saying that "the non-self-governing territories gate-crashed a diplomatic reception, to which, it was afterwards conceded, they should have been invited!"

Later, when James – now Judge Crawford – had been elected as Australia's second-ever member of the ICJ, serving from 2015 to his death, the Chagos case was one of several from which he had to recuse himself due to his prior involvement as an advocate. The Court's decision, which came out in 2019 (the wheels of international justice move slowly), was nonetheless broadly consistent with what he had argued five years earlier.

Crawford's years as a judge complemented earlier work as an arbitrator, where his opinions on trade and investment disputes continue to be quoted in classrooms as well as courtrooms.

His interests and passions ranged beyond international law. As a schoolchild in the 1950s, he was bussed to a local racecourse to sit in the sun for five hours before the Queen drove past at speed. "I wasn't terribly impressed," he recalled some decades later, noting that this planted the seeds of republicanism (though he did not refuse a Companion of the Order of Australia in the 2013 Queen's Birthday Honours). In the early 1980s, as a young academic at the University of Adelaide, he was recruited by Michael Kirby to the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC), where he wrote a major report on Aboriginal customary law – again stretching to two volumes, but also becoming one of the most cited in the ALRC's history. Here lay, perhaps, early signs of the progressivism he brought to his scholarship, his advocacy, and (more subtly) his judgments.

For it was to international law that he devoted his professional life, and that invisible college is diminished for his passing. As the accolades and reminiscences pour in, he leaves a rich legacy of students taught, arguments made and justice served.



*Simon Chesterman with Judge James Crawford at the first World Meeting of Societies for International Law in Strasbourg, France, May 2015 (Supplied)*





*Left to right: Sarah and a friend*

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## FOR A BETTER LOOKING WORLD

by Sarah Crowe (Maritimes & Trinity 1981)

A surgical outreach programme to the Solomon Islands resulted in a lightbulb moment which has changed the course of my career. My husband Phil Crowe (New South Wales & University 1980) had made several trips there to provide general surgical care and teaching, and I went along on his most recent trip in August 2017 to see what I might be able to contribute as an ophthalmologist. It didn't take long for me to realise that there were not the facilities or resources to provide much medical or surgical treatment, but what they really needed was glasses! No one had glasses! I discovered patients could only get tested and fitted with glasses in the capital, Honiara, a 4 hour boat trip away. And there wasn't much point in making that trip, because the glasses would be completely unaffordable.

Returning to Australia, I started researching this problem. It shocked me to learn that 1 billion people worldwide are visually impaired simply because they don't have access to affordable glasses. So I set to work and invented the 4eyes Vision Kit, which contains everything a layperson needs to test for and dispense customised, affordable glasses on the spot, in remote and developing communities: a simple portable testing device, a novel, durable spectacle frame and pre-cut lenses with a software programme including resources for training, clinical audit and management. We have conducted two pilot projects in Papua New Guinea with great success. In February 2020, we trained six local people who tested 400 people over 3 days, dispensing over 200 pairs of glasses. We are about to scale up to manufacture and distribute the kits to remote Australia and several neighbouring countries. We plan to conduct further validation studies in remote Australia over the coming months.

4eyes Vision won the 2020 Australian Technologies Competition for Global Social Impact, as well as First Prize in the UNSW Founders programme. We would love to hear from any Rhodes friends who might be interested to find out more. We would be very grateful for any (tax deductible) donations to the 4eyes Foundation. Please contact [sarah@4eyesvision.org](mailto:sarah@4eyesvision.org)



## GETTING TO KNOW CHLOË FLUTTER, THE NEW RSA CHAIR AND ARSA PRESIDENT



**ARR:** Tell us about your upbringing and your path to winning a Rhodes Scholarship.

**Chloë:** I grew up in Canberra as the child of two public servants. Education was highly valued in our household. Both my parents did advanced degrees while I was at school – my father a masters in economics where he averaged in the 90s; my mother a first class honours degree in art history and then PhD. As a result, it was instilled early in me that you should work hard at school. Although my parents also encouraged me to have very broad interests, with the motto that it didn't matter what you did so long as you did it well.

