

Has Alasdair left the building?

It was done quietly and efficiently. Having retired with great fanfare, Mr Alasdair McGregor has been asked to do an encore. Mr McGregor has returned to the Magistrates' Court on an on-call basis.

Muster Room understands it might have something to do with the decision to get rid of the Katherine resident magistrate position.

Apparently, because Darwin based magistrates are now on a roster system to sit in Katherine, there is sometimes a "hole" in the Darwin courts schedule. Enter Mr McGregor, who gets called in to fill that "hole". Things that make you go "hmmmm".

Have a gander at Conran!

Those of you who have been in the Territory for a while, probably remember the former head of the (then) NT Department of Law, Peter Conran. Remember those nicknames? Conran the Barbarian, the Fat Controller, Rooster, or just plain "Conran"?

Well, many would know the man who was also the Chief Minister's Department CEO has recently become Cabinet Secretary and head of the cabinet policy unit for the Federal Government.

BUT did any of you see the article about the chrome-domed one in the *Australian Financial Review* on 28 February? More to the point, did you see the photo which accompanied the article?

Ring Lorelei at the LSNT if you're interested - the photo is, well, it's worth a look!

You have to love him

There's nothing like a passionate advocate and in the recent case of *Chung v Air Raid Arcade* before Justice Trevor Riley, the appellant Kang Feng Chung made a good fist of his own case.

It's reliably reported to *Muster Room* that at one stage in the hearing Mr Chung handed up an exhibit to Justice Riley which was a report of a plumbing expert. Justice Riley apparently asked Mr Chung to direct him to the relevant part of the report because he didn't know what he was supposed to do with it. To which Mr Chung replied (quite genuinely): "Oh, I'm sorry, I

didn't know you don't know how to read".

After His Honour had delivered his ruling dismissing the appeal, he asked Mr Chung if he had anything to say regarding the order for costs against him.

Among his comments, Mr Chung replied: "You did a good job, Your Honour. Don't forget, you done it, Your Honour. You have to work within the law, no mistake to be made Your Honour. I entirely agree with you."

The "ghost" who (cannot) walks

Peter Walker did not live up to his name at the RAAF base golf course late last month. He slipped down the tee of the 2nd hole. When his gammy right knee couldn't bear his weight, his leg folded and he broke both his tibia and fibula, about six inches above his ankle. Back at the RAAF bar, there was general applause after the patrons found out he had just broken his leg. They thought he had collapsed from a heart attack! There are rumours in the RAAF of alcohol being administered to him while he waited to go to hospital.

How rude!

LSNT Alice Councillor Tony Whitelum's misfortune at the OLY (his car was broken into, see last month's *Balance*) was the target of some repartee in the recent Council meeting.

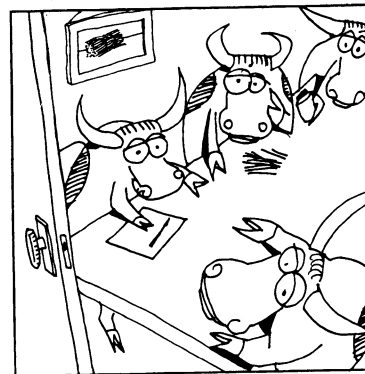
He was lamenting the loss of his water bottle that was used to siphon petrol out of the tank, when some wag remarked that Tony re-name his *Balance* column - to *Stains in the Sand*.

Movers and Shakers

Peter Tiffin is now working at NAALAS. **Sarah Wilkie** has left TEWLS and is now at the Dept of Justice. **Georgia McMaster** is now based with the ODPP in Darwin while **Ron Noble** is now a Senior Crown Prosecutor in Alice Springs. **Ted Sinoch** has moved to Collier Deane from Povey Stirk. **Megan Lennie** has moved from David Winter to Morgan Buckley. **David Story** from Morgan Buckley is now in his own practice in Palmerston.

Fred Davis has moved to Norfolk Island as parliamentary counsel. **Andrew Schatz** from Clayton Utz is now at the Australian Government Solicitor.

The Muster Room



David Woodroffe has moved from CAALAS in Alice to NAALAS in Darwin. Over at Cridlands - **John Munn**, has joined the firm's commercial practice from Ward Keller, **Tamlyn Hill** has moved from Halfpennys to the firm, **Allison Robertson** has joined the firm's litigation services and **Duncan Maclean** has been appointed to the NT executive of the AIIA (Australian Information Industry Association).

Admissions

Admitted in late February were: **Margaret Ellen McCabe** (of Alice Springs) and **Marko Cvjeticanin**. Admitted in early March were: **Gemma Siobhan Lake**, **Lucia Ku**, **Lisa Ann AhMat**, **Rhyanwen Ruth Bauman**, **Ben Wild**, **Jane Victoria Carrigan**.

Welcome back...

To Leon Loganathan and family (wife Cynthia Chin and daughter Caitlin). They left Darwin for Sydney in 1997. And now, they're back and Leon is senior solicitor/special tax counsel at Ward Keller.

Leon said: "We always said we would come back to Darwin when we started a family". Caitlin was born in November.

Quote of the month

"Professionals - lawyers especially - are an unforgiving bunch. It comes from the advisory nature of our work. In our professional life, few of us make decisions; rather, we present the facts, preferably along with our recommendations, to clients. It is they that make the decisions." - Michael Simmons, *Lawyers Weekly*, from the article *Shall we dump the managing partner?*