

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Date: 12 November, 2004

MAGISTRATES COURT

IRWIN, Chief Magistrate
BRADSHAW, Magistrate
HENNESSY, Magistrate
SPRINGER, Magistrate

IN THE MATTER OF THE VALEDICTORY CEREMONY TO MARK THE
RETIREMENT OF MAGISTRATE THOMAS GEORGE BRADSHAW

and

IN THE MATTER OF A WELCOME TO MAGISTRATE BRONWYN
SPRINGER

ROCKHAMPTON

..DATE 02/11/2004

DAY 1

WARNING: The publication of information or details likely to lead to the identification of persons in some proceedings is a criminal offence. This is so particularly in relation to the identification of children who are involved in criminal proceedings or proceedings for their protection under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, and complainants in criminal sexual offences, but is not limited to those categories. You may wish to seek legal advice before giving others access to the details of any person named in these proceedings.

MR G C O'DRISCOLL on behalf of the Bar Association of
Queensland

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MR G FERGUSON, President of the Queensland Law Society

MR D HAMILTON of the Fitzroy Basin Elders

ASST COM GH STOLZ of Queensland Police Service

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IRWIN CM: Good morning and welcome to this valedictory
ceremony to mark the retirement of Magistrate Tom Bradshaw and
to celebrate his contribution as a Magistrate in Queensland
over the past 20 years, and his contribution to the
Magistrates Court Service for in excess of 40 years.

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This occasion also gives us the opportunity to welcome to our
Bench, Magistrate Bronwyn Springer, who was sworn in yesterday
and who will be sitting in Rockhampton for at least the next
five years.

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I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome the
family members of Tom and Bronwyn to Court today and to thank
Justice Dutney for making this courtroom available for us.
This is in keeping with the collegiate approach of his
Honour's colleagues, which has also recently been demonstrated
in Cairns and Townsville by making the Supreme Courts there
available for similar occasions.

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At the time that his Honour readily agreed to my request, the
purpose was simply for Tom's valedictory; now we have the good
fortune of being able to add a welcome to Bronwyn to the
reasons for holding this ceremony today.

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It is very pleasing to have with us the Honourable Alan Demack and his wife, formerly the Central Judge, and for whom we have to thank for this wonderful courtroom and his wonderful building that this ceremony is taking place in today.

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I also welcome Chief Judge Wolfe, who so readily accepted the invitation to be with us today, also his Honour Judge Britton. The Chief Justice sends his apologies. He very much wanted to be with us today but because of Court commitments in Brisbane he was unable to attend. Similarly, the Attorney General and the Director General of the Department of Justice send their apologies and, indeed, many people have sent their apologies, Tom and Bronwyn, too many to mention this morning.

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It is also pleasing to have with us today Mr Paul Hoolihan, who has worked in the Magistrates Court service and has known Tom in that capacity as well as in his capacity as a lawyer in Central Queensland. I also welcome Mr Gerard O'Driscoll, who is representing the Central Queensland Bar Association and the Queensland Bar Association today, Mr Glenn Ferguson from the Queensland Law Society, the President of the Queensland Law Society, also Mr Des Hamilton from the Fitzroy Basin Elders and I particularly wish to thank Mr Hamilton and the other elders for their contribution to the Court in Rockhampton and, in particular, to the Murri Court, and it is also pleasing to have sitting at the Bar table Assistant Commissioner Stolz. Thank you for joining us today.

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I also take the opportunity to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which this Court is built. I also welcome members of the legal profession. It is wonderful to see such a broad cross-section of the profession with us this morning; people who operate on both sides of the Bar table and I see that as a particular tribute to you, Tom, for the fair and balanced way in which you have always run your Court. Not only in Rockhampton but elsewhere. And, indeed, I welcome everybody who has taken the trouble to come here today to honour Magistrates Bradshaw and Springer. You are all our distinguished guests this morning.

Without taking anything away from Bronwyn, the attendance here this morning is a particular tribute to you, Tom. It is a remark of the regard in which you are held and your standing in the community. Yours was a journey which commenced like so many of our long-standing magistrates, as a clerk in the Magistrates Court at the age of 15. Again, like your colleagues, you have had many different postings throughout Queensland as you worked your way through the ranks to the position of clerk of the Court, being admitted as a solicitor in 1978, and then gaining experience as an Acting Magistrate in places like Dalby and Gympie before being appointed a Magistrate in 1984.

