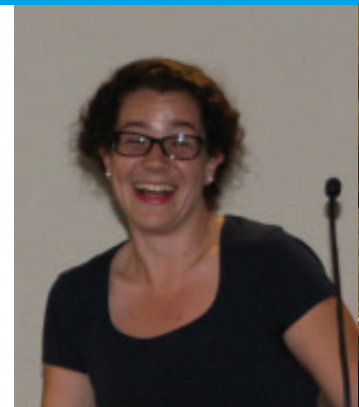


2013

William Forster Chambers Golden Gavel Competition

*“L’enfer, c’est
les autres”*



*Emma Farnell,
President,
Northern Territory Young Lawyers*

Greetings from NTYL. In our last article we welcomed you to the dry season, which appears to be a distant and fond memory as the weather has now started turning and the humidity creeps up.

Over the last few weeks, Northern Territory Young Lawyers have been organising the 2013 William Forster Chambers Golden Gavel Competition Northern Territory final which was held on Friday 30 August 2013 at the Hilton Darwin.

This year’s heat had attracted a lot of interest from young

lawyers, with a healthy number of participants representing both the private and public legal sectors. Those brave souls included Jenna Dennison (Department of Corrections), Matthew Littlejohn (Judge’s Chambers), Dominic Gomez (Ward Keller), Hugh Bond (Department of Attorney General and Justice) and Kate Frost (De Silva Hebron).

The evening was a great success with over a hundred spectators enjoying the complimentary food and bar tab; courtesy of the very generous support we had hosting the event, and of course, the

Judging panel: L-R Damien Jones, the Hon Justice Judith Kelly, Wade Roper





excellent entertainment.

The winner of the night was Matthew Littlejohn who spoke on “A review of the *Residential Tenancies Act* – what every young lawyer should know about sharing a flat in Darwin”. I think the audience had an inkling that it would be a winning speech when Matthew opened up with the quote, “*L’enfer, c’est les autres,*” (“hell is other people”) by French philosopher, author and political activist, Jean-Paul Sartre.

The runner up was Kate Frost who spoke on “At least I’m not a politician – explaining your legal career choice to others” and by the end convinced everyone that they had made the right life choice in practicing law.

The ‘People’s Choice’ controversially went to Jenna Dennison who spoke on “Fifty Shades of Grey – why nothing is black or white to a lawyer” and obviously enthralled the crowd with her use of props.

Matthew Littlejohn, as the winner of the Northern Territory William Forster Chambers Golden Gavel, will be travelling to Brisbane on 20 September 2013 in order to compete in the National Golden Gavel competition which is hosted as part of the Australian Young Lawyers Conference. We wish him luck and look forward to hearing

how he goes representing the Territory.

We wish to sincerely thank our golden sponsor - William Forster Chambers, the silver sponsors: Marsh, the Department of Attorney General and Justice, Hunt & Hunt, and the Public Purposes Trust for their incredibly generous support of the event. Without their assistance the event could not be held and the Territory would be unrepresented at the National Finals. Our thanks also go to her Honour Justice Kelly, veteran Gavel judge Wade Roper, and previous Gavel winner Damien Jones for spending their Friday night judging the event.

Our president, Emma Farnell, will also be travelling to Brisbane at the same time to attend the annual meeting of the Australian Young Lawyers Committee, where representatives from across Australia meet to discuss current issues facing young lawyers. Emma will report back in the next *Balance*. ●

NTYL may be contacted through ntyounglawyers@gmail.com if you would like more information regarding young lawyers or if you are interested in being involved in next year’s committee.



*Above: Winner, Matthew Littlejohn
Below: People’s Choice Winner, Jenna Dennison*

