



Thursday, 21 October 2004

Centenary book and exhibition launched

The Australian public is to be given an insight into the 100-year history of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission and its predecessors through a new book and an exhibition that will tour nationally.

Launching the book and exhibition today, Commission President, Justice Geoffrey Giudice, acknowledged the work of all those who had been involved.

In outlining the content of the book, *The New Province for Law and Order - 100 Years of Australian Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration*, he said:

'Can I say about each of them (the chapters) that they reflect high standards of intellectual discipline, scholarship, analytical skills and historical awareness. The blend, to anyone seriously interested in our industrial system, should be irresistible.'

The New Province for Law and Order was edited by Professors Stuart Macintyre and Joe Isaac of Melbourne University and features chapters written by some of Australia's leading scholars. Professor Isaac is also a former member of the Commission.

The book follows a number of historical themes beginning with the *Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904*, including some of the political and social background, and concluding at the present day.

It is the first book dedicated to the complete history of the Commission and predecessors.

Justice Giudice also launched the Commission's Centenary Exhibition which has been overseen by the Sir Richard Kirby Archives committee and prepared by Australian Industrial Registry staff.

The exhibition features a six metre long, double-sided physical display depicting the history of the Commission through a detailed timeline with text and images. It is supplemented by an electronic version of the timeline with additional information including biographies and the full text of legislation and significant decisions.

Opening for a short time at the Industrial Relations Society of Australia's Centenary Convention in Melbourne, the exhibition is expected to tour all state and territory capital cities during the centenary year. Exhibition tour dates will be publicised on the Commission's web site - **[www. airc.gov.au](http://www.airc.gov.au)** - as they become available.

The Commission was first established as the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration following the passage of the *Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act* in December 1904.

The centenary program is expected to run until November next year when a ceremonial sitting will be held to commemorate 100 years since the tribunal's first hearing.

Further information:

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