This was an appointment which was the first in line of distinguished judicial appointments from Taroom. You set the trend which was followed by Justice Shepherdson and Justice Jerrard, and my informant Justice Jerrard tells me that you

each have a common forebear on the Taroom Shire Council. So perhaps these are criteria we can look for in the future when we are seeking to appoint judicial officers.

Your first magisterial appointment was at Clermont and then you went to Cairns. You were a day late in Cairns because the roads were cut by February flood waters, but after those two postings, which were a little less than two years, you were able to settle down for a decade or more in Mackay, and it is pleasing and, again, a mark of the respect in which you are held that I can see amongst the people attending this morning, Mr Brian Harrison from the Mackay Bar and he's taken the trouble to travel here today for this valedictory. You transferred to Rockhampton in April 1998.

Now over the past two weeks, I have been travelling through Queensland as far north as Townsville and west to Emerald, Clermont and Charters Towers, and I mention that for this reason: that everywhere I go someone seems to know you. Everyone, from Court staff, legal practitioners to judicial officers, speak highly of you as a Magistrate and as a person. They are sorry to see you go but they are all looking forward to you attending all of their Christmas parties over the next few months.

The attitude that I have experienced as I have travelled around Queensland was eloquently expressed by the Central Judge at the conference at Yeppoon about a week ago, and I can't do any better than to adopt these words, particularly as

you weren't there to hear them on that occasion, Tom. His Honour said:

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"The most significant event in Rockhampton legal circles this year will be the retirement of Tom Bradshaw. Tom will be sorely missed. As a Magistrate, he is hard-working, fair and competent. I would feel well satisfied if the same could be said about me when I hang up the gavel. In addition, Tom has a wonderful rapport with ordinary people."

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And he related the comments of one of our fellow magistrates in Bundaberg, Mr Barrett, who said that whatever volume and type of work was asked of you you did it. Mr Barrett said:

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"If I asked him to go across the road and pull weeds out of the railway tracks Tom would've been down there doing it without ever asking why."

Justice Dutney said:

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"The general consensus of Rockhampton lawyers when I came here was that Alan Demack would be a hard act to follow. I think the same could fairly be said to Tom's replacement."

I'd also like to adopt the comments of Mr Gary Davey, the Assistant Director of Prosecutions with the Commonwealth DPP in Townsville. Mr Davey was unable to be here today but he expressly asked that not only do I apologise to you for his absence but that I relate these words:

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"Regrettably, I'm unable to attend your farewell. It is indeed fitting that a person with such long-standing connections with country Queensland should have the opportunity to be honoured here today. I myself first met you in Cairns when I was a Prosecutor in the state DPP and I was introduced to you by a mutual friend, Maureen Brosnan. I found you to be no nonsense straight talker, an extremely hard-worker and a person committed

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to your career. Later when I renewed my acquaintance with you as a Magistrate in Mackay, I found that you had retrained those qualities and had a commitment to justice.

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As a Prosecutor, it has always been a pleasure to appear before you; you have always been fair and reasonable and maintain control of your Court. You demonstrated to me on many occasions that you had the unique ability to be able to deal with people at their level. You demonstrated to me that you were a man of compassion and fairness and had an understanding of person's problems and weaknesses. Your decisions have been reasoned and you have displayed a good, sound understanding of what is often difficult Commonwealth law.

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Quite often I hear people in the media say that the courts are too far removed from everyday society; obviously, they do not know you. On behalf of the Townsville office of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, can I wish you and your family well in your retirement and I hope that our paths may cross in the future."

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Tom, I would also like to thank you for your work in Rockhampton as coordinating Magistrate and also as regional coordinating Magistrate for the Central Regions. In keeping with your work ethic you have undertaken extra time and effort which is involved in fulfilling those responsibilities. You have ensured that the region has run smoothly and you have lightened the workload of the Chief Magistrate.

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You have also given me the benefit of your advice and your experience and you have been of great assistance to me in the past 14 months that I have held this position.

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As just one example of your collegiate spirit is the fact that you gave me more notice than was required of your retirement, with a view to ensuring that there was no gap between your retirement and the appointment of a new Magistrate in

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Rockhampton, and this has come to pass with Bronwyn's
appointment.

