**Australian Institute of Administrative Law**

**National Executive and ACT Chapter**

**Annual General Meeting**

**21 November 2016**

**President’s Report**

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land that we meet on this evening and pay my respects to their elders and to elders of all cultures and backgrounds, past and present.

It has been an active 12 months for AIAL with some small but significant changes.

The National Executive Committee met monthly (save for January 2016). Committee Members were President : Linda Crebbin, Vice Presidents : Cain Sibley and Amanda Lister, Secretary : Tara McNeilly, Treasurer : Peter Sutherland, and Committee Members : Jonathan Aleck, Robin Creyke, Alice Linacre, Robert Orr, Vicki Parker, Claressa Surtees, Michael Will and Peter Woulfe.

The National Council met twice during the year - by telephone on 9 March and then in person on 21 July 2016. A further telephone meeting has been foreshadowed for February/March 2017.

Last year I noted that the Committee wished to focus on retaining current members and encouraging the active participation of younger administrative lawyers. This is a work in progress. Membership numbers are stable.

**2016 AIAL National Administrative Law Conference**

A very successful 2016 conference was held on 21 and 22 July at the Royal International Convention Centre in Brisbane. The theme of the conference was *Administrative Law – Making a Difference – Improving public administration and providing administrative justice*.

The conference incorporated the 2016 AIAL National Lecture which was delivered by The Honourable Chief Justice Catherine Holmes, Supreme Court of Queensland. An award of Honorary Life Membership to John McMillan was endorsed by the National Council and then announced at the end of the conference. In the edition of Forum that followed I indicated that this was the fourth of such awards with Dennis Pearce, Robert Todd and Stephen Argument also holding honorary life memberships. I need to correct that record - it is in fact the fifth. Professor Geoffrey Sawer was the first honorary life member of AIAL.

Many thanks to the organising committee in Queensland and the AIAL Secretariat for their efforts in arranging such an interesting and well-attended event. I want to also acknowledge the tremendous support provided to the organising committee by Tara McNeilly. The National Executive hopes that the conference assists the Queensland Chapter to continue to promote discussion and debate about administrative law in that State.

**2017 AIAL National Administrative Law Conference**

Planning is currently underway for the 2017 conference, which will be held on 20 and 21 July 2017 at the Hotel Realm in Canberra. A call for papers will be sent out by mid-December.

**AIAL website**

Robert Orr, Cain Sibley and Mandy Lister have continued to work on the development of the website and on the rebranding project, in consultation with Voodoo. The revamped website has now gone live, with the tagline: *Promoting discussion about the law and practice of government actions and accountability*.

Members received an email in the last few weeks with information about access to the Members Only section of the site.

An AIAL Twitter account (AIAL@AIALpubliclaw) and an AIAL Facebook page (@AIALpubliclaw) have been established. Links to these are included on the website. There are 72 followers on Twitter. I acknowledge the tweeting efforts of Robert Orr and thank him for his dissemination of information about AIAL events, other administrative law events and decisions of interest.

The increased use of social media to promote the work of AIAL continues with the extension of the 2017 National Essay Prize to incorporate a blog, podcast or video.

**AIAL Forum**

There has been some change to the membership of the Editorial Board. John Carroll and Alison Playford were replaced on the Board by Tara McNeilly and Peter Woulfe. We have also had a change in Editor, with Elizabeth Drynan retiring from the role. Elizabeth’s contribution and efforts are noted. The new Editor is Kirsten McNeill.

I acknowledge the efforts of the Board, particularly of Robin Creyke, in publishing Forum 83 without an editor. We know from the CAL payments received, that Forum is an important source of information for members and others.

Some changes have been made to the distribution of Forum as a result of changes by Australia Post in pricing. In the coming year it is hoped that the cover art and styling will change as part of our rebranding project.

# Seminars

State Chapters, particularly in WA, Victoria and South Australia have been active in arranging regular meetings and seminars.

The following events have been held in Canberra:

**14 April 2016** (lunchtime seminar): *Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Other Emerging Technologies: Privacy, Regulatory and Tort Law Implications* – presented by Professor Barbara McDonald, University of Sydney

**17 May 2016** (lunchtime seminar): *Call-out powers for the ADF in an age of terrorism: administrative law and other legal implications* – presented by Associate Professors Rob McLaughlin and David Letts, Co-Directors, Centre for Military and Security Law, ANU College of Law

**30 August 2016** (evening seminar): *The amalgamated Administrative Appeals Tribunal – a year in review and the years in prospect* – presented by The Hon. Justice Duncan Kerr, Chev LH President, AAT and Judge of the Federal Court of Australia and Ms Sian Leathem, Registrar and CEO, AAT

**5 September 2016** (evening seminar): *Reasoning and reasonableness: perspectives from the bench and the bar* – presented by The Hon Justice Mortimer, Judge of the Federal Court of Australia and Professor Margaret Allars SC, 11th Floor Wentworth Chambers

**13 October 2016** (lunchtime seminar): *Interpreters in Courts & Tribunals: Tricks and traps for users* – presented by Professor Matthew Groves, Monash University and Ms Rieteke Chenoweth, Member, Administrative Appeals Tribunal

**4 November 2016** (lunchtime seminar): Decision-making in Crises: The Inevitability of Disasters – presented by Mr Mark Crosweller AFSM, Emergency Management Australia

**21 November 2016** – (evening seminar pre-AGM) Constitutional Recognition - Dr Asmi Wood, BE LLB (Hons.), PhD ANU, Senior Lecturer, Academic Adviser ANU College of Law