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Judges Review Conference 2007: Past, Present and Future Perspectives on the Law

Since its first appearance on 5 May 1927, the *Australian Law Journal* has been the dominant tall gum tree in the Australian legal landscape. In its first Foreword, in Volume I, Number 1, J G Latham said that the purpose of this new journal was, “to be a medium for the distribution of information and the interchange of ideas among legal practitioners in every State of the Commonwealth”. The provision of information was to be “useful and interesting to the legal profession”.

With the support of the legal profession, the *Australian Law Journal* has been providing for the last 80 years, information which is both “useful and interesting to the legal profession” in Australia. And in the process of doing so, it has acted as an historical record of the Australian legal profession.

To celebrate its 80 years, the “Judges Review Conference 2007: Past, Present and Future Perspectives on the Law” was organised by the *Australian Law Journal*, and it brought together an eminent panel made up of judges and senior members of the legal profession. All speakers on their chosen topic explored the progression of their subject through the years and further discussed its likely future course and development.

This commemorative issue gathers all the papers presented at the Conference and in exploring areas such as constitutional law, family law, industrial law, torts, environmental law, equity, crime, and taxation, it provides interesting snapshots of those various areas of law, as they once were, what they are now and what they might be.

I recommend this commemorative issue to you as a synopsis of what the *Australian Law Journal* has always aimed to be, a useful, practical and interesting guide for Australian lawyers.

Mr Justice P W Young AO
General Editor