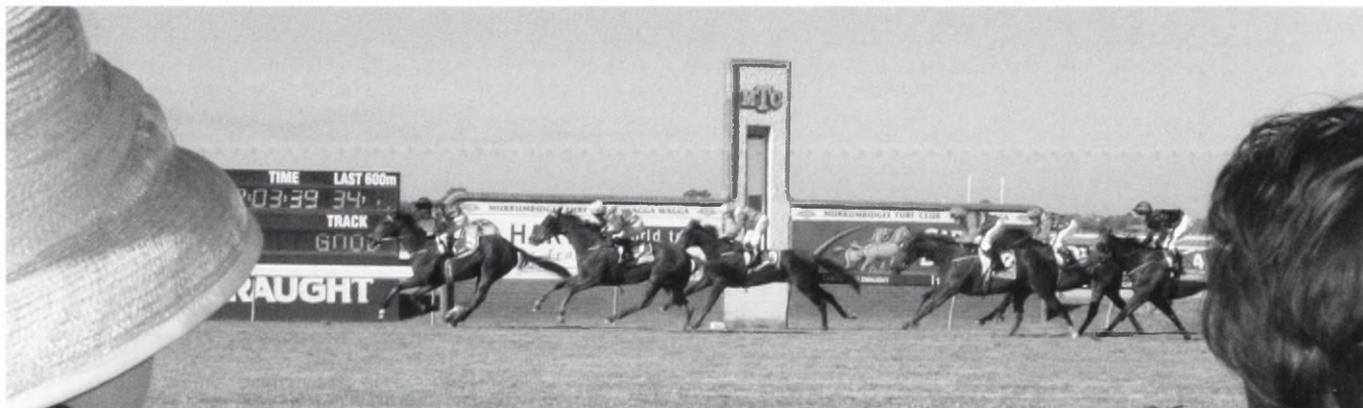


Seminars, saddles and sunshine: NSW regional seminar



Eva Scheerlinck and Michelle Castle check out the on-track action at the races.

On Thursday 6 May APLA's NSW Branch sponsored a great event for members and prospective members in the Wagga Wagga region. The day combined a morning of legal education and an afternoon of horse racing, mingling and soaking up the wonderful autumn sunshine at the Wagga races.

About 20 practitioners from Albury, Wagga and surrounding regions gathered at the Pavilion Motor Inn to hear APLA's NSW Branch President, Bob Whyburn, give his welcoming comments. Tony Hogno followed with a paper on recent developments in workers' compensation, with particular emphasis on the representation of injured workers in the Workers' Compensation Commission. There was some lively discussion and it seems everyone has a 'horror story' to tell of some worker's misfortune at the hands of inexperienced arbitrators or Commission bureaucrats.

Don Cameron is the senior litigation partner with Adams Leyland and practises in Albury. **PHONE** (02) 9604 3306 **EMAIL** dcameron@adamsleyland.com.au

Andrew Stone took the microphone after morning tea to update us on developments in the *Civil Liability Act* area. As usual, Andrew's presentation was entertaining, thought-provoking and helpful. Hopefully it was particularly helpful to APLA member and local Wagga solicitor, Tim Abbott, who provided a couple of thinly disguised scenarios from his pile of problem cases for Andrew and the group to workshop. All present agreed that Tim's plaintiffs would succeed, so we can hope for some judicial appointments from that group soon.

Michelle Castle from DG Thompson shared some helpful hints on how to squeeze decent costs out of matters where recent legislative changes have made it very hard to do so. Finally, Eva Scheerlinck wrapped up the morning with an outline of some APLA activities and an update on the High Court challenge to Mr Carr's advertising restrictions. The morning was a great success, with the intimate atmosphere allowing plenty of audience participation. Then it was off to the races.

President Bob's tipping skills were tested by the cagey locals and the uphill straight at the picturesque Murrumbidgee Turf Club. As punters

and judges of horses, we made great lawyers. To top off a fantastic event, Bob and Nicole Armitage (DG Thompson) featured in the social pages of the *Wagga Advertiser* the next day.

Activities such as this in regional areas are greatly appreciated by local practitioners. They provide an opportunity to network, discuss problems and get up-to-the-minute information in their area of practice, and all at a very reasonable cost. The NSW Branch is to be congratulated on this initiative, and I would encourage all regional members to support these seminars when they visit your region. 

Don Cameron, President of the Albury District Law Society, and APLA NSW Branch President, Bob Whyburn.

