



## **Bar Association of Queensland Centenary Ball Saturday 7 June 2003, City Hall, Brisbane**

### **Toast to the Association**

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#### **Chief Justice Paul de Jersey AC**

While this is undoubtedly an occasion for hyperbole and unrestrained flattery, I need have no recourse to such devices: consistently with judicial method, all I will say is demonstrably susceptible of proof, and I speak with conviction!

The Bar Association of Queensland exemplifies the unswerving dedication of the independent Bar of this State to its essential role – joint guardian with the courts of the rule of law and, as part of that, bulwark between citizen and State, and between citizens of differential stations and capacities.

Though individual barristers epitomize uncompromising independence, the Association, through its collaborative and coordinating efforts, has come to signify, for many, the very great qualities of the independent Bar, those reasons which will ensure its longevity.

The resilience of the Association is patent, weathering, over its century of life to date, dramatic changes in the system of courts and professional regulation, and in legislation and the common law; and some occasional courageous spats with errant governments. The Association's achievements are legion.

So are the heroes it has spawned – both legion and legendary. One of those heroes has even given his name to a dinner: Crowley! The rigours of tending to



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intense advocates regularly drives another to the comfort of Guiseppe Verdi: Bruno! And there are many others, belying the complaint the Bar no longer produces, "characters".

Of course it is the benefits of collegiality which the Association so effectively fosters, thereby helping ensure not only the delivery of justice according to law, but the orderly delivery of that precious commodity.

May the Association, and the independent Bar which it represents, endure, as abiding important bastions of stability and continuity in this rapidly changing society!

Ladies and Gentlemen, please rise and join with me in honouring... "the Bar Association of Queensland"!