

# OLY: the Alice experience

## What a performance!

It all began Tuesday evening. The locals were to meet the dignitaries for a bite to eat at Casa Nostra, the famous Italian bring-your-own at the junction of Sturt Terrace and the Wills Terrace Causeway, ie on the banks of the Todd.

I had collected Morrie from his accommodation, engaged in a quick Law Society meeting in my office and still in his company, purchased a goodly quantity of quality wine (mostly red).

Whilst waiting for the others, we decided to have a beer in the car park.

A small ensemble gathered. We drank the six pack of Crownies and moved inside for the meal.

It was a very pleasant evening. The food, as usual, was excellent and the accompanying libation just as good.

Knowledge was exchanged between Queensland, Alice and Darwin.

Eventually, Carmella (proprietor) adjourned the sitting, sending us on our way to our various destinations.

The judiciary and the Law Society were transported by the Law Society's "Bob".

Having had vast experience (some practical too!) in the criminal law during the years, I decided to leave the Hilux for a "sleepover".

My fellow-local did the right thing and got me home.

The usual procedure for retrieval from a "sleepover" is of course collection on the way to work.

Upon collection at 8.30am, I noticed various items from within my vehicle strewn over the car park.

Closer inspection revealed that it had been broken into and various items removed including the proposed dry-cleaning for that week, the Best of Thin Lizzie CD (and others), tools and the water container that was used to transport the petrol siphoned from the tank!

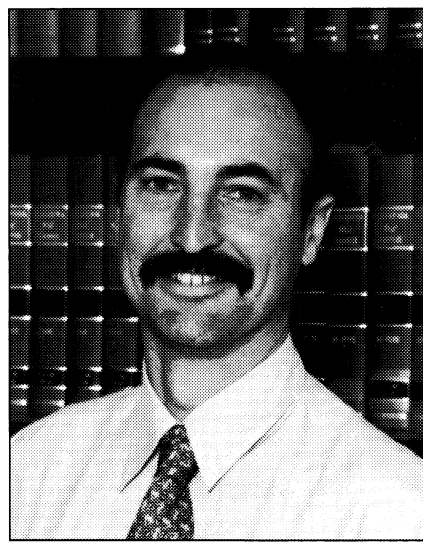
Galvanised into action I strode to the police station to make my report.

I knew I had to be quick because we had the procession soon to start.

In my haste, I had forgotten my two court appearances at 9.30am. I was also obliged to read the Canticle and so I couldn't be late.

Minor panic set in.

I completed the crime report with the usual pleading of reserving my rights to amend the particulars contained therein as I had absolutely no idea (not admitted) what had been taken.



Tony Whitelum, LSNT representative for Alice Springs

Of course I missed the procession but was able to tail onto it as it marched into Supreme Court No 1. I could see a look of relief on the Alternative Representative's face as it was apparent I could still read the Canticle.

The clergy gave a very relevant and intelligent discourse on the similarities between the law and the cloth. Many thanks to Rev Faulkner and the other denominations that participated.

There wasn't much time between the close of the ceremony and the start of the lunch.

Morrie approached looking for his computer left in my vehicle overnight. Oops! I hadn't yet had the opportunity to tell him of the overnight activities.

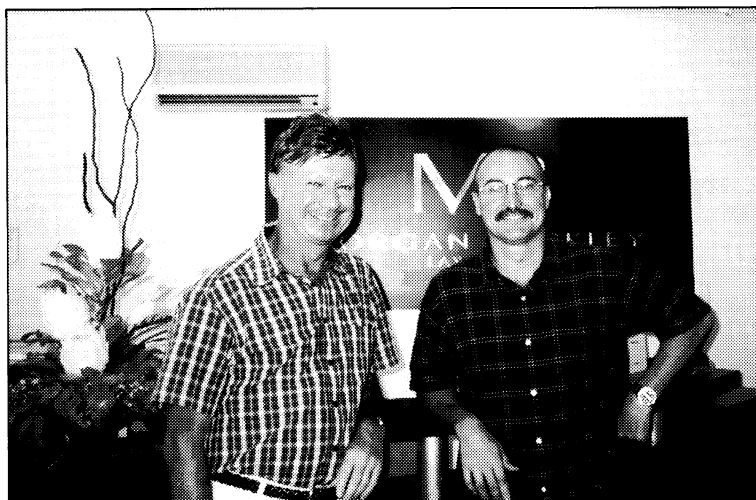
He seemed to take it pretty well though particularly when I informed him of the loss of the Best Of.

