

# QUEENSLAND STATE CONFERENCE 2006

By Darren Moore

A record number of over 280 delegates, speakers, and sponsors attended the annual Australian Lawyers Alliance Queensland State Conference, which was held at the Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast, on 17 and 18 February 2006.

An outstanding line-up of speakers presented a wide variety of papers to the delegates, highlighted by the keynote address by the Honourable Chief Justice Paul de Jersey.

The Alliance was indeed privileged to have His Honour address the conference on the tort reform process and its outcomes in Queensland. His Honour's excellent paper, and the incredibly high regard with which he is held in the legal community, was evident in the long and loud ovation he received at the conclusion of his address.

Another highlight was the presentation of the Annual Civil Justice Award to Beryl Crosby, the President of the Bundaberg Patient Support Group. Beryl is another outstanding Queenslander and a worthy recipient of the Civil Justice Award.

The 'nuts and bolts' of the conference included papers on 'CLA Update – the Good and the Bad' presented by Chris Newton and Kevin Holyoak; the annual 'Public Liability Case Review' presented by Travis Schultz, which had all delegates

thinking of their files back in the office; a 'WorkCover Update' presented by Simon Morrison and Adam Tayler of Shine Roche McGowan and Kylie Horton of WorkCover; and an interesting paper on 'Intentional Torts to the Person and the *Civil Liability Act*' presented by Tina Cockburn from the Queensland University of Technology.

Saturday's program was headlined by an excellent paper on 'Loss of a Chance in Medical Negligence Cases', presented by David Hirsch, and Richard Douglas SC's very informative presentation on 'Case Preparation'.

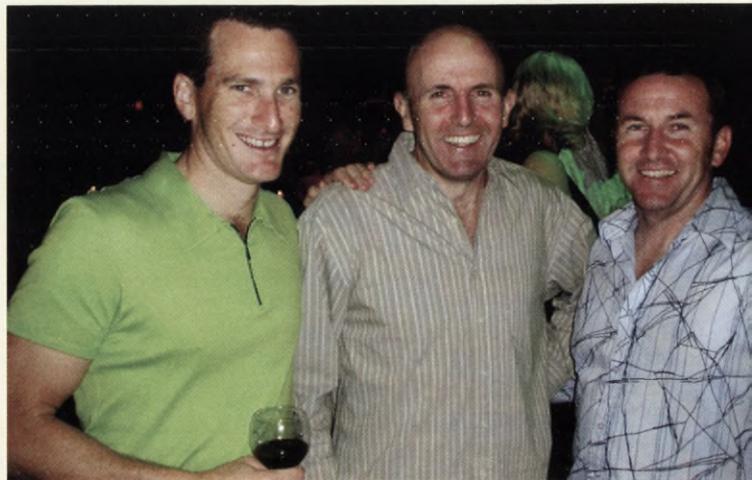
Other notable contributions included Peter Mylne's paper on 'Obvious Risk in the Workplace and Public Area'; a 'Motor Accident Review' presented by Brett Charington; and Justin Harper's 'Notice Provisions'.

The delegates were treated to a view of the present and the future for plaintiff lawyers in papers presented by Peter Koutsoukis of Maurice Blackburn Cashman and Darryl Rangiah, ably moderated by Julian McNamara.

Conference dinner attendees Catherine Cheek, Tina Cockburn, Eva Scheerlinck and Kassie James



Travis Schultz, Richard Faulks and Paul O'Neill enjoying pre-dinner drinks





The Hon Chief Justice Paul de Jersey and the 2006 Qld Civil Justice Award recipient, Beryl Crosby

Thanks to all of these speakers for their valuable contributions, which will assist Alliance members greatly in our practices in the months to come.

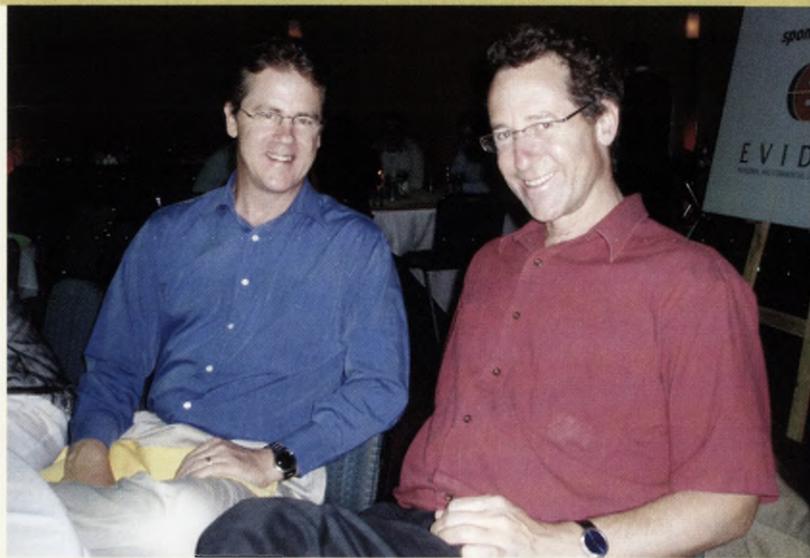
On the social front, congratulations must go to Jamie Shine for her clean sweep in the golf tournament. Having won the competition with partners, Travis Schultz and Brett Charington, Jamie also secured the longest drive and nearest the pin on one hole, with Brad Lawler securing nearest the pin on another hole.

Our thanks must also go to Ian Brown, Queensland President of the Australian Lawyers Alliance, for his contribution, and to the Chair, Gerry Mullins, who has for many years led the conference so dependably.

Thanks also to Richard Faulks, National President of the Alliance, and other National Council members who attended the conference. It was great to have Richard there and to hear his words and presentation to Beryl Crosby.

We must also thank Eva Scheerlinck, CEO of the Alliance, and the other Alliance staff, particularly the Conference Manager, Maja Maunic, for their efforts in organising such a stimulating and successful conference.

The Alliance also wishes to extend its sincere thanks to all



Greg Burgess and David Hirsch at the conference dinner



Cameron Press and Brad Lawler enjoying the Qld sunshine during the golf tournament

of the sponsors, including our major partners, Injury Loan Services Australia and Law Master, and our event partners, Ability One, Evidex, Impact Funding, ipac, Monsour Legal Costs with DG Thompson Driscoll + Matters, Perpetual and The Intersafe Group. Our sponsors have been supporters of the Alliance for many years, and without their valuable assistance the conference would not have been the success that it was. Their input greatly assists our practices and our ability to prepare and run claims.

Finally, the Alliance would also like to thank all of the delegates who attended the conference, both members and non-members. Members of the Alliance in Queensland are tremendous supporters of the organisation, its annual state conference and other legal education seminars.

See you all at next year's state conference at the Marriott Surfers Paradise, to be held 9-10 February 2007. ■

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