

News and updates

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Reflecting on the covers of *Balance* over the course of this year tells an interesting story of the leadership of the legal profession in the NT over the past five decades—from the first cover which included Nerolie Withnall, who in the 1970s became the first female President of a Law Society in Australia or the English speaking world for that matter, through to the cover of this edition showing the diversity of leadership of the Society over the past decade. It is something about which the profession in the NT should be proud and demonstrates that in important ways the NT is leading the way by actions, not just words.

This also draws to a close our celebrations of this important milestone in the Society's history. Thank you to the many members of the profession who came out in Alice Springs and Darwin to celebrate the Society's 50th anniversary at the Celebratory Dinners held on 31 August and 1 September. The launch of *Mandatory Reading: Lawyers and Life in the Northern Territory* was a highlight of the Darwin dinner. We thank Justice Southwood for

launching this book for us and the authors, Peter and Sheila Forrest, who shared their experiences on the journey of creating this beautiful publication and thoughts about its contribution to the historical record of the NT.

Looking forward, there is significant work being undertaken by the Society, through the Council, Society Committees and the Secretariat, to identify and respond

to emerging issues. These range from challenges confronting the profession through the advance of technology to broader societal issues such as the implementation of the recommendations from the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory, and opportunities to work for law reform to improve outcomes for the community and the profession. This will continue into next year and if you are interested in



L-R: Tass Liveris, Julie Davis, authors of *Mandatory Reading*, Sheila and Peter Forrest

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getting more involved consider taking up the invitation to join one of the Society's committees when it comes along.

There have been changes at the Secretariat recently which will affect how we approach a key part of our regulatory function—dealing with complaints. In September the Society employed a part-time complaint investigator, Jocelyn Cull. This is the first time that the Society has had a dedicated complaint investigator role—historically this work has been part of the broader workload of the Manager Regulatory Services. Jocelyn will have the principal role within the Secretariat for talking to people who may have concerns about the conduct of a legal practitioner, from members of the community or from the profession itself, as well as undertaking the assessment of written complaints that the Society receives and investigating complaints that warrant further scrutiny or can't be resolved by other means. Jocelyn's work will be supported by our Manager Regulatory Services, Aislinn McIntyre, when she returns from parental leave in early November.

There have been a couple of other new faces around the Secretariat over the recent months. Carolyn Zombolas has joined us as our Membership and Events Coordinator and you'll have the chance to meet her at our Christmas drinks in early December. Maya Simlesa has also joined the team as Executive Assistant.

As the year draws to a close I hope all of our members have the chance for a relaxing break over the Christmas period and the opportunity to pause, evaluate this year's successes and challenges and plan for a bigger and better 2019. From everyone at the Secretariat we wish all of our members and their families a safe festive season and a prosperous New Year.

Need CPD points?

CPD POINT ACCRUAL RATES	MAX CPD POINTS PER ACTIVITY	MAX CPD POINTS PER ANNUM
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Preparing or giving a presentation:

0.5 points per 30 mins	5	No limit
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Attending a seminar:

0.5 points per 30 mins	No limit	No limit
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Private study using audio or visual material:

0.5 points per 30 mins	No limit	5
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Preparing and giving a lecture:

0.5 points per 30 mins	5	No limit
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Writing an article:

0.5 points per 500 words	No limit	5
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Refereeing or structural editing of an article:

0.5 points per 500 words	No limit	5
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Committee participation:

0.5 points per 60 mins of meeting attendance or other work	No limit	3
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Attending lectures as part of post-graduate studies:

0.5 points per 30 mins	No limit	5
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Writing assignments or a thesis as part of post-graduate studies:

0.5 points per 500 words	No limit	5
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Note: CPD points cannot be claimed in respect of an article that deals with substantially the same content as a presentation for which CPD points have been claimed.

For more information about mandatory CPD requirements, please visit the Society's website.

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