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We are sad to see you go but we know that you would come to
this decision at what is the right time for you. You have
made your contribution and now it is time to allow Annette
Hennessy, as coordinator and regional coordinator, to continue
your work as part of the Court's evolution in Rockhampton with
Bronwyn. And it is also time for you to enjoy a long and
happy retirement. We know how important your family is to
you. Your retirement will allow you to spend more time with
Margaret and with your children, Jason, who I'm pleased to see
is able to be with us today, and Trish, and of course the
current apple of your eye, your new grandson, Isaac.

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In keeping with the spirit of today, I understand that you're
a keen punter. I have been told that when you were a clerk at
Taroom you invested your winnings in your future life in the
law by purchasing a hard cover copy of the Justices Acts of
Queensland. I understand that item is still in your
possession and I'm sure that it's been referred to many times
over the years.

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However, I won't ask you for a tip today unless you can
confirm that you have a more recent winner than one of 37
years ago.

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I'm also told that your sporting interests extend to being a
keen and successful participant in the courthouse football

tipping competition, and like me, you're always keen, I hasten to add, during adjournments, to rush from Court to find the latest cricket score. I'm sure your retirement will also give you plenty of opportunities to play golf with your son Jason and with others.

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And so the veteran stayer has passed the finishing post after a race well run. Well almost, because I understand that you'll be coming back in February when you've been able to fit a part-heard matter into your busy social schedule that seems to have developed since your retirement was announced.

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So Tom, thank you for your contribution throughout your time as a Magistrate and also as an officer of the Magistrates Court services to the people of Queensland. On behalf of the Queensland Magistracy, I wish you well in your retirement and I also wish you and your family the very best for your future together.

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Continuing on the sporting note, I turn to the triathlete who is lining up at the starting blocks beside me, on what I am certain will be the first leg of a long and distinguished judicial career.

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You bring to this Court, Bronwyn, a broad experience of both law and life. Over the 18 years since your admission as a barrister, you have appeared whilst in private practice in all levels of state and federal courts in Queensland. Your diverse experience has included as working as a solicitor and barrister in the Queensland public sector, at the CJC, which is where we first met.

You are also a deputy public interest monitor. You are an official visitor to a Queensland correctional centre. You have experience as a conciliator and mediator with the Anti-Discrimination Commission and as a Family Law conference chairperson. You also have experience in presiding in tribunals as a member of the Misconduct Tribunal, the Guardianship and Administration Tribunal and the Mental Health Review Tribunal. You are also a contributor to legal publications.

This career demonstrates an involvement in matters which are in the interest of the community and this is not limited to the law as you are a current member of the council of Life Line for Central Queensland. You have been a volunteer with Meals on Wheels and you have been newsletter editor for the Rocky Crocs Master Swimming Club.

You have also been a volunteer tutor in adult literacy. Your commitment to learning is such that you have undertaken a certificate in that field. You have also completed an arts degree and you have almost finished your Master of Laws.

I know from the time that we worked closely together at the Criminal Justice Commission that you are a person who enjoys a challenge. You are a person with great internal strength and a desire to tackle matters which take you outside your comfort zone. You are dedicated, you are diligent and you are forthright in expressing your opinions when that is required. You have all the skills and experience to be another excellent member of the Magistrates Court Bench. I know that you will arise to your new challenge and together, with Annette Hennessy, that you will continue the work of the Magistrates Court in Queensland and in particular here in Rockhampton.

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Therefore, on behalf of the Queensland Magistrates I have much pleasure in welcoming you as a member of our Court.

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I now like to invite Magistrate Annette Hennessy to say a few words.

MAGISTRATE HENNESSY: Well, I will be very brief which may seem unlike me to some of you, but I feel very fortunate to have commenced my career on the Magistrates Court Bench in Rockhampton and with such an experienced Magistrate as Tom Bradshaw to guide me.

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His constant drive for efficiency in the Courts has set the tone for the Rockhampton team and I am sure it will stand us in good stead for the future.

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I would like to wish Tom and Margaret and their family all the best in your retirement and many happy years with the grandchildren.

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I am also very pleased to welcome Bronwyn Springer to the Rocky team. I am very happy to be working with Bronwyn into the future. I am sure that we will probably both be here for at least most of that five years and Bronwyn will be a great asset to the Magistrates Court Bench.

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More importantly though, Central Queensland can rest assured of a continuing high standard of service from the Magistrates Court and its Magistrates in Rockhampton.

