

personal injury law backgrounds elected to our State Committee. With a new Committee structure and division of responsibility within it for various portfolios, I hope that we can achieve great things in 1997. The NSW Committee comprises:

**President:**

Catherine Henry, MacMahon Drake Balding

**Secretary:**

Helen Tsirikas, Kaplin Reeves Tsirikas

**Treasurer:**

Jay Anderson, Garfield Barwick Chambers

**Newsletter Editor/Communications:**

Bill Madden, Blessington Judd

**Seminar Coordinator/National Conf Rep:**

Diana Farah, Carroll & O'Dea

**Policy Officer:** Terry Stern, Stern & Tanner

**Funding & Sponsorship:**

Tom Goudkamp, Stacks

**Public Relations & Liaison Officer:**

Vera Culkoff, Cashman & Partners

**Committee:**

Martin Bell, Martin Bell & Co

Thady Blundell, Turner Freeman

Brian Donovan QC, Frederick Jordan Chambers

Andrew Fegent, Andrew Fegent & Co

Elizabeth Wood, R L Whyburn & Associates

Seminar-wise, we kicked off the year in NSW with a specialised topic in the area of motor accidents claims. Dr Andrew Morrison SC, one of the authors of the Law Book Company *Personal Injury Law Manual* gave a thorough account of the current position regarding structured settlements which is particularly timely given that this is a subject being given close attention currently in the context of the Medical Liability Review. David Hooke, a Sydney common law barrister, gave an update on damages. Diana Farah's piece elsewhere in this Update outlines the Seminars which are planned for the rest of the year. Members are reminded that papers are available by ringing the APLA office in Sydney.

*Catherine Henry is the NSW President of APLA.*

## NSW Litigation at Sunrise Seminars 1997

**Diana Farah, Carroll & O'Dea, Sydney**

The following program of events has been compiled for APLA members in NSW:

Thursday 13 February: Motor Accident Claims

Thursday 13 March: Workers Compensation

Thursday 10 April: Fiona Tito

Thursday 12 June: Road Design & Crashworthiness

Thursday 7 August: Medical Negligence

Thursday 4 September: Computer Resources

Thursday 2 October: Environmental Health

Wednesday 3 December: AGM and Drinks

Every effort will be made to keep to these dates and topics but some changes may occur. All seminars will be held at the Dining Room of the Law Society in Phillip Street. NSW members will receive flyers before each event. The breakfast functions start with breakfast at 7.15am and conclude at 8.45am. The AGM will be in the evening of 3 December.

I would be interested to receive any suggestions of speakers or topics. Please fax your suggestions to me on (02) 9221 1117.

## APLA Victoria Report

**Angela Sdrinis, Ryan Carlisle Thomas, Melbourne**

The New Year has started with the Victorian branch in fighting mood. As our interstate colleagues probably know the Victorian government has been consistently downgrading plaintiff's rights and attacking not only common law rights but no fault compensation schemes including crimes' compensation, WorkCover and our transport accident scheme.

APLA published a detailed newsletter on the amending Act and held a forum which was very well attended by APLA members. Following that forum a committee was established and it was decided a fighting fund would be set up to launch a campaign to put pressure on the Government to protect victim's rights.

We are also having a membership drive amongst our barristers. Eminent QC, Mr Jack Rush, who is a vocal supporter of APLA, will be writing to every barrister who has a predominantly plaintiff's practice urging them to join up.

A programme of seminars for the year is also well under way. Details will be published in the next Update. We will also be holding our AGM in late March and all APLA members are urged to come and indeed join one of our many committees.

*Angela Sdrinis is partner at Ryan Carlisle Thomas, Melbourne and National Councillor and Victorian President of APLA.*