

December 2020

While 2020 has been a year like no other for many of us, the Anglo-Australasian Lawyers Society (AALS) rose to the challenge and went online with its events, a change which had its benefits by also being able to host speakers on the other side of the world. The group also offered opportunities to contribute to the UK/Australia Free Trade Agreement talks, and is initiating an awards scheme to recognise the contributions of its members.

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Meetings with the Perth and Sydney Chapters—The AALS has chapters in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth as well as in the UK and in February new UK Chair **Anne Bodley** was able to **meet with both the Perth and Sydney chapters** on a trip back to Australia. The chapters regularly cross-promote each other's events and are putting in place an annual 'congress' call with each other to further strengthen ties.



Dinner with the AALS Western Australia Chapter, February 2020 (Alex Hickman, President, second from left)



Meeting with the AALS Sydney Chapter, February 2020 (Gregory Nell SC, President, second from right)

Interview with Australian High Commissioner George Brandis—After a couple of months hiatus when the UK first went into lockdown, in June, AALS Deputy Chair **Andrew Hill** (Fox Williams) interviewed Australia's High Commissioner to the UK, His Excellency the Honourable **George Brandis QC**, acknowledging the efforts of the High Commission to support Australians in the UK. With our thanks to Fox Williams for hosting, the interview is available on our website [here](#).



AALS Deputy Chair Andrew Hill (Fox Williams)



Australia's High Commissioner to the UK, His Excellency the Hon George Brandis QC

UK/Australia Free Trade Agreement Panel—In July, **High Commissioner Brandis** again supported the AALS giving the keynote address to a panel on legal services considerations in the UK/Australia Free Trade Agreement negotiations underway. The panel followed a May **Law Society of England and Wales call for contributions** to a background paper on the topic and included contributors **Professor David Hodson OBE MCI Arb** (International Family Law Group), **Christine Iacono** (Herbert Smith Freehills) and **Fatima Paras** (Fair Work Commission), along with the

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The AALS offers three
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rates (normally gratis).

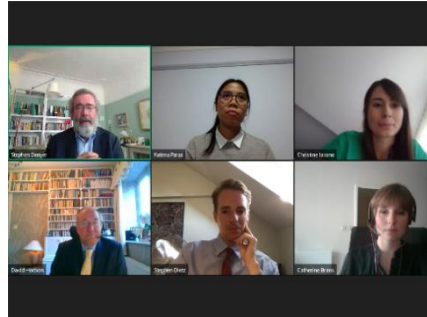
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to 3 years PQE) to
member rates (normally
gratis).

The AALS membership
year runs from 1 March.

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aals.co.uk

paper’s lead **Catherine Brims** (Law Society of England and Wales) and First Secretary **Stephen Dietz** (Australian High Commission), moderated by Law Society of England and Wales Director of Strategic Relationships **Stephen Denyer**. Hosted by Herbert Smith Freehills, the panel (available for viewing on our website [here](#)) was so well received that the AALS was contacted by the UK Ministry of Justice for an additional informal roundtable to further explore background issues on the topic, held in November. A special thanks to panellist **Fatima Paras** for twice getting up in the middle of the night from Sydney for these events!



UK/Australia Free Trade Agreement panel, moderated by Stephen Denyer (top left) with panellists Fatima Paras (top middle), Christine Iacono (top right), Professor David Hodson OBE (bottom left), Stephen Dietz (bottom middle) and Catherine Brims (bottom right), July 2020.

Women and Leadership: Interview with former Prime Minister

Julia Gillard—Our final event this year was a resounding interview led by AALS Deputy Chair **Karyl Nairn QC** (Skadden) of Australia’s first female prime minister, the **Honourable Julia Gillard AC**, based on the former prime minister’s new book, *Women and Leadership*, co-authored with Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. The interview will be posted to our website when, pursuant to request, we can make it available to members only.



(Above) Interview on Women and Leadership with former prime minister, the Honourable Julia Gillard AC, led by Karyl Nairn QC (Skadden)



(Below) Looking forward to remarks by Sir Lynton Crosby AO, AALS Annual Dinner rescheduled for 4 November 2021, the Old Hall, Honourable Society of Lincoln’s Inn

Annual Dinner—carried over to Thursday 4 November 2021

Postponed twice this year, we have carried over tickets to this sold-out event and plan to hold our next annual dinner on **Thursday 4 November 2021** at the Old Hall, Lincoln’s Inn, with guest speaker **Sir Lynton Crosby AO**. Watch our mailings for more details, including if we can make more tickets available.

AGM Tuesday 27 January 2021—The AALS’ next general meeting will be held on 27 January 2021. Please let us know if you would like to attend. **New events being planned for next year!**