

# NT Women Lawyers' Association

Well, we are still recovering from the *Trials Through Time*, I think if Barbara Tiffin, Melanie Little and Tracey Reeves had had any idea about how much work was involved they would not have thought their idea so brilliant!! Nevertheless it was a resounding success and a good time was had by all. I had an especially good time as I was not involved at all with the preparation or performance and was merely given the job of 'womaning' the bar, as you can imagine, not a hard task.

*Trials Through Time* was well received by many and we are grateful for the tireless assistance of Janet Neville at the Law Society.

## HAPPENINGS:

Recently we received a request from the National Women's Justice Coalition to endorse their objection to the Child Support Legislation Amendment Bill which we have done. Major parts of the Bill will disadvantage women and children by reducing child support paid by the non residential parent. The Bill would also make it harder for many carer parents

to collect child support. The NWJC has appealed to Government and asked that the Bill should be deferred until essential re-modelling is undertaken, published and debated.

I would like to thank those members who attended at our Abortion Debate meeting. A consensus was reached and we have agreed on a strategy to implement that consensus. It is something that will take some time and we invite any members who wish for further details to contact either Kate Halliday or myself.

Australian Women Lawyers has also been busy with a number of items on the agenda, perhaps most exciting of which is the release of the first issue of the *News Letter* which is expected to hit stands early July and be a complete sell out. Copies will be delivered to each of our members so if you are not already a member, now is the time to sign up. We remind you that membership of the Northern Territory Women Lawyers gives you automatic membership of Australian Women Lawyers. We especially invite women who are new to the jurisdiction and wish to network within the pro-

fession.

The next meeting of Australian Women Lawyers is on 25 July, 1998, in Sydney, Melanie Little will be attending as the NTWL representative. We wish her well and lots of fun.

On a sadder note Robyn Dyall is leaving us. Robyn has been a committee member since September 1997. We take this opportunity of thanking her for all her help and enthusiasm and wish her good luck in her new venture.

Finally, we have decided to move our social drinks to Kitty O'Shea's - every third Thursday of the month from 5:15 p.m., everyone welcome.

MERRANSHORT - PRESIDENT

## COMMITTEEMEMBERS:

TRACEY REEVES	89430445
BARBARA TIFFIN	89818699
SALLY GEARIN	89818322
SAMANTHA MILES	89432555
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# NT Lawyers for Reconciliation

## National Reconciliation Week

**National Reconciliation Week runs nationally from 27 May until 3 June and is timed to mark the anniversary of the 1967 referendum on constitutional change related to Aboriginal people which falls on 27 May. It's closing date, June 3 celebrates the anniversary of the Mabo decision. National Sorry Day is on May 26.**

This year, NT Lawyers for Reconciliation's project for National Reconciliation Week involved school visits by a dozen or so members/supporters of LFR who spoke to groups of students about reconciliation and associated legal issues.

The speakers included John Duguid, Tony Fitzgerald, Kate Halliday, John Hughes, Melanie Little, Dominic McCormack, Pat McIntyre, Greg Roche, Cathy Spurr, Sunila Srivastava, Bruce Taylor and Tony Young.

The participating secondary schools were Casuarina Senior, Kormilda and St John's Colleges and Darwin, Driver, Nightcliff, Sanderston and Taminmin High Schools.

The addresses given during the school visits covered a range of issues. Included among these were meaning of reconciliation, the a brief overview of the history of European

attitudes to and dealings with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the background to National Reconciliation Week and the reasons why it is important, the significance of the Mabo decision, the purpose of National Sorry Day and the policy of assimilation.

Members of NT Lawyers for Reconciliation reported some lively debate at some of the sessions.

*Anyone wanting to know more about NT Lawyers for Reconciliation may contact John Duguid at Waters James McCormack or Tony Young at William Forster Chambers.*