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CHIEF MAGISTRATE IRWIN: Thank you, Annette. I would now like to call on Mr O'Driscoll to speak on behalf of the Bar.

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MR O'DRISCOLL: Judge Irwin, Chief Magistrate, Magistrates Bradshaw, Hennessy, Springer, Justice Dutney, Judges Wolfe, Britton and Alan and Dorothy Demack, I thought I would start off firstly saying, Judge Irwin, that if you were looking for recent tips, probably Brian Harrison, who has made the trip down from Mackay, is the person to see and he can be contacted in the foyer at the end of the ceremony.

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It is a significant day in the legal profession in Central Queensland when we are able to witness the changing of the guard to farewell Magistrate Tom and to welcome Magistrate Bronwyn. And for this to happen in the same ceremony, as I

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understand, is unique to this particular area. Certainly in the 18 years that I have been practising in Rockhampton it has never happened.

The President of the Bar Association, Glenn Martin, has asked me to convey to you his best wishes, both on his own behalf and on behalf of all of the members of the association to you, Tom, on your farewell and to you, Bronwyn, on your appointment. Unfortunately Judge Irwin stole a lot of the material that both Glenn and I were going to use in relation to the history of both of you, so we will not repeat it. But suffice to say that we know Tom has had a lengthy and distinguished career in lots of different areas and in different capacities throughout the State.

Tom, my first experience with you was in 1980 when I was an associate to the late Judge Fred Maguire and we had the opportunity of a two week criminal circuit in Gympie and as I recollect it Tom was the then Clerk of the Court. It appears that Tom ran the Registry the same way that he runs a Court with ruthless efficiency.

I can remember that we were living it up and I had two weeks at the Fox Glen Motel on the princely associate's salary, as it was then. And Tom, in his kindness, at the end of the circuit invited us to go back to his residence on a Friday evening for a card night. In my naivety I went along and also there was two other participants, one Alan MacSporren who

appeared to be much better at cards than I was, and Jerome Dowling.

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I raised this to show the warmth and generosity not only just of Tom but of Mrs Bradshaw as well because she fed me a steady stream of toasted sandwiches throughout the night which was necessary the next morning because I had very little money left for breakfast.

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I have been lucky enough to have appeared in your Court, Tom, on many, many different occasions and in many different centres and everyone that appears in your Court, whether it be barrister or solicitor, knows that you have an appetite for hard work and I am simply reiterating what Judge Irwin has said.

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Everyone who appears before you as well will know that the best way in your Court and the quickest way to get between two points is by the direct route and if you do not proceed by the direct route you will be gently reminded by Magistrate Tom on the correct way to get there and how you should be doing it.

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I am sure Mrs Bradshaw is looking forward to you developing your new domestic responsibilities with the same vigour and aptitude.

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Tom, we wish you well. Enjoy your retirement, it is well deserved. However do not be a stranger. We know that you are continuing to reside in the Central Queensland area and you

have significant ties both with family in Rockhampton and the extended family still in Taroom. If you are ever in town ensure that you pop in for a cup of tea, either at Trustee Chambers or at Jardine Chambers, you are always welcome.

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Bronwyn, unfortunately I was reclining on the beach in Fiji when your appointment was announced and so I was not able to contact you personally and wish you well.

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Judge Irwin has gone through the lengthy process that you have undertaken to arrive at the point that you are today which includes, as I understand it, you started your career working at Feez Ruthling as a clerk. You completed your 11 and 12 years undertaking night school and then completed your degree at QUT.

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You then had a very successful career, both at the private bar and in the public sector, providing great assistance to the CJC in its development and participating in the variety of public interest groups that his Honour has indicated and which I won't repeat.

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Personally I wish you my congratulations. On behalf of the profession we wish you our congratulations collectively and we look forward to appearing before you. What has been said already is correct that Central Queensland is indeed privileged to have a person of your skill and experience to be appointed to the Bench. Everyone has said that there are big

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shoes to fill and I am sure that you are the person that is
able to fill them.

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You do not only bring to the position a wealth of legal
experience but you bring a wealth of life experiences as well,
which all sitting on the Bench know is an integral part in the
administration of justice on the Bench. Congratulations. We
wish you well.

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CHIEF MAGISTRATE IRWIN: Thank you, Mr O'Driscoll and
congratulations as well to you on recent happy events.

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MR O'DRISCOLL: Thank you.

