



FROM THE INSTITUTE PRESIDENT, ANDREW THOMAS

I would like to pay tribute to the large number of members (somewhere in the order of 150 loss adjusters) who have been involved in the aftermath of cyclone Larry that devastated the far North Queensland areas of Innisfail, Babinda and the Atherton Tablelands. Many loss adjusters from throughout Australia and New Zealand have been involved and will continue to be for many months in what is a major disaster. Conditions in the area are very difficult with loss adjusters working long hours in demanding conditions. A lack of electricity, heavy rain and shortages of accommodation and skilled tradesmen are hampering recovery efforts.

A report by the Institute Administrative Officer, Tony Libke on the meeting between insurance industry representatives and the Recovery Taskforce was recently emailed to members. I have asked Tony to keep all members updated on developments. We will also be in contact with Chris Henri of the Insurance Industry Disaster Organisation (IDRO) on matters relating to loss adjusters.

VISIT TO ASIA

In the last week of March Ian McWalter, International Development Director and I visited the International Division members. Lunch meetings were organised in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong, at which both Ian and I spoke to and received feedback from the members present. We also made visits to the MDs of the largest 4 companies in each of those cities, and even managed to fit in meetings with some regional directors, regulators, Insurance Institutes and Colleges of Insurance. We were surprised to tally up our meetings after 4 days at 24 in total, at which we discussed AICLA's involvement in the region with in excess of 70 loss adjusters and insurance industry leaders. I was particularly buoyed by the comments made to us that the managers and trainees both recognized the AICLA Diploma as a professionally produced structured course which is well able to equip adjusters with the technical and soft skills they need to

excel in their jobs. Many were interested to learn about the on-line CPD program and the new 4 paper practicing certificate. I am confident that membership in the region will continue to grow and would not be surprised to see it double again in the next two or three years, as it has done in the last two. We also hope to run local 'masterclass' type seminars in all 3 of these regional Asian cities in 2007. Ian and I would like to pass our sincere thanks to Stephen Kwang (Singapore), James Ong (International Division Chair - Kuala Lumpur), Paul Lam (Hong Kong) and their respective committees for organising the member functions and availing us of their time and local knowledge.

PRIZE WINNERS

I extend the Institute's congratulations to the following 2005 academic prize winners:

Loss Adjusting Diploma Prize

Angela Wilkinson *Victoria*

Charles Buchanan Prize

David Hill *South Australia*

Syd McDonald Young Adjuster Prize

David Hill *South Australia*

Brian Geraghty Prize

Angela Lissett *Queensland*

Ted Cooper Prize

Joel Thornton *Western Australia*

Well done to each of the prize winners and all those who are completing the Diploma of Financial Services (Loss Adjusting) course. The criteria for the prizes can be found at [AICLA Prizes & Awards](#)

CODE OF PRACTICE TRAINING

As a service to members, the Institute is developing in conjunction with Tupcorp Training and Consultancy a training module on the new General Insurance Code of Practice. All loss adjusters are required under the Institute's Charter of Objects and Professional Conduct to adhere to the terms and conditions of the Code of Practice. Successful completion of the training module will give members a good understanding of their responsibilities under the new Code of Practice. The training module will be emailed to members in the next week or so.

*Regards Andrew Thomas.
President - AICLA*

QLD DIVISION NEWS

A large number of Queensland members have been involved with the cyclone Larry disaster. Attached is an Ode to a Loss Adjuster submitted by David Miller from Pacific Claims Group who is working in the cyclone region. [Read the Ode to a Loss Adjuster](#)

Despite cancellations by many loss adjusters due to cyclone Larry, the joint ANZIIF/AICLA breakfast in March on the topic “**Asbestos Building Repairs – Liability Issues**” was successful with almost 50 attendees. A copy of the presentations by the speakers Phil Torley and David Rodighiero are available by clicking here. [Download the Speakers Presentations](#)

Nudgee Golf Club has been booked for **Wednesday 7th June 2006 for the AICLA Charity Golf Day**. A notice will be forwarded to members closer to the event.

NSW DIVISION NEWS

All NSW Division members would have by now received a notice for the upcoming lunch meeting schedule a for **12 Noon, Friday 5 May at the Cammeray Golf Club**, Park Ave, Cremorne which our retired members have also been invited to attend. A speaker from the Bureau of Meteorology will provide some quite relevant and technical information relating to climate and the measurement of both storm cells and resultant damage. The lunch will also provide an occasion to socialise with some of our retired members who might be able to recount some of the dramatic changes that have occurred over the years in how our industry operates. If you have not received a separate e-mail for this lunch, please contact the Division Secretary, Jan Thompson on 0416 051 462 or Division Chairman, Brian Treloar on 0413 562 562.

