

## **HONORARY LIFE MEMBER: EMERITUS PROFESSOR JOHN McMILLAN AO**

The Australian Institute of Administrative Law was set up 27 years ago. In that period it has awarded just three life memberships — to Robert Todd AM, Emeritus Professor Dennis Pearce AO and Stephen Argument. Each was an inaugural member of the AIAL. Each is a distinguished figure in administrative law generally — but it was their contribution to the AIAL for which they were honoured. [The late Professor Geoffrey Sawer AO was also appointed as a life member of the AIAL in recognition of his contribution to administrative law in Australia.]

Today it gives me considerable pleasure to add a fifth member to the list. The National Council yesterday unanimously endorsed a nomination to award life membership of the AIAL to Emeritus Professor John McMillan AO, who is currently Acting NSW Ombudsman, in recognition of his contribution to the AIAL.

He has made — and continues to have — a memorable impact on broader administrative law as a leader of its key institutions, as an academic and author and as a participant in professional bodies.

This nomination recognises his involvement in the AIAL. John was an inaugural member of the AIAL and remained a member of its National Executive until 2015. He has been its President. But it is his shaping of the AIAL for which this recognition is especially apt.

It was his innovation gene which led to the holding of an annual national conference — he has devised themes, been on the Planning Committee, been the Director and edited the proceedings of the conference on at least five occasions since 1991.

It was John who suggested that the AIAL establish a journal. The AIAL had a newsletter from its inauguration in 1989. In 1994, at John's suggestion, that newsletter became a fully fledged journal — *AIAL Forum*. For its first 80 editions, he has been the second-most prolific author after Stephen Argument.

It is to John, too, whom the AIAL owes many of its suggestions for and contacts with speakers for the seminars which enrich our understanding of administrative law. Not only does he suggest others, but he has also been a regular and generous presenter to all chapters of the AIAL on topics of current interest.

And, of course, it was John, with his astounding memory and his quirky sense of humour, who, together with Stephen Argument, introduced the AIAL to the Trivia Quiz.

Given the part John has played in the development and continuing success of this national body, it is only fitting that John's impact on the AIAL should be marked in this fashion. The honour comes with our sincere thanks.