

A busy functions schedule for 2005

The Opening of the Legal Year saw the appointment of Steve Southwood QC to the Supreme Court bench. I attended the special sitting for Judge Southwood and the religious service held thereafter for the Opening of the Legal Year. On behalf of the members of NTWLA, may I convey our congratulations and warm wishes to his Honour on his elevation to the bench.

NTWLA Christmas drinks were held on 21 December 2004. NTWLA Patron, Judge Sally Thomas, members and friends, including Peter Tiffin and Jack Karczewski QC, caught up before the Christmas break and had a great time.

The annual Judges' Conference was held in January. NTWLA invited the women judges to join then at dinner on 25 January 2005, at Pee Wee's Restaurant. There were almost twenty of us including Virginia Bell J (NSW Supreme Court), Anne

Vanstone J (SA Supreme Court), Debra Mullins J (Qld Supreme Court), and Lindy Jenkins J (WA Supreme Court). It was a very enjoyable night. I caught up with Margaret Black J at lunch later in the week.

The Victorian Women Barristers Association produced an inspirational video, *Raising the Bar*, last year celebrating its first 10 years. I have mentioned the video before in my column. It contains interviews with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Marilyn Warren, many current women barristers, and pioneering women such as Joan Rosanove QC. NTWLA has obtained a copy of the video and will show it at upcoming events.

The first official event of 2005 in Darwin is drinks at William Forster Chambers in February. NTWLA will also have a "Welcome to the new legal year" drinks in Alice Springs and endeavour to show the video at that event as well. Watch for time and date details in *The Practitioner*.

NTWLA is planning a quiz night for Darwin and Alice Springs in the first half of the year. Patron's Drinks for Alice Springs will be on Friday 13 May 2005. The CJ's Dinner was such a success in Darwin last year that his Honour has very kindly agreed to speak to the women lawyers in Alice



NTWLA President, Gabrielle Martin

Springs at a dinner function. The dinner will also be in May at a date to be advised. Patron's Drinks in Darwin will be held on 24 June 2005.

The amendments to the NTWLA Constitution are nearing completion. It will be emailed to members before the end of the month and a special general meeting will be called to vote on the adoption of the new Constitution in the near future.

The first meeting of the NTWLA Committee for 2005 is scheduled for the first week in February. We are always looking for willing hands and helpers with events. Please call me on 8999 5083 if you would like to become involved. I would also like to invite all women practitioners to consider joining the Committee at the next annual general meeting in August as a number of Committee members will have served two years and are looking at not re-nominating. It is a very rewarding position being on the NTWLA Committee and new people bring new life and ideas to the Association.①



Jacek Karczewski QC, Eileen Terrill and Rosemary Carlin.



Enjoying the NTWLA's Christmas drinks



Sarah Thompson, Marisa Hislop and Heather Ross.



Celia Kemp and Ruth Brebner at the NTWLA's Christmas drinks.



Justice Virginia Bell, Justice Debra Mullins, Justice Lindy Jenkins and Justice Margaret Black.