

Other Passions

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But the greatest joy is simply being on the water away from the cares of work and clients. "There is nothing like being on Darwin Harbour between, say, five thirty and six thirty sailing home on a ten knot breeze or so with the sun setting. I can't imagine there are better things to be doing. It is one of the great bonuses of living in Darwin. I like the fact that the boat goes with the wind and the sea. It is Hemingwayesque — *The Old Man and the Sea*." Readers should note that Richard does sport a greying nautical beard like Papa Hemingway.

Richard has no plans to emulate Robin Graham as yet and sail around the World. If he did he says he would require something a tad bigger than *The Dove*. But it remains a dream. And there is another of the appeals of sailing for Richard. He can gaze at charts of far off waterways and make plans to sail across foreign seas. He, Tippett and Spazzapan are forever making plans to go somewhere but, as he ruefully remarks, "we haven't managed to get around to Bynoe Harbour as yet". But as all good sailors know there's always next year.

And another time and place for Richard Coates?

"I'd like to have been someone like Joshua Slocomb, a master mariner at the end of the 19th Century — the last heroic age of sail — when clipper ships were still sailing around the Horn."

Joshua Slocomb, of course, was the self reliant Yankee sailor who left Boston in 1895 and over the next five years sailed alone around the world in his thirty five foot long sloop *Spray*, a vessel he largely built himself. He was fifty-one at the start of his voyage and immortalised his story in his book *Sailing Alone Around the World*.

He was also, by all accounts, a thoroughly unpleasant person. Is this something that happens to everyone when they become the master of their own boat? Richard throws a note of caution on his dreams to sail off alone into the sunset. "Maybe its dangerous spending too much time with yourself."

Tippett and Spazzapan do have their uses.


Letter to the Editor

It was great to see the Katherine pictorial in *Balance* a few weeks ago. There are a few Darwin practitioners whose work brings them down to Katherine from time to time, but the jurisdiction here has been largely independent of Darwin so it was nice to see us remembered.

I would also like to express my appreciation to Mr Justice Riley and Mr Rex Wild QC for the recent CLEs that they held in town. His Honour shared his considerable knowledge in the area of appropriate court behaviour. As the Supreme Court rarely sits in Katherine, it was worthwhile for us all to be refreshed about matters of etiquette.

Mr Wild concentrated on one of his passionate interests, the art of advocacy. Practice in Katherine usually means many appearances with the same personalities at the tables, although the places change from time to time. It was therefore, useful to be reminded about advocacy from the client's perspective. Mr Wild's experience as an advocate was, naturally, demonstrated by his own entertaining delivery that afternoon.

Katherine is an excellent jurisdiction for junior lawyers to get experience. There are presently insufficient good private practitioners available to this



Dear Editor,
I am astounded
that article on
Balance, which

growing community. The work here reflects a genuine Northern Territory flavour, with a high level of rural commercial business and a wide range of personal legal matters. Unfortunately, I have found that the business community is quite despondent about its ability to access legal services locally and accepts this as part of doing business in the NT. However when good advice is available, the word spreads quickly and Katherine clients are both numerous and reliable.

The recent efforts made by the Law Society to support CLEs and raise the profile of the profession in Katherine will ultimately benefit the whole community. Young practitioners should be encouraged to consider spending some time in Katherine, being a part of the Territory and giving the community a professional service. Katherine should not be regarded as a frontier any longer and with greater interaction with the Darwin profession, the days of the out-of-date bush lawyer are numbered.

Susan Gilmour
Gilmour and Associates

LAW SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Practitioners are advised that
the Law Society Annual
General Meeting will be held
at 4.30pm on Wednesday 5
September at the Darwin
Central Hotel.**