



The Central West Law Society, a regional society of the Law Society of NSW

## President's Report 2010

The activities undertaken by the CWLS Committee in 2010 are summarised below:

### 1. Membership

As at 1 December 2010 the CWLS has 121 financial members. This is a significant increase from the 68 members in 2007.

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

### 2. Financial

Please see attached Treasurer's Report.

### 3. CLE

Led by Tricia Arden and greatly supported by Beth Pratley the hard working committee has delivered the following CLE for members in 2010

- March: Mental health seminar in Orange - as a result of a NSW Law Society initiative. No cost to members.
- May: NSW Office of Water seminar Bathurst – as a result of liaison at a Regional President meeting in Sydney. No cost to members.
- July: Medico-legal seminar on amendments to the *Mental Health Act*. No cost to members.
- Dec: Annual CLE Day in Orange – Crime, Planning, Family, Intestacy and Rule 42.

### 4. Bursary and Scholarship

#### • CWLS Bursary

Following amendments made at the 2009 AGM the bursary was shared between 2 recipients - Jessica Mills and Mary-Jean Panameter – to the value of \$1000 and \$500 respectively.

The successful recipients were announced at the Lawyers Lunch in Bathurst in May and were presented with cheques by the CWLS President and Magistrate Jan Stevenson.

Due to the high calibre of applicants in 2009 and 2010 the Committee is proposing amendments at the AGM to the bursary criteria for 2011.

#### • CWLS CSU Prize

The CWLS again provided \$200 sponsorship for an annual Business Law prize at Charles Sturt University.

## **5. Policy & Regional Presidents Meetings**

- CWLS provided comment on the proposed National Professional Bill and Rules.
- CWLS raised the following issues at Regional Presidents meetings:
  - Closure of the Bathurst DPP.
  - The new Rule 42.
  - How the NSW Law Society will assist regional firms in taking on law graduates undertaking legal practice training.
  - Impact of the Legal Services Award on regional firms.
  - Succession planning for sole practitioners in the regions.
- President CWLS nominated to represent the regions on the newly established Regional President Representative Committee.

## **6. Social Functions**

- **Feb:** Opening of Law Term, Orange.
- **March:** Young Lawyers Drinks Function.
- **May:** Lawyers' Lunch, Bathurst.
- **Dec:** Lunch and Post CLE drinks, Orange.

We farewelled our Social Chair Cathie Warburton midway through the year and thank her for contribution to the Committee.

## **7. Young Lawyers**

The CWLS Young Lawyers Representative, Simone Murdoch, and myself each attended a YL Assembly during the year and Simone has been promoting events to younger members of the CWLS throughout the region, including a drinks function held in Bathurst.

## **8. Media**

- Opening of Law Term – Central Western Daily.
- Awarding of Bursary – Bathurst Advocate.
- New Legal Services Award – Central Western Daily, Cowra Guardian.
- Lawyers sitting on juries - ABC Central West.
- Visit of the Shadow Attorney General - Central Western Daily.

## **Thank you**

I again thank the financial members of the CWLS and all practitioners in the region who have supported the CWLS functions throughout 2010 and those who have offered support and suggestions. Your feedback and support is greatly appreciated.

I sincerely thank the hard working Committee members for all their efforts throughout what has been another busy year. Beth, Anthony, Simone, Tricia, Cathie and Cecelia have been fantastic and I appreciate all their help and support. It is a pleasure working with such a professional and enthusiastic Committee.

I wish all practitioners a safe and very happy Christmas and New Year.

**Ms Sally Kitto**  
**President**  
**1 December 2010**