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Report from the Chair of ALTA

Welcome back all those members that have renewed their ALTA Membership for 2005. We now have approximately 900 current paid up members.

Recently we have launched ALTA's new and improved website, and we very pleased with how it's turned out. Please have a look at: **www.alta.edu.au**

There is going to be plenty of new information, not previously available on our old website, for you to browse through and refer to at any given time.

If you have any suggestions or comments, email us and let us know, we welcome your thoughts.

The ALTA General Executive recently met in March, and the meeting was very successful. Lots of new ideas for where ALTA is headed were discussed

and we will attend to many of these issues over the following year, specifically at the next General Executive meeting and also the Annual General Meeting at this years Conference.

More decisions will be made to try and improve the value and quality of ALTA.

I encourage you all to attend the AGM at the University of Waikato Law School, in Hamilton, New Zealand between the 5th – 8th July 2005 and give support to the many volunteers involved in the Association.

We are looking the establish new *Roles & Responsibilities* for our Conveners. This is to make their position more clear and to put greater emphasis on such a position in ALTA. These will be discussed at this year's Conference.

We are very excited to have the Conference make a most welcome return to NZ, after a six year absence – the last time was in 1999 at Victoria University Wellington.

Last year's Conference in Darwin was extremely successful and we are positive that this Conference will be just as successful, please read the report from Ned.

I hope to see many of you in New Zealand, as this will also my my last few months as Chairperson of ALTA.

I have had three rewarding years as ALTA Chairperson, but alas, the baton must be passed on at this years Conference to someone new!

Prof Michael A Adams
Chairperson, ALTA
michael.adams@uts.edu.au

ALTA Website The NEW Look!

ALTA membership immediately pays for itself ... 2005's 900 current members are testament to that!

...
members receive a discount on the Annual Conference fee of almost double the cost of membership!



As we mentioned in our last Newsletter, ALTA was going to have its website revamped.

We are pleased to say that it is now complete and we are very happy with the end result. We encourage each of our members to browse through the pages and to tell us what you think.

Some of our members have said that the website is very 'user friendly' as it is quite simple to move around the site and hopefully all the information you need about ALTA is there at your fingertips.

We welcome any feedback that you may have.

Lawbook Co.(Thomson) is still graciously hosting our members database and there is still a link on our website. This database makes it very convenient for you to get details on other members of ALTA, particularly those in your interest groups.

Currently, we are looking into updating your details on a monthly basis, but this is still in negotiation; at this point, it is updated quarterly. If you see that your details are out of date, please don't hesitate to let us know we will get it updated as quickly as we can.

Please Note: Your information is available to anyone who visits the website, even non members. Let us know if you have recently been promoted, or if you have any new publications. It is in your best interest to keep your details up-to-date.

You can do this by returning your Renewal Form to the Secretariat or if your details happen to change later in the year, simply drop us an email, it's as easy as that!

There is still more documents that we want to put up on the website, so please bare with us, as we try and provide you with the most accurate and useful information that ALTA can offer.

www.alta.edu.au



Former ALTA President, Ned Aughterson, reports on the 59th Annual ALTA Conference

In July, Charles Darwin University hosted the 2004 ALTA Conference. Adopting the theme 'Crossing Boundaries', the Conference explored topics as diverse as Aboriginal customary law, Islamic militants, terrorism and border protection, and innovative approaches to legal education.

The primary venue was the Supreme Court building, with two of the three plenary sessions being held in the ceremonial court, Court 1. For a change of focus, the plenary session on Aboriginal customary law was held at the Deck Chair Cinema, on the edge of and overlooking the magnificent Darwin Harbour.

The Keynote speakers for the first plenary session, 'Islamic Militants, Terrorism and Border Protection', were Professor Amin Saikal, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies at the ANU, and Mr Karpal Singh QC, a distinguished Malaysian Human Rights lawyer, member of parliament, and Deputy Chairman of the opposition Democratic Action Party.

The second plenary session, 'Aboriginal Customary Law', involved a forum with over 20 Indigenous law men and law women from across the Northern Territory, and incorporated separate men's and women's sessions as well as a lively joint session. Associate Professor Isaac Brown and Ms Rose Kunoth-Monks led the sessions. Rose is from the Amaljere tribe at Utopia Community near Alice Springs is Deputy Chair of the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and Director of the Management Board of the Desert People's Centre. Isaac is an Aboriginal man of the Iwandja tribe, an Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Australian Indigenous Knowledge Systems at Charles Darwin University and a former Dean of the Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies at NTU.

