



Community Opening of the Legal Year 2017

PROGRAM

10th Community Observance for the
Opening of the Legal Year

Monday 30th January
Waldron Hall, County Court of Victoria



PROGRAM

9am

Music

Members of the Melbourne Lawyers' Orchestra

A Bottled Snail Productions project

9:30am

Welcome and Introduction

Host



The Hon Justice Bromberg

President, International Commission of Jurists Victoria
Federal Court of Australia

Welcome to Country

Uncle Jack Charles

Guest Speaker



Judge Amanda Chambers

President of the Children's Court of Victoria

Students speeches

Skyline Foundation Students

Andreas Zakhari

Braybrook Secondary College

Mary Zhang

Narre Warren South P-12 College

John Gibson Award Presentation

Presentation by Glenn McGowan QC

Guest Conversation



Uncle Jack Charles

Victorian Senior Australian of the Year 2016



Archie Roach AM

Archie Roach Foundation

Facilitated by Namila Benson

ABC Radio National

Guest Performance

Uncle Jack Charles and Archie Roach

10:30am

Morning tea

HISTORY

2008 Inaugural Observance, Queens Hall, Parliament House

Speakers **The Hon Marilyn Warren AC**
Chief Justice of Victoria
Ms Tasneem Chopra
Chair, Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Victoria
Rev Prof Robert Gribben
President, United Faculty of Theology, Melbourne
The Hon Justice Tony Pagone
Supreme Court of Victoria

2009 Queen's Hall, Parliament House

Speakers **Rev Tim Costello AO**
CEO, World Vision Australia
Professor Sarah Joseph
Director, Castan Centre, Monash University
The Hon Ian Gray
Chief Magistrate of Victoria
The Hon Justice Sally Brown AM
Family Court

2010 Queen's Hall, Parliament House

Speakers **Professor David de Kretser AC**
Governor of Victoria
The Hon Catherine Branson QC
President, Australian Human Rights Commission
Mr David Toovey
Former CEO, Oaktree Foundation

2011 Queen's Hall, Parliament House

Speakers **Professor Marcia Langton AO**
University of Melbourne
The Hon Justice Chris Maxwell
President, Court of Appeal
Student Speakers
Mr Jack Davies & Mr Wei Ming Sun
Melbourne Grammar
Ms Sarah Tarrant Kuang and Ms Crystal Li
University High School

2012 Waldron Hall, County Court of Victoria

Speakers **Professor Carolyn Evans**
Dean, Melbourne Law School
Father Frank Brennan SJ, AO
Professor of Law, Australian Catholic University
Student Speakers
Ms Mieke Foster and Ms Narida Ear
MacRobertson Girls' High School

2013 Waldron Hall, County Court of Victoria

Speakers **Adjunct Professor Peter Norden AO**
RMIT University
The Hon Justice Diana Bryant AO
Chief Justice, Family Court
Student Speakers
Ms Pamela Ximalissakis & Mr Lachlan Stewart
Kew High School

2014 Waldron Hall, County Court of Victoria

Speakers **The Hon Marilyn Warren AC**
Chief Justice of Victoria
Mr Redmond Symons
774 ABC Melbourne
Student Speakers
Mr Eric Papaluca, Maribyrnong Secondary College
Mr Omar Ep Hawli, Bayside Secondary College

2015 Waldron Hall, County Court of Victoria

Speakers **The Hon Justice Deborah Mortimer**
Federal Court of Australia
Ms Corinne Grant
Comedian and Lawyer
Student Speakers
Ms Julie Ly, Melbourne Girls Secondary College
Mr David Vadori, Brunswick Secondary College

2016 Waldron Hall, County Court of Victoria

Speakers **The Hon Justice James Allsop AO**
Chief Justice, Federal Court of Australia
Professor Gillian Triggs
President, Australian Human Rights Commission
Student Speakers
Mukul Relan & Melissa Claydon
South Oakley Secondary College

Patron



The Hon Marilyn Warren AC

Chief Justice of Victoria

COMMUNITY OPENING OF THE LEGAL YEAR



The Opening of the Legal Year is marked in a variety of ways. Historically, in the common law tradition, the occasion is associated with impressive pageantry, including the procession of leaders of the profession to reinforce the majesty and power of the law. For some practitioners, the ceremonies afford an opportunity for reflection about the relationship between their personal values (including religious beliefs) and their practice of law. More recent events use the occasion to build networks and promote collaboration across what is now a very diverse legal profession.

