



The Victorian Bar Foundation

The Victorian Bar Foundation Limited
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Dear Member of the Bar,

The purpose of this letter is to encourage you to donate to the Victorian Bar Foundation.

The Victorian Bar Foundation was established in 2011. The Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation progressing the interests of justice in Victoria, particularly through legal education. At present the Board of the Victorian Bar Foundation comprises:

The Hon Justice John Digby (Chairman), The Hon Chief Justice William Alstergren, The Hon Justice Paul Anastassiou, The Hon Justice Stewart Anderson (Treasurer), Ross Gillies QC, John Karkar QC, Neil Young QC, Philip Crutchfield QC, Eugene Wheelahan QC (Victorian Bar Council representative), Georgie Coleman, Kateena O’Gormon, Angela Lee and Justin Hooper (Honorary Secretary).

As you may know, the Victorian Bar Foundation is the prime charitable vehicle through which the Victorian Bar contributes to the objective of progressing the interest of justice in Victoria, particularly through legal education.

The Foundation is quite separate and distinct from the Victorian Bar Benevolent Fund, which focuses on assisting members of counsel who are in need of such assistance.

In the course of recent financial years, the Victorian Bar Foundation has made donations to and made contributions to promoting the cause of the following :

- a) **the Menzies Foundation’s** establishment of **the Sir Ninian Stephen Menzies Scholarship in International Law**, a scholarship providing for its recipient to undertake post-graduate studies in international law at a prestigious university in Australia or abroad.
- b) **Trinity College’s** establishment of the **John Gibson Scholarship**, a scholarship (in honour of deceased Victorian Bar member, John Gibson) providing for a student from a refugee background to attend Trinity College <https://www.trinity.unimelb.edu.au/about/news-media/news/supporting-the-john-gibson-scholarship>
- c) **the Melbourne Law School’s** establishment of the **James Merralls Visiting Fellowship in Law**, a fellowship (in honour of Victorian Bar member, James Merralls AM QC) providing for world leading private or constitutional law scholars to teach at Melbourne Law School (<http://law.unimelb.edu.au/alumni/mls-news/issue-11-june-2014/james-merralls-visiting-fellowship-in-law>);
- d) **the Monash University Humanitarian Scholarship Program**, supporting specific scholarships to eligible refugees across both undergraduate and postgraduate degrees (<https://www.monash.edu/study/fees-scholarships/scholarships/find-a-scholarship/monash-asylum-seekers-scholarship-4094>);

- e) **Victorian Bar Foundation Student Achievement Award and Mentoring Program**, the Foundation supports a High School Student Scholarship and Mentoring Program under which \$1,000 is allocated to student prize winners from 15 schools in the City of Hume region. This program was designed to provide encouragement and support to students from 15 outer north western suburban high schools who have shown an interest in and aptitude for the study of the law. You can see past students accepting their awards in the attached photo taken in 2019. (<https://www.vicbar.com.au/public/community/victorian-bar-foundation>); and
- f) the **Indigenous Barristers' Development Fund**, a fund administered by the Bar's Indigenous Justice Committee, to assist in the retention and development of Indigenous Barristers at the Victorian Bar.

The Victorian Bar Foundation is working towards building a freestanding corpus that is sufficient to regularly contribute not only to worthwhile causes similar those described above but also to other scholarships, appropriate educational projects and like initiatives.

On behalf of the Foundation's directors, I ask those of you who are in a position to make a donation to the **Victorian Bar Foundation** do so before 30 June 2021 online [here](#) or via the attached donation form. .

Yours sincerely,



John Digby
Chairman

Att. Victorian Bar Foundation Donation Form