

# OBITUARY

## Rachael Lemke 1973 - 2001

Rachael left us on 23 April 2001.

Her passing left a hole in the hearts and souls of everyone who knew Rachael: mine was a sense of loss so profound that it was only through it that I came to appreciate that Rachael was a special person amongst us. I believe I was not the only one who came to that realisation.

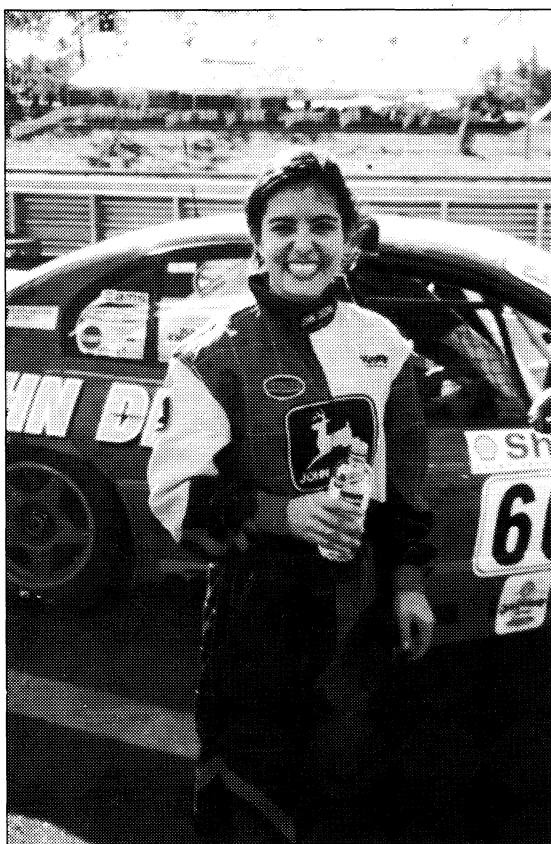
Rachael Ernestine Lemke was born in Auckland, New Zealand on 13 June 1973. As a young child she travelled with her family between New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Australia, eventually settling in Brisbane, before moving to Darwin in her high school years.

At her funeral, her father Lester related the story of how the decision to move to Darwin was made. While living in Brisbane, Rachael had joined her school dance troupe and choir, and she intended to travel to Calgary with the troupe to compete in the "Calgary Stampede". Rachael had also trained with the Queensland state diving team.

So it was no small dilemma that faced Lester in deciding whether to uproot his family again and make the move. Rachael could clearly see that he was troubled by the matter, and perhaps sensed that it was her interests that he wanted to protect. She offered him this counsel: "We haven't been there yet Dad, let's go!". It was a simple logic about life and a generosity of spirit that Rachael continued to live by, her whole life.

Rachael and her family moved to Darwin; the dance troupe subsequently won the Stampede without her, and we were the luckier for it.

Rachael completed her secondary schooling at St John's College in Darwin and studied law at the NTU. She met her husband Adam while they were both studying at the University and they were married on the 6th of July 1996. Rachael completed her articles at Ward Keller and was admitted to practice on 2 September



1997. Their daughter Ayesha was born on 31 May 1999.

As legal officer at TIO, Rachael enjoyed dual roles as both solicitor and client. She demonstrated a maturity of approach and an insight into matters that would ordinarily be expected only in someone of much greater experience in the law.

But that was the hallmark of Rachael. She was a person who never let inexperience or fear stand in the way of her enjoyment and fulfilment of life. Whether it was the drama of a court case, the celebration or commiseration of its aftermath, the buzz of a lap of the track in a V8 Supercar, or the thrill of an ultralight flight, she lived her life at its fullest and scoffed at danger. The luck and opportunities that seemed to find her were surely a product of her approach to life. If we take one thing from Rachael's passing, surely it must be that a life half lived is a life not lived at all!

Rachael is certainly missed and her passing has left all of us who knew her with deep sadness. But over time, that sense of loss and sadness is replaced by admiration for a truly wonderful person, and reflections upon our good

fortune to have known her as we did.

Rachael, our memories of you will always be happy ones.

The thoughts and prayers of the profession are with Adam, Ayesha and the Lemke and Dohnt families.

*Duncan McConnell*

### Mark these dates in your diary

#### Law Society Annual Dinner

The Law Society Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday 25 August 2001. Details to be announced.

#### Law Society AGM 2001

The Law Society Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 5 September 2001.