
Report of the Board to members - 2020 Annual General Meeting

I am pleased to provide this report to you on behalf of the Board about ANZSLA's operations for the year ended 30 June 2020.

This report reflects on ANZSLA's activities for the year ended 30 June 2020. The year can be divided into 2 very distinct parts. The first half of the year involved ANZSLA delivering an excellent annual conference and undertaking its activities and delivery of member benefits in a similar way to previous years. The COVID-19 pandemic in the second half of the year created unique challenges for ANZSLA, its members and the sporting industry. ANZSLA's operations and activities evolved in 2020 as we continued to provide relevant and high quality benefits for its member as well as proceeding with new initiatives, including the inaugural ANZSLA Sports Law Scholarship.

2019 Conference

ANZSLA held a very successful 2019 annual conference in Perth from 30 October to 1 November. The theme of the Conference was 'Breaking Boundaries'.

The Conference commenced with a keynote speech from Lord Sebastian Coe CH KBE. Attendees heard high quality presentations across both days of the Conference. There was a great social programme including the President's Welcome Reception at Crown Towers, a fun run along the Swan River and a great conference dinner at the impressive Optus Stadium. Attendees also had the opportunity to participate in a tour of the stadium.

The AGM was held during the Conference and Venetia Bennett and Nigel Stirling were deservedly awarded life membership of ANZSLA for their outstanding contributions to ANZSLA.

At the Conference dinner the winner of the 2019 Denis Callinan Award was announced as Marianne Barker. The Denis Callinan Award recognises ANZSLA's members who volunteer their time and efforts to provide legal assistance to sports. The Denis Callinan Award is sponsored by the Queensland Traffic Offenders Program (which was established by Denis), and the recipient of the award receives a grant of \$2,000 for the organisation of their choice. Marianne nominated Taekwondo Australia's paralympic athlete program as the recipient of the grant.

ANZSLA is very grateful to the speakers at the Conference and the sponsors who generously contributed to its success. The Conference was sponsored by the WA Department of Local Govt, Sport & Cultural Industries, K&L Gates, Gow-Gates Insurance Brokers, Wotton + Kearney, Perth Convention Bureau, Plantagenet, Tourism WA, Optus Stadium, Crown Events & Conferences, Gabriel Chocolates, with support from Virgin Australia, ESIC and the University of Western Australia.

The Conference would not have been possible without the outstanding work of Co-Chairs Venetia Bennett & Helen McShane; and organising committee members Ben Armstrong, Olivia Birkett, Struan Burges, Rod Lillis, Brianna Mercer and Ella Wallwork. Thank you for all your efforts in organising a very memorable conference.

Administration and Board

ANZSLA's Executive Manager, Sharon Scriven is a key part of ANZSLA's operations. Sharon continues to provide great support for ANZSLA and has done an excellent job in

helping ANZSLA deal with the unique issues that have arisen during 2020, including development of the webinar program and membership renewal. The Board is very grateful for Sharon's efforts.

Jude Fippard commenced as NZ Administrator in late 2019. Jude transitioned seamlessly into the role and has been a fantastic addition to the administrative team, assisting Sharon in supporting members and in managing operations in New Zealand.

I am very grateful to all members of ANZSLA's Board –Tony O'Reilly, Keith Binnie, Rebecca Hooper, Tim Pullman, Annette Greenhow and Will Aplin - for the contribution that each has made to ANZSLA over the last year. Each member of the Board makes a terrific contribution and ANZSLA would not be in the strong position it is without their efforts.

Regional events and webinars

ANZSLA conducted a number of regional events in Australia and New Zealand in the second half of 2019:

- 21 August 2019. Criminal implications for on-field actions (Perth, WA)
- 23 August 2019. Sports law Symposium. (Auckland, NZ)
- 11 September 2019. Sports law & Sailing (Adelaide, SA)
- 19 September 2019. IP law & Sport (Perth, WA)
- 27 November 2019. Sports law: a year in review (Melbourne, NSW)
- 28 November 2019. Sports Law Review 2018/2019 and Tips for Investigations and inquiries (Wellington, New Zealand)
- 29 November 2019: Sports Law Seminar (Christchurch, New Zealand).

During 2020 ANZSLA has successfully moved to webinar presentations. This has been well received and the Board is very grateful to everyone who has contributed. ANZSLA has conducted the following webinars in 2020:

- 19 March 2020: Sports Law – a year in review;
- 6 April 2020: Sports Law Forum: COVID-19 Issues for Sport;
- 7 April 2020: National Sports Tribunal;
- 20 May 2020: COVID-19 Contractual Issues;
- 23 June 2020: Discussion about the impact of COVID-19 on US Sports;
- 25 June 2020: Gender, Athletes' Rights, and the Court of Arbitration for Sport;
- 30 June 2020: Q&A session - discussion about the impact of COVID-19 on US sports;
- 23 July 2020: Anti-doping in the COVID-19 environment with Sports Integrity Australia and Drug Free Sport New Zealand;

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- 29 July 2020: Behind the scenes of the record-breaking ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020 – a discussion of the legal challenges from representatives of the ICC and local organising committee;
 - 17 August 2020: Navigating Public Health, Sport and the Duty of Care;
 - 18 August 2020: The impact of COVID-19 on major international sporting events.

ANZSLA has also organised the following webinars for next month:

- 24 November 2020: An update on developments in Australian, New Zealand and international sports law cases from 2019/2020
- 27 November 2020: An update on the changes to the 2021 WADA Code.

Thanks to the many individuals across Australia and New Zealand who assist with these events for ANZSLA. There are too many people to mention and we could not provide our high quality events without you. We are exceptionally appreciative of your support and assistance, particularly during 2020.

