

PARTICIPATION IS THE KEY

The NTYL committee's aim at the beginning of the year was simple: continue to provide CLE seminars on a range of subjects, an advocacy workshop with the assistance of the Honourable Justice Trevor Riley, Rex Wild QC and Lex Silvester, and organise social events for NTYL members to meet their fellow colleagues. The committee also decided to continue its work updating the NTYL Articles Handbook and the webpage once the Handbook is complete.

Since the committee was elected on 23 March 2001 the following events have been organised by the NTYL:

1. Information talks with students at St. John's, Nightcliff and Darwin High School on 2, 3 and 4 April 2001 as part of Youth Week;
2. Small Claims Seminar for Law Week on 14 May 2001;
3. CLE Seminar on Expert Evidence presented by Michael Grant on 14 May 2001
4. Tropical Trivia Quiz Night, on 18 May 2001;
5. Annual Advocacy Workshop on 26 May 2001;
6. CLE Seminar on Negotiating Leases presented by Guy Riley on 29 August 2001
7. Barbeque Day on 8 September 2001;
8. CLE Seminar on Environmental Law presented by Andrew Buick on 19 September 2001
9. Combined NTYL and NTULSS Ball on 29 September 2001;
10. CLE Seminar on Corporations Law presented by Anthony Eeven on 24 October 2001
11. CLE Seminar on Quantum in Personal Injury matters presented by Ben O'Loughlin on 14 November 2001.

Articles Handbook

There is still work being done on the NTYL Articles Handbook and anyone who would like to provide assistance can contact David Elix at Messrs De Silva Hebron (email: delix@desilva-

hebron.com). The final draft for the Articles Handbook is expected to be complete in January/February 2002.

Sunset Cruise

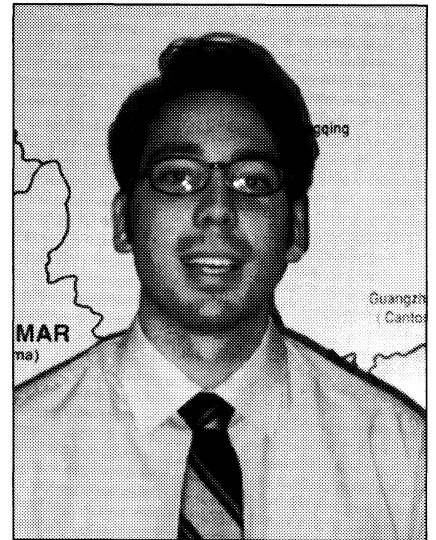
The planned Sunset Cruise was cancelled due to other social engagements on that weekend. A survey will need to be undertaken for future events taking into account prior commitments of NTYL members to ensure a date when members will be available. Without commitment of members none of the NTYL's events can be successful. The association is only as strong as its membership support.

Australian Young Lawyers Committee ("AYLC")

On 14 March 2001 I attended the meeting of AYLC by telephone. Each representative was given the task of finding a sponsor for the Australian Young Lawyers Award 2001. I created a shortlist of eight recruitment agencies, one of which, Hughes Castell, was ultimately chosen as sponsor of the award. As part of the sponsorship program Hughes Castell were given naming rights and their logo was placed in an advertisement for the Young Lawyer Awards published in each jurisdiction's law journal. The advertisement appeared in the July edition of *Balance* and was sent to all NTYL members via email.

The winners of the award can be found in the NTYL article in October's *Balance* together with the report of the Canberra AYLC meeting.

On 15 June I attended a face to face AYLC meeting in Sydney. The action sheet for the meeting required all members to provide the administrator with all surveys, Awards and Codes in place for young lawyers in each jurisdiction. I informed the administrator that the Northern Territory does not currently have an award that covers the employment of employed solicitors or articulated clerks in the NT, however, NTYL has relied upon the Law Council of Australia's *Guidelines for the Employment of Employed Solicitors and Articled Clerks* which was adopted by the Law Society of the Northern Territory in 1997. If anyone



Reinis Dancis, NTYL President

would like a copy of the guidelines please contact me at De Silva Hebron.

"Golden Gavel" Competition

AYLC has proposed a national "Golden Gavel" competition. For over ten years the NSW Young Lawyers has been running a breakfast function "Golden Gavel" competition to coincide with Law Week during May each year. A letter is forwarded to all managing partners of the largest city law firms encouraging them to nominate a young lawyer to enter the competition and to book a table to cheer on their competitor.

Members of NSWYL brainstorm ideas for an adjudicator and a senior member of the bench is invited to attend the breakfast and act as a judge. The breakfast is usually hosted at one of the CBD's five star hotels and 350 people normally attend the breakfast. The NSWYL Committee members submit funny topics with a legal element and each competitor speaks for a maximum of five minutes. This year's topics included: "A night at the HIH Christmas party"; "Top tier law firms: outwit, outplay, outlast"; and "Survivor III: the law firm".

