

BALANCE

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Jenny Hardy wins national Young Lawyer Award

Jenny Hardy has won the Australian Young Lawyer Award for her contribution to the Darwin Community Legal Service, the Law Handbook and the Alicia Johnson Memorial Trust.

She was nominated for the award last year by the Law Society with supporting testimonials from the Attorney-General, Solicitor-General, Senator Bob Collins, the Secretary of the Department of Law and the Director of Legal Aid.

There are three categories in the award: (1) Contribution to the Profession, (2) Contribution to the Community, and (3) Individual Contribution to the Community and/or the Profession.

Ms Hardy won categories two and three.

Category three carries the Australian Young Lawyer Award, for which Ms Hardy won an Apple Macintosh

computer, software and a printer.

The President of the Law Society, Neville Henwood, said as far as he knew, the Northern Territory had not nominated anyone before.

"The fact that Jenny took out two

to accept her awards after some very hurried and doubtful arrangements.

She is currently serving as an Australian Volunteer Abroad on the tiny Pacific island of Kiribati where her pre-tax salary is about \$A6,000.

The trip to Hobart would have cost a third of her salary, if all went according to plan and flights departed as scheduled (which is not always the case in the Pacific).

Fortunately, the Overseas Service Bureau donated half the fare, Qantas Australian provided a significantly dis-

counted return Melbourne-Hobart fare and the Law Society made a contribution towards costs.

Speaking on ABC radio last month, Ms Hardy said she had not worn shoes since she had arrived in Kiribati three months ago and that she often had crabs wandering through her office.

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Jenny Hardy with Will Stubbs at the launch of the NT Law Handbook in March

awards is hardly surprising, given her absolute commitment to improving access to justice and community understanding of the law," he said.

"It would have taken an extraordinarily outstanding nominee to better her.

"She has done the legal profession in the Territory proud," he said.

Ms Hardy was able to be in Hobart