

This issue of *Bar News* looks at some of the new technologies that have so recently and so quickly become a feature of many barristers' practices.

Some of us can remember when email seemed new. Now there are all sorts of innovations. Social media, cloud storage, electronic discovery, iPads – the list seems to grow from day to day. It seems as if virtually every aspect of practice may be affected.

For example, do we really need to take trolleys of folders to court if everything fits in an iPad? Do we still need shelves of law reports in our chambers, or can research now all be done electronically? If solicitors today use Google to find counsel – or at least counsel's contact details – should we be advertising our services on our own websites or through social media?

The articles in this issue's technology feature look at how barristers can navigate and use the array of new technologies that are now on the market. No one wants technology for its own sake. The articles examine whether new technologies make

practice better, cheaper or more efficient.

Of course, this issue includes much else besides technology.

Bar News is delighted that the attorney-general of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Hon George Brandis QC, agreed to be interviewed for this issue.

Among other things the attorney-general discusses the challenges which he envisages may be expected during his term, including access to justice and balancing free speech and human rights.

We are also delighted to publish in this issue the remarks of the chief justice of Australia at the launch of *Historical Foundations of Australian Law*, a recent publication of Federation Press.

Other contributors to this issue of *Bar News* include the Hon James Spigelman AC QC on Justice Pembroke's recent book on Arthur Phillip, Ian Barker QC on cross-examination and Chester Porter QC on the famous case of Frederick McDermott – the last of which follows up from an article in the last edition of *Bar News*.

And just to balance all the talk of new technologies, the Hon John Bryson QC has contributed a piece on how barristers' practices used to operate before computers came along.

Lastly, since this is the final issue for 2013, *Bar News* takes this opportunity to wish all our readers a peaceful and relaxing holiday and all the best for the new year.

Jeremy Stoljar SC