



This is my last 'Coombs on Cuisine'. Your editor has encouraged me to self-indulge in some reminiscing and a few thanks.

The first column appeared in Autumn 1989 and was called 'Circuit Food', a name it kept until Andrew Bell SC renamed it and graced it with a Poulos sketch of yours truly.

My thanks must go to Ruth McColl (as she then was, now McColl JA) then secretary to Bar Council and editor of *Bar News*, for her early support as well as to Bell SC for his.

My thanks also to the parties of the various parts. In truth there have only ever been two parties of the second part; my ex, Jan (nee Ashburner), and my lovely Annette. There have been a number of the third part

and even the odd party of the fourth part, which proves what we all know; that food column writers are all greedy.

To all parties of all parts (excepting the first) my thanks for enhancing not only meals written about, but many others.

To business. The brightest new spot is Fix St James. The gimmick which I love is that all courses come in three sizes – piccolo; medio and grande – which permits (a) light lunches and (b) sampling.

The food is superb. I particularly liked the whitebait fritter, larger than usual, very crisp and brown (piccolo); the tartare beef, moist and tangy with Tabasco, finely chopped shallots and a raw quail egg for garnish (piccolo); the black mussels in a tomato garlic and white wine sauce with a sting of chilli (delicious) (medio) and the figs in prosciutto (piccolo). Others loved and I tasted calamari with tomato, chilli, garlic and prosciutto, nice and crisp. The pork belly and the rabbit and porcini risotto were rated highly by those who had them, as were the seared scallops. A good range of wines by the glass complemented everything. It is not cheap but perfectly positioned for the Bar.

Out of town I really enjoyed Bella Largo at Narrabeen. Lyn, my secretary of 14 years, came down from her retirement in Buderim to help out with some paper work. On my daughter's recommendation we lunched there. Lyn had fish and chips (fat finger sized) crisp and crunchy and was very happy. I had crab ravioli, just two big ones in a lobster bisque with bok choy and finely chopped tomato, onion and fresh caper dressing. A light but lovely meal diminished by poor service at lunch time. Good value though, with all main courses \$20, except for the seafood platter at \$24.90.

My last thanks go to my readers who have kept my pen moving by the warmth of their response.

John Coombs QC

Fix St James
111 Elizabeth Street, Sydney
Ph: (02) 92322767
All major cards accepted

Bella Largo
Beach Road, Narrabeen
Ph: (02) 99705599
All major cards accepted

Verbatim

In the course of an appeal concerning questions of foreseeability, the following exchange occurred:

Ipp JA: Mr Taylor, that's pure *Shirt*.

Taylor SC: It's got an 'r' in it your Honour.

Ipp JA: It must be my accent.

Gleeson CJ's opening remark in an address to the Australasian College of Surgeons

When judges and surgeons meet for professional purposes, the outcome is likely to be painful for one side or the other.

Betfair Pty Limited & Anor v State of Western Australia [2007] HCATrans 165 (26 April 2007)

Gummow J: I will not make any formal order as to listing or duration of the appeal, but I have given those informal indications. Is there anything else, gentlemen? Yes, 11 June which appears in proposed order 3 should become the 12th. The 11th is the Queen's Birthday Holiday.

Mr Meadows: Not in Western Australia, your Honour.

Gummow J: It is at headquarters

Libke v The Queen [2007] HCATrans 84

Mr Devereaux: ... If I may move straight to the cross-examination ground. The appellant, Mr Libke, was giving evidence in his defence at his trial in the District Court in Brisbane on some serious charges of sexual offences. He was subjected, in our submission, to questions that were likely to be confusing, that contained statements against him, that he was not given a proper opportunity to answer and that pitted the prosecutor against him in a personal way. He was interrupted when answering and his answers were criticised. Some questions contained statements that were...

Gleeson CJ: It sounds like an argument in this court.

Mr Devereaux: Yes, except I am expected to be able to deal with that.

Kirby J: Good answer.

Mr Devereaux: We will see how that goes.

Gleeson CJ: We will reserve our expectation.

