

CRIMINAL BAR ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD AT  
8 AM ON TUESDAY 23 May 2006

Present Lex Lasry, (Chair), Remy Van de Wiel, Stephen Shirrefs, John Champion, Ben Rozenes, Megan Tittensor, Tom Danos, Greg Connellan, Lachlan Carter.

Apologies Greg Lyon and Ben Lindner

Minutes and Correspondence

The minutes of the last meetings of the Committee have not been circulated.

Legal Aid

LL reported on the discussion with Kate McMillan SC re the legal aid campaign that is proposed. It was agreed that a "lobbyist" should be identified and the necessary quotes obtained so that the matter can proceed. JC to approach Jim Kennan also. We will await the involvement of the expert before dealing with the media on the issue.

Lao v DPP

This matter has now been referred to PILCH and requires no further discussion in the CBA.

Sexual Assault Advisory Committee

LL reported on what, in turn, he had been advised by Gerard Mullally re the last meeting and the proposed Code of Conduct issue. The committee agreed that this was most unsatisfactory and as a matter of principle was:

- o Unnecessary;
- o Vague as to breaches of the code;
- o Vague as to its enforcement;
- o Offensive.

The committee would like Gerard to attend the next committee so we can finalise a position on the matter. The committee also wishes LL to take the matter up with the Chief Justice and Chief Judge when next they meet.

Criminal Bar Association Conference

The committee agreed to investigate holding a weekend conference for members similar to the one conducted at Lorne recently by the Australian Lawyers Alliance Victorian branch. LL reported on the format of that conference which it was agreed might suit the CBA as follows:

- o Delegates arrive Thursday night hopefully during a judges or magistrates conference weekend;
- o Friday – a variety of sessions and seminars commencing with key note address – probably from either the Chief Judge or the President;
- o Friday night – dinner with guest speaker.
- o Seminar sessions until lunch time Saturday with the rest of the weekend free;
- o CLE accreditation – hopefully as much as 3 or more points.

The committee agreed to try to do it soon – i.e. October. Ben Rozenes and Lachie Carter have agreed to manage.

Jury Issues

JC reported on the jury issue. Proposal includes:

- o Empanelment by number becoming the norm;
- o Panels are to be split.

Discussion then concerned issues about the cross section of the community under the new arrangements and various other matters. It was agreed that in order to respond properly, the committee needs a list of issues to deal with.

The Meeting concluded at 8:55 am

Confirmed:

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Chairman