Sport was another big part of my upbringing. I always loved to swim and at 10 was invited by my coach to join the 'senior squad' at my local swimming club. To my parents' horror, this meant getting up at 5am five mornings a week, but they gave me an alarm clock and told me that if I really wanted to go to wake them and they would drive me. Needless to say, they were overjoyed when I finally got my drivers licence! I went on to swim competitively until my early 20s, including representing Australia in middle distance and distance freestyle events. I retired from elite sport in 1996 after missing the Australian Olympic team for second time by less than half a second. I still love swimming and the water and am deeply grateful for the lessons I learned from years of elite sport, not least the discipline, reward from effort, and how to get back up when you lose!

**ARR:** Describe your time in Oxford.

**Chloë:** I loved my time in Oxford. I spent three years in Oxford doing a DPhil at the School of Geography in their economic geography group. I investigated the regional effectiveness of employment policy and influence of local labour market conditions on outcomes. The School of Geography was a great home for me given it is highly multi-disciplinary and grounded in field work. This allowed me to combine my economics and social science degrees, while also giving me an excuse to spend 9 months living in the north of France eating cheese, drinking champagne and doing the occasional bit of research.

The highlight of my time in Oxford was undoubtedly the people. The Australian Rhodes community was a particularly special group. I was part of the class of 1999 when eight of the nine Australian Rhodes Scholars were women. I am sure having so many women changed the dynamic in our year. We became quite a close and collegiate group. We travelled together, played sport together, ate many meals together, and pushed each other over the line to finish our DPhils in time to (almost all) graduate together. I also married the one male Australian Rhodes Scholar from 1999, Craig Wood! So, together, this cohort has very much shaped me and my life beyond Oxford.

The other thing I loved about Oxford was the breadth of activity and stimulation. There was so much going on and so much to get involved with. I swam and played waterpolo for Oxford, beat Cambridge in a mixed relay race across the English Channel, travelled around the UK and Europe, was President of OUANZ, went to countless fascinating lectures, and learned as much about the world from conversations at the pub as I had from my two undergrad degrees. I came away deeply enriched by my time at Oxford.

As for lowlights – discovering my new college room had a bed bug infestation was a particular low point!

**ARR:** What do you do at BCG?

**Chloë:** I lead BCG's health care business in Australia, as well as co-lead our Sydney office. I joined BCG 17 years ago, wanting the professional development a top tier consulting firm provides. Over the years, I have had a fascinating career at BCG. Initially, I focussed on public sector clients, working across most portfolio areas. Over time, I have focused on working with health departments and public health services, as well as the private health care providers. Working in health care in the last 18 months has been especially rewarding professionally, even if exhausting, as I have supported some of our clients respond to the challenge of COVID-19.

**ARR:** Why do you think ARSA and RSA are important? And why should Scholars engage with them?

**Chloë:** ARSA and RSA are important for a number of reasons. They help connect Rhodes Scholars in Australia, especially across generations, and bring together a group of people who share a unique experience and set of character traits. These organisations also work hard to make sure that the Rhodes Scholarship maintains its strong reputation in Australia and continues to attract Australia's best students to apply for the Scholarship including by supporting our National and State Secretaries. RSA also supports Rhodes House to raise the funds required to maintain the quality of the Rhodes Scholar experience in Oxford so that the Scholarship remains one of the premier global academic Scholarships well into the future.

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## SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

by Nicholas Salmon (Queensland & Worcester 2020)



*Photo credit: The Courier Mail*

Upon being accepted to Oxford, you can't help but let your imagination run wild. The Australian Scholars envisioned breaking bread in great halls; working in ancient libraries; cycling down cobbled streets clad in subfusc. Unfortunately, our Oxford lives to date have not been in great halls, or libraries, and there have been precious few opportunities to dress up beyond 'smart casual'. Instead, we've been confined to more conventional, domestic settings; but our Rhodes experience continues unabated by our mundane surroundings. Our kitchens, for instance, are our chance to build community. Those of us inclined to sourdough production have shared in bulk purchases of flour. A network of cake and biscuit exchange has sprung up, with excess treats finding homes on the doorstep of fellow Australians. We collectively lament the quality of British produce - the mangoes are a particular assault on my Queensland sensibilities. In those kitchens, too, many of us feel our age: the median age of the 2020 Australian scholars is 25, and our extra years show themselves particularly clearly in our tendency to domesticity – at least, in comparison to the fresh-faced American 22-year-olds who live on a diet of all-nighters, oatmeal, and Red Bull.





