



Time please, members!

Tony Mitchell, the 'barman to the Bar', will roll down the shutters in the common room for the last time on 22 December 2005. Changes to the professional and social life of barristers have caused a steady decline in the number of patrons at the liquor bar. Together with the cost of complying with increasingly onerous licensing requirements, this has meant that Bar Council could no longer continue subsidising the liquor bar.

Regardless of whether it was a large function, such as a book launch or a 15 bobber, or a solitary commiseration following the loss of a case, Tony has been providing cheerful service to members and their guests since 1999.

For many years the Bar Association's common room and liquor bar (and, for a time, the dining room) have formally been part of the New South Wales Bar Association Registered Club. The activities in these premises, and the operation of the liquor bar, are governed by the *Registered Clubs Act 1976* and related liquor laws.

Unfortunately, the very limited patronage and new licensing requirements meant the



Bar Association could no longer continue to operate the dining room and takeaway, and they thus closed in December 2002. The club has been operating at a loss for the past few years. Following lengthy consideration of the issue, the Bar Council concluded that these losses were unacceptable to members, particularly having regard to the limited use of the facilities and the need to increase the amount in membership fees to cover any such losses.

Continued on page 8



Bar Association hosts professional development forum

On 24 - 25 November 2005 representatives of the state and territory bars (with the exception of the Northern Territory & Tasmania) held a forum in Sydney to discuss current developments in education for barristers practising at each of the independent referral bars.

The forum was attended by both practising barristers and professional education staff. Among the agenda items were issues pertaining to both continuing professional development (CPD) and practice courses run for those who are starting out at the Bar. As a general statement, participants agreed that the aim of professional education is to encourage and enable barristers to be:

- ethical in their conduct, at all times, as an officer of the court;
- cognisant, at all times, of the duties of an officer of the court;
- learned in the law, and, in particular, fully familiar with the laws of evidence;
- skilful in drafting pleadings, affidavits, submissions and documents for use in court proceedings;
- skilful in analysing and marshalling relevant, factual material;
- skilful in advising and assisting clients to resolve disputes;
- skilful in interviewing witnesses and properly and ethically preparing witnesses to give evidence;

Continued on page 3

contents

2	A message from the president
3	Bar Council business for November 2006
3	Life membership for Harrison SC
4	Papers to note
5	Bryan Beaumont Cup
7	Appointments
8	2006 Law Term church services



Office hours during the Christmas break

The New South Wales Bar Association office will be closed midday Friday, 23 December 2005 through Monday, 2 January 2006.

Library

The Bar Library will close at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, 21 December 2005. Members are asked to return borrowed items before that date.

The library will be open from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday 16 January 2006 to Friday 20 January 2006.

The library will resume normal opening hours 8:00 am to 6:00 pm on Monday, 23 January 2006.

A message from the president

At last the tide has begun to turn in the public policy debate about compensation for the seriously injured in this state. Between 1999 and 2002 a series of enactments progressively restricted the common law rights of workers, road users and those injured in many other situations. Community disquiet about the effects of these enactments has led to increasing calls for their re-adjustment in the last few years. On 8 December 2005 the General Purpose Standing Committee No.1 of the Legislative Council of New South Wales tabled a report, *Personal Injury Compensation Legislation*. This report examines the government reforms to personal injury compensation law in New South Wales between 1999 and 2002. The thrust of the committee's report is that although there have been positive results from the government's reforms in stabilising aspects of the insurance market in New South Wales following the public liability 'crisis' of 2001 - 2002, the committee found that, with the benefit of hindsight the reforms went too far. The committee stated that 'under the current law in New South Wales, injured individuals are in some instances limited in their access to compensation where community standards would suggest that they deserve greater recompense'. The terms of reference for this report were announced in December 2004. The New South Wales Bar Association advanced its principal submissions to the committee on 10 March 2005 and representatives of the association gave evidence before the committee on Monday 2 May 2005. The Bar Association lodged supplementary submissions to the committee in the course of this year. The committee's findings have a broad consistency with the position put to the committee by the Bar Association and represent a well reasoned response to community calls for re-adjustment to these various enactments of 1999-2002. The principal elements of the committee's findings are that:

- Principled measures should be introduced to achieve greater consistency in the measure of damages available to victims of personal injury, regardless of whether they are injured in a motor vehicle accident, in the workplace or in a public place.
- There should be better reporting of insurance industry profitability.
- The AMA guides should no longer be used for assessing access to non-economic loss damages and that thresholds for the awarding of non-economic loss are to be employed they should be similar to the thresholds used under the *Civil Liability Act 2002* (NSW) namely 15 per cent of a most extreme case.



