

# Justice Thomas reception a success

Over 50 people attended the reception hosted by our patron Justice Thomas on the Supreme Court Balcony on 14 April 2000. We were pleased that our life member, Mary Ridsdale, from Alice Springs, was able to attend. It was a great night and we plan to have an annual reception from now on.

Justice Angel spoke on his experiences appearing before Justice Roma Mitchell (as she was then) in the Supreme Court of South Australia. It was an entertaining and memorable speech. Eileen Terrill and Britt Lardelli spoke, as an experienced and a newly admitted practitioner, on their experiences in the legal profession. We thank our patron, those helping to organise the event and all the speakers for making the night a success. We also thank the court for making the balcony available.

## Advocacy workshop

There will be a general and advanced advocacy workshop on 30 June, 1 and 2 July 2000 in Darwin conducted by the Australian Advocacy Institute. This gives advocates the opportunity to attend a skills based workshop without the need to travel. Contact the Institute if you have not received an application form.



*Alexis Fraser, DPP and Justice Thomas enjoy the reception on the verandah of the Supreme Court.*

## Freedom of Information

The lack of Freedom of Information legislation in the Northern Territory is an issue that NTWLA will be pursuing this year.

We propose writing to the Attorney General and will seek the opportunity of presenting the case for Freedom of Information in the Northern Territory.

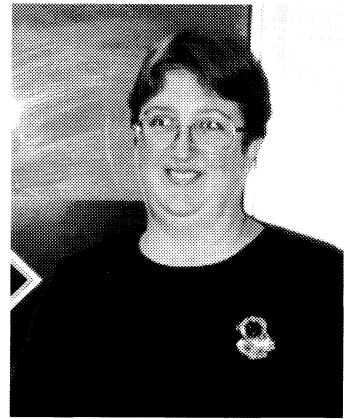


*Justice David Angel*

The trials were broadcast during Law Week on ABC Radio. The trials were Nelson Mandela, O'Shea & Parnell and Socrates. Not only was it great fun doing the recordings, we were assured of a wide audience. Special thanks to the two script writers, Julie Franz and Britt Lardelli, and the 12 performers.

## Jane Mahoney Memorial

I was pleased to be able to take Sally Keeble MP, Jane Mahoney's sister visiting from the UK, to the Supreme Court Library to show her the section named in Jane's honour. She was especially pleased at the large numbers who attended the dedication and appreciated that Jane's memory will be kept alive in this way. We will continue to add to the collection and hope it is used and appreciated by members of the legal profession.



*Melanie Little, President of the NT Women Lawyers Association.*

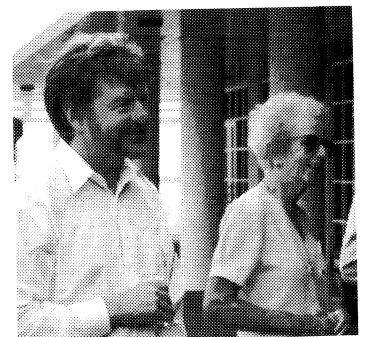
Any members wishing to have input into that process, please contact the Committee.

## Trials Through Time

This year we have pre-recorded excerpts from famous, or in some cases infamous, trials as our Trials Through Time.

## Mandatory sentencing

Throughout the mandatory sentencing debate NTWLA has opposed the operation of a system which has taken the discretion from the court in the sentencing process. Recent events have taken the focus from mandatory sentencing. The 12 month "third strike" sentences of imprisonment are starting to become more common. The community must consider whether the cost - both economically and socially - of a scheme which so often sees an offence leading to a disproportionately



*Justice Trevor Riley and Mary Ridsdale, a life member of the Women Lawyers Association.*

harsh sentence. We must be able to assess the full impact of this sentencing scheme. Without freedom of information we can not do this.

## Australian Women Lawyers Representative for NT

Kate Halliday has been appointed the new NT representative for Australian Women Lawyers. Kate will now join the Board of AWL and she will promote the interests of NT women lawyers.