But the Community Opening of the Legal Year is different. The focus is less on the legal profession itself, than on the people that the law and lawyers serve, protect and, at times, punish. We know that the ‘rule of law’ depends upon maintaining the trust and confidence of the community. Welcoming the public into the court on this special day is a symbolic acknowledgment of the interdependence of the law and the community.

The message of the Community Opening of the Legal Year is “law for all”. The event is open, accessible and secular. Given the precariousness of some legal systems across the globe, the International Commission of Jurists rightly reminds us that a commitment to that ideal is worth celebrating.

Professor Kathy Laster

Director
Sir Zelman Cowan Centre
Victoria University

AUSTRALIAN FOUNDING PRESIDENT:
THE HON SIR OWEN DIXON PC OM GCMG
6th CHIEF JUSTICE OF AUSTRALIA

VICTORIAN PRESIDENT:
THE HON JUSTICE MORDECAI BROMBERG

VICE-PRESIDENTS:
THE HON JUSTICE KARIN EMERTON
HIS HON JUDGE MARK TAFT

CHAIR: GLENN MCGOWAN QC
SECRETARY GENERAL: LUCY LINE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY: SHANNON FINEGAN
TREASURER: CARLO DELLORA

THE JOHN GIBSON AWARD

Mr John Gibson was a invaluable member of ICJ Victoria for many years as treasurer and adviser. Following John untimely death in 2012, ICJ Victoria resolved to maintain his memory, and this award was conceived.

John was a remarkable man. He was a scholar, barrister, father, and tireless human rights advocate. He was recognised both in Australia and internationally. Posthumously, he was awarded membership to the Order of Australia.



Past Award Recipients

2014	Richard Niall SC
2015	Nola Karapanagiotidis
2016	W Guy Gilbert

Criteria for the John Gibson Award

The recipient shall:

1. be a Victorian;
2. be a prominent advocate for human rights and/or refugee interests;
3. have distinguished him or herself by advancing and promoting human rights or refugee issues in the public domain or the legal sphere, by positively and effectively advocating the interests of refugees, asylum seekers and/or sections of the community in need of assistance by reference to their human rights. Such advocacy may be in Courts, in the public domain, in private work or on committees. As a result, the recipient is likely to (but need not) be well known publicly or in the legal community.

Award Selection Committee

The Hon Justice Debbie Mortimer

Federal Court of Australia

His Hon Judge Mark Taft

County Court of Victoria

David Manne

Executive Director, Refugee & Immigration Legal Centre

Hugh de Kretser

Executive Director, Human Rights Law Centre

Moana Weir

Chair, Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission

Sonia Caton

Chair, Refugee Council of Australia

Kon Karapanagiotidis

CEO & Board Member, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

Pat Zappia QC

Chair, Pro Bono Committee, Victorian Bar

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS

The International Commission of Jurists was founded in Berlin in 1952. It is an international non-governmental organisation, dedicated to the primacy, coherence, and implementation of international law and principles, advancing human rights, and defending judicial independence through the rule of law. It has consultative status to the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe, and the Organisation of African Unity. It has 82 autonomous national sections and affiliated legal organisations in 62 countries. The Secretariat is in Geneva. The Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers was founded in 1978. Awards include the first European Human Rights Prize (1980), the Wateler Peace Prize (1984), the Erasmus Prize (1989), and the United Nations Human Rights Award (1993).

The Australian section of the International Commission of Jurists was founded in 1958 by jurists including Chief Justice of Australia Owen Dixon, Eugene Gorman QC, Maurice Ashkanasy QC, Richard Eggleston QC, and Keith Aickin QC. Membership is open to all lawyers.

