

The 2000 APLA National Conference

Touted as 'the best ever', APLA's 5th National Conference was held in Surfers Paradise from October 26–28. Well attended by 334 delegates, the Conference was a great success by all accounts. The Conference was opened by the National President, Peter Cashman and Queensland Attorney-General, the Hon. Matt Foley, gave the keynote address. Other honoured guests included Justice Higgins from the ACT Supreme Court, New Zealand

District Court Judge, Dr John Cadenhead and South Australian No Pokies Campaign MLC, Nick Xenophon.

The level of presentations was excellent, with APIL National President Frances McCarthy's session on reforms in the UK and Cam Schroder's on running mini minor cases being informally voted the most entertaining. We were also fortunate to hear from Dr Richard Tjiong from United Medical Protection, NSW, who advocated a closer relationship

between the two organisations in the future. The launch of APLA's national school bus safety campaign was another Conference highlight and generated significant interest from the media.

Welcome cocktails sponsored by IPAC kicked off Conference social activities, which also included the Young Lawyers party at Billy's Beach House, a wine tasting afternoon, 9 hole and 18 hole golf tournaments and the Conference dinner. APLA's annual Civil Justice Award was presented at the Conference dinner to Michael Schaefer,

The IPAC golf challenge proved popular with delegates.



The Uniquest exhibit.





APLA Civil Justice Award winner Michael Schaefer.



Katherine Beavis accepts the posthumous award on her father Ted Beavis' behalf.



John Wakim from IPAC with APLA National Vice-President Rob Davis.

who led the legal team in the case of *Cubillo and Gunner v The Commonwealth* - the test case for litigation involving the Stolen Generation. The second Civil Justice Award presented recognised the lifelong commitment of Victorian obstetrician and gynaecologist, Ted Beavis, who died earlier this year.

At the dinner, delegates bid in an auction for the APLA school bus safety campaign badge- 'Lawyers for the Kids'. The badge went to Karen Cato for \$400. The fundraising for APLA's campaign

did not finish there, with Dylan McKimmie offering to pay \$1000 if our National President would model his Speedos for the guests, and our National President offering \$1000 more for the task to be transferred to Peter Semmler QC (the photos tell the rest of the story).

For those of you who didn't make it this year, the 2001 Conference will be held in October next year in Cooloom. We look forward to it already... ☑



The Hon. Matt Foley, Attorney-General of Queensland.



Delegates enjoying a drink at the cocktail party.



National President Peter Cashman and APIL President Frances McCarthy.

Managing Editor Geoff Coates gets the dance floor going.