



Women Lawyers Association

President's Column

Following the AGM on 30 September 1998 the new NTWLA Committee is Melanie Little (President), Janelle Martin (Vice President), Britt Lardelli (Secretary), Margaret Orwin (Treasurer) and Kate Halliday, Theresa Austin, Cassandra Goldie and Barbara Tiffin (Committee Members). We are keen to hear from members who want to have input into the coming years programme of activities for the coming year. We are aiming for a balance between professional, social and policy. We will continue with drinks every 3rd Thursday at 5pm at Kitty O'Sheas and we extend a welcome to the legal profession.

Child Care Survey

The first professional based project will be a survey of practitioners on the issue of child care. This will be distributed prior to Christmas, so take some time out to give us some feedback and ideas on this issue.

Top End Women's Legal Service Roster End

NTWLA would like to encourage women practitioners to join the Top End Women's Legal Service roster (Wednesday nights 4.30 - 6.30). This is a very important service

provided to women in the Top End (including remote women via the telephone). The roster is a way in which a contribution can be made to the Community. There is always a supervisor operating the roster, with resources available. Contact Kate Halliday or Angela Dowling 8941 9989 for more details.

Quiz Night

We are planning a quiz night in February. Keep a look out for more details and use the Christmas break to bone up on those obscure yet useful facts.

Mentoring

On 2 October 1998 we jointly launched a mentoring scheme (with NTYLA) and have 11 sets of mentors and mentees. The launch was held at the Rock Climbing Centre and I am pleased to say there were no casualties. We are grateful to Austin Asche AO QC for speaking at the launch and pointing out the benefits of mentoring. Thanks also to Westpac who provided sponsorship for the launch. We are sure that the scheme will benefit both the experienced and the junior practitioner. Contact Sam Miles at Clayton Utz or myself if you wish to take part. We aim to be able

to allocate another group of mentors and mentees before Christmas.

Prior to the launch we held a very successful dinner on mentoring. Di Feldman spoke on mentoring, out thanks to Di for an entertaining and thought provoking evening.

Membership

Please contact one of the Committee if you wish to become a financial member of WLA. We want to be representative of the legal profession in the NT and your participation is important.

Melanie Little
President



Family Lawyers' Association

Family Lawyers throughout the Northern Territory have eagerly embraced the formation of an association aimed at furthering the interests of members. Although there are no current plans to incorporate, the general objects of the association are seen to be as follows:

1. to co-ordinate a program of continuing legal education for family law practitioners
2. to become a channel through which information from other agencies and groups (e.g. Child Support Agency, Centacare) can be passed on to all family lawyers to the Courts, Government or other bodies or agencies as needed
3. to make representations on behalf of family lawyers to the Courts, Governments or other bodies or agencies as needed
4. to disseminate information and knowledge among members
5. to organise social events for members

The association has already received strong expressions of support from the Family Court and it is envisaged that CLE seminars will be conducted to coincide with judicial circuits in Darwin and Alice Springs. Members of the association can also expect to receive a quarterly newsletter.

Enquiries about the association can be directed to:

Darwin

Stuart Barr
NTLAC
PH: 8999 3000

Janet Terry
Morgan Buckley
PH: 98941 1009

Martin Carter
Close & Carter
PH: 8981 7588

Alice Springs

Nardine Collier
Turner & Deane
PH: 8952 6566

Katherine

Susan Gilmour
NTLAC
PH: 8973 8704

Membership is free and application forms can be obtained from Stuart Barr at the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission in Darwin.

The Family Lawyers' Association supersedes the Family Law Group.