

# 2003 APLA NATIONAL CO Back to Coolum

Top L-R:  
John Gordon and  
Civil Justice Award winner  
Andrew Wilkie; Royce Harris,  
Darryl Hughes and Tim James;  
Richard Faulks, John Purnell SC  
and John Little;  
Ian Brown and Rob Davis.

Bottom L-R:  
Lyndal Hayward, Kassie James and  
Lauren O'Donnell; morning tea in  
the exhibition pavilion; hitting the  
dance floor; APLA directors on the  
stage at the AGM.



**A**h! Coolum. There was a real sense of familiarity and relaxation creeping over me as I came up the long, winding, tree-lined entry to the Hyatt, past the lakes and golf course. In many ways the resort is the ideal place for an APLA conference. Its confined area, with a village atmosphere, encourages chance meetings and friendly interaction, the hallmarks of a good APLA conference.

The conference kicked off with APLA President, John Gordon, introducing Immediate Past-President, Rob Davis, so he could introduce John. Hmm. John highlighted the troubled

nature of the year for our members and urged us to stay strong and united.

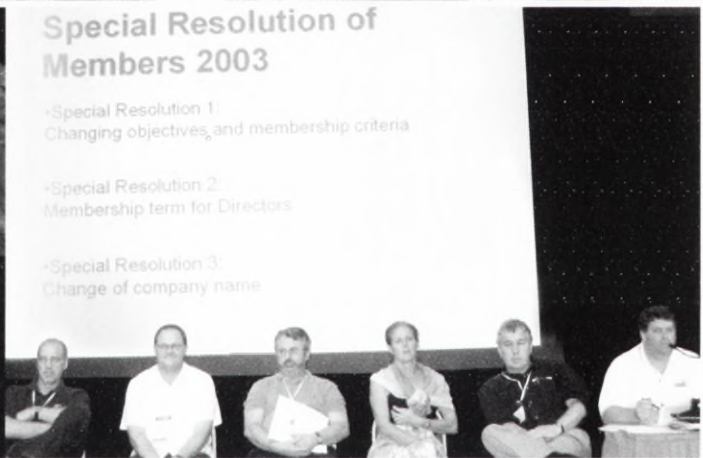
There were again many fine papers and bad jokes. We had speakers with music playing behind them, we had singing speakers, we had speakers threatening to sing, and we had a DJ. There was quite a musical theme going.

I must mention Maureen Molloy's paper on neuropsychology. She illustrated her talk by offering the audience an opportunity to participate in some of the standard tests for short-term memory loss following head injury. Many participants left the session feeling particularly uneasy.

Dr Gary Larder's talk, 'What Makes

a Healthy Lawyer', was also a highlight. To a backdrop of constantly changing and intriguing images, Dr Larder talked about the life changes we all go through. He walked away from the podium to a swelling musical accompaniment, picking up a hand-held mike as he went. The person sitting next to me said, 'Oh my God, he's not going to sing is he?' And he did, launching into a beautifully sung 'Wee Small Hours'. He certainly created some discussion – mostly about whether he was mad. But maybe he was asking us to question why we do what we do, to every now and then lift your head up and look around and see where you are. Loved it.





The formal part of the program was, as usual, accompanied by a wonderful array of social events. As one of the conference convenors, I felt it my duty to participate in as many as possible.

Because of Eva Scheerlinck's pessimism about the weather, the Dolman Bateman cocktails were held indoors in an atmosphere reminiscent of a Friday night at the pub (and none the worse for it).

On Saturday, I played in the National Australia Trustees golf competition, to no discernible outcome. I then wandered along to the venue for the large screen rugby broadcast, put on for us by ipac securities. I know nothing about rugby, but there was a good vibe

happening and the pies were hot and the beer was cold.

At the dinner we were entertained by DJ Jake Kilby and the APLA dancers. It was a fantastic evening with smiling faces everywhere.

The conference also featured workshops in media skills as well as advocacy. Those who participated walked away with new tricks. It certainly added another dimension to a very full conference experience.

Thanks go to all our sponsors – ipac securities, Evidex, National Australia Trustees, CCH Australia, Trust, Dolman Bateman, LawMaster, Benchmark, Intersafe and Susan Wellings &

Associates – to the conference committee and to the APLA staff – Eva Scheerlinck, Caroline Venn, Lyndal Hayward, Anna Munro, Thea Bray, Caroline Henning, Lauren O'Donnell, Jake Kilby and Felisimina Jom.

Next year it's off to the races. Melbourne Spring Racing Carnival. Be there! **PL**

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\* APLA would like to thank conference convenors, Geoff Coates and Darren Moore, and the rest of the conference committee, Kassie James, Pat Worthy and Ben Zipser, for all their efforts to help make a superb 2003 National Conference.