



## News and updates



**SARAH STRZELECKI** PRESIDENT, NTYL

Before the implementation of COVID-19 restrictions, the Committee were very eager to deliver some amazing social events for our members and expand on events that have been a success in the past. Though it seems another lifetime ago, in 2020 so far we have welcomed our fantastic members with drinks and nibbles by the waterfront in February and co-hosted successful International Women's Day events in both Darwin and Alice Springs. Although some of your favourite events may be postponed or adapted to be in line with the changing government guidelines, we remain committed to providing quality resources and events for our members and we hope that you all come along for this rollercoaster that 2020 is shaping up to be.

### Welcome Drinks

At the idyllic waterfront setting as the sun set on the horizon, the Northern Territory Young Lawyers (NTYL) hosted their Welcome Drinks at Snapper Rocks on 21 February. It was fantastic to see so many new and returning faces at this event and we appreciate the support from local partners from HWL Ebsworth and Hutton McCarthy who were also in attendance.

We welcomed 2020 by discussing the Committee's hopeful plans for the year ahead and while that image has evaporated before everyone's eyes, the Committee is determined to deliver to our Members what they need as the times change.

Prior to COVID-19 and even more so now, the Committee is passionate about creating resources to help support all of our members, whether you are in Darwin city or in a remote community.

In some ways, COVID-19 has been a blessing in disguise as it has forced us, like many others, to think of ways outside of the norm to engage with our members and to provide quality content, events and support. Although this has been challenging as a small not-for-profit organisation with very limited resources, the Committee has really taken action and risen to this challenge. One of the most exciting improvements is with everyone no longer able to talk in person, the Committee brainstormed innovative ideas on how to host meetings, CPDs and larger social events. We plan on continuing these ideas post-COVID-19 to better engage with our regional members.

### International Women's Day

On 6 March 2020, the NTYL and the Northern Territory Women Lawyer's Association (NTWLA) teamed up for the second year in a row to host the annual International Women's Day Breakfast in Darwin. Excitingly, NTYL and NTWLA also teamed up to provide the first annual International Women's Day Law'N'Bowls event in Alice Springs.

We were very pleased to be able to continue this partnership with NTWLA this year and the feedback we received from these events was →

very positive and demonstrates how much these events are needed in our community. The NTYL and NTWLA are committed to continuing this partnership to provide these events annually.

The Darwin Breakfast on Friday 6 March had approximately 100 guests devour breakfast while listening to a panel discussion chaired by her Honour Judge Elisabeth Armitage. The panellists this year were Sophie Cleveland (MinterEllison), Susan Cox QC (NT Legal Aid), Merran Short (SFNT), and Lindy Morgan (William Forster Chambers), who discussed the topic of #EachforEqual.



Yet again there was brilliant engagement and questions from the floor as the discussion delved into wisdom on how to better navigate the world of law as a woman, setting goals and standing up for yourself while staying true to yourself. It was an honour to hear how these amazing women have paved paths for younger lawyers coming after them and how we're all in this fight for equality together.

The Alice Springs event on Thursday 5 March was a splendid success. Attendees enjoyed hearing their Honours Chief Judge Elizabeth Morris and Judge Meredith Huntingford share their wisdom on the Golf Club lawns as the sun set illuminating the Ranges. It was exciting to see Registrar Sally Bolton also attend this event and we hope we can continue bringing this event to our Centralian members in the future.

*For more on these events please head to the International Women's Day joint article on page 10.*

## Online working from home guide

### Are you currently working from home?

For some people it's their dream and others a complete nightmare! Luckily the NTYL have come up with some tips to improve productivity and maintain sanity as you grapple with merging your home and your office during COVID-19.

You can find this guide on our page on the Law Society NT's website.

Thank you to our Committee members Angela Mason, Kate Bremner, Alexandra Craig, Chris Teng, Linda Farantouris and Sarah Strzelecki for their contributions to this guide.

## Mentorship program

At our Welcome Drinks we announced that we were partnering with the Law Society NT to launch a mentorship program for young lawyers in the Territory. I am pleased to report that this remains one of our top priorities for 2020 during COVID-19. Watch this space for more information as it comes.

The NTYL are also enjoying forming a partnership with the Charles Darwin University Law Students' Society and are keen to learn if there are ways in which young lawyers can support students and law graduates as they begin to enter the legal profession.

## Joining NTYL

Since the last *Balance* article we have welcomed Angela Mason from HWL Ebsworth's civil litigation division. Angela has joined our Continued Professional Development working group.

## Want to get involved?

You don't need to be a member of the Committee to participate in planning events and creating resources. Email [NTYL.Committee@gmail.com](mailto:NTYL.Committee@gmail.com) to see how you can get involved!

Email the Law Society NT to become a member today! ■

✉ [NTYL.Committee@gmail.com](mailto:NTYL.Committee@gmail.com)

f @NTYLpage