
Achievements

LSNT Solicitor receives Queens Birthday Honours

The Law Society's Professional Standards and Ethics Solicitor, Josephine Stone, is "thrilled" to have been awarded the Australia Medal for her service to the community and law.

"It was thrilling and very unexpected," she said of her Queens Birthday honour announced in June.

Mrs Stone's husband, former Northern Territory Chief Minister, Shane Stone, was awarded the Companion of the Order of Australia in last year's awards.

Currently the head of the Office of Ethics and Professional Standards at the Law Society, Mrs Stone also has an impressive background in community work, which she said she became involved in so she could contribute to local society and enjoy the company of like-minded women.

"The focus is always the reason for the fundraising, be it handicapped children in Alice Springs or flood affected victims in Katherine but the friendships you make along the way are also very rewarding," she said.

Mrs Stone first became involved in community work with the Zonta Club in Alice Springs, and later went on to support several charities through her husband's work as Chief Minister.

In 1998 she was invited to be the Chair of the Red Cross Katherine Flood Appeal, and her efforts were instrumental in the raising of almost \$2million in cash and in-kind assistance for victims.

Mrs Stone and her husband Shane moved to the Northern Territory in 1986, where they joined a legal firm in Alice Springs before setting up their own practice, Stone and Stone. At that time, Josephine was



Josephine Stone AM

one of the few Territory women to achieve a full equity partnership in a mainstream law practice.

She was active in the community in Alice Springs, serving as district President of Zonta, and on the Northern Territory Womens Advisory Council, which directly advised the Chief Minister of the day on policies affecting women in the Territory.

Mrs Stone went on to work for the Office of the Australian Government Solicitor, and then supported her husband as he began a decade-long political career.

The couple moved to Darwin, where Mrs Stone worked initially for the Office of the Australian Government Solicitor and then as Manager, Assignments for the NT Legal Aid Commission.

She continued with her community involvement while she supported her husband in his Asian Relations and Trade Ministerial role, at home and abroad.

Mrs Stone has continued her

community involvement through her children's school, St Marys, serving at various times as board member, fund raiser and convenor of the Alumni Association.

Mrs Stone told Balance that her family and fellow volunteers have provided solid support for her humanitarian efforts.

"The family is pleased, and for my part I have to say that it was a team effort. I gratefully acknowledge the inspiration and encouragement of Shane and the forbearance of the kids, Jack [17] and Madeleine [11], who at times did not see much of me," she said.

"Having come to Australia from post-war Europe with nothing but the clothes on her back, my mother is thrilled to see her child recognised in this way. I guess it is a vindication for all those non-English speaking migrant families who struggled socially and financially to see what can happen in

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one or two generations. "I am most appreciative of the solid support of all those team members who were with me every step of the way, my fellow volunteers who have not received the public acknowledgement I have," she said.

Mrs Stone said anyone can contribute to a fundraising effort or community project.

"It doesn't have to be writing the big cheque or providing hi-tech know how, it can be as simple as contributing ideas, time, bringing along other volunteers, or providing moral support," she said.

"Every little bit counts and if everyone gave that little bit, just imagine what we could do."

Mrs Stone's investiture will occur later in the year, at which her medals will be formally presented by the Administrator.

Law Society Northern Territory prize

The Law Society congratulates Bridgid Cowling who was presented with the Law Society Northern Territory Medal & Prize at the Charles Darwin University Prize Night on 2 May.

The award, presented by Law Society President, Allison Robertson, acknowledged Bridgid as the most outstanding Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice graduand in 2006.



Law Society Northern Territory President Allison Robertson with winner Bridgid Cowling

New from Charles Darwin University Press...

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Chris Howse worked as a barrister for several years in Melbourne. He has since worked as a criminal lawyer in the Northern Territory, and as Executive Officer of the Aboriginal Justice Advocacy Committee.

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Launch of Chris Howse's book "Living Heart" at the Supreme Court (subject to approval) on Friday 20 July 2007 at 5:30pm Refreshments provided for further information contact Christine Edward of CDU Press on 8946 6801 or at cdupress@cdu.edu.au

Chris Howse