

Death of a protected species from page 17.

Perception requires more than an eye; listening more than an ear; and wisdom is as much an act of the heart as of the mind.

In an age of general literacy, it is nothing grand to be able to read and understand the arguments and reasoning of the judiciary. To be able to say what will happen if a Judge determines the solution is one thing; to have the skills to assist the parties to say what will happen, is another thing entirely. And that, quite frankly, is what a literate and democratic society requires of its legal profession. The times when a 'man of words' was an important instrument in the honing of a modern democratic state are passed. Not because such instruments are no longer needed; but because more is needed from those would inspire and nurture a modern state.

To acquire the skills and modern understandings of the dynamics of negotiation and collaborative decision making; is to acquire a **cultural literacy**. In the minutiae of party/party disputes, we lawyers are invited to develop the processes, to articulate the understandings and to lay the foundations for collaborative decision making in society at large. Already these processes are used in some multinational corporations; international social justice organisations and national political movements.

Do we experience a contrast between how the public values lawyers and how lawyers value lawyers? What might the contrast have to tell us if we listen with our ears, our eyes and our hearts?

For those of us who may be interested in developing our cultural literacy skills, **LEADR** will be offering its internationally acclaimed 4 day **MEDIATION** training workshop in Darwin from the 1st-4th September 1999. It will be offering its two day skills workshop for **Skills for Representatives of Parties in Mediation** on 30th -31st August 1999. It will deliver a one-day **Refresher Course** and also a **Mediator Accreditation Course** on 5th

September 1999.

Please contact Pat Kirkland at LEADR Tel. 02 9233 2255 for enrolment and other details.

The following are some comments about this training from some of our colleagues in the law (all of whom are accredited mediators):-

'These LEADR courses provide an opportunity for lawyers to break out of the confines of legal dispute analysis. Legal analysis is just one form of analysis of a dispute. The more ways of analysis, the more ways of looking at a dispute that you have at your disposal; the better your understanding of it will be. Mediation training stimulates your imagination in the analysis of disputes'.

Michael Spargo, Barrister, Darwin Tel. 8981 1830

'I would say that anyone involved in any kind of dispute resolution should do the 2 day Party Representative workshop. Most lawyers don't have any real training in negotiation or dispute resolution. Such training is invaluable. Lawyers need to get it. To step up from that and do the actual mediator training is even more useful and it enables you to appreciate what is going on also from the mediators perspective.'

Danny Masters, Cridlands, Darwin Tel. 8943 0400

'The LEADR mediation training offers a new, different and effective way of analysing, articulating and resolving problems surrounding disputes. You get a new, different and utterly refreshing perspective on human problem issues. You get a new clarification of your own thought processes. It offers an attractive way of looking at things. It re-orientates the usual legal thought processes; lifting the adversarial blinkers; removing the mote from ones legal eyes. It allows you to see more clearly real world considerations and solutions, which we need to do because the real world is not a Courtroom.'

Ian Gray, Barrister, Melbourne Tel. 03 9608 7888

'It has helped me in my job. Mediation training reinforces the skills that lawyers have in relation to settlement negotiations and can improve them. It shows you how to help the parties to negotiate.'

Tanya Fong Lim, Judicial Registrar, Local Court, Darwin Tel. 8999 6264

'I think that the LEADR workshop is a great thing to do. Every lawyer should do a mediation course. It's the way of the future. It helps you to consider both sides of a dispute carefully; to listen more. It greatly improves your interviewing skills. I listen more. When I have a new litigation client my first thought is now about negotiation and mediation and how the matter might be settled. I think about and discuss with the client whether mediation might be useful.'

Nardine Collier, Bowden Turner & Deane, Alice Springs Tel. 8952 6566

'I think the mediation training is excellent. I found it most helpful in the context of highly emotional Family Court negotiations to be able to move people along from their fixed positions'

Jo Snyer, Snyer & Associates, Darwin Tel. 8941 3899

The Law Society Annual General Meeting

will be held on

**September 9,
1999**

**Please pencil this date
into your diaries.**