

A Fresh Look



Lisa Coffey,
President,
Northern Territory Women Lawyers' Association

I have to confess that it had been a while since I had been a member of the NTWLA, having joined briefly as a new arrival to the Northern Territory back in 2005. Despite this I was thrilled to be asked to nominate for President this year, and am excited about the reinvigorated Committee, the great women who are on it and the year ahead for the NTWLA.

To introduce you to our Committee:

President: Lisa Coffey,
Vice- President: Sue Oliver SM,
Treasurer & Public Officer: Frieda Evans,
Secretary: Heloise Woodside,
Member: Olivia Go,
Member: Marilyn Lester,
Member: Marie-Louise Scarf.

It is pleasing to have such a good mix of lawyers from a variety of backgrounds, and with a range of experience. We are also calling for nominations for an Alice Springs member of the Committee, so if you are a woman lawyer in Alice and are interested in being part of the NTWLA Committee please contact us.

The year ahead

One of our first activities as a Committee was to hold a planning session, during a blackout on a typical wet season evening, to discuss our aims for the year. We decided that the focus of the NTWLA this year will be on growing the organisation so that

we can become a respected voice on issues affecting the legal profession and women in the Northern Territory, and can play a role in the promotion and development of women involved in the legal profession.

We are keen to hold events that are of interest and use to women lawyers; to link women in the profession so that we can share experiences, learn and have some fun; to be more engaged with Territory women lawyers outside of Darwin; and to provide a forum for discussion of issues that are of particular relevance to women lawyers.

We are very interested in hearing from any members who would like to comment on these aims, suggest events or provide input into how we can grow to become a more effective organisation.

Australian Women Lawyers 4th National Conference

This conference is to be held in Canberra from 10-12 August this year. The theme of the conference is "Women Lawyers in a Public World", with program highlights including sessions on "Trailblazing women and the law"; "Surviving and thriving as a woman in the law"; biodiversity, social media, intellectual property rights, and construction and resource management law. The Northern Territory's Dr Nanette Rogers SC will be speaking at the conference, along with other distinguished

persons such as the Hon Diana Bryant, the Hon Robert French AC and the Hon Justice Virginia Bell.

The NTWLA is pleased to be able to sponsor a young woman lawyer to attend the conference. If you are interested in applying or nominating someone for sponsorship please contact us. For conference details go to www.lexisnexis.com.au/pd

Upcoming Events

A range of events planned for NTWLA this year. Keep an eye on *The Practitioner* and the NTWLA newsletter for details, including events in Alice Springs, Patron's Drinks and the upcoming CPD on Careers for Women at the Bar.

Joining up

Membership is only \$35 per year (\$15 for students and GDLP) and if you join now you will get membership for the remainder of this financial year (2011/12) and the year to come. An application form is enclosed with this edition of *Balance*, and is also available on the Law Society website.

So if, like me, it is a while since you have been involved with the NTWLA, you are new to town, or new to the profession, perhaps it is time to have a fresh look and think about joining us for a great 2012. ●

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