

President's message



As we enter another year, and perhaps a new century, there remain great challenges and opportunities in the arbitration and alternative dispute resolution field. By the time you read this the Institute's new Centre in Sydney will be in operation, providing hearing rooms and other facilities for arbitrations, references out of Court, mediation and conferencing. The Sydney Centre is a first-class world-standard facility which will be invaluable in the further development of arbitration and alternative dispute resolution processes in Australia and internationally.

Additionally, negotiations are well advanced to relocate the Melbourne Centre to a 'street front' location within the 'legal precinct'. This will be an important development for international and domestic commercial arbitration, Court special references and mediation and conciliation. This Centre is a joint project with Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration, which also provides a local agency for the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

This year, as last year, again sees further development and interest in the arbitration courses which are again being provided nationally in conjunction with the University of Adelaide. The responses from the 1999 participants were extremely positive. The experience and feedback from last year has assisted with the further development of the year 2000 courses. A significant and very helpful development has been the writing and editing of an arbitration text which will be published shortly. The book has been written to assist both students and arbitration practitioners and will fill a very real need in this respect.

Late February saw a very successful and pleasant conference held in Auckland, jointly with the Arbitrators and Mediators Institute of New Zealand. *Winds of Change – Dispute Resolution Strategies for the 21st Century* proved a very apt theme. We thank the New Zealand Institute most warmly for their hospitality, organisation and input into proceedings. I hope that there are many more joint conferences and other projects with the New Zealand Institute. We have a great deal in common and to contribute and it is in the interests of both that the links grow closer.

Finally, as this is my last message as President I take the opportunity to thank you for your support and to wish the Institute well in an exciting future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Clyde Croft". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Clyde Croft, President