
FOR THE RECORD

and Rex Wild QC were highlights (Administrator Tom Pauling again showing his thespian qualities). The social functions were also enjoyable and it was pleasant lazing around Sanur.

Congratulations to all responsible for organising the conference particularly John Lawrence, Ruth Brebner, Jodi Truman and Lyn Wild who must have breathed a sigh of relief when she got all her charges explained or otherwise dealt with.

Changes

This period of 2009 has been a period of change, both good and bad for the profession (fortunately mostly good). The first day back at work after the conference, I heard about the

passing of Ian Morris. The Law Society Annual Dinner which commemorated the retirement of Justice Sally Thomas and Master Coulehan. It has since been announced that Judith Kelly SC will be the new Justice and His Honour Vince Luppino SM the new Master.

Justice Reeves has moved to Brisbane though both His Honour and Justice Mansfield have been appointed as visiting Justices of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory.

There are vacancies in the ranks of magistrates, and I have heard Duncan McConnel and Tom Anderson will both be going to the Bar to augment the depleted resources of William Forster Chambers.

At a Department of Justice level Robert Bradshaw PSM is moving from Policy to act as Commissioner for Public Interest Disclosures (otherwise known as Whistleblowers Commissioner).

I particularly wish to wish all the best to Justice Sally Thomas on her retirement. She has been a great ornament of the Territory legal community. However it would appear that being retired will only enable her to have more time to devote to her other personal and community interests. The Society hopes to have many more dealings with her Honour in the future but hopes she realises retirement should (it is felt by some) involve some rest and repose. ↓

New Whistleblower Law Begins

Released by Hon Delia Lawrie MLA, Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, 31 July 2009

Attorney-General, Delia Lawrie, said new legislation to protect whistleblowers and ensure a more open and transparent Northern Territory Government begin today.

From 31 July, Territorians will be able to report improper conduct in Northern Territory public bodies to a new Commissioner for Public Interest Disclosures, without fear of reprisal.

"The *Public Interest Disclosure Act* protects Territorians who speak out for the good of the community," Ms Lawrie said. "It is about ensuring the Northern Territory public sector continues to operate fairly and professionally."

The new legislation also creates an independent Commissioner

to investigate disclosures and to ensure that public bodies are transparent and accountable.

Ms Lawrie said respected lawyer and long-term Territorian Robert Bradshaw has been appointed as the Acting Commissioner for Public Interest Disclosures.

"Mr. Bradshaw brings to this position a keen intellect, and a strong commitment to justice and integrity," she said. "He has more than 30 years experience working with commercial and government laws in the Territory and previously served as the Director of Legal Policy, the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs and as the Registrar-General."

The Commissioner for Public Interest Disclosures will

investigate allegations of serious improper conduct by Northern Territory Government Departments, members of Parliament, public schools, public hospitals, public nursing homes, universities, as well as local government councils and most statutory bodies.

The new laws make it an offence to sue, sack, or discriminate against someone because they are a whistleblower.

Anyone who wishes to report improper conduct can contact the Commissioner on the free call number 1800 250 918. Disclosers can even choose to remain anonymous.

For more information about the Act, visit: <http://www.blowthewhistle.nt.gov.au>. ↓