

## **Pro Bono award produces winners all round**

**Hard-working and dedicated self-employed Darwin solicitor, Dylan Walters, has won the 2005 Law Society *Contribution to the Community Award*. The award was announced at the Darwin Law Week lunch on Friday 27 May.**

This biennial award recognises the selfless, unpaid work performed by the local legal profession for community organisations.

Community organisations are asked to nominate a lawyer or law firm that has made a significant contribution to the community. The organisation that nominated the winner received \$1000 from award sponsors Marsh Pty Ltd.

Eight nominations for the award were received from community organisations in the Territory. These were judged by a panel chaired by Justice Sally Thomas from the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory.

Law Society President Merran Short and former Attorney-General Daryl Manzie were also members of the judging panel.

The award criteria includes the depth, quality and length of the contribution, the value to the organisation and the personal qualities and background of the nominee.

Mr Walters' outstanding and ongoing contribution was recognised by the judges as one example of the excellent pro bono work being undertaken in the Territory.

Dylan Walters has been volunteering

with Darwin Community Legal Service (DCLS) since it was first established in 1991, providing 14 years of continuous service. His involvement includes five years on the DCLS Management Committee and staffing free advice clinics in Palmerston at least once a month.

DCLS is a non-government community legal centre that services the Top End, including free legal advice clinics in Darwin, Casuarina, Palmerston and Katherine.

According to DCLS, the organisation would not be able to provide free legal advice to residents in the Palmerston area without the ongoing assistance of volunteers like Dylan Walters.

The judging panel noted that the extremely high quality of the applications made it very difficult to select a winner.

Three further nominees were highly commended by the judges for their outstanding contributions to the community: Carl Black from Cridlands for his contribution to Tennis NT; John Newman from the



*Award winner Dylan Walters with Caitlin Perry from DCLS.*

Timor Sea Designated Authority for his contribution to the Multicultural Council of the NT; and Paul Ewens, a self-employed solicitor, for his contribution to the Anglican Diocese of the NT and Kormilda College. Mr Ewens sadly passed away on Monday 16 May, so this recognition comes posthumously.

Also nominated for this year's award were Marguerite Bowen from Cecil Black and Associates for her contribution to the Darwin Community Legal Service; Katherine Oldfield from Ward Keller for her service to Alzheimer's Australia NT; Susan Porter from De Silva Hebron for her contribution to the Darwin Community Legal Service; and Rex Wild QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, for his contribution to Charles Darwin University's Law School.<sup>①</sup>

## **Don't miss the Masters**

The 2005 World Masters of Law Firm Management is fast approaching and will feature expert speakers who address issues around growth strategies and client management.

The fourth series of the World Masters conferences, which are hosted by the Legal Practice Section of the Law Council, will be held on August 26 this year at the Four Seasons Hotel in Sydney.

The seminars are invaluable events that provide law firm managers with effective strategies to promote growth and development.

This year, Gerry Riskin, a director of North American consultancy Edge

International, is back by popular demand. Riskin was one of the keynote speakers at World Masters 2003, and feedback on his interactive and insightful style has been tremendous.

Also on this year's speakers' list is Adam Lewis, the Australia & New Zealand Managing Partner of McKinsey & Company, and John O'Shea, President of the Australasian Professional Services Marketing Association.

To register for this event, or to obtain further information, visit the Law Council website or contact Gerard O'Neill on (02) 6246 3722.<sup>①</sup>

### **M F Horton OAM**

Mr Max Horton is available as a Public Notary in Alice Springs.

Contact details as follows:

Public Notary

90 Standley Crescent

Alice Springs, NT 0871

Tel: (08) 8952 2852

Email: mflfh@bigpond.com