

# Restoring the Balance

## Welcome to the new Balance.

As some readers may be aware that Balance has now changed to bimonthly (six editions a year) down from 11 editions a year.

The magazine will still contain many of the same columns and features like Faces Behind the Law, Muster Room, the President's Report and Disciplinary Matters.

There will also be new columns and features introduced over the coming year, like the professional ethics column.

The decision was made to change to bimonthly so that more time could be invested in making Balance a quality publication that is relevant to the Northern Territory's legal profession and its subscribers.

As editor, I would like to thank all those people and organisations who have contributed to Balance since it first began over a decade ago and to all those who continue to contribute regular columns or feature articles.

As part of the changes, the subscription rate has gone up from

\$132 (including GST) to \$165 (including GST) per annum. See page 32 for more information about the Law Society's fee review.

Throughout 2005, the Law Society will continue to evaluate the content and layout of Balance. If you have any suggestions, or would like to make a contribution, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at [publicrelations@lawsocnt.asn.au](mailto:publicrelations@lawsocnt.asn.au).

Zoe Malone  
Editor of Balance ①

## The Law Society Secretariat welcomes Sandra and Sara

The Law Society would like to welcome its two new staff members: Front Office Manager, Sandra van der Meulen, and Receptionist Sara Smart.

Sandra joined the Law Society in February as our Front Office Manager. She arranges invoicing and will be able to help with any queries regarding Law Society membership, admissions matters or practising certificates.

A true Territorian, Sandra was born in Darwin and her whole family still live up here. She has travelled around Australia, driving half way around it on her own, but still calls Darwin home.

Sandra has previously worked at Mildren, Silvester and Partners, Elston & Gilchrist Barrister and Solicitors, Territory Health Services working with Child and Family Protective Services and most recently at Hunt & Hunt Lawyers.

With her wealth of experience in dealing with the legal profession, we are sure that Sandra will fit in perfectly at the Law Society.

In a previous life, Sandra spent time DJing at Beachcombers Nightclub on Friday and Saturday nights. She also enjoys watching movies and has only recently retired from hockey after playing for many years.

Sara Smart joined the Law Society in January as our trainee receptionist and she has taken to the position with great enthusiasm.

Another born and bred Territorian, Sara finished year 12 at Darwin High School last year.

Previously she has travelled around most of the world with her parents and older brother.

On a rather impatient countdown until she turns 18 (still more than two months away) we are sure Sara will make the most of the local night spots when she finally reaches turns 18.

Sara is also a footy fanatic (AFL - the real stuff, as she calls it) and she closely follows the local competition and the national game. Given her obsession with AFL, she will bring a new level of expertise to the Law Society's footy tipping competition this year.

We welcome Sandra and Sara to the Law Society team and we encourage all members to introduce themselves next time they deal with the Society.①

## Law Society NT has launched its new website

The Law Society's new website was officially launched during the Opening of the Legal Year in early February.

The new site is easy to navigate and includes several new features to assist the legal profession and community members to find up-to-date information about the Law Society and the Territory's legal profession.

One of the key features is a members-only section for Law Society members. This section includes the latest editions of The Practitioner and Balance, along with member news and the ability to check your details on the Society's database.

The public will be able to search the Society's referral service and search for firms that participate in the First Interview Scheme. These services are based on the information that firms have provided to the Society.

All current forms are available from the website, along with the new client-lawyers cost agreements.①