*From left to right: Pat McLean (Victoria & Merton 2020), Henry West (Tasmania & Balliol 2018), Nick Salmon (Queensland & Worcester 2020), Maddy Clifford, Grace Henry (NSW & Keble 2020), Elizabeth Thomas, Laura Henderson.*

When restrictions allow it, we venture out of our kitchens and into our gardens to socialise in small groups. Under frost, rain, and on one occasion snow, we are truly men and women for all seasons - although perhaps not in the way Rhodes originally intended it. We have huddled around laptops to wait hours for Boris' lockdown announcements, warmed only by a fire-pit and pitchers of gin and tonic.

But the bedroom is the Swiss-army knife in our toolkit for tackling lockdown. Our bedrooms house our pantries (necessitated by small kitchens and cooking mania), our turbo trainers (to keep cycling through the dark winter), and bedside tables stacked with books (for study and sanity). We have auditioned for orchestras via Teams, tutored undergraduates on Zoom, and organised online protests. But overwhelmingly, from our bedrooms, we have done what we came to Oxford to do: study. I foresee a pandemic-induced bump in Distinctions and Firsts from students forced to spend otherwise rowdy Michaelmas and Hilary terms inside with their books.

As we move into Trinity, we are finally emerging from our houses to find long days, and a full calendar of social events long-postponed by the pandemic. Even though the excitement of reopening is infectious, and celebrating with groups of friends feels like a well-deserved reward for months inside, I have found myself thinking back to January a little wistfully (and note that I have dropped the first person plural in favour of the singular, for fear of being chased out of town with pitchforks for suggesting that others might share my lockdown nostalgia). But my quiet and cold Hilary term, dedicated to research and contemplation, seems as important a part of the Oxford experience as the return to socialising and extracurricular activities feels now. I may never know what it is like to matriculate in the Sheldonian, but the Australian Scholars have come through this experience together, and I am very grateful for the journey we've had.

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## UPDATE FROM NATIONAL SECRETARY

by Peter Kanowski (Australia-at-Large & St John's 1983)

### *The 2022 selection round opens, and other news from the National Secretary's desk*

The cycle of the Secretariat's year follows that of the selection process; and so I thank all of our State and Territories Secretaries and Administrators, and Diversity and Network Advisers, for their preparations for the 2022 selection round; it opens this year on 1 July and closes on 10 September. In parallel with Rhodes House's commitment to diversity and inclusion, and building on the recent history of work by State and Territories teams and Advisers, we're continuing to focus on encouraging all outstanding young Australians who meet the eligibility criteria to think of themselves as prospective candidates for the Scholarships. Please help us by encouraging any such young Australians in your networks to contact the relevant State Secretary or Network Adviser (there's a list at [www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/pages/rhodes-australia-team/](http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/pages/rhodes-australia-team/)).

In this context, we are trialling this year an initiative that Rhodes House piloted last year in some other constituencies, that of 'Rhodes Ambassadors'. Liz Murray (Tasmania & New 2011, and a new member of the RSA Board) and Malindi Haggett (Australia-at-Large & Green Templeton, 2017) have kindly agreed to assume that role for Tasmania and Western Australia, respectively. They'll act as catalysts and point of contact for the Scholarships, complementing the Secretariats' and Advisers' roles. I am sure they would welcome others' assistance, too.