CHIEF MAGISTRATE IRWIN: If I could now invite Mr Ferguson to
address the Court.

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MR FERGUSON: May it please the Court. It is always a
pleasure and honour to attend valedictory ceremonies
personally and on behalf of the Queensland Law Society. Today
I have two very pleasant tasks. To farewell a well respected
member of the Bench and welcome the State's newest Magistrate.

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His Honour, the Chief Magistrate, has reflected on Tom
Bradshaw's impressive and diverse career. Tom Bradshaw has
certainly seen his share of this great State during his
career. Not for the first time and I am sure not for the last
time.

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I reflect upon the very real dedication and commitment of Magistrates like Tom Bradshaw who did the long hard slog, who led an almost gypsy lifestyle moving from place to place to gain experience and promotion and who contributed so much to the administration of justice at, I am sure, considerable personal cost.

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When you spend, as Tom Bradshaw has done, well over 40 years in the service you would have an extraordinary collection of memories.

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We all share a responsibility to preserve the history of the legal profession from the Courts. Shortly the magnificent new Magistrates Court building in Brisbane will be opened and symbolically this marks the beginning of a new era.

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While we welcome the future and willingly embrace progress and change we have to be mindful of the past and respectful of our traditions and those, like Tom Bradshaw, who have given so much.

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Later today another piece of Australian history will be created in Melbourne and I wonder if it is appropriate to draw this parallel on a broadly liken the Queensland Magistracy to the race that stops the nation. Both have a fine history. Both have a great future and both have their stars. However, for the sake of justice we can be proud and grateful that the Queensland Magistracy provides a far better certainty of the right outcome than a horse race.

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We honour, thank and farewell one of the stalwarts of the Queensland Magistracy today and we do so knowing that his legacy and his contribution will be long remembered.

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It is my very great pleasure to wish you a long and happy retirement, Magistrate Bradshaw, and I hope you enjoy the well earned fruits of your long and exemplary career.

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Before I conclude could I welcome to the Magistracy its newest member, Bronwyn Springer. Bronwyn Springer is a local and has a considerable reputation as a lawyer. Her background is quite remarkably diverse, be it as a barrister in private practice, as an officer of the former Crime and Misconduct Commission, member of the Misconduct Tribunal, the Guardianship and Administration Tribunal, the Mental Health Review Tribunal to name just a few of your many achievements.

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On behalf of the Queensland Law Society I extend to you my very best wishes for a long and happy career at the Magistracy.

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May it please the Court.

CHIEF MAGISTRATE IRWIN: Thank you, Mr Ferguson. Your continued presence at ceremonial occasions such as this is always greatly appreciated.

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I call on Mr Hamilton. I believe you wish to speak on behalf
of Fitzroy Basin Elders, Mr Hamilton.

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MR HAMILTON: First of all, thanks very much for inviting us
all here today, the Fitzroy Basin Elders, the Justice panel.
And I haven't written anything down so I'm just going to come
off the head and I'd just like to thank the Darumbul people
for the land we own today and it's sort of a sad day for us to
see Tom go. And I'd just, you know, just like to welcome
everyone here from the DPP, the Judges, the Magistrates, and
the Justice system in Brisbane, and all people associated in
the justice system of Queensland.

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And I'd just say, like I said before, it's sad to see Tom go.
I think the new lady will do a good job. We all work together
here. We co-ordinate together. We think we're doing a
wonderful job in here now. We're all just coming together as
one people, and that's what I think we're all about. And a
system of putting Murri Court into action in Queensland is to
keep indigenous people from going to gaol, and that's what
we're about.

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We find a lot of our people are in domestic violence and
that's where we get criticised, our people, in domestic
violence, and that's why we're trying to keep them out of
gaol. And, like we say, the justice system in Brisbane goes
to a window of opportunity to take these, and we're very
thankful for that. And that's about all I got to say, I
suppose. I don't like too many words. But thanks for

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everything, Tom, from the Elders, Justice group, the whole lot of us. And thanks for the new lady coming in. Thank you.

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IRWIN CM: Thank you, Mr Hamilton. Thank you for speaking from the heart. I see Assistant Commissioner Stoltz at the Bar table. I'd invite you to address the Court. It's a great pleasure to see you here today.

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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER STOLTZ: Thanks very much, gentlemen, for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Queensland Police Service, and I'd like to acknowledge the presence of Magistrate Tom Bradshaw, and the other distinguished members of the judiciary here.