ICJ Victoria launched a new website in 2016, and it can be viewed at www.icjvictoria.com.au. Online, you can read our latest updates, subscribe to our mailing lists, or become a member.

Monthly meetings are on the second Tuesday of every month at 5:15pm, in the Neil Forsyth Room, 1st Floor, Owen Dixon Chambers East, 205 William Street. All friends and members are welcome to attend.

SKYLINE FOUNDATION

Students speakers today are sponsored by the Skyline Education Foundation Australia (SEFA).

SEFA assists talented young people who are experiencing financial or social hardship to achieve their potential. SEFA provides a range of financial, educational and personal development opportunities. It aims to support bursary recipients by helping them define goals, looking at values and work/like balance, and enhancing study skills. Financial support provided by SEFA makes life easier for the student and their family.

Mary Zhang is a student at Narre Warren South P-12 College and has been appointed 2017 College Captain. She is bi-lingual and beyond her academic studies, she plays the piano and is a member of the school's concert band.

Andreas Zakhari is a student at Braybrook Secondary College. His family has experienced considerable hardship but Andreas has remained focused on his studies, and his extra-curricular activities, especially school leadership. He is a thoughtful and compassionate young man with a strong sense of social justice.

www.skylinefoundation.org.au

ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE

Morning tea today is provided by the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC). ASRC Catering is social enterprise that employs asylum seekers with the right and capacity to work. All fund generated from the business are put towards supporting asylum seekers. Services include foodbank, counselling, material aid, and legal services.

Under the direction of talented international chefs, ASRC Catering can provide catering for a range of functions. This may include private functions or corporate events, and can range from celebrations, business conferences, launches, exhibitions, and community festivals. ASRC Catering specialises in hot and cold, finger food, main sources, and sweets.

www.asrc.org.au www.catering.asrc.org.au

About ICJ Victoria

ICJ Victoria is active in the community in educating, promoting debate and promoting the observance of its core principles of human rights, fairness and judicial independence through the Rule of Law. Activities over the last 12 months include:

- 2016 Community Opening of the Legal Year, with guest speakers Allsop CJ, and President Gillian Triggs
- Sent Daye Gang (Assistant Secretary) to 2016 DFAT-NGO Forum on Human Rights
- Submitted a paper to the 13th Australia-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue
- Releasing statements to media regarding asylum seekers, and executive attacks on the Australian Human Rights Commission
- Sponsored Indonesian Lawyer Mr Alghiffari Aqsa to attend the Victorian Bar Readers' Course.
- Held annual fundraising dinner with Professor Patrick Dodson, Senator for Western Australia

MELBOURNE LAWYERS' ORCHESTRA

The Melbourne Lawyers' Orchestra (MLO), part of BottledSnail Productions, is a non-profit symphony orchestra. It was established in 2013 to provide the legal community with the opportunity to perform music, foster relationships, and promote work-life balance amongst lawyers. MLO comprises more than 50 judges, barristers, solicitors, academics and law students from all areas of the legal profession.

MLO regularly performs three times per year, with two symphonic performances and a chamber concert. In 2016, MLO, in conjunction with Habeas Chorus (Melbourne Lawyers' Choir) and Monash University Choral Society performed 2 sold out concerts of Mozart's Requiem at St Paul's Cathedral.

BottledSnail Productions is committed to improving mental health and wellbeing in the legal profession, by providing creative outlets, and promoting active engagement in the performing arts.

MLO's next concert is at 7pm, 22 April 2017, at Deakin Edge, Federation Square. They will be performing a selection of epic movie soundtrack scores, including themes from Star Wars, the Dark Knight, and the Lord of the Rings.

<http://www.bottledsnail.com/mlo/>

ARCHIE ROACH FOUNDATION



We are incredibly fortunate to have music legend Archie Roach AM speak and perform for us today. Archie was forcibly taken from his family at Framlingham Aboriginal Mission in south-west Victoria when he was only 3 years old. He survived the cultural genocide of the Stolen Generations, and in more recent years, the sudden and devastating loss of his soul partner in music and in life, the late Ruby Hunter. Following the trauma of losing Ruby, he then survived lung cancer and a stroke. Archie has won a Human Rights Award for his anthemic song "Took the Children Away", a song about his personal experience of being removed. Recently he was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) medal for his significant service to the performing arts as a singer, song-writer and to the community as a spokesman for social justice.

