

Arrivals and departures

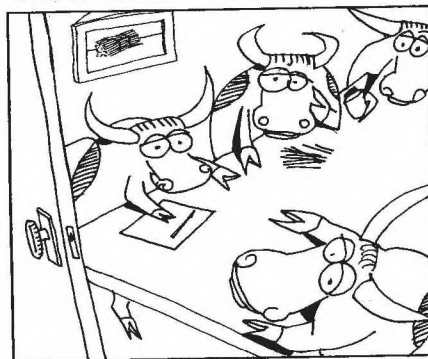
Paula Edwards-Moffat gave birth to a daughter, Madison, a few weeks ago in Tasmania, where she went to be with family for the birth. She says partner and proud father Ricky is already the fastest nappy-changing dad in Tasmania.

Katarzyna Rutkowska has resigned from the Law Society Northern Territory Council, as she is leaving the Northern Territory.

Tim Jacobs has taken over from Kevin Stephens as managing partner of Ward Keller.

Sivyer & Associates Barristers & Solicitors has merged with Withnalls Territory Lawyers. **Jo Sivyer** has been appointed as Managing Partner Family Law with Withnalls.

The Muster Room



Simon Coulter from Simon Coulter has closed his firm as of 30 June 2007.

Charles Yuen of Charles Yuen Barrister and Solicitor closed his firm on 30 June 2007 and will now practise as a licensed migration agent from his same office, under the name of Charles Yuen & Associates.

Members of the Department of Justice are sad to see **Alastair Shields** leave for a six-month stint with the Department of Chief Minister. It is understood, however, that the ABBA lounge will remain in the department, but he is taking his collection of snow domes with him.

Alastair who is the new chair of the Funds Management Committee, has worked in the Department of Justice and its predecessors since 1984, and his service includes time in the old Companies Office, Corporate Affairs Office, Office of Business Affairs, as Justice Sally Thomas' associate as well as commercial. It is felt life will be less colorful in the department following his absence.

The Law Society congratulates **Nikki Bensch** from NAAFVLS on her admission to legal practice on 3 July 2007.

Cameron Ford joined William Forster Chambers on 9 July 2007.

Having trouble getting a date?

A recent survey has found lawyers are near the bottom of the list of desirable professions to the opposite sex, with carpenters, tilers and painters being the most likely to get a date.

The survey of 950 people found that lawyers were eighth on the list of desirable professions, as reported by the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Accountants and psychiatrists ranked below lawyers.

White collar positions are seen as less glamorous, more stifled and stuffy, less time independent, more constrained and less healthy, according to the report.



The July/August edition of *Balance* will focus on the Wild/Anderson 'Little Children are Sacred' report, and its aftermath.

Contributions from interested parties are invited. The deadline for contributions is Monday 23 July.

Please contact Rebecca on 8981 5104 or publicrelations@lawsocnt.asn.au to discuss your contribution



Australian Government

Attorney-General's Department

Changes to the law affecting separating families and family dispute resolution practitioners

Changes to the *Family Law Act 1975*, which are being phased in from 1 July 2007, provide that a court will not be able to hear an application for a parenting order unless the parties file a certificate from a registered family dispute resolution provider. There are some exceptions to this requirement.

All family dispute resolution practitioners (except those authorised by the courts) are required to be included on the Family Dispute Resolution Register in order to issue valid certificates. Accreditation rules for family dispute resolution practitioners are also being introduced.

Family dispute resolution practitioners, family lawyers and others working in the family law system are encouraged to find out how the new requirements will affect them. For further information about the changes, go to www.ag.gov.au/fdrproviders

hmaC063241