

# Forging ahead in 2004

**T**his year promises to be another great one for APLA, especially in terms of educational services for its members. I recommend that you highlight the following dates in your diaries so you don't miss out.

The 2004 National Conference will be held at the brand new Crown Promenade Hotel located in the centre of Melbourne's Southbank entertainment precinct. The program will again feature prominent speakers who will cover topics relevant to members' practices. The conference will run from 21-23 October, just in time to take full advantage of the Melbourne Spring Racing Carnival.

This month we kick off the APLA branch conferences in Queensland. The Queensland conference returns this year to the Hyatt Regency Sanctuary Cove for a two-day program on 6-7 February. The conference again promises to be a great success. This year's social program features a golf tournament and a beach volleyball competition.

The New South Wales branch conference is on 19-20 March. The conference is back at the Manly Pacific and features a strong program including three intensive workshops. Alan Jones, Australia's leading broadcaster, will give the keynote address. The cocktail party overlooking Manly beach will allow members to network in a pleasant and relaxed atmosphere.

Victoria's conference is again at the Cumberland Lorne on 14-15 May. The program promises to be packed with cutting edge educational sessions not to be missed by Victorian members. The dinner will again be a highlight, with dancing to follow, of course.

The conference road show then moves west for the West Australian branch conference on 18-19 June. This

year we will head to Joondalup Resort, just 25 minutes out of Perth. The resort features one of Australia's premier golf courses as well as its own English pub. The program is filled with updates in all key personal injury law areas and should not be missed.

APLA's specialist Medical Negligence Conference will be in Sydney this year on 29-30 July. The conference will take place right in the heart of the city, at the recently launched Swissotel Sydney on Market Street, in walking distance to all the famous attractions. This specialist conference will again bring together law and medicine to provide an invaluable program to those practicing in the medical negligence field.

The year will also feature seminar and workshop programs, as well as specialist programs for articulated clerks and young lawyers. Keep your eyes peeled for details of these exciting events.

The journal will undergo a transformation this year, so let us know what you think when it is relaunched. We hope you will like it as much as we do.

This year all members received the inaugural membership diary, filled with a services directory, member information, key APLA dates and, of course, a handy-sized diary to take everywhere with you.

In 2004, APLA will, continue its lobbying activities as we now face the mammoth task of tort reform rollback.

This year is also a particularly special one as APLA turns 10. Don't miss the celebrations in the various forms they will take throughout the year. I take this opportunity to thank all our founding members for their support over the past 10 years and those who have joined us since then. I also thank APLA's sponsors and advertisers for their support of a growing organisation that remains as relevant today as it did 10 years ago. **PL**



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