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# WELLINGTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – ĒTAHI WHAKAARO NŌ TE TUMUAKI WITH CHRISTOPHER GRIGGS



I tēnei marama kua whakaputaina te pūrongo mō Te Kāhui Ture o Aotearoa e pā ana ki te uru āhei o ngā tāngata o tēnei whenua ki te whakawā. E māharahara ana te nuinga o ngā rōia mō tēnei take. E rima tekau mā rua paihēneti o ngā rōia, ki a rātou he rawakore, he tino rawakore rānei tō tātou tikanga ture ki te whai wāhi ki ngā tāngata katoa o Aotearoa ki te whakawā. He nui ake ngā rōia Māori (63%) me ngā rōia e mahi ana mō te ture Māori (70%), e whakaaro ana pēnei.

E ono ngā rōia e tuku ana te āwhina-ā-moni, kua kōrerotia e ngā kairangahau mō tēnei pūrongo. Ko Stormie Waapu tētahi o ēnei rōia. He rōia tūtahi a Stormie, nō Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Rongomaiwahine, Ngāti Tūwharetoa me Te Atihaunui-a-Papārangi, e noho ana ki Tāmaki Makaurau. Ka Kī a Stormie:

“With fixed fees and what lawyers can seek, I got to the point where I couldn't even do criminal legal aid. There are plenty of others who just said, no, I'm not doing anymore criminal legal aid. These are also Māori lawyers, and there's a real need for Māori lawyers. People want someone they can relate to, someone they feel comfortable with, someone who has an appreciation of their background and their values. The vulnerable people lose out. The system has to change.”

He tika ta Stormie. Me huri te pūnaha. He aha me mahi tātou? Kei te hiahia au ki te rongō ā koutou whakaaro.

A separate, though related question for our justice system is whether it is fit for purpose in a bicultural or even multicultural context. Since 1840, we have had a system which reflects our colonial past. It has worked and continues to work particularly well for pākehā. Experience suggests it doesn't work so well for Māori and Pasifika – particularly our rangatahi. This is something which the District Court judiciary is endeavouring to address through its new Te Ao Mārama programme.

This kaupapa was mentioned when I spoke on your behalf at the swearing in of **Judge Brett Crowley** at the Wellington District Court on 1 November. The kaikōrero at His Honour's whakatau referred to ngā whatu (eyes), ngā taringa (ears) and te hinengaro (intelligence) as symbols of this new approach. His Honour **Judge John Walker** developed this theme in his remarks from the bench as Acting Chief District Court Judge.



*Newly sworn in Judge Brett Crowley with Sir David Carruthers (former CDCJ).*

I think this recognises that te ao Māori has a different world view to the pākehā world and those of us on the pākehā side need to be prepared to open our eyes, our ears and our minds to this in seeking to promote a justice system which embraces the values of our Treaty partner.

There is an exciting opportunity here to do something fresh which reflects who we are as a country in the 2020s and which is more likely to deliver justice to all New Zealanders than a system which reflects only one, European, world view.

Another inspiring element of Judge Crowley's swearing in was hearing about His Honour's commitment over many years to mentor younger lawyers and seeing the impact of that in the speeches given by lawyers who had been mentored by His Honour at the Institute of Professional Legal Studies, the Wellington Public Defence Service and the bar. This is something all of us should strive to do.

I do see a lot of mentoring and collegiality in the Wellington legal community already – it is one of the reasons this is such a great city to practice in. But, of course, we can always do better.

Nō reira, nā tō raurau, nā taku raurau, ka ora ai te iwi.



Christopher Griggs



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Sir / Madam,*

*I wish to endorse the views of "Overwhelmed and Dejected of Thorndon" whose balanced and thoughtful letter was published in a recent edition of your excellent monthly Wellington Branch Newsletter.*

*Although I moved from Wellington to Australia some years ago, I have kept a close eye on developments in the profession on your side of the ditch.*

*I thoroughly approve of the subjugation of client matters in the interests of administrative compliance. Indeed, I myself have adopted this approach for several years with very positive results for all concerned. Would that more of your members realised the benefits that flow from the dreamless sleep of the guilt-free mind; or as an old Wellington colleague of mine once put it, "sleeping the sleep of the just having discharged one's administrative burdens."*

*I send to you and your readers all good wishes,*

*Slightly Homesick of Melbourne*

*Dear Editor*

*I wanted to write in and thank my fellow lawyers out there who are working hard coming up to the Christmas break.*

*This has been a very long and hard year. Our colleagues up in Auckland have seen the worst of it but I think the uncertainty and anxiety has affected all communities in Aotearoa - including Wellington.*

*I hope 2022 brings more certainty and positivity with it and I thank everyone for getting through this together.*

*Kindest regards*

*Tired and Hungry*



## AMIRA ALLOO



*Each month, the Newsletter will offer an insight into different lawyers and the interesting work being done across the region.*

*This month **Leonie Vines** (Wellington Branch Manager) talked to **Amira Alloo**, a newly admitted lawyer. Amira talks about her family history and the exciting step of being admitted to the bar.*

Next year, 11 August 2022 will mark 100 years since my great grandfather, Albert P Alloo, was first admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand in 1922. My great grandfather's brother, Howard C Alloo was also admitted to the Bar the same year. My great grandfather set up the firm Albert Alloo & Sons during the 1930s and is still being run today.

