

On the occasion of Professor Ian Ramsay receiving life-time membership of the CLTA

University of Auckland, February 2019

I recall one of my favourite issues of the old comic strip *The Wizard of Id*. It depicts a formal occasion, such as this. Sir Rodney, the hapless knight, stands before the audience. Sitting beside him is the diminutive figure of the King. Sir Rodney announces that it is his duty to introduce someone who needs no introduction. True to his word, he then sits down, without saying anything further. The remainder of the cartoon shows panel after panel in which people, including the King, are sitting, looking at each other, wondering who the guest of honour is. Eventually Sir Rodney stands and says 'The King!'.

Professor Ian Ramsay needs no introduction, certainly not within the CLTA community. But he certainly deserves one, and it is my pleasant task to do that, on this, the occasion of his investiture as a life-member of the Corporate Law Teachers' Association.

Ian's CV is extensive. I suspect that we are all familiar with various aspects of it, but in its totality it is both inspiring and daunting. I've been asked to be brief, so let me just focus on those aspects of his career to date that are most germane to this Association.

Firstly, and most immediately, Ian is one of the founding inspirations of our organisation. He, along with Paul Redmond and Angus Corbett, organised the first CLTA conference at UNSW back in 1991. Later, Ian was President of the Corporate Law Teachers Association in 2000 and 2001. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Corporate Law Teachers Association between 1995 and 2014 – which I think may be a record. I know that during my own time on the Executive, Ian's wise counsel was always a critical component of our deliberations.

Secondly, there are the contributions outside the CLTA that Ian has made which are vital to, and so supportive of, our role as corporate law teachers and researchers. I'll speak personally: his scholarship has established him as one of my 'go to' sources – not just his co-authorship of *Ford's Principles of Corporations Law*, but his continued interest in empirically-informed inquiry into the impact of corporate law rules in practice, and the intersection between corporate law and other areas of legal practice.

And then, of course, there are the monthly Corporate Law Bulletins updates supplied under his editorship, which have become an invaluable guide to ‘what’s happening’ and ‘what’s new’ in the corporate law world, and which have saved me a fortune in hiring research assistants.

Ian has been a guiding force within the CLTA since its inception. I want to quickly qualify that statement: the description ‘guiding force’ could carry the wrong impression of behind-the-scenes control – like a shadow director. That is not Ian; he is certainly not shadowy. His influence, like his nature, is and always has been quiet, considerate, learned, good-humoured, supportive and collegial.

In closing, I should acknowledge that I was invited, if I wished, to recount some personal stories about Ian’s involvement in the CLTA. But I figured that Ian is a far greater repository of our history and folklore, and a better raconteur than I am, so I will leave that to Ian and to post-dinner revelry.

I congratulate the CLTA executive on the decision to make Ian a life member, ratified at our AGM last year, and I thank Ian for everything that he has done to make that decision such a worthy one.

Stephen Bottomley

4 February 2019