

May 11, 2015

To All Brisbane Conference Delegates and Primary Contacts

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

It is just weeks since we attended PRAC's 57th International Conference in Brisbane, Australia. I hope that your onward travels were productive and pleasant. I thought now was the time to send you a short report to remind you of all that we achieved.

On Friday, prior to the official opening in Brisbane, the Clayton Utz firm hosted a cocktail reception at their Sydney offices for Delegates and Guests travelling through Sydney, affording the opportunity to visit Clayton's state of the art offices in the new 1 Bligh St. Sydney office tower project. This building is one of Sydney's first buildings to achieve a 6 star green rating, which represents global leadership in sustainable building design.

Clayton Utz Chief Executive Partner, Rob Cutler and Board Chair Ross Perrett welcomed delegates and guests at Saturday evening's opening reception at Clayton Utz's Brisbane offices, which was followed by dine-arounds at local restaurants. Sunday's Group Tour included a trip to Lone Pine Sanctuary where we enjoyed up front and personal contact with kanga and koala, followed by a relaxed afternoon luncheon in South Bank.

Sunday evening played host to the very special In-Home Dinners where once again, delegates and guests enjoyed the wonderful ambience of our local Brisbane Clayton Utz hosts.

The business program began Monday morning with a Welcome & Country briefing presentation from Clayton Utz Board Chair and Partner, Ross Perrett, which was followed by special guest presentation from Prof. the Honorable Stephen Martin, Chief Executive, The Committee for Economic Development in Australia.

Monday morning's session continued with PRACTice Management's *"Leading in Challenging Times"*, with guest facilitator, Dr. Terry Lee, Director, Leading Psychology (Australia) and continued thru the afternoon. Large and small group workshops for both morning and afternoon sessions proved informative, lively and highly-interactive.

Following the close of Monday's business session, the Delegation visited Government House for afternoon tea with His Excellency The Honorable Paul de Jersey AC and his wife, Kaye de Jersey. You can find His Honour's welcome speech here <http://www.govhouse.qld.gov.au/the-governor-of-queensland/speeches/2015/april/pacific-rim-advisory-council.aspx>

Tuesday morning's session continued with one of our new sessions, *"Regional Reporting"*. Clayton Utz Chief Executive Partner, Rob Cutler provided an insightful look on the development in the legal profession in Australia and the Asia Pacific Region.

Also on Tuesday morning, Peter Williams, Founder of Deloitte Digital and Chief Edge Officer, Deloitte Centre for the Edge, presented *"Digital Disruption and the Transformation of Law Firms"*, which proved to be lively, interactive and an informative topic.

Our newest member firm, Bennett Jones, participated in a new session *"Member Spotlight"*, designed to focus on a particular member firm's overview and updates and in this case, Randal Hughes (Toronto) presented.

Another change up to our conference format followed with redesigned One on One meetings. *“Leader Roundtables”*, featured two Group Leaders who each gave two- 7 minute presentations to large groups of Delegates. From the initial comments, it seems this format proved to be successful and we will be taking steps to improve on it at future conferences.

Following lunch, a PRACTice Development session was held focused on *“Major Projects Disputes – Causes and Cures”*, which included a panel discussion moderated by Alan Maguire, Clayton Utz Managing Partner, (Brisbane) and included Guest Panelist John Wilmott, Principal E3A Australia); delegates from various jurisdictions including Alberto Cardemil, Carey –(Santiago), David Powers, Baker Botts (Houston) and John Rowland, Q.C., Clayton Utz (Sydney)

The Board Meeting followed and the meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.(see notes below)

Tuesday’s Closing Dinner took place at the Gallery of Modern Art where were treated to a very special performance by the Brisbane Biralee Voices, acknowledged on home shores and abroad as one of Australia’s finest children’s choirs. They certainly did not disappoint!

For additional information and to download session materials from Monday and Tuesday, visit the PRAC Private Libraries at www.prac.org .

