

INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIAN BRANCH)

The last 12 months or so of the ILA (Australian Branch) has been a time of consolidation and change. The Branch has been actively pursuing a new Constitution (its first major overhaul in over 30 years!). Much of the drafting has fallen to Justice Mahoney, who volunteered to perform a task which would have daunted many others.

In addition to work on the Constitution, an entity has been incorporated for administrative reasons.

The Branch has continued to keep its members informed about current international developments of interest. Several twilight seminars were held, including recently a seminar on the role of Chapter 8 of the UN Charter in peace-keeping and regional security, presented by Professor Frowein on U.N. operations in Somalia, presented by the Honourable Justice Rowlands; an address by Mr Mike Smith on the United States Foreign Policy; a presentation by Professor Diederike Verachoor on [subject] and an address by [name] on [trade issues].

The 1990's has been declared the decade of international law. In recognition of this fact, the Branch has been working on a number of projects, including the possible introduction of international law in secondary schools. Investigations are continuing as to whether a special book of essays can be published in recognition of the decade. The highlight of year [will be/has been] the 120th anniversary seminary and dinner, held in October at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Double Bay.

Efforts are continuing to ensure closer cooperation between the Branch and the International Law Section of the Law Council of Australia. It is recognised that the two associations have much in common and to gain by working more cooperatively together.

The Directors of Studies have been working hard to reinvigorate branch committees. An important part of this process was the publication of all active committees in the June Bulletin of the Branch. People who are interested in special areas have been asked to contact the Directors of Studies to register their interest.

Next year the Association can look forward to the biennial conference in August in Buenos Aires. Members of the Branch will need no encouragement to attend an event which is invariably informative and exciting.

The coming year promises to be a good one for the Branch, as the rewards for some of the behind scenes hard work will be reaped.