It was a delight to welcome the Australian Rhodes Scholar Class of 2021 on 8 June, in an adaptation of the event usually held in conjunction with the National Dinner, and jointly hosted with ARSA. Liz Murray (as above) catalysed the participation of a cohort of 'recently returned' Scholars, and we were also joined by a corresponding group of Scholars-in-Residence; they were able to reassure the new Scholars that life in Oxford was returning to some form of normality, as evidenced by (amongst other things) spectator-free Bumps. Our hopes of convening multiple in-person clusters to enrich the virtual meeting were derailed by Victoria's lockdown and the vagaries of geography, but a critical mass of 2021 Scholars and others met in person in Canberra, where we were hosted by the new ARSA and RSA National President, Chloë Flutter (New South Wales & Hertford 1999), and where the first of presumably many pub-based conversations ensued.

In early June, I was fortunate to be able to join the current and former Tasmanian State Secretaries, Professors Nicholas Farrelly and Elle Leane, to meet the retiring Governor of Tasmania, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, and thank her for her support of the Tasmanian Scholarship during her term of office. I've similarly extended our thanks to the two other State Governors whose terms are about to conclude, for their corresponding roles and assistance: His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC in Queensland, and His Excellency The Honourable Hieu Van Le AC in South Australia. Noting the contributions of the outgoing Governors is also a prompt for me to warmly acknowledge the key roles of the Governor-General and all State Governors in our selection processes.

In the context of the ARSA Executive's and Warden's message to Australian Scholars of 28 August 2020, a group of Scholars have been discussing and developing a draft Values Statement, which was also discussed at the ARSA AGM on 13 March. Thanks to all those who have contributed to date; we are currently taking stock of the best ways to proceed with this work through 2021.

The biennial National Secretaries Week, during which the Secretaries of the 24 Rhodes constituencies around the world normally meet in Oxford, is convening virtually this year. Amongst the agenda items are measures to strengthen the integrity of the application and selection processes, initiatives to further foster diversity within the applicant pool, and lessons from the 2020 (almost exclusively virtual) selection round for future rounds. The Rhodes Australia Secretariat Team will be reflecting on these further too, as we prepare for this year's round.

I will conclude by reiterating thanks to all members of the State and Territories teams, and to 2022 round selection committee members, for the good work already done and ahead this year.



*Peter in his forester's hat, surveying hail damage to trees on Black Mountain*

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## PAST AND UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

### 3 MARCH, ZOOM EVENT WITH SIR JOHN BELL

On 3 March Chair of the Rhodes Trustees, Regius Professor of Medicine at the University of Oxford and renowned vaccine researcher Professor Sir John Bell (Alberta & Magdalen 1975) spoke RSA's first large virtual Zoom gathering. It was a great success – and with 130 participants, it was the second most well attended event RSA has ever held.

Sir John helped oversee Oxford's vaccine development in partnership with AstraZeneca; he is also a member of the UK government's Vaccine Taskforce. He is a leading player in the global fight against the pandemic, and regularly appears in the media. Sir John gave the evening's participants an illuminating, frank and off-the-record account of AstraZeneca's development, and the politics surrounding its early roll-out in the UK, Europe and elsewhere.



### 13 MARCH 2021, ARSA AGM



The 2021 ARSA AGM was held via Zoom on Saturday 13 March. This meeting marked the handover from outgoing ARSA President Tim Orton (Australia-at-Large & Magdalen 1986) to the new ARSA President, Chloë Flutter (New South Wales & Hertford 1998). ARSA expressed its enormous debt to Tim for his energy and ambition during his tenure, and its excitement in welcoming Chloë to the role.

### 2 JUNE, HOBART DRINKS

A small group of Scholars in Hobart gathered at Jack Green's in Hobart to share a drink with Peter Kanowski, the National Secretary. It was a low-key event coinciding with Peter's visit to Hobart.





*Scholars enjoying a dinner in Canberra after the Welcome Session. Left to right: Peter Kanowski, Chloë Flutter, Nanak Narulla, Matt Goh, Harriet Horsfall, Freya Willis, Nick Young, Kate Lister and Lachlan Arthur*

## 8 JUNE 2021 WELCOME SESSION FOR SCHOLARS-ELECT

As mentioned by Peter Kanowski elsewhere in this newsletter, the Welcome Session for Scholars-Elect featured a hybrid model: some Scholars gathered in person, and others dialled in to the event via Zoom. For the first time since these gatherings began, the event included Scholars in Residence, many perched in their College rooms, describing to the newest crop of Scholars what to expect when they land in Oxford. A very warm thanks to all the organisers and participants, including a sizeable number of recently-returned Scholars.

