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Note from ALLA's Secretary

It has been a busy 12 months since the last edition of ALLA News. There are a number of highlights that I would like to mention.

ALLA's **third biennial conference** was held in Brisbane on 22-23 September 2006, with the theme **The Challenge of Contemporary Labour Law: New Directions and Disciplines**. This was another extremely successful conference for ALLA, with over 100 delegates enjoying 4 keynote/guest speakers (including Professor Takashi Araki from the University of Tokyo, Japan) and 37 papers presented by academics, students and practitioners. My thanks go to National Committee member Amanda Coulthard and her team for a fine job in organising the conference. The next national conference will be held in 2008.

State Chapters have been busy holding occasional seminars for members. Details of recent and upcoming **State Chapter activities** are outlined in this newsletter, along with contact points for each Chapter. Please feel free to get in touch with State Chapter convenors if you have an idea for a seminar, or wish to be involved in organising State Chapter activities.

ALLA is an active affiliate of the **International Society for Labour and Social Security Law**. This newsletter provides details of the ISLSSL World Congress of Labour Law held in Paris in 2006, as well as an update on the organisation of

the next World Congress, to be hosted by ALLA in Sydney in 2009.

Finally, I would like to thank ALLA's administrative support team, Charlotte Morgans (Administrator of the Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law) and Emily Long. Charlotte recently commenced maternity leave and we wish her all the best for the birth of her third child. I would also like to welcome Jessica Cotton, who takes over from Charlotte while she is on leave.

Please note that Emily will be sending out **membership renewals** in the next few weeks. We have managed to avoid an increase in membership fees, so annual ALLA membership continues to be very affordable at \$55. Please feel free to introduce new members to ALLA.

ALLA aims to keep its members informed about the Association's activities and events through frequent emails, distribution of the Secretary's Report to the AGM, forwarding the ISLSSL quarterly bulletins, and of course through this newsletter. You can also keep track of developments through ALLA's website. Additionally, please feel free to contact myself, Emily Long or Jessica Cotton at the CELRL
E-mail: law-alla@unimelb.edu.au
Ph: (03) 8344 8924.

John Howe
Secretary, ALLA
May 2007

State Chapter Developments

Australian Capital Territory

Forthcoming Events:

Presenter: **Professor Andrew Stewart**
(Flinders University)
Topic: **'Work Choices: What Comes Next?'**
Date: Wednesday 30 May
Time: 5:30pm
Location: Staff Library, Level 1, ANU College of Law, ANU

The next federal election looms as a watershed for industrial relations and labour regulation in Australia. Andrew Stewart will review Labor's recently announced IR policies, what they might mean in practice - and what constitutional powers might be used to put them in place. He will also discuss some of the Coalition's options for a "third wave" of reforms.

This seminar is presented by ALLA in conjunction with the ACT Branch of the Industrial Relations Society:

Recent Events:

On Thursday 3rd May 2007, **Professor Harry Glasbeek**, Professor Emeritus and Senior Scholar at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Toronto, presented a seminar on the topic **'Choosing the Corporation - A Corporate Lawyer Looks at Work Choices'** at the ANU College of Law.

On Wednesday the 14th of February 2007, **Professor Tatiana Zykina** presented a seminar **'Labour Law and Lawyers in Russia'**. Professor Zykina works at two Law Schools in Arkhangelsk in North Russia.

ALLA's ACT Chapter convenors are Shae McCrystal and Michael Rawling. Thanks to Shae for her efforts in making the ACT Chapter one of ALLA's busiest. Shae will shortly be

moving from the ANU to the Sydney Law School.

Shae McCrystal: shae.mccrystal@anu.edu.au
Michael Rawling: michael.rawling@anu.edu.au

New South Wales

Recent Events:

On 7 March 2007 the Sydney Forum of ALLA held an evening seminar in the Minter Ellison room at the Sydney University Law School.

The guest speaker was **Mr Robert McClelland**, shadow minister for Foreign Affairs. Mr McClelland discussed the **ALP's industrial relations policy**.

ALLA'S NSW Chapter Convenors are Ron McCallum, Joellen Riley and Ron Baragry.

Ron McCallum: r.mccallum@usyd.edu.au
Joellen Riley: joellen.riley@unsw.edu.au
Ron Baragry: rjb@aigroup.asn.au

Queensland

Recent Events:

The Queensland Chapter has been recovering from its busy role as host of the **ALLA National Conference**. *Amanda Coulthard, Queensland Chapter Convenor*, and several Qld Chapter members are hoping to organise a seminar in the near future.

If any Queensland members have ideas for chapter seminars and are willing to assist in organising an event, please contact *Amanda Coulthard*..

Amanda Coulthard:
amanda.coulthard@fasol.com.au

South Australia

Forthcoming Events:

Presenter: **Dr Anthony Forsyth** (Monash University)

Topic: **Which Way Forward for Dispute Resolution: 'Work Choices', or 'Fair Work Australia'?**

Date: 5:30-7pm, Tuesday 19 June, Piper Alderman Solicitors, Adelaide

In this seminar, Dr Forsyth will examine the operation of the voluntary dispute resolution framework under the Work Choices legislation, focusing on its impact on the Australian Industrial Relations Commission. The new arrangements for alternative dispute resolution through private ADR providers will also be considered. Finally, the ALP's proposal to establish Fair Work Australia as the new body responsible for dispute resolution (and several other functions), will be subjected to some analysis.