New South Wales Bar Association President
Michael Slattery QC

The committee's acceptance of the Bar Association's submissions is substantially due to the effective work of the Bar's Personal Injury Law Committee. This important positive result in the public policy debate on these issues has been achieved because of the thorough work done by the Personal Injury Law Committee in the course of this year. I wish to publicly thank them for their dedication to this task. There is much to be done next year to see whether the committee's report will be adopted more widely by government and by the Opposition in New South Wales. The Bar has experience of great value to offer parliament in fashioning workable reforms to trial and compensation processes to help give effect to the committee's report. To it is important for the Bar Association to work collaboratively with the insurance industry. The reforms of 1999 - 2002 which this committee says need to be adjusted were introduced in an atmosphere of crisis and unnecessary hostility. This report puts a measured and reasonable position which should gain wide cross party and public acceptance. It is important that if adjustment of these earlier reforms is to occur that it be done so far as possible on the basis of consensus among all interested parties including the insurance industry. The lack of such broad consensus was one of the defects of the enactments of 1999-2002.

World Conference of Advocates and Barristers

The International Council of Advocates and Barristers will be holding its third conference in Hong Kong and Shanghai on 15 - 19 April 2006. This conference represents an important opportunity for New South Wales barristers to make contact with members of the Hong Kong Bar and solicitors in Hong Kong and practising from Shanghai. Details of the conference can be obtained from the conference web site,

www.worldbaronline.com I would encourage as many members of the New South Wales Bar as possible to attend this conference. There are still opportunities available at the conference for New South Wales barristers to lead discussion groups on aspects of Australian law on which Shanghai and Hong Kong lawyers may wish to brief the Australian Bar directly. If New South Wales barristers take such opportunities, their initiative will in turn enhance the work opportunities for the whole Bar in the area. The subjects where discussion leaders are still required are in the Shanghai part of the conference and are related to Chinese investment in Australia. These include the law of insolvency, mergers and acquisitions law, corporation law, and land and environment law and aspects of administrative law. Those wishing to volunteer for these sessions should contact Glenn Martin SC via e-mail: gcmartin@qldbar.asn.au

Christmas break

This is the last *Bar Brief* before the Christmas break. I hope that all members have a relaxing holiday. I commend the Bar's two charities to all members at this time of the year: the Barristers' Benevolent Fund and the Mum Shirl Trust. Both these trusts carry out important charitable work, the first for barristers and their families and the second for Indigenous law students who are seeking to come to the Bar.

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Bar Association hosts professional development forum

- skilful in leading evidence in chief, cross-examining and re-examining witnesses;
- skilful in addressing the court on the facts and law relevant to a case.

CPD (or continuing legal education, as it is also known) is currently undertaken in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. Those schemes have two common elements:

- the requirement to complete 10 points/hours per year; and
- the requirement to spread those hours across six main practice areas (substantive law, practice and procedure, evidence, advocacy, ethics and practice management).

Similarly, the challenges faced by each of the jurisdictions were also surprisingly similar. One example is the delivery of CPD to regional practitioners. The geographically larger bars, such as NSW, Queensland and Western Australia, all raised the difficulty in providing sufficient CPD to those practising outside the capital cities. To that end, new developments in technology, such as podcasting and web-based conference calling, are under either consideration or active trial in some jurisdictions.

Not all of the states and territories currently have their own bar practice courses. NSW, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia each have courses of varying lengths which are run once or twice a year. Demand for places in the courses run in each of the eastern states is increasing each year. This increase presents a challenge for those administering the courses, particularly in terms of continuing to deliver quality advocacy training. The smaller bars also face their own particular challenges, with limited access to trainers and perhaps only a very small number of participants in each course.

