

The departure of C H Deland DCM

On 19 February 2003, C H Deland SM (Cathy), presided over her final sittings as a magistrate in Alice Springs.

Cathy was admitted to practice as a barrister and solicitor in South Australia in 1979 after completing her Articles of Clerkship at the Crown Solicitor.

Her employment as a prosecutor took her on country circuits around South Australia and in particular to Port Augusta where she appeared in both the Supreme Court and District Court.

Of course, she also prosecuted in Adelaide.

It was at Port Augusta in 1980 that I first met Cathy in my capacity as a defence counsel.

Throughout the following six years we sparred, with the honours fairly and squarely in her favour.

As a prosecutor, she was diligent and above all fair. She was highly regarded by peers from all facets of the law.

By 1986 Cathy had become senior prosecuting counsel in the difficult area of child sexual abuse in Adelaide.

This work occupied her until 1987 when she was appointed a magistrate.

She sat in Adelaide, Elizabeth and as resident magistrate at Port Augusta in 1989 and 1990 before returning to Elizabeth in 1991.

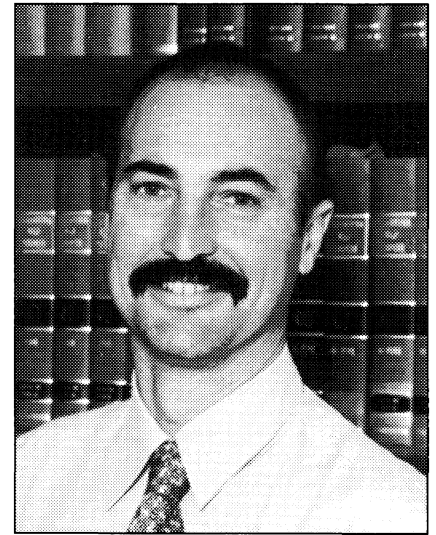
In 1991 Cathy was appointed as a magistrate in the Northern Territory and moved to Alice Springs along with her partner, Mark Heitmann.

They have two children – Sidney and Campbell were both born in Alice Springs and are fond of their bush freedom.

Cathy launched herself into community activities in Alice Springs more notably in her capacity as a member of the Northern Territory Women's Advisory Council.

Cathy also donated her time to sitting on the Mental Health Tribunal and other like community organisations.

She promoted community consultation in the court process and



Tony Whitelum, LSNT representative for Alice Springs

she was an advocate for the use of Aboriginal interpreters, the lack of juvenile detention facilities in Central Australia and treatment programs for young substance abusers.

Perhaps Cathy will be most remembered and admired for her compassion and empathy with the Aboriginal people of Central Australia.

She was respected by the Central Australian community because of the manner in which she dealt with indigenous Australians in an open and fair-minded manner.

Community Sausage Sizzle

She will be remembered by the communities for founding the "Community Sausage Sizzle" when doing the bush circuits.

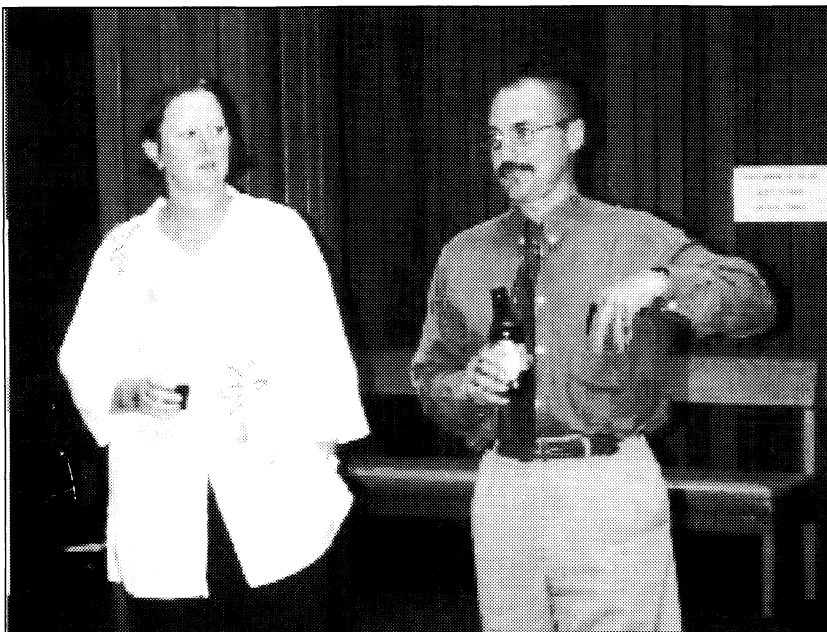
One other area in which Cathy will be fondly remembered is for her work in the Family Matters Court.

Again, she exhibited extreme patience, understanding and compassion when dealing with children, their families and extended families.

The legal fraternity and wider community of Alice Springs were sad to see Cathy move on.

We wish her well in her endeavours in the magistracy in South Australia.

Best wishes Cathy!



Above: Cathy Deland SM (left) listens as Tony Whitelum makes his speech at Cathy's farewell function in Alice Springs.