

Edition: July 2004

Haunted by Azaria



Council news and welcome to the new VP

Since preparing my last column I have had three weeks off which I highly recommend to everyone. During that time I attended at the test cricket at Marrara Oval which was once again terrific fun.

Duncan Maclean moved to Perth and has therefore resigned from Law Society NT Council. Duncan provided great assistance to the Law Society and worked extremely hard as Vice President. His contribution was invaluable both on the Council and to me personally. He will be sorely missed, however we wish him well in his new job.

Given Duncan's resignation, in accordance with the Constitution, the Council elected Tony Whitelum as Interim Vice President. Tony has been a terrific Alice Springs Representative and has worked hard on the Council. I am sure that his valuable contribution will continue.

Law Council of Australia (LCA) President Bob Gottison QC and LCA Secretary-General Peter Webb visited Darwin and attended the Law Society Council meeting on 23 June 2004. Both Bob and Peter commented on the contribution the LSNT makes to LCA. While they were here Steve Southwood QC and I accompanied them to a meeting with Chief Justice Brian Martin. Bob and Peter also met with the Attorney-General.

On the evening of 23 June 2004, after our monthly meeting, the LSNT Council entertained Bob and

Peter at Pee Wee's, along with Steve and Denise Southwood and Ian and Jill Morris, to discuss current Law Council matters.

Tort Law Reform

Steve Southwood and I continue to work on the LCA Tort Law Reform Committee. We have been away to one 'face to face' meeting and had a teleconference to complete the Tort Law Reform Kits which will be distributed by LCA to each State and Territory Law Society very soon. The purpose of the kits is to provide members with a summary of the reforms and additional relevant information. Interested members can obtain a copy of the kit from the Law Society NT Secretariat.

Michael Grove, Tony Young, Ian Morris (as my nominee) and Barbara Bradshaw continue to attend the Northern Territory Tort Law Working Party. The feedback we are receiving regarding further reforms is encouraging and we continue to spend quite a bit of time on Tort Law Reform issues.

On 29 July 2004 the Law Society met with Cheryl Richardson from Marsh, our insurance brokers for Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII). We have been advised by QBE that the Quality Practice



Merran Short, President

Review process and the additional risks seminars and CLE seminars are likely to be well-regarded by prospective insurers in the future. Indeed QBE has offered a ten percent per practitioner reduction in premium for the next policy-term for those firms that have participated in the Quality Practice Review undertaken by Le Messurier Harrington. Speaking of PII, most of you should have by now received insurance renewal packages. If you have not done so, please contact the Law Society.

The LSNT continues to work hard on the 'usual suspects' - FSRA, Model Laws and new legislation such as the Costs and Advertising Act. All of these issues take considerable work from the Society.

The Law Society Annual General Meeting will be on Wednesday 13 October. Please check *Balance* and *The Practitioner* for updates. ①

THE PRACTITIONER

News & views from the LSNT Secretariat



The Practitioner is the Law Society's weekly e-mail newsletter, which provides members with an update on what the Law Society has been doing. There is news, submissions, calls for comments and details of upcoming functions and events.

If you want to stay informed and up-to-date, make sure you are on the mailing list. For more information, or to be added to the list, please email Zoe at publicrelations@lawsocnt.asn.au