

Straight to work for the new committee

NTWLA congratulates the newly appointed Queen's Counsel, Suzan Cox QC, Raelene Webb QC and Peter Barr QC.

Raelene and Suzan are the first two women QCs ever appointed in the Northern Territory.

Suzan Cox is the current Director, NT Legal Aid Commission. Suzan graduated from UNSW with BA., LLB, (1978). She also has a Masters degree in Criminal Law from NYU (1985). In the period 1980-90, she was a solicitor in the Office of the Public Solicitor, Port Moresby, a Senior Criminal Solicitor at CAALAS, and a Senior Criminal Solicitor at NAALAS. She practised at the Melbourne Bar in that time. From 1990 until 2002, she practised law at the NT Legal Aid Commission as Senior Solicitor, Family Law Practice, Senior Counsel, Criminal Law Practice. She has also been its Deputy Director and was appointed Director in 2002.

Raelene was first admitted to practice as a barrister and solicitor in the Northern Territory in 1992. She has a BSc (Hons) from the University of Adelaide and a LLB from the University of Queensland. She was an Associate to His Honour Justice Kearney, a Judge of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory, before commencing work with the Northern Territory Department of Law (now the Attorney Generals' Department). In 1994, Raelene was appointed Crown Counsel. She has practised exclusively as a barrister since that time advising on a wide range of matters and appearing in various tribunals, the Northern Territory Supreme Court and Federal Courts (including the High Court) in a variety of cases. Since Raelene's move to the private bar in March 1999, she has continued to expand her practice and has appeared as lead counsel in a number of matters, both at first instance and on appeal. Raelene is a member of the NT Bar Association and the NT Council of Law Reporting. Raelene is also the

Discrimination Officer for the NT Bar Association and has been appointed the Northern Territory representative on the Australian Bar Association Gazette Editorial Committee. Raelene's main areas of practice include: appellate advocacy, constitutional law, Aboriginal land rights and native title, torts (particularly liability of public authorities), administrative law, international law, public law and mining law.

NTWLA also wishes to congratulate Steve Southwood QC on his appointment as President of the Law Council of Australia. Just for your information, the President of AWL, Jennifer Batrouney, sits on one of the Law Council's committees, "Equalising Opportunities in the Law". This committee was instrumental in the Law Council adopting the Model National Equal Opportunity Briefing Policy for female barristers and advocates at its 20 March 2004 Meeting of Directors.

I was very remiss in my last report in not acknowledging the appointment of Nicole Dunn of Ward Keller to Associate. It was effective as of 1 September 2004. Congratulations to Nicole.

NTWLA also wishes to acknowledge Cathy Spurr, Managing Partner, Halfpennys Solicitors. Cathy was an entrant in the Business Women of the Year Awards. She won the Westpac Small Business category. Congratulations!

Since the AGM, Sharon Krause has been co-opted as a committee member until the next AGM. She is on maternity leave but returns to work as the Chief Justice's associate in December 2004.

One of the important tasks for the Committee this year is to amend the Constitution because the *Associations Incorporations Act* was recently repealed. Heather Ross (committee member from last year) has generously agreed to be a member of the Constitution sub-committee.



NTWLA President, Gabrielle Martin

The next event is a dinner open to all the profession where the Chief Justice will speak about his life and times. We are hoping that it will be well attended as it is a fund raising event.

The events planned for this financial year are Christmas drinks for Darwin and Alice Springs, twilight bowls, quiz night, dinners in Alice Springs for Justice Murray and Magistrate Little, wine and cheese nights for Darwin and Alice Springs, CJ's dinner for Alice Springs and Patron's drinks for Darwin and Alice Springs.

I will be attending the second face-to-face meeting of the Australian Women Lawyers Board on 6 November 2004. The Annual General meeting will be held at this time. I have been asked to canvass members on the issues they would like to propose that AWL take up over the next year. Cathy Spurr and Elizabeth Leahy have already responded. The 2003/2004 issues were: National Equal Opportunity Briefing Policy; Tax Deductibility of Child Care; Solicitors internal EO Policies to be part of Government tender; contracts; National coverage for Internet directories for barristers; Nationwide gender based appearance studies; Call for private law firms to post their EO policies on their websites; Publish the Australian version of "Empowerment and Leadership"; and Part time practising certificates. I will report on the meetings in the next President's Report.①