

Winter Edition
2007

ALTA Newsletter

For the first time in the history of ALTA it was decided that both the ALTA Executives and the *Legal Education Review* Editorial Committee would participate in the Law Council's Convention, which this year took place at the Intercontinental Hotel in Sydney on the 24th March 2007. This afforded the opportunity for myself and the General Secretary to attend a meeting of the LER Editorial Committee and also discuss preliminary arrangements for the ALTA Conference to take place at James Cook University in Cairns in July 2008 with the President of the 2008 ALTA Conference Committee, Professor Paul Havemann.



The Executive also had meetings with Professor Michael Coper, the Chair of the Council of Australian Law Deans, and Tim Bugg and Peter Webb, President and Secretary respectively of the Law Council of Australia. Both these meetings were extremely productive. In particular the meeting with the Law Council Representatives led to ALTA being involved in the Law Council's newly established Legal Education Committee (further details are available in the Law Council report on p 46). This is the first time that ALTA has been invited to sit on a National Committee in a representative capacity.

Apart from raising the profile of ALTA the Convention was an appropriate time and place for the Executive to plan for future ALTA activities for the remainder of this year. Apart from liaising with the 2007 ALTA Conference Committee, members of the Executive have also played major roles in the launch of the Australian Academy of Law in Brisbane on 17th July and the RQF No 11 Workshop in Canberra on the 23rd July.

As mentioned elsewhere in the *Newsletter* the Executive is losing one of its long term members Associate Professor Prue Vines, ALTA General Treasurer, as well as ALTA General Executive Member, Professor Zada Lipman. We are also saying goodbye to our Administrative-Coordinator, Samantha McGolrick. Although appropriate tributes to their work for ALTA are published in other parts of the *Newsletter* I would like to thank all three of them and the other members of the Executive for all their efforts on behalf of the Association throughout the year.

As always, the *Newsletter* is an all embracing account of the activities of ALTA and its contingent committees, interest groups and institutional members, but in this Edition of the *Newsletter*, we include a focus on either strengthening or establishing relationships with those Key Agencies with which the ALTA Executive members feel ALTA has a common connection (for a list of these Agencies, see p 5). In past decades there has been very little opportunity for co-operation between organisations with a shared interest in the teaching of law. Now, because of improved forms of communication and a change of approach by the organisations themselves, there is a greater exchange of information and support which can only lead to an enhancement in the quality of legal education. We will continue with reports from more Key Agencies in future *Newsletters*.

Professor Paul Moyle
ALTA Chairperson
p.moyle@ecu.edu.au

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A list of ALTA's Key Agencies is provided on p 5. Each Key Agency was asked to provide a brief report on their organisation in either the ALTA Winter <i>Newsletter</i> or the Summer <i>Newsletter</i> .	
1) Association of American Law Schools	
2) Australasian Professional Legal Education Council	
3) Australian Academy of Law	
4) Australian Law Students' Association	
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