

Law Week 2005 - The Law: what is it to you?

Law Week 2005 ran from Sunday 22 until Sunday 29 May and featured community legal education activities, a colouring-in competition, the Marsh Law Week Cricket Challenge, the Tug-of-War competition, the traditional Law Week lunches in Darwin and Alice Springs, the Supreme Court Open Day, a Community Court Forum, the Young Lawyers Great Debate, a fairy tale mock trial, a blood drive and the Community Contribution Award.

The Law Society NT would like to give a huge thank you to all those volunteers who participated in Law Week 2005.

As part of Law Week, the Law Society ran a speakers' bureau. Schools, community groups, charities and sporting organisations were invited to book a guest speaker on any legal topic of their choice during May. Volunteers from the local legal profession then presented to these groups.



The NT School-based Constables prepare for their Tug-of-War victory under the watchful eye of DPP team captain Jacek Karcewski.



The Chief Justice's XI in the Marsh Law Week Cricket Challenge.



Mark Hunter speaks to Girraween Primary School students about criminal law and forensic evidence.

Thank you to Justice Sally Thomas, David Farquhar, Mark Hunter, Simone Hansch-Maher, Mark Johnson, Libby Armitage and Ruth Brebner who all donated their time to present important legal information to schools and community groups. This initiative will be run again next year and we hope even more volunteers will be involved.

Other community legal education activities included free divorce classes held in Darwin, Casuarina and Palmerston by the NT Legal Aid Commission. Darwin Community Legal Service hosted free information sessions on Duty of Care and Discrimination Law in Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. The Central Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Unit (CAAFLU) and the Domestic Violence legal service jointly hosted a Domestic Violence Mock Court in Alice Springs. Magistrate Melanie Little provided information to school children in Kalkaringi and Lajamanu while on circuit court.

Local legal organisations participated in a Blood Drive for the Australian Red Cross. Congratulations to Clayton Utz who managed to donate the most blood during May.

The annual Tug-of-War competition was held in the Smith Street mall as part of the official Law Week launch. Teams from De Silva Hebron, the School-based Constables, the DPP and the Department of Justice battled it out for victory. Reining champions, the DPP, were beaten by the School-based Constables in the final.

Dr Bill Wilson's crime tours proved to be a popular feature of Law Week again this year, with a walking tour around Darwin's CBD and a bus tour around the Fannie Bay and Parap area.

The Supreme Court Open Day was held on Saturday 28 May. The Young Lawyers debated "That cane toads should be clubbed to death", Tony Buckland held a small claims workshop and there was a fairy tale mock trial of the Three Little Pigs.

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.

Law Week 2005 was generously supported by the Law Society Public Purposes Trust and Marsh Pty Ltd.①