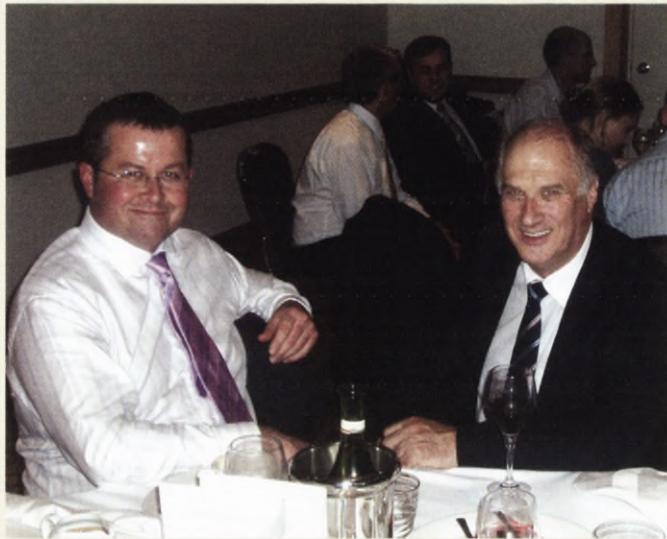


# ACT Conference

Friday 23 June 2006 – Hyatt Hotel Canberra

By Amy Burr



Andrew Muller, Moray & Agnew with Ian Davy, Evidex



Chris David, Phillips Fox, Bill Andrews, Stacks with Sneddon Hall & Gallop and Stuart Pilkinton, Blackburn Chambers

‘Bigger and better’ is how this year’s ACT annual branch conference could best be described (not to cast any aspersions on the organisation of the inaugural 2005 conference of course!)

Over 100 delegates and participants attended the 2006 conference at the Hyatt Hotel, a terrific venue in which to mingle with colleagues and sponsors in between sessions in the large lecture hall. The rain outside was no impediment to a warm and convivial atmosphere inside.

Our own branch member and immediate past national president, Richard Faulks, opened the conference, which was only fitting in the last week of his presidency.

The newly appointed ACT Attorney-General, Mr Simon Corbell, gave the keynote address immediately following lunch. The fantastic program of speakers ranged from medical experts to litigation and costing experts, and a fabulous human rights panel consisted of Chief Justice Terry Higgins (ACT Supreme Court), Professor Hilary Charlesworth (ANU), Mr Bill Stefaniak MLA (ACT Legislative Assembly), and Mr Crispin Hull (*Canberra Times*).

All speakers were engaging and informative, and a privilege to hear. Special mention must go to Gary Parker, of Blackburn Chambers, who made a rare appearance as a public speaker despite his many years of experience ‘on his feet’ in various courtrooms!

Media coverage was strong, both in television and radio.

As it grew late and the rain eased, we gathered for pre-dinner drinks, followed by dinner – kindly sponsored by Evidex – and dancing in one of the Hyatt’s many function rooms. We were entertained by what is now known traditionally as ‘Mark Blumer’s surprise entertainment’, being two young and talented musicians and one equally young and talented poet.

Many thanks must go to our major sponsor, King Financial, and to our event partners DG Thompson Driscoll + Matters, Impact Funding, and LawMaster.

The conference would not have been possible without the hard work of the Alliance staff, Maja Maunic in particular.

Finally, thanks must go to the local ACT branch Committee, especially our outgoing branch president and incoming ACT director, Mark Blumer, Richard Faulks, and our outgoing board director, John Little. ■

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