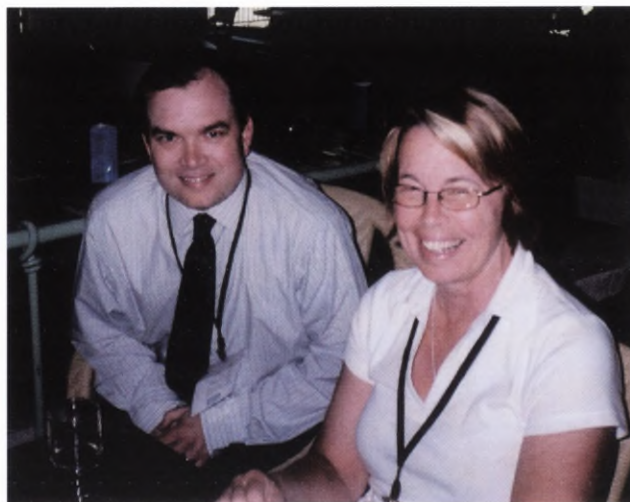


# North Queensland Intensive

By Kay Ryan



Chris Newton (right), who presented a paper at the intensive, with Andrew Krumins of Cairns.



Queensland CLE coordinator, Darren Moore, with Helen Oliver.

**B**lue sky, sparkling sea, sea breezes, majestic Magnetic Island dominating the horizon ... not a tropical holiday, but the setting for the North Queensland Intensive held at Jupiters Hotel & Resort, Townsville, on Friday 10 September 2004.

From the opening words of Queensland President, Gerry Mullins, to the closing presentation of orthopaedic surgeon, Dr Brett Halliday, delegates were presented with the latest in personal injury law developments in Queensland. APLA CEO, Eva Scheerlinck, brought everyone up to date with the exciting changes at APLA and described a glowing future for our organisation.

Latest WorkCover cases were presented by Simon Morrison, who also commented on the federal government proposals with regard to a national workers' compensation regime. With the upcoming federal election, this proposal is again on the back burner. As always, Simon's delivery was succinct and pertinent.

Delegates were provided with a tropical-style lunch in relaxed surroundings ... plenty of sunshine, white sails on the water ... before returning to the business of the day.

Chris Newton directed his paper at the liability issues defined in the *Civil Liability Act 2003* and highlighted several areas to watch where the onus of proof has been reversed by the Act.

It was enlightening to hear John Baulch SC describe the particular difficulties of practising personal injury law in a regional centre as far afield as Townsville. This is particularly apparent when attempting to obtain independent medical examinations and impartial mediators.

Ian Brown presented the very latest in cases covering motor accidents and

PIPA cases, with one decision having been handed down by the Court of Appeal the morning of the intensive. Very much 'finger on the pulse'!

The final speaker was Dr Brett Halliday from our sponsors, Queensland Medilaw. Dr Halliday gave a very informative dissertation on the interpretation of AMA V and its application to orthopaedic injuries. For a lawyer, a most interesting and enlightening presentation.

All in all, the day proceeded at a brisk pace, with hard-hitting presentations of up-to-date law in the vital areas of personal injury practice. Thanks again to our sponsor, Queensland Medilaw without whose assistance the event would not have been possible.

A great intensive was topped off with the conference dinner, which was held at the Boardwalk Restaurant overlooking the marina ... Castle Hill floodlit in the background, reflections in the sea, soft breezes – perhaps after all, a tropical holiday. ■



Deborah Cann (right) of Queensland Medilaw, with a delegate.

**Kay Ryan** is an associate with Shannon Donaldson Province Lawyers in Toowoomba, Queensland **PHONE** (07) 4659 9277  
**EMAIL** kay@provincelawyers.com