

2015 Councillor Profiles



TASS LIVERIS
President

Tass Liveris is a barrister at William Forster Chambers in Darwin. He has been a member of the Council of the Law Society Northern Territory since 2011 and from 2012 has served as an executive member, holding the position of Treasurer. In October 2014 Tass was elected President of the Society.

During his time on Council Tass has been a member of the Legal Practice Committee. As the Society's President he is a member of numerous additional committees. Tass is also an active member of community organisations; he was a board member of Corrugated Iron Youth Arts between 2012 and 2014 and is currently a board member of Triathlon Northern Territory.

Tass is born and bred in the Territory and completed his primary, high school and tertiary studies in Darwin. He completed articles at the Northern Territory Attorney-General's Department in 2002. He worked as a commonwealth and then state prosecutor in Perth, Western Australia for 5 years before returning to Darwin in 2008 to take up a position at Clayton Utz.

In February 2010 Tass joined the independent Bar, where he practices in an extremely wide range of matters in most of the jurisdictions in the Northern Territory.



CANDICE MACLEAN
Vice-President

Candice is a proud born and bred Territorian. She has worked on the LSNT Executive and Council and various committees since 2010 in the capacity of Secretary and Vice President. She has also provided pro bono services to Tourism Top End for 8 years, as well as services to Top End Women's Legal Service, the Australian and New Zealand Institute of Insurance and Finance, and most recently, the Legal Practitioners Admission Board. Candice has recently completed a Masters of Law and will graduate in early 2015.

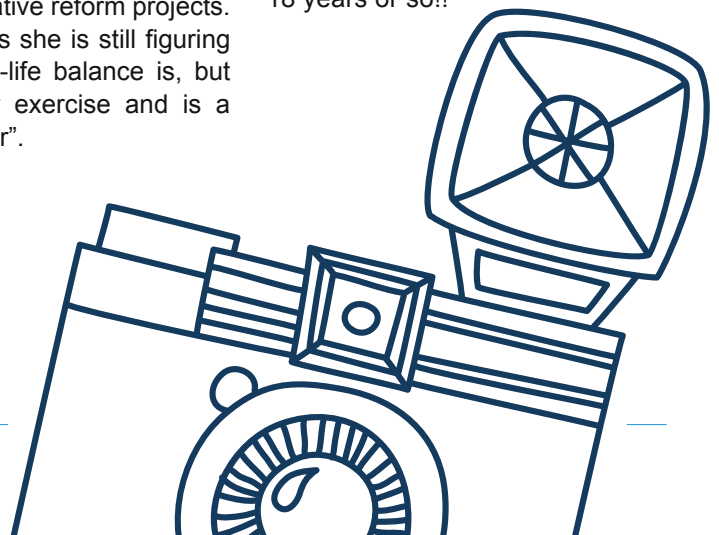
Candice brings a multitude of skills and experience to the Society, having worked for the Judiciary, as a litigator in private practice, a policy lawyer for the Northern Territory Government, Executive Officer and most recently has worked in-house on large legislative reform projects. Candice admits she is still figuring out what work-life balance is, but enjoys regular exercise and is a keen "yogi bear".



JOSINE WYNBERG
Secretary

I am a civil litigator who, other than jaunts to Vanuatu and New Zealand, has practiced in the Territory since December 2002. Before that I lived and worked in Sydney which is where I met and married my husband and now local barrister, Wade Roper.

In 2015 our two children will finally be at the same school campus for a year or two which might ease one of those on-going organisational stresses in life. I find the work of Council challenging and engaging, in particular the regulatory aspects where I am reminded constantly of the high professional expectations against which we as legal practitioners are measured. I otherwise bring no spectacularly special skills to Council other than having managed to time record and remain in private practice for 18 years or so!!





JEFF COLLINS
Treasurer

Associate with Ward Keller.

Moved to the Territory from Sydney in 2012.

I have also been an electrician, a professional firefighter, a speech-writer, a researcher and an adviser to Federal Government Minister.

As a lawyer I have practised mostly as a commercial litigator, concentrating on building/construction law.

I have been a councillor of the Law Society Northern Territory since October 2012 and I see my role largely as being a representative of, and a support person for, the profession generally. While working predominantly in commercial law I have an interest in human rights and I am a member of the Law Council of Australia's National Human Rights Committee.

I have a family that keeps me grounded and busy outside the office. My partner, Greta, formerly a lawyer is now working with AHPRA and my two daughter attend Parap Primary.

Since moving to Darwin I have been bitten by the fitness bug and I can regularly be found trying not to die at CrossFit Darwin in Mirambeena Street which also helps me manage some of the stress associated with life as a lawyer.



SALLY BOLTON
Councillor

Sally is the senior family lawyer at Northern Territory legal aid commission in Darwin. Sally was the family lawyer in the commission's Alice springs office for many years before stepping over the Berrimah Line.

