

# TWENTY YEARS ON AND A FRESH DIRECTION FOR THE NT BAR ASSOCIATION

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the Northern Territory Bar Association. With a newly elected president and a new Bar Council, the Bar Association has undertaken a fresh new approach to its business for 2000.

President Mr John Reeves QC told *Balance* the Bar Association will be run along more corporate lines.

"What we propose to do with the Bar Association is to introduce a more corporate approach to its business," he said.

"We plan to focus our efforts on areas specific to the Bar, not duplicate the efforts already undertaken by the Law Society. One such example may be the professional conduct rules, where barristers have a slightly different emphasis than solicitors."

"We also propose to develop a corporate plan at a weekend conference later this year," he said.

Representatives from each barristers chambers in Darwin are now included on the Bar Council, with a special representative from the DPP to represent the DPP and similar agencies.

The NT Bar Association will continue to meet with Bar Associations from other jurisdictions around Australia to discuss a range of issues and agenda items.

One feature of the Bar Association year will be a special anniversary dinner to celebrate twenty years representing the Territory's barristers.

The first meeting of the Bar Association was held on 27 June 1980.

Another social occasion planned is the *Quixotic Challenge Golf Day*, which will be held on 2 June 2000.



*Mr John Reeves QC, President of the NT Bar Association examines the minutes from the inaugural meeting of the Bar Association on 27 June 1980.*

## Elected representatives

The NT Bar Association's AGM held on 23 March 2000 elected the following members :

**President:**

Mr John Reeves QC

**Immediate Past President:**

Mr Colin McDonald QC

**Vice President:**

Mr Steve Southwood

**Secretary/Treasurer:**

Mr Ben O'Loughlin

**NT Bar Council:**

Ms Sally Gearin

Mr Lex Silvester

Ms Raelene Webb

Mr Jack Lewis

Mr Pat McIntyre

Mr Jacek Karczewski

Twenty years ago in June a group of Territory barristers gathered for the first time to establish an association which would represent the interests of lawyers at the Bar.

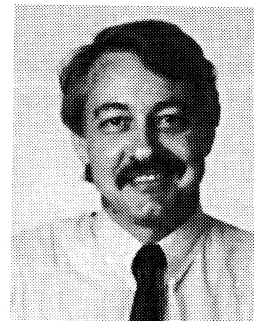
Two decades later many original members of the association are eminent in the law in jurisdictions around Australia, and at least some of the agenda items discussed then are still open for debate.

One of the issues put on the table for inaugural meeting of the Association on 27 June 1980 was the subject of wigs and gowns. The minutes of the time record: "a straw poll failed to demonstrate any consensus on the issue."

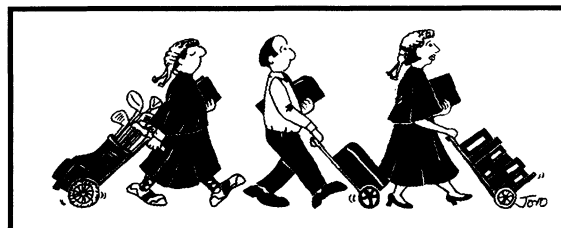
In attendance at the inaugural meeting were:

Mr Ian Barker  
Mr G Eames  
Mr M Maurice  
Mr T Pauling  
Mr G Hiley  
Mr P Bracher  
Mr D Parsons  
Mr J Harrison  
M F Gaffey  
with apologies from Mr Dean Mildren.

Mr Michael Maurice, now QC, was elected Chairman.



*Immediate Past President Mr Colin McDonald QC*



See advert page 19 for details on the Quixotic Challenge Golf Day.