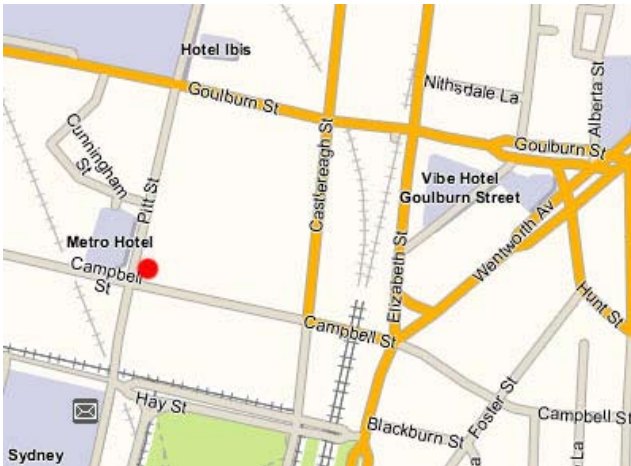


Hello and welcome to the Attorney General's Department (AGD) Alumni enews. In this issue we invite you to the alumni end of year function, report on the June dinner and find out about alumni member Roger Wescombe's adventures in retirement.



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## End of year function

The AGD Alumni Management Committee would like to invite you to the AGD Alumni end of year function.

This event is a fantastic opportunity for you to renew friendships, establish networks, discuss future events and maintain a connection to the Department. Members are invited to bring a partner.

The event will be held at the C bar, Chamberlain Hotel, 428 Pitt Street Haymarket on 21 November 2008 from 5:30pm. We will be providing some light refreshments. Your invitation has been attached to this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing everyone there!



Twenty guests attended the June alumni dinner.

## Alumni dinner at Hellenic Club

Alumni members and Departmental staff gathered at The Hellenic Club in June to network and catch up.

"Members of the alumni, the Alumni Working Party and the Alumni Management Committee attended. There were 20 guests and it was good to see them socialising, reminiscing and talking about where they are now," said Manager Workforce Planning and Strategy Melita Cornell.

"We have more than 200 members of the alumni now so it would be great to see even more members attend

future events. By bringing alumni and current staff together, we hope to create an ongoing relationship, one in which experiences and knowledge are shared."

The Department launched the alumni last year to enable members to share knowledge, network and keep in touch with the Department.

More photos from the event are available in the News and events section at [www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/alumni](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/alumni).

## Agenda highlights

Some of the highlights in the October issue of *Agenda* (attached) include stories on the NSW Magistrates Early Referral into Treatment (MERIT) program, the forum sentencing rollout and the Sheriff farewelling his deputies in Bathurst. See *Agenda* for details.



Roger's class after receiving their certificates of course completion.

### Alumni Spotlight: Roger Wescombe

*Roger Wescombe was the Executive Officer of the Legal Profession Admission Board for 12 years until his retirement in September 2006. He is a member of the Alumni Management Committee.*

"The beauty of retirement is the opportunity it provides to do things that were impracticable during a working life. Recently I had the opportunity to teach English near Banda Aceh, on the north-west tip of Sumatra, where the tsunami of 26 December 2004 killed more than 150,000 people.

"The project, initiated by the Rotary Club of Lane Cove, was to teach English to English teachers from the areas surrounding Banda Aceh. Our group of six worked under the auspices of the Greater Banda Aceh Department of Education and Rotary Australia World Community Service.

"What a wonderful group our students were. There were about 30 of them with an average age of about 30, most being women with only five men in the group. All but one were English teachers in secondary schools. Some rode 125cc motorbikes a considerable distance from urban and rural areas to our classes.

"We worked for eight days from 8.30 am to 12.45 pm. Our hosts had studied English mostly from books, and learned from teachers whose experience with spoken English was, in many cases, limited. As a consequence, our understanding of one another's pronunciation was initially limited.

"Much of the best learning, and the most interesting, occurred in optional activities outside class, such as the Rostrum public speaking club. Attendees were encouraged to speak for at least 60 seconds, and were applauded before and after their contribution.

"Only some of us had professional training in English teaching, though our hosts' greatest need was for native speakers to speak English to them. Several members of the Rotary group are now seeking out Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) courses in preparation for future excursions."

### Alumni Spotlight

Tell us your news and help us strengthen the network. In 200 words or less, tell us:

- Where are you now? Can you tell us a little about your role and career to date?
- What is one thing that your fellow alumni would not know about you?
- What has been the funniest (or memorable) moment in your career to date?

### Further information

[www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/alumni](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/alumni)  
Workforce Planning and Strategy  
Attorney General's Department of NSW  
Locked Bag 5111  
Parramatta NSW 2124  
T: 02 8688 6179  
F: 02 8688 9643  
E: [alumni@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:alumni@agd.nsw.gov.au)

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