



Dear members of the Board of Governors, other Governors and ex-officio Governors,

Firstly, I extend my best wishes to each of you. I hope that you and your families are all in good health. To those who may have been badly affected by illness associated with the Covid 19 virus, fires, or otherwise, my sincere thoughts are with you.

I write to propose that, in the event that no decision has yet been made for a venue for the IAM Spring conference in 2022, serious consideration be given to holding it on the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia.

It is a short drive south of Brisbane, Queensland's capital city, but it also has its own airport.

There is, in my view, several good reasons for such a proposal.

1. The Gold Coast has something for everyone as far as coastal and hinterland scenery is concerned (for sightseeing, hiking or walking) and it has a wonderful all year round climate.
2. It boasts first class accommodation and conference facilities of differing types, including a convention centre, and many attractions that would cater to international visitors;
3. It has forty kilometres of beautiful surf beaches, numerous restaurants and dining establishments and a variety of shopping;
3. It has three universities within its boundaries, two of which boast world class Law Schools. Bond University was established as Australia's first private university in May 1989 at which time I became an inaugural student as a post-graduate LLM student while practising at the bar in Brisbane. The Bond University ADR Centre commenced mediator training in the early nineties and during that time, John Wade, now living in Canada and known to a number of members, was one of those on the staff. I have been on the advisory of the centre for some years. I have also been on the visiting committee of the Griffith Law School for ten years.;
4. While there is complete uncertainty at the present time as far as international travel is concerned, one can only hope that travel into Australia will be a reality by that time. It is doubtful it could happen in the next six months. One can only hope. If it does I suspect that the exchange rates will favour travel to and from Australia and other costs for delegates and their families while here.;
5. Just as the IAM coordinated with AMINZ for the Queenstown conference, there is no reason that could not happen again here. I believe we could have a very good array of speakers from here (Australia wide) NZ and the rest of the world and I have already had preliminary discussions with Bond University about being involved in a collaborative way and I have, as well, as a member of

the Queensland Bar Association ADR Committee, access to a wide range of resources as some IAM members who have spoken at its annual conference here in Queensland can attest.

Obviously, I could say more but, at this stage, I simply proffer the initial suggestion for your consideration. Further consideration and suggestions can follow.

With compliments,

Douglas Murphy.

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