

BALANCE

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The Official Publication of the Law Society of the Northern Territory

Record Crowd Attends Opening

Chief Minister Shane Stone opened the new offices of the Law Society on Friday 18 April before a record gathering of the legal profession in the Northern Territory. In doing so, he alluded to the Society's professional standing, in particular noting that its colocation with LAWA-SIA and the Solicitor-General was indeed appropriate.

The Chief Minister expressed pleasure at his government's part in facilitating the Law Society's move to Northern Territory House thereby taking up occupancy of his own former suite of offices.

Practitioners were encouraged to join the Law Society by the Chief Minister and further, to take an active role in Law Society matters. He referred especially to a discussion paper shortly to be issued by the Attorney-General which was intended to air matters of competition policy and the question of separation of what is currently a fused profession in the Northern Territory. All members of the profession were urged to have input into these matters, either through the Law Society or on their own behalf. Mr Stone suggested that it would not be proper for practitioners to express their displeasure at any outcomes of this discussion paper if they had not taken advantage of the opportunity allowed for comment.

The Chief Minister thanked the Law Society for extending to him the courtesy of the invitation to officiate at the function and declared his satisfaction at having an such an association with the Society.

The function continued at a reception at the Plaza Hotel, where the profession celebrated the coming of age of its Society in the time-honoured tradition.

Other dignitaries in attendance at the Society's offices and at the Plaza included his Honour Justice Mildren, the former Administrator, Austin Asche and Dr Asche, the President of the NT Bar Association, Trevor Riley and the Head of the NT Attorney-General's Department, Meredith Harrison.



The profession turned out in force to celebrate the opening of the Society's offices

Law Week 1997

25 - 31 May

The record attendance at the opening of the Society's premises augurs well for practitioner support of Law Week which has been set nationally for 25 - 31 May. It is hoped to repeat the 1996 launch of Law Week with another Breakfast in the Mall, where the DPP is expected to face fierce competition for retention of the Tug of War trophy. Displays are planned at local libraries, Law Walks will again take place and NTLAC's 1800 information line will be promoted.

Local radio stations will feature a series of interviews with many members of the legal community with the intention of allowing the public a closer look at the many and varied faces of the Law and the NTU will run a "hypothetical".

Former Territorian Ian Barker, QC has agreed to address the profession at the traditional Law Week lunches in Alice Springs and Darwin. Members of the legal community are advised to clear their diaries for Wednesday (28 May) in Alice Springs and Friday (30 May) in Darwin.