It was resolved that there should be increased co-operation and co-ordination of educational resources between each of the states and territories. It was further resolved that a submission be made to the Australian Bar Association (ABA) to enlist its support to maintain high standards of education among Australian barristers. It is hoped that with regular meetings of individuals from around Australia and support from the ABA, standards of education for barristers will continue to improve to the benefit of all.



Life membership for Harrison SC

The Bar Council at its meeting on 1 December 2005 unanimously resolved that Ian Harrison SC be appointed a life member of The New South Wales Bar Association for his exceptional service over very many years to the Bar Association and to the profession of the law.



Bar Council business for November 2006

Valedictory

The president, noting that this was the last meeting of the Bar Council that he would attend, thanked all members of the Bar Council for the assistance that they had given him, and more generally to the association. It had been a pleasure to be the association's president. He wished all on the council the very best.

Anti-terrorism legislation

The president noted that the Law Council of Australia had made a major submission to the federal government on the proposed anti-terrorism legislation. He thanked Toner SC for his work on behalf of the Bar Association in his contribution to the preparation of the LCA's submission.

Luna Park Site Amendment (Noise Control) Bill 2005

The Bar Council noted with concern that not for the first time, the New South Wales Government had legislated to remove from the court's jurisdiction a matter that was currently before the court. This raised significant matters of principle.

The president was asked to write to Attorney General Bob Debus to take up with him the council's concern.

Valedictory – Ian Harrison SC

Slattery QC, on behalf of all of the Bar Council, expressed appreciation to the President for all that he had done for the council, the association, the profession and to the community generally. He had cheerfully taken on an extraordinarily heavy and at times unpleasant burden. He had never faltered in his enthusiasm for this work.

His personal approach towards the Bar had contributed to the high membership of the Association. He was much loved by the Bar Council and by the members of the Bar Association. He had been an outstanding president.

The Bar Council, by acclamation, wished Harrison SC all the best for his return to full time duty at the Bar.

Young Barristers' Committee survey

The Bar Council approved the proposed Young Barristers' Survey 2005.

CSR Limited v Eddy [2005] HCA 64 (21 October 2005)

The Bar Council approved the proposed submissions drafted by Andrew Stone. The council asked that Stone amend the submission to take account of the matters raised by Katzmann SC in her e-mail of 31 October 2005. The president was asked to settle the submission.

Finance

The Bar Council resolved pursuant to s40 of the *Registered Clubs Act 1976*, to approve the statement for the three months ended 30 September 2005.

The Bar Council noted the financial statements for September 2005.

Costs agreements with clients

By virtue of s310 of the *Legal Profession Act 2004*, a barrister who is retained by a firm of solicitors on behalf of a client of the firm must disclose to the firm details of the barrister's legal costs and billing arrangements, but the barrister is not required to make a disclosure directly to the client.

Some barristers who are retained by a firm of solicitors elect to enter into a costs agreement with the client directly, or with both the firm and the client. Members considering such an arrangement must consider whether the provisions of the Act relating to disclosure to clients apply, in particular the more onerous disclosure requirements under s309.

Further, members should consider whether the nature of the arrangement is such that Rule 80 of the *New South Wales Barristers' Rules* must be complied with. Members will recall that Rule 80 deals with disclosure of certain matters to direct access clients.



Supreme Court costs assessment – approved forms

Clause 120 of the *Legal Profession Regulation 2005* provides that the chief justice of the Supreme Court may, on the recommendation of the Costs Assessors' Rule Committee, approve forms relating to costs assessment for the purposes of Part 3.2 Division 11 of the *Legal Profession Act 2004*.

The approved forms are published on the Supreme Court web site which is found at www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/sc. Click on the link 'forms and fees' and then the link 'costs assessment scheme forms'.

Please contact the manager, costs assessment, Ms Jane Probert on ph: (02) 9230 8710, should you have any query regarding the approved forms.



