

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.