



Australian Monarchist League

AMIL

**A MOVEMENT, PRESERVING OUR
HERITAGE & THE AUSTRALIAN WAY OF
LIFE**

Preserving Australia's Constitutional Heritage



The Opening of the First Federal Parliament of Australia by HRH The Duke of Cornwall and York, later King George V. Original painting by Charles Nuttall. (This electrograph hangs in the Library of the Australian Monarchist League.)

The Australian Monarchist League (AML) is a nationally recognised organisation committed to defending the Australian Constitution and promoting democratic freedoms under the Crown. Reformed in 1993 as a totally Australian entity, AML has grown into a powerful voice for constitutional monarchy, advocating for the enduring value of Australia's system of governance.

Contrary to popular perception, AML is not solely focused on ceremonial observances. Our work is deeply rooted in political advocacy, with active engagement across both State and Federal Parliaments. Our membership includes senior Coalition cabinet ministers and Federal shadow ministers, reflecting our broad reach and credibility.

One of AML's landmark achievements occurred in 1998, when we successfully campaigned against a Toyota advertisement that mocked the monarchy. The campaign resulted in a formal apology from Toyota's board and the dismissal of their US-based advertising agency. More recently, our advocacy led to the Coalition issuing its first public statement in decades supporting the Australian Constitution. Despite republican leadership within the Federal Coalition, assurances were made to AML that no steps would be taken towards a republic, thereby avoiding a public campaign against them.

These milestones underscore AML's influence and effectiveness in shaping national discourse and policy.



EXTRACT OF A LETTER TO AML FROM
H.M. QUEEN ELIZABETH II



Sandringham House, Norfolk

14 January 2019

I have been deeply moved by the loyalty and support. I have received from members of the Australian Monarchist League throughout the past 25 years and extend my congratulations to you as National Chairman for your steadfast commitment.

Signed

Elizabeth R

AML

We advocate for:

- The retention of Australia's constitutional monarchy.
- The integrity of the Constitution and the Australian Flag.
- Loyalty to the Crown and the principles of parliamentary democracy.
- Freedom of speech, limited government, and the rule of law.
- Strong national defence, secure borders, and protection of property rights.

Mission and Values

AML believes every Australian should benefit from the stability and freedoms provided by our constitutional democracy. Our mission is to preserve the Constitution, uphold the Crown, and safeguard the democratic way of life. We promote civic awareness, historical understanding, and national unity through education, literature, lobbying, and public engagement.

AML stands firmly against attacks on national traditions and liberties, supporting policies that empower individuals and families, and reinforcing the shared values that unite Australians.

Operational Growth and Financial Overview

AML has always operated as a voluntary organisation. However, as our reach and responsibilities have expanded, so too have our operational needs. To support this growth, AML introduced an emolument programme for student monarchists and retained an Australian-owned offshore company to assist with social media, fundraising, and administration.

As of 2025, AML is one of the largest non-profit associations in Australia, with a registered supporter base of approximately 20,000 individuals. Managing this scale of engagement requires significant administrative resources, as can be seen by our latest accounts.

Financial Summary – 2024

\$220,831

TOTAL INCOME

\$287,610

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$66,779

NET LOSS

Major expenses include:

- Emoluments & Agency fees
- Advertising and marketing
- Internet and technology services
- Office rent and utilities
- Printing, stationery, and supplies
- Equipment leasing
- Travel
- Registration and insurance
- Professional accounting and bookkeeping



Over the years AML has consistently complied with all financial reporting obligations, submitting accounts to both the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and the Registrar of Incorporated Associations.

AML's loss would have been significantly higher had our Founder and National Chair, Philip Benwell, received a salary for his role as full-

time CEO, a position he has held voluntarily for 28 years. Mr Benwell has not only worked without remuneration but has also personally subsidised AML's operations.

The Raising of the British Flag in 1788 symbolising the bringing of the Rule of Law to all in Australia, native and settler alike.



Strategic Transition and Future Planning



The Royal Succession and the future. (Attributed to the Royal Household.)

