

thing. Mandatory sentencing is silly. That's no better evidenced than by its supporters and proponents attempts to answer the criticisms against it. The CM has looked and sounded stupid for the last two months trying to defend it. On the tenth of April the PM himself looked and sounded stupid on the 7.30 Report in answering Kerry O'Brien's relatively benign questions on how in fact the police would practice this new direction. The Australian Prime Minister has laid down with the dog of mandatory sentencing and come up for all to see and hear, with fleas.

Following a hat trick of articles on mandatory sentencing its now down to business. The new Supreme Court Trial Rules and the Application for Leave to Appeal Rules will come into force on 1 July 2000. Also note the Criminal Code Amendment No3 of 2000 (on *Nolle Prosequi* and written submissions re leave applications) come into force on 12 April 2000.

## NT YOUNG LAWYERS

On 17 March 2000 the Northern Territory Young Lawyers Inc held their annual general meeting at the Petty Sessions side room which was well attended.

A new Committee was elected and they are as follows:

**President:** Reinis Dancis: 8941 2544

**Vice President:** Pryce Dale: 8946 2943

**Public Officer:** Gina Wilson: 8943 2555

**Secretary:** Michelle Fadelli and Sophie Silvester: 8981 2971

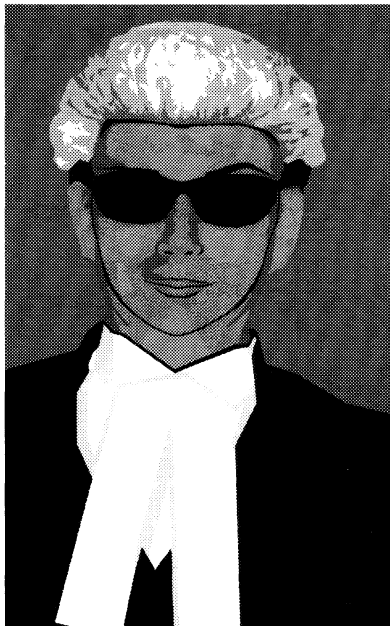
**Treasurer:** Jason Schoolmeester: 8948 1155

**Social Coordinator:** James Docherty: 8943 2555

This year promises to be an exciting one for all members and we encourage those who are not members to join. We remind you that it is only \$20 per year and for that you get free attendance to CLEs and discounts for the advocacy course and most social activities.

First on our list this year is the harbour cruise which will be held on Saturday 3 June 2000 where everyone will have an opportunity to meet their fellow members and enjoy a trip around Darwin Harbour with refreshments. For further information

# LAW WEEK 2000



This year's Law Week has been generously supported by the NT Legal Aid Commission, Marsh Ltd, the Law Society Public Purposes Trust, Qantas, NT Criminal Lawyers Association and the NT Red Cross.

A number of legal organisations have given input into developing a program, which can be viewed in full on page #24.

Don't forget to join in on our launch on Monday 15 May in Raintree Park. 105.7ABC Darwin morning presenter Mr Michael McKenzie will be MC for the annual lawyers tug-o'war competition to be held at 12 o'clock. Team nomination forms will be distributed via fax.

contact any committee member.

The next item on the year's agenda is the annual advocacy course to be held later in the year at Mount Bundy Station. Justice Riley, Rex Wild QC and Lex Silvester have indicated their interest in conducting the course and we thank them in advance for their support in giving their time again. The course will deal with making objections, examination, cross examination and addresses. The course will more than likely book out early so we request that everyone who wishes to attend contact the Committee and reserve their spots now.

Sarah Hills, our former president, is currently arranging a CLE program and a timetable will be sent out to all members very shortly. Sarah has informed us that some of the proposed topics are the GST, mandatory sentencing, commercial agreements, federal court procedure and family court procedure. For details in the meantime please contact Sarah Hills.

The NTYL will be contributing to the Law Week and will again be holding a seminar on Saturday 20 May 2000 on "how to run a small claim". The aim is to assist the public to come to grips with



Reinis Dancis, NTYL President

the procedure and be better prepared to conduct their own small claims. They will be given guidance on drafting their claim and how to present it in Court.

We are pleased to inform members that the Committee has decided that the NTYL Ball — the social highlight of the year — be moved to the Dry season to take advantage of the beautiful dry season weather and we will inform you of the date when it comes to hand.

We also invite everyone to participate in the annual cricket match which will also be held later this year. An event you must make sure you don't miss out on.

Watch this column for more details.