

BALANCE

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Mock trial teams in full swing

The 1994 Inter-School Mock Trial Competition is in full swing throughout the Territory following the Preliminary Round on Tuesday, 22 March.

Twelve teams contested the round, which is held as a non-scoring round to allow the students to hone their skills before scoring begins with Round One on 14 April. In this case, Michael Groover faced a charge of contravening the Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading Act by falsely representing, in trade or commerce, that a Suzuki Sierra was new.

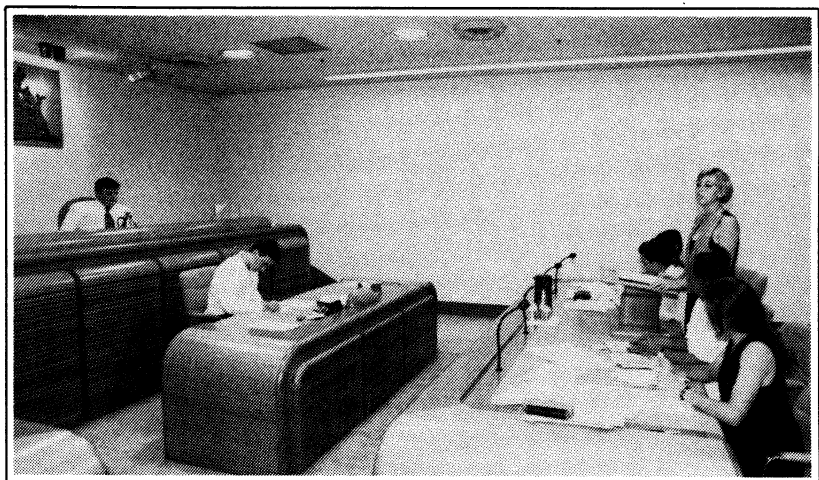
As in previous years, the Darwin Magistrates Courts building and the Law Courts Building in Alice Springs were the venues.

In Darwin, the draw was: Darwin High School 1 (Prosecution) v St John's College 1 (Defence); Darwin High 2 (Prosecution) v Dripstone High School (Defence); Darwin High 3 (Prosecution) v Taminmin High School (Defence); and Casuarina Secondary College (Prosecution) v St John's 2 (Defence).

Meanwhile, the Alice Springs draw was: Centralian College 1 (Prosecution) v St Philip's College 1 (Defence); and Centralian 2 (Prosecution) v St Philip's 2 (Defence).

Four out of six Mock Trial Magistrates found Michael Groover guilty, with wins scored by Darwin High 1 and 2, Taminmin, St John's 2 plus Centralian 1 and 2. Both Dripstone and Taminmin are entering the competition for the first time this year.

A throng of students, teachers and coaches began arriving at each court-



Casuarina v St John's before Mock Trial Magistrate Duncan MacLean.

house around 5pm for the 6pm start. Despite their nervousness, the students performed extremely well and were well matched, with four of the six cases being decided by less than five points.

Northern Territory University law lecturer Martin Flynn is producing the case materials this year. "With each round I plan to vary the subject matter to give the students as much variety in the cases as possible," he said. Round One involves a contravention of the Criminal Code. Louise Whalan is charged with threatening to do an injury or cause detriment to John Tyler with intent to prevent or hinder him from doing an act he was lawfully entitled to do, namely to drive his vehicle.

The competition is funded by the Public Purposes Trust and in 1994 is being sponsored by Qantas Australian Airlines, Angus & Robertson and

the Commonwealth Bank. The Law Society of the NT is pleased to acknowledge those practitioners and articled clerks who volunteer their time as Mock Trial Magistrates and coaches.

Preliminary Round magistrates were: Robbie Davies, Gordon Kennedy, Duncan MacLean, Murray Preston, John Stirk and Rex Wild QC.

Team coaches are: Therese Austin, Nardin Davidson, Cathy Jeffries, Peter Maley, Janelle Martin, Duncan McConnel, Margaret Michaels, Peter Murphy, Ben O'Loughlin, Erin Padarin, Michael Prowse, Chris Roberts, John Royle, Janet Terry, Janet Trier and Stephen Walsh.

The final will be held between the winners of the Darwin and Alice Springs divisions in the Darwin Supreme Court on 24 May and will be adjudicated by Chief Justice Brian Martin.