

### Sayonara

Having recently resigned from the LSNT Council, Stuart Barr (NTLAC) is moving to Japan to teach English.

Muster Room has heard that Stuart's Japanese needs a little bit of polish, but his fellow Council members have been helping him out with some of the essentials.

### Welcome aboard

Congratulations to Virginia Eichner, Aaron Powell and Craig Smith who have recently been admitted.

Good luck with your future endeavours.

### The Territory's own IT Whiz Kid

Recently, Andrew Schatz (Australian Government Solicitor) was named as IT Whiz Kid of the month on ZD Net Australia's website.

At 25, Schatz has a degree in Computer Science and has been practising law for almost two years, previously working for Clayton Utz.

"I'd like to think I could expand my legal career here instead of having to move south. There may be a fulltime role for me practicing IT/IP [Information Technology/Intellectual Property] law locally," he told ZD Net.

### QC's on the move

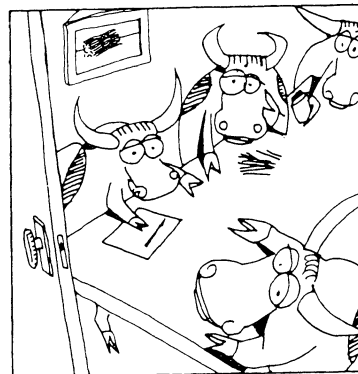
Steve Southwood QC and Jon Tippet QC have moved premises to Myilly Point Chambers at Mines House, Myilly Point.

### Seeking snouts and sources

Help Muster Room to expose the soft under belly of the NT's legal profession.

MR is seeking snouts and sources to

## The Muster Room



feed us tid bits of gossip and information.

If want to dish the dirt, or think that you might be able to help, please contact Zoe at the LSNT or email [publicrelations@lawsocnt.asn.au](mailto:publicrelations@lawsocnt.asn.au)

## Legal aid and access to justice inquiry

On 17 June 2003, the Senate announced a wide-ranging inquiry into legal aid and access to justice in Australia.

The Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee will run the inquiry and report back to Parliament by 3 March 2004.

The committee will investigate the how effectively the current legal aid and access to justice arrangements meet community legal requirements.

Specific areas of attention will include:

- achieving national equity and uniform access to justice across Australia, including outer-metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas;
- implications of the current system on criminal law, family law and civil law matters; and
- the impact of the current arrangements on community legal services, pro bono legal services, court and tribunal services and levels of self-representation.

Submissions can be made to [legcon.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:legcon.sen@aph.gov.au) or faxed to (02) 6277 5794.

Further information is available from:

The Secretariat  
Senate Legislation and  
Constitutional Committee  
Room S1, 61 Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Tel: (02) 6277 3560  
Fax: (02) 6277 5794.

## New powers passed for ASIO

On 26 June 2003, the Federal Parliament passed the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Legislation (Terrorism) Amendment Bill 2002.

Federal Attorney General Darryl Williams welcomed the new legislation as a vital piece of counter-terrorism action.

"We need this legislation to give our ASIO vital tools to deter and prevent terrorism," Mr Williams said.

The new legislation gives ASIO the power to obtain a warrant to detain suspects for seven days and question them during that period without legal representation.

Green Senator Bob Brown opposed the legislation, telling Parliament that: "We all have to accept that we are Australians good and true who want this country to be safe and secure, and we have different ways of reckoning where the law should

stand in procuring maximum security while, at the same time, defending the freedoms and liberties which make this country the place we want to be and are proud of."

"This is not an incremental increase in the power of ASIO to intrude into people's lives but a monumental jump forward".