

# QUEENSLAND STATE CONFERENCE 2005

By Darren Moore

The Australian Lawyers' Alliance Queensland State Conference was held at the Marriott Resort, Surfers Paradise, on 4 and 5 February 2005.

The weather on the Gold Coast lived up to its reputation, being fine and warm with beautiful blue skies, allowing delegates to enjoy time away from the conference by the pool, on the golf course or at the beach.

The conference was opened by Australian Lawyers Alliance Queensland President, Gerry Mullins, and highlights of the Friday morning program included papers by Simon Morrison, Peter Koutsoukis and Elizabeth Woods on WorkCover matters, a paper on limitation issues by John Lee, and a very informative and up-to-date presentation by Travis Schultz on public liability cases and the attitude of the courts throughout Australia.

The delegates enjoyed free time on the Friday afternoon and the annual golf tournament proceeded at Emerald Lakes. The team lead by Julian McNamara, including Peter Cooper, Bruce Dalton and John Grose, won the tournament (again). Rumours of a Royal Commission into the result appear to be unfounded.

Friday night saw all of the delegates swing into action at the conference dinner, followed by journeys to the lobby bar or, for the more adventurous, into the night clubs of Surfers Paradise and the Casino.

This year's  
Queensland Civil  
Justice Award  
went to the  
'Dalby Four'.



The 'Dalby Four': Adair Donaldson, Samantha Donaldson, Amanda Dear and Peter Shannon.

A late Friday night didn't hinder a full house attending the Saturday presentations, which was opened by Counsel's Corner, a lively discussion about recent court decisions on damages.

Dr Brett Halliday and Chris Newton then enlightened delegates in the very complicated area of impairment, disability and injury scale values under the *Civil Liability Act*.

The afternoon papers were presented by Kevin Holyoak, Justin Harper and Darryl Rangiah, and the conference concluded with a further panel discussion in relation to an overview of the *Civil Liability Act* with His Honour Judge McGill SC, Richard Douglas SC and Gerry Mullins.

This year's Queensland Civil Justice Award went to the 'Dalby Four' from Shannon Donaldson Lawyers, Dalby. Peter Shannon, Amanda Dear, and Adair and Samantha Donaldson took public action to protect their community, committing hundreds of hours of their own time and thousands of dollars of their own money, in their fight for a cleaner ethanol plant in Dalby. Congratulations to these worthy winners.

We would like to thank our sponsors for this year's conference: Benchmark The Practice, Evidex, The Intersafe Group, IPAC, Perpetual Private Clients, Impact Funding, Trust, and Monsour Legal Costs with DG Thompson Driscoll + Matters.

Thanks also to all of the delegates without whose support the conference could not have proceeded or been the success that it was.

See you all again next year. ■

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