(Morrie, the Promis No is ....)

The lunch went exceptionally well with everyone behaving. The Chief Justice of Queensland the Hon Paul de Jersey AC, a genuinely nice person, was the keynote speaker. I quote:

*But your situation is unique in many ways other than the environmental. You share with Queensland especially, the enormous challenge of dealing, with justice, with the interface between two cultures, one ancient, another much younger.*

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Above: Queensland Chief Justice Paul de Jersey (left) with Tony Whitelum during His Honour's Alice Springs OLY visit.

*Lines in the Sand, from previous page*

We have some experience of this in Queensland, but this is more the ultimate Aboriginal heartland....With reconciliation shuffling rather than striding, one of the profession's contemporary challenges is to lead in the crafting of a criminal justice system of meaning to all Australians, including those imbued with the spirituality born of ancient time. I congratulate you on the persistence and sensitivity which undoubtably characterise your uniquely experienced approach to those particular issues - what unique problems subsist! The real issue, perhaps, is whether all cultures accept the legitimacy of our approach: we struggle to ensure that occurs.

This is a challenge that not only we here in the Red Centre need to accept, but the profession as a whole; the judiciary and the legislators.

We finished up at 8pm thoroughly rinsed.

On the domestic front it was the second day in a row of the allegation that I was "rabbiting-on".

(Thank you to all the local legal eagles who attended the procession and lunch.)

The following day I was able to take the Chief Justice, on a very brief tour of our city.

He has promised to return.

I continue to wear football shorts to work as I'm having difficulty with the insurance company concerning the dry-cleaning!

The Opening this year will certainly remain a highlight for me. I just wonder what is going to happen next year...

## **New year and a new NTYL committee**

The NT Young Lawyers Annual General Meeting was held 28 November 2002 and the following office bearers for 2003 were elected:

<b>President</b>	<b>Christopher Booth</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Roman Micairan</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Matthew Garraway</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Lisa Strachan</b>
<b>Social Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Ben Lee</b>



*NTYL president Christopher Booth*

On behalf of the NTYL 2003 office bearers, I'd like to convey our sincere gratitude to the those of the 2002 NTYL executive who have departed, and wish them well.

This year the NTYL executive will focus on connecting young lawyers and addressing the issues pertaining to the membership. To this end, we will build on the initiatives addressed in 2003 with a specific emphasis on the Continuing Legal Education needs of the membership.

Social activities are also an important facet of life as a young lawyer, and an opportunity to liaise with peers and meet with new practitioners.

The NTYL will pursue a variety of meet and greets throughout the year, the pinnacle of which will no doubt be the Young Professionals Ball, which began as a brain child of a visionary few and snowballed into a very well organised and sold out event.

Thanks should go out to our outgoing President for helping organise this

event and for indicating a preparedness to undertake a similar YPB 2003 organisational role. Young Lawyers who wish to contribute to the ongoing success of NTYL are encouraged to contact the various 2003 office bearers.

Some new ideas recently gleaned from the state and territory reports of the Law Council of Australia's Committee of Young Lawyers are being considered by the executive, however when brainstorming there is no such thing as a stupid idea, so keep those recommendations flowing in.

At the AGM of the NTYL it was resolved to un-incorporate Northern Territory Young Lawyers and become a new committee of the Law Society Northern Territory. Please direct all mail to the Law Society or emails can be sent directly to an office bearer of NTYL.

Notices in *Balance* and via email will normally be used to inform members of upcoming events, we ask practitioners with less than five years post admission experience and article clerks please inform an office bearer of your contact details if you were not receiving notices via email in 2002.

And finally, the rumor which swept legal circles around Australia that the Treasurer and Secretary, and our departing Public Officer have been given a ticket to actually practice law, is in fact true!! Well done and welcome to the profession. May it be a long and mutually rewarding association.

**All Young Lawyers please take note of the notice in this edition of *Balance* for the first CLE for 2003, presented by Justice Trevor Riley, Director of Public Prosecutions Rex Wild QC and barrister-at-law Lex Silvester. ①**