
Bali memories

By Rex Wild, Myilly Chambers

During the most recent Bali Conference of 2007, as successful as ever, it occurred to me that we might be losing track of our origins; that is, the history of the Criminal Lawyers Association of the Northern Territory (CLANT) and of the Conference.

I am very pleased to have been associated with the affairs of CLANT (or, should I say, the activities of CLANT) over the last 15 or so years. I hope that continues. But it has only been, for me, 15 years, and I am conscious that last year's conference was the 20th anniversary of the first Bali conference, and longer memories were failing as to some important (and trivial) details of the 11 conferences.

Wishing to preserve the history of the Conference, which is effectively that of the Association, I then decided to collect some material with a view to preparing a presentation on the topic (possibly for Bali in 2009?). I have since discussed this briefly with current President John Lawrence and founding father Colin McDonald QC (no pun intended, Colin). I think I have their imprimatur to proceed. They have both agreed to give me access to their memories.

The help of readers of *Balance* in providing memorabilia (or copies thereof) would be much appreciated. I now have the programmes from 1993 onwards, although the one for 1995 seems rather like a draft. Another copy of that would be useful. I also have that for 1989. The ones missing are 1987 and 1991.

I am not looking for copies of papers as such, although some of them might be re-published at some stage. In this connection,

see the remarks of Kirby J in his article in the first issue of the Northern Territory Law Journal, *Not another Law Journal*, (2008) 1 NTLJ 63 at 67, where after noting that the record of legal debates and controversies in the Territory has often been lost, he said:

"Even the biennial conference of the Criminal Lawyers association of the Northern Territory (CLANT) have sometimes passed without the excellent papers prepared for them being published in a permanent form. This is a pity because, as I know from my own experience, the CLANT conferences are generally of a very high quality. They now attract lawyers interested in criminal law from all parts of Australia and beyond. They have become an established feature of discourse in criminal law.

It would be my hope that in the future, the CLANT conference will include papers on the interesting and challenging legal developments that are occurring on our doorstep. (One of the papers presented at the 2007 conference, by Justice Mildren, does in fact appear in the same first issue of the Journal)."

Already, I have addressed my requests to past Presidents, our life members and some former committee people. Some useful material has already emerged. Please help if you are able. I am happy to collect material or sit down over a drink or meal to discuss. I am able to be found at Myilly Chambers. Despite rumors to the contrary, Lyn and I still live in Darwin although we are away from time to time and/or in Melbourne with the other members of our family.

Incidentally, His Honour, the



Rex Wild at the 2005 CLANT Conference in Bali

Administrator, wrote to me in the following terms when I asked for his help:

"Most happy to contribute. I well remember the evening at the (then) Sheraton when the motion was put to form the Association and on my wall in the office I have the splendid group photo of the conference at Sanur Beach Hotel. If I try hard I can hear XX set a personal best in long speeches. Fast forward to the table service stopping after dinner speech by ZZ not to mention poisoning my guests on Tom's Terrific Tour. What a rich tapestry." [XX and ZZ may be identified at some point in time].

I know the ODPP has framed copies of the T-shirts from 1995 onwards. Are there any earlier ones? Some of the presidential correspondence and media releases might be of historic importance, too! Ex-president Jon Tippet has already provided his records to me, and there is much of interest in it.

At Myilly Point Chambers, we have a number of the umbul-umbuls (flags) rescued from earlier conferences (two of these, at least, were on the way back to Darwin

via the back of a bus occupied by some cheeky young members of the Association when re-united with the Committee). They fly proudly at Myilly Point whenever the Association meets there. Visitors to the Robing Room in the Supreme Court will know that our Dingo is mounted on the wall. The original design and idea of the Dingo was by local Darwin identity and friend of CLANT, Chips Mackinolty. The Dingo appears on all our programmes from 1997, and on the T-shirts from that year. The version in the Supreme Court was made and given to us by the management of the Hard Rock Hotel where the conference was held in 1999.

There was rather a good report written and published in *Balance*, of the 1997 conference, which preserves some of the flavour of that event. It concluded with these words:

“To sum up the conference, as one delegate was heard to say, it was hard work in pleasant surroundings. Those who were there are determined to be there next time. Those who were not, should be.”

Part of that report was also reproduced in the DPP’s Annual Report of that time [written by the same modest writer, you might think] and I have been pleased to be reminded that each DPP Report during that era included a piece on the relevant conference.

The purpose of that might have been to justify retrospectively the attendance of so many prosecutors at the biennial event. (Some of you might remember one of our interstate visitors complaining bitterly that the prosecutors were taking over, but I know that view was never supported by the Territory delegates). Of course, it was necessary to demonstrate that the conference served a useful purpose given that a succession of CLP Attorneys failed to attend, and in fact no Attorney since Fred Finch in 1995 has attended. (The

true story of the events of 1995 should, and will, be included in any history!)

This might be compared with the regular support of Daryl Manzie as shown by the early papers.