At the June AYLC it was agreed that the first national competition would be conducted at the NSW Young Lawyers assembly in 2002. This was confirmed at the Canberra AYLC meeting. Sponsors are currently being sought for the event and the media will also be asked to cover the event.

This is a great concept which all NTYL members are urged to take an interest

in. If the NT competition is held at the beginning of the 2002 and a winner is selected, a representative can participate in the national competition in November 2002. The NT winner and their employer will receive national exposure and the competition will highlight the talent that resides in our jurisdiction.

NTYL Web page

Mr Jason Schoolmeester would be more than happy for any assistance from members to update the web page at www.ntyounglawyers.asn.au. He can be contacted at NT Treasury on 8999 7128 or jason.schoolmeester@nt.gov.au

Special General Meeting

On 2 November 2001 a General Meeting was held at Blush Wine and Cigar Bar to discuss issues raised by members with respect to the Association's "progress". A list of agenda items was forwarded to the committee on 4 October 2001 and those items were included in the agenda for the 2 November 2001 meeting. Prior to the meeting the NTYL committee provided members with AYLC and NTYL minutes from this year and a letter addressing some of the agenda items raised.

Reports of the AYLC meetings were tabled at the General Meeting and the floor was opened for discussion. The two major issues raised were the standard of legal education at the NTU/ Practical Legal Training in the Northern Territory and the NTYL's input on the Law Society. Two committees were formed to provide submissions in relation to these issues. If any members would like to assist those committees please contact Sarah Hawke and Simone Menz of Cridlands or Susie Slade of Ward Keller.

With respect to input on the Law Society, NTYL members can actively participate by selecting preferred candidates prior to the Law Society's AGM in September 2002 and encouraging members to vote for those candidates on the day. Sarah Hawke is currently a councillor on the Law Society and can assist members if they have any queries. All members have the ability to approach any of the Law Society's councillors.

Simone Menz undertook to redraft

NTYL's constitution and will provide members with the draft prior to the association's AGM in February 2002.

Members voiced their concern that an "appropriate" member should be the AYLC representative for NTYL. Since the creation of NTYL the president of NTYL has attended AYLC meetings on behalf of NTYL. If he/she is unable to attend, the vice-president attends. The AYLC requires a commitment of two years to provide continuum, however this may vary depending on the constituent bodies' practice of retaining their leaders for a period of more than one year. At the General Meeting it was suggested that a protocol be adopted for selecting the AYLC representative which will be discussed at the AGM in February 2002.

The NTYL currently has a membership of 60 which has increased threefold since 1997. Forty members attended the General Meeting at Blush, so there is some interest in what NTYL is doing and trying to achieve. Some members expressed that they joined for the CLE program, advocacy course and social interaction at functions that NTYL provides during the year and from the abovementioned list we can state that the committee has provided all three.

The meeting was very productive and has set the scene for bigger and better things in 2002. If any NTYL members would like a certain event or CLE subject provided, within reason, they should feel free to contact any of the committee members who will be more than happy to oblige.

Workplace and salary survey

A workplace and salary survey has been sent to all members to complete. The survey will give the committee and members a picture of employment conditions for employed solicitors and articulated clerks in the Northern Territory. The AYLC has requested all representative bodies provide results from their surveys so that a national survey can be conducted. At the present time the NTYL committee has received 40% of the surveys. All members are urged to place the completed survey into the rounds box.

Thankyou

This is my last *Balance* article and my

last chance to thank everyone that has helped me during the year. I begin with the NTYL Committee: Mark Wallbridge, Jason Schoolmeester, Emily Caldwell, Kai-Li Tan, David Elix and Roman Micairan. Roman especially. He put in a lot of effort, as you may have seen through the barrage of advertisements for social events. Unfortunately lack of participation didn't allow the fruition of some of his concepts, but that is Darwin and the nature of the beast. I am personally satisfied that he did everything he possibly could (bar dragging people physically through the door) to promote attendance at our social activities. At the end of the day, the people on the committee have donated their spare time to the association and have not been remunerated for their efforts in any way apart from the satisfaction doing a good job. The association is in great debt to these volunteers and I thank them for their time and dedication.

I would like to thank my employers, De Silva Hebron, for their patience and support in allowing me to devote time to this association. They know how much time is required to promote and organize events and I thank them for that luxury.

Finally I would like to thank the NTYL members who gave me the opportunity to represent them as their president over the last two years. Criticism has been leveled that I tried to do too much myself and that I should have distributed more tasks to the committee members. However the job needed to be done and I took on that responsibility to the members. I hope that next year's committee will be able to build on the enthusiasm of this year's members and encourage increased participation in NTYL events. There are a range of concepts that can be expanded next year, particularly communication with members in Alice Springs through chat room technology, the Golden Gavel competition and social events incorporating other young professional bodies as well as NTU Law Students. The sky is the limit!

The AGM will be held after 31 January 2002. Remember — participation is the key. You'll never know if you never never go.

Reinis Dancis