

# NT YOUNG LAWYERS REPORT 2001

This year NTYL combined forces with the NTU Law Student's Society to put on an evening of socialising and networking. And what a success!

One hundred and thirty eight people attended the Carlton Ball Room on 29 September 2001 for dinner, drinks and dancing. Amongst the students and young lawyers was the NTYL Patron, the Honourable Angel J and Mrs Angel and the Chief Magistrate Mr Bradley and Mrs Bradley.

The festivities began with champagne and soft piano music in the foyer followed by the entree and main courses in the ballroom. Guests received a welcome address from the President of NTULSS, Mr Paul Canet Senior as well as a welcome to nation from a representative of Larrakia Nation Mr John Rawnfley, and a thankyou for attendance from Mr Reinis Dancis on behalf of the NTYL and NTULSS ball committees. The timing of the Ball coincided with the Australian Law Students Association delegate's conference which was held in Darwin for the first time from 26 to 30 September 2001.

As part of the conference all delegates attended a welcome function at Parliament House on Thursday 27 October 2001 and Government House on 28 September 2001 where they were welcomed to the Northern Territory by Mr Matthew Bonson, member for Millner on behalf the Attorney General, the Honourable Mr Toyne MLA and by the Administrator of the Northern Territory, Mr Anictomatis. The President of ALSA, Ms Joanna Davidson thanked the Northern Territory Government and NTULSS for their kind hospitality whilst the delegation was in Darwin and expressed the disappointment for those delegates that were unable to see what Darwin was like due to transport problems during the airline crisis.

All guests enjoyed the Ball and NTYL would like to thank the sponsors of the event, Pee Wee's at the Point, Go Sushi, The Vic/Discovery, Birch Carrol and Coyle and Blush Wine and Cigar Bar. I would also like to thank Mr Roman Micairan, Social Coordinator for NTYL without whose effort the night would not have been such a success.

## AYLC Meeting Canberra 12 October 2001

I attended the second face-to-face meeting of the Australian Young Lawyers Committee on 12 October 2001 as part of the 32nd Australian Legal Convention.

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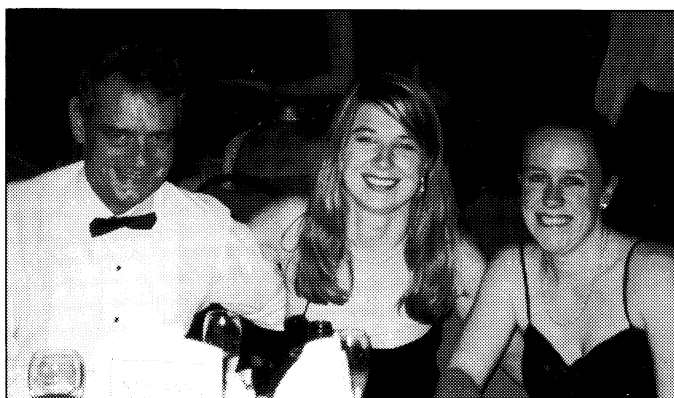
*Marguerite Bowen and Chief Magistrate Hugh Bradley with NTU law student Robert Darby. One hundred and thirty eight people attended the joint NT Young Lawyers and NTU Law Students Society Ball held at the Carlton Hotel on 29 September 2001*



*Members of the NT Young Lawyers at a social day held at the Sailing Club on 8 September 2001*



*NTYL President Reinis Dancis, Anita Angel and Judge Angel at the Combined NTULSS and NTYL Ball*



*President of NTULSS Paul Canet Senior, President of the Australian Law Students Association Joanna Davidson and Leonnie Harris*



The agenda items raised at the meeting included the Australian Young Lawyer Awards, the National Golden Gavel competition, ongoing liaison between state and territory Young Lawyer bodies and increased communication with the Law Council on issues affecting young lawyers. It was proposed that the 1999 WAYL salary/workplace survey questions be amended to suit each particular jurisdiction for the purpose of developing a national model survey. The NTYL Committee will seek the assistance of members to complete the survey so that we can provide this information to AYLC and compare working conditions in the Northern Territory to the other states and territories.

I informed AYLC of the social events, advocacy course and CLE's that NTYL had provided to its members during 2001 and also informed AYLC that NTYL would be holding a general meeting to discuss the direction of NTYL on 2 November 2001.

NSWYL reported that they had conducted a committee meeting with their regional committee members via a "chat room" on the web and I propose to investigate this information technology medium so that we can contact and discuss issues with young lawyers who are practicing in Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. NSWYL also extended an invitation to their Annual Assembly which is being held at the Crowne Plaza, Coogee Beach on 3 and 4 November 2001. The major

social event of the Annual Assembly is the Annual Ball which is a Heaven and Hell theme being held at the Sydney Convention Centre, Darling Harbour.

After the face-to-face meeting all AYL Committee members attended a joint lunch for all delegates at the Australian Legal Convention. The Chairperson of AYLC Ms Alison Robertson introduced the winners of the Hughes Castell Australian Young Lawyer Awards 2001. There were three categories:

(1) Category 1: in recognition of a program implemented relating to professional issues. This award was won by the Professional Development Committee of the Young Lawyers Section of the Law Institute of Victoria. The Committee developed and published guidelines for Victorian employers, employee solicitors and articled clerks, entitled "Thriving and Surviving: Employment Practices and achieving a healthy balance."

(2) Category 2: In recognition of a program implemented relating to community issues. The judging panel could not separate the claims of two nominees. The award was jointly won by the NSW Young Lawyers Community Services Committee for its Indigenous Law Student Mentoring Program and the International Humanitarian Law Unit of the Red Cross for its work in staging the International Criminal Court Mock Trial.

(3) Category 3: In recognition of an individual's continuous and outstanding contribution to the profession and to the community. This award was won by Jennifer McVivcar, Chair of the NSWYL Community Services Committee. Jennifer has instigated and implemented a range of community programs, including providing both legal and non-legal assistance to underprivileged people, indigenous law students, older people and children at risk.

The judging committee also gave a Special Commendation to Ms Georgina Costello for her tireless volunteer work in the area of human rights. Georgina is an Executive member of the International Humanitarian Law Unit of the Australian Red Cross and was one of the organisers of the International Criminal Court Mock Trial.

After the awards the ACTYL took all AYLC representatives for a guided tour of the National Museum and then onto the Floriade Dinner held in the Marque at Commonwealth Park. It was bitterly cold the whole time I was in Canberra and particularly at the dinner. Luckily for the delegates from the NT, the Convention organisers provided gas heaters to warm the air and plenty of red wine ease the cold.

If anyone wants to read a copy of the award winning "Thriving and Surviving" they can view it on the Victorian Law Institute's website at [www.liv.asn.au/sections/younglawyers](http://www.liv.asn.au/sections/younglawyers). I also have a copy of the South Australian Salaried Lawyers Award if members are interested in reading the terms and conditions.

The General Meeting for NTYL will be held at Blush, Wine and Cigar Bar on Friday 2 November 2001 at 5pm.

If anyone would like to purchase photos from the combined NTYL/NTULSS Ball please contact NTU photographer Brendon Worrell on 8946 7747.

**Reinis Dancis, President 2001**

*Representatives from Young Lawyer Associations around Australia gathered for a national meeting as part of the Australian Legal Convention in Canberra on 12 October 2001*