SA/NT DIVISION NEWS

The SA/NT Division hosted the second annual industry function at the Gil Langley Room, atop the Bradman stand at the magnificent Adelaide Oval. The event attracted slightly over 90 participants (capacity of the room) with 37 members, 36 guests, 9 diary sponsors and a VIP table consisting of the regional heads of ICA, NIBA, RMIA, AILA and National President (AICLA), Mr Andrew Thomas. Guest speaker for the function was former AFL CEO, Mr Wayne Jackson, who provided both an entertaining and thought provoking presentation.

With a first class match (NSW v SA) in progress, a very relaxing afternoon ensued.

Special thanks to the AICLA Committee, Andrew Stevens, Michael Davies, Antonio Russo, Dan Webb, Brett Tidswell and Craig Larkin. Well done, gentlemen.

Our next major function is an ISR seminar held in conjunction with NIBA and ANZIIF. This is scheduled for mid-May 2006. Last year there were some 150 participants.

It is with great sadness that we advise the wife of member John Bronson died recently after a long illness. Our sympathies are extended to John and his family at this difficult time.

AGE SURVEY RESULTS

The age survey we conducted in conjunction with the February issue of LA News achieved 44 responses or approximately 5% of members.

The results were as follows:

< 25	0	0%
26 to 35	4	9%
36 to 45	13	30%
46 to 55	18	40%
56 to 65	6	14%
> 65	3	7%

The sample response is probably too small to draw any significant conclusions.

NEW AND ELEVATED MEMBERS

Congratulations to the following elevated and admitted members:

ELEVATIONS

Name	Division	Class
Harold Seow	International	Associate

CONVENTION – ROYAL PINES RESORT

Registration brochures for the convention have been distributed with recent issues of Insurance & Risk Professional and the ANZIIF Journal. Alan Cleary the leading UK loss adjuster and author has agreed to address AICLA members at a special forum to give an update on trends in the profession in the UK and Europe and his views on the future of loss adjusting. This special briefing will be held on Wednesday 10th May at 4:30pm at Royal Pines Resort. The early bird registration deadline for individual registrations is 13th April 2006. A copy of the convention program and an online registration form can be found at <http://www.aicla.org/Members/Convention.html>.

TAS DIVISION NEWS

Firstly it is with great sadness that we report the recent passing of our life member Bevis Bingly.

Bevis came to our final meeting of 2005 and since early 2006 he has been very ill (cancer) and hospitalised, sadly passing away last week.

We held a meeting at Campbell Town Tasmania on 7 March 2006. We held a Council Meeting followed by a General Meeting.

There were 22 attendees. Business was discussed followed by a talk on "land slip" by Ian Johnstone a partner in the firm of Johnstone McGee & Gandy Pty Ltd Consulting Engineers.

The talk was very well received and was followed by a light dinner and drinks.

A building seminar (with panel) is planned for 5 May 2006 at Hobart and is open to ANZIIF, AILA and NIBA members. The topic is a fire at a timber mill and will include the investigation, reinstatement and business interruption.

NEW ZEALAND DIVISION NEWS

All is well in New Zealand, very few storms only the odd tornado. The loss adjusting market seems to be fairly quiet and all should make the most of the lull to take a break.

I recall from a stress seminar quite a few years ago now from a prominent psychologist that the best holidays are short ones varied throughout the year. The old style of three to four weeks at Christmas time and then head down tail up for the rest of the 11 months is not ideal.

Try splitting it up two weeks times two or even better one week times four equals a stress less year.

Upon that note we wish to spread the word to all members of AICLA particularly our Australian colleagues to note your diaries for a vacation option to use one of

those weeks and come to New Zealand or within New Zealand come to Wellington for a good relaxing time.

Our New Zealand Division is running an education seminar in Wellington 4-5 August 2006. For further information E-mail your interest to our national secretary, Bruce Weeds on E-mail bjweeds@xtra.co.nz. A wide variety of interesting guest speakers are being arranged.

Friday evening is a sports event at Wellington's new Westpac Stadium for an NPC representative rugby match. So join us for an entertaining time and a relaxing one. On the branch activity front all branches are active and will be circulating members within their region to attend branch meetings. Please give this your support. You will be hearing from your branch representative shortly.

The Insurance Council of New Zealand's **Flood Impact, Risk Response and Communication, Conference will be held on Thursday 6 July 2006 at the Crowne Plaza, Auckland.**

Flood is the most expensive weather related disaster in New Zealand and is predicted to increase in frequency and intensity over the coming decades.

Further information is available by emailing Henrietta Caddy at hcaddy@conferenceworld.co.nz.