## 28 JULY VICTORIA FAREWELL DINNER

The Rhodes Victoria Farewell Dinner on Wednesday 28 July will host the two Victorian Scholars going up this year. Kate Maddern (Victoria & Lady Margaret Hall 2021) will address the group on “Farming for the Future”. The topic chosen by Nick Young (Australia-at-Large & University 2021) is “Wallflower or Superpower?: Climate Change and Australia’s Future”.

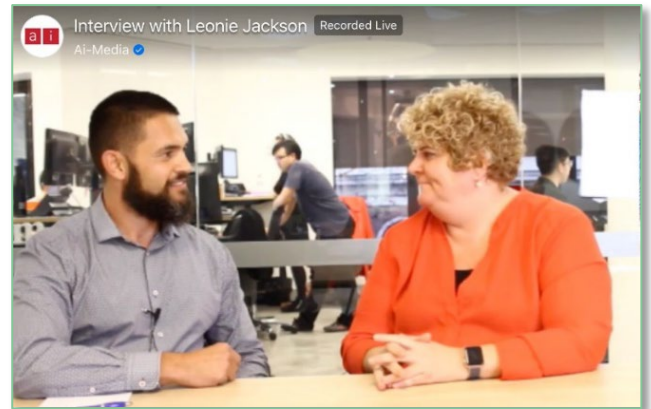
The dinner will be at Graduate House at the University of Melbourne. The guest speaker will be Chris Maxwell (Victoria & New College 1975) who will speak on “Language, Truth and Logic”. Justice Maxwell AC is President of the Victorian Court of Appeal.

The event has been organised by Graham Craig (South Africa-at-Large & Brasenose 1974). Questions can be directed to Graham at <mailto:Graham.Craig@wilsonsadvisory.com.au> and tickets can be purchased online via <https://www.trybooking.com/BSEAA>

## ALUMNI NOTES

### Tony Abrahams (Australia-at-Large & Balliol 1998)

It's been a year of highs and lows. On returning to Australia from two years in Toronto at the start of the pandemic, Ai-Media – the business I co-founded in 2003 – saw demand for our live captioning, transcription and translation services rise sharply during lockdown. With recent technology advances, the highly fragmented language services industry is consolidating rapidly. After 17 years, we listed Ai-Media on the ASX (AIM:ASX) in September 2020 and we



*Tony interviewing Leonie*

acquired four complementary businesses to provide us a truly global footprint. Tragically, on 17 January 2021, I lost one of my co-founders, Leonie Jackson, who died in a drowning accident while saving her 9-year-old son from a rip, just one day after celebrating her 50th birthday at our beach house on the South Coast of NSW. Leonie was a trailblazer and a hero, becoming the first deaf CEO of the Deaf Society of NSW in over 100 years. We miss her dearly.

### Kathryn Brown (South Australia & Balliol 1988)

In January and February 2021, I had the honour of being the Paul Mellon Visiting Senior Fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies in Visual Art in Washington, DC. Although the circumstances of the pandemic meant that I had to take up the fellowship virtually, the experience of sharing ideas with a wonderful group of international colleagues at the Center was immensely rewarding. The fellowship gave me an opportunity to take some time away from teaching at Loughborough University and to start work on a new project relating to artists' books of the Harlem Renaissance. My recent work on modernism has also resulted in the publication of a new book, *Henri Matisse (Reaktion, 2021)*.



The book extends my previous work on Matisse and I hope that it opens some new perspectives on his art and life.

### **Richard Cogswell (Tasmania & St Peter's 1974)**

Earlier this year I accepted an offer to be honorary Course Convenor on the "Criminal Law & Psychiatry" course which is a part of the Masters of Forensic Mental Health program at UNSW. The University has appointed me an Adjunct Associate Professor for that role. Since my retirement from the full time workforce, I have been teaching a course in Mental Health and the Law at the University of Wollongong. The University has now seen fit to appoint me from July this year an Honorary Professor in the Faculty of Business and Law. Both these directions in retirement stem from my last position as President of the NSW Mental Health Review Tribunal.

