

Movers and shakers

Mary Chalmers has moved from the Ombudsman's office to work with the NT Police at Berrimah.

Glen Dooley has moved from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to head up the criminal law section of NAALAS.

Carolyn Walter has been appointed as a partner at Ward Keller.

A call to all teenagers

A letter to the editor in the *Centralian Advocate* quoted an open letter to teenagers from a judge in a Queensland court.

The letter stated: "Always we hear the cry from teenagers 'What can we do? Where can we go?' My answer is: Go home. Mow the lawn. Wash the windows, learn to cook, build a raft, get a job, visit the sick, study your lessons. And when you have finished, read a book."

"Your town does not owe you recreation facilities. Your parents do not owe you a living.

"You owe the world something. You owe it your time, you owe it your energy and talents, so no one will be at war, in poverty or sick and lonely again.

"In other words, grow up, stop being

a cry-baby, get out of your dreamworld and develop a backbone, not a wishbone.

"Start behaving like a responsible person. You are important and you are needed. It's too late to sit around and wait for somebody to do something some day. Some day is now and that somebody is you."

Preistley Walsh

Preistley Walsh has disbanded. Paul Walsh has gone into practice for himself and can be contacted on 8985 5878. The former firm has changed its name to Preistleys and all the contact details remain the same.

Martin & Partners

Martin and Partners has closed its doors. Most of its clients have been transferred to Morgan and Buckley in Alice Springs.

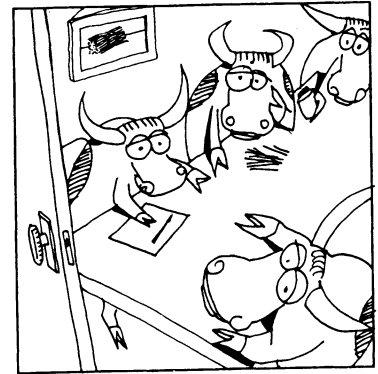
Stylish solicitor

Congratulations to Zoe Marcham, who was named best dressed at Ladies Day during the Darwin Cup Festival.

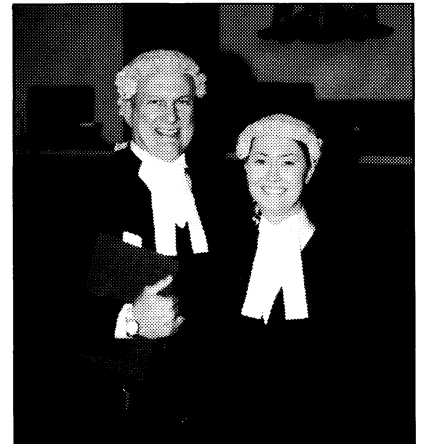
Congratulations to new admittees

Congratulations to the following practitioners who have recently been admitted to the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory: Jodi Mather

The Muster Room



(ODPP); Katrina Eckermann (Markus Spazzapan); Mark Garraway (Ward Keller); Melanie Coort (Cridlands); Michael Hall (Clayton Utz); and Peter Garton (Elizabeth Leahy).



Director of Public Prosecutions Rex Wild QC with Jodi Mather at Jodi's admission ceremony.

Family law reforms a step in right direction: LCA

The Law Council of Australia (LCA) has welcomed a number of family law reforms announced by the Federal Government, labelling the changes as a step in the right direction.

As part of the shake-up, separating couples may attend newly-created Family Relationship Centres, which will provide information and referral to primary dispute resolution service providers.

Law Council President Bob Gotterson QC said, "We know that only two percent of separating families need judges or magistrates to eventually make decisions on parenting matters. This move may help the other 98 percent of people settle on sensible parenting arrangements earlier".

He said changes that affirmed that the children of separating couples have the right to be with both parents were also positive.

"The Family Law Act already recognises children have a right to contact, on a regular basis, with both parents and other people significant to their care, welfare and development. These latest proposed amendments to the Act will help reaffirm these rights."

But Mr Gotterson warned that there was a limit to what could be achieved by court orders.

"Real change in the way that parents share the care of their children after separation requires change in workplace structures and the way in which families organise themselves,"

he said.

"It is not in children's best interests to force post-separation parenting arrangements which are radically different to the arrangements that existed prior to separation."

Mr Gotterson highlighted the fact that there was more work ahead.

"The Law Council has pressed for many years for the Government to review the operation and workload of the two courts that deal with family law. Unfortunately, the House of Representatives Inquiry last year was not asked to undertake this task, but it is very important if Australia is to develop an ideal process for dealing with post-separation family issues," Mr Gotterson concluded. ①