



# New South Wales Bar Association

26 March 2007

## Marcus Priest wins 2007 Bar Association Media Award

The 2007 Bar Association Media Award for excellence in journalism related to law and justice has been awarded to Marcus Priest for his article 'Brand New Day?', which was published on 28 July 2006 in *The AFR Magazine*.

The article describes the failure of native title legislation to deliver its promises.

'The winning work is notable for the depth of its research, its articulate analysis of legal issues and the effects of legislation and the important information it provides that is not otherwise available - either to the general reader or to most lawyers', said Angela Bowne SC, chair of the judging panel.

'The quality of the entries was extremely high, with a wide range of intelligent and well-informed debate and analysis of legal issues', said Ms Bowne.

Two other print articles were identified by the judges as deserving of an honourable mention:

- ❖ 'Killer Blow', written by Rae Wilson and published in the *Sunshine Coast Daily Weekend* on 17 June 2006; and
- ❖ 'What Price Rights?' written by Kenneth Nguyen and published in *The Age* on 2 September 2006

'Rae Wilson's article raised important issues arising from multiple co-accused having separate trials, indemnities to witnesses, juries' decision making, and the impact of the judge's summing up.

'Kenneth Nguyen's article dealt with the implications of the control order made over Jack Thomas 10 days after his release from jail, his convictions for receiving money from al-Qaeda and possessing a false passport having been quashed by the Victorian Court of Appeal', said Ms Bowne.

Among the entries from electronic media, the judges highly commend a program broadcast by ABC-Radio National's *The Law Report* on 2 May 2006 entitled 'Intellectually Disabled, Sex and Consent'. This program presented by Damien



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Carrick and produced by Anita Barrand was an objective and thorough examination of a rarely discussed issue.

The Bar Association media award, worth \$5,000.00, is given to media professionals who are judged to have given their audience the best understanding of important legal principles, the legal profession or the operation of a particular facet of the justice system in Australia. The judging panel for the 2007 award was comprised of Angela Bowne SC, Tom Mollomby SC and Sandra Symons, senior lecturer in journalism at the University of Technology, Sydney.

The awards were announced at a ceremonial lunch on 23 March 2007, during the 35<sup>th</sup> Australian Legal Convention, held at the InterContinental Hotel, Sydney.

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