

# Open Chambers Evening

## A report from the Practice Development Committee

10 October 2017

By Liz Cheeseman SC, Caspar Conde

One of the primary focuses of the Practice Development Committee is the promotion and marketing of the Bar's services to in-house counsel in two principal areas: direct briefing and early briefing. The Committee has been active in developing new ways to promote the services of the Bar beyond our traditional (and still core) market of instructing solicitors.

As part of this work, the committee initiated and co-ordinated an Open Chambers Evening, which was held to coincide with the recent International Bar Association Conference in Sydney. All Sydney-based chambers were invited to host an Open Chambers event. On the evening of 10 October 2017, a total of 18 chambers threw their doors open to welcome conference delegates and others to a variety of satellite events. There were over 320 registrations for the various events.

The event was directed to marketing the New South Wales Bar and the services it offers to conference delegates (many of whom are in-house counsel) in a convivial and informal atmosphere. Invitations were also extended to local in-house counsel, including through the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC), as well as to members of the regional bars, the judiciary and others.

The proposal was aimed at showcasing the diversity of members' practices and chambers' specialties and to promoting collegiality and fostering connections across the profession.

The New South Wales Bar Association published a web-based program of the various Open Chambers events with a description of each event, and IBA delegates were invited to register to visit one of a number of participating sets of chambers.

Most chambers' events on the night involved a presentation, or presentations, from leading

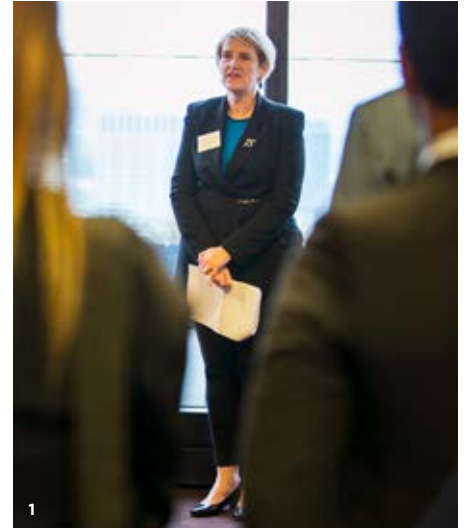
barristers on topical legal issues proceeded (and in some brave cases preceded) by drinks and canapés. There were some intriguing variations – one chambers offered a 'Tastes of Australia' evening, providing delegates with the opportunity to sample local produce while viewing exhibits from Australian artists; another offered a Q and A session on aspects of the Australian legal system and short presentations by an expert Australian sommelier and fromager (or cheese man).

The Practice Development Committee, with the assistance of Bar Association staff (led by Greg Tolhurst and Alastair McConnachie), was responsible for project managing the event. The committee continues to work to identify opportunities to develop new areas of work for the New South Wales Bar.

### Future events

The next initiative arranged by the committee is the Bar Association's sponsorship of the ACC Annual Conference in Alice Springs in November 2017. In addition to sponsoring an award and a table at the gala dinner, the Bar Association will host a master class on direct briefing in an employment context (presented by myself [Cheeseman SC], Ingmar Taylor SC and Kellie Edwards). A Barista Bar staffed by clerks (Michele Kearns, Angela Noakes and Emma Houlihan) will run throughout the conference where delegates can drop in for coffee and find out more about what the New South Wales Bar has to offer, which, it is hoped, includes a decent espresso!

For next year, the committee is aiming to arrange a New South Wales Bar showcase event for in-house counsel – keep a lookout in *InBrief* for more details in the New Year.



### This page, top to bottom:

- 1 Elizabeth Cheeseman SC, New Chambers.
- 2 David Jackson AM QC, New Chambers.
- 3 Jonathan Horton QC, Benjamin Rigby (England).



**This page, left to right:**

- 4 Monique Cowden presents a seminar at Level 22 Chambers.
- 5 Andrew Pickles SC, Janet McKelvey, Michelle Kearns, Justice Terry Sheahan (Land and Environment Court), Klaus Metsa-Simola (Hannes Snellman Attorneys, Finland).

- 6 Robert Angyal SC and Dr Christopher Ward at 6 St James Hall Chambers.
- 7 Komal Kritika Singh, (Fiji), Phillip Sharp, Bhavna Dhami (India), Chamith Senanayake (Sri Lanka).
- 8 Keni Josifoski, Sir Bernard Eder, Julia Baird SC, David Jackson QC, Elizabeth Cheeseman SC New Chambers.

- 9 Edmund Bon (AmerBon Malaysia), Marco Nesbeth, Daniel Thomas, Remy Choo (Peter Low & Choo, Singapore).
- 10 Simon Lusk (YPOL), Daniel Moujalli, Belinda Marshall ( Beckley Marshall Legal) Ground Floor Wentworth Chambers.
- 11 Courtney Ensor, Keni Josifoski, Sabrina Acloque.