While AML has operated successfully as a volunteer-led organisation, the time has come to place it on a more sustainable and professional footing. To ensure continuity and growth, we are seeking to appoint a salaried CEO to carry forward the legacy established by Mr Benwell and lead AML into its next chapter.

To support this transition, AML is launching the AML Future Fund. This initiative aims to secure the financial foundation necessary to maintain and expand our operations, ensuring that AML continues to be a strong and independent voice for constitutional democracy.



We invite all supporters to contribute to this important initiative and help secure the future of the Australian Monarchist League.

Donate:

<https://www.monarchist.org.au/amldonationfund>

Enquiries:

chair@monarchy.org.au

Independence and Support

AML is entirely independent and self-funded. We do not seek or receive government funding, allowing us to remain free from the conditional arrangements often associated with corporate or public sector philanthropy. Our work is made possible by the generosity of over 20,000 registered supporters - ordinary Australians who share our vision and contribute what they can to help preserve our national identity and democratic freedoms.



Conclusion

The Australian Monarchist League continues to be a vital force in preserving Australia's constitutional heritage. Through advocacy, education, and public engagement, AML defends the principles that underpin our democracy and way of life. As we move forward, we remain committed to strengthening our operations, expanding our reach, and ensuring that the values we stand for endure for generations to come.

The Story of our Logo



“The AML logo is a visual representation of our enduring commitment to Australia's constitutional monarchy. The crown at its centre symbolises the sovereignty of the people under the Crown, while the Southern Cross reminds us of our unique place in the world and our shared national identity. The laurel wreath encircling the emblem signifies honour, tradition, and the peaceful continuity of our democratic institutions. This logo is not just a symbol—it is a statement of who we are, where we come from, and what we stand to preserve.”

— Lachlan Smith (Artist)

THE AML- MOVING INTO THE FUTURE

In November 2024, a new constitution was voted in at the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Monarchist League. Under this Constitution a new Central Committee was established, which acts as the main administrative committee and also the de facto trustees of the organisation. Also established was a National Council with delegates to be elected from each State and Territory.

Both the Committee and the Council are now functioning and members of both can be seen on the following pages.



The Australian Monarchist League

Dedicated to Defending the Crown and Australian Constitution

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

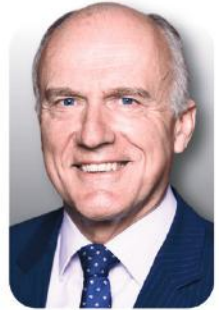


Mr Philip Benwell MBE **National Chairman**

National Chairman Philip Benwell, a former merchant banker, has served as the National Chairman of the Australian Monarchist League since 1993 and as its full-time voluntary CEO since 1997. He is a published author and respected constitutional advisor.

The Hon. Eric Abetz MP **Deputy National Chairman**

Eric Abetz is a long-standing life member and committed supporter of the Australian Monarchist League (AML), having served as Deputy National Chair for over five years. A seasoned Australian politician, he represented Tasmania in the Senate from 1994 to 2022 as a member of the Liberal Party and served in the Abbot Cabinet as a minister and as Leader of the Senate. Since March 2024, he has served in the Tasmanian House of Assembly for the Franklin electorate and is Treasurer in the newly appointed Rockliff government.



Mr. David d'Lima **National Secretary**

David d'Lima keenly promotes and defends the Crown as National Secretary of the Australian Monarchist League, and as part of the civics and citizenship enrichment he provides as a representative of FamilyVoice Australia. David seeks to provide wisdom for the management of the community by encouraging good citizenship. He especially emphasises how the Crown provides a vital and foundational ministry that ensures peace, good order and the effective discharge of constitutional and democratic government.

Mr. Simon Paton **National Treasurer**

Simon Paton, a lawyer by trade and entrepreneur at heart, serves as National Treasurer for the Australian Monarchist League. He oversees the financial stewardship of the organisation while managing a portfolio of successful businesses. With interests in a small global workforce, he extends his influence across Australia and beyond, promoting good governance and community enrichment. Simon is also a committed community leader, acting as chairman or treasurer for a number of non profit and DGR-registered charitable organisations throughout Australia.





