



TRACI KEYS
PRESIDENT
NORTHERN TERRITORY WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (NTWLA)

Women lawyers news and updates

Dear NTWLA members and friends,

COVID-19 demanded we all redesign and adapt our lives. And we did. We tackled the challenges and capitalised on the many new opportunities. The NTWLA Committee, like others, had to quickly re-design and re-direct its energy to develop new plans for 2020. With this came greater opportunities to run events that all our members could participate in wherever they live and work, and this is exciting.

My heartfelt thanks goes to the Committee for their resilience and creativity through this time.

I also want to say a big thank you to all our loyal members for your patience and continued support of NTWLA as we navigated our way through the changes. I believe our new plans will justify your wait.

NTWLA events

Our first event was a breakfast with Judge Day Huntingford with Alice Springs members. This was a well-attended event. The faces in the photograph pictured reveal how positive a catch up it was. We thank Her Honour for giving up her time to support NTWLA.

Our next event was a response to sexual harassment allegations

revealed against former High Court Judge, Justice Heydon, which put a spotlight on sexual harassment in the profession. Australian Women's Lawyers responded very quickly releasing a seven point plan. Locally, we were also quick to start discussions with the Society about responding with a CPD on sexual harassment. This culminated in a joint initiative to run a free panel discussion on *Sexual Harassment in the Legal Profession*. This was a streamed event, allowing practitioners to attend across the NT. Registrations and attendance were high.

I spoke on this panel as the Director of the Anti-Discrimination Commission, and was joined by Society President, Maria Savvas; Director of the Northern Territory Working Women's Centre, Nicki Petrou; and, Senior Solicitor of the Top End Women's Legal Service, Caitlin Weatherby-Fell. Representing NTWLA as our capable facilitator was former President, Bronwyn Haack.





The feedback has been very positive and I am hopeful this will be the start of a longer conversation and we can continue to work on this important issue with the Society.

We also held in August our first face-to-face Lunchbox CPD in the Local Court, aptly looking at *Working in the Courts*. We had members in Alice Springs and Darwin with speakers on each end. We had a panel made up of:

- Deputy Chief Judge Fong Lim, Darwin
- Rebecca Plummer
A/Executive Director of Courts and Tribunals,
Darwin
- Maria Le Breton
Domestic Violence Registrar, Alice Springs

This was both fun and insightful. I am very grateful to each of the speakers for their honesty and giving us their time. I also want to acknowledge the use of the Local Court and their facilities; that enabled this event to be possible.

Please let us know if there are other topics you would like us to cover in their series and we will see if we can assist.

Coming up

Also coming up is our AWL conference. This is a bi-annual conference that is traditionally run in person in a capital city. This year due to COVID-19 it is being run online and is free. I will talk more about this in my next contribution to *Balance*.

NTWLA has arranged with the Lucky Bat Café to stream the conference on their new big screen.

Also in September will be our Mentoring Pilot, speed-dating style! This is an opportunity to either mentor someone bright and upcoming, or to be a mentee and meet that someone who can help direct your career where you want to go. Check it out on our Facebook page (listed below).

NTWLA membership

Lastly it is time to renew membership if you have not done so already. We have a special deal for renewing members of \$35 (\$15 concession) or for new members \$50 (\$25 concession) with a 10% discount for new members referring another new member. Opportunities to sign up will be available at the Lucky Bat Café, otherwise send us an email via ntwomenlawyersassoc@gmail.com and we can send through the details.

Enjoy the last remaining days of the dry season, stay well and I hope to see you at one of our events.

Yours,

Traci Keys
President, NTWLA

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NTWLA 2020 EVENTS CALENDAR

BUILD-UP & WET SEASON – HEALTH + WELLBEING

SEPTEMBER

Event – Women’s Health Week
(Alice Springs & Darwin)

OCTOBER

CPD - TBA
(Alice Springs & Darwin)

NOVEMBER

Patron’s Drinks
(Alice Springs)

“You Can’t Ask That” Patron’s Drinks
(Darwin)

NTWLA AGM + End of Year Event
Friday 20 November 2020 (Alice Springs & Darwin)