

Ferae naturae

Perhaps our readership survey "Mandatory Reading" should have been entitled "Mandatory Reply" - especially given moves to remove the right to silence. Nevertheless, the response to the survey to date has been useful. The balance of responses between the private and public sectors is pleasing, and a broad range of group size and area of interest seems reflective of the local profession. Nevertheless, send more replies, please! (If you've mislaid your survey form, let us know.)

It's clear from the feedback we have received that Balance can be improved in a number of areas. Our moves towards more regular commercial law analysis and the establishment of an IT column is heading in the right direction, and useful comments have been made about layout and design. Alice Springs readers have expressed desires for greater input by your newsletter to issues that affect them.

There seems general consensus for the need to maintain or increase local content and, for reasons hard to comprehend, a literary fan club seems to have developed around one Jon Tippet, with no suggestion so far that he should

stick to his day job.

By the time this issue of Balance goes to press, Law Week will be behind us. I would like to thank the many members of the profession who have given so freely of their time to contributing to one of the few occasions of the year in which the legal profession has a real opportunity to interact with the public. I would like to see greater emphasis on an expanded program of these sorts of activities, not just limited to Law Week, but extended through appropriate venues at other times of the year.

I draw your attention to the all-important legal services market seminar to be held in Darwin on 11 June. There is a program in this month's edition. PLEASE MARK THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY. Alice Springs should mark 9 July in their diaries to view all the fun on video.

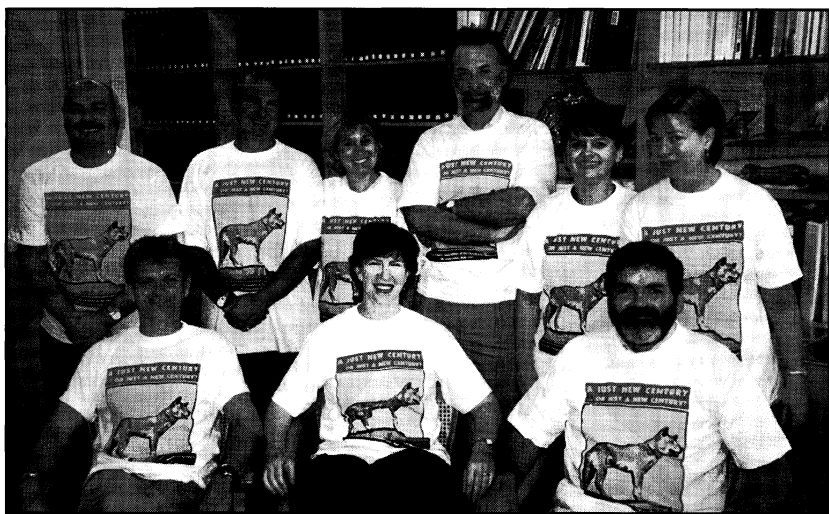
This year sees the 285th anniversary of the death of Queen Anne. So what, you may ask? It is in mourning for her death that lawyers, to this day, wear black robes. This issue of Balance raises the issue of court fashion, something - other than an occasional pendant for court



Maria Ceresa, Executive Officer

shoes - I've never had to consider. It seems possible that in civil cases, at least by the 1 August anniversary of Anne's death, the local profession may abandon at least one of the traditions of the Mother Country - the wig. The issue is debated in this issue of Balance. We don't need a readership survey to tell us that your newsletter is the appropriate venue for such discussion.

THE USUAL SUSPECTS!



N.T. Criminal Lawyers Association members donning their stunning Bali conference T-shirts featuring the association's new logo. *Left to right, standing:* Jacek Karczewski, Rex Wild, Lyn Wild, Richard Coates, Jenny Blokland, Suzan Cox. *Left to right seated:* Jon Tippet, Liz Morris and Peter Thomas. Peter Tiffen was missing in action down Wadey way. This month's Criminal Lawyers column is on page 11.

SURVEY

The council of the Law Society of the Northern Territory would like to know your opinion on court attire. The Bar Association has taken its vote, but what do you think? Please photocopy this page, circle your preferences and fax to 8941 1623.

1. Should both judge and counsel wear:

- a) Wigs and gowns only in witness actions (civil & criminal).
- b) Wigs and gowns only in criminal jury trials.
- c) Gown only in all proceedings.
- d) Neat dress.
- e) No change.
- f) Multi-coloured gowns rather than black.

2. Optional footwear?

- a) Stilettoes.
- b) Court shoes.