Archie has released ten studio albums since the 1990 release of his debut album *Charcoal Lane*; the latest being the highly acclaimed, "Let Love Love". He has toured with the late Leonard Cohen, Rodriguez, Joan Armatrading, Bob Dylan and Tracy Chapman to name a few.

Archie Roach is an activist and advocate, bringing a powerful voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander Australians, and a storyteller in the tradition of his ancestors. Archie has raised his voice against the injustices suffered by his people, writing songs about lives lost in prison and the cruelty and discrimination endured by so many. He has gone into the jails to reach out a hand to those he will not forget after so many deaths in custody.

The Archie Roach Foundation is an initiative started in 2014 to promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts, and the development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and arts professionals, and to promote the potential for personal and community healing through artistic and cultural practices.

The Foundation is particularly keen to use the arts to help the Australian community understand and address the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the justice system and to help our society acknowledge its past, recognise the strength and value of our Indigenous heritage and walk together into the future. Archie is the patron of Parkville College at the Melbourne Youth Justice Centre.

ICJ Victoria proudly supports the Archie Roach Foundation.

Donations to the Archie Roach Foundation can be made by direct deposit to:

"Archie Roach Foundation Public Fund"

BSB: 063 142, Account Number: 10542424

And email management@archieroach.com.au for a receipt.

www.archieroach.com.au

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

The Community Opening of the Legal Year is a proudly secular and inclusive event. In attendance today are representatives of the courts, including Supreme, Family, Federal, County, Magistrates' and VCAT, and lawyers from all fields, from corporate, to community legal centres, to academia. There is also a broad cross-section of the general community, including refugees, ethnic and migrant groups, Aboriginal people, media, members of government, advocates for the underprivileged and poor, environmentalists, LGBTQ, disabled people, church and religious groups. ICJ Victoria are grateful to all who have attended.

HONOURED GUESTS

The Hon Bruce Atkinson MLC

President, Legislative Council of Victoria

Ms Bronwyn Halfpenny MLA

Member for Thomastown

The Hon Justice Bromberg

Federal Court of Australia
President, ICJ Victoria

The Hon Justice Mortimer

Federal Court of Australia

The Hon Justice Emerton

Supreme Court of Victoria
Vice President, ICJ Victoria

His Honour Judge Taft

County Court of Victoria
Vice President, ICJ Victoria

Her Hon Judge Chambers

Children's Court of Victoria

Magistrate Jennifer Bowles

Children's Court of Victoria

Reserve Magistrate Ross Betts

Magistrates Court of Victoria

The Hon Ron Merkel QC

Victorian Bar

Mr Joseph Caputo OAM JP

Chairperson, Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia

Mr David Marlow

Executive Director, Jewish Community Council of Victoria

Ms Lee Carnie

Human Rights Law Centre

Ms Katie Miller

Executive Director Legal Practice, Victoria Legal Aid

Professor Paula Gerber

Deputy Director, Castan Centre for Human Rights Law
Monash University

Professor Kathy Laster

Director, Sir Zelman Cowan Centre
Victoria University

Mr Glenn McGowan QC

Chair, ICJ Victoria

Mr Ted Woodward SC

Victorian Bar

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ICJ Victoria would like to acknowledge following people and organisations:

- Dever's List, The Victorian Bar, Law Institute of Victoria and Victorian Law Foundation;
- Melbourne Lawyers' Orchestra members: Aimee Nguyen (violin), Xinyu Zhang (violin), Kai Yan Lam (viola), and Shannon Finegan (cello);
- Volunteer first year law students from College of Law and Justice, Victoria University: Robert Boz, Tyler Farr, Mary Amon, Kahee An, Justin Howard, and Julie Peet;
- Jasmine Alcon and Lisa Harrison.

Shannon Finegan

Convenor, Community Opening of the Legal Year 2017

Assistant Secretary, International Commission of Jurists Victoria