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On behalf of the Queensland Police Service I'd like to really thank Magistrate Tom Bradshaw for the contribution he's made to the judicial system in Rockhampton over a number of years. As you are aware the Queensland Police Service is an integral part of the criminal justice system and I know at times that we do present some challenges, however, they've always been met and we've always been able to move on and have a fair and balanced result produced.

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There was some remarks made about the experiences Mr Bradshaw had. It takes me back some 30 or 40 years to evidence I used to give to the Magistrates Court, Ingham, before a Magistrate, Mr Keith Buchan. And some of the rulings and decisions by Mr Buchan have stuck by me and remained by me for many, many years, and I'm sure Mr Bradshaw has had the same impression on

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a number of young police officers who have given evidence
before him. That sort of goes with you for your whole career.

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On behalf of the Queensland Police Service, Magistrate
Bradshaw, I would like to thank you for your contribution.
The central region has been a better place for your
contribution here and I know that you're looking forward to
your retirement.

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So, once again, on behalf of the service, thanks very much and
I take the opportunity to welcome our new Magistrate,
Magistrate Bronwyn Springer. We look forward to a good
working relationship with you, which we had with Magistrate
Bradshaw. We realise that the separation is there but there's
no reason why we can't have an excellent working relationship
and I acknowledge that. So, thanks again, and once again,
thanks very much for the opportunity to speak here today.

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IRWIN CM: Thank you, Assistant Commissioner. I've decided
that it's appropriate today that Magistrate Bradshaw has the
last word, so I first ask Bronwyn to respond.

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MAGISTRATE SPRINGER: Your Honour, Justice Demack, Mrs Demack,
Justice Dutney, Chief Judge Wolfe, Judge Britton, Judge Irwin,
Magistrate Hennessy, Magistrate Bradshaw, Mr Hoolihan, members
of the profession, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for your
attendance here today. Thank you, Judge Irwin, with
Magistrate Hennessy, Mr O'Driscoll, Mr Ferguson, Mr Hamilton,

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and Assistant Commissioner Stoltz, for your kind words of
welcome.

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I am very honoured by the confidence that the Attorney has
shown in me by his recommending my appointment to the Cabinet.
When I came to Rockhampton four years ago I certainly did not
expect to be in this position today. I bring to the position
a range of legal experience, inside and outside the mainstream
practice of the law. I am hopeful that that diversity of
experience will stand me in good stead for dealing with the
wide range of matters and people coming before this Court.

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I acknowledge, however, that my work in recent years has seen
me gaining decision-making experience in Tribunals that have
less formal procedures than those in the Courts, and I will
therefore have to re-familiarise myself with Court processes.
Whilst I am aware that I am on a steep learning curve, I am
hopeful that I will have the co-operation and patience of the
profession as I come to grips with my new role.

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Judge Wolfe, I will do my best to avoid the District Court
having to be troubled very often with appeals from my
decisions, but that hope, perhaps, should be more properly
directed to Judge Britton. However, it's perhaps inevitable
that an occasional appeal might be lodged. I'm looking
forward to working with my fellow Magistrate, Ms Hennessy, and
I'm grateful for the support she has given and promised.

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As we've heard, not only do we have the Melbourne Cup to divert our attention, but we also have the formal farewell of Tom Bradshaw. As we've heard about Mr Bradshaw's reputation for hard work, I hope to emulate him in that regard.

Judge Irwin, thank you for the confidence you've indicated you have in me. I shall certainly do all that I can to show that confidence has not been misplaced.

As I comply with my oath to do justice without bias, and fairly, it is my hope that those who come before me, in whatever capacity, leave the process with the feeling that they have been heard; have been dealt with competently, courteously, and fairly. Given the size of the legal profession in Rockhampton, I am sure that I will hear on the legal grapevine if that is not the perception people have of my performance.

Mr Hamilton, I too hope to continue the good work that's being done with your people and look forward to a productive working relationship. Assistant Commissioner Stoltz, similarly, I hope to maintain a good working relationship with the police service.

On a more personal level, as anyone who has relocated from one city to another will know, there is often a period of loneliness following such a move. I am grateful for those people who took me under their wing soon after my arrival in Rockhampton, particularly my friends in the Pearl Club.