What experience you bring to Council and your interests in the work of the Society?

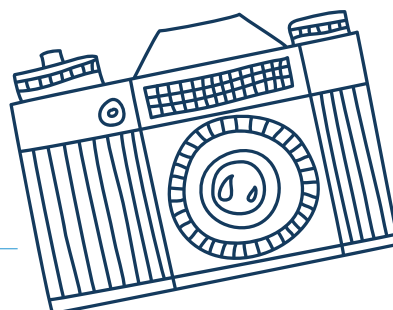
As well as being a dedicated family lawyer, Sally also has experience and interest in domestic violence matters, child protection and public housing tenancy issues.

What you do to manage the stresses of your job?

Sally manages the stresses of the job by engaging in astonishingly heathy pursuits, tempered with dashes of whisky or wine.

What other interesting talents or skills you think the reader might want to know?

(None that I want to share in a public forum, lest aggrieved clients or other parties with a tendency towards stalking take a particular set against me)



DAVID WOODROFFE
Councillor

David Woodroffe. Born in Alice Springs and from an old Darwin family and members of the Stolen Generation of Kahlin Compound and Retta Dixon. He is the managing solicitor – crime at the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency.

What experience you bring to Council and your interests in the work of the Society?

David Woodroffe has 17 years has deep knowledge and expertise in working for and with Aboriginal people throughout the Northern Territory, the Kimberleys and Kalgoorlie in Western Australia.

Interests for the Law Society is the elevating the standards of the legal profession for the community and the process of reconciliation.

What you do to manage the stresses of your job?

Keep smiling.

What other interesting talents or skills you think the reader might want to know?

Conducting regular in house advocacy workshops on cross-examination of Aboriginal witnesses.





EMMA JANE FARNELL
Councillor

Emma works as a Senior Lawyer at Ward Keller

What experience you bring to Council and your interests in the work of the Society?

I am a commercial lawyer and have been on Council for the previous two years (as the NTYL representative and then as a Councillor). I have an interest in administrative law and decision-making mechanisms and bring that to my work in the Society.

What you do to manage the stresses of your job?

I subscribe to the following stress-relief mechanisms:

- field hockey: because running around a small field with a large stick is a socially acceptable way to manage aggression; and
- bad television: any crime procedural you heard of I've watched it.

What other interesting talents or skills you think the reader might want to know?

I read the government gazettes for fun and especially enjoying working with incorporated associations.



MARIA SAVVAS
Councillor

I have lived, been educated, and worked in the Territory throughout my professional life, and am thrilled to be starting my fourth term as a Councillor with the Society.

I have accumulated 15 years experience in private practice, and in the last five years, run my own boutique firm. As Managing Partner of MSP Legal, I joined Council because I wanted to contribute my experience and knowledge to benefit members, and share insights. In particular, I feel I represent and relate to the challenges of small practices and sole practitioners.

I appreciate Council's complex dual-role of regulator and member service organisation. My approach has always been to focus on the member support and education aspects, and to be a voice for member practitioners, especially in regulatory matters.

I hope over time, my approach has contributed positively to sensible decision-making on issues affecting the private profession across the Territory.

I have experienced first-hand, my clients' highs and lows (some with tragic outcomes) which puts the day-to-day stresses of my work into perspective.

I also believe it is important to acknowledge and accept that stress is part of the legal profession, and use it as motivation and inspiration to pursue greater challenges.



SUZI KAPETAS
Councillor

Suzi is a litigation solicitor at De Silva Hebron Barristers & Solicitors. A proud long term Territorian of Hellenic origin. She was admitted to practice in the Northern Territory in 2000 after completing Articles of Clerkship at Wardkeller in 1999. Following admission as a legal practitioner Suzi has enjoyed a varied career in both legal and non-legal roles in government and the private sector. She has also worked in the community legal sector providing domestic violence advice and legal representation to women, children and families in many remote communities in the Top End and Central Australia. Suzi regularly sits as a Tribunal Member on the Mental Health Review Tribunal and The Mandatory Alcohol Tribunal.

Prior to her legal career Suzi pursued a career in nursing, having completed her nursing degree at the University of South Australia in 1995, Diploma of Applied Science at Flinders University in 1985 specialising in pediatric intensive care and cardiac surgery at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. Suzi has extensive nursing experience in Adelaide, Melbourne, Darwin and Alice Springs.

Suzi brings her broad experience to the Council and looks forward to shaping the Council's direction and strategic goals particularly in the pursuit of opportunities for remote practitioners and those with family commitments.





EMMA STOCKS
Councillor

Emma Stocks moved from Melbourne, Victoria to Darwin in 2010 before joining Hunt & Hunt in December 2012. Working in the area of litigation and working closely with Peggy Cheong she had no choice but to put her hand up for the society when Peggy's term as President came to an end with a 'gentle nudge' from the former president.

