

A message of farewell and thanks from LAWASIA to the Northern Territory

It is with a good deal of sadness that LAWASIA will close the doors to its international secretariat in Darwin, and relocate to its new home at the Queensland Law Society's premises in Brisbane in mid-December.

However, along with the sadness, comes considerable pride in acknowledging the contribution of the Northern Territory to LAWASIA's work on the international legal scene.

LAWASIA established its secretariat in Darwin in February 1996, thanks to the vision of the Law Society, the then Attorney-General's Department and a handful of local practitioners who understood the Territory's ideal location as Australia's gateway to Asia. The generosity of the NT government, under the leadership of Shane Stone QC, saw the organisation receive an annual operational grant and accommodation in a suite of premises in NT House that has continued to create envy amongst the members of the Asia Pacific profession who have passed through our doors.

That generosity has been continued by successive governments, and for almost nine years, LAWASIA has been able to deliver a first class service to its international membership from this relatively small and remote jurisdiction. That has always been a source of pride to the LAWASIA secretariat, and it recognises with gratitude the excellent support it has received from the NT business community in delivering that service.

LAWASIA leaves the Territory fundamentally because it recognises that there must be a limit to the assistance a small jurisdiction dealing with a challenging range of social and legal issues can give.

Australian lawyers in general should be proud that their professional bodies recognise the importance and

relevance of the international legal associations through financial and moral support to their activities. However, the proportional support to LAWASIA from its individual members in the NT remains remarkable and is a testament to the dedication of the local profession to the high-minded principles it espouses. As an organisation devoted to practical expression of those principles, LAWASIA quits this environment with some regret. We hope that the future in Brisbane will be hallmarked by a similar fealty from the Queensland profession.

We have been fortunate in making many friends in the Northern Territory, and intend that a physical relocation will not break these bonds. LAWASIA remains committed to seeing the Northern Territory continue to play a role in the regional legal community of Asia and the Pacific as it has done over the past nine years.

It is also important to acknowledge the help, support and camaraderie of the Law Society through successive presidents and Council. Equally, LAWASIA thanks the Law Society staff for their willingness to work cooperatively with us on every level from providing assistance with high-level secretariat commitments to borrowing of cups of sugar.

As we leave the NT, the LAWASIA Executive Committee and Council offers its profound thanks to the many individuals who have contributed to LAWASIA's success in the Northern Territory over the past years. The list of names for mention is prodigious, and we hope each of you will accept this as both a personal and public acknowledgment. LAWASIA's gratitude to you will remain an important part of our corporate history and the tangible expression of it will always be a warm and genuine welcome to all NT practitioners who may visit LAWASIA in



LAWASIA Secretary-General Janet Neville and LAWASIA Immediate Past President Dr Gordon Hughes.

its new home at the Queensland Law Society.

Janet Neville

SECRETARY-GENERAL ①

DEADLINES

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