

Editorial – ACLN 2000

John Twyford

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As though the foregoing few months had not provided enough in the way of landmark dates and occasions, this issue of *ACLN* also marks the beginning of a new phase. Renewing subscribers will have received John Tyrnil's letter outlining the sale of *ACLN* to the Faculty of Design, Architecture & Building at the University of Technology, Sydney. I write as *ACLN*'s new Editor, benefiting enormously from the legacy of John Tyrnil who founded, developed and promoted *ACLN* – all with the invaluable production support of Michelle Tyrnil. John Tyrnil's foresight in pioneering an informative, legally-focused bi-monthly newsletter to Australian construction and associated industries has been widely acknowledged by readers who have found that *ACLN* fills a significant gap in current legal and construction publishing. It is the intention of *ACLN*'s new UTS management – comprising myself and Assistant Editor, Simone Murray, who will manage day-to-day production issues – to build upon the excellent foundations and reader support which John and Michelle Tyrnil have painstakingly built up over the preceding ten years.

Nevertheless, we recognize that *ACLN* must grow in line with its readership's changing needs for information and accurate, up-to-date coverage. To this end, we envisage some amendments both to the format of *ACLN*, which we hope to make still more reader-friendly, and to the scope of our coverage. Increasingly, we aim to introduce an internationalist flavour to the journal, with reports on analogous developments in overseas Common Law jurisdictions. In this issue, Ron Craig of the Department of Civil and Building Engineering at the University of Loughborough, UK, provides a comprehensive analysis of the often fraught issue of innovation in tendering from the perspective of the English and EU legal systems. Keith Sanders of the School of Engineering and Construction at Massey University in Wellington, New Zealand, has also signed on for the role of 'Our Man in New Zealand', with Singaporean and other South-East Asian correspondents expected to follow.

Expanding the outlook of the newsletter in another direction, we anticipate introducing a number of refereed articles about legal and building aspects of construction. Many members of our impressive Editorial Panel (the names of whom will be familiar to many in law and construction circles, and which can be found listed on the preceding page) have put forward their names to act as referees. We are interested in expanding this pool of refereeing talent still further, so that papers can be assessed against the most comprehensive knowledge of the field at the present time. Any readers interested in reinforcing their connection with *ACLN* through refereeing should contact either myself or Simone Murray (*tel. (02) 9514 8994 or (02) 9514 8867 respectively*).

The delay in your receiving this issue of *ACLN* warrants some brief explanation: for most of the month of March I was hospitalised with ill health, which rather played havoc with the production of the first issue. While definitely on the mend now, I am cognisant that delays in readers receiving the journal are less than ideal. We aim to make up for any time lost to illness and to have the full complement of six issues with you by December of this year.

Finally, I am delighted that on the facing page you will see the illustrious name of Justice Jim Spigelman, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. Justice Spigelman's observations on the role of expert witnesses in litigation address what is currently a very hot topic in construction circles (and one to be explored in detail in the AIQS's up-coming specialist expert witness workshop, announced on page 46). It gives me great pleasure that Justice Spigelman has granted *ACLN* permission to publish for the first time the full text of his speech delivered at the opening of the law term dinner. I believe the piece embodies the kind of quality writing, stimulating ideas and timely information for which John Tyrnil has made *ACLN* widely known, and which I am eager to develop in future issues of the journal.

With thanks for your continued support and vital feedback,

John Twyford