

QUEENSLAND STATE CONFERENCE 2007

By Darren Moore



(L to R) Ian Brown, Qld President, Australian Lawyers Alliance, Bob Carnegie, 2007 Qld Civil Justice Award winner and Judge John McGill SC, District Court Queensland



On 9 and 10 February 2007 almost 300 delegates, speakers and sponsors attended the annual Australian Lawyers Alliance Queensland State Conference, which was held at the Marriott Resort, Surfers Paradise.

An outstanding line-up of speakers presented papers on a wide variety of topics, highlighted by the keynote address from his Honour District Court Judge McGill SC.

His Honour's highly informative and entertaining paper on costs and other topics of interest was well received by all of the delegates, and we were privileged to have his Honour and Mrs McGill attend the conference dinner.

This year, another outstanding Queenslander, Bob Carnegie, was presented with the annual Civil Justice Award. Bob has long campaigned and supported the rights of workers,

starting with the Workers' Rights Coalition in the 1990s, through to the present.

The Friday session saw two outstanding papers – the WorkCover update, presented by Adam Taylor and Peter Koutsoukis, and the annual public liability case review, presented by Travis Schultz.

An excellent program continued on Saturday with topics including spinal injuries by Dr Scott Campbell, neurosurgeon; cerebral palsy cases by David Hirsch; and a tremendous overview of court decisions under the *Civil Liability Act* from barristers, Chris Newton and Richard Lynch.

Delegates were also treated to an outstanding paper from Richard Douglas SC on experts and their reports, followed by a motor accident review from David Schneidewin; economic loss claims by Onus Maynes; and limitation periods – traps for the

unwary, from barrister, Justin Harper.

Our CEO, Eva Scheerlinck and national president, Simon Morrison, gave a presentation on new practice areas, personal injuries and the future.

For both days, the conference was superbly chaired by Gerry Mullins, barrister, and opened and closed by Ian Brown, Queensland state president, who also presented the Civil Justice Award to Bob.

Our thanks go to all of the speakers for their valuable contributions, which will undoubtedly assist Alliance members in our practices in the months to come.

On the social front, golfing delegates enjoyed the golf tournament and the conference dinner was another highlight.

Many of the delegates enjoyed the incredible swimming pool at the Marriott, complete with water slide and whirlpool.

Our thanks go to Ian Brown, Queensland president of the Australian Lawyers Alliance and to the conference chair, Gerry Mullins. Thanks also to Simon Morrison, our national president and other National Council members from around the country who attended the conference.

We must also thank Eva Scheerlinck and the other Alliance staff, particularly the conference manager, Maja Maunic, for their efforts in organising such a stimulating and successful event.

The Alliance also wishes to extend its sincere thanks to all of the sponsors, including our major partner, ipac, and event partners, Ability One, Evidex, Impact Capital, InterSafe, LawMaster and Perpetual.

Our sponsors have supported the Alliance for many years and without their valuable assistance this conference, as with our other conferences, would not have been as successful. Their input greatly assists our practices and our ability to prepare and run claims for our clients.

Finally, the Alliance would also like to thank all of the delegates who attended the conference, both members and non-members. The support that the Alliance has received at conferences and other CLE events over the years has been incredible, and Queensland members are particularly staunch supporters of the Alliance.

Planning for next year's Queensland State Conference is already under way, and it promises to be bigger and better than ever. ■

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Gerry Mullins and Chris Newton, barristers (with partners), enjoying pre-dinner drinks.



Shine Lawyers delegates at the conference dinner.

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