

THE FINAL WORD

National Jurists Association of Timor Loro-Sae — seminar

I reported last month that NTWLA has sponsored a seminar on gender and the law to be held by the National Jurists Association of Timor Loro-Sae. We have now been invited to present a paper at the seminar on Gender Issues and Protection of Children's Rights. We will try and ensure some members from NTWLA can attend to present the paper in person. While the issue itself is important, we also see this as an important opportunity to forge professional links with the world's youngest country.

Mandatory sentencing

Australian Women Lawyers are continuing to actively oppose mandatory sentencing and they have issued a press release which has called for more information to be made available to analyse the effects of mandatory sentencing for property offences. They have also expressed concern that persons with disabilities including intellectual disabilities are being imprisoned where they would not have been 'but for' mandatory sentencing.

Inquiry into changes into the Criminal Code

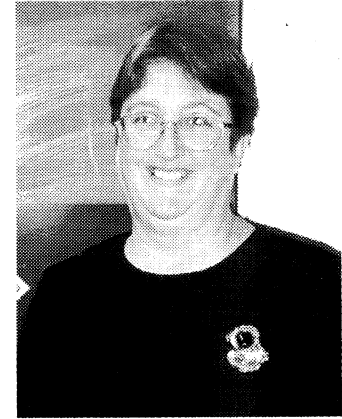
On 11 August 2000 I attended a meeting with the President and members of the Northern Territory Law Reform Committee. They are inquiring into possible amendments with respect to self defence and provocation in the Criminal Code and are seeking input from various organisations including NTWLA. Any NTWLA members who wish to contribute to our response should contact Melanie Little by telephone on 89 415 655 as soon as possible.

AGM: 28 September 2000 at 5pm

Please put 28 September 2000 at 5pm into your diary. The NTWLA AGM will be held that evening. Notices will be sent to members in the near future.

New committee

Please consider whether you want to nominate for the Committee and let us know as soon as possible. We currently have 65 members from a wide range of workplaces and it is important that the Committee is representative of our membership.



Melanie Little, President of the NT Women Lawyers Association.

Final words

This is my final monthly column as President of NTWLA. It has been a busy two years as President and it is now time to hand on the baton. Thank you to all those who have helped NTWLA to be a thriving organisation. We have undertaken a range of activities and projects — my favourite being Trials Through Time.

For a full report, I will ensure that the President's report to the AGM is published in the next edition of *Balance*.

I wish the new President and Committee well. Ciao!

MARTIN KRIEVALDT 2000

Justice McPherson from the Queensland Court of Appeal presented the Martin Kriewaldt Memorial address to over 40 members of the legal community in the Darwin Supreme Court on 10 August 2000.

The audience included Mrs Edith Kriewaldt and Martin Kriewaldt Jr, the wife and son of the late Justice Kriewaldt, who travelled from Brisbane to Darwin for the occasion.

In his paper Justice McPherson examined the case of *Anonymous (1722) I.P.Wms.75* and the relevance and implications of colonial birthright theory to the legal landscape today.

Copies of the address are available from the Law Society by telephoning 8981 5014.



Mrs McPherson, Justice McPherson, Mrs Kriewaldt and Mr Martin Kriewaldt Jr in the Supreme Court Jury Muster Room for the reception after the Martin Kriewaldt Memorial Address.