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HE FOURTH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE was for the first time held outside Queensland and in a capital city. The venue at the Sydney Conference Centre was outstanding with up to date facilities and glorious views over Darling Harbour.

The quality of the papers was very high. Locating the conference in a capital city certainly allows easier access to potential speakers of quality. The facilities of the conference centre lent themselves to audio visual displays using power point and video presentations.

Another great advantage of the Sydney location was easier access to the sponsors and better facilities for the sponsors to display their wares.

Lunch, morning and afternoon teas were held in the display area giving attendees a good access to the range of products offered by the exhibitors.

The key note address was delivered by Chief Justice Jim Spigelman on international and human rights law.

The social program was also great this year with Maurice Blackburn Cashman hosting a young lawyers evening on Friday at Moreton's on Sussex with a deejay pumping out dance tracks until well after midnight.



APLA National President,
Dr Peter Cashman.

APLA National Conference 1999

At the conference dinner on Saturday night held at the old General Post Office in Martin Place, civil justice awards were given to three Plaintiffs, Mrs. Hart (of *Chappel v Hart*), Mrs. Whittaker (of *Rogers v Whittaker*) and Judy Stephens, a campaigner for structured settlements on behalf of her grandson who was severely injured in a motor vehicle accident.

APLA National President, Dr. Peter Cashman, delivered an emotional recounting of the ordeals that each of these three women have been through and the persistence they have shown in pursuing rights and entitlements, which have resulted in changes to the law that are favourable to all Plaintiffs.

The National Conference dinner closed with a rock band belting out some dance classics including "You can leave your hat on", which managed to lure four Plaintiff Lawyers up onto the stage to do a nearly full monty.

While the Sydney conference provided some undoubted advantages it did lose some of the communal feel generated by the previous conferences at the Queensland Resorts.

Sydney based practitioners understandably left from time to time to go back to their offices and homes, the hotel accommodation was distant from the conference venue, and the conference delegates who brought their families for a holiday were less in number than previously.

There were plusses and minuses therefore in going to Sydney but overwhelmingly it was once more a great success.



One of the Civil Justice Award winners,
Ms Maree Whittaker.

“The fourth annual national conference was... outstanding with up-to-date facilities and glorious views over Darling Harbour.”

Sydney

APLA National Conference

1999

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Principal Conference Sponsor, Diskcovery, demonstrate the Lantern™ product to APLA delegate, Damian Scattini.



Robyn Williams leads the Hypothetical Panel discussing the more humorous possibilities of Y2K.



Dancing and dining closed the conference with style at the Conference Dinner.