

BALANCE

FEB
1998

The Official Publication of the Law Society of the Northern Territory

A Sweltering OLY 1998

The Northern Territory's legal profession again gathered at church services and luncheons in both Alice Springs and Darwin to mark the ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year in 1998.

On Monday 2 February, ninety people, including the Administrator, the Hon Neill Conn and Mrs Conn, the former Administrator, the Hon Austin Asche, the Hon Daryl Manzie, MLA, representing the Chief Minister, the Lord Mayor, Mr George Brown, ranking officers of the military, academic staff from the NTU and clergy from the local churches joined members of the judiciary, the profession and the general public at a service at Darwin Memorial Uniting Church.

February's hot and humid weather made conditions uncomfortable for those who had robed for the occasion and the officiating minister, Rev Barry Cole-Clark, with consideration for his congregation, conducted a short but pertinent service.

Following bible readings from Justice Sir William Kearney, Justice John Coldrey, the Society's guest speaker and Terry Gardner, Immediate Past President of the Society, Rev Cole-Clark delivered a sermon entitled *When A Man Turns A New Leaf*.

A sell-out luncheon at the *Iguana Restaurant* at the Plaza Hotel followed, the highlight of which was the post-lunch speech by Justice John Coldrey of the Supreme Court of Victoria.

Justice Coldrey proved to be not only an amiable guest of the Society but also an entertaining and informative speaker as he shared some of his many and extremely varied experiences as a criminal lawyer at the Victorian Bar and as Director of Public Prosecutions in that state. Members of the Territory's profession in both centres took this opportunity to renew acquaintance with Justice Coldrey who had spent several years with the Central Land Council in Alice Springs.

Forty members of the profession and the general public



Public Prosecutors Karczewski, Blokland, Elliot and Fraser process - OLY 1998

attended a service at the John Flynn Memorial Church in Alice Springs where the Rev Murray Lund based his sermon on a letter to the Chief Minister from the Alice Springs Ministers' Fraternal, expressing their concern over the matter of mandatory sentencing.

Their ranks were swelled by the attendance of the Alice Springs Town Clerk, Mr Andy McGill and several Darwin practitioners, including Law Society President, Steve Southwood and Director of Public Prosecutions, Rex Wild QC who were present in Alice Springs at the time. Chief Justice Brian Martin, on circuit at Alice Springs and Justice Coldrey led the procession and read bible passages during the service.

Ristorante Puccini provided the venue for the luncheon in Alice Springs where Justice Coldrey's remarks again delighted his audience. His 'tour of duty' in that centre had provided him with material which was both pertinent to and much enjoyed by those present. The profession in Alice Springs showed great support of this event in the legal calendar, with well over 75% of its members attending both functions.