

Functions and Issues

There are quite a few matters to discuss in this month's column so I'll get right into it.

LOCAL MATTERS

Future events for NTWL include the Dame Roma Mitchell Memorial Lecture and the Judge's Drinks in Alice Springs. I will confirm in the next edition details of these functions.

NTWL is keen to encourage the Northern Territory Government to consider the gender imbalance among Magistrates/Judges/Commissioners in the Northern Territory.

The Law Council of Australia is currently producing a policy position on how governments should be making appointments.

We are currently obtaining a copy of this report and anyone who is interested may contact me.

This is an area where the NTWL could provide valuable information to the NT Government.

A reminder that fees are due, and I really would appreciate a member (or even a non-member) from Alice Springs contacting me about the Judge's Drinks.

We are very lucky to have a patron who is interested in promoting our ideals and it is a great opportunity for new women lawyers to meet with the Judge in a social environment.

Still looking for articles, on any subject at all, please contact me. We are women who come from all backgrounds with many interesting stories to tell.

A DATE FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 16 May 2002 Lizards Bar, 5.30pm. A meet and greet the Committee. Come along and talk to us, tell us your problems, and just have a friendly chat. Great way to meet people, especially for new members and lawyers new to the profession in Darwin. **MAKE SURE YOU PUT THIS IN YOUR DIARY.**

SUCCESSFUL QUIZ NIGHT

The Quiz Night was a great success. I would especially like to thank Justice Sally Thomas who was our MC for the night.

I would also like to thank my Committee who worked extremely hard

to make the night a success. My thanks also to the management at the Arafura Bowls Club for their assistance on the night; it was a great venue.

A big thanks to everyone who supported us on the night, especially friends and family of Committee members. It was a fun night and we raised \$750 towards sending one of our members to the National Conference to be held later this year.

Again, I would like to thank our sponsors:

- The Chief Minister
- Helmet Hair
- Rosettos Sports Store
- Ten Litchfield
- Carmen's Nails, Northlakes
- Giuseppe's
- Darwin Yoga Space
- Fannie Bay Supermarket

I would also like to thank my mother Joan Robinson, who made 'Naomi Teddy' for presentation to the Judge as a thank you for her participation in the evening.

NATIONAL NEWS

The Women Lawyers' Association of NSW is celebrating their 50th anniversary year. What a wonderful milestone.

Our own organisation is still young, but it is pleasing to note that women lawyers as a group are as strong today as they were 50 years ago.

The Women's Constitutional Convention (WCC) is hosting a conference to be held in Canberra later this year. 2002 is the centenary of the 1902 Bill that gave women the right to vote in federal elections. It is also 40



Sandra Robinson, NTWL

years since the passing of amendments to the Electoral Act that gave Aboriginal women in several states, the right to vote in federal elections.

The 2002 Convention will combine looking back at our history and looking towards our future.

Anyone interested in becoming involved in the organisation of the Convention can e-mail to judithd@austarmetro.com.au.

The Australian Institute of Criminology is undertaking a research project on interventions to prevent crimes against older people. The initial stages of the project will involve the cataloguing of existing crime prevention programs for older people in all Australian jurisdictions.

In addition, of interest the NSW Bar Association has recently amended its Website to enable solicitors to search 'Find a Barrister' by gender. For more information visit www.nswbar.asn.au

The Women's Advisory Council will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2003. As part of the celebrations, they intend to produce a patchwork quilt. They would like women individually or in groups to produce a square, which can be incorporated into the quilt.

The squares can be made of any material that can be sewn into a quilt. They are also seeking women to help put it all together. Anyone interested should contact the WAC at www.nt.gov.au/wac. ①