

## NTWLAS' YEAR AHEAD

On behalf of NTWLA congratulations are extended to **Melanie Little, the outgoing president, on her achievements over the past two years. Congratulations must also be extended to other members of the committee for their contribution and support.**

Those members are Janelle Martin (Vice President), Sharon Burnett (Treasurer and Public Officer), Britt Lardelli (Secretary), Julie Condon (Secretary on resignation of Britt to work in Vanuatu with Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development Scheme), Therese Austin, Cassandra Goldie and Kate Halliday.

### Newly appointed Committee

The members as appointed at the Annual General Meeting of NTWLA on 28 September 2000 are as follows:

Jacqueline Presbury, Cridlands — President  
Cassandra Goldie, DCLS — Vice President  
Julie Condon, NAALAS — Secretary  
Sharon Burnett, Clayton Utz — Treasurer

### Committee Members

Kate Halliday, TEWLS  
Sarah Beech, Cridlands  
Frieda Evans, Supreme Court Library  
Shirley Rowe, Ward Keller

### Additional Member

Kirsty Gowans, NAALAS

At the AGM it was the general consensus that as an association, NTWLA continue to advocate for change with respect to mandatory sentencing to return the concept of exercise of judicial discretion in sentencing.

At the time of preparing this article the committee has not yet held its first meeting which will take place before the end of the month. Therefore, whilst there are some excellent ideas, I cannot convey too much in the way of the activities for the forthcoming year without the input of the Committee.

However, I am able to say that at the AGM it was suggested, and supported, that in view of Dame Roma Mitchell's standing as a role model not only to women in the law but the profession generally, NTWLA should sponsor an annual event in commemoration of her life. To make it a memorial event

with a difference, the general consensus was that it be in the nature of a debate. For more information on this and much more, watch this space in forthcoming issues of *Balance*!

I would also like to see contributions published in *Balance* on behalf of NTWLA from other members of the Association as well as from outside of the Association and will be working towards this aim. You have been warned!

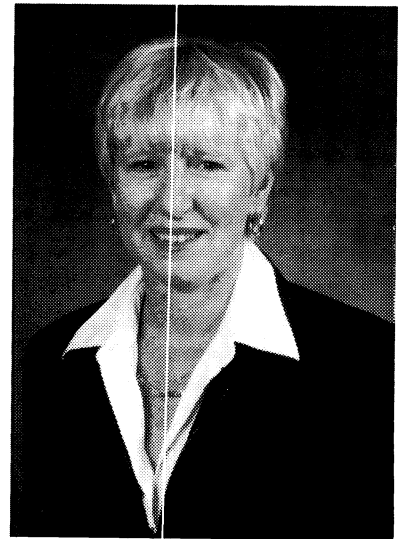
On my appointment as President Sally Gearin requested (to my initial horror) that I tell the members present a little about myself. Not an unusual request in view of the fact that I am a relative newcomer to Darwin, arriving only 16 months ago. I thought it was a great idea for this article. I also have an ulterior motive. That is, that I thought it might be a great idea to introduce each member of the Committee regularly and by being first should set an example.

I was employed as a managing law clerk in New South Wales and South Australia for a total of 13 years (at least that is all I will admit to) but I have had a colourful (or should I say varied) employment history. Along the way before landing in Darwin to work for Cridlands in June 1999, I resided in Sydney, Newcastle (from whence I hail), Adelaide, Malaysia, Italy and Greece — not necessarily in that order but that is another story. I finally bit the bullet and studied law on a full time basis as an external student through Sydney University. I am now into my seventh year of practice. I like to think that I have had a short life and so as not to shatter that delusion this is as much detail as I am prepared to give.

### Report from Seminar for National Jurists Association of Timor Loro-Sae

Kate Halliday (TEWLS) and Jenny Devlin attended this seminar which was sponsored by NTWLA. It was intended that NTWLA only contribute to discussions regarding implementation of East Timor's own independent legislation. The contribution was limited to the of theme of the seminar, which was "Gender issues and Children's Rights".

It is encouraging that the seminar was attended by both men and women from various organisations. At present the laws



Jacqueline Presbury, NTWLA President

in force in East Timor or are those of Indonesia to the extent that they do not conflict with human rights.

Both Kate and Jenny presented at the seminar and found it very inspirational. In particular Jenny expressed her admiration of the bravery and compassion of the women of F.O.K.U.P.E.R.S., who are involved in advocacy and education of human rights. It also impressed her that they were able to relate their experiences with humour.

After Kate and Jenny presented, participants were invited to ask questions. Apparently, they took full advantage and displayed a thirst for knowledge. There is a real lack of resources and infrastructures but no lack of desire to redress this. Simple resources are lacking, which we would take for granted, such as telephones and computers. It certainly seems that it was very worthwhile.

### Bouquets

Justice Sally Thomas, Patron of NTWLA, for her continued support. Britt Lardelli for her contributions to the Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development Scheme. She is presently working at the State Law Office, Republic of Vanuatu. Donna Dreier and Karen Christopher with the announcement of their partnerships with Cridlands and Catherine Spurr with the announcement of her partnership with Halfpennys. They further contribute to the changing face of leadership in Darwin legal firms.

Next month there will be a report on the events scheduled for the year and to mark in your calendar!