

“UNTRUMPETED, PERSONAL SACRIFICE” RECOGNISED

Max Horton was announced the winner of the inaugural *Law Society Contribution to the Community Award* at the Alice Springs Law Week lunch on Wednesday 16 May. One of seven nominees, Max Horton’s outstanding and long-serving commitment to the Anglican Diocese of the Northern Territory was recognised in the presentation of the award by Justice Sally Thomas.



Justice Sally Thomas presenting Max Horton with his award

On accepting his certificate Mr Horton spoke of the “extraordinary and fulfilling experiences” he has benefitted from as a direct result of his pro bono activities.

“When I came to the Territory in the late 1960’s I got some advice from a prominent Territorian and legal practitioner Neil Hargraves. He told me that the skills of a legal practitioner would be much sought after by the community — he was almost warning me not to be overstretched! I took his advice and only selected two, or three, ..or four,or five projects to assist,” Mr Horton said.

“The Anglican church and tennis have been my two major areas of interest. My involvement with them both spread from Alice Springs to the Northern Territory, and then to national and even international arenas.”

Mr Horton praised the benefits of pro bono work, describing community work as a win-win-win situation. “Pro bono work helps those need it, is rewarding for the individual who contributes and is rewarding for the profession in general. While it is gratifying to be given this award, I also hope it recognises the value of pro bono work and encourages others to contribute,” said Mr Horton.

The *Law Society Contribution to the Community Award* was judged by a panel including Convenor Justice Sally Thomas, community representative the Hon. Daryl Manzie and Law Society Council member Ms Merran Short.

All seven nominations came from community organisations who expressed their gratitude for the commitment, hard work and expertise provided on a voluntary basis by individual lawyers or law firms, in some cases for periods of well over a decade.

Two Darwin firms were nominated for the award for their contribution: Ward Keller nominated by the YMCA of Darwin and Clayton Utz nominated by the Australian Red Cross NT Division.

Continued page 14

- **Law Week 2001: working towards safer communities.....10**
- **Law Society Contribution to the Community Award 15**
- **ADR-led Cultural Change In Work Health Compensation..... 20**

"UNTRUMPETED, PERSONAL SACRIFICE" RECOGNISED

Continued from front page

Ward Keller has been providing pro bono legal advice and support to the YMCA of Darwin for over 27 years. President of the YMCA Mr Iain Smith writes that "their selfless work helps to ensure that the YMCA is able to continue our services in a professional and effective manner."

Clayton Utz has provided legal advice and assistance to the Australian Red Cross NT Division in a voluntary capacity since 1989. The Red Cross praised the Darwin firm saying that "Clayton Utz has always responded quickly and with extreme professionalism to our many requests."

Three Darwin practitioners and two Alice Springs practitioners were also nominated for the award: Mr Kevin Stephens, Mr David De Silva, Mr Dirk deZwart, Ms Jodeen Carney and Mr Max Horton.

Carpentaria Disability Services nominated Kevin Stephens from Ward Keller for his "invaluable and meritorious" contribution over the past six years, during which time he has provided commercial and industrial relations legal advice and representation.

"I cannot begin to express our Club's gratitude without thinking what could have been if David had not been around to give freely of his time and legal advice" St Marys Football and Sporting Club President Mr Vic Ludwig writes in his nomination for David De Silva of De Silva Hebron, who has provided pro bono legal advice and assistance to the Club over the past six years.

Dirk deZwart from Hunt and Hunt was nominated by Kidsafe NT who praised both Mr DeZwart and his firm "for the generosity and community mindedness in having a policy to provide a free service for not for profit organisations."

"How do we thank people like her? Not all people would give the time she does. We would really like to thank her" says Central Australian Supported Accommodation (CASA) Director Carmen Grech of Alice Springs lawyer Jodeen Carney. Ms Carney has provided pro bono legal advice and representation for CASA for the past four years.

Bishop Freier of the Anglican Diocese of the Northern Territory wrote to the Law Society nominating Mr Horton for the award and gave *Balance* permission to print the nomination letter in full:

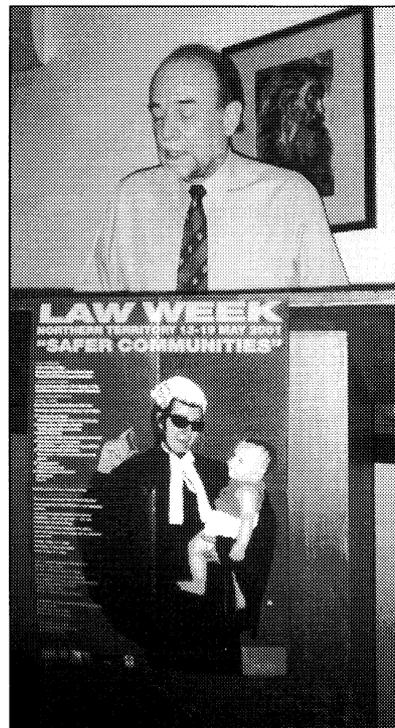
Max Horton has had a long and greatly valued association with the Anglican Diocese of the Northern Territory. He has, over a period of nearly thirty years, volunteered his experience as a legal practitioner to this significant non-government organisation serving the people of the Northern Territory.

The Diocese is responsible for parish ministry, Anglicare welfare work, secondary schooling and theological education within the Northern Territory, both in principal cities and remote communities. The Diocese is governed by its Synod and legal-canonical framework, which Max Horton has served since 1972.

He has given significant voluntary professional work to the Diocese in the role of Legal Advisor to the Diocese from 1972 until 1986, and then as Chancellor of the Diocese from 1985 until the present. During Max's time in these roles he has provided valuable advice to assist the establishment of Anglicare (now the largest provider of non-government welfare services in the Territory), the Church's involvement with Kormilda College, as well as the Church's response to important social issues and their legal implications. The role of the Chancellor is the most senior lay position within the Diocese, and one that must be filled by a legal practitioner.

Max has also had roles within the Anglican Church at provincial, national and international levels serving as a member of the Synod of the Province of Queensland and the Northern Territory, the General Synod and the International Anglican Consultative Council. His commitment has been carried out at a great, but untrumpeted, personal sacrifice, and on a completely honorary basis.

Max's high standing in matters of Canon Law has been recognised by his appointment as a Foundation Member



Max Horton spoke of the benefits of pro bono work after receiving his award

in 1992 on the National Constitution Review Commission for the Anglican Church of Australia.

I believe Max Horton has set a very high example of public-spirited service as a legal practitioner. He has provided a great example to the public of the service ethic of the profession. Max has, by his involvement with members of the Anglican community throughout the Northern Territory, greatly raised the confidence of ordinary Territorians in the legal profession. He is a worthy recipient of the Award for Contribution to the Community.

The Law Society thanks the nominating organisations for their support. The Anglican Church will be presented with a cheque for \$500 from Law Society sponsor Marsh Ltd for their winning nomination.

The *Law Society Award for Contribution to the Community* will become a biennial award seeking nominations from community groups throughout the Territory.