

**AUSTRALIAN
ACCOUNTING
HALL OF FAME**

13th
ANNUAL
AWARDS CEREMONY

2022 photo album

Chesleigh Antony Baragwanath AO

CITATION

read by

Joseph Manders

Former Assistant
Victorian Auditor-General

nominated by

Joseph Manders

Former Assistant
Victorian Auditor-General



CITATION

Chesleigh Antony Baragwanath AO

Chesleigh Antony Baragwanath (Ches) qualified for membership of the Australian Society of Accountants in 1964, studying with the Hemingway Robertson Institute. He started his working life in the audit field with the Australian Audit Office (now the Australian National Audit Office) in 1952 and subsequently moved to the State Electricity Commission of Victoria as Internal Audit Manager before transferring back to the Australian Audit Office as Assistant Auditor-General. Ches Baragwanath was appointed the 23rd Victorian Auditor-General in 1988. During his 11-year tenure, Ches Baragwanath redefined public accountability in Victoria. In doing so, he set new standards for the work of Parliament of Victoria's key watchdogs and established benchmarks for upholding the right of the community to be fully informed on how elected officials managed their taxes. A key characteristic of the work of Ches Baragwanath was the resolve he displayed in preserving the public interest in several complex and challenging encounters with governments. His searching reports to Parliament encompassed a range of topics across the breadth of the public sector. Many of these reports attracted wide and high-profile community support involving audits with a high degree of complexity often accentuated by controversial status. Ches was fearless in his commitment to reinforcing the community's "right to know" and always ensured his reports were based on unassailable audit evidence. Ches Baragwanath displayed a tenacity to withstand the pressures placed on him and his tireless commitment to servicing the Parliament and, through Parliament, the Victorian community. He did this with great dignity and fairness. His various audit recommendations became the impetus for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the operations of government entities. As Auditor-General of Victoria, Ches Baragwanath was the driving force behind constitutional provisions introduced by the Victorian Parliament in 1999 which assigned the strongest possible level of independence to the position. Further constitutional provisions enacted in 2003 ensured this independence was permanently protected from external influence. Through these amendments the Victorian Auditor-General today operates with total independence, essentially distanced from the direct influence of Executive Government. Ches Baragwanath served the Australian accounting profession in a number of areas. He was a Fellow of CPA Australia, Victorian State President and inaugural Chair of the Audit Centre of Excellence. He was a member of the Commonwealth Electoral Redistribution Committee and, for some years, Honorary Treasurer of the Australian Red Cross. In 2010, he was appointed for a period as a sessional Commissioner of the Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation. In June 2003 Ches Baragwanath was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for service to the community in the area of public accountability and financial management and in the development of standards through initiatives such as privatisation and advances in information technology.

The Australian Accounting Hall of Fame honours Chesleigh Baragwanath as accountant, auditor and public servant.



Jan Baragwanath
accepted the award
on behalf of the late
Ches Baragwanath



Former Assistant to the Victorian Auditor-General Joseph Manders

Patricia Mary Dechow

CITATION

read by

Neil Fargher

Emeritus Professor

Australian National University

nominated by

Neil Fargher

Emeritus Professor

Australian National University



CITATION

Patricia Mary Dechow

Patricia Mary Dechow has played an important role in research investigating the quality of reported earnings, firm valuation and misstatements of financial statements, thereby providing an important interface between accounting academia and accounting in practice. Patricia Dechow was educated in Perth where she earned a first-class Honours degree in Commerce from the University of Western Australia in 1986. She subsequently pursued graduate studies in the United States, completing an M.S. and Ph.D. at the University of Rochester in 1993. Patricia is presently the Robert R. Dockson Professor of Business Administration & Professor of Accounting at the University of Southern California, having previously held appointments at the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Michigan and the University of Pennsylvania. She also holds positions as a research fellow at the Centre for Financial Reporting & Accountability at the Judge School of Business, Cambridge University. Prior to her academic appointments, Patricia worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Perth and at the University of Western Australia. Patricia's highly acclaimed research has focused on accounting accruals, the quality and reliability of earnings, the use of earnings information in predicting stock returns, and the effect of analysts' forecasts on investors' perceptions of firm value. She has also developed measures that evaluate the likelihood of financial statement manipulation. Patricia first published in the Australian Journal of Management in 1987 and her subsequent publication record includes over 30 articles in The Accounting Review, Journal of Accounting and Economics, Journal of Accounting Research, Journal of Financial Economics and Review of Accounting Studies, together with publications for the Chartered Financial Analysts Institute. Patricia Dechow was awarded the American Accounting Association's Seminal Contribution to Accounting Literature Award in 2019 and the award of Distinguished Contribution to Accounting Literature Award in 2010 and 2015. Professor Dechow is presently Managing Editor of Review of Accounting Studies and has previously held the role of Editor at The Accounting Review, Accounting Horizons and Management Science. With teaching interests in financial accounting and reporting, Patricia has a distinguished record of engagement with undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students and executive education. She has supervised over 30 doctoral students, many of whom have gone on to successful careers in academia and industry. Patricia was awarded the American Accounting Association's Financial Accounting Research Section Distinguished PhD Mentoring Award in 2020. Patricia has also participated as a Faculty Member in Accounting and Finance Association of Australia and New Zealand doctoral colloquia and has also served on the editorial board of Accounting and Finance. Patricia chaired the Research Relevance Task Force for the American Accounting Association (2017-2018) which reported on steps to improve the relevance of research. Patricia has served on numerous committees at the American Accounting Association and is currently a member of the board of Responsible Research in Business and Management a global network of academics from all business disciplines that have the common objective of enhancing the relevance of business research that addresses pressing issues facing society today.

