

President's Report CAMLA 1997

CAMLA President, Victoria Rubensohn gives her report for the year that was

The CAMLA committee met eight times during the course of 1997. As always, committee members have given tirelessly of their time and energy, and I would like to thank them for their ongoing commitment to the organisation.

Our committee members during 1997 were:

Professor Mark Armstrong

John Corker	Mark Crean
Sue Ferguson	Jock Given
Bridget Godwin	Peter Leonard
Sam Mostyn	Anthony Mrsnik
Julia Madden	Paul Mallam
Michael Minehan	Cass O'Connor
Kendall Odgers	Victoria Rubensohn

CAMLA had a very good year for events in 1997. We began in April with a lively twilight seminar on Australia's future on line, at which the speaker was Clem Doherty. In May, we held another twilight seminar on film, television, the budget and the future, at which the speakers were John Morris from the AFC, film producer Tristram Miall and Maureen Barron from Southern Star Group.

In early June Neil Tuckwell, chairman of AUSTEL shared with us his confessions of a regulator, on the eve of his departure from AUSTEL. In late June, we held another twilight seminar on "the Net vs the Network". Speakers were John Rowland from Telstra and Michael Ward from Oz Email.

In August Jim Spigelman, Q.C., T.K. Tobin Q.C. and Guy Reynolds spoke on the implications for defamation law of Lange vs ABC, at another twilight seminar.

In October, we attempted something new and held the same seminar in association with the communication law centre, in both Sydney and Melbourne. The subject was "Hold the Music: Life after the Telstra v APRA Case". Speakers were Brett Cottle of APRA, David Andrews of Holding Redlich and Michael Ward of Oz Email.

In late November we reverted to a CAMLA lunch to present Professor David Flint, newly appointed chairman of the ABA, sharing some views of his new domain.

All of these events have been very successful and reflect our continuing move toward evening seminars as the best vehicle for discussion of the subjects which interest our members. These seminars have been made possible in 1997 by the generous support of Blake Dawson Waldron, Freehill Hollingdale and Page and Mallesons Stephen Jaques who have provided us with their wonderful facilities. I would like to thank all of them on behalf of CAMLA, and especially Paul Mallam of Blakes, who has kept the roster and rounded up the prospects for us during the year.

I would also like to thank each of our committee members who was responsible for organising these functions. I know only too well how much time and energy goes into getting these events right and their efforts are much appreciated.

Our AGM and Christmas function for the past few years has been very kindly hosted by Freehill Hollingdale and Page. I would like to thank Freehills very much, and Mark Crean in particular for their continuing support.

For some years now CAMLA has held its committee meetings at the offices of our treasurer Cass O'Connor at Turnbull and Partners. As you would know, Turnbills is no more and Cass and her colleagues are now ensconced at Goldman Sachs Australia. I am pleased to report however, that Cass has continued to offer her new offices as our meeting place, an offer which we have gratefully accepted. I would like to express our thanks to her for her unfailing hospitality, fine wine and biscuits.

Tonight we will award the third CAMLA essay prize. We instituted this award three years ago as an experiment to seek out and reward individual contributions to the communications field. The successful essay is published in the *Communications Law Bulletin*, and the winner receives a cheque for \$1000.00. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sue Ferguson and John Corker who were the judges in this year's entries.

During 1997 we have seen the departure of Anne Hurly as editor of the CLB. Anne worked hard to continue the success of the CLB and widened its content and scope during her tenure as editor. Our

thanks go to Anne for her devotion to the CLB and her contribution to its growth and stature.

Anne has been replaced by a dynamic duo: Andrew Lambert from Blake Dawson Waldron and Jason Macarthur from Tress Cocks & Maddox. Andrew and Jason have effected a very successful transfer of the reins from Anne, and they have settled in as dual editors, having established their mastery over the printer! The CLB continues to maintain its standard of excellence while growing to reflect the dynamism of the communications field.

CAMLA continues in very good financial health thanks to the efforts of our indomitable treasurer Cass O'Connor. Cass is retiring from the post of treasurer this year, having given an unreasonable number of years of service to CAMLA. She will be a hard act to follow, and I would like to thank her on behalf of all at CAMLA for her years of strenuous effort on our behalf.

Ros Gonczi cannot be with us tonight, but all at CAMLA know that she is the backbone of the organisation. In the midst of a very busy life, she is the one who really supplies the nuts and bolts of CAMLA. On behalf of all committee members and all members of CAMLA I would like to express our gratitude that we have Sydney's best administrative secretary.

Finally, keeping an organisation like CAMLA functioning on a purely voluntary basis is not easy task, and everyone involved with CAMLA has an extremely busy life. I want to thank my committee members, all of whom have dedicated an unconscionable amount of time to CAMLA, some of them for years. Without their willingness to devote time and energy to the organisation it could not exist, let alone flourish. My thanks go to vice presidents, Julia Madden and Jock Given, our retiring secretary Mike Minehan, our retiring treasurer Cass O'Connor and all the committee members.

My thanks also to the CAMLA members who continue to patronise our events, contribute to and subscribe to the bulletin, and make CAMLA the successful association it continues to be.