Finally, to my family, my husband Peter, your Honour, and our sons, Paul and Sam, I'm sure they will continue to be a source of support and will provide an essential haven from the pressures associated with my being a Magistrate. Thank you, everyone, for your attendance here today.

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IRWIN CM: Thank you, Magistrate Springer. Before I call on Tom Bradshaw to respond, I should share with you that he has indicated to me, since I've been in Rockhampton, that I have achieved something, if I achieve nothing more in my time as Chief Magistrate. Something that no other Chief Magistrate has achieved. And that is, despite his reputation for ferocious hard work, to get him to Court on Melbourne Cup day. And so, Tom, it's now time for you to have the last word.

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MAGISTRATE BRADSHAW: Thank you, Chief Magistrate Irwin, for those kind words. I don't think that you've left too many things out. I feel as though I've been undressed here today in Court and there aren't many things which haven't been placed on the table.

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In the words of Ross Lo Monaco, "I won't keep you long." But I do acknowledge the presence of the various members of the judiciary, Justice Dutney, Chief Judge Wolfe, District Court Judge Britton, and my former colleague, Magistrate Hennessy, and, of course, my old friend, I always call him Judge and I think everyone calls him Judge Demack still, despite the fact that he doesn't like to retain that.

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I welcome, of course, our new addition to the Magistracy, Magistrate Springer. In over 40 years, I have found that there would be too many people for me to go around and thank everyone, and even to start to try to thank those who are here today would be immense, and would be impossible for me to simply thank all of those people who have added to my career.

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Before I leave the judiciary I am reminded that I have left Judge Britton with a fairly simple appeal up there for him to decide at some stage. I know it only involves the use of a fishing net but in my view it involves the law on "How do you change Aboriginal cultural law"? It was too tough for me but I'm sure that Judge Britton will handle that one day when he has a few minutes to spare.

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I think probably first and foremost what I should do is to thank the most important person, and that's my wife, Margaret. We've probably been together for, I don't know, probably 39 years, which is a significant part of the period that we've been talking about, and it probably has a lot to do with her that I have undertaken the various studies that I have had to do, and continued, and progressed through the Magistracy from a low division Clerk of the Court to the higher ranks of the Magistracy, and a lot of it would be because of her and the support that I've had.

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I'd also like to thank my children for their support, and in particular, my son Jason, who I'm very proud of. I know that

he had a tough beginning, travelling throughout the State,
attending various schools and so forth. I think at one stage
he went to about four different school in five years, or five
different schools in four years. I can't remember now. But
he still has done very well and those of you who know him will
recognise him as being the Deputy Chief Executive Officer for
the Livingstone Shire based at Yeppoon. I look forward to
many games of golf with him, down either at Yeppoon or Rydges,
from time-to-time. I know that Jason gets the same support
from his wife, Lisa, as I have had from my wife over these
many years.

I know that my daughter, Tricia, who's at Emerald, is very
disappointed that she's not here. She's telephoned me about
six times in the last two days to show that disappointment.
And, as the Judge has already indicated, we now have a new
grandson, Isaac. He's about 10 weeks old and we thought it
was simply too much to expect them to come in here today for
this event. But mind that, we're going out there next week so
that will sort that out in a hurry.

I have mentioned the fact that my wife, Margaret, has helped
me along the way with my career. I think probably one of the
first persons that started me off was Bob Bougoure, who some
of you will recognise as being a former Chief Magistrate, and
also an Industrial Commissioner.

Bob was a Clerk of the Court who helped me start off with
Clerk of the Court exams and Magistrates' exams, and so forth.

And, following that, when I went to Holland Park, I had three
clerks there, Tom Killeen, Phil Austin, and Peter Goodwin.
And they encouraged me to do the solicitors' board exam, and
that's something that I undertook, I think not so much to
progress within the Magistracy, but as a back-up as to if I
ever wanted to leave the Magistracy and to do something other
than being a Magistrate. And I thank those persons for their
encouragement. And those of you who know the Magistracy will
recognise that Tom Killeen and Phil Austin are both
Magistrates in Queensland, and I think Peter Goodwin is a
promising barrister in Brisbane.

There are too many Magistrates for me to thank that have
guided me along the way. Once you start naming people you
always worry that you're going to leave somebody out. I do
thank my old friend, Trevor Anders, for the assistance he's
given me; Magistrates like Marshall Davies, Peter Hardcastle,
Trevor Pollock, Trevor Black; and of course one of my closest
colleagues is Magistrate Morton, who's present at Gladstone
and he's not with us here today but I'm sure that he'd be with
us in his thoughts.

