

Opening of the Legal Year 2008

DARWIN

The Darwin legal profession marked the traditional Opening of the Legal Year with an ecumenical service and luncheon on Monday 4 February 2008.

Reverend Wendell Flentje of the Casuarina Uniting Church led the service in the Supreme Court following a colourful procession.

Respected former member of the local profession, His Honour, The Administrator, Mr Tom Pauling QC, was an entertaining guest speaker for a sell-out crowd at the lunch at Hanuman Restaurant.



Above: The Darwin OLY ecumenical service

Left: The OLY procession



His Honour, The Administrator, Mr Tom Pauling QC



Craig Smyth, Martin Fisher and Phil Timney



Matt Hubber and Shane McMaster



Michael Grant QC, Lisa Coffey and Jenny Blokland CSM



Enjoying the Darwin OLY address



Justice Dean Mildren RFD, Chief Justice Brian Martin



David Lisson, Terry Lisson and Judy Bonner



Justice David Angel and Dr Chris Burns MLA

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ALICE SPRINGS

The Alice Springs legal profession marked the 2008 Opening of the Legal Year on Wednesday 6 February.

Law Society representatives also took the opportunity to get an update from representatives of local agencies regarding the Commonwealth Intervention in the Centre.

The Administrator of the Northern Territory was again a popular speaker at the after service lunch at the Hanuman Restaurant Alice Springs.

Thank you to all the staff of the Law Courts for their assistance with this event in Alice Springs.



Above: His Honour, The Administrator, Mr Tom Pauling QC, Justice Sally Thomas, Mr Bernard Kilgariff AO JP and Mrs Tessa Pauling reflect on the year ahead



Left: Justice Sally Thomas speaking during the service

2

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Reverend Tracy Spencer



The Alice Springs ecumenical service



David Bamber SM and Bernard Kilgariff AO JP



Luke Gardiner, Nardine Collier & Janet Taylor

Law Society President's Opening of the Legal Year address

Law Society President, Duncan McConnell

Welcome to the Opening of the Legal Year lunch for 2008, and welcome to the new legal year.

One of the interesting ironies in my position as President of the Law Society has been to be involved in the roll out of the *Legal Profession Act*. An Act that sees the Northern Territory's legal profession become more and more aligned with the profession nationally. And a gradual, but steady move, towards a completely truly national legal profession, with equal laws and equal obligations amongst all of us.

Compare that with the position of the Commonwealth Intervention, where the Northern Territory receives special treatment, and laws from outside are imposed on our jurisdiction that are not imposed in any other part of this country. The Intervention this year highlights two important matters for the Northern Territory. The first is that different treatment that we're all required to endure (while it lasts). The second is that there will undoubtedly be, in the course of the year ahead, individual injustices, and the important message

I wanted to pass on to the people gathered here today, is that the Northern Territory is the only jurisdiction in Australia where those injustices will be meted out.

We don't have the benefit of being a profession which works against such injustices on a national scale. It happens here in the Northern Territory and nowhere else. And so its important, Ladies and Gentlemen, that when we're confronted with those injustices as Northern Territory lawyers, that we speak loud, and we speak up for the consequences that may be imposed by such a system.

Navigating the diplomatic and constitutional mine fields of advocating for the Northern Territory's position is a major challenge for all of us in the year ahead.

This afternoon's speaker, His Honor, The Administrator, Mr Tom Pauling QC, is a seasoned veteran of such matters. To introduce this afternoon's speaker, and to address the crowd today, may I please welcome his Honor the Chief Justice, Brian Martin.