

# BALANCE

JULY 1995

The Official Publication of the Law Society of the Northern Territory

## NT Criminal Lawyers Association: 5th Biennial Conference 1995

The conference held this year was a huge success with 59 delegates, many of whom were accompanied by family and friends. Of the delegates, a good number came from the Northern Territory, although perhaps not as many as the conference deserved.

In fact members of the Northern Territory Association were outnumbered by delegates who represented each of the mainland States (if we include Hiley QC as a Queenslander).

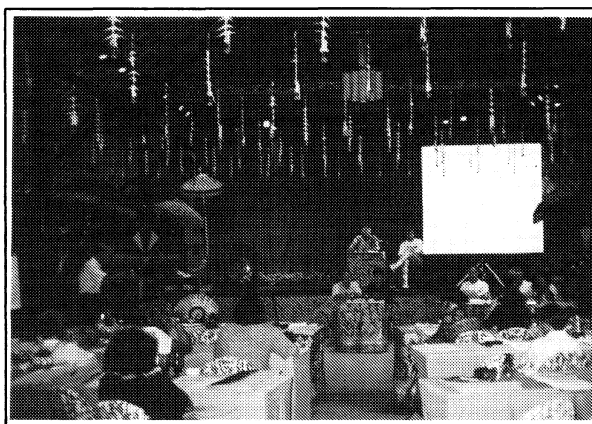
President Suzan Cox, with support from Richard Coates, and the help of the professional conference and travel consultant from Darwin (whose name is available from me), organised a marvellous week of speakers, papers and social occasions at and near the Bali Hyatt Hotel at Sanur Beach.

The contributions made by interstate delegates were very valuable and supplemented some good papers prepared by Territory representatives. Altogether there were 15 presentations made. A full list of the papers is included with this report. The theme of the conference was ***The Right to a Fair Trial*** and each paper addressed this right.

As is usual with such conferences there was a valuable interchange of views (with spirited debate in some cases) during both the formal sessions and at the various social occasions that were interspersed.

An unusual, and apparently successful, inclusion in the program was the performance, in play form, of a 1678 English trial — the purpose being to demonstrate that the *fair trial* of 1995 is somewhat different to that of 300 years ago. The part of Chief Justice Sir William Scroggs was played with proper villainy by our Administrator, while Jon Tippet was brilliant in the role of the hard-done-by Jesuit priest accused, who was sentenced to death (to be *hung, drawn and quartered*) at the conclusion of the play.

Each State was represented among the cast, with each member playing their part with gusto and flair. All lawyers are actors at heart! The pronouncement of sentence by Stephen Norrish QC (NSW) was particularly colourful —



*The Scene is set for the Criminal Lawyers Conference for 1995*

complete with black hat.

Although some dramatic licence was allowed, and some *caricatures* emerged with comic relief, the underlying message of the performance was recognised and appropriately appreciated. The relative "fairness" of a trial may depend upon the seat in the court from which the proceedings are observed.

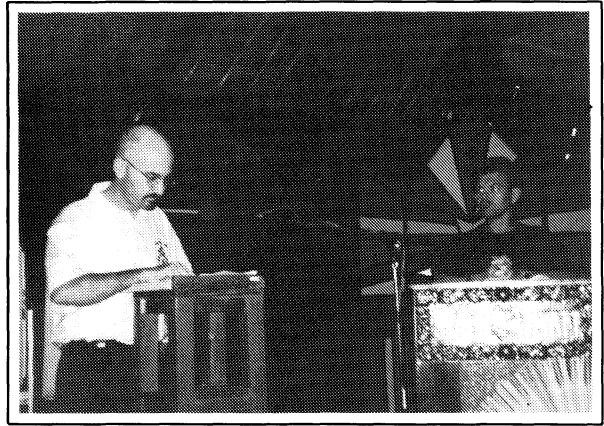
The informal part of the conference was conducted, with the usual informality, with a dinner and dance in the gardens of the Bali Hyatt on the Thursday night. New and old friendships were cemented with an appropriate (but proper) deal of bonding.

The conference was graced with the presence of the Administrator, the Attorney-General Fred Finch (who changed hats at the end of the week), Justices Angel and Mildren from our Supreme Court, Magistrates Gillies and Trigg, the DPP Len Flanagan QC, Professor Ned Aughterson of NTU and many members of the Australian profession, including Judge Nigel Clarke of Western Australia.

The following papers were presented:



*Liz Morris hams it up.*

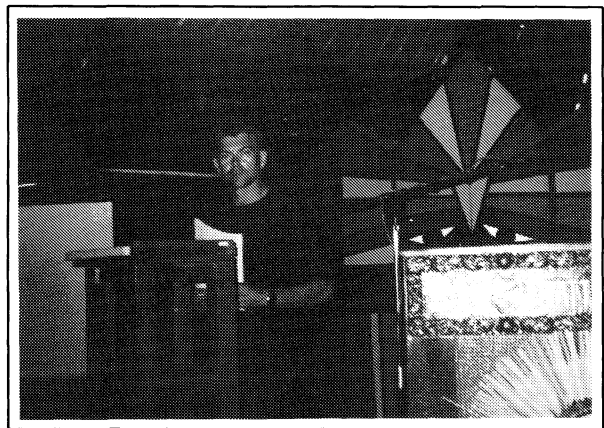


*Damian Sammon gives evidence against Jon Tippett*

# Northern Territory Criminals Lawyers Association 5th Biennial Conference 1995



*Attendees: Garry Schneider (front left), Jon Tippett (back left), John Lawrence (middle) and Michael Robinson (right).*



*Tippett is sentenced to be "hung, drawn and quartered".*