

### Duck for cover!!

The Northern Territory Women's Lawyers are funny birds. An item that created a great deal of interest at its recent meeting was the matter concerning the Argentinian Lake Duck. The supporting documentation – apparently stolen from the office of a “well known” twitcher in legal circles – was an article in the Australian Museum's nature publication on the said duck.

The article stated that the Argentinian Lake Duck has a penis a massive 42 inches in length. The penis is also equipped with a brush to sweep out the remains of any other drake that may have been there first. The meeting resolved to explore the feasibility of importing the duck from South America. Goes to show there is no such thing as a bad duck.



Above: one helluva duck!

### Go-go-Federal-Magistrate!

Apparently our resident Federal Magistrate Stewart “The Undead” Brown had a very full Tuesday last month.

He started his day at 7am with a video link conference, sat all day with minimal breaks and delivered his last judgement around 7.50pm–8.10pm. He was THEN seen on a jog that apparently took him through to the start of work the next day!

### Congratulations

To James Brohier (Commonwealth AGs) and Tracey on the birth of their baby girl, Georgia Grace.

To Penny Johnston and hubby Angus Duguid on the birth of their baby boy, Rueben Darcy Johnston Duguid.

### Movers and Shakers

**Lyn Bennett** has moved to Hunt & Hunt from Ward Keller.

**Tanya Ling** has moved to Cridlands from Hunt & Hunt.

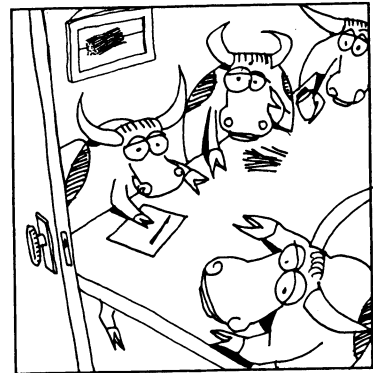
**John Newman** has moved to Cridlands' Commercial and Corporate Services Section from the NLC.

**Peter Ward** and **Jan Whitbread** are leaving Darwin for Canberra. Peter will work for Blake Dawson while Jan is going to the ACT DPP's office.

**Bill Parish** is leaving Ward Keller. **Cassandra Goldie** has left DCLS and Darwin.

**Peter Tiffin** has established a

## The Muster Room



practice in the rural area in the fields of criminal law, civil litigation and administrative law. He is also prepared to accept briefs in family law matters. His contact details are ph 89881765, fax 89881713, mobile 0408841150, email ptiffin@ozemail.com.au and a court box at the Supreme Court.

**Tom Walker**, formerly of Noonans, is now in Adelaide at DMAW Lawyers. His details are: 3rd Floor, 80 King William St, Adelaide SA 5000, ph 82102222, fax 82102233, email twalker@dmawlawyers.com.au

### Admissions and Mutual Recognitions

Admitted on 5 November was Andrew Marcus Schatz (Clayton Utz).

Mutual recognition admissions are: Jared Nathaniel Sharp (NAALAS), Gregory Francis Smith (NAALAS), Elisabeth Helen Armitage (DPP), Ruth Ellen Brebner (DPP).

### Bar jottings, from page 15

There are some exceptions to the media rule. They include:

- The ‘academic exception’ - a barrister expressing an opinion about current or potential proceedings in the course of genuine, educational or academic discussion on a matter of law.
- The ‘non contentious information exception’ - a barrister answering unsolicited questions concerning current proceedings provided that the answers are limited to information as to the identity of parties or witnesses already called to give evidence, the nature of the issues in the case, the evidence

admitted in the case, the nature of any orders made or judgment given including any reasons given by the court and the clients intentions as to any further steps in the case.

For most barristers, the ‘non contentious information exception’ is the only circumstance where they may find themselves speaking to journalists.

Even within that exception, barristers can run a number of risks if they speak to the media.

The risks include:

- Becoming identified with the client's cause and thereby compromising the barrister's independence.

- Allowing the media to unwittingly distort what the barrister says about complex legal or factual issues by editing out significant parts of the comments in the interests of brevity or simplicity.

In other words, the 30 second grab does not work well in this situation.

As is usually the case, this rule can sometimes work to the disadvantage of a party when that party's opponent is freely and inaccurately commenting on the case in the media.

The consolation is the court will always decide the case on the relevant evidence and law, not on the opponent's bleatings in the media.