

## Northern Territory Academy event for 2014

On Thursday evening, 4 September 2014, the Hon Frank Vincent AO QC delivered the fourth annual Austin Asche Oration in Law and Governance before an audience of well over 100 persons, the best attended event yet. The audience included most of the eleven Territory-based Fellows—counting the Hon Austin Asche AC QC himself, who remains Chair of the Northern Territory's Law Reform Committee. The formal event was preceded by refreshments in the Nitmiluk Lounge of the Northern Territory's Parliament House.



The Hon Frank Vincent AO QC

The Asche Oration was initiated by Charles Darwin University (CDU), and for the second year in a row was co-sponsored by the Australian Academy of Law, as warmly acknowledged in the Welcome Address by CDU Vice-Chancellor Prof Simon Maddocks. Indeed, Fellows of the Academy were very well-represented on the podium: Professor Les McCrimmon served engagingly as the Master of Ceremonies for the event. The Hon Justice Jenny Blokland provided some background on Austin Asche's life, work and contributions as a lawyer, law reformer, educator and administrator. Professor David Weisbrot represented the Academy's executive, and offered a welcome address

on behalf of the Academy, outlining the origins, role, growth and activities of the Academy—at the conclusion of which he was delighted to report the happy coincidence that Frank Vincent had recently become a Fellow.



CDU Pro-Vice-Chancellor Giselle Byrnes, Professor Les McCrimmon, the Hon Austin Asche AC, the Hon Frank Vincent AO QC, CDU Vice-Chancellor Simon Maddocks and Professor David Weisbrot

The title of this year's Asche Oration was 'Law and Order in a Rapidly Changing Society', and Frank Vincent more than lived up to his enviable reputation as a speaker and distinguished lawyer and jurist. In a wide-ranging address, Vincent noted that "our system of government and our legal and regulatory structures are based upon a particular view of the nature of the relationship between the citizen and the state. That relationship and the values and priorities inherent in it are, I believe, altering in response to a variety of pressures of an economic and social character, and the community can be seen to be deeply divided concerning some aspects of it". Among other things, Vincent canvassed his serious concerns about the future of the social safety net that protects the most vulnerable people in the community; the slow but steady demise of the jury system; the effective reversal of the criminal onus of proof in anti-terrorism and other legislation; the over-use of criminal law and sanctions to deal with

"the problems posed by alienation and social dysfunction"; the treatment of those seeking refuge and asylum in Australia; and the challenge balance our "desire to maintain freedom and privacy of communication on the one hand and the safety of the community on the other".

The full text of the Oration is scheduled to be published in the next edition of Northern Territory Law Journal. Previous Austin Ache Orations were delivered by Justice Patrick Keane, the Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG, and the Hon Diana Bryant AO, Chief Justice of the Family Court. Planning has already commenced for the event in 2015.

### Victorian Academy Event for 2014

The Victorian Academy event for 2014 will be held on Thursday 25 September in Court Room 8A on Level 8, Federal Court of Australia, 305 William Street, Melbourne.

The speaker will be Professor Kate Auty who is the 2014 Vice-Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Melbourne.

The subject of Professor Auty's address will be "Critical legal engagement with "outsiders" in criminal justice settings".

A flyer for the event in Melbourne is attached. Please note that for catering purposes you must register by 18 September on line

([www.academyoflaw.org.au/events?id=30](http://www.academyoflaw.org.au/events?id=30)) or by telephone ((02) 6125 3487 or (02) 6125 2906).

### Member Forum within the AAL website

The Member Forum, within a "Member area" on the AAL website is a facility by means of which Fellows can communicate with all other Fellows without their communication being viewable by the public as other parts of the website are.

A Fellow may wish, for example, to give other Fellows advance notice of a

forthcoming event; to inquire whether anyone knows of any publication relating to a particular legal issue; to inquire or advise about progress of a particular piece of research; or simply to advise of the Fellow's latest "Doings, Comings or Goings".

The Member Forum is now "live". Professor Rosalind Mason has assisted by making available a sample entry. In order to view it and to get some idea of what is possible just follow these steps:

- (1) Hover above "Fellows" in the bar at the top of the screen and click onto "Member Login"
- (2) On the screen that will then open up, type in your email address as you have supplied it to the AAL Secretariat;
- (3) On the same screen type in your "Password" which the Secretariat will be supplying to you within the next day or two;
- (4) You will then see a link to the Member Forum, once in the Forum, click on "Doings, Comings and Goings" and you will be able to read Professor Mason's entry

### New Fellows

Since the last Newsletter, the following have become Fellows of the Academy:

Professor Greg Craven

The Hon Frank Vincent AO QC

I am sure that all Fellows join me in extending a warm welcome to these new members.



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