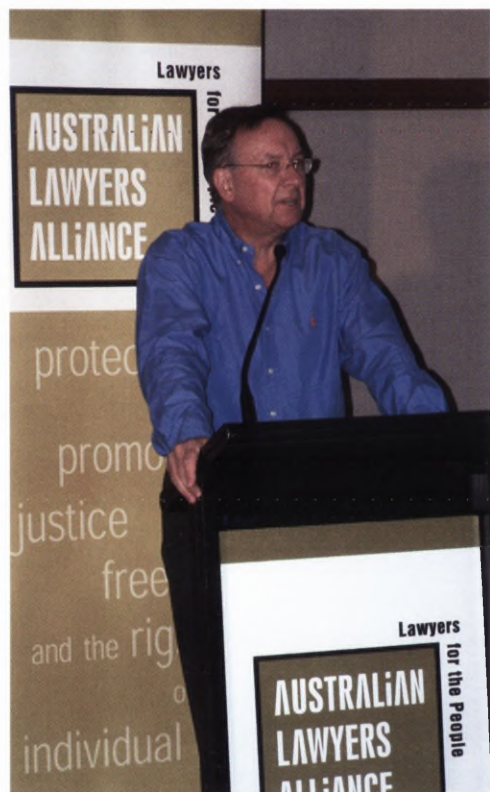


NSW STATE CONFERENCE 2007

By Michelle Castle



Peter Semmler QC presenting the annual case review



Richard Royle, NSW Branch President (L) and Simon Morrison, National President (R), with the Hon Justice David Ipp, Supreme Court of NSW.

The recent NSW state conference was a great success. Held in the relaxing surroundings of the Hunter Valley, over two days (30-31 March 2007), the conference was rated by some of the delegates as the best ever.

One of the highlights of the conference was the keynote address by Justice Ipp of the NSW Court of Appeal, on 'The Metamorphosis of Slip and Fall'. However, he departed from this topic to speak more widely on tort law reform, telling the gathering that, although he stood by his original recommendations, he felt that those who had acted on his recommendations had gone too far.

National President, Simon Morrison, urged the need to continue efforts around the country to address the unbalanced and unjust state of personal injuries law. NSW President, Richard Royle, described the Alliance's substantial efforts in NSW in relation to tort law reform in the year leading up to the state election. These activities included lobbying, writing submissions, preparing case studies, and participating in the *Fair Go for Injured People* Campaign.



Delegates enjoying the conference dinner at Lindemans Winery

The conference program was strong and featured a wide range of personal injury-related topics and high-calibre speakers. Areas covered included workers' compensation, motor accidents, lifetime care, civil liability, appointment of trustees, medical negligence, MAS assessments and the UCPR. The speakers included highly experienced practitioners, both solicitors and barristers. Highlights included a highly informative and amusing presentation on 'Objections to evidence' by Bernard Gross QC, and a now classic and eagerly anticipated conference topic, 'Annual Case Review', presented by Peter Semmler QC. David Hirsch, head of the Alliance's medical law special interest group, presented a well-received paper on cerebral palsy.

The conference also provided an excellent opportunity for sponsors to meet, and talk to, delegates. We thank our major partners, Perpetual and Furzer Crestani Services and our event partners, Ability One, Evidex, Impact Capital, ipac and LawMaster. Many of the sponsors have a long history of involvement with the Alliance and their sponsorship is an integral part of the success of our conferences. The spacious open exhibition area was a very good space for delegates to meet sponsors. The ipac coffee bar and barista were a welcome sight, especially on Saturday morning, following the conference dinner the night before!

Social highlights included the conference dinner at Lindemans Winery, as well as a winery tour on Saturday afternoon accompanied, needless to say, by some fine wine! ■



Delegates enjoying lunch at Hunter Valley Gardens

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