

LINES IN THE SAND

Welcome

The new year will see a swell in the population of Alice Springs with the arrival of the McNamara/O'Reilly triplets from Sydney in February. Sarah McNamara (Budrikis & McNamara) and Mark O'Reilly (CAALAS) are the proud parents of three baby boys — Mathew Miles, Thomas Patrick and Jack Reilly, born on Wednesday 3 January 2001. Many, many congratulations and a warm welcome to the boys. David Bamber (CAALAS) and Janet Taylor (NAALAS) are expecting the arrival of their baby in mid January. Best wishes to David and Janet.

Anniversary

Current and former employees of the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission gathered at the Commission's Hartley Street office on the 15th December 2000 to celebrate its 10th anniversary in Alice Springs.

The Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission (NTLAC) replaced the Australian Legal Aid Office (ALAO). When the former ALAO Solicitor-in-Charge departed to have a baby, Robert Allen, then a first year solicitor, took over the helm for a short time before being replaced by Pat McCrowan. George Georgiou the current Solicitor in Charge left a burgeoning practice at the Victorian Bar to take up the position in 1995.

Other solicitors who have 'served time' at the Commission include Katrina Budrikis, Freia Carlton, Nardine Collier and Louis Schetzer. Russell Goldflam is 'serving time' and Helen Collins left in mid January to take up a position with a law firm in country Victoria. The support team is made up of Wendy Vismans, Jodie Siebert and Cheryl Ross, who is perhaps the longest serving member of the Commission, having also done stints in the Darwin office.

For the first few years, the NTLAC office was located on Leichhardt Terrace facing the Todd River. In 1994 the office was sand-bagged when the river flooded and water inched towards the front doors. In 1996, NTLAC relocated to its current office at 77 Hartley Street in the Heritage Precinct in Alice Springs. The building is an old-style "Territory" house built in 1941 to house public servants. The building's heritage

appeal generates an irregular procession of visitors requesting tours. In addition to its work in Alice Springs, the Commission provides its services to Tennant Creek and Yulara.

Farewell

In December Alice Springs farewelled one of its more 'colourful' practitioners, Kim Kilvington. Kim has worked in Alice Springs for many years. He was first employed by Stewart Brown who was the principal legal officer at CAALAS at the time. Folklore has it that Kim was sitting at the back of the Court looking a little dishevelled. Stewart approached him believing that he may be in need of legal advice. Instead, Stewart ended the conversation by offering him a job. Since then, Kim has been a tireless worker for Aboriginal people in the Centre and has been involved in a number of significant cases promoting their rights. We wish Kim well in his future endeavours in Queensland.

Planning Day

By the time this issue of *Balance* hits the streets, Katrina Budrikis will have attended the Law Society's annual planning day. In the hot house atmosphere of the Monte Carlo Room at the MGM Grand, council members will get together to discuss future operational and policy directions for the Law Society. We repeat our request for practitioners in Alice Springs to contact us with any ideas for the Law Society. In particular we want to hear from anyone with bright ideas about how to make Law Week a more interesting and dynamic event.

Opening of the Legal Year

The opening of the Legal Year in Alice Springs will be held on Friday 2 February. The service will at 10.30am in the Supreme Court. Justice Debelle of the Supreme Court of South Australia will be the guest speaker at a lunch to be held at the Rydges Plaza Bradshaws Restaurant at 12noon. We hope to see as many people there as possible. Further details will be provided.

Lines in the Sand is provided by **Domenic Conidi & Katrina Budrikis, Alice Springs Law Society Council members.**

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