

# EARSAY

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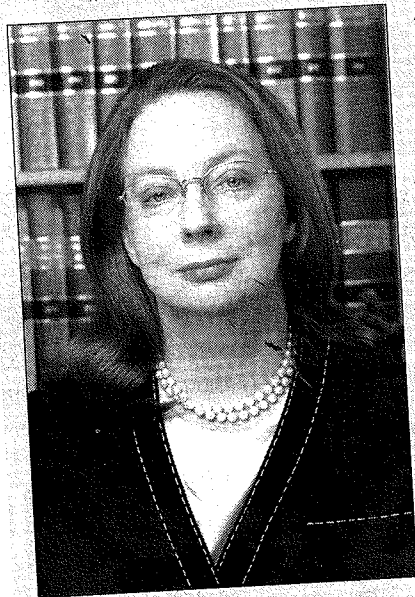


With Mark Oberhardt

**A MAN'S** home is his castle where he can have a few beers and listen to music – unless his home is his car. A man was originally given a wholly suspended four months' jail sentence on three charges after police alleged he was in control of his vehicle in November last year. While his alcohol reading was in excess of 0.15, it was conceded in the Bowen Magistrates Court he had no intention of driving. He was "residing" in his car. Police had been attracted to the car only by music. Originally, he could not pay a fine but he appealed after it became apparent he could pay. In the District Court, Judge Bob Pack overturned his suspended jail sentence but imposed a \$1000 fine.

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## Record turnout for symposium



**ALMOST 700 lawyers will gather at the Brisbane Convention Centre today and tomorrow, for the Queensland Law Society's 48th annual Vincents' Symposium.**

With a theme of **Navigating Change, it is the society's largest-ever symposium and the biggest event of the Queensland legal year.**

The keynote address will be delivered by the High Court's Justice Susan Kiefel (pictured) on **Ethics and the Profession of the Lawyer.**

Other guest speakers include Supreme Court Justice John Byrne, QCA Tribunal deputy president Judge Fleur Kingham, Federal Attorney-General Robert McClelland, Queensland Chief Justice Paul de Jersey and Legal Aid's Rachel Smith.

Switzerland by a former HSBC employee. Damian O'Connor, special counsel in HopgoodGanims Taxation and Revenue team, says it's likely the tax office will have access to this data to identify Australians who may have money in Swiss banks. "The ATO has already used similar European data in 2008, originally stolen by a bank employee who sold it to the German Federal Intelligence Agency," he said. "While it's not illegal for Australians to

hold money or assets overseas, if they don't disclose the income derived from those assets to the ATO, they may face criminal prosecution."

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**WHAT** is it with lawyers and snakes? After our par last week about Tony Glynn, SC, and his battle with a 4m python, we had four more lawyers report similar tales. We won't repeat them all, but we did love this story

from barrister Steve Middleton: "Thought I would let you know that it must have been the week for snakes visiting barristers. I had to catch a python that was sizing up my dog. My python was only 2m long – must have known I was junior counsel."

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**TWO** Griffith University students are helping to organise the Brisbane Model United Nations Conference, from April 9-11. Law and international relations student Aaron Santelises is the co-secretary-general while International Relations and Japanese student Kate Stevenson will take on the role of under secretary-general for marketing. The BrizMUN invites up to 250 university students to discuss and debate contemporary global issues through a simulation of the workings of the United Nations. (More details www.brizmun.org).

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**THE** Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners is being reactivated in Queensland. It's a worldwide society, based in the UK but with branches in 66 countries. Queensland has had a branch for a decade but for the past few years it's been almost completely inactive. McInnesWilson succession expert Caite Brewer is the new chair with a revamped committee. The group will relaunch with Justice Alan Wilson speaking in May.

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**THE** hat is back! After we lamented the dearth of hats in legal circles, it has

been pointed out that many legal luminaries are now wearing them. Even one of Brisbane's brightest "Young Guns" in barrister Andrew Hoare was spotted sporting a smart grey trilby in George St.

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**AND** this is of no interest to anyone except those who have been billed by lawyers for the shortest of time. Earsay's Tristan Swanwick was having coffee with a female lawyer when she had to hurriedly leave. She left \$5 but when "The Swan" went to pay, the owner said he was such a good customer it was on the house. Surely, the first time a lawyer has ever paid for a journo's time.

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**BELIEVE IT OR NOT FILE:** We know things are getting expensive but this is ridiculous. A robber faced a District Court last week where it was revealed he spent most of his share of the heist on a haircut and facial.

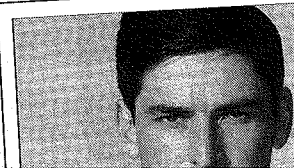
• We are told a man charged with stealing from a bakery on the Sunshine Coast claimed he was "short of dough". (Even we found that hard to believe).

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**CHANNEL 9's** veteran court reporter Andrew Trewin came up with the quote of the year when he described long lines of people waiting to get into the first instalment of "Patelovision". In a first, the Patel trial is being televised directly to Bundaberg and remote rooms.

## Bikie jailed for slicing off man's ears

Holmes was later threatened to testify against



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