

30th Australian Legal Convention

The 30th Australian Legal Convention is set to take place in Melbourne from 18 - 21 September. The format differs this year from previous years in that it has moved away from the traditional week-long format and instead will run over an extended weekend.

The Convention organisers are quick to point out the benefits of a convention in Melbourne in Spring with the accompanying social program which allows for home hospitality, AFL preliminary finals, horse racing at Sandown, and a range of other activities.

The serious side of the convention offers a program rich in material relevant to all lawyers. In the words of Convention Chairman, Mark Woods, "A program has been designed to specifically cater for the diverse profession which exists as we approach the new

millennium. Specialist accreditation in some states, the emergence of a strong body of corporate lawyers, government lawyers, community lawyers and others standing beside an increasingly specialised group of independent bars and the more traditional general practitioner are all catered for this year."

The Business Law sessions provide an array of penetrating topics ranging from *Working With Native Title* to *Corruption Offshore*.

For those with an interest in litigation, opportunity exists to hear Sir Laurence Street present a session entitled *Making No Mean Yes* (we are hastily assured that this is not a session concerned with techniques of defending rapists) or find out about *The Artificially Intelligent Lawyer*, a session which examines computerised judicial models.

For the historically-minded, Criminal Law sessions offer, among others, a paper entitled *Ancient Crimes*, presented by two NSW barristers. Family lawyers can hear the Hon Justice Kirby chair a session on recent developments in statute and common law concerning the rights of unmarried couples of any sex.

Also included in the program are sessions covering government, sport, and lifestyle.

In addition to the program itself and the social program, partners and accompanying persons can take advantage of specialist shopping, garden and wineries tours. The Convention Dinner will be on Saturday 20 September and is a black tie occasion at the Grand Hyatt Hotel.

Copies of the registration brochure are available at the Law Society or telephone 03 9819 3700.

New Delhi Plays Host to IBA Conference

More than 3000 lawyers from regions as diverse as Africa, Europe, Australasia and the United States will meet in India later this year for the International Bar Association Section on Business Law and Section on General Practice 1997 Conference.

The Conference, to be held from 2 to 7 November, will bring together lawyers from jurisdictions around the world along with representatives of the IBA's 173 member organisations. The event takes place in New Delhi during the IBA's 50th anniversary year and coincides with the 50th anniversary of India's independence.

IBA President Desmond Fernando, a leading Sri Lankan lawyer and a renowned civil rights activist, says the event aims to attract both senior lawyers and younger members of the legal profession.

Presentations from a number of VIP speakers have been included in the program, as well as addresses from senior IBA representatives. Sessions will be run by all of the two Sections' 50 com-

mittees, covering issues as wide-ranging as child labour, litigation and practice management for the law firm in emerging countries.

A basic course in the fundamentals of international legal practice - previously run in Johannesburg, Mexico, Paris, Berlin and Buenos Aires - will be held immediately before the conference and will be free of charge to all young lawyers in the region as well as to conference delegates.

Canberra lawyer Michael Phelps, the Immediate Past President of the Law Council of Australia and a senior IBA member says Australia - the third largest national group of members of the IBA - is "a strong and active supporter of the Association".

"I expect the New Delhi conference will have enormous appeal for Australian lawyers. With ever-increasing globalisation of legal practice paralleling the rapidly developing trade and investment linkages between Australia and its partners in the Asian region, the conference represents a wonderful op-

portunity for Australian firms to develop contacts with our friends in this part of the world as well as to foster more broadly-based international liaison with so many colleagues from the northern hemisphere."

A variety of locations and venues have been selected for evening events, each offering a taste of the real New Delhi. Among the planned functions is an Opening Ceremony at the Ashok Hotel, followed by a spectacular open-air party.

Non-members who take a full registration for the conference will receive free membership of the IBA and either the Section on Business Law or the Section on General Practice until the end of 1998 and the SBL is offering a limited number of scholarships to the conference.

For further information on the conference contact IBA at 271 Regent St, London, UK W1R 7PA; tel: +44 (0) 171 1206; fax: +44 (0) 171 409 0456.