

EDITORIAL

Spring is here, and it is time for the 91st edition of the Journal. Unusually for the Journal, we have a political piece. It is based on Alistair Darling's talk to the Association last December. I do not intend to make a habit of political pieces, beyond seeking a balancing article from another perspective.

In the last edition of the Journal, I promised a series of perspectives from overseas. I am delighted to be able to offer you an insight into the Australian insurance legal system from the Honourable Mr Justice Derrington of the Queensland Supreme Court.

You will see that Ian Hunter's paper to the Annual Conference is printed. I am grateful to him for taking the time and trouble to abridge it. The issues in it are of such importance that I thought an in-depth view of this would be interesting to readers. I hope that by the time you read this Patricia Mitchell's article will not have been overtaken by the House of Lords.

I have had a growing consciousness that life insurance practitioners feel neglected. I am keen to redress this feeling. I hope to have two articles which will be of interest to life insurance practitioners ready for the next Journal. I would however welcome suggestions from life insurance industry as to subjects they would like to see covered - regardless of whether or not they are volunteering to write the article.

I have two sad notes to add. Edward Gumbel, a former chairman and driving force behind BILA died last year. The Times printed an obituary, and has been kind enough to allow us to reprint it. Finally, as I was writing this editorial, I learned that Hugh Cockerell, one of our founder members and an Honorary Life Vice-President, died on 23 April. An obituary will appear in the next Journal.

I hope you will enjoy reading the Journal.

Anthony Fitzsimmons