

NSW STATE CONFERENCE

By Danielle De Paoli



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The recent NSW state conference was a fantastic success. Held in the picturesque surroundings of the Hunter Valley, over two days on 14 – 15 March 2008, the conference was rated by many delegates as the best ever.

The conference program was strong, featuring a wide range of personal injury-related topics and high-calibre speakers. Areas covered included workers' compensation, motor accidents, civil liability and medical negligence. The speakers included highly experienced practitioners, barristers and judges. Highlights included a highly informative presentation on 'Winning and Losing in the Court of Appeal: What Appeals Succeed' by Bernard Gross QC, and on the practitioner's obligation to assist the court, presented by Judge Margaret Sidis. Also of great practical application was the presentation of her Honour Justice Margaret Beazley entitled 'Calderbank Offers – A "How To" Guide'. As always, the classic and eagerly anticipated conference topic, 'Annual Case Review', presented by Dr Andrew Morrison SC and Brian Dooley SC, delivered the goods.

To conclude the conference, Andrew Stone moderated a panel discussion between Keith Rewell SC, Helen Wall and Ian Roberts SC. The topic was 'Duty of Disclosure – Are You Letting On What You Should?' The panel indicated just how difficult it is to

interpret and apply recent case law in this area.

The conference also provided an excellent opportunity for sponsors of the Alliance 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. We also thank the exhibitors, including DG Thompson, ANZ Trustees, Trust Company and Sinergy Medical Reports. Many of the sponsors have a long history of involvement with the Alliance and their sponsorship is an integral part of the success of the conferences. The spacious open exhibition area was a very good space for delegates to be able to meet sponsors and network. For some conference delegates, the coffee bar and barista were a particularly welcome sight, especially on Saturday morning, following the conference dinner!

The conference dinner was held at the relaxing property of Tamburlaine Winery, and many delegates ensured that they made stopovers at the local wineries to take advantage of the local industry prior to returning home. ■

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1 (L to R) Maurie Stack, NSW Branch President, Australian Lawyers Alliance; His Honour Judge Greg Keating, Workers' Compensation Commission; and Tom Goudkamp, Managing Director. Stacks/Goudkamp

2 Delegates enjoying the outdoor catering space at Hunter Valley Gardens Resort

3 Delegates enjoying pre-dinner drinks at Tamburlaine Winery

4 Kirsty Shakespeare, Celeste Wittkopp and Kevin Day from LawMaster

5 Barristers Margaret Holz and Andrew Stone at the conference dinner