

# QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE A SUCCESS



Beach volleyball winners Maurice Blackburn Cashman in action.



The hats given out by Hugh McLennan and Geoff Furnell at the Trust stand proved very popular.

Queensland's APLA supporters returned to the Hyatt Regency Sanctuary Cove for the 2004 APLA State Conference on 6-7 February 2004 to hear a comprehensive program bringing delegates up to date with all the developments in the law.

The conference was attended by a record number of 262 delegates and strongly supported by APLA's Queensland sponsors, Benchmark The Practice, Evidex Personal & Commercial Litigation Support, and QM The Balanced Opinion – Queensland Medilaw. APLA is very appreciative of the contribution made by its sponsors and also its exhibitors - ipac securities and Trust Private, and advertisers - the Intersafe Group and Unisearch.

Delegates were challenged with updating papers on motor accidents by Brett Charrington and Michael Hogan, WorkCover by Simon Morrison and Peter Koutsoukis, PIPA cases by Trevor Schulz, preparation of a budget case by

Bill O'Toole, structured settlements by Gerard Mullins and Margaret Brain, caps on damages by Rod Hodgson, briefing a medical expert by Dr Melinda Pascoe, *Civil Liability Act* (CLA) pitfalls by Richard Douglas SC, formulating economic loss claims under CLA by Mark Thompson and a final check list by Richard Douglas SC and State President, Gerard Mullins.

A particularly interesting aspect of the conference was a Geoffrey Robertson-type hypothetical session mediated by Chris Newton and Ian Brown. This involved the active participation of members of the medical profession as they navigated the labyrinthine processes of calculating general damages under the regulation pursuant to the CLA. APLA appreciates the support of neurologists Dr Geoffrey Boyce and Dr Melinda Pascoe, and psychiatrist Dr Judith Chittenden, in presenting this workshop.

As always, a highlight of the weekend were the social activities, including the APLA committee dinner for spon-

sors and APLA staff on 5 February. We welcomed our chief executive officer, Eva Scheerlinck, the Member Services Officer, Lauren O'Donnell, the Conference Manager, Kim Alderson and the then Marketing Manager, Lyndal Hayward. We appreciate the contribution of all of them to the success of the conference.

Other highlights were an 18-hole four ball best ball golf tournament, beach volleyball competition, barbecue cocktail party and last, but not least, the Civil Justice Award granted to Rob Davis for his exceptional contribution to the APLA cause.

APLA appreciates the effort of all the contributors and participants and trust that the conference continued its good record in bringing practitioners right up to date. Any feedback on papers and speakers would be appreciated as it improves planning for future events.

In summary, this was another successful conference which was marked by a focus on coal face issues for a record number of delegates. 