

*Walk a mile in their shoes, from previous page*

The plain fact of the matter is that there is just not enough common law work in the NT to justify the overlaying of a new system of claims management. I should mention here that Lord Woolfe will be a guest speaker at the Australasian Legal Conference in April in Melbourne.

The other amendments to the law of tort will be debated in the November sittings.

I hope that the detailed submissions that we put the Government have some effect, and at the least cause a delay in the implementation of the proposed system, lest it falls foul of the very criticism that I have made above, and that we have more time to ensure that whatever is brought in will be a useful piece of legislation.

There have been some other steps that we have achieved since the last *Balance*.

There was a very productive strategic planning session (no, that's not an oxymoron) held in the beginning of

November, and this is the subject of Maria's report.

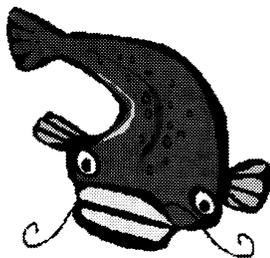
We also had an external expert come to advise us how to set the LSNT up for the next few years (with both staff and equipment), and how we can maximise the service provided to the profession.

I hope that we can make the report public shortly.

The saddest news is that Maria has indicated that she will not be renewing her contract when it expires in March.

I would like to deal with Maria's fabulous contribution to the LSNT in more detail in one of my columns in the New Year, but I mention it now, as we will be advertising the position shortly.

Lastly, from that catfish and I, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.



**from the editor**

## **PHEW! What a year**

Is it my imagination or is everyone incredibly, horrendously, mammothly "crazy busy"?

This is supposedly the time of year when "everything" slows down and most are getting ready to attend the normal slew of Christmas parties.

But the "slowing down" is nowhere I've looked recently. In fact there appears to be a ridiculous amount of work being done. From the legal profession to the public service, to the hospitality industry (natch), to the workers on building sites - who has time for Christmas drinks let alone shopping?

If there is "no rest for the wicked" then we've all been very, very, very naughty indeed!

Still, there are some rewards for being so busy.

Take *Balance* for example. This is the last edition for the year and it is horribly late.

We try to get it out as regularly as possible but sometimes, with our contributors tied up with work, it gets delayed.

The reward is we DO get there eventually and it's with twisted pleasure that I hear the demands - "where's *Balance*?", "why isn't *Balance* out yet?". It means you're reading it and even missing it at times.

I hope you've enjoyed reading *Balance* as much as I've enjoyed producing it for the Law Society of the Northern Territory. This was my first year on the job and it's been a pleasure to work on the magazine.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and we look forward to bringing *Balance* to you in 2003.

— Lorelei Fong Lim, editor

## **From the UK Law Society about Bali**

The following letter was received in mid October this year. It was addressed to President Ian Morris.

*I would like to express to you, on behalf of the President all the solicitors of England and Wales, my deepest sympathy for the tragedy that has befallen so many people and families in your country. All of us here at The Law Society, who watched events unfold, are stunned and shocked at the senseless loss of human life.*

*My thoughts go out to you, your colleagues in the legal profession and all Australians in this hour of need and despair. I hope that all of you in Australia will find the strength to cope and overcome this terrible event.*

*With kind regards, yours sincerely  
Peter Williamson, Vice President*

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