

CLANT's been to Bali, too

by Geoff Barbaro

The third Northern Territory/ Indonesian Criminal Lawyers Conference was held at the Sanur Beach Hotel in Bali in late June.

The conference attracted lawyers from WA, SA, Victoria and New South Wales as well as locals from the Territory.

It was attended by the Attorney-General, Daryl Manzie, and the Shadow Minister for Legal Affairs, Neil Bell.

Both were welcome guests and addressed the conference.

A great deal of discussion was generated by the Attorney's announcement of his scheme to introduce parental liability for the crimes of their children.

Considerable criticism came from the floor and was followed up on return to Darwin by a statement on the issue from the Criminal Law Association of the Northern Territory (CLANT). A welcome first this year were the contributions from the Law School at the NT University through speakers Associate Professor Ned Aughterson and Jenny Blokland.

We hope to see continued University involvement at future conferences.

James Glissan QC presented a paper on similar fact evidence, and CLANT thanks both he and his wife Christine (Public Defender, NSW) for their valuable contributions.

Father Frank Brennan also contributed both through comments from the floor and an entertaining and informative after dinner speech at the closing dinner.

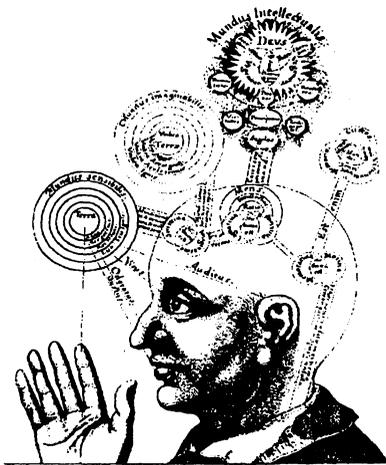
Most NT practitioners were introduced to the Director of Public Prosecutions, Len Flanagan QC, who caused more than a few comments and raised eyebrows with his paper *Criminal Justice: the Erosion of Public Confidence. Some Reflections and Perceptions.*

Once again the NT judiciary was well represented and papers were presented by Asche CJ, Nader J and Magistrates McCormack and Gray.

Nader J was given honorary life membership to CLANT for his years of service to the criminal law and to mark the beginning of his long service leave.

The conference was attended by over 50 delegates; 80 including accompanying persons.

Our special thanks go to Cheryl Klaffer at Australian Airlines and her associates for their excellent organisation of the conference which was unani-



mously acclaimed to be the best organised so far.

There is no doubt that the conference has become the forum for the raising and discussion of the future of criminal law in the Territory.

Special commendations for various performances at the conference were given to Patrick Smith, Richard Utting, Grant Algie, Phil Crowe and one or two others, though none were able to match Frank Brennan whose excellent performance was deemed worthy of special consideration at a dinner in the form of a trial presided over by Nader J.

Kevin Borick wrote the procedures, the charges and probably the defendant's statement and he provided us with an excellent insight into how to successfully prosecute ("stitch up") a defendant.

Loretta Coronica's spirited defence

possibly suffered through lack of submissions.

The star witness was Jenny Blokland who wrote a verbal that could only have come from the years of listening to them in Court rooms.

We understand that the Pope's brother has received and considered a full report of the "proceedings."

The usual conference awards were presented.

The Nader J award for good grace, humour, manners and patience in a Courtroom was won by the Magistrate who won it at last year's conference. Although many initially doubted the wisdom of this selection, the acceptance speech left no doubt that the chosen one was most deserving.

One of our new magistrates was honoured in absentia and we were privileged to have Mr Gray SM respond on behalf of his colleague.

It was an acceptance speech which will not be forgotten.

Phil Crowe's acceptance of the Indonesian dress award was somewhat marred by the lack of an essential part of his costume.

Word is that not too many plea bargains are being discussed with the DPP because Mr Crowe was seated next to one of the "Flanagan daughters" at the time.

Word is also that the removal of the clothing was inadvertant and innocent. Perhaps it is as well that everyone present was a criminal lawyer.

CLANT specifically denies persistent rumours that the earthquake which rocked Bali at lunch time on the Friday was caused by the earthshattering performances of its members generally, or by the shattering acts at a well known Bali "restaurant" on the Tuesday night.

The Criminal Law Association of the Northern Territory also specifically denies any endorsement of an unemployed Scottish comedian who, hopefully, shall remain so for a long time to come.