

CENTRAL WEST LAW SOCIETY



REGIONAL
LAW SOCIETY
— recognised by —
THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

6 February 2017

c/- Arden Law
PO Box 4
BLAYNEY. NSW 2795

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the 2017 Law Term.

On reading my 2016 letter to you, some things seem never to change. We still have unacceptable delays in the Family Court, lack of drug and alcohol rehabilitation beds, particularly considering the increasing ice epidemic. On the other hand, Professor Patrick Parkinson AM has established The Alternative Courtroom using arbitration as an alternative means of resolving family law disputes “quickly and cheaply” if both parties agree to use the system. The District Court appointed 3 additional judges last year providing the Riverina with a full time District Court judge and also basing one judge in the New England. We also have our first female High Court Chief Justice with the appointment of the Honourable Justice Susan Kiefel AC.

Our LSJ keeps us all up to date on current issues and I will not attempt to reiterate them here.

Court of Appeal – Orange Sitting

The Court of Appeal will sit in Orange on 20 February 2017. It is believed that this is the first time the Court of Appeal has sat in a regional area. The Honourable Justice Margaret Beasley AO opened the Centre for Law and Justice at the Bathurst campus of the Charles Sturt University in August and spoke at our annual Conference in November 2016. Justice Beasley indicated in November that she thought it important that the Court sit in regional New South Wales and we are honoured that our region has been chosen for the sitting. There will be a dinner at Lolli Redini’s in Orange on Sunday 19 February 2017 with the Judges. If you are interested in attending, please contact me directly (arden@ardenlaw.com.au) by 14 February as numbers will be limited.

Membership

Our annual financial membership for the Central West Law Society remains at \$20 per annum. It provides you with discounts to our MCLE seminars and social events and I hope you will continue to be a financial member by completing and returning the enclosed membership form. The CWLS also welcomes our new practitioners to the region and encourages those who have not already joined to do so.

We are holding welcome drinks at the Union Bank in Orange at 5.30 pm on 10 February 2017, with a similar function currently being arranged in Forbes. We will hold a function in Parkes during the District Court Sittings which commence on 22 May 2017. Drinks will also be organized in Bathurst. If other areas wish to host a function for local lawyers please do not hesitate to contact the CWLS Committee to discuss how we can assist to fund and promote the event.

Continuing Legal Education

The major focus of the CWLS continues to be to provide quality CLE into our region.

We will again hold our annual conference in November 2017, this year in Bathurst. The reason our conferences are held in Orange and Bathurst is that they are really the only towns in our region with the facilities to run the conference. We require 3 or 4 rooms, 2 sets of facilities for Powerpoint, microphones, white boards etc. If any other areas have such facilities and would like to be involved in holding the conference, please let me know.

CWLS Bursary and Student Prize

Applications for the 2017 Bursary and Student Prize are now open and the information and the application form is enclosed. I urge you to make this known to any of your staff members who are undertaking legal study and encourage them to apply. A number of our bursary recipients, now qualified, continue to practice in our region although Emma Pickford, elected as one of our 2 young lawyers on the committee in 2016, has now moved to Canberra.

CWLS Committee

The 2016 committee members are as follows:

President & CLE Chair	Tricia Arden	6368 2404
Vice President	Sally Kitto	
Secretary	Sharyn Jenkins	sharyn.jenkins@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Beth Pratley	6331 1533
Young Lawyer	Ranald Riddell	6362 1922
Social Chair	Alice Byrnes	6361 3388
	Dannielle Ford	6362 5433

Dannielle has been elected as a Councillor of the NSW Young Lawyers and I congratulate her on that appointment. I believe she will be a very effective in her role. Fortunately, Dannielle has also remained on our CWLS committee.

The CWLS Committee email is cwls.committee@gmail.com. I may also be contacted at arden@ardenlaw.com.au

Please do not hesitate to contact committee members if we may be able to be of assistance or if you would like to be involved in assisting or organizing events.

Yours faithfully,



Tricia Arden.
President & CLE Chair.