

# BALANCE

JUNE 1994

The Official Publication of the Law Society of the Northern Territory

## *Families first in Law Week action*

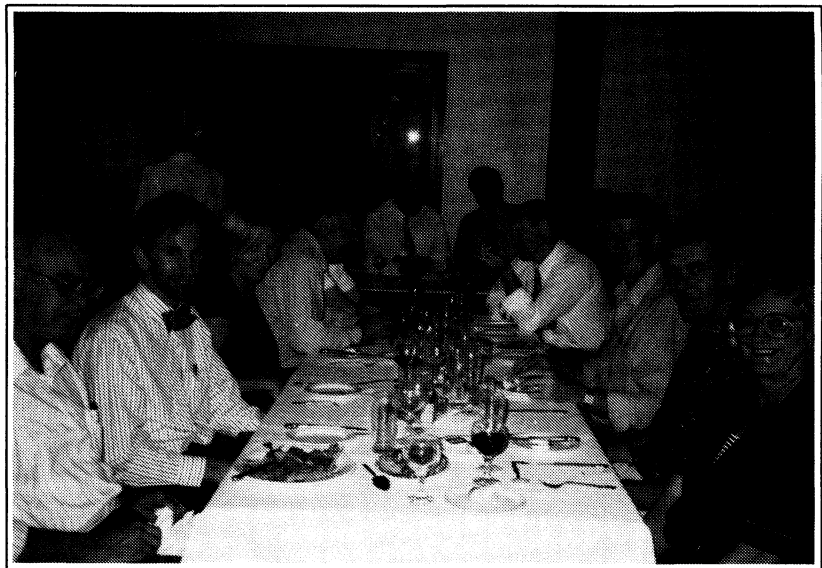
Family matters are the main legal concern of Territorians if the results of Law Week 1994 (22-28 May) are any indication.

Almost 100 people received advice during the week, which was offered through three main activities: The Law Society's Territory-wide Lawline; a shopfront in Anthony Plaza, Smith Street Mall; and the Hot 100 FM Stereo Off-Air Lawline for the station's listeners.

It is highly appropriate that, in the International Year of the Family, family law queries — particularly property division and child custody arrangements in divorces — accounted for almost one-quarter of all assistance given. General property matters, conveyancing, wills and probate, debt and employment were also popular topics of discussion.

Equal numbers of men and women sought advice, with an average of 10-15 minutes taken to discuss their queries. Almost half of them sought further legal advice.

While most Law Week statistics from around the country are still being collated, initial Territory figures per head of population are highly encouraging. Respondents from The Law Society's person-to-person service in the Anthony Plaza numbered slightly less than equivalent services in the ACT and WA, but the Territory's figures were higher in an hourly breakdown (the NT service was open for a total of 15 hours whereas both the ACT and WA services involved 39 firms and 59 firms respectively



Lawyers mingle at the Law Week luncheon in Darwin.

over the course of the entire week).

Similarly, the NT's two Lawlines performed favourably in comparison with equivalent services in both the Melbourne metropolitan area and WA. This year's activities were well promoted by advertising campaigns in the NT News, Centralian Advocate and on Hot 100 FM Stereo, with additional publicity from various radio stations around the Territory.

The other major events for the week were the Law Week luncheons in Darwin and Alice Springs, which attracted 42 and 22 practitioners at the Hotel Darwin and Miss Daisy's respectively. Guest speaker for both events, the Chairman of the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia, Rod Burr, entertained the lively gatherings with some fascinating statistical insights into Austral-

ian family life in the 1990s, peppered with several humorous anecdotes on the highlights — and lowlights — of his career as a family law practitioner.

More than \$2000 in lucky door prizes proved a major drawcard at the Darwin luncheon, with the major prize — a return trip for two to Cairns flying Qantas Australian Airlines — being won by Kyla Hayden of Darwin Community Legal Service. Other valuable sponsorship was provided by Minet Professional Services and Jeany's Liquor Stores. (A full list of Law Week prize winners was published in the May edition of *Balance*.)

More than 50 lawyers also attended a Law Week breakfast seminar, hosted by the Australian Red Cross, concerning Australia's obligations under international humanitarian law.

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## Indonesian law course: NTU

The NT University's Faculty of Law will present a course in Indonesian law during Semester 2, 1994.

Subjects will include commercial, contract, corporations, land, intellectual property arbitration and investment law. Guest lecturers will be used for the course.

Two-hour seminars will be held every Tuesday night from 19 July. Further details will be included on a flyer to be distributed to private firms and the Department of Law.

Call Daniel Fitzpatrick on 46 6836 or (02) 817 2911.

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# Families first in Law Week action

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The Law Society is pleased to acknowledge the assistance of Territory lawyers who donated their time to assist with Law Week activities.

Shopfront volunteers: Diana Gabriel (NT Legal Aid Commission); Samantha Miles (Philip & Mitaros); Janine Ougham (Philip & Mitaros); Guy Riley (Philip & Mitaros); Greg MacDonald (Department of Law); Karen Christopher (Cridlands); George Roussos (Cridlands); Chris Rowe (Department of Law).

Hot 100 FM Stereo Off-Air Lawline: Stephen Walsh (Elston & Gilchrist); Diana Gabriel; Janet Terry (Morgan Buckley); Martin Flynn (NT University).

The Law Society's Lawline: Gordon Kennedy (Cridlands); Peter Maley (Police Prosecutions); Erin Padarin (Philip & Mitaros); Peggy Cheong (Ward Keller); Duncan McConnel (Cridlands); James Hebron (Ward Keller); Fiona Hussin (Ward Keller); Mark Neely (Cridlands); Ben Farmer (Morgan Buckley); Patricia McEniery (Waters James McCormack); Kevin Stephens (Ward Keller); Cris Cureton (Philip & Mitaros); Christopher Fanning (Cridlands); John Howard (Department of Law).

The Law Society also appreciates the efforts of Chris Osborne (McBride & Stirk) in co-organising the Alice Springs Law Week luncheon.



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## ALFMA new in legal marketing

The Australasian Law Firm Marketing Association (ALFMA) is the only formalised group focusing on modern marketing techniques for legal services.

Two recent meetings in NSW have already covered several topical issues.

They include a report from four leading corporate counsels on the results of a survey commissioned by the Australian Corporate Lawyers' Association on what corporate counsel expect from their legal advisers; and the marketing benefits of plain language for the legal profession.

For information on ALFMA contact Julia Davenport at Clayton Utz on (02) 353 4487.