

Director's Report 2006

This is the seventeenth year that the Institute has been successful in achieving its *raison d'être*, which is to run a dynamic annual workshop in which a wide range of well regarded, world class speakers are invited to participate. We were particularly fortunate to have Dr Michal Gal, author of the highly-regarded book, *Competition Policy for Small Market Economies (Harvard University Press, 2003)*, as keynote speaker. Dr Gal is a Senior Lecturer and Director of the Law and MBA Programme at the Faculty of Law, Haifa University, Israel, and has been a visiting scholar at Columbia University and at the NYU School of Law.

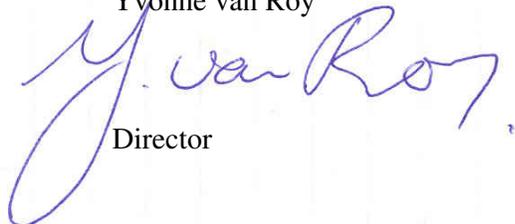
Other overseas contributors enhancing the Workshop this year were Dr. Ross Patterson from Minter Ellison (Sydney), Dr. Philip Williams (from Frontier Economics, Melbourne), and David Shavin QC (also from Melbourne). Our local speakers, Paula Rebstock (Chair, Commerce Commission), Sara Keene (from Russell McVeagh), and Dr. Brent Layton (from NZIER), also presented insightful papers on a range of topical subjects. In addition, now that there has been twenty years experience with the Commerce Act, we took the opportunity to ask a panel to debate the question: "Does the Act pass the Net Public Benefit Test?" Panellists included John Collinge (Chairman of the Commerce Commission from 1984-1989), Dr. Bryce Wilkinson (from Capital Economics Ltd), Miriam Dean QC (a former Deputy Chair of the Commission) and David Knight (General Counsel, Telecom).

I would like to thank all the speakers and those who commented on their papers. I would also like to thank the Chairs of the sessions and those who participated in the ensuing discussions. Thanks also to our after-dinner speaker Dr. Philip Williams, who tinkled the ivories amongst a good deal of mirth and appreciation.

As Director for 2006 I have been very fortunate to have had the assistance of a very supportive Advisory Board and a very efficient Secretary-Treasurer, Val Browning.

I am sure that you all enjoyed the Workshop and found it both stimulating and useful.

Yvonne van Roy



Director