

William Forster Chambers 2012 Golden Gavel Competition

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On 10 August this year, five brave young lawyers battled it out at this year's William Forster Chambers Golden Gavel Competition. The event was held at the glamorous Crowne Plaza and was packed full of legal professionals eager to be entertained. They were not disappointed.

David Baldry from William Forster Chambers excelled in his duties as MC and kicked the evening off with a Gregorian chant. Something we hope becomes a tradition. The esteemed Golden Gavel judges for this year were the Honourable Justice Peter Barr, Ned Aughterson from William Forster Chambers, and Steven Ledek, who proved not only competent judges but also excellent comedians.

The first contestant was James Mack who cleverly dressed up in a costume fit for the opera and spoke to his topic: *Every advocate should have his own theme music*.

The second contestant was Heloise Woodside who eventually took the Golden Gavel Judges choice. Heloise entertained the crowd with pick up lines that should really be used by tax lawyers if they are wishing to score in the love department. As the judges' choice Heloise will be representing the

Northern Territory in the national final.

The third speaker was Emma Farnell who gave graduates some Hunger Games-inspired tips on how to be the last graduate standing.

Sarah Newman, the fourth speaker, made an impassioned speech about survival tips for bush lawyers.

The fifth speaker was Tristan Moseley who established that Google, Wikipedia and his Boss were unreliable sources whilst the crowd roared with laughter. Tristan won the People's Choice Award which is awarded by an audience poll.

As part of NTYL's fundraising efforts, a raffle was held on the day and unfortunately for the crowd all but one prize were won by Golden Gavel participants. James Mack won overnight accommodation at the Crowne Plaza. Graham Highly QC won a \$150 voucher at Red Rock. Tristan Moseley won an autographed copy of Justice Mildren's book. Heloise Woodside won a copy of Justice Blokland's book.

It was a wonderful evening. By the volume and abundance of laughter it was clear the guests enjoyed

the humorous speeches whilst partaking in nibbles and drinks. Guests chatted and mingled during the break and many people kicked on at the Tap Bar after the event.

On behalf of NTYL, I would like to once again thank our gold sponsor, William Forster Chambers, and also our silver sponsors, Clayton Utz, De Silva Hebron, Hunt & Hunt, CridlandsMB, Ward Keller Lawyers, NT Director of Public Prosecutions, Wade Roper and Josine Wynberg, Department of Justice, Marsh, CDU Law School and DS Family Law.

I would also like to thank our patron, the Honourable Chief Justice Riley, the Honourable Justice Mildren for donating his book *Big Boss Fella: All Same Judge*, the Honourable Justice Blokland who donated her book, co-authored with Stephen Gray, *Criminal Laws Northern Territory*.

Lastly, a huge thank you, goes to those responsible for the night's success, the NTYL Committee which comprised Imogen Taylor, Emma Farnell, Nicola Maccarron, Melanie Warbrooke, Nestor Sanchez, James Mack, James O'Brien, and Che Walsh.

If next year's Golden Gavel is half as good as this year's we all have