

sufficient weight on the final factor - the importance of freedom of expression in the discussion of issues of public interest.

In relation to what is a reasonable amount of time to give for a response to a request for comment – how long is a piece of string? My view is the more serious and extensive the allegations, the more time is needed for a response. It's always going to be the lawyers' preference to have a response, including any denial of wrongdoing, prior to publication – but at the end of the day, it

comes down to a risk vs reward analysis for the editors in the context of the commercial publishing environment.

Another feature of modern day defamation litigation, which we saw play out in the BRS case, is the impact of the court of public opinion (particularly on social media) both during the course of the proceedings and after verdict. What do you think the consequences would have been for BRS and for the media generally if he had succeeded in his action?

MICHAEL: I was pretty amazed at the social media commentary during the case, some of it by journalists. Media types should stop hating each other on Twitter and focus their ire on the real enemy: the plaintiff-friendly *Defamation Act*. I hate to think what the consequences would have been for the media in this country if the BRS verdict had gone the other way. We've yet to see the grounds for his appeal before the Full Court. There may be more twists and turns in this case yet.

A Tribute to Cath Hill

I think I started practising law in 2011. I landed as my luck would have it immediately in media and copyright practice groups. I think I recall, shortly thereafter, my first CAMLA events and, in time, my first Board meetings. I recall the first interview I ever conducted for the *Communications Law Bulletin* (with Christina Allen, then General Counsel at Fox Sports), and I recall the first editions of the *Communications Law Bulletin* I helped eventually to publish. I recall the first CAMLA seminars I attended and, in time, hosted and moderated. I think I recall the first trivia night I attended (I believe it was the special 25th anniversary at Doltone House in 2013). I recall Presidents Henty, Hoffman, Taylor and Dunn and the many Board members who have served this organisation during those years. And I recall meeting for the first time through CAMLA many of the people I now consider to be some of my closest professional friends and supporters.

CAMLA and the wonderful community it has created, and the wisdom, connections and professional opportunities it gives its members, have thankfully been a constant throughout my career as a lawyer. As I moved into new roles, took on new responsibilities, and enjoyed the pleasures of new networks, as one does throughout one's career, CAMLA has been for me (and many others I'm sure) a continuous, steady – I don't want to use the word "rock" lest this sound like a wedding speech, but I know you understand what I mean.

What I cannot recall, though, is CAMLA *before* Cath, or as the historians will one day refer to that era: CAMLA B.C.

For as long as I can recall, Cath has been the driving force behind CAMLA.

She was its face, in that she managed CAMLA's relationships with providers and partners, received and responded to queries, dealt with its members and the attendees of its events, and represented CAMLA to the public.

But she also was its soul, and its most exuberant cheerleader, as any member of the Board, or any editor of the *Bulletin*, or any organiser of an event, will surely attest. Cath represented – with some grief, I am repeatedly correcting my use of the present tense – the familiar delight of attending a CAMLA event. She would be there, without fail, waiting at the entrance with name tags, to admit us into the event that she had marketed, designed, set up, and ensured would run smoothly. To me, she was CAMLA's trade mark: there, to mark a CAMLA event as distinct from – and superior to – any other event a lawyer might attend.

I know as well as anyone what roles CAMLA's Executive and Board members play, and what role CAMLA's Young Lawyers Committee plays, and of course the roles that event hosts, organisers, speakers and moderators play, in CAMLA's success. I know what role the contributors to the *Communications Law Bulletin* play. But Cath was CAMLA; and CAMLA, to me, was Cath.



Cath, Ashleigh and Eli

Cath has a somewhat lawyerly knack for hoping for the best but expecting the worst (despite all historical data granting her a licence to do otherwise). Never in my years of involvement in the organisation have I witnessed a seminar or other event that could be described as a failure or as disappointing. The crowds always come, the events are always smooth. And yet, Cath would regularly and predictably stress about numbers. For her, it was personal. CAMLA's success meant so much to her, including – I would get the sense – because the organisers and attendees of events meant so much to her. Perhaps because she would so stress, or perhaps because of her talent for organising (wrangling) lawyers, CAMLA has grown steadily under her watch. New generations of members and attendees flock to our events, new organisations regularly sign up for corporate memberships. Cath helped the organisation navigate multiple challenges, including the uncertainty of a locked-down world where events could not take place in person. And, throughout that time, CAMLA went from strength to strength. Our membership numbers grew and are continuing to grow, our finances were always secure and, most importantly, that sense of a closely connected community has always been palpable.

Cath moves on with our affectionate blessings and deep, sincere, gratitude – to new roles, new responsibilities, the pleasures of new networks – as one does in one's career. We bid her farewell. We thank her. For what's to come, we wish her and her family all the best, for that is what they most unquestionably deserve.

Cath, thank you for your years of service to this organisation. Thank you for your friendship and support. Thank you for helping to build something that matters greatly to us all. Congratulations and good luck!

Eli Fisher