The final plenary session was a legal education panel comprised of winners of the Australian University Teaching Medal, namely Professor Michael Adams from UTS, Associate Professor Sally Kift from QUT,

and Ms Frances Gibson from La Trobe University, as well as Professor David Weisbrot, President of the Australian Law Reform Commission, and Professor Paul Chartrand, a Canadian teaching award winner from the University of Saskatchewan and a visiting Professor of Law at Charles Darwin University. The panel considered innovative and diverse approaches to teaching law in the 21st century.

In addition, there were 28 interest group sessions, held in various courtrooms of the Supreme Court, with a total of 86 papers addressing a wide range of contemporary legal issues. The Conference also included a presentation conducted by the Northern Territory Chapter of the Australian Association of Constitutional Lawyers, a screening of Film Australia's 'Dhakiyarr vs the King' (as a prelude to the Saturday evening play reading of the Trial of Tuckiar), and the ALTA Annual General Meeting.

59th Annual ALTA Conference report con't

Consistent with tradition, the social program was given due prominence. Welcome sunset drinks were held at the famous Mindil Beach Markets, where delegates were able to mingle with the locals and tourists and sample some of the diverse cuisine that Darwin offers. The Friday evening Publishers Dinner was held on the lawns of the Cornucopia Museum Café, again overlooking the Darwin Harbour and with the additional advantage of a balmy dry season evening.

On the Saturday evening, the Conference Dinner was held at the old Fannie Bay Gaol, which was a fitting site for the delegate's play reading of the Trial of Tuckiar. The play was directed by Ken Conway, the Director of Browns Mart Theatre, and was written by Justice Dean Mildren, of the Northern Territory Supreme Court, Tom Pauling QC, the Northern Territory Solicitor-General, and Rex Wild QC, the Northern Territory Director of Public Prosecutions, and in part was based on the writings of the present Administrator of the Northern Territory, Ted Egan AO. Many thanks are due to each of them.

Judging from the many kind comments made by delegates, the conference was a great success. That was due to the hard work of a number of people, and in particular Mary-Lynn Griffith, who kept the program on target and the organising committee active and focused. That Committee was comprised of Meredith Day, Stephen Gray and myself of Charles Darwin University School of Law.

Special thanks are also due to the conference organisers, Desliens Conference and Event Management, to the Chief Justice and the Justices of the Supreme Court for the use of the Supreme Court building, and to our sponsors: The Northern Territory Aboriginal Justice Advocacy Committee, Browns Mart Community Arts, CCH Australia, Cavendish Australia, Charles Darwin University, The Federation Press, Film Australia, Lexis Nexis, and Thomson Legal and Regulatory.

A successful ALTA Conference also depends very much on the hard work of the Interest Group convenors and the research efforts and diligence of those presenting papers. To them, our thanks.

I wish everyone an enjoyable and productive 2005 Conference in Hamilton, New Zealand. To the Organising Committee at the University of Waikato Law School, I wish for you the virtues of perseverance and good humour. It was good fun, especially in retrospect.

Professor Ned Aughterson
2004 ALTA President

Foundation Professor of Law
Charles Darwin University

<http://www.cdu.edu.au/law/altaconference.htm>



ONE LAW FOR ALL?
Kōtahi Te Ture mo Tātou?

2005 Conference from the 5th – 8th July

As the deadline for the submission of abstracts for ALTA 2005 draws near (May 11th) the Organising Committee would like to extend a further invitation to ALTA members to attend what promises to be a memorable conference. The venue for this year's event will be the Academy of Performing Arts at the University of Waikato's campus on the outskirts of Hamilton, in North Island New Zealand.

The focus of the Conference will be a series of plenary sessions examining the conference theme of 'One Law for All?' from four diverse intellectual angles:

- The Challenges of Multicultural/Bicultural Societies Law and Terror
- Corporate Governance post ENRON
- Educating Tomorrow's Lawyer

The Conference Committee has been fortunate in attracting an international panel of respected speakers to participate in these sessions including Dame Sian Elias, Chief Justice of New Zealand; Hon. Justice Eddie Durie, Judge of the High Court and Commissioner, New Zealand Law Commission; Sir Kenneth Keith, Justice of the Supreme Court of New Zealand; Professor Avrom Sherr Director of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies at the University of London and Professor Doug Branson of the University of Pittsburgh, to name but a few.

