



Tom Percy QC, WA National Council Director, Australian Lawyers Alliance and Emily Anderson, Solicitor, Kenyons Lawyers



Dr Ian Freckelton SC, Barrister

VICTORIAN STATE CONFERENCE

By Emily Anderson



Ian Brown, Immediate Past National President, Australian Lawyers Alliance

This year's Victorian state conference took place at the tranquil Peppers The Sands Resort, Torquay, on 9 and 10 May 2008. There was a record number of attendees, no doubt drawn by the many program highlights.

Dr Ian Freckelton SC and Simon McGregor provided an introduction to the newly enacted Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. Ian and Simon inspired us to consider how we may use the Charter in the personal injury context to benefit our clients. This was followed by a stirring keynote address from Brian Walters SC about human rights in Tibet.

Magistrate Simon Garnett and Judge Misso of the County Court provided invaluable insights into personal injury litigation from a judicial perspective. Susan Cibau and Bernie Smith from the Accident Compensation Conciliation Service gave members useful pointers on helping our clients get the most out of conciliation.

Practical and passionate advice about running a trial was delivered by John Jordan SC and Gary Clark. Tim Tobin SC, Andrew Keogh and David Purcell provided incisive commentary on death claims and recent cases, amid a flurry of comic relief.

Geraldine Collins, Nick Dubrow, Emily Anderson and Maria Pilipasidis discussed recent cases and current issues relating to the Transport Accident Commission.

Harry Gill, Fiona Ryan, John McPherson and Marcus Fogarty spoke about recent developments in the WorkCover jurisdiction, including the potential consequences of the Hanks Review.

The conference dinner was an opportunity for members to relax and catch up in an informal setting. A number of

members revealed hidden talents. Patsy Toop and Robert Harper took to the microphone and impressed the crowd with their musicianship. Tim Tobin SC displayed a skill for catering and Harry Gill confirmed his status as the perennial after-party host.

The conference was a great success by any measure. Thanks are due to the Alliance staff (particularly Maja) as well as to the Victorian committee for all of their work in ensuring the smooth running of the event.

Of course, the conference would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors, including our major partner, Blackstone Legal Costing, and our event partners, Evidex, ipac, Impact Capital and LawMister. Thank you for your continuing support. ■

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Geraldine Collins, National Council Director (VIC), Australian Lawyers Alliance and His Honour Judge Phillip Misso, County Court of Victoria