

Interpreters for the sake of criminal justice - criminal lawyers

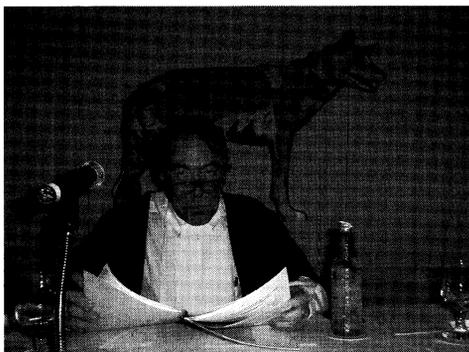
Criminal lawyers from around Australia have called on the Northern Territory government to urgently establish an interpreter service for Aboriginal Territorians.

The call to institute the interpreter service was prompted by debate that followed a re-enactment of Tuckiar's Trial - a murder conviction in the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory appealed to the High Court of Australia in 1934.

The play reading, a collaboration produced by Justice Dean Mildren and the Director of Public Prosecutions Rex Wild QC with the assistance of Ted Egan's book, *Justice All Their Own*, highlighted the importance of interpreter issues.

At the conclusion of the debate a motion was passed by an overwhelming majority

of delegates. There were no votes against.



Tom Pauling QC was convincing as Mr Justice Thomas Wells.

The conference resolved: "In the interest of the proper administration of the criminal justice system of the Northern Territory, this meeting of the Criminal Lawyers Association, urges the government of the Northern Territory to urgently

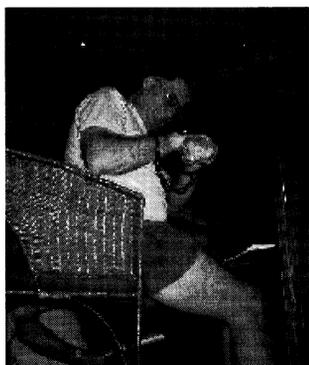
establish an Aboriginal interpreter service in the Northern Territory."

Despite the seriousness of the subject matter, the play provided some light-hearted relief.

Tom Pauling QC was convincing as trial judge, Mr Justice Thomas Wells, Peter Tiffin looked well in handcuffs, while Tom Berkley seamlessly slipped into the role of Mounted Constable Victor Charles Hall.

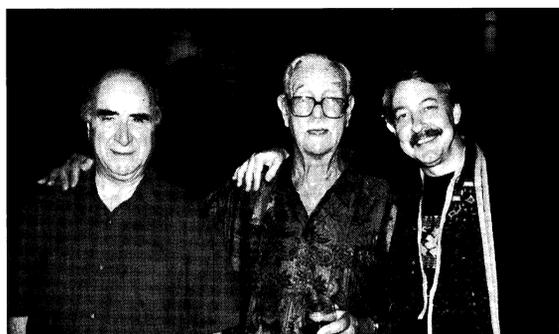
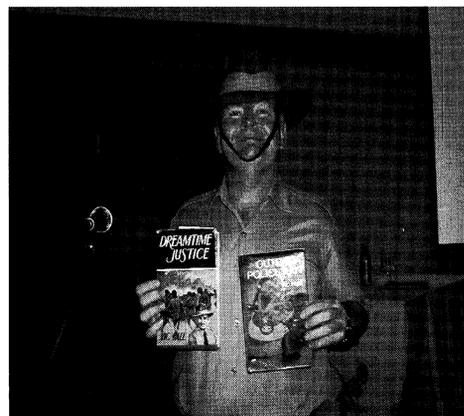
Also worthy of mention were the performances of Alasdair McGregor as Harry, an Aboriginal mission boy and black trackers, Justice Mildren and Richard Coates.

At one point Mr Wild reminded the chuckling audience, astounded by the conduct of the trial, that the lines being spoken came from a transcript of the time.

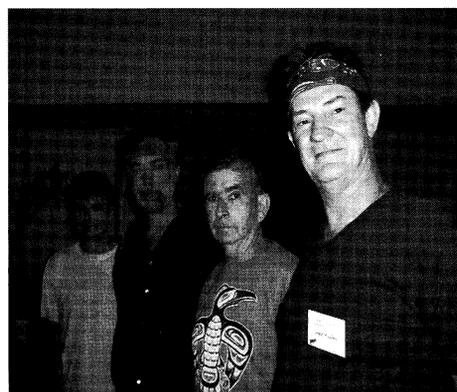


Peter Tiffin, handcuffed in his performance as Tuckiar (Dhakiyara Wirrpanda), the Accused.

Tom Berkley received the Director's prize for a stylish and well balanced performance as Victor Charles Hall, Mounted Constable.



John Nader and Austin Ashe congratulate Colin MacDonald on him joining their ranks as Life Member of the Criminal Lawyer's Association.



David Bamber, Warder, Richard Coates, Paddy the Police Tracker, Alisdair McGregor, Harry the Aboriginal Mission Boy, and Justice Dean Mildren as Parriner, a Woodah Island Aboriginal.