

Director's Report 2008

This is the nineteenth year in which the Competition Law and Policy Institute of New Zealand has successfully delivered a dynamic and thought provoking workshop, its venue this time, the Hilton Waterfront Hotel in Auckland. We were most fortunate to have been able to entice to New Zealand our very distinguished keynote speaker, Professor Henry First, Professor of Law at New York University. Other overseas contributors invigorating the Workshop this year were the Hon. Justice Mansfield (from the Federal Court of Australia); Brent Fisse, Senior Fellow, University of Melbourne; Dr Caron Beaton-Wells, Director of Studies, Competition Law, University of Melbourne; Dr Brendan Sweeney, Monash University and Canberra based Dr John Fallon, Director of Economic Insights Pty Ltd.

Our local speakers and commentators, Professor Ian Eagles, Auckland University of Technology; Julian Miles QC, Mark Williamson DLA Phillips Fox, Auckland; Sarah Keene, Partner, Russell McVeagh, Auckland Professor Tim Hazledine, University of Auckland, James Mellsop, NERA Economic Consulting, Auckland; Dr Chris Noonan, University of Auckland; Associate Professor Yvonne van Roy, Victoria University of Wellington; Kristina Cooper, Legal Advisor, Industry Association of the Airlines; Alan Jenkins, Electricity Networks Association and Michael Clark, Director, Networks Branch, Commerce Commission also presented insightful papers and commentaries on a range of topical subjects.

I would like to thank all the speakers and those who commented on their papers. I would also like express my gratitude to the Chairs of the sessions for all their efforts behind the scenes as well as on the day itself and those who participated in the ensuing discussions. Last but by no means least, all of us who went to the Workshop dinner much appreciated the witty apercus of our after-dinner speaker, Dr James Farmer QC.

As Director, I have been blessed with a very supportive Advisory Board and the efficient services of our ever helpful Secretary-Treasury, Val Browning. This year has also seen the successful transition of the Institute into a Charitable Institution from an Incorporated Society, a transition that involved a fair amount of paperwork.

If you have enjoyed and benefited from the 2008 Workshop I sincerely hope that you will consider participating again this time next year at the landmark 20th Workshop.

Louise Longdin

Director