

The AGM season is looming

This is likely to be the last Balance circulated before the Annual General Meeting which is to be held on 3 September 2003 at 4.30pm at the Darwin Central Hotel (corner of Knuckey and Smith streets, Darwin).

A new Council will be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Under Clause 9 of the Constitution of the Law Society the Council consists of the following:

- (a) the President
- (b) the Vice President
- (c) the Honorary Secretary
- (d) the Treasurer
- (e) seven members
- (f) the Representative of the Northern Territory Bar Association; and
- (g) the immediate Past President.

If possible, at least one councillor shall be practicing in Alice Springs, with an Alternative Alice Springs member.

It is proposed that an amendment be submitted to the Annual General Meeting replacing on Council the immediate Past President with a representative of the Young Lawyers Committee.

Other amendments proposed will set out the organisational structure of the Young Lawyers committee.

At the June meeting of the Council it was resolved that Jenny Hardy replace Stuart Barr on Council due to Stuart's resignation and departure to Japan.

Approval will also be sought for the new Complaint Handling By-Laws, a copy of which has been circulated to members.

Some members of Council have indicated they do not wish to stand again, creating some vacancies.

We are looking at, subject to technology, setting up a website where details of applicants for election appear.

Under Rule 10(4) of the Constitution.

(4) Nominations for election to the Council shall be lodged at least seven clear days before the date for the Annual General Meeting (they must be received by close of business 26 August 2003).

In the event that no nominations are received for a position on the Council, nominations may be called from the floor of the meeting and seconded verbally by a member at any time prior to the closure of nominations by the Chair.

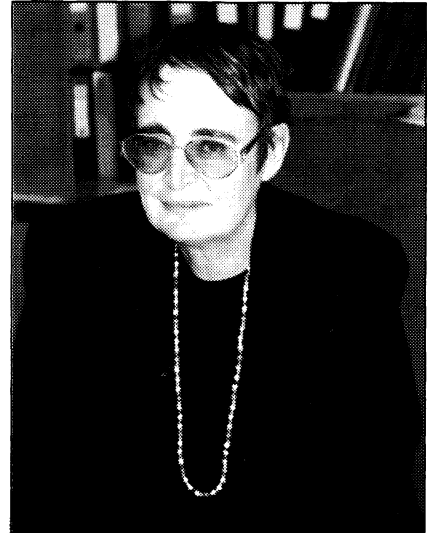
An Agenda and associated papers, including the annual report will be sent out to members at least 14 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

You would not need to be told that the next year will be challenging. Major issues include:

- * the National Model Laws;
- * Professional Indemnity Insurance and related issues;
- * Implementation of the New Educational requirements for Applicants for Admission; and
- * Tort Law reform.

The Council will also be working with a new Chief Justice following the impending retirement of Chief Justice Brian Martin at the end of October 2003.

An effective Council should have a mixture of members, from the private profession and



Barbara Bradshaw, Chief Executive Officer, LSNT

Government, from different sized practices and working in various areas of law.

I would urge members to consider whether or not they wish to be on Council and indeed who of their colleagues they believe could make a contribution to the profession and the community generally through membership of the Council. ①

Professional standards law give real value to legal rights cont...

insurance is less than \$75,000.

"In the current tight professional indemnity insurance market, some professions were finding it difficult to place insurance or to gain full cover for all activities," he said.

"This can result in a claim against a professional not being covered by insurance, or lead to the temptation for a service provider to arrange their business in a way which makes recovery of a successful claim impossible.

"It will be cold comfort for a consumer to have a legal right to recover a loss if that right is worthless in a practical sense."

The LSNT is considering these issues.