



By Kassie James

A bend in the road is not the end of the road ... unless you fail to make the turn.

I was on the (then) APLA Council when the decision was made to broaden our objectives and membership base.

At the time I believed that these changes were in the best interests of the association ... although I confess that my resolve wavered somewhat in the course of the 2003 AGM when confronted by some strongly expressed opposition to the changes. Thankfully a few scotches (sadly, not provided during the AGM) went a long way to restoring said resolve.

A major concern of members (myself included) was that the broadening of the objectives and membership base would destroy or dilute our essential 'APLA-ness' – this is not a term that language does justice – but we know what it is – the energy that comes from being with like-minded people who are committed to what they do and for whom they do it.

This year I have attended the Queensland and New South Wales

conferences and can say without doubt that we still have our APLA-ness ... in fact it seemed to me to be more palpable – strengthened by adversity, perhaps, but I think it is more than that.

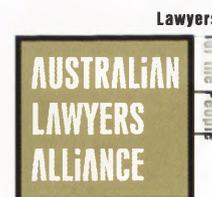
The broadening of our objectives to include the promotion and protection of human rights and human dignity, such as the rights of refugees and detainees, has given the organisation new energy and purpose.

We will always remain committed to the rights of the injured, but injury can take many forms and there are many who would forego the right to compensation in a heartbeat for the right to freedom, safety, justice and due process.

The broadening of our objectives and membership base has made us a stronger and more invigorated organisation.

It appears we have negotiated the bend in the road ... which is just as well given the parlous state of the motor vehicle compensation system (sorry, had to be said). ■

NATIONAL COUNCIL **National President** Tom Goudkamp **President Elect** Richard Faulks
ACT John Little **NSW** Robert Whyburn **NT** Merridy Gordon **QLD** Gerard Mullins **SA** Brendan Connell
TAS Brian Hilliard **VIC** Simon Garnett **WA** Janet Van der Kolk
BRANCH PRESIDENTS **ACT** Mark Blumer **NSW** Robert Whyburn **NT** Merridy Gordon
QLD Gerard Mullins **SA** Anthony Kerin **TAS** Sandra Taglieri **VIC** Simon Garnett **WA** Greg Burgess
STAFF **Chief Executive Officer** Eva Scheerlinck eva@lawyersalliance.com.au
Business Development Manager Jake Kilby jake@lawyersalliance.com.au
Finance Manager Maggie Galley maggie@lawyersalliance.com.au
Conference Manager Kim Alderson kim@lawyersalliance.com.au
Communications Manager Kyrn Stevens kyrn@lawyersalliance.com.au
Member Services Officer Gerry Ferretter gerry@lawyersalliance.com.au
Legal & Policy Officer Ben Cochrane ben@lawyersalliance.com.au
Publications Officer Renée Harris renee@lawyersalliance.com.au
Administration Assistant Jade McKendry jade@lawyersalliance.com.au
Personal Assistant to the CEO Jo-Anne Barnes joanne@lawyersalliance.com.au
PRECEDENT Managing Editor Kassie James k_james@ozemail.com.au Phone: 0400 989 488
Editor Renée Harris renee@lawyersalliance.com.au Phone: (02) 9258 7721
Design Tianli Zu tian@artstudiozz.com.au **Front cover and feature photos** Bill Madden bill@hoodmadden.com



This issue of Precedent is cited as (2005) 67 PRECEDENT. ISSN 1449-7719 © 2005 APLA Ltd, ABN 96 086 880 499
 Trading as the Australian Lawyers Alliance, GPO Box 7052, Sydney 2001, DX 10126, Sydney Stock Exchange Phone: (02) 9258 7700 Fax: (02) 9258 7777
 Email: enquiries@lawyersalliance.com.au Website: <http://www.lawyersalliance.com.au>

PRECEDENT is published bi-monthly by APLA Ltd. Contributors and advertisers should submit their copy and/or artwork in electronic form by the agreed deadline.
Disclaimer: Views expressed by the contributors are not necessarily endorsed by APLA Ltd. No responsibility is accepted by APLA Ltd, the editor or the contributors for the accuracy of the information contained in the text and advertisements. APLA Ltd does not necessarily endorse any of the products or services advertised.
 © Copyright in this material is retained by the publisher, APLA Ltd. No part of this material may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without permission in writing from the publisher, APLA Ltd. Enquiries should be directed to enquiries@lawyersalliance.com.au.