As ever, the heart of the conference will be the interest group sessions. We have already seen a variety of interesting papers submitted but would encourage more members to consider a submission. The organisers are particularly keen to see a large variety of papers reflecting the conference theme and can accommodate a large number of small group sessions. Perhaps this is the year that some of the more dormant interest groups spring to life!

The social events at the conference should be a highlight in themselves with delegates being formally welcomed on the opening night with a Powhiri (the Maori welcoming ceremony). Other highlights will include the Cavendish Publishing Dinner being held at Rydges Le Grand in central Hamilton and the Conference Dinner hosted by 'The Narrows' on the outskirts of the city. The evenings will also feature a selection of events to reflect New Zealand's wide cultural diversity, although we can't be more specific than that at this stage - watch this space!

If you've still got the energy after days spent on intellectual pursuits and evenings spent on culinary and cultural ones, the committee has arranged optional day excursions to some of the North Island's treasures, including the Waitomo Caves, Rotorua and the local Waikato Wineries. The best way to see the Waikato region and the North Island in general is by car and those who stay on and spend a few days in the region will have the option of visiting the

beaches of Raglan, the region's various forest parks and the Volcanoes of Tongariro National Park amongst many other attractions. This being Winter, of course, the more energetic might like to spend a day or two on the slopes of Turoa and Whakapapa ski areas, the largest in the Southern Hemisphere. And if you need somewhere to unwind after all that, then the thermal areas of the Central Plateau (and Waikato itself) await your pleasure.

Getting to Hamilton couldn't be easier with direct flights from Brisbane, the Gold Coast, Melbourne, Sydney, Fiji and destinations throughout New Zealand. Delegates from other overseas destinations will need to transit via Auckland. With Auckland airport only 1.5hrs drive from Hamilton, car hire or pre-arranged shuttles are popular options, although flights from Auckland to Hamilton are also available. Further details on this and the various accommodation options are available on the website.

For registration information, abstract submission and more details on the Conference itself (including the downloadable brochure) please check out the website at:
www.ALTA2005.waikato.ac.nz

We look forward to seeing you soon.
From the ALTA Conference team at Waikato Law School,
Kia Ora

Dr John Hopkins
Conference Secretary
Senior Lecturer
University of Waikato

Griffith University is offering New Postgraduate Programs for Legal Academics

In July 2005 Griffith Law School will introduce two new Graduate Certificate programs in Legal Education and in Legal Theory. Designed specifically for legal academics who wish to develop skills and expertise in legal education or legal theory, the new programs are convened and taught by members of Griffith Law School's academic staff with nationally and internationally recognised expertise. Professor Richard Johnstone is the convenor of the Graduate Certificate in Legal Education.

Professor Johnstone's distinguished career to date has included teaching law at Griffith University, the University of Melbourne, the University of Queensland and Monash University. He is author and co-author of five books on the subject of Australian legal education.

The Graduate Certificate in Legal Education will provide legal academics with a comprehensive and applied understanding of the important theories of learning and teaching and their implications for law school teaching and learning practice. It also aims to develop practical skills in course design and evaluation. The core courses in this program are Teaching and Learning Theory, a 20 credit point course which will be offered for the first time in 2nd Semester 2005, and Course Design in Law, a 10 credit point course which will be offered for the first time in 1st Semester 2006. Proposed elective courses are the Legal Education Research Project; and Academic Leadership. This program will be taught by Professor Johnstone and Dr Mary Keyes.

The Graduate Certificate in Legal Theory – the only dedicated program of its kind in Australia – is convened by Shaun McVeigh, whose most recent research has focused on questions of jurisdiction, prudence, and the doctrinal order of the common law. This program draws on Griffith Law School's research and teaching strengths in legal theory. It aims to develop a

scholarly understanding of contemporary legal theory and to provide a systematic grounding in contemporary theoretical debates about law, justice and ethics. It will also provide a structured account of research methods and practices relevant to legal theory. The core courses in this program are Formations of Legal Theory; Social, Cultural and Critical Theories of Law; and Law, Justice and Ethics. These courses will be offered for the first time in 2nd Semester 2005. The elective courses are the Legal Theory Research Project; Critical Reading; and Law, Colonialism and Culture. These courses will be offered in 2006. The Graduate Certificate in Legal Theory will be taught by Shaun McVeigh, Dr William MacNeil, Dr John Touchie, and Dr Roshan de Silva.