### **Ed Doddridge (Tasmania & Magdalen 2012)**

In October 2019 Ed and Imogen upped sticks and moved hemispheres, countries, and continents for the third time. They are ecstatic to be back in their hometown of Hobart, Tasmania, and having bought a house with a yard are enjoying putting down roots both figuratively and literally (if you have any hot gardening tips for a cool temperate climate, please send them Ed's way). While much of the city is familiar, they've (mostly) enjoyed rediscovering their old home with new eyes.

### **Andrés Noé (Western Australia & Green Templeton 2016)**

As I write this, my days in Oxford as a Rhodie are ending! The Trust is undoubtedly happy for me to finally stop hanging on! During my MSc and DPhil, I've been lucky to be part of the Jenner Institute, working on the pre-clinical and human study of malaria vaccines. My thesis focused on translatable biomarkers of cellular immunity. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic I had the opportunity to contribute to the Oxford-AstraZeneca



*Andrés is on the left; he is pictured with his research colleague Duncan Bellamy*

vaccine effort with my clinical and immunology knowledge and am proud to see that it will be deployed to help some of the world's most vulnerable. I also took part in more 'bread and butter' public health work as a part of the UK contact tracing effort. Together with my partner, Lakshmi – an up-and-coming epidemiologist and public health practitioner – I will be moving to Melbourne this year. I plan to start working as a doctor again, at RMH. I am keen to connect and meet with others in these spaces, particularly clinical academics who are happy to provide mentorship. Please get in touch at [doctorandresnoe@gmail.com](mailto:doctorandresnoe@gmail.com) or [@helloitsandres](https://twitter.com/helloitsandres) on Twitter.





### Susan Scott (Rhodes Visiting Fellow & Somerville 1985)

When I arrived at the Australian National University from the University of Oxford as a Level A postdoctoral fellow, I never thought that one day I would be a Distinguished Professor! There has been so much wonderful science, colleagues, students and life in between. There have been some real challenges too. A number of glass ceilings had to be broken, but perhaps the greatest challenge of all was to directly detect gravitational waves which took many years and much grit to finally achieve in 2015. I was very excited to receive news of my promotion from our Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Schmidt in March.

In April there was a screening, at The Academy of Science Shine Dome, of The Leadership which is a documentary film by Ili Baré. It tells the story of how Fabian Dattner, founder of Homeward Bound, led an international group of female scientists on an Antarctic voyage designed to transform them “into the sort of leaders they want to be” in the belief that “the world is crying out for a new model of leadership”. I was fortunate to participate in the second such voyage in 2018.

### Henry West (Tasmania & Balliol 2018)

The photo on the right is of an Australian and New Zealander Rhodes gathering held in my backyard in early June. As we couldn’t have any face-to-face welcome events for the class of 2020 this year, we finally held a welcome dinner in our backyard – despite it being June, and nearly the end of the academic year! Not every Australian or Kiwi Scholar could attend, but we got most along – and some partners too.

[\(View the key to identify the various people in this picture\).](#)





**Malcolm Whyte (Queensland & Balliol 1947)**

When I had my one hundredth birthday last October I had very nice messages from Rhodes House, from ARSA and from many individual Scholars. Well, I am still alive, and still occasionally composing Haiku poems. Here are several poems that refer to longevity and one that sums up my (and your) life:

*Being one hundred  
attracts wonder and acclaim.  
Like a magician.*

*Being old is great!  
You get smiles, respect and help.  
Timeless contentment.*

*Humanised star dust  
struts on stage for a lifetime  
then reverts to dust.*

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The Editor of the ARR is Gillian Fullilove  
([gillian.fullilove@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk](mailto:gillian.fullilove@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk)).

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The logo for the Association of Rhodes Scholars in Australia (ARSA). It features the letters 'ARSA' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. A small, stylized white silhouette of a person in a suit is integrated into the letter 'R'.