I thank Gerard O'Driscoll for his kind words on behalf of the
Bar Association and I think the other barristers that have
travelled from out of town and other solicitors that have
travelled to be here today. I thank Mr Ferguson for his
thoughts on behalf of the Queensland Law Society. I thank the
police prosecutors and I thank those kind words on behalf of
Assistant Commissioner Stolz.

I do thank the legal profession generally because not only have I sat regularly here in Rockhampton but also in Mackay and Bundaberg and I do thank those members of the profession for the assistance in those various centres. Once again, without wanting to forget anybody, but I know that there's a great deal of cooperation needed to run a Court system. I thank Prosecutor Brian Smith here at Rockhampton for his assistance. I thank other prosecutors that I've had working for me in places like Mackay. I think of Ray Loader at a particular time and Betty Laycock as a prosecutor, and those prosecutors have always worked generally with the profession and if you don't have this cooperation between the prosecution and the profession and the Magistracy, well it doesn't do too good for a Court system to operate.

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In here I know that I've had great assistance from Paul Wonnocott and David Mills as duty lawyers, Elias Jeha, Peter Sorensen and Doug Winning and their band of helpers, Mr Tull and Mr Bird who have helped them to run our system here in Rockhampton.

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I think I should like to thank John Aberdeen, Damien Dwyer, Grace Payne from Mackay. Of course Grace is in Brisbane. I note my old friend Bill Cooper is here. I don't know whether he bought is golf clubs down for a game today, Bill, but we'll try and fit that in.

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My best wishes go to the members of the Community Justice
Group and the Fitzroy Basin of Elders. I thank Carol Willy
for all the work that she's done and of course Magistrate
Hennessy in getting this group together. I thank Des Hamilton
for his words. Also Mr Waterton, Mr Black and the many ladies
of the Community Justice Group that have added to the success
of the Community Justice Group and the support from the
Elders.

I have had a great many number of e-mails from fellow
Magistrates, solicitors, barristers and once again there are
too many for me to go through and I thank them for their kind
wishes.

I thank the Registry and the Court staff, I particularly thank
Mark Morrow. Mark, of course, was a clerk when I was in
Cairns about 17 years ago, so I've known Mark for a long time
and I thank him for his support throughout that period and
throughout our latest six and a-half years that we've been
together here in Rockhampton.

I thank other members of the staff as in Aaron, Rick, Bill,
Neil, Charlotte, Donna, Rebecca, Melissa, Angela, Leanne and I
particularly thank those that have worked as depositions
clerks for me. I thank Jacqui Carter who was here when I
arrived and for her work and I can't forget my old depositions
clerk, Julie Lake at Mackay.

I offer my best wishes to Magistrate Springer. She will find it a little bit difficult. I think that perhaps it's probably going to take her anything up to 12 months to come to terms with being a Magistrate. After four years you'll then realise that you're comfortable with being a Magistrate. After 10 years you'll be saying, "Well I've been there, I've done, you can't teach me any more." And after 20 years you're starting to realise that you've forgotten more than you never knew. But I do wish you all the best in the future.

Last, but not least, I thank my colleague Magistrate Hennessy for all her help. I wish her all the best for the future. I'm sure that she will continue on. I'll just remind Mark if she wants to do any changes make sure, Mark, you ring me up before she starts to implement any changes in case they don't work.

We all know that Gordon Tallis, the old champion Broncos player has left and retired this year. I do hope that the year 2005 is not the year of comebacks. Now when I come back to finish this case in February I hope that young Gordon doesn't get the thoughts that it is the year of comebacks and makes a comeback so I was hoping the Attorney was going to be here to pass the messages on to Gordon to not make any comebacks if he sees me floating around the Courts here next year some time.

I do thank you for all your kind thoughts and I thank you for
all those wishes and I thank all of those here for their
presence today. Thank you.

IRWIN CM: Thank you, Tom, and I endorse Tom's comments and
thanking you all for attending to make today such a special
occasion. It's nice to look out amongst a sea of faces and to
recognise so many people. I hope that for those of you who
don't have to immediately rush off for work commitments or
Court commitments this morning that you will be able to join
us for refreshments in the jury assembly area on floor 2.

I direct that these proceedings be recorded and I adjourn the
Court.