The Australian Accounting Hall of Fame honours Patricia Dechow as a thinker, eminent scholar and teacher.



Emeritus Professor Neil Fargher

Colin Ferguson Oration

Mr Bill Edge delivered the Colin Ferguson Oration.

Mr Edge is current chair of the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AUASB), and a member of both the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board and Australia's Financial Reporting Council (which he previously chaired). A former partner at PwC, in 2021 he was inducted into the Australian Accounting Hall of Fame.

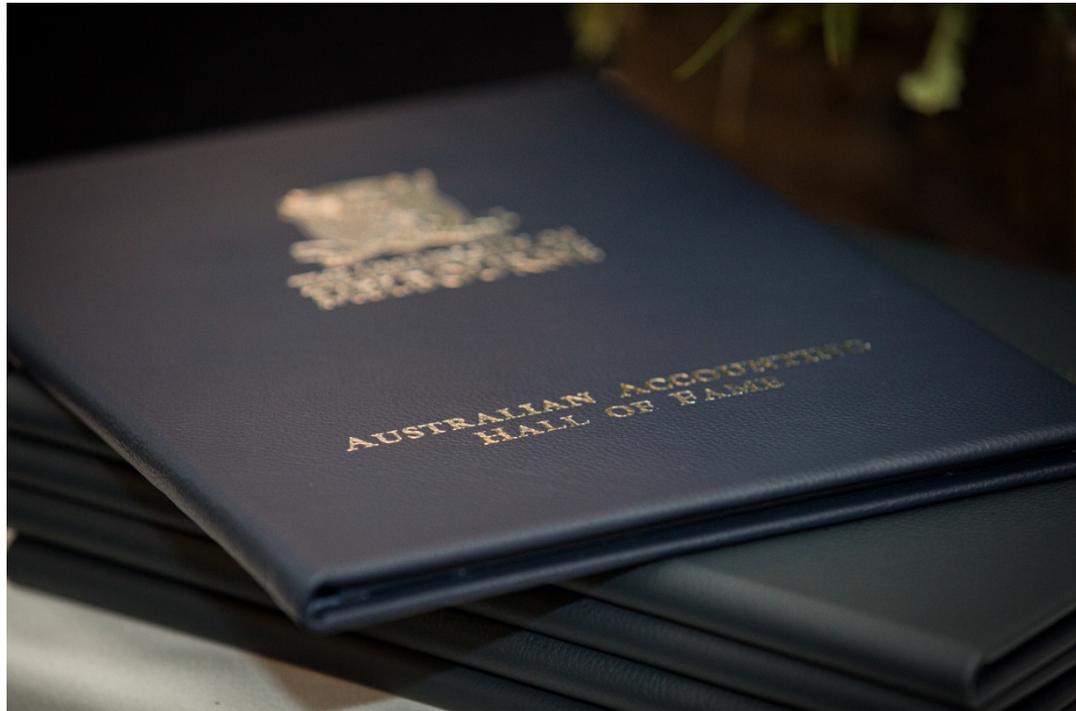
The theme of his oration was recent international and Australian developments in sustainability reporting.



Hall of Fame Director



The 2022 inductees were formally welcomed into the Hall of Fame by Dr Phillip Cobbin, Director of the Australian Accounting Hall of Fame.



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