



Vote of thanks

T C Beirne School of Law 70th anniversary

Walter Harrison Law Library, The University of Queensland

Wednesday, 12 July 2006, 6.30pm

The Hon Paul de Jersey AC **Chief Justice**

It is my very pleasant role to express our gratitude this evening. I identify as many as four recipients of our thanks.

First, our speakers for their extremely interesting and witty presentations. Unlike some, regrettably too many, movers of so-called “votes of thanks”, I will not however attempt, at great length, to rehearse the content of their speeches – though they were memorable!

I particularly thank Her Excellency for addressing as in her inimitably interesting way; I thank my colleague Justice Williams – I am forbidden to comment on any aspect of my colleague’s approach unless sitting in the Court of Appeal; and I thank Professor Rickett, greatly encouraging as always.

Having thanked our speakers, may I, on this historic occasion, express gratitude briefly in three further directions?

I mention first the staff of the Law School, under the inspired leadership of Charles Rickett with acknowledgement of their dedicated commitment. May I also particularly mention the captivating anniversary publication, with congratulations to Professor Saunders, Dr White and Mr Gawrych.

Then I should turn to the University itself, which no longer simply ‘suffers’ our Law School – as seemed, I have to say, to be the position some decades ago when I was youthful. The University enthusiastically and creatively supports and promotes the School now, especially so under the Vice Chancellorship of Professor Hay, and that is to be warmly applauded.



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And last, there are the past and present students and graduates, including you and me: to be acknowledged for determination to uphold this highly significant Law School and help ensure and enhance its continuing vibrancy.

To Her Excellency, His Honour, and all those persons and entities, ladies and gentlemen, I say 'thank you', and I am sure you would wish to join me in endorsing that sentiment.