



## President's Message

*Rowena McNally, National President*

IAMA has published some excellent editions of “The Arbitrator & Mediator” over the years and this edition is no exception. Several of the papers have been selected from papers delivered at our “New Horizons” National Conference in May of this year.

The conference demonstrated that the Institute has developed amongst our members a deep culture of multi-disciplinary fellowship and learning. This is also shown in the articles presented in this journal.

Another milestone this year was the launch of the IAMA Arbitration Rules 2014. The conference provided a significant opportunity for the exchange of new ideas and discussion about where the new Rules will take the profession. The Institute and its members need to be pro-active in managing the future of dispute resolution in Australia. IAMA has identified an opportunity before us to reform domestic arbitration in Australia and to reinvigorate use of arbitration as a fast, efficient, cost effective and confidential means of resolving disputes.

The consultation period for the initial draft of the Toolkits which are to be developed in support of the new Rules has just closed. The responses showed strong demand for a Toolkit of guidelines on interim orders, costs, jurisdiction and the preliminary conference as being the priorities for the drafters. Responses also supported that the Toolkits should provide a framework, but not erode the role of the Arbitrator to think independently and enjoy the flexibility afforded their role by the legislation as supported by the new Rules.

The Rules Committee will shortly be tabling to the National Council a document setting out the needs and index to the Toolkits, based on the feedback received in the consultation period. Once approved, the Toolkit drafting will begin.

Last month, IAMA participated in the Regional Arbitral Institutes Forum (RAIF) in Singapore. IAMA has developed strong ties with other arbitral bodies in our region, and so the Forum provided an opportunity to build on these multilateral ties. In 2007, IAMA was one of the original founding organisations of RAIF, which was established to allow its members to collaborate on certain common objectives, including serving the educational and social needs of members of the arbitral institutes, facilitating the exchange and dissemination of information on arbitration and promoting understanding and co-operation between the member institutes.

## THE ARBITRATOR & MEDIATOR SEPTEMBER 2014

I am also grateful to the editor of our journal, Mr Russell Thirgood, who represented IAMA as a speaker in the round table panel discussion at the Forum on the topic of “*Going Beyond the ICC Guidelines on Time and Costs – What can we really do to address the time and costs of arbitration?*”.

The members of RAIF, at the Singapore Forum, signed a fresh Memorandum of Understanding. RAIF only admits one arbitral organisation from each country within the region. Current members are the Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators Australia, the Arbitration Association Brunei Darussalam, the Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators, the Indonesian Arbitrators Institute, the Malaysian Institute of Arbitrators, the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators and the Philippines Institute of Arbitrators. We look forward to ever strengthening ties with these and other dispute resolution bodies.

I thank all those members who give so generously of their time and skills to support the good work of the various Chapter and other committees within IAMA. The Institute’s present strength comes from the involvement of our members and their devotion to raising and maintaining the professional standards of arbitrators, mediators, conciliators, adjudicators, experts and other resolution professionals. The Institute’s imprimatur of accreditation or grading in one of the dispute resolution disciplines is highly respected as a mark of achievement and standing. One of the challenges ahead is to ensure that we continue to expect and support the highest professional standards from our members. Another challenge will be ensuring dispute resolution services respond to meet the ever changing needs of business and the community, and in a timely and cost effective manner.