

The Law: What is it to you?

Law Week 2005 will run from Sunday 22 until Sunday 29 May (inclusive) and it will be jammed pack full of activities, including crime tours, a Supreme Court open day, a restorative justice forum and the traditional Law Week lunches. This year the focus on community legal education will take the form of the newly introduced speakers' bureau.

Law Week lunches

The Law Week lunches will be held in Alice Springs on Wednesday 25 May and in Darwin on Friday 27 May.

The Darwin lunch will be held in Strangers Restaurant at Parliament House from 12 noon until 2.30pm. Details are still being confirmed for the Alice Springs lunch. Invitations will be issued shortly.

The Law Society NT *Contribution to the Community Award* is being held this year and is proudly sponsored by Marsh Pty Ltd.

This biennial award honours the exceptional unpaid contribution to the community by a Territory practitioner or firm.

Organisations have been called upon to nominate a firm, sole practitioner or individual lawyer.

The winner will be announced at the Law Week lunch and will receive a trophy and certificate of recognition. The organisation who nominates the winner will receive \$1000, donated by Marsh Pty Ltd.

More information, including nomination forms and award guidelines are available from the Law Society NT website, www.lawsocnt.asn.au. Nominations close Friday 6 May 2005.

Community Legal Education

This year's Law Week community legal education activities include divorce classes hosted by the NT LegalAid Commission in Darwin and surrounding areas. The Darwin Community Legal Service will be hosting general legal education workshops in Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

In addition to these activities, the Law Society has invited community groups, charitable organisations, sporting clubs and schools to book a guest speaker on a legal topic of their choice.

These requests will then be filled by a speakers' bureau which has been established by the Law Society. This project relies on volunteers from the local profession to make it a success.

All practitioners are encouraged to support this project and donate their time and expertise where possible. For more information, please contact Zoe at the Law Society on tel: 8981-5104 or via email at publicrelations@lawsocnt.asn.au.

Other activities

The official Law Week launch will take place in the Smith Street Mall, Darwin, at 12 noon on Monday 23 May.

The launch will feature the popular Law Week Tug-of-War competition. Firms are encouraged to get their teams organised. Entry forms are available from the Law Society.

The question on everyone's lips is will anyone manage to de-throw Jacek Karcewski's muscle men from the ODPP? Or will they continue their domination of the Tug-of-War?

Dr Bill Wilson's crime tours will be a feature of Law Week in Darwin again this year.

Bill will host a one-hour walking tour around the CBD and a bus tour

around Darwin and the surrounding suburbs. Places are strictly limited to book early to avoid disappointment.

There will be a Supreme Court open day on Saturday 28 May. This will feature a fairy tale mock trial performed by the NT Bar Association.

The Marsh Law Week Cricket Challenge between the Chief Justice's XI and the Law Society President's XI will be played on Sunday 29 May from 1.30-5.30pm at Dinah Beach Oval. Participants and spectators are encouraged to come down for this social finish to Law Week 2005.

During May, the Law Society is also running a Law Week Blood Drive for the Australian Red Cross.

We are challenging the legal profession in Darwin and Alice Springs to enter their workplace in the Blood Drive and see who can donate the most blood before the end of May. More information and entry forms are available from the Law Society NT.

This year the Law Society is hosting a film night at the Deckchair Cinema in Darwin. The beautiful and visually spectacular Chinese film *Hero* will be shown at 7.30pm on Thursday 12 May.

Other Law Week activities include a

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Law week 2005 - the law: what is it to you?

Restorative Justice Forum including information about the new Darwin Community Courts Pilot program. The Young Lawyers will also be hosting a Great Debate.

As part of the Law Week promotional activities, the Law Society will be running a newspaper advertising feature in the *NT News* and the *Centralian Advocate*. If you are interested in taking advantage of this potential opportunity, please contact Zoe at the Law Society on tel: 8981-5104 for more information.

Law Week 2005 is proudly supported by the Law Society Public Purposes Trust and by Marsh Pty Ltd.

For more information about Law Week 2005, please contact the Law Society on tel: 8981-5104, via email at lawsoc@lawsocnt.asn.au or visit our website www.lawsocnt.asn.au

Calendar of Events

Sunday 22 May - Restorative Justice Forum A viable alternative or just a free ride? in Darwin. Details to be confirmed.

Monday 23 May - Official launch and Tug-of-War competition in the Smith Street Mall, Darwin from 12 noon.

Monday 23 May - Free walking crime tour around Darwin with Dr Bill Wilson, from 5.15pm.

Tuesday 24 May - Free bus crime tour around Darwin with Dr Bill Wilson, from 5.15pm.

Wednesday 25 May - Alice Springs Law Week lunch with a special guest speaker.

Thursday 26 May - Free walking crime tour around Darwin with Dr Bill Wilson, from 5.15pm.

Friday 27 May - Darwin Law Week lunch with a special guest speaker.

Saturday 28 May - Supreme Court open day in Darwin, including a fairy tale mock trial by the NT Bar Association.

Sunday 29 May - Marsh Law Week Cricket Challenge in Darwin from 1.30-5.30pm at Dinah Beach Oval, Stuart Park.

Justice Bob Bellear

In a life of firsts, Bob Bellear was the first Aboriginal to be appointed as Judge in Australia's courts. Justice Bellear passed away on 15 March 2005 at the age of 60.

The grandson of a Vanuatu sugar-cutting slave and an Aboriginal woman, Bob was raised in the New South Wales coastal town of Billindugel, near Mullumbimby.

As one of nine children, Bob left school early and joined the navy, where he became the first Aboriginal man to rise to the level of petty officer. While in the Navy he also met his wife, Kaye Williams.

In 1973, Bellear returned to school to finish his HSC. The following year he started studying law at the University of New South Wales. He graduated in 1978 and was admitted to the bar the following year.

In 1996 Bob Bellear became the first Indigenous Australian to be appointed to the bench. Justice Bellear sat on the bench at the District Court in New South Wales for eight years.

Justice Bellear took sick leave in June last year and was diagnosed

with lung cancer.

Democrats Senator Aden Ridgeway made tribute to Justice Bellear's death in the Federal Parliament on 16 March 2005.

He said: "Like the majority of Aboriginal people, he came from a background of poverty. He worked against the odds to become in 1996 Australia's first Aboriginal man to be appointed as a judge."

"When he was sworn in as a judge on 17 May 1996, he said that racism was endemic in Australia and that many Aboriginals received inferior legal representation once they were charged with criminal offences. He stressed that all Australians had a right to competent legal counsel and that this right should not be dependent on one's race or the contents of one's bank account.

"Bob has been at the forefront of the Aboriginal struggle all his life, leaving historical markers as he moved on along. Way back in 1971, along with the now Magistrate Pat O'Shane, he was one of the first two Aboriginal students to be taken into the University of New South Wales Law Faculty." ①

The Law Society NT is hosting a special film night at the **Deckchair Cinema** as part of the Law Week 2005 celebrations.

The film **HERO** will be shown at **7.30pm on Thursday 12 May**.

All proceeds will be donated to a good cause (more details to follow).

So come along and support Law Week and watch this amazing film.

HERO: Ablaze with colour, mythic grandeur and highflying swordplay, Hero is jaw-droppingly beautiful. Set before the reign of the last emperor in ancient China, it follows a mysterious wanderer who has defeated three assassins seeking to murder a powerful warlord. He recounts each of his victories in flashback. Features Jet Li and Maggie Cheung.