

CONSILIUM

THE CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT STUDIES



Christopher DeMuth,
president of the American Enterprise
Institute, speaks at the Opening Dinner.



IN May this year CIS held its inaugural public policy conference, *Consilium*.

The word 'consilium' comes from the Latin for 'deliberation', and for two days in the Blue Mountains participants did indeed deliberate over issues ranging from the city/bush divide to central banking to our relationship with Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.



The conference grew out of the Centre's annual board retreat, and was attended by Board members, business and political leaders, academics, and many others with a wide range of interests.

Participants sat around a single table while experts delivered brief papers. A nominated commentator then responded to some of the important issues raised, before the 'floor' was opened up for what turned out to be lively discussion.

A key feature of the conference was that there was also ample opportunity for informal contact between all participants, with the programme including time for relaxation and enjoyment of the beautiful Blue Mountains as well.

Consilium generated considerable media interest, although owing to Chatham House rules it was a closed conference. Nonetheless, the opening banquet address and several presenters' papers appeared in edited form in some of the major metropolitan newspapers.

All in all, the conference was voted a great success by participants and next year CIS hopes to extend invitations more broadly.

The conference gave me the opportunity to deliberate current issues which I don't get the opportunity to do in the hurly-burly of business.

The conclusions of one of Australia's leading businessmen.

