

CENTRAL WEST LAW SOCIETY



25 January 2018

c/- Hughes & Co. Lawyers & Conveyancing
PO Box 542
FORBES. NSW 2871

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the 2018 Law Term.

I am pleased to have the honour of representing the Central West Law Society. It is my intention to take the concerns of our members to Sydney and make sure they are heard.

Born and bred in Central West NSW I am now the Director of a small to medium size country practice with offices at Parkes and Forbes. Our firm is generalist by nature, assisting our client's with their day-to-day legal needs and focused on relationships. I spent time away at school and university before returning to the "bush" and I am proud to say that I am passionate about country people and agriculture.

There are undoubtedly a number of technological challenges ahead of us in the legal industry and it is going to be a race to survival in keeping abreast of these technological "innovations." I have come to realise that one can never know too much about technology and that in our industry generally we will be forever learning.

I am sure that 2018 will be full of many exciting challenges and successes for us all. The "highs" are often very high and the "lows" are often very low. One of the main reasons for establishing a local and regional law society is to encourage networking and comradery. So don't be afraid to reach out to one another, particularly in challenging times. Let us celebrate the successes together and support each other during the difficult times.

Please know that I am only ever a phone call away if you need to bounce ideas or issues. I invite our members to contact me in the event that they have any issues, whether they be problems or proposed solutions, so that I can raise these issues in the appropriate forum, on their behalf.

I don't do small talk or spam very well, so you won't hear from me unnecessarily.

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.

Social Events

We are holding New Year Welcome Drinks events in Orange on 9 February, Bathurst on 23 February and Parkes on 9 March. Full details will be circulated separately for you to RSVP. We will hold further social events throughout the year but 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 have a half day CLE planned for Friday 23 March in Orange. This will be on Elder Law and Capacity topics. Your invitation is **enclosed** with this letter and we look forward to seeing many of you there. We will again hold our annual conference in November 2018, this year in Orange.

CWLS Bursary and Student Prize

Applications for the 2018 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, including our 2018 Vice President, Dannielle Ford.

CWLS Committee

The 2018 committee members are as follows:

President	Steph Hughes	6852 1211 / 6862 6660 steph@hughesco.com.au
Vice President	Dannielle Ford	
Secretary	Sharyn Jenkins	sharyn.jenkins@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Beth Pratley	6331 1533 epratley@mcmc.com.au
CLE Chair	Tricia Arden	6368 2404 arden@ardenlaw.com.au
Young Lawyers Rep	VACANCY	
Social Chair	Penny Baker	6331 1533 pbaker@mcmc.com.au

Our Young Lawyers Rep elected at the AGM, Amy Simpson, is moving to Canberra so this position has become vacant. Any Young Lawyers who would like to fill this position for 2018, please contact the Committee to express your interest.

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

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

Yours faithfully,



Stephanie Hughes
President