Request for details of fees owed to counsel

Pursuant to s623(2) of the *Legal Profession Act 2004* (NSW), Andrew Brown has been appointed manager of the following solicitor's practice:

Luke Hor

Counsel with outstanding fees should contact Mr Brown as soon as possible. Whilst Mr Brown has advised that he cannot guarantee fees outstanding would be paid in total or recover of any fee due from any source, he would do his best to assist counsel owed fees. Andrew Brown may be contacted on: ph: (02) 9926 0321, fax: (02) 9926 0166 or via e-mail: asb@lawsocnsw.asn.au



'Find a barrister' photo

The facility exists for a member's photo to be attached to 'Find a barrister' on The New South Wales Bar Association's web site. If you wish to make use of this facility you may call in at the Bar Association between the hours of 12 noon and 1 pm daily, or you can make an appointment to suit your schedule. There is no charge to have your photo in 'Find a barrister'.

Papers to note

New South Wales Parliament, Legislative Council, General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1, *Report on Personal Injury Compensation Legislation*, December 2005. This is the much anticipated report into the effects of the state government's personal injury compensation law changes on:

- the number of claims for damages, the level of insurance premiums, the availability of affordable insurance and the profits of insurers;
- the mechanisms by which individuals who have suffered injury are assessed for damages;
- the damages payable to personal injury victims under the separate civil liability, motor accidents and workers compensation arrangements; and
- the changes to the duty of care provisions under the civil liability reforms.

The chair's foreword notes that 'This is an important report dealing with a crucial area of law fundamental to a just and equitable society in New South Wales.' The committee made 26 recommendations, including, among others:

- amending the Civil Liability Act and Motor Accidents Compensation Act to reduce the discount rates on damages for future economic loss paid as a lump sum;
- amending the *Workers Compensation Act 1987* and *Motor Accidents Compensation Act 1999* to replace the existing 10 per cent WPI threshold for the recovery of non-economic loss damages with the same threshold as is used for claims for non-economic loss damages under the *Civil Liability Act 2002* - namely 15 per cent of 'a most extreme case', coupled with a sliding scale of damages until the severity of the non-economic loss reaches 33 per cent of 'a most extreme case'; and
- legislation to require disclosure by insurers operating in the public liability market of basic market, premium, claims and liability data to the Parliament, through an amendment to the *Civil Liability Act 2002*.

A copy of the report may be obtained from the NSW Parliament's web site at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au. A copy is held in the Bar Library.

Lawyers' Communications Skills (2005) In July 2005 the Legal Profession Advisory Council published a discussion paper on its Communication Skills Project. It begins with an analysis of lawyer-client communication as a major factor in complaints about legal practitioners. It then looks at how interpersonal skills, including written and spoken communication, are treated in legal education and training.

The paper is published in full on the LPAC web site, at www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/lpac

The paper invites responses from lawyers, especially on communication skills training. Contact the LPAC executive officer on ph:(02) 9228 8347, by e-mail at lpaccommunication@agd.nsw.gov.au or by using the response facility on the LPAC web site.

'Procedures to be adopted for committal hearings in the Local Court for proceedings commenced on or after 1 January 2006', *Local Court Practice Note No.5 of 2005*. A copy is held in the Bar Library.

Law Council of Australia, *Annual Report 2004-2005*.

A copy may be obtained from the Law Council's web site at www.lawcouncil.asn.au

The Bryan Beaumont Cup

The annual Barbour-Backhouse Cup tennis tournament has been renamed the Bryan Beaumont Cup, in memory of the late Justice Beaumont. This double competition has been principally played at the Royal Sydney Golf Club between the years 1965 to 2004. The original Barbour Cup for the Bench and Bar Tennis Competition was donated by Richard Barbour in 1965. In 1994 it was re-named the Barbour-Backhouse Cup. Bryan Beaumont won as junior counsel in 1968, 1972 and 1976; as senior counsel in 1979, and as a judge of the Federal Court in 1988. In 1999 the pair of justices Brian Beaumont and Kevin Lindgren were leading in the day's competition for the semi-finals when they were urgently requested by the registrar to attend back at the full court of the Federal

Court, Queens Square by 3.30pm that afternoon. Play was rescheduled to include the fifth pair for the semi-finals. Not until after his last appearance in the 2002 competition due to his ill health in 2003, did Justice Beaumont put his racket up and not be in the winner circle. In both the 2001 and 2002 years' competition Justice Beaumont played with Justice Roger Giles. It is a great achievement for any tennis player to be able to compete for thirty eight years (1965 - 2002) in such a competition where all players are evenly graded each year for the day's play. Anthony Reynolds, who moved that the name be changed, felt that it was a fitting tribute to a widely respected judge who had contributed so much to one of the Bar's more popular sporting fixtures.



