



Gold Coast District Law Association Inc
Friday, 26 March 2004, 12:30pm
Fellini Ristorante

Chief Justice Paul de Jersey AC

Mr President, Your Honours, ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to have been invited back: lunch is wonderful, the second time around...

In inviting me to speak, some weeks ago, Dermot tactfully reminded me that brevity is the soul of wit. I agree, and as Oliver Wendell Homes once observed, nothing conduces to brevity like a caving in of the knees. I shall be extra brief, but there are a few short things I must say.

It is unsurprising this vibrant centre boasts a vibrant profession – and I am reassured you have not been seduced by the sybaritic lifestyle! The Gold Coast profession is of substantial proportion: my 19 years on the Supreme Court bench have seen a fledgling and sometimes criticized Gold Coast profession increase to a respected complement of more than 18 barristers and 620 practising solicitors.

I congratulate the President and committee members of the Association. They are plainly succeeding in fostering the collegiality which is important to our work, and I also congratulate my judicial colleagues for displaying the judicial leadership which helps bind an effective profession.



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I hope you will shortly experience a visiting Supreme Court presence at Southport: I have asked the Listings Co-ordinator, Kate Bannerman, to assemble, as a first step, a list of criminal sentences and perhaps short trials connected with the Coast which can be dealt with here by a Judge in the near future: perhaps more symbolic at this stage than of great utility, but importantly symbolic, I suggest, in relation to the significance of the Gold Coast, and consistent with the view that where practicable, courts should go to the people rather than the other way around.

I should say also that I have been kept informed by the Chief Judge of the position in relation to the District Court, and I am pleased that an appropriate level of service is being assured.

Thank you again for your presence, and for your hospitality, and best wishes with your continuing practices. You have my full support.