

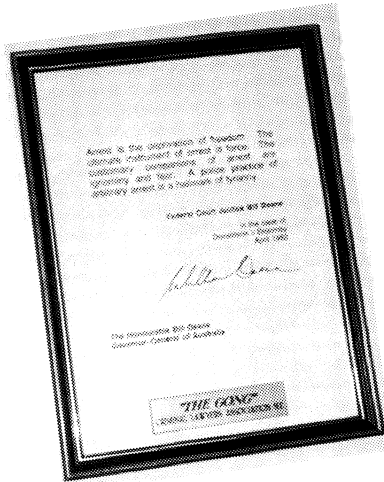
# AWARDING THE CLANT GONG 2001

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the criminal justice system in the Northern Territory the Criminal Lawyers Association presented Jon Tippett with their "Gong" at the Law Society Annual Dinner on 25 August. The Association's Suzan Cox and Rex Wild QC announced the award in front of eighty guests. Their address is reprinted below in full:

Lawyers are not always appreciated by the Society and community in which they live. Too often, they are regarded as acting entirely from self-interest; either with a view to obtaining wealth or power.

This perception ignores the fact that it is the lawyers who have fought to uphold the freedom of the individual throughout history — who have sought, by the legitimate exercise of their right to speak, to advocate democracy and decry tyranny in all its forms.

Governor-General Sir William Deane dealt with another freedom; that of



freedom from arbitrary arrest. He expressed himself in these terms:

Arrest is the deprivation of freedom. The ultimate instrument of arrest is force. The customary companions of arrest are ignominy and fear. A police practice of arbitrary arrest is a hallmark of tyranny. Donaldson v Broomby (1982) 40ALR525 April 1982

The Criminal Lawyers Association of the NT endorsed these words on their Gong, and had it signed by Sir William.

It was intended to become an irregular award to a criminal lawyer who had made an outstanding contribution to the administration of the criminal justice system in the NT; who did his or her best to ensure a fair trial, with deprivation of liberty only by due process.

The Gong was first awarded to Suzan Cox (1997) and then to Rex Wild (1998). We do not speak to the merits of those awards. It is fair to say, however, that the efforts of the recipient have far exceeded those of the previous recipients.

In the last two years or so, your Law Society President has almost single-handedly lead the assault on the outgoing government in respect of what many saw to be the arbitrary, inflexible and unfair intrusion on the liberty of the subject. He has spoken often and fearlessly — at what we know has been some cost to himself both financially and emotionally. He has been a true champion of the rule of law, of lawyers and of the underdog. Jon Tippett richly deserves to be awarded the Gong.

## SIGNATURE OF A KILLER

### GEOFFREY ROBERTSON'S HYPOTHETICALS 2001

Immediate Past President Mr Jon Tippett joined a panel of legal and medical experts, actors, writers and religious leaders for Geoffrey Robertson's next Hypothetical: *Signature of a Killer*.

In the Hypothetical Geoffrey Robertson QC masterminds the plot of a bizarre double murder on the eve of the Melbourne Cup.

Everything begins to unravel when 'Constable' Lisa McCune and 'Detective' Roger Rogerson knock down 'lap dancer' Gretel Killeen as they drive to the scene of the crime.

The Archbishop of Sydney, Dr George Pell, is there to administer her Last Rites and President of the AMA, Dr Kerryn Phelps, gives medical care. The sordid revelations continue as the whole drama

ends up in a sensational court case.

The panel includes;

- investigative crime journalist Andrew Rule,
- WA Police Force's Tim Atherton,
- serial killer profiler Claude Minisini,
- solicitor Leigh Johnson,
- NSW Crown Prosecutor Margaret Cunneen,
- Her Honor Judge Mary Ann Yeats of the District Court of WA,
- former head of the National Crime Authority and Melbourne QC Peter Faris, and Colin L. Lovitt QC who defended the infamous Chopper Read.

Geoffrey Robertson's Hypotheticals – *Signature of a Killer* screens soon on the Seven Network.



Geoffrey Robertson QC with Immediate Past President Jon Tippett