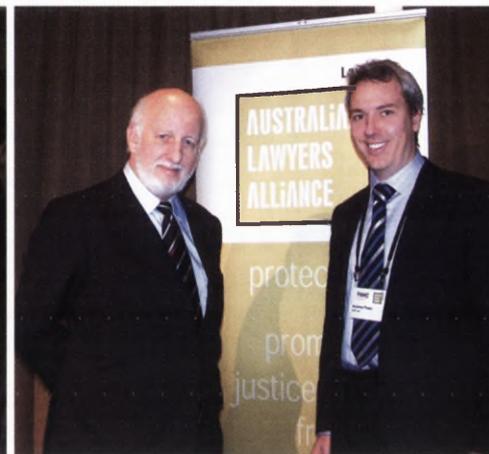
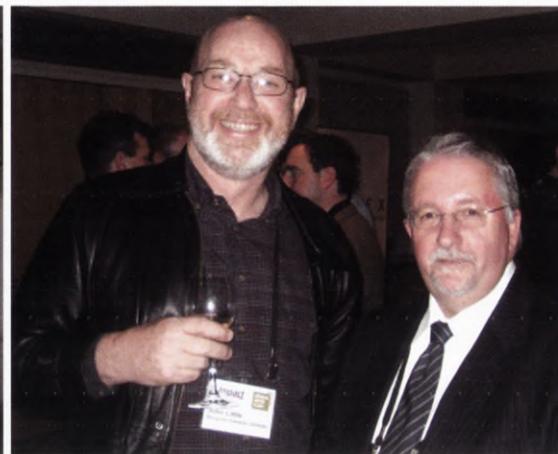
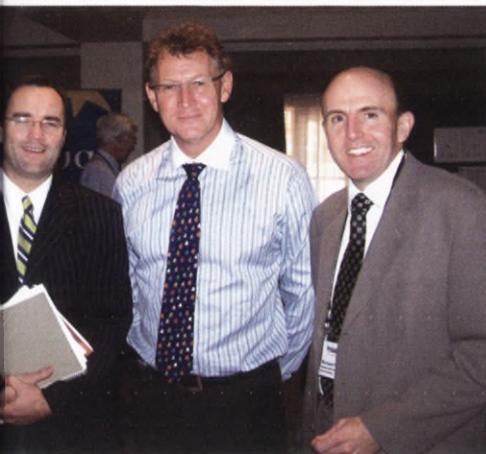


ACT BRANCH CONFERENCE

By Amy Burr



Past National Presidents of the Australian Lawyers Alliance (L to R): Simon Morrison (2006-2007), Rob Davis (2002-2003), and Richard Faulks (2005-2006)

John Little, Partner at Maliganis Edwards Johnson and David Segrott, Director of Australian Health and Safety Services

Andrew Freer, ACT Branch President, Australian Lawyers Alliance (R) with the Hon Justice Rodney Neville Madgwick, Federal Court of Australia

The weather was certainly bracing for the start of the third annual ACT branch conference, which was held on 22 June at the Hyatt Hotel in Canberra. Our branch president, Andrew Freer, opened the conference and he was followed by a welcome from our (now) former national president, Simon Morrison.

Barrister, David Hirsch, presented a very well-received paper on the topic of 'Loss of Chance' in personal injury claims. He was followed by local cardiovascular surgeon, Dr David Hardman, who raised some interesting issues about the difficulties of communication between doctors and lawyers.

After morning tea, Simon Morrison (partner, Shine Lawyers), Richard Faulks (partner, Stacks with Snedden Hall & Gallop) and David Segrott (director, Australian Health & Safety Services), each spoke on various aspects of workers' compensation issues and, in particular, the review of the ACT scheme which is presently underway. This was followed by a panel discussion, which also involved Richard Cumpston of Cumpston Sarjeant. All present would agree that this was a very valuable session in understanding what lies ahead for workers' compensation practitioners.

The Hyatt provided a nourishing buffet lunch, a break that gave delegates an opportunity to mingle and meet with our sponsors.

Our keynote address, presented by the Hon Justice Rodney Neville Madgwick of the Federal Court, covered a variety of

topics, including professional standards.

Some practical papers followed, including a review of limitation periods by Dr Steven Hausfeld (barrister, Blackburn Chambers), a review of the *Civil Law Wrongs Act* by Graeme Lunney (barrister, Blackburn Chambers), and a review of Comcare developments by Jim Constance (senior member, AAT).

In the final session following afternoon tea, '30 Significant Cases' were presented by Greg Stretton (barrister, Blackburn Chambers) and Andrew Muller (partner, Moray & Agnew). As always, this was a very informative part of the program.

Delegates were then in the mood to party, and Mark Blumer's surprise entertainment at the cocktail party did not disappoint: 'Ausom Powers', a time warp magician; a jazz trio from the School of Music; and Graham Robertson, who impersonated an injured worker and described his repeated, disastrous confrontations with a bucket of bricks.

Our fantastic major sponsors, Furzer Crestani Services and Perpetual, and our event partners, Impact Capital, ipac and LawMaster, made it all possible.

Thanks must also go to the entire ACT branch committee and the hard-working Alliance staff. ■

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