So, I was reading the 1989 programme earlier this week (kindly provided from the archives of life-member, Justice Dean Mildren). That conference was at the Hotel Bali Beach at Sanur. It started with an art exhibition opened by Dr. Colin Jack-Hinton [MAGNT] and a conference opening by Attorney Manzie.

“The presenters and commentators to follow read like a ‘who’s who’ of the Australian Criminal Law. They included Michael Abbott, Greg James, Kevin Borick, Justices Nader and Rice, Terry O’Gorman, Father Frank Brennan, Tom Pauling QC and Bruce McCormack. On the Friday there was a visit to the traditional Bali courts conducted by tour guide Tom Pauling QC (Tom’s Terrific Tours). What conference would be complete without it?”

A quick glance through the programmes from 1993 onwards reminds me of some excellent papers, wonderful speakers, interesting play readings by the CLANT



His Honour, The Administrator, Mr Tom Pauling, CLANT patron, Justice Kirby and Mark Johnson

players and great social occasions. Justice Kirby, who is our patron, has attended and spoken at three conferences. In 2007 he presented a stimulating hypothetical. We had Major Dan Mori (of Hicks and Guantonomo Bay fame) at the 2005 conference, who informed and entertained us both in and out of the Rinjani meeting room! Who will forget the passion of the Noel Pearson speech at Port Douglas in 2003? An hour of mental stimulation presented without a note!

Most of the judges of the Northern Territory, past and present, have attended the conference at some stage. I suspect Justice Mildren has attended all of them. He and John Nader and Austin Asche have been made life members of CLANT for their support and contributions over the years. So too, Colin McDonald, Tom Pauling and the writer. With the exception of the latter who started in 1995, all of these men have attended most conferences.

This was never intended to be an exhaustive list of those attending or speaking at the conference. I will save that for any further writing on the subject. We have had delegates from all states and territories, and many of the leaders of the various criminal Bars including a number of Directors of Public Prosecutions. Many Territory magistrates have attended and we have had judges, sitting and retired, from other jurisdictions. Chief Justice Doyle from South Australia spoke in 2005 and Sir Anthony Mason of the High court attended in 1999. Our guests have included Justice Mark Weinberg, Richard Ackland from Justinian, psychiatrists, psychologists, DNA experts and the odontologist who helped identify some of the bodies after the Bali Bombing in 2002. We have had a close association with local Indonesian lawyers and academics all contributing to the rich tapestry

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Living Memory Project Darwin 2008? "Yes we can"...cont. from page 24

two Indonesian Soldiers be indicted on international war crimes.

The Australian Government's attitude to the plight of the people of East Timor has been cold blooded cynical neglect. Gross human rights abuses to a people who were Australia's allies during the Second World War were smudged over or ignored by successive Australian Governments in order to accommodate Australian and Indonesian relations. Isn't it funny how whenever there is heaps of oil and gas around, Governments tend to behave badly?

Bali memories...cont.

of which Tom Pauling QC speaks.

We have maintained close relations with other criminal Bars, in particular those of Victoria and West Australia, although this is not to diminish the support from other states.

This was never intended to be an encouragement to attend the next CLANT Bali conference. I understand that this issue of *Balance* may well have an advertisement fulfilling that role. However, if anything I have written has that effect, so be it.

For those many committee members and office bearers who have not been mentioned in this short piece, never fear. I have lists, and there are many stories to be told, and I will do my best to collect and publish them all. In the meantime, as Bob Hope might have said, "thanks for the memories."

NT Women Lawyers Association AGM

The Northern Territory Little.

Women Lawyers Association Inc. (NTWLA) held its AGM at the offices of the NT Law Society on 3 October 2008.

The AGM was attended by members and friends including NTWLA Patron, Her Honour, Justice Sally Thomas AM and Magistrate Melanie

The NTWLA's new committee comprises of Lindy Morgan, President; Susan Porter, Vice-President; Rebecca Sharkey, Secretary; Sally Gearin, Treasurer; Frieda Evans, Public Officer; Marguerite Bowen, Member; Rosemary Jacob, Member.



The 2008 NTWLA AGM

LAW SOCIETY MEMBERS CHRISTMAS

DRINKS

Law Society Members only

THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER 2008

FROM 5.00PM - 7.00PM

AT MONSOONS,

46 MITCHELL STREET DARWIN

DRINKS & APPETIZERS WILL BE SERVED

This event is free, however
RSVPs are essential, by Monday
8 December. Contact Eliza on
8981 5104 or at:
lawsoc@lawsocnt.asn.au



LAW SOCIETY ALICE SPRINGS MEMBERS CHRISTMAS DRINKS

FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER 2008

FROM 5.00PM

AT BOJANGLES SALOON,
80 TODD STREET,
ALICE SPRINGS

DRINKS & APPETIZERS WILL BE SERVED

This event is free, however
RSVPs are essential, by
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