Emma completed her articles of clerkship and first years as a solicitor in Melbourne, Victoria. During her clerkship, Emma acted on behalf of a number of insurance companies in property damage litigation including; motor vehicle, caravan and home claims. Major clients included AAMI Insurance, Just Car Insurance, Shannons Insurance, Vero, CIL Insurance and Local Councils.

She has also acted for the Victorian Workcover Authority in recovery actions in accordance with s138 of the Accident Compensation Act 1958 (Vic) including labour hire situations, breach of contract, occupiers' liability, assaults, death claims and international recovery.

Since this time Emma has expanded her practice to include building disputes, personal injury, occupiers' liability, professional indemnity, child protection matters, adult guardianship and predominantly workers' compensation. ►



TONY WHITELUM
Alice Springs Representative

Tony is Special Counsel employed by HWL Ebsworth in Alice Springs.

58 years on this planet with many life experiences and even more in the law. I attend court very regularly and so see how the laws of the NT affect the community and how our judicial officers cope with the enormity of their job. I have been a councillor previously. I have a keen interest in everyone getting a fair go including the LSNT in its dealings with government. I am a member of the LCA Access to Justice Committee and have been so for 10 years. Through this opportunity I am aware of the legal needs of the rest of Australia which generally equate to ours here.

What you do to manage the stresses of your job?

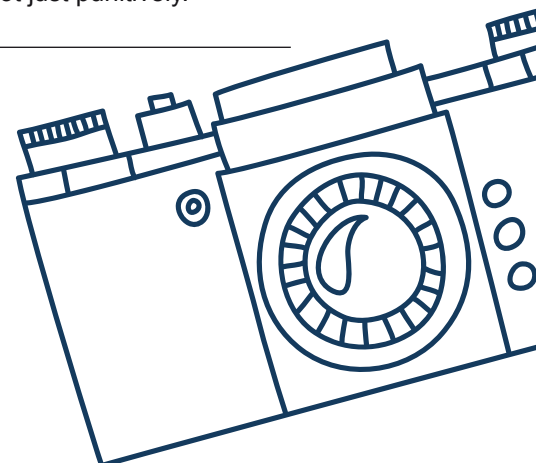
Exercise daily and golf as much as I can. There is a truism: A bad day

on the golf course is better than a good day at the office.

What other interesting talents or skills you think the reader might want to know?

Fishing maestro (There are no fish here!); camping genius (What genius thought of this plan?); and spending time with family (my son and very lucky dear wife Jo-Anne) and friends...which may require listening to my music while ingesting a few beers followed by a few reds. The basis of our society is the family. All too often it is broken down by random factors, poverty and lack of opportunity. Those who have not suffered a family tragedy are often the ones who have the least tolerance of those who have. We should strive to address this problem holistically, not just punitively.

While still reasonably new to the Territory she looks forward to learning a lot during her involvement with the society and meeting and working with a diverse range of people for the next year. In order to handle the stress that inevitably comes with being a litigation lawyer Emma enjoys letting her hair down over a social drink or two or three... and enjoys reading and watching the football.





MARK O'REILLY
Alice Springs Alternate Representative

I was admitted to practise in NSW in 1993. I practised in Sydney for a little over a year before taking up a position with NTLAC in Darwin as a Criminal Lawyer. At that time I stayed in the Territory for 18 months but the NT had infiltrated my blood-stream and after a year back in Sydney I returned to the NT, this time to Alice Springs where I have been for 16 years. For all of that time I have worked at CAALAS and am the Principal Legal Officer there.

I bring to the LSNT many years experience as a Criminal Lawyer, a good understanding of Legal Practice in the public and NGO sector, an interest in social justice issues and a long term relationship with Alice Springs. I'm impressed by the way the LSNT remains relevant by responding to significant legal/social issues and advocating for members. Accordingly I like to remain involved and contribute what I can.

My stress releases are family and trying very hard to keep fit. I run a bit (but probably not as quickly as Tass). I also do the odd triathlon and if I'm the only over 50 year old in an event might come away with a medal or trophy.



HUGH BOND
Young Lawyers Representative

Hugh currently works as a family lawyer at NT Legal Aid, having previously worked at the NT Attorney-General's Department. He grew up in Glenelg and studied at University of Adelaide prior to moving to Darwin in 2013. Outside of work and NTYL commitments, Hugh spends most of his time quaffing red wine, playing monopoly and coming up with new pickup lines for Tinder.



DAVID ALDERMAN
NT Bar Association Representative



DOMINIC GOMEZ
Young Lawyers Alternate Representative

Dom has been appointed as secretary of NTYL (much to the chagrin of the remainder of the committee) after serving as a general committee member in 2014. A born and bred Territorian, he is employed as a junior solicitor at Ward Keller, practising in general commercial, property and migration law. His perfect date would be a sensuous stroll along the Nightcliff foreshore at sunset, followed by gelato. ●

