

**F**or many years now *Bar News* has been under the most capable editorship of R S McColl S.C. With McColl now President of the Association, the new editor is Justin Gleeson with close assistance from Andrew Bell and Chris Winslow. Any barristers wishing to join the Editorial Committee are invited to write to the editor indicating the areas in which they are interested in assisting.

This issue commences with the President's Message; followed by a note on the recent House of Lords decision on advocates' immunity. **Walker S.C.** and **Andrew Bell** analyse a recent Act of the New South Wales Parliament, which will permit the Supreme Court to refer proceedings for mediation contrary to the wishes of the parties. The Bill was opposed by the Bar Association for reasons which emerge from the note.

The Recent Developments section of this issue contains case notes on a number of recent High Court decisions across various areas of the law: **Alistair Abadee** writes on legal professional privilege, **Christopher O'Donnell** on the comment which may be made on the silent accused and Andrew Bell on choice of law for Australian torts.

Recognition is then given to the four eminent members of the Association honoured in the Queen's Birthday Honours (**Chief Justice Spigelman**, **Justices Gyles** and **Wood** and **Commonwealth Solicitor General, Bennett QC**). This is followed by a short note on **Justice Glynn** of the Industrial Commission who is the longest serving female Superior Court judge in New South Wales.

The Bench and Bar Dinner is featured by a number of photographs and by the full extract of the stimulating speech given by **Justice Keith Mason**, President of the NSW Court of Appeal. For those who missed the disarming speech given by **Rena Sofroniou** as Miss Junior, the written word cannot capture the occasion and members are invited to view the videotape in the library.

The swearings in of **Justices Heydon** and **Whealy** are featured. One of the great barristers and judges of the last several decades is **John Lockhart QC AO**. He is the subject of three articles in this issue: one by **Justice Beaumont** concerning Lockhart's career at the Bar; the second dealing with his career on the Bench; and finally a note from Lockhart on his activities since leaving the Bench, including with the Asian Development Bank.

**Malcolm Holmes QC** tells us the fascinating story of **Michael Osmond Tubbs**, which should be read in full. There are the usual favourites such as the cricket match and **Coombs QC** with Circuit Food. A number of book reviews are included. Any barristers wishing to review books for later editions should contact the editor.

**Lee Aitken** also brings us another example of his incisive analysis of this noble profession. His subject is, nominally, the junior Bar. Any resemblances to any living barristers are, of course, purely accidental.

Readers are urged to respond to the editor with any comments on this issue and with any offerings for future issues. It is hoped that the focus of *Bar News* can extend to the activities of the Bar outside the centre of Sydney, and indeed outside the mainstream areas of practice. Contributions are warmly welcomed.

*Justin Gleeson*