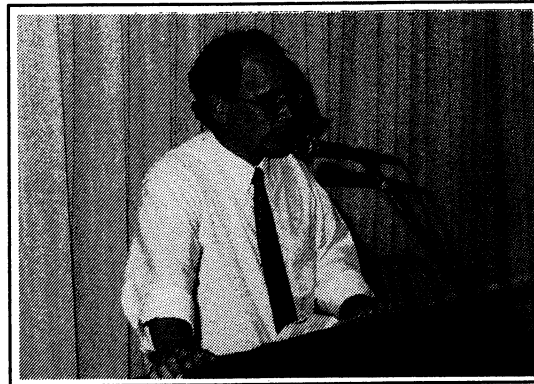


On the Council Agenda This Month



Steve Southwood, President

Since my last column I have met with the Attorney-General and raised the Society's concerns in respect of some aspects of the move to a national legal services market. Mr Stone appreciated our concerns and the need to minimise any adverse effect on the profession and the Society.

I have also met with and had preliminary discussions with Bret Walker SC, President of the Law Council to inform him of the difficulties the NT profession was facing.

The Legal Structure Committee of the Society is shortly to meet and prepare an action plan in respect of the move to a national legal services market and I will keep members informed of progress in this regard. The financial viability of the Society is of major concern and serious consideration will be given to ways in which its viability can be ensured. One idea being considered is the introduction of a single fee to cover both practising certificate and membership.

Again, Council had an extensive agenda to consider in its May monthly meeting and I continue with the practice of reporting the status of some discussion items in this column.

Order 48

Councillors Sue Porter, Ian Morris and I are preparing comment on

the proposed Order 48 which will shortly be presented to Justice Mil-dren for consideration. Any changes to Order 48 will be notified to members in *Balance*.

Zero Tolerance Policing

By now you will be aware that the NT government is considering introducing ZTP in some form. Council is gathering information on this issue with a view to making comment. Given its contentious nature, Council feels it vital to be properly informed and is consulting widely before forming a view.

NTU Faculty of Law

Members will be aware from a report in this month's *Balance* of the annual prizegiving for students and graduates of the Faculty of Law at the NTU.

I note, that as elsewhere, funding cuts at the NTU are prompting criticism by students of the availability of teaching staff. The Society is investigating ways and means to assist the Faculty.

Legal Fees and Tax Audit Insurance

The Society has again been approached to support a scheme of legal fees and tax audit fees insurance developed by Legalsure Pty

Ltd of Queensland and is in the process of seeking clarification of certain terms and conditions in the policy and proposal.

The scheme meets the criteria set out by the Law Council and has been recommended by the majority of law societies and institutes in Australia, including those of NSW and Victoria. The Society is currently giving consideration to supporting the scheme and if it is to proceed, all firms and practitioners will be asked to participate. It is hoped that full details of the scheme will be available for inclusion in the next issue of *Balance*. The scheme offers considerable benefit to clients.

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