

# Artarmon lawyers celebrate Professor Ron McCallum AO

By Marianne Nestor

Artarmon Bowling Club was the scene of a memorable lunch on July 25. The lunch was held to honour Professor Ron McCallum AO of Artarmon, and was hosted by thirty Artarmon lawyers and their families.

The organisers of the lunch, Ian Bailey and Mark Bryant, both Artarmon lawyers, wanted the Artarmon legal community to honour, celebrate and acknowledge Ron's appointment as the 2010 Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Ian Bailey said "Ron's appointment should not go unnoticed in the Artarmon community. Artarmon is such a friendly community, we hold street parties, but we also need to recognise the special, individual achievements of our neighbours".

"We started as a small group but the passion to celebrate Ron's work was there so the numbers just grew and grew as others wanted to join in the celebration. There are 30 Artarmon lawyers here today and another 10 to 15 wish that they could have come but unfortunately could not attend. All the lawyers we spoke to regard Ron with admiration and agree that his work deserves to be celebrated in the community".

Apart from Ron's UN role, he has held many other prestigious positions. To name but a few: he was the first full professor in industrial

law at any Australian university and was the first totally blind person to have been appointed to a full professorship in any field at any university in Australia or New Zealand. In 2002 he commenced a five year term as Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Sydney.

And in the 2006 Queen's Birthday honours list, Ron was honoured by being made an Officer of the Order of Australia for his services to tertiary education, as an industrial relations policy advisor to governments, and in the community for his support for visually impaired persons and in the areas of social justice and human rights.

At the lunch, Ron spoke of his challenging work with the United Nations. He mentioned, for example, that land mines are now maiming people in 100 countries and that there are more than 4 million blind children in the world who receive no education. "It has made me more aware than ever of the benefits of living in Australia" he said.

Ron sincerely thanked everyone for attending the function. He said "you will never know how deeply touched I am and how much this



Left to Right: Ian Bailey, Ron McCallum, Mary Crock and Mark Bryant

recognition means to me. It is the most meaningful award I have ever received as it comes from my community".

Ron also acknowledged the love and support he has received in all his undertakings from his beloved wife, Professor Mary Crock, and that it is his family life that has allowed him to achieve so much.

Ron ended by suggesting that the event should be an annual one, not to celebrate his work, of course, but to celebrate the Artarmon community.

*If you would like to be included in future events, please contact [ian.bailey@wentworthchambers.com.au](mailto:ian.bailey@wentworthchambers.com.au) or phone 9230 2390 or 9411 4251.*