Central West Law Society

President's Report 2011

The activities undertaken by the CWLS Committee during 2011 are summarised below:

1. Membership and Communication

As at 21 November 2011 the CWLS has 128 financial members. This is a significant increase from the 68 members from the start of 2007 when the new Committee was established and the highest number in the last 4 years.

Members are provided with regular newsletter updates via email from the President CWLS notifying them of upcoming events and general information, including information from the NSW Law Society.

2. Financial

Please see attached Treasurer's Report. Thank you to Beth Pratley for her excellent management of the CWLW finances.

3. CLE

Led by Tricia Arden and greatly supported by Beth Pratley the hard working committee has delivered the following CLE at reduced costs for members in 2011:

- March: Worker's Compensation Roadshow, Orange. No cost to members.
- July: Family law half day CLE, Cowra.
- Nov: Full day Annual CLE Day, Bathurst.

4. Bursary and Scholarship

- **CWLS Bursary**

Following amendments made at the 2010 AGM the bursary was shared between 3 recipients – Meagan Denholm, Paris Willis and June Langfield. Meagan Denholm of Baldcock Stacey Niven was awarded the $1500 bursary while Paris and June received $500 each.

The successful recipients were announced at the Lawyers Lunch in Orange in August and were presented with their cheques by the CWLS President and NSW Law Society President Mr Stuart Westgarth.

Due to the high calibre of applicants in previous years the Committee is proposing further amendments to the bursary criteria for 2012 at the AGM.

- **CWLS CSU Prize**

The CWLS again provided $200 sponsorship for an annual Business Law prize at Charles Sturt University. In 2011 the Prize went to Elise Guzelian of Mudgee.

5. Policy & Submissions

- The CWLS obtained the removal of certain aspects of a firm's website following complaints from members. The website made various comments about the Orange Courthouse and local solicitors. Following correspondence to the NSW Law Society and the Legal Services Commissioner the material has since been removed.
- CWLS provided comment to the NSWLS on the proposed National Professional Bill and Rules.
- CWLS provided comment to the NSWLS on the problems faced in property matters.
- CWLS raised the following issues at Regional Presidents meetings:
    - Website issues as outlined above.
    - Succession planning for sole practitioners in the regions.
    - Federal Magistrate Court sitting dates in the region.
    - Closure of Kirkconnell Correctional facility.
- CWLS President was part of the Regional President Representative Committee responsible for the Regional Presidents meeting agenda.

6. Social Functions

- **July:** Young Lawyers Drinks Function, Bathurst.
- **July:** Lunch following CLE, Cowra.
- **August:** Lawyers' Lunch with NSW Law Society President Stuart Westgarth, Orange.
- **Dec:** Lunch during CLE, Bathurst.

7. Media/Promotion

- CLE December 2010- Central Western Daily.
- Awarding of CWLS Bursary – Central Western Daily.
- Stall, Blayney High School Careers Fair
- Bathurst chosen as the site of the launch of Will Awareness Day by the Attorney General.
- Attorney General Visit & Launch of Will Awareness Day – Western Advocate, Law Society Journal.
- Will Awareness Day free talks – various locations in the Central West region.
- The CWLS President and CLE Chair attended the NSWLS Annual AGM and Dinner.

Thank you

This being my last year as President of the CWLS there are a number of people I would like to thank for their support over the last 4 years.

Firstly, the financial members of the CWLS and all practitioners in the region who have supported our events.

I sincerely thank all the hard working Committee members for all their efforts throughout what have been busy and productive years. I would like to thank Beth Pratley, Anthony Short, Simone

Murdoch, Tricia Arden, Julie Webb, Cathie Warburton, Camilla Davidson, Justine Ringbauer, Cecelia McMaster and Samantha Lee who have been professional and enthusiastic Committee members.

To the past Presidents, Councillors, staff and fellow regional presidents of the NSW Law Society I would like to sincerely thank them for their friendship, collegiality and encouragement.

I would also like to acknowledge my employer – Department of Trader and Investment – for permitting me to hold the office of President and especially to my supervisors Barbara Jones, Cathie Warburton and Lesley Skinner for allowing me to continue in this role for this length of time.

I wish the new Committee all the very best for 2012 and wish all practitioners a safe and very happy Christmas.

Ms Sally Kitto
President
22 November 2011