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## Note from ALLA's Secretary

***ALLA Inaugural National Conference: Practising Australian Labour Law in the New Economy University of Melbourne, 4-5 October 2002***

Planning is now under way for the Association's first national conference to be held at the Melbourne University's new Law School building on Friday 4 and Saturday 5 October 2002. The program is currently being finalised and will be distributed to members soon.

We received a great response to the call for papers sent out in January this year. Accordingly, papers presented at the conference will cover a wide range of topics, including:

- The implications for labour law and practice of 'electronic work';
- Mutual trust and 'fair dealing' in the workplace;
- Redefining employment: meeting the challenge of agency and contract labour;
- Cessation of business or lockout? Industrial action by employers;
- The increasing interaction between labour law and corporate law; and
- International trade union responses to the new economy.

We welcome the attendance of all members of the Association (and non-members) at what promises to be a thought-provoking conference

Details will be sent to ALLA members as soon as they are available, and will be posted on ALLA's website:

[www.alla.law.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.alla.law.unimelb.edu.au)

***ALLA Affiliation to the International Society for Labour Law & Social Security ISLLSS European Regional Congress, Stockholm, 4-6 September 2002.***

The Association's application for affiliation to the international body has been lodged. It will be formally considered by the Executive Committee of the ISLLSS, which will meet at the European Regional Congress in Stockholm in September this year. Several members of the ALLA National Committee will attend to give full support to our application.

ALLA members may be interested in attending the Stockholm Conference, which covers three main themes: collective agreements and their relationship to other regulatory instruments (e.g. international treaties, individual contracts); sex discrimination; and freedom of movement and transfer of social security rights. If so, contact me: [a.forsyth@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:a.forsyth@unimelb.edu.au) – or visit the Conference website:

[www.labourlaw2002.org](http://www.labourlaw2002.org)

***Anthony Forsyth***  
Secretary, ALLA

## State Chapter Developments

### South Australia

The first meeting for 2002 of the SA Chapter of ALLA was held in February at the Law School University of Adelaide and was attended by 12 members. John Hankin, a Partner at Thomson Playford, and Simon Blewett, a Solicitor at Lieschke & Weatherill and Union advocate for the ALHMWU, led a lively discussion on "The Jurisdiction of the Industrial Relations Commission of South Australia in Unfair Dismissal Cases".

The next meeting of the SA Chapter of ALLA will be held at the offices of Duncan, Basheer & Hannon, 66 Wright St, Adelaide, Telephone 8231 3668, on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May, when Frances Meredith will lead present a paper entitled 'Close Encounters with Conciliation: Some Factors Associated with Quality Process'.

*Rosemary Owens, Treasurer, ALLA*  
(contact: [rosemary.owens@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:rosemary.owens@adelaide.edu.au) )

### New South Wales

On Wednesday 20 February, the New South Wales Chapter of the Australian Labour Law Association held its inaugural meeting. Mr Jeff Shaw and I were delighted that more than sixty persons attended this gathering. On behalf of ALLA's New South Wales members, may I thank the national law firm of Clayton Utz and their senior industrial law partner Mr Joe Catanzariti for hosting this inaugural New South Wales ALLA meeting in their premises. They provided ample food and refreshments which gave an opportunity for members and guest to talk and to mingle.

Mr Jeff Shaw began the proceedings by welcoming ALLA members to the inaugural meeting of the New South Wales Chapter. He introduced Justice Lance Wright who is the President of the Industrial Relations Commission of New South Wales who gave the evening address. In his paper, Justice Wright spoke of the work of the New South

Wales Commission; and he began by examining its one hundred years of history, for the original Industrial Arbitration Court conducted its first hearing in April 1902, one hundred years ago. then he spoke of recent test cases which have come before the Commission since the coming into force of the Industrial Relations Act 1996. He concluded by looking at the future role of the Commission in our changing world.

I then thanked Justice Wright for his superb paper, and then spoke to the gathering about our first national conference which will be held in Melbourne this October. As I was away in Canada when I was elected as the President of ALLA, this was the first occasion for me to speak to ALLA members.

The New South Wales Chapter under the guidance of Mr Jeff Shaw, hopes to hold several more seminar meetings in 2002. The 20th February meeting was a wonderful start to our Chapter of ALLA.

*Ron McCallum, President, ALLA*  
(contact: [ronmcc@law.usyd.edu.au](mailto:ronmcc@law.usyd.edu.au) )

### Other State Chapter Contacts

#### Queensland

*Amanda Coulthard:*  
Contact: [amanda\\_coulthard@corrs.com.au](mailto:amanda_coulthard@corrs.com.au)

#### Western Australia

*Bill Ford*  
Contact: [wford@ecel.uwa.edu.au](mailto:wford@ecel.uwa.edu.au)

#### Australian Capital Territory

*Phillipa Weeks*  
Contact: [WeeksP@law.anu.edu.au](mailto:WeeksP@law.anu.edu.au)

**Membership Update**

ALLA now has a total of 421 members around Australia (and a few overseas). We have recently experienced a significant increase in membership in NSW, following the very successful function held there in February.

The table (right) provides an up-to-date breakdown of the Association’s membership, state-by-state.

| <b>State</b> | <b>Members</b> |
|--------------|----------------|
| ACT          | 18             |
| NSW          | 118            |
| NT           | 1              |
| QLD          | 50             |
| SA           | 45             |
| TAS          | 2              |
| VIC          | 166            |
| WA           | 17             |
| Other        | 4              |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>421</b>     |

**Tribute to Professor Marco Biagi**

The following is an edited version of a letter written by Roger Blanpain, President of the International Society for Labour Law and Social Security, as a tribute to the recently deceased Italian labour law scholar, Professor Marco Biagi. The National Committee of ALLA echoes the sentiments expressed by Professor Blanpain following Marco Biagi’s tragic death.

*Dear Colleagues and Friends,*

*By now you will have heard that our dear colleague, Professor Marco Biagi, Modena-Italy, has been murdered, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 8pm in front of his house in Bologna, by two gangster-terrorists.*

*We hereby would like, in the first instance, to express our deep feelings of sympathy and sorrow to his family.*

*Also, for his many friends and colleagues and especially for those who have had the immense honour and privilege of working closely with him, the grief and loss go beyond words.*

*Marco was an outstanding academic with an enormous intellectual and human capacity. Over the last 20 years, Marco successfully built*

*up a network of colleagues and friends, promoting teaching and research over all boundaries.*

*In the last few years, Modena, his University, had become the Mecca for Comparative labour Law and Industrial Relations, where Conference after Conference was set up, trying to build bridges between all the actors involved, looking for appropriate answers for the challenges which confront our world of work.*

*Marco’s advice was sought after by the highest authorities, international, European and in his own country, where he served various Ministers of Labour and tried to help formulate policies adapting the law of the land to the new realities of the information society. This has proved to be fatal.*

*We will remember Professor Marco Biagi forever as a good friend, an excellent scholar, a devoted teacher and above all for his charm and hospitality.*

*Yours sincerely,*

**Roger Blanpain**  
President of the ISLLSS

**Centre for Employment & Labour Relations Law Seminar – 23 May 02**

On 23 May 2002, the Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law at the University of Melbourne will hold a seminar, ‘When Corporate Law & Labour Law Collide: Lessons from the Ansett Administration’ in order to explore the increasing importance of industrial

and employment law issues in the corporate administration process. For further information, please contact Anthony Forsyth: [a.forsyth@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:a.forsyth@unimelb.edu.au)