

Ferae naturae

While last month's wig issue prompted a few grins, some members were clearly not amused and a few were quick to fill out the survey demanding no further change.

Apart from threats of multiple faxes demanding multi-coloured gowns and stilettoes, most of you were silent.

This is not unusual according to former Northern Territory Solicitor General Ian Barker QC.

Providing me with his "wisdom on wigs" he reports that a September 1998 survey of the NSW Bar Association found 147 wanted to retain them, 91 abolish them, 3 didn't care and 1627 were indifferent.

It seems Northern Territory practitioners are relaxed about the abolition of wigs in civil Supreme Court proceedings and comfortable with the present status quo.

One presentation conscious respondent, however, did ask whether the option of "neat dress" was an attempt at humour.

More than 50 practitioners

including one from Alice Springs, attended the Law Society sponsored seminar on the National Legal Services Market.

The morning was livened up by a provocative address from Jack Rush QC from the Victorian Bar Association. In fact his comments resonated well into the evening with Ron Heinrich, a member of the Law Council of Australia's executive, still countering the Victorian's arguments at 10pm that night.

The seminar provides vital information for legal practice into the future. I urge Alice Springs practitioners to make the time to attend the function to show the video of the proceedings on 9 July.

As a former Murdoch hack I learnt the other side of the media frontier regarding the media conference, such was that held to protest against mandatory sentencing. Somewhat self consciously, I told the assembled media "last question please" - the bane of any journalist covering a story wanting to get the



Maria Ceresa, Executive Officer.

last question in on their hapless - or not so hapless - victims.

That went OK, as far as it went. The trouble was that I failed to realise I was dealing with lawyers. Despite the fact that all three were due in court (and thus the reason for the media shutdown), it was difficult to stop my masters talking. Not only did they each answer the "last question", but they proceeded to answer a couple more.

It seems it will be a long time before my charges follow my instructions.

New Public Relations Officer



Samantha Kilvert: the new 'face'.

When I look out the window of my office from the 11th floor, the view seems to capture an essence of Darwin: there's big boats and little boats and brave red tugs; there are people dressed in shoulder pads rushing to the Supreme Court and people dressed in nothing much lazing in the sun; there's palm trees and blue seas and flocks of hunting birds. It's easy to love.

Having just moved from Northern New South Wales, I am a new face around town. I look forward to meeting the many people involved with the NT Law Society and contributing my own flair to an already excellent organisational team.

I have always had a great interest in current affairs, and find myself already intrigued by the mixture of dynamic issues and political intrigue on offer. There certainly is a wealth of material to bring to *Balance*, and I hope to ensure the magazine reflects this range of NT issues and events, capturing the distinct flavour and diversity of the region. I may be on your case for articles or ideas so bear with me!

I also aim to ensure that *Balance* provides comprehensive coverage of the

national legal scene, so that the journal can be the 'one stop shop' for legal news, gossip and events.

My background is in public relations: I studied Communications at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst where I also worked part time on fun things like the Tooheys 1000 and the infamous bike races. Since then I have worked for Universities, media institutions and the NSW Environment movement, primarily in a community, government and media liaison role.

Out of the office I keep myself busy with a passion for gardening and swimming, and with the company of my delightful and currently Star Wars obsessed 4 year old Darcy. Named after the great Australian boxing legend, Les Darcy, he's a real little nugget.