

## 1997/8 Council Provides Good Representation

The 1997/8 Council of the Law Society of the Northern Territory was elected at the Annual General Meeting, held on 2nd September at Darwin Central Hotel. The meeting boasted an impressive turnout of some 50 members and voting exceeded previous records, with approximately 200 votes being cast for the Executive and Council.

The profession is to be applauded for its interest in the direction of the Law Society as it should be noted that this attendance, both proportionally and in real terms, compares very favourably with attendance at annual general meetings of the societies of larger jurisdictions.

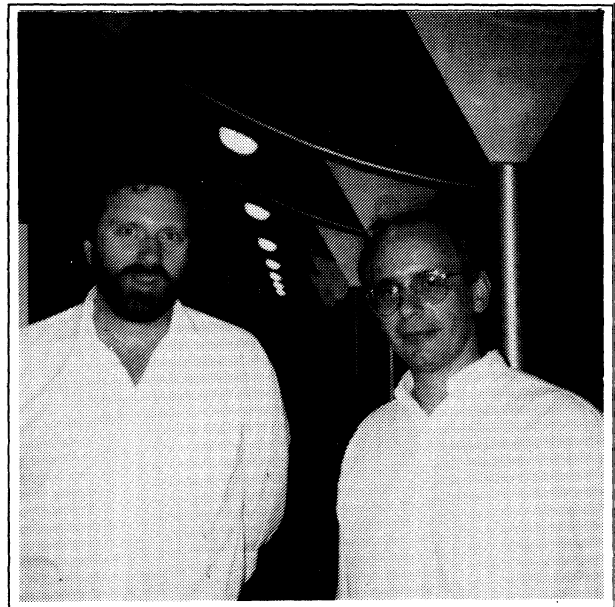
Newly-elected President is Steve Southwood of James Muirhead Chambers who previously served the Society as a Councillor from 1988 to 1990. The Executive will consist of Vice President, Alan Lindsay (Cridlands), Secretary, Eileen Terrill (Terrill & Associates) Treasurer, Donna Dreier (NT Attorney-General's Dept) and Alice Springs Representative Max Horton (Martin & Partners). Terry Gardner will add to his already exceptional record of service to the Society in his new role as Immediate Past President.

The Society is pleased to welcome back Sue Porter (De Silva Hebron) from the 1996/7 council and Richard Coates (NTLAC) who has previously been Secretary and Councillor for the Society.

New to the business of the Council are Jacek Karczewski (NT Attorney-General's Dept), Duncan McConnel (Morgan Buckley), Ian Morris (Hunt & Hunt) and Stuart Barr (Ward Keller).

The composition of the 1997/8 Council augers well for an active year in the representation of the legal profession of this Territory, as most interest groups will feel that they have a voice on Council through the varied work and other professional activities of the Councillors.

Other business of the meeting included a vote to amend the Society's Constitution so that it allowed an alternate Alice Springs representative to attend Council meetings in the stead of the Alice Springs member.



*Immediate Past President Terry Gardner with successor 1997/8 President Steve Southwood*

Terry Gardner, in his outgoing President's report informed the meeting that Council had agreed to approve Sedgwick's continuation as PII insurer for the NT. Garraways was appointed by the meeting to be the Society's auditor for 1997/8.

Members' attention was drawn to the proposed changes in Supreme Court Rules - Order 48 and copies of the draft rules were available at the meeting.

In addition, the matter of a change in 'right to silence' legislation was raised and the new President advised practitioners to inform themselves on the issues surrounding this contentious matter.

Following the meeting members adjourned to the poolside bar area to continue informal discussions and enjoy refreshments as the Darwin sun set on a good evening's business.