

Miracle on Goulburn Street



Terence Rowles
4th Floor Wentworth Chambers

On Friday, 2 August 2024, the 21st Floor Judge’s Common Room at John Maddison Tower was the venue for an intimate celebration of his Honour Judge Neilson’s 30-year anniversary on the Bench.

The event was well attended by over 50 people, comprising current and former judges, members of the Bar, solicitors and a number of his Honour’s former associates, all of whom were gathered to celebrate a long and distinguished legal career.

His Honour’s speech was witty, topical and delivered with his characteristic generosity of spirit containing amusing anecdotes, traversing many years both on and off the Bench. According to his Honour, this was to be the only speech, to be delivered in front of an audience of his choosing. His Honour’s wish was not granted, and impromptu speeches of warmth and humour in praise of his Honour were delivered by Judge Tupman, former Judge Robison and Frank Curran of the Bar.

It is fitting to note that his Honour is the last sitting judge of the now defunct Compensation Court and is due to retire

in 2025, a date that is exactly 100 years after the enactment of the original workers compensation legislation. This legislation is still preserved in respect of the operation of New South Wales coal miners, in respect of which his Honour is universally conceded to be the acknowledged expert.

As befitting the ‘most senior puisne judge’ (another of his Honour’s favourite epithets), the formalities ended with a rousing chorus of ‘Jolly good fellow’, followed by more good wine and conversation. All in all, a fitting tribute to his Honour’s dedicated service. **BN**

