



MOVEMENT AT THE STATION

Katrina Budrikis and Sarah McNamara

are now at:
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Pamela Ditton is now a consultant to
Ditton, Budrikis and McNamara,
Lawyers

Traci Keys

Has moved to take up a position at:
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Tel: 03 6431 1422 Fax: 03 6431 7499

Darwin Community Legal Service

New contact details:
Phone: 8982 1111
Freecall: 1800 812 953
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The former Top End Advocacy Service (TEAS) and the former Disability Discrimination Service (DDS) will now be the **Disability Rights Team (RDT)** and the **Residential Care Rights Team (RACRT)**.

Domestic Violence Legal Help (DVLH), Welfare Rights Service (WRS) and free legal advice sessions will continue.

Gina O'Rourke

is now with:
Commonwealth DPP
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Martin Carter

Wishes to inform the profession that he has commenced practice solely as counsel. His address is:
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Don't cry for me East Timor *From page 11*

not had to decide if we would come out of the hills to vote for it in the knowledge that our lives may be forsaken because we seek freedom. It seems to me that the idea of freedom becomes troubled when a society feels little for the liberty of an individual who commits a trivial property offence. Perhaps I am getting the two things confused. Perhaps freedom is the freedom to say that two plus two make four. It has always been our call.

The Chief Minister has been quick to condemn the Indonesian government for its breaches of United Nations conventions while at the same time dismissing national and international condemnation of our system of mandatory sentencing as interference in the business of the Northern Territory. Pure if not flagrant hypocrisy. At the present time sentencing provisions in the Northern Territory relating to juveniles are in clear breach of Article 37 of the *International Covenant on the Rights of the Child*. The regime has also placed the Territory in breach of Articles 7, 9 and 10(3) of the *International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights* in relation to the sentencing of adult offenders. It sits ill in the mouths of representatives of the Northern Territory Govern-

ment to engage in political grandstanding about the failure of other governments to adhere to their international political obligations when their own administration has so miserably failed to do the same thing. A 15 year old Aboriginal boy, who was addicted to the sniffing of petrol, has been given a mandatory 28 days prison term for receiving a small quantity of petrol from fuel that had been stolen earlier by other addicted sniffers. That sentence was a breach of international law. Doesn't it make you feel proud.

Remember that scene at the beginning of "Sunday too Far Away"? The blue sky. The red earth. The FJ hurtling along in an empty landscape. Jack Thompson emerging from the overturned vehicle. Resolute. Walking away from the wreck alone into the distance. There was an innate decency and compassion about the shearer. It was a measure of his toughness. Some how he summed up what we have lost. In its place we drive around the suburbs of Darwin with "NT Outback Australia" displayed on our numberplates. Frauds one and all. Only the reintroduction of fair mindedness into our criminal justice system can redress the shift.

I will be leaving this column for a little

while. That ought to come as a relief to some of you. Unfortunately you may find that you are reading my remarks elsewhere in this publication. Oh frabjous joy, caloo calay! Soon there will be a new president of the Criminal Lawyers Association.

While I will thank each member in person I want to record here what a terrific committee the Association has had during my term as president. My observations in this column have been described by some characters as "pungent", an adjective I have always associated with cheap perfume or the back bar of the old Dolphin Hotel. Well no matter how pungent they have been I have had the liberty to make them with the full support of the committee and for that I am very grateful.

The committee is made up of a sound bunch of people who serve the legal community to the highest of standards. The Criminal Lawyers Association, by their work, has taken its rightful place alongside the more established legal organisations such as the Law Society and the Bar Association. In the future it has a huge amount to contribute.

I go adieu. Oh! My thanks to George Orwell for his help in compiling this column. Now there was a bloke with ideas.