



ANNUAL LAW SYMPOSIUM

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Coolum
Conference dinner, Friday 5 March 2004

Toast by Chief Justice

Chief Justice Paul de Jersey AC

Mr President, Your Honours, ladies and gentlemen

We are honoured by the company this evening of Sir Anthony Mason (and Lady Mason), whose presence involves tribute to the profession of this State, as will the presence tomorrow of the nation's first law officer, the Honourable the Attorney-General. We are honoured also by the company of members of the Executive of LAWASIA, and our friends and colleagues from Fiji.

We are honoured ... I am honoured to rise for this brief moment to salute the profession. Anyone emerging from today's sessions couldn't help but be impressed by the vibrancy of the profession, even a rain-drenched profession. That vibrancy undoubtedly will serve the profession well as it moves through its current phase of what I will, non-euphemistically, term, progressive development. A rain-drenched day, but cosy here – and that is the way we discreet lawyers prefer our Friday nights: attending dry events! By the way, I do not wish to seem ungracious, but never before have I seen so many shirts which will be worn only once.

Kaye and I greatly appreciate the opportunity at the Annual Symposium to meet so many members of the profession, and as well, later in the year, at the North Queensland and Central Queensland Law Association conferences.

I congratulate Joan Bennett and her organizing committee on their inspired planning – and resilient, adaptable planning. And I commend you, ladies and gentlemen, for your enthusiastic participation, not only in the aspect of formal professional development, but also, and importantly, in the friendly collegial



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interaction which distinguishes these symposiums and, indeed, the Queensland profession. It is an immense pleasure to be with you!

Now we are all entitled to toast ourselves occasionally, provided we are not at the time alone, and a measure of self-congratulation is at this stage amply warranted.

Would you rise and join with me in drinking to the health of ... "the profession".