

Luncheon

with Michael Kirby at Supreme Court

*Carolyn Richards,
President,
Northern Territory Women Lawyers Association*



Sixty people attended a luncheon on 15th October 2009 to be regaled with anecdotes from the life of the former Law Reform Commissioner and High Court Judge.

Many may not be old enough to remember when all judges were referred to as Mr Justice.... The battles and animosity that led to the elimination of the use of "Mr" in that title was as amusing when recounted by Mr Kirby (as he now is) as it is incredible to reflect that such a short time ago the issue generated such passion and controversy. All starting with the then Chairman of the Australian Law Reform Commission being chastised by a research assistant who pointed out that Dame Roma Mitchell was simply Justice Mitchell. One Justice whose name I will not reveal (because I have actually forgotten it) returned correspondence, unopened to the ALRC advising that unless he was addressed by his correct nomenclature as MR

Justice... he would not ever open correspondence.

It was a relaxed enjoyable occasion. The message delivered ... It is in everyone's interest including that of the Profession, the Bar, the Public and the Judiciary that women take their place alongside men.

The Association thanks Justices Mildren and Southwood, former Chief Magistrate, Hugh Bradley, President of the Criminal Barrister Association, John Lawrence, and all other men who showed their solidarity. }



Marguerite Bowen, Hon Jenny Blokland CM and Michael Kirby

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