Gold Medals

On Friday, 12 October there was a presentation ceremony for the winners of the Gold Medal in Law for the 2017 University of Canterbury graduates.

This award has been presented to Canterbury Graduates since 1883 and has been won by some very prestigious lawyers over the years.

This year there were joint winners, Nichola Hodge and Jonathan Sanders. Grant Tyrrell, Branch President, presented the medals to them at a function hosted by the NZLS Canterbury Westland Branch.

Their families and friends proudly watched on as two more of our top graduates were rewarded for their outstanding academic achievements.

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President’s Column

By Grant Tyrrell

Gold Medal

On behalf of the branch I had the distinct honour of awarding Nichola Hodge and Jonathan Sanders the Gold Medal in Law for the 2017 University of Canterbury graduates. The joint winners not only graduated top in their field but also showed outstanding academic achievement. Nichola is a clerk for Glazebrook J at the Supreme Court and Jonathan is working a little closer to home in the Duncan Cotterill employment team.

First awarded in 1883, just 15 years after the founding of the Canterbury Law Society, some have asked why it took Mr Ellis 15 years to purchase the first medals award, however given the University of Canterbury (Canterbury College as it was then known) was not established until 1873 it can be seen that this award has developed largely in concert with the study of law in Canterbury.

In my view it is a great tradition, reflecting the strong link between “town and gown” and it is pleasing that it has continued through the transition from a District Law Society to the Canterbury Westland Branch of the NZLS.

Given the consistent high quality of Canterbury Law graduates, Nichola and Jonathan can rightly be proud to be the cream of the crop.

Nigel Hampton QC OBE & CNZM

Another pleasant occasion was the celebration of Nigel’s recent, and deserved, award. It was a tribute to Nigel’s ongoing stellar career that so many were able to attend and it reflected his commitment to the bar and collegiality of the profession that he wanted to share a special occasion. Family, members of the bar and friends were regaled, under advocate’s licence, with some fascinating and/or amusing tales by the host.

The branch congratulates Nigel on the award of the CNZM to join his OBE.

Police conduct in the Courthouse

The Law Society and the branch continues to engage on this important issue as raised in previous issues. I am grateful for the support that NZLS has provided. There are ongoing discussions involving the Police, the Ministry of Justice and the Criminal Bar Association. The issues are not simple but there is good engagement.

If there are further issues of concern to practitioners please raise them with me and/or the Criminal Bar Association. There are open lines of communication with the