2020 Conference

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, in April 2020 the Board unfortunately had to cancel the annual conference which was scheduled to be held in Queenstown in October 2020. This was an inevitable but very disappointing outcome of COVID-19. The organisation of ANZSLA's 2020 annual conference was well progressed and we are very appreciative of the great work undertaken by Michelle Campbell, Keith Binnie, Stephanie Bond, Ian Hunt, Hana-Rae Seifert and Tim Pullman. If possible, ANZSLA is looking forward to holding a blockbuster Conference in 2021.

ANZSLA Sports Law Scholarship

At last year's conference we announced the inaugural ANZSLA Sports Law Scholarship to support members undertaking higher education in the area of sports law. A scholarship sub-committee was formed and the terms of the scholarship were formulated. The scholarship program was launched in May 2020 and there was a very impressive response from members.

Earlier this month ANZSLA was proud to announce James Moller as the recipient of the \$10,000 inaugural ANZSLA Sports Law Scholarship.

The Board appreciates the assistance of the scholarship sub-committee – Keith Binnie, Andy Gibson, Prof Elizabeth Toomey, Ian Hunt, Prof Jack Anderson, Brian Doyle, Tony O'Reilly and Annette Greenhow - and the help of Keith Binnie, Andy Gibson and Ian Hunt with the difficult role of selecting the successful recipient.

ANZSLA will continue with the scholarship program in 2021.

2020 Paul Trisley Award

The Paul Trisley Award sports law writing competition is one of ANZSLA's key awards and is ordinarily announced at the annual conference. That was not possible this year, however

ANZSLA has recently announced that Peter Divitcos has been awarded with the 2020 Paul Trisley Award for his paper on *'Match-Fixing in Sport: A Coordinated, Targeted and Comprehensive Network of Actors'*.

Peter's article will be included in Volume 13 of the Australian and New Zealand Sports Law Association Journal, to be published later this year.

It was great to see numerous high quality applications for the Paul Trisley Award this year. Thank you to Deb Healey, Andy Gibson and Paul David QC for assisting with the judging of this important award.

2020 Denis Callinan Award

We were also pleased to recently announce James Turner has been awarded the 2020 Denis Callinan Award in recognition of his community service to football in New Zealand.

James has nominated the Adaptive Ski Training Program of Snow Sports NZ as the recipient of the \$2,000 grant.

The ANZSLA Board is grateful for QTOP's continuing support of the Denis Callinan Award.

Publications

ANZSLA continues to offer 3 key publications for members: the Australian and New Zealand Sports Law Journal; the Commentator; and the Sports Shorts e-newsletter.

An edition of Australian and New Zealand Sports Law Journal will be published and distributed to members later this year. The Australian and New Zealand Sports Law Journal is the only double blind peer reviewed publication of its type in the Australasian region, and it takes a tremendous amount of work from contributors, reviewers and the editors to put together the Journal. The Board thanks Deb Healey and Paul Hayes QC for their work as editors of the Journal, and to the other members of the editorial committee for the time and effort that they devote to producing our high quality journal.

The Board also wishes to thank Gerry Glennen, the editor of the Commentator, for his ongoing work to produce this publication. The Commentator is an important resource for members to receive information about and consideration of current sports law issues. Members are encouraged to contribute articles to the Commentator, as well as to send information about recent achievements and what they have been involved with to Sharon Scriven so that this can be included in future editions. Thanks also to David Trodden for the NSWRL's ongoing assistance in the production of the Commentator.

ANZSLA mentoring program

ANZSLA continued with its mentoring program during 2019/2020. This free program seeks to assist the professional development of a mentee's skills and strategies in the sports and sports law industries. 16 mentoring pairs participated in the program during 2019/20. Many thanks to the mentors who assisted with the professional development of other members.

The 2020/2021 mentoring program has commenced and 18 matched pairs are participating.

Financial position

Tim Pullman has done an outstanding job as ANZSLA's Finance Director this year and his support and guidance during 2020 has been invaluable to the Board and ANZSLA.

A comprehensive report in respect of ANZSLA's finances for 2019/2020 and budget for the 2020/2021 year has been distributed to members.

In summary, ANZSLA continues to be in a healthy financial position. This has been assisted by a successful 2019 conference and strong membership numbers. The Board made a number of decisions in 2020 that have future financial implications for ANZSLA, including the cancellation of the 2020 conference and reduction of ANZSLA's membership fees for 2020/21. A challenge for ANZSLA going forward is to utilise its resources to provide relevant and practical membership benefits and maintain its status as the leading sports law organisation in Australia and New Zealand.

Concluding comments

ANZSLA's 30th year was very different to any other.

Over the year ANZSLA has sought to deliver on its mission to provide members with sports law education, advocacy and networking opportunities and, I believe, has adapted well to a new environment for our members and the sports law world.

The Board is extraordinarily grateful for the support of members during the year. I am very pleased to report that as at the date of this report ANZSLA has 429 members for 2020/21, almost 40 more than the same time last year.

In 2020 ANZSLA moved to providing high quality webinars for members. This has been a great success and will be part of ANZSLA's key membership benefits going forward. Members are encouraged to suggest topics and presenters for future webinars.

The Board understands that members value the opportunity to meet in person and catch up. That has not been possible in 2020. The Board is committed to arranging networking functions as soon as we can and to delivering the best possible conference in 2021.

The Board is always open to considering new ways to provide value for members and additional benefits where possible. Members are encouraged to contact Board members or Sharon Scriven with any suggestions.

On behalf of the ANZSLA Board, I thank you for your support of ANZSLA in 2019/20.

Martin Ross

President

26 October 2020