

# ROMA MEMORIAL DEBATE 5 March 2001

This month to begin with I would like to thank the protagonists in the debate, Her Honour Sally Thomas, who convened the debate and introduced the protagonists, as well as those who supported by attending.

It was a resounding success with about 100 people in attendance. The response from the public was also very welcome. This included a group of legal studies students from St John's School. The audience voted and the result was an overwhelming win for the argument in favour of a Bill of Human Rights. The teams consisted of..

- In favour — Michael Grant, Sally Gearin, Judith Kelly and Peter Barr
- Against — Sue Oliver, Steven Gray, Steve Southwood QC and Jenny Blokland

The total cost including hire of the Supreme Court, advertising, beverages, food and the purchase of the raffle prize was about \$1,200.00. We did collect about \$400 in donations and from the raffle of a bottle of Vintage Moet & Chandon. My greatest disappointment was that I did not win the Moet. However, it goes without saying that the Moet went to a good cause (in its consumption), regardless of who won it. Enjoy!

We now have the challenge of boosting our funds which can be achieved in some small way through membership fees. At present NTWLA have only approximately 30 financial members. The membership year runs from September each year. The fee is a moderate \$20.00 and \$5.00 for students. You do not even need to obtain a membership form. Simply send your cheque for the fee with all your details, including.

- Your name and postal address
- Firm/employer (identifying whether you are a student articled clerk) and postal address
- Daytime telephone, facsimile and email address
- Whether you are a new member or renewing your membership

- Include your signature and the date

Then mail your application to NTWLA Inc, GPO Box 3384, Darwin, 0801.

The committee is also calling for another committee member to join us who wishes to be actively involved as two of our committee members have moved from Darwin. That is not to say that they will not continue to be involved but we need some more local support.

## Introducing...

This month I would like to introduce you to Frieda Evans, Courts' Librarian situated in the Supreme Court but which services the Supreme Court and the Magistrates Court. Frieda would of course be known to many of you. Frieda started out as a committee member of NTWLA and then was seconded to the position of Secretary on the transfer of our secretary to Alice Springs. Frieda is a very active member of the committee.

Frieda was born in London and grew up in the Middle East. Her father took an early retirement and the family moved to Australia when Frieda was a young teenager. They chose Perth as to them it had a Mediterranean appeal in terms of the climate. No more cold mother country for them. Frieda has lived in the Territory since 1978.

Frieda first obtained an Arts Degree in Perth, then a Graduate Diploma in Librarianship from Canberra College of Advanced Education. That was not enough so she studied at NTU and also holds a Law Degree.

## Mentoring

Definition of mentoring:

"Counsellor, wise and prudent adviser"

(Webster's Universal Dictionary)

"An experienced and trusted counsellor"

(Shorter Oxford English Dictionary)

The word derives from the Greek and means to "remember, think, counsel" (Shorter Oxford English Dictionary). Mentor was a character from Homer's "Odyssey". He was the guide and adviser



Jacqueline Presbury, NTWLA President

of the young Telemachus, Odysseus' son. NTWLA has been approached as to whether we have a mentoring program. At present there is no formal program in place but we are prepared to offer this service on an informal basis to articled clerks, newly admitted lawyers or lawyers who are new to the Territory.

The intention of this informal program will be to provide advice (on professional issues not on legal workload issues), encouragement, career objectives and inspiration for advancement. If you are interested please provide your written expressions of interest by sending to NTWLA, GPO Box 3384, Darwin, 0801 or telephone either Frieda Evans on 8999 6585 or me (Jacqueline Presbury) on 89430423. Bear in mind the limited time and resources available to implement a mentoring program. We will attempt to match individuals to their requirements based on the framework outlined and the resources available.

Finally, if there are any NTWLA members or women lawyers generally who are prepared to offer their wealth of experience in support of this program, please contact either Frieda or me.

## Bouquets

To the Committee members for the input in preparing for the debate and to Nadia Nayder (paralegal, Cridlands) and Lauren Youngman (part of Cridlands management team) who both volunteered to serve beverages and assist at the debate.