



LAUNCH OF OZCASE QUEENSLAND HISTORICAL LEGAL COLLECTION

WEDNESDAY, 25 JULY 2007

Brisbane Magistrates Court, Level 9 Conference Room

**Judge Marshall Irwin
Chief Magistrate**

It is a pleasure to be involved with Professor Lavarch, Ms Crawford, Ms Austen and the Crown Solicitor, Mr Lohe in this significant event for legal practitioners, the judiciary, researchers, academics, law libraries and importantly, the public.

I particularly appreciate the opportunity to be able to welcome you to the Brisbane Magistrates Court on this occasion.

There are number of features of OZCASE which resonate with the work of our Court.

First, there is the ideal of collaboration and team work which is central to this project. Just as it is important that our Courts operate in a collegiate manner, OZCASE involves the collaboration

of law libraries from universities, the government and law firms within south east Queensland.

The Law Libraries of QUT, the University of Queensland, Griffith University and Bond University, and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General are to be congratulated on this initiative. It is pleasing that Clayton Utz has recently joined the OZCASE Steering Committee.

The result will be more ready access to legal information resources to all who are interested. Importantly this will be provided in a cost effective manner – this is another issue at the heart of the operation of our Court.

Secondly, this project involves the use of innovative technology to achieve its aims. It is therefore appropriate that it be introduced in a Court which prides itself on innovation not only in the use of technology but in the area of therapeutic jurisprudence. The innovative use of technology is evident from the moment you enter this building by walking past the electronic notice boards and continues through the video conferencing technology used in our Court rooms, and increasingly to link our Courts with each other and with other facilities throughout Queensland.

OZCASE will enhance the on-line research capacity of our Court as it operates in over 100 centres throughout this geographically vast and decentralised state.

Further as our Court embarks on the development of a history of the Magistracy and a complimentary public display within this building, it is appropriate that today we can also celebrate the completion of the digitisation of the Sir Samuel Griffith Criminal Code and the explanatory and extrinsic materials that relate to it. We also look forward to the Crown Law sponsored project to digitise other historical legislative material.

As Ms Crawford has said, the sharing of this information about the collections of the participating libraries will place anyone wanting access to it in a better position to do so.

I therefore have much pleasure in launching the OZCASE Queensland Historical Legal Collection by cutting the virtual ribbon and inviting you to view the homepage which will now be activated.