My great uncle, Albert L Alloo, was then admitted in March of 1954, with my grandfather following soon after with his admission in 1955. In 1983, my father Albert P Alloo was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor, and my uncle, Howard C Alloo following soon after in 1986. My father has been practicing at Albert Alloo & Sons for 38 years now.

Last year, in 2020 my older brother Nicolas P Alloo was admitted to the Bar in Dunedin. We are both living and working in Wellington now. On Friday on 29 October 2021 I was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand at the Wellington High Court, with my father Albert acting as moving counsel. As you can see there has been a longstanding tradition of lawyers in my family, and as the 4th generation, 8th person, I stand proudly to be the first female in my family to be admitted to the Bar.

I am now working in Policy at the Ministry of Social Development. Whilst I am not currently practicing law, I am proud to now be a member of the profession and honour the tradition my family has upheld for almost 100 years.





## LAWYERS IN KĀPITI WITH SUE SCUTTER

I am Sue Scutter, a Lawyer at The Law Connection in Raumati Beach, and I am your newly appointed Kāpiti Twig representative on the Wellington Branch Council of the NZLS.

I've heard from several lawyers on the Kāpiti Coast that they used to enjoy a social get together with other colleagues on the Coast and in particular an annual dinner. One of my tasks is to try and rekindle some of that collegiality and communication between local members as well as strengthening the relationship with members in the greater Wellington region and the NZLS.

Why have I taken on this role? Like all of us, I'm not short of things to do in my life, but I really enjoy people and I am a firm believer you only get out of life what you put in. I along with the rest of the Wellington Branch Council believe that having a supportive Kāpiti representative will benefit us all on the Coast and hopefully in the future people will again be talking about the enjoyable events the Kāpiti members have.

I cannot do this alone, so will require your support. Realising we all lead busy professional and personal lives, we don't want to overload you with activities, so I need to find out what kind of social activities you would enjoy and participate in. Please email me with any ideas, such as what day / time of the week would suit for an event; how often etc to [sue@lawconnect.co.nz](mailto:sue@lawconnect.co.nz). We have a monthly Wellington Branch Council meeting, so if you have any other issues you would like raised, you are most welcome to contact me in confidence.

I look forward to working with you all and wish you a very happy summer break.



*Sue Scutter is the Kāpiti Twig Representative on the Wellington Branch Council.*

## EVENTS

### *Masterclass in Cyber Security*

Recently the Wellington Branch hosted a hybrid seminar and webinar to highlight the dangers in the cyber world, run by Chris Ward of Cyber 365. Chris highlighted some of the many traps we are all in danger of falling in to and how susceptible we are to being hacked. It was an eye opening experience and good chance for us to think about how we go about protecting ourselves in the cyber world.



### *Wellington Silks' Dinner*

On 24 November 2021 the NZBA President, **Paul Radich QC**, hosted the Wellington Silks' dinner at St John's Bar. This marked the appointment of **Greg Arthur QC**, **Mike Colson QC** and **Victoria Heine QC**. All three newly appointed QCs are pictured on the right, alongside Christopher Griggs - Wellington Branch Council President.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *Christmas lunch for sole practitioners and barristers*

The Independent Practitioners Committee is inviting all sole practitioners and barristers to a pay-your-own Christmas lunch on 8 December 2021 at 1.00pm.

Come and share stories with other practitioners and close the year with good food and cheer. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, we need to know the numbers before booking a venue, so please register your interest by emailing the convenor [emma.gabor@gaborlaw.co.nz](mailto:emma.gabor@gaborlaw.co.nz) before **1 December 2021**.

### *SAVE THE DATE: 24th February 2022*

Brush up on your general knowledge, get your colleagues together to form a team, and save the date for a fun night of fundraising for the Solicitors Benevolent Fund.

The night will feature casual dining and a quiz.

Further details will be provided in due course, but block out the evening in your diary, get your team sorted and keep a look out for when tickets are available.



Donate to [Shoobox Christmas Aotearoa](#).



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Read [The New Lawyer Companion Essays on Law, Life, and Humanity](#) by Katie Cowan.