Recent Events:

In December 2006 the SA Chapter of ALLA together with the Australian Association of Constitutional Law presented a joint seminar to discuss the High Court's decision: **Work Choices [2006] HCA 52**.

In April 2006 **Dr Joellen Riley** addressed the SA Chapter on the topic '**Common Law Collective Agreements After Workchoices – Where to Now?**'

Professor Andrew Stewart has taken over the role of SA Chapter Convenor from Professor Rosemary Owens, who is now Dean of the Adelaide Law School. Thanks to Rosemary for her efforts with the SA Chapter.

Andrew Stewart:
andrew.stewart@flinders.edu.au

Tasmania

Commissioner Pat Leary, Tasmanian Chapter Convenor, is interested in hearing from any members with suggestions for a Tasmanian Chapter function.

Pat Leary: pat.leary@justice.tas.gov.au

Victoria

Forthcoming Events:

Chris O'Grady, Victorian Bar, will be presenting at a seminar for the Victorian Chapter in the near future. Further details will be available soon.

Recent Events:

On 4 April 2007, the Victorian Chapter held a seminar and social function with guest speaker **Associate Professor Bill Hodge** from the Law School, University of Auckland. Professor Hodge spoke on the topic: [Bargaining in Good Faith: Lessons from the New Zealand Experience for Australia](#).

In May 2006 **Mr Tim Lee**, Deputy Secretary of Industrial Relations Victoria, addressed Victorian State Chapter members on the topic of '[Work Choices and Victorian Employers and Employees](#)'.

ALLA's Victorian State Chapter Convenors are Marilyn Pittard and John Howe.

Marilyn Pittard:
marilyn.pittard@law.monash.edu.au
John Howe: j.howe@unimelb.edu.au

Western Australia

Forthcoming Events:

Nick Ellery, WA Chapter Convenor, is in the process of organising a WA Chapter function to be held soon. Please contact Nick on the email below for further details.

Nick Ellery: nicholas_ellery@corrs.com.au

Recent Events:

In June 2006 the WA Chapter held a seminar in which **Tony Beech**, Chief Commissioner of the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission, addressed the topic: '[WA IR After Work Choices](#)'.

ALLA's 3rd Biennial Conference

As reported in the Secretary's introduction, ALLA's third national conference held in Brisbane last September was a vibrant mix of scholarship, debate, networking and socialising.

The organising committee prepared a comprehensive program which featured one international (Professor Takashi Araki from the University of Tokyo, Japan) and three Australian guest speakers. The program featured a plenary session on the first day, followed by several concurrent sessions. Attendees enjoyed 37 presentations by 41 speakers who were selected from the call for

abstracts/papers. Tony Lawrence, the Victorian Workplace Rights Advocate, was the guest speaker at the conference dinner which was held in an enjoyable, entertaining setting at the Stamford Plaza Hotel (the conference venue) and was attended by 95 guests.

Additionally, both the Charter of Employment Rights as well as Associate Professor Joellen Riley's book, *Employee Protection at Common Law*, were launched on day one of the Conference. Following the ALLA Conference, a successful Labour Law Teachers' Workshop was also held at the Stamford Plaza.

International Society for Labour & Social Security Law (ISLSSL)

ALLA's affiliation with the ISLSSL means that ALLA members have opportunities to become involved in the World Congress, Regional Congresses, and Study Groups of ISLSSL.

The **18th ISLSSL World Congress** was held in Paris, France, in September 2006. The main themes of the conference were

- Trade Liberalisation and Labour Law;

- Labour Law (in its individual and collective aspects) and Productive Decentralisation; and
- Occupation Risks: Social Protection and Employer's Liability.

ALLA was represented at the World Congress and the meeting of the ISLSSL Executive Committee by ALLA President Ron McCallum and ALLA Secretary John Howe. Several other ALLA members were among the over 1,000 delegates from around the world who attended the Congress.

ALLA will be hosting the **next World Congress of Labour Law** which will be held in Sydney on **1st-4th September 2009**. The Congress will coincide with the Industrial Relations Research Association World Congress.

Professor McCallum and Dr Howe made a presentation regarding plans for the Sydney World Congress to the Executive Committee of the ISLSSL in Paris. After some debate and negotiation, the Executive Committee approved the following themes for the 2009 Congress:

- Theme 1: Regulatory frameworks and law enforcement in new forms of employment;
- Theme 2: Workers' representation and social dialogue at the workplace level;
- Theme 3: Emerging patterns of social protection in light of structural changes (ageing population, changing family structures, immigration, budgetary constraints, political and ideological realignments).

There will also be a 'roundtable' session on Work and Family Life, and several workshops, where there will be papers addressing a range of important labour law themes.

We are pleased to confirm that National Committee member **Professor Rosemary Owens** has been appointed as General Reporter for Theme 1 of the Congress. This is an important role. General Reporters have responsibility for collecting information regarding each theme from all member associations of the ISLSSL, and must then present a report on their findings to the World Congress.

For further information, see the Congress website: www.labourlawsydney.com