



Cocktail party – overlooking Manly Beach

# LAWYERS AT THE BEACH

*- hypothetically speaking*

## **The APLA NSW Branch Conference**

BY MARIAN IBRAHIM &

HANNAH MIDDLETON, SYDNEY

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James O'Loghlin who hosted the hypothetical

It seemed that the summer that never happened finally arrived during the two day APLA NSW Branch Conference at Manly on March 3 and 4. The sand was dazzling and the water sparkled an invitation to delegates from the large windows overlooking the beach. That the delegates remained at the conference rather than going to the beach was a tribute to the range and quality of the papers on offer. ▶



At the end of sessions on the first day, exhilarated but exhausted delegates mingled over cocktails and delicious food to a backdrop of summer twilight and classical guitar. Corporate cartoonist Danny Cohen moved amongst the guests who were then able to take their caricature home for the office wall.



TOP: (L-R) IPAC representatives John Wakim, Gavan Young with Tom Goudkamp and Jane Staley.

ABOVE: James O'Loghlin hosting the hypothetical that lawyers have no ethics.

LEFT: (L-R) Corporate cartoonist Danny Cohen, Peter Edwards (speaker on GST) and Rob Savage (sales manager, Diskcovery)

BELOW: Don Cameron and Fiona Campbell look for their cartoon.



After the welcome refreshments, delegates moved on to an entertaining and sometimes hilarious hypothetical debate on the topic "That lawyers have no ethics". Moderator James O'Loghlin challenged the panel with a range of scenarios and it was only minutes before laughter, cheers and other forms of audience participation began.

APLA is grateful for the contribution of panel members Sally Loane, Richard Ackland, Peter Breen MLC, Steve Mark, Jeffrey Phillips and David Hirsch. David, co-opted at the last minute as a decidedly unwilling replacement for a missing panellist, turned out to be a natural for the task.

Day 2 highlights included the Hon Judge Burke on workers compensation claims, the Hon Judge Sidis on Practice Note 33, and papers on topics as diverse as the public liability of councils, unfair dismissals, dental negligence litigation and coping with stress in legal practice.

The five sponsors for this year's Conference were particularly happy with the conference and commented on the relaxed and friendly atmosphere of the event. APLA thanks the sponsors - IPAC, Diskcovery, Furzer Crestani Services, Jamieson Foley & Associates, and Evidence Based Medicine, a division of IMO - and looks forward to working with them again at our 2001 conference. A donation was gratefully received from Gary Scarf & Associates.

The Manly Pacific Parkroyal provided an inviting seaside venue for a most successful conference. Delegates, speakers and sponsors all emphasised the value and importance of this annual gathering. Many people contributed but special thanks are due to APLA Conference Committee members Tanya Segelov and Diana Farah who had assistance from Catherine Henry and Theodora Ahilas. Many delegates had high praise for the efficient and charming organising team led by Marian Ibrahim. PL

The Conference was opened by NSW Branch President, Tom Goudkamp. This was followed by papers on topics including the new motor accidents compensation legislation, changes to the workers compensation scheme, common law damages claims, psychological injury claims, and the impact of the GST on common law claims. Justice Abadee spoke on the Professional Negligence List and expert evidence.

APLA was delighted that the NSW Attorney-General, the Hon Jeff Shaw QC MLC, accepted our invitation to deliver the keynote address to the Conference with a response later on the first day by the Hon Chris Hartcher, the Shadow Attorney-General.

The Conference drew media attention with special interest in David Hirsch's paper on the duty of care owed by a doctor to a patient's partner and the joint presentation by Sydney Morning Herald journalist Mark Ragg and barrister Neil Francey on the current state of play in tobacco litigation.

**Marian Ibrahim** is the Principle of Marian Ibrahim & Associates Event and Conference Management. **PHONE** (02) 9879 3290 **FAX** (02) 9879 5139, **EMAIL** dri@zip.com.au  
**Hannah Middleton** is the APLA NSW Campaign Officer. **PHONE** (02) 9698 1700 **FAX** (02) 9698 1744 **EMAIL** hmiddleton@apla.com