



The Australian
and New Zealand
College of Notaries

DARWIN CONFERENCE 2012 REPORT

Mr. Joseph Lukaitis, RFD, FANZCN

We came to this conference of the ANZCN in Darwin with four objectives.

First, to gather together as Notaries and enjoy the collegiality of the College. Second, to work towards improving notarial standards and practice in Australian and New Zealand. Third, to develop the intellectual and academic base of the notariat. Fourth, to further our involvement in the global notariat.

Hence our range of speakers and in particular why we are so pleased to have had Michael Lightowler, the President of the Society of Notaries of England and Wales present to us. Also, Justice Michael Hartmann from the new Asia Pacific office of the Hague conference has enlightened us about our region.

May I sincerely thank all our speakers on behalf of the College, Peter Zabrud, Stewart Germann, Thomas John, Sue Marshall, Paul Cariss, Michael Bula, Philip Hamilton, Wendy Wong, Jonathan May and Vice Consul of Economics at the Indonesian Consulate in Darwin, Mr Nazirwan Hafiz. I thank all of you who shared with us in the Forums.

There was a risk taken in holding this Conference in Darwin and soon after the wonderful Bologna Conference in September 2011.

I am now delighted to say that my assessment and yours is that we have had a stimulating, enjoyable and successful conference.

All delegates and guests have enjoyed the Darwin experience and I thought our dinner at Pee Wees was a highlight. Justice Dean Mildren addressed us in fine style on the subject of Notorious and Notable Notaries and we had the pleasure of awarding him on Honorary Fellowship of College. The dinner was also the occasion taken to award Peter Zabrud with a Distinguished Fellowship of the ANZCN. The opening in the Northern Territory Parliament Library and Simon Carris's talk on future technology will be well remembered by all. The Administrator of the Northern Territory the Honourable Sally Thomas AM honoured us by opening the conference.

I am particularly pleased about two outcomes of this conference. It is clear there has been further progress in fine tuning what the elements of best notarial practice for the common law notary are. This will have a real impact as notary delegates return to their practices and Societies and comment on notarial issues with the benefit of our discussions.

Second, the incredibly strong collegiate atmosphere of goodwill between delegates from Australia, NZ, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Canada. This means we can go forward and plan Honolulu 2014 with confidence.

Before we close, I wish to sincerely thank Paul Cariss and Peter Zablud for their input to the planning of this conference. My colleague Paul Cariss came to Darwin with me for the initial reconnoitre and gave generously of his time in doing the early planning.

Lyn Parkin and Melanie Welsh from my office in Melbourne have supported us very much as have Robyn Zablud and Michelle Podbury from Peter Zablud's office. May I sincerely thank those four very competent ladies for all their work.

Finally I wish to thank Cindy Shadiack who picked up the final administration of the Conference and who has so well attended to our administration over the last few days.