The Australian Monarchist League

Dedicated to Defending the Crown and Australian Constitution

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE



Mr. Eliot Harper

Eliot Harper has been a committed supporter of AML for over 20 years. Based in Orange, he works in the enterprise software sector, and provides the league with strategic guidance, technology expertise, and infrastructure support.

Mr. John Kennedy

John Kennedy is a Sydney-based businessman with international operations, including in the Philippines and Peru. His Philippine company, WorkQC, provides full-me support to AML in social media and administrative functions.



Mrs. Beverley McArthur MP

Bev McArthur has been a dedicated supporter of AML for several years. She has served in the Victorian Legislative Council since November 2018, representing the Western Victoria Region. She currently holds the position of Victorian Shadow Minister for Local Government and Scrutiny of Government.

The Hon. Nick Minchin AO

Nick Minchin is a former Australian politician and diplomat, having served as Consul-General in New York. He was a Liberal Senator for South Australia from 1993 to 2011 and held cabinet roles in the Howard government, as well as serving as Leader of the Government in the Senate. He has been a supporter of AML for several decades.



Mr. Philip Mitchell

Philip Mitchell has had a longstanding association with AML, following in the footsteps of his father, Dr David Mitchell, a former patron. A solicitor fluent in Japanese, Philip has worked with a major international law firm across Sydney and Asia. His experience spans corporate finance and business law, particularly in the Asian region. He is a former Chairman of the Council of The Scots College, Sydney, and has been recognised in Best Lawyers™ Australia for Corporate Law.

Dr. Neville Rochow KC

Dr Neville Rochow is a distinguished advocate and legal adviser, specialising in project litigation, appeals, and complex dispute resolution. He has appeared before all levels of Australian courts, including the High Court, and has contributed to inquiries and legal reform discussions in the European Parliament, the European Court of Human Rights, the House of Lords, and the English Law Reform Commission.



The Hon. Santo Santoro

Santo Santoro has been a committed supporter of AML for several decades and a life member since 2009. A former politician, he served in the Queensland Legislative Assembly (1989–2001) and in the Australian Senate (2002–2007) and held ministerial roles in both State and Federal governments, including Minister for Ageing in the Howard government. He currently works as a lobbyist.



The Australian Monarchist League

Dedicated to Defending the Crown and Australian Constitution

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL



**Ms. Rachel Bailes
(VIC)**

Cybersecurity manager,
mother and non practising
lawyer.



**Mr. Dante Barrett
(WA)**

Student studying history,
geopolitics, and maritime
strategy.



**Mr. Morgan Begg
(VIC)**

Director of Research
Institute of Public Affairs



**Mr. Scott Coleman
(ACT)**

Royal expert.



**Mr. Mitch Crittle
(NSW)**

Self-employed tradesman of
13 years. Committee member
of the British Australian
Community.



**Mr. Peter Hudson
(WA)**

Completing a Juris Doctor.
Councillor on the City of
Rockingham Council.



**Cr David Hull
(NSW)**

Solicitor. Dispute Resolution
Specialist with a global
insurance company. Liberal
Councillor on Burwood
Council.



**Mr. Dilan Jayasekara
(VIC)**

Digital and data consultancy.



The Australian Monarchist League

Dedicated to Defending the Crown and Australian Constitution

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL



**Mr. James Kelly
(WA)**

Student. Studying a postgraduate Juris Doctor full-me.



**Mr. Patrick Kenny
(WA)**

Student.



**Mr. Garth Leggatt
(ACT)**

Funeral director.



**Mr. John Macaulay
(NSW)**

International military logistics.



**Mr. Samuel McMahon
(VIC)**

Solicitor.



**Mr. Alexander Voltz
(QLD)**

Composer and writer.



**Mr. Chris Whittaker
(NSW)**

Solicitor.

AML will always hold the Governor-General to account who, as the representative of the King, is the guarantor of democracy through the Australian Constitution and our ultimate block to complete political control by politicians



AUSTRALIAN MONARCHIST LEAGUE

Defending the Crown, the
Constitution, and the liberties of
the Australian people.