

Editor's note



The feature story in this issue is Ingmar Taylor SC's piece on working flexible hours.

The issue is simple: how can barristers balance the demands of practice with managing the rest of their lives - most particularly, of course, with looking after young children.

Taylor SC first contributed a piece to *Bar News* on this topic in 2002. Much has changed since then. One of the

most significant such changes is the way technology now makes it easier to work away from chambers.

The piece includes a number of individual case studies: each study consists of a practising barrister describing his or her method for carrying on a practice while working flexible hours. Each is different. Each has been worked out to suit the needs of the individuals involved. Each is illuminative.

Elsewhere this issue contains the usual mix of bar history, features, opinion and recent developments.

Malcolm Oakes SC has written an account of William Lee, whose long and distinguished career at the NSW bar commenced on 27 May 1938; the *Sydney Morning Herald* of the day regarded the occasion of his admission as sufficiently noteworthy to publish a report of what it described as 'the first Chinese to become a barrister in New South Wales'.

It was a different world. Oakes SC describes the young Lee being taken for a visit to his father's village in China:

He was carried in by palanquin with two bearers and escorted by a security guard of four armed with long-barrelled revolvers to protect against the risk of kidnapping.

This issue also includes pieces by Ian Davidson SC on whether a barrister's work extends, or should extend, to conducting a mediation or arbitration; by Caroline Dobraszcyk on the death penalty, including an interview with Tony McMahon, the Australian barrister who represented the two Australians recently executed in Indonesia; and by Tony Cunneen, who has continued his important series on the contribution of NSW lawyers to the war effort, with a piece on the Red Cross Missing and Wounded Enquiries Bureau.

Jeremy Stoljar SC

Editor