Both programs will be taught intensively on campus at the Griffith Graduate Centre, at Griffith's Southbank campus in the Brisbane CBD, with online support.

For administrative information about these programs please email:
postgradlaw@griffith.edu.au.

Academic inquiries about the Graduate Certificate in Legal Education should be directed to Professor Richard Johnstone at:
r.johnstone@griffith.edu.au

Academic inquiries about the Graduate Certificate in Legal Theory should be directed to Shaun McVeigh at:
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Dr Mary Keyes
Associate Dean
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and Deputy Head of School
Griffith Law School

Chief Justice launches new Law School at Edith Cowan University



Western Australia's Chief Justice David Malcolm today launched the new law school at Edith Cowan University in Joondalup.

The Chief Justice Malcolm described the occasion as an historic moment for Western Australia and that Perth's northern suburbs needed a law school connected to its surrounding communities and that "it will meet the demand for legal education and access to quality legal studies that are fundamental to the scope and protection of human rights."

Chief Justice Malcolm, Edith Cowan's great nephew, said ECU's new law school was distinctive and relevant for the demands of legal practice in a rapidly changing society.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Millicent Poole, said it was rare in Australia to combine law, business, justice and policing in a single school. "Employers tell us they want lateral thinkers who find solutions, and preferably avoid litigation," she told a gathering of leading members of the State's legal profession at a ceremony on the University's Joondalup Campus. "So our new law program focuses on practical issues facing the law and service professions, as well as areas such as alternative dispute resolution, law reform, social justice and ethics."

"Our graduates will be highly employable, not only in traditional legal fields, but also in a whole range of related areas." "We're confident of meeting the needs of Perth's fast-growing north-western corridor, where legal services and training have not kept pace with demand."

One of the distinctive features of this new law school is a new academic program for police prosecutors. It is likely to become a model for the rest of the country, with increasing professionalism of WA Police prosecutors.

Plans are also underway for the law school to develop a community legal clinic, a branch of the Francis Burt Legal Education Centre, contribute to Legal Aid, and support the court system.

In its first semester this year, our new law course attracted 100 students and 15 police.

- Edith Cowan - the first woman elected to the Australian Parliament - was a legislative reformist. In 1923, Edith Cowan's *Women's Legal Status Act* was passed, allowing women to enter the legal profession in WA for the first time.

Professor Paul Moyle
Member of ALTA Executive
Head of School of Law and Justice
Edith Cowan University

2005 ALTA Interest Group Convenors

**Please submit your abstract for the Waikato Conference to:

<http://www.alta2005.waikato.ac.nz/submit.htm>

The Convener for that particular interest group will then get in touch with you.

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Remember to check out our NEW ALTA webiste!

www.alta.edu.au

Membership Renewal for 2005

ALTA membership is more popular than ever, with currently 900 paid-up members!

With our 2005 Renewals, we have had a few new Institutional members join. An Institutional membership is a membership paid by the university itself. This membership is cheaper per person than an Individual membership.

Our current Australian Institutional members are:

- The Australian National University
- Bond University
- Deakin University
- Edith Cowan University
- Griffith University
- James Cook University
- La Trobe University
- Macquarie University
- Murdoch University
- The University of New England
- The University of New South Wales – ATAX
- The University of New South Wales – Law
- The University of Queensland

- University of Southern Queensland
- University of South Australia
- The University of Sydney – LEC
- The University of Sydney – Economics & Business
- University of Tasmania
- University of Technology, Sydney
- The University of Western Australia
- University of Wollongong

Our current NZ Institutional & South Pacific Members are:

- The University of the South Pacific
- The University of Auckland – Law
- The University of Auckland – Commercial Law
- The University of Auckland – Business & Economics
- Victoria University of Wellington – Accounting and Commercial Law
- Victoria University of Wellington - Law
- The University of Waikato – Law School

The benefits of an ALTA membership are the same whether you have an Associate, Individual or Institutional membership.

These include:

- A Discount on the Annual Conference (almost double the cost of membership)
- ALTA Newsletter (PDF version) emailed twice per year
- *Legal Education Digest* (PDF version) emailed quarterly
- *Legal Education Review Journal* (PDF version) emailed once per year
- Your name in our members database, via our website
- Access to Convener listings for your area of interest via our website.

So join ALTA now and together we can further advance legal education throughout Australasia.

Individual Membership is \$45 for 2005
Institutional Membership is \$40 for 2005
Associate Membership is \$45 for 2005