The Board of Directors met Tuesday afternoon and the following are the salient points from that meeting:

1. Financial. Following a full reporting, the Board approved the Estimated 2015 1st Quarter Budget and Financial Reporting.

2. Membership Committee

Toronto/Calgary Newly admitted member firm Bennett Jones was formally welcomed to PRAC .

Japan. The Committee’s work for the Japan jurisdiction will be seeking to re-visit with the top candidate firms, along with Morrison & Foerster.

United States. The Committee began its review of the various markets with a view to expansion consideration, including the recent development of McKenna Long & Aldrich (absent from the conference) who announced its merger with Dentons Dacheng just prior to conference start.

China. The Committee’s work for the China jurisdiction will be seeking redress with the top candidate firms.

3. Conference Schedule

58th International Conference – Vancouver, Canada – September 26 – 29 – hosted by Richards Buell Sutton.

59th International Conference – tbd

See www.prac.org/events.php for a list of all PRAC events and conferences.

4. Appointment of 2016-2017 PRAC Term Chair and Vice Chair

I am pleased to announce that the Board unanimously confirmed the appointments of next term PRAC Chair: Ross Perrett, Clayton Utz, Australia and Vice Chair – Joyce Fan, Lee and Li, Taiwan.

5. Other. As I reported at Tuesday's Board meeting, in light of the nature and extent of comments made to Membership and Policy & Planning Committee members related to Hogan Lovells' continued membership in PRAC, the Hong Kong conference has been placed in abeyance and we are seeking an alternate venue. We will advise the membership at large as soon as an alternate host and venue is formalized.

Further, we will shortly reach out to each member firm to seek your firm's views as it relates to Hogan Lovells.

PRAC Business Development

Delegates are encouraged to follow up with your mutual areas of interest / referral matters which were brought to light during the conference.

PRAC web site www.prac.org - Mention / direct link the PRAC web site within your firm's internal network.

Consider adding PRAC Director Susan Iannetta to your firm's internal marketing email or mailing list (susan.iannetta@prac.org)

Events In addition to our conferences, we are always looking to interact with PRACites at other events – including INTA, IPBA, ABA, IBA and PDAC which are just a few of many other industry related events where PRAC members attend in numbers. In jurisdictions where there are host member firms, we encourage extending reception invites to PRAC Delegates. Let us know which events your firm plans to be represented at and where we can, we will assist you with PRAC attendee lists and also publish your event details at our web site. Members can view upcoming event details and register online at www.prac.org/events.

PRAC e-Bulletin - monthly publication includes member news, member deals and country update on topical legal issues and reforms. Our e-Bulletin continues to gain recognition both among our members and externally via the PRAC website. Delivered monthly by email to PRAC Primary, PRACTice Group and Marketing Contacts and also available on line at the PRAC web site. Member Firms are encouraged to distribute the e-Bulletin throughout your firm and to contribute articles for inclusion (deadline is 10th of each month).

Primary Contacts Matrix listing of PRAC Primary Contacts including email addresses) - available at PRAC web site Private Libraries.

PRACTice Group Contacts Matrix (listing of member firm contacts for various PRACTice Groups) - available at PRAC web site Private Libraries

Member Directory –A current pdf version is available at PRAC web site. We will be sending out firm bio's for updating the first week in December, although revisions/changes are welcome at any time.

Public Library has been established at the PRAC web site to host larger for public viewing.

Referral Database – available online at our Private Libraries. Member firms are asked to continue providing referral and secondment details for inclusion in our ongoing database.

For further information on ways to enhance your firm's membership in PRAC see the Brisbane Business Development Package previously distributed to Delegates and available online at the PRAC website.

I want to thank the entire Clayton Utz team for the incredible job which they did in hosting the Brisbane conference. The business sessions were interesting, engaging and productive for the delegates. The social program allowed us to see the beauty of the City of Brisbane and experience first-hand the generous hospitality of our hosts.

As we did modify the conference format, it is particularly important that you complete the post-conference questionnaire that was circulated by Susan Iannetta.

We look forward to welcoming you all in Vancouver in September.

Best regards,

Jeff

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