CPD videos & DVDs

The following is the latest CPD seminar to be added to the Bar Library's video & DVD collection. Members may borrow the item by contacting the library on ph: (02) 9233 4025 or e-mail: library@nswbar.asn.au

'Conduct of judges', His Honour Judge S Norrish QC, 23 November 2005, **VID/260** and **DISC/40**



Barristers' attire

A document outlining the appropriate attire to be worn by barristers in the various courts, commissions and tribunals in both federal and New South Wales jurisdictions can be accessed via the Bar Association's web site. Visit the association's home page at www.nswbar.asn.au and look under 'Other information'.

BARCARE

BarCare is designed to guide barristers through emotional and stress related problems including family or marital problems, drug or alcohol dependency and practice pressures.

The Bar Association will cover costs associated with the initial consultation with the BarCare counsellor.

For further information contact the BarCare information line (02) 9230 0433 or visit the Association's website www.nswbar.asn.au

Library hours during the holiday season

The Bar Library

The Bar Library will be closed from 12.00 noon on Wednesday, 21 December 2005 to Friday, 13 January 2006 inclusive.

It will re-open between 10.00am and 4.00pm on Monday, 16 January 2006 to Friday, 20 January 2006.

Normal opening hours (8.00am to 6.00pm) will resume on Monday, 23 January 2006.

Borrowers are asked to return to the library by Wednesday, 21 December 2005 all items on loan.

University of Sydney Law Library

The library will be closed from Saturday, 24 December to Monday, 2 January 2006 inclusive.

Monday, 21 November to Sunday, 5 March 2006, the library will be open at the following times:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday:
9.00am to 6.00pm

Tuesday, Thursday: 9.00am to 8.00pm

Saturday: 9.00am to 4.45pm

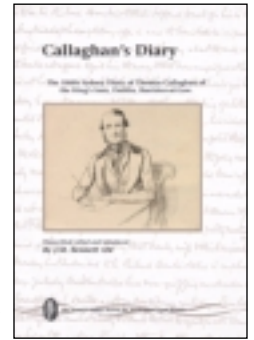
The University of Sydney Law Library allows access to barristers, although you cannot borrow items. *Please follow the rules of this library.*

The Law Courts Library

The Law Courts Library will be closed from 26 December 2005 to 30 January 2006 inclusive (external clients with a current library card may access the collection from 2 January 2006).

Callaghan's Diary

The Francis Forbes Society for Australian Legal History is pleased to announce the publication of *Callaghan's Diary*, the 1840s Sydney diary of Thomas Callaghan, barrister-at-law and later a foundation judge of the District Courts of New South Wales.



Readers will know of the Forbes Society's recent works relating to Sir James Dowling, the colony's second chief justice, being *Dowling's Select Cases* and *The Dowling Legacy: Foundations of an Australian legal culture 1828 to 1844*. In *Callaghan's Diary*, we see Dowling's legal world through the eyes of a young advocate, struggling for income and recognition. This fascinating insight into the legal Sydney of the 1840s is available through the efforts of the distinguished legal historian J M Bennet AM. Dr Bennett has transcribed and edited the original journal and has provided notes and an index for the readers.

A review of *Callaghan's Diary* will appear in the next edition of *Bar News*. An order form may be obtained from the Forbes Society web site at www.forbessociety.org.au.



Eric Stanislaus Joseph Miller QC (1903-1986)

I have been asked by *The Australian Dictionary of Biography* to write the biographical entry for Eric Miller.

Miller was for many years one of the leaders of the Sydney Bar.

He was educated at St Joseph's College and the University of Sydney, from which he graduated in 1926 with an LLB - the same class in the law school as Sir Garfield Barwick. Admitted in 1927, Miller took silk in 1940. His practice reached its peak in the late 1950s and 1960s. He practised predominantly in the common law and industrial jurisdictions, but also appeared often in equity and probate matters. He is said to at one time have been considered for appointment as chief justice.

I should be grateful if anyone who knew Miller and might be able to assist me with my research into his life could contact me on ph: (02) 9229 1735 or e-mail: pselth@nswbar.asn.au

Philip Selth, Executive Director

World Conference of Advocates and Barristers



The International Council of Advocates and Barristers will be holding its third world conference in Hong Kong and Shanghai from 15 to 19 April 2006.

The International Council of Advocates and Barristers is an organisation formed by the Bar Associations in jurisdictions where there is a separate profession of an independent referral Bar. Its members are currently the Bar Associations of Australia, England and Wales, Hong Kong, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Scotland, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The objects of the Council include the promotion and maintenance of the rule of law and the effective administration of justice. Its focus falls on matters particularly important to the Bar worldwide, including: regulatory issues, better training for the profession, and strengthening the independent Bar as a prerequisite to an independent Bench.

Very successful conferences have already been held in Edinburgh and Cape Town. Those who have attended have had the benefit of hearing from a wide range of speakers such as Mary Robinson UN Commissioner for Human Rights, the Hon. Anthony Gubbay (the former Chief Justice of Zimbabwe), Param Cumaraswamy, UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of the Judiciary, Justice Ian Callinan (High Court of Australia), and Justice Dikgang Moseneke (Constitutional Court of South Africa). Speakers of similar calibre will participate in next year's conference.

DETAILS:

Date 15 to 17 April, 2006

Place Hong Kong

Venue Island Shangri-La Hotel, Hong Kong

Date 19 April, 2006

Place Shanghai

Venue Pudong Shangri-La Hotel, Shanghai

When further conference details are available they will be posted at www.worldbaronline.com



Should you wish to receive a registration brochure before they are generally released please send your contact details (including an e-mail address) to:

World Bar Conference Secretariat
Level 5, 107 North Quay
Brisbane 4000
Tel 617 3238.5100
Fax 617 3236.1180
E-mail mail@worldbaronline.com



Appointments

Supreme Court of New South Wales

The Hon John Dunford QC and His Honour Judge Rein SC have been appointed as acting judges of the Supreme Court, effective 30 January 2006 to 29 January 2007 and 30 January 2006 to 28 April 2007 respectively.

The following have been reappointed as acting judges of the Supreme Court, for the periods as shown:

The Hon Acting Justice Cooper AM,
31 January 2006 to 30 January 2007

The Hon Acting Justice Hunt AO,
31 January 2006 to 30 January 2007

The Hon Acting Justice Newman RFD,
8 February 2006 to 7 February 2007

The Hon Acting Justice Pearlman AO,
2 February 2006 to 1 February 2007

District Court of New South Wales

His Honour Judge Graham has been appointed as an acting judge of the District Court, effective 7 December 2005 to 30 June 2006.

His Honour Acting Judge Barnett has been reappointed as an acting judge of the District Court and as a judge of the Drug Court, effective 21 January 2006 to 20 January 2007.

New South Wales Local Court

Peter Gould has been appointed as an acting magistrate and as a warden, effective 1 December 2005 to 30 June 2006.

Public Defenders Office

Belinda Rigg and Brian Hancock have been reappointed as acting public defenders, effective 27 January 2006 to 26 July 2006 and 17 December 2005 to 16 June 2006 respectively.



Peak legal organisations: office bearers for 2005/2006

QLD Bar Association:

At the QLD Bar Association's annual general meeting held on 17 November 2005, the following members were elected office bearers for 2005/2006.

President:	Peter Lyons QC
Vice president:	Martin Daubney SC
Hon. treasurer:	Douglas Murphy
Hon. secretary:	Michael Stewart SC
Assistant hon. secretary:	Sue Brown

Law Society of New South Wales office bearers, effective 1 January 2006:

President:	June McPhie
Senior vice-president (president elect):	Peter Johnstone
Junior vice-president:	Geoff Dunlevy
Treasurer:	Charles Xuereb
Immediate past president:	John McIntyre

Australian Bar Association

ABA office bearers effective 30 January 2006, will be:

President:	Glenn Martin SC
Vice-president:	Stephen Estcourt QC
Hon. treasurer:	Michael Slattery QC
Hon. secretary:	Dan O'Connor

Law Council of Australia

The 2005-2006 Law Council executive is:

President:	John North
President-elect:	Tim Bugg
Treasurer:	Ross Ray QC
Member:	John Corcoran
Member:	Glenn Ferguson



The New South Wales Bar Association

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Ph: +61 2 9229 1732

Fax: +61 2 9221 1149 or

email: mediaenquiries@nswbar.asn.au

The New South Wales Bar Association announces:

The 2006 Bar Association Media Awards for excellence in journalism related to law and justice. **There are two categories: Print Media and Electronic Media. Each award is worth \$2,500.**

The awards will be given to media professionals who are judged to have given readers / viewers / listeners the best understanding of important legal principles, the legal profession or the operation of a particular facet of the justice system in Australia.

The awards apply to work published, broadcast or televised between 1 March 2005 and 28 February 2006.

Journalists may enter themselves or be nominated by a member of the judging panel or by a third party.

An entry / nomination form is available from the Bar Association web site at www.nswbar.asn.au under 'Media resources'.

The closing date for entries is 5.00pm on Wednesday, 1 March 2006.

Law Week 2006

Time please, members!

The Bar Council is putting in place alternative arrangements so that the usual social events that are held in the common room can continue. Licensed caterers will be retained for future 15 Bobbers and other social events; no increase in the cost of these events is anticipated. In practical terms, the only difference members will notice is that the liquor bar will no longer be operating for over the counter sales.

The Bar Association has a list of liquor suppliers that can provide a service for those chambers which have been relying on the liquor bar.



Opening of Law Term 2006

The following church services will be held to mark the opening of Law Term 2006:

Monday, 30 January

9.00am: Red Mass, St Mary's Cathedral
10.30am: Anglican service, St James' Church, King Street
2.00pm: Uniting Church service, St Stephen's, Macquarie Street

The Jewish service to mark the opening of Law Term will take place on Friday, 3 February 2006 at 5.30pm in the Great Synagogue, 166 Castlereagh Street.

The pan-Orthodox service to mark the opening of Law Term will take place on Tuesday, 7 February 2006 at 6.30pm, 242 Cleveland Street, Redfern.



Law Week is an annual event designed to promote debate, public awareness and a wider understanding of the law and our system of justice.

The flagship event for Law Week 2006 will be a hypothetical on sentencing in criminal cases. It will be held on Tuesday, 28 March 2006 at 12.30pm, at the Wesley Centre.

The scenario will involve a young woman charged with trafficking a commercial quantity of heroin into Australia. The moderator, Julie Macrossan, will guide the panel and the audience through the many and varied factors which a judicial officer must take into consideration during the sentencing process: including her addiction, prior convictions, prospects for rehabilitation and degree of remorse.

The panel will be comprised of politicians, journalists, expert witnesses, defence counsel, a prosecutor and those who speak on behalf of victims of crime. Those who have accepted an invitation include: the Hon Greg James QC, David Penberthy Stephen Odgers SC, Gary Punch and Professor Susan Hayes.

The intended audience includes journalists, secondary and tertiary students, members of the public and all those interested in this often contentious aspect of the criminal justice system. It is hoped that some will come away with a greater understanding of the complexities of sentencing, whilst others will gain insight into concerns which people harbour about this most controversial aspect of the criminal justice system.

For further information, contact Chris Winslow on ph: (02) 9229 1732 or via e-mail: cwinslow@nswbar.asn.au



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Contributions and advertising bookings and material for Bar Brief must be received by the end of the month prior to publication.

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Sickness & Accidents enquiries
sickacc@nswbar.asn.au

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