
2004 Tutors & Readers Dinner

By Keith Chapple SC

The Dockside Restaurant at Cockle Bay was the venue for the 2004 Tutors and Readers Dinner.

The guest of honour was well-known journalist and author David Marr. The speakers list included the president of the NSW Bar Association, Ian Harrison SC and Philip Carr who spoke on behalf of the readers.

The evening was noteworthy for its good humour, good food and conviviality.

The president offered the readers some tips and advice to assist them in their time ahead at the Bar and illustrated a number of the points he was making with reminiscences of earlier cases in which he had appeared.

In one of the highlights of the night he gave a sensitive reading of the transcript of the arraignment on assault charges of an unrepresented accused in the Adelaide Central Criminal Court, a feat very rarely attempted in public. The prisoner appeared to suffer from a form of Tourette's syndrome and the presiding judge continually chastised him for what he

described as his 'torrent of language'. The president's ability to complete the reading was a triumph.

Philip Carr had a difficult job in such illustrious company. He made a number of short but significant points about his experiences with his tutors. There was much sympathy for him at our table for his travails.

In a shock development the guest of honour revealed that in the mid 1970s he had become a member of the non-practising Bar of New South Wales. Apart from all his other accolades, he was prepared to admit he was really one of us. How this status helped him cope with the tribulations of journalism, broadcasting and Pauline Hanson, endeared him to everybody in the room. David was also able to offer some insight into the 'Cash for Comment' proceedings and some advice on dealing with the media before he left the stage in a glow of goodwill.

My readers enjoyed the event enormously. I hope next year's function can reach the same heights.

Four out of five stars from me for this one, Margaret!



Guest of Honour David Marr



President Ian Harrison and David Marr



L to R: Richard Wilson, Keith Chapple SC and Lucy McCallum