



Tom Hughes QC

On a more positive note, Tom Hughes QC has now notched up 60 years at the New South Wales Bar. He is still going strong, appearing for Channel 7 in a full appeal in the High Court on 10 March 2009 and three days later securing special leave to appeal on a constitutional question in *International Finance Trust Company Limited v NSW Crime Commission* [2009] HCATrans 47. He has been an outstanding advocate, both at trial and on appeal, and *Bar News* pays tribute to him in this issue with reflections on his career from Sir Anthony Mason AC, the Hon John Howard AC and the Hon A M Gleeson AC.

the Bench and Bar Dinner. There is also reproduced the address by Lord Bingham on the role of a Human Rights Act, delivered last December, as well as Chief Justice Spigelman's annual Opening of Law Term address

The focus in the previous issue of *Bar News* on legal history and the article on Judge Storkey VC, in particular, has elicited two further pieces of great historical interest concerning the role of District and Supreme Court judges' service in the First and Second world wars.

On a lighter note, it is wonderful to be able to publish Leslie Katz's piece on

Fiji

Whilst this issue was being prepared for publication, *Bar News* received a copy of the Fijian judiciary's strong and spirited response to an International Bar Association report alleging a lack of independence of the Fijian judiciary. That response is reproduced in the Opinion section of this issue. Subsequent to its receipt, Francis Douglas QC's appointment to the Fijian Court of Appeal was announced. Three days later, Douglas QC, in conjunction with New South Wales silks, Ian Lloyd QC and Randall Power SC, upheld an appeal brought by a series of politicians challenging the constitutionality of the appointment of Commodore Bainimarama as interim prime minister in December 2006 and the consequent dissolution of parliament. As is now well known, the Court of Appeal, together with the entire judiciary, was almost immediately dismissed and, at the time of going to press, the Republic of Fiji can only be described as being in a state of military dictatorship with a complete abrogation of the rule of law and an alarming rise in the level of press censorship, including the expulsion of independent journalists from the country. It is to be hoped that the rule of law in Fiji is restored as soon as possible and that responsible governments bring as much pressure to bear on the regime to secure that result.

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This issue

The quality of the Sir Maurice Byers Annual Lecture has never been higher than this year's address by Commonwealth Solicitor-General Stephen Gageler SC, hot on the heels of defending the challenge to the government's stimulus package brought by Bar Association member, Bryan Pape. The full text of the solicitor-general's address is reproduced in this issue and will form part of a book containing each of the Byers lectures to date, to be published later this year by the Bar Association.

This issue also contains an extended interview with Chief Justice Michael Black of the Federal Court who has overseen the significant (and ongoing) refurbishment of the Federal Court component of the Joint Law Courts building in Sydney as well as a significant building programme interstate. His thoughts on court architecture are most interesting.

Chief Justice French also introduces himself, in his speech entitled 'Don't You Know Who I Am? Ego and Identity in the Administration of Justice', delivered at

Australian judicial allusions to *Bleak House*. This is one of a number of pieces which Leslie has recently written on literary allusions in Australian judgments.

It is also excellent to have the opportunity to showcase two of Simon Fieldhouse's excellent recent artworks: the picture of the Red Mass on the Contents page and the St James Opening of Term service on the inside back cover. For more information visit simonfieldhouse.com/legal_works.htm

Finally, Lee Aitken eschews all fusion fallacies, and reports on his old friend Bullfry's recent foray into Equity jurisprudence, as the old dog grapples with the niceties of the constructive trust before the new chief judge. Meagher, Gummow & Lehane watch out and move over! Poulos QC's accompanying drawings illustrate what he imagines an Equity court might look like.

Andrew Bell SC