

Northern Territory dreaming

Former Deputy Chief Magistrate Cathy Deland sends the profession her thoughts and best wishes from South Australia

As I sit in my new chambers at the Adelaide Magistrates Court in Victoria Square I have many people enter and comment on the lovely paintings which adorn the walls, two of which are Kata Tjuta and Uluru, by Christine Dickinson which were given to me when I left Alice Springs by the Law Society.

I would like to thank the Society members for these beautiful gifts which will remind me forever of the 11-and-a-half years I was a magistrate in Alice Springs.

I must be the first to admit I was not the most gracious recipient of a "farewell show" but despite my objections Emma Cornock (Registrar Alice Springs Court) and Tony Whitelum coralled most of the legal profession, police prosecutors, court staff and others.

Many lies and some truths were told and I had a fantastic time.

In addition to the paintings I was

presented with a miniature sandstone map of the NT (at least my protestations regarding those wooden monstrosities was heeded) glorious vase and a decoupage box, hand decorated by my secretary with central Australian themes..... not a crocodile in sight!!.....

If nothing else I must hold some sort of record for being the only long serving Northern Territory magistrate never to have sat in Darwin!!!

It is difficult not to allow myself to constantly wonder what is happening in the centre and to daydream of those Aboriginal communities now so far away.

But life moves on.

To all those who appeared in front of me over the years... I hope it wasn't too traumatic...

To my ex-siblings.....remember to laugh every now and then..

To the court staff.....thought I'd better go so someone else can win the Cup sweep.....

And to Michael Ward.... keep those shaslicks sizzling and the young blokes who think they can play cricket honest.

- Cathy Deland, Adelaide

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And more best wishes

From Emma Cornock, Registrar, Alice Springs

After some 12 years on the Bench in Alice Springs Cathy Deland has left us to take up an appointment with the South Australian Law Courts.

The Law Society, in conjunction with Courts Administration and the staff of the Law Courts, recently held a farewell for Ms Deland to wish her well in her new endeavour.

Ms Deland was a popular Magistrate who was known for her compassion and interests in community justice.

The founder of the "Hermannsburg Sausage Sizzle" she was well respected by elders in the communities surrounding Alice Springs.

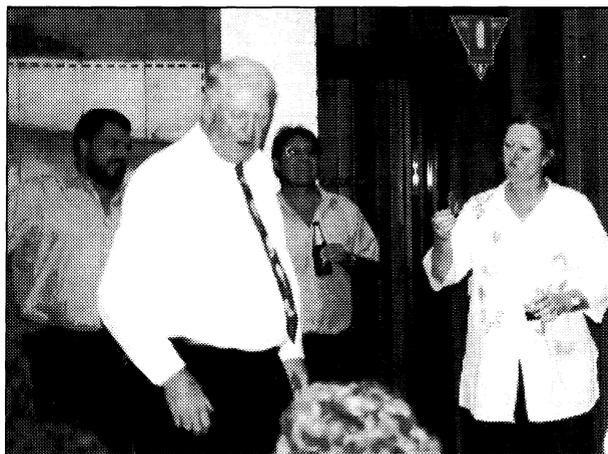
Her cultural awareness and understanding helped her to forge strong relationships, which relationships ensured the smooth running of the circuit courts.

Likewise the local profession have a

high regard for Ms Deland, many attending to make their farewells in person. It is with sadness and good wishes that Ms Deland is farewelled.

Speeches were made by His Worship Michael Ward and also by Tony Whitelum on behalf of the Law Society NT, both recognising the skills and attributes which Ms Deland brought to her appointment.

Ms Deland outlined some of the highlights of her time in the Territory and thanked all for their support.



Above: Magistrate Michael Ward SM (left) speaks at Cathy Deland SM's (right) farewell in Alice recently.