

# BALANCE

LAW SOCIETY NORTHERN TERRITORY

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## **Appointments & Achievements**

# An ideal Christmas gift

Merry Christmas everybody.

This edition of *Balance* comes gift wrapped with complimentary beach thongs, so if you didn't get yours contact your local Councillor and take them to task!

2007 has been a fascinating year to be in the Northern Territory. As I write this, I have just come from a meeting of Aboriginal people, land owners and organisations, who met with Senator Trish Crossin and Warren Snowdon at Yirrkala to hear about Labor's plans for the Commonwealth Intervention. Not many things are clear about the intervention, but one thing that is clear, is that the social, political and legal framework of the Northern Territory has been rocked by it. The impact of the Intervention will be felt for a long time to come.

2007 has been a year of significant change in our profession. We have seen the retirement of the Solicitor-General, with his successor, Michael Grant QC, leaving the private bar to take up the role. John Reeves QC was appointed as the Territory's first resident Federal Court Judge.

Those changes will cascade through the profession in all manner of ways. Some of those changes will shape what sort of a year we have in 2008.

No one I know has a crystal ball. However, all the indicators point to a strong year for the profession:

- strong economic growth;
- population increase;
- land releases in Darwin and Alice Springs;
- continuing resources exploration and development; and
- the Intervention.

All those things combine to suggest that the demand for legal services across all sectors of our profession will be unprecedented. Additional regulation and increased work means the challenge to recruit and retain lawyers to the profession in the Territory will be greater than ever before.

I believe the Law Society has an important contribution to make in recruiting and retaining lawyers. It's one thing for a firm, department or agency to advertise for a single position. But the Law Society can paint the picture of the Territory as a place for lawyers to thrive on cutting edge law and social issues and as a place where even the contribution of a single person can have a profound impact on people's lives.

It is our size, the nature of the work on offer, and the opportunity of contact with people and organisations of extraordinary interest that makes our profession in the Territory unique. It's our



*Duncan McConnel,  
Law Society President*

greatest asset, and it would make an ideal Christmas gift. So pass this magazine on to a colleague who might be in a rut, jaded, bored, or simply burnt out. Tell them about the great life on offer in the Northern Territory, and give them a chance to make 2008 the best year of their lives.

A collection of Christmas decorations including three round ornaments (two dark, one light with a pattern) and a striped candy cane, all with ribbons. The decorations are arranged in a cluster.

The Council and Secretariat of the Law Society Northern Territory wishes all members a happy and safe festive season, and a prosperous New Year.