



Australian
Plaintiff Lawyers
Association Ltd

A.B.N. 96 086 880 499

National Council

National President Peter Cashman

National Vice-President Rob Davis

National Secretary Richard Faulks

National Treasurer Ron Pearce

Angela Bentley • Ian Brown • Ruth Carter • Geoff Coates

Tom Goudkamp • Rob Davis • Audrey Jamieson

John Little • John Neill • Ken Read • Steve Roche

Tanya Segelov • Sukhwant Singh • Brendan Sydes

Executive Officer Jane Staley jstaley@apla.com

National Public Affairs Manager Louise Beard lbeard@apla.com

Member Services Officer Adam Flynn info@apla.com

National Administration Officer Maggie Galley mgalley@apla.com

NSW Branch Co-ordinator Kathy Thompson kthompson@apla.com

NSW Campaign Officer Hannah Middleton hmiddleton@apla.com



Managing Editor Geoff Coates

gcoates@rct-law.com.au Phone: 03 5331 7898

Editor Joanne Choe jchoe@apla.com

Cover photo by Bill Madden

Australian Plaintiff Lawyers Association Ltd

GPO Box 2658, Sydney NSW 2001 Australia

DX 22515 Surry Hills

Phone: 02 9698 1700 Fax: 02 9698 1744

Email: info@apla.com

Website: <http://www.apla.com>

PLAINTIFF is published bi-monthly by the Australian Plaintiff Lawyers Association, APLA. Contributors and advertisers are required to take note of the deadlines for copy and artwork for future editions.

Copy should be received electronically (via email or on disk) and by hard copy.

Style guide available from the Editor.

Send your contributions to the above address.

Enquiries about membership, accessing or contributing to the APLA Expert Database and requests for general information should be directed to the above address.

Disclaimer: Opinions expressed in *Plaintiff* do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of APLA. APLA accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any of the opinions or information contained in *Plaintiff* and readers should rely on their own enquiries in making decisions touching their own interest

"It's clear that what happens to plaintiff rights in one state will soon happen in another. As advocates for plaintiffs' rights we need to learn from the experience of those who have already had the fight."



Editor's *note*

It's time for the National Conference again Yippee! And back in Queensland too. Oops! I forgot it's also educational.

As usual the October issue of *Plaintiff* contains reports from the state Presidents. Sharing experiences and learning from them is a major reason for the existence of our organisation. It's clear that what happens to plaintiff rights in one state will soon happen in another. As advocates for plaintiffs' rights we need to learn from the experience of those who have already had the fight.

Also in this issue are lessons from the front in respect of environmental torts. The task of getting compensation for those suffering from the effects wrought on our environment is often fought against some the largest, most well-resourced of defendants.

You may have noticed the embryonic appearance of a new feature last issue with the title "Elevator". The idea behind this enterprise is to provide information as to who is doing what and where. It's not a gossip column but an opportunity to see what is happening with other members. Learning from each other and seeing what is working and happening is an important part of APLA. So let us know what you are doing – who has joined your organisation, where your new office is, what important things have happened to your practice or who in your area needs to have their praises sung.

I look forward to seeing you all at the conference sessions - or at the pool! **PL**

GEOFF COATES Ballarat