

**39TH IPSANZ
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
21 TO 23 AUGUST 2026
HYATT REGENCY SYDNEY**

President's Invitation

Dear IPSANZ members, colleagues and friends,

Join us for the 39th IPSANZ Annual Conference in Sydney!

It is my great pleasure to invite you to the **IPSANZ Annual Conference 2026**, which will take place at **Hyatt Regency Sydney**, on the traditional lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, from **Friday 21 August to Sunday 23 August 2026**.

During the conference, we will also hold the **IPSANZ Annual General Meeting 2026** on **Saturday 22 August**.

We are excited to present a full program of high calibre speakers, as well as varied table topics sessions and engaging social activities.

A more detailed version of the preliminary program can be found on our website, with highlights including:

- **International speakers**, the **Right Honourable Lord Justice Colin Birss** of the Royal Courts of Justice, London, in conversation with **Professor Daryl Lim** of Penn State Dickinson Law, Pennsylvania;
- Our **Judges' Session**, with the **Honourable Justice Helen Rofe**, **Senior Judicial Registrar Alison Legge** and **Senior Judicial Registrar Susan O'Connor** of the Federal Court of Australia, the **Honourable Justice Ian Gault** of the High Court of New Zealand, and the **Right Honourable Lord Justice Colin Birss**;
- A **Copyright/AI** fireside chat on *'Copyright and the Arts: Navigating the AI Frontier'*, with **Professor John Swinson** of the University of Queensland;
- A lively **Trade Marks** panel discussion on *'Wisdom and Clarity in Trade Mark Law and Brand Protection?'* with **Justine Beaumont SC**, **Professor Michael Handler** of the UNSW, and **Tania Goatley**;
- A **Patents** session designed to appeal to both patent attorneys and lawyers across Australia and New Zealand, *'Defining Invention: From Eligibility to Inventive Step and Beyond'*, with **Greg Arthur KC**, **Craig Smith SC** and **Dr Ronelle Geldenhuys** of Jones Maxwell Smith & Davis (JMSD); and
- **Ethics** perspectives from a panel of Australian and New Zealand in-house lawyers, an attorney and an academic, with **Professor Andrew Christie** of the University of Melbourne, **Ali Dibbenhall** of LexisNexis Legal & Professional, and **Becky White** of Fonterra.

From a social perspective, we’ve planned some exciting events:

- A relaxed and social **Welcome Reception** on Friday evening at The Upper Deck at Hyatt Regency Sydney;
- A **Pre-Dinner Reception** in the Heritage Atrium and our **President’s Dinner** on Saturday evening in the Hyatt Regency’s Wharf Room.

For those seeking additional social activities, walks, networking opportunities and after-dinner drinks are being planned.

The table topics, plenary sessions and social events are all included in the in-person delegate registration fee.

IPSANZ would like to thank our sponsors for their generous support of our annual conference in 2026 – Gold Sponsor, **HKA Global**, and Silver Sponsors, **IP Australia** and **IPONZ**.

Our annual conference is organised by sub-committees of the Trans-Tasman National Committee and the IPSANZ Secretariat.

CPD/CLE points can be claimed for attending technical sessions. Please review the registration information on the IPSANZ website for further information.

Don’t miss out – register now! The deadline for earlybird registration is Friday 10 July 2026. The first edition of the program, and a link to our registration portal and special accommodation rates at Hyatt Regency Sydney are now available via the IPSANZ website.

I hope you can join us for what promises to be an excellent event, and I look forward to seeing you in Sydney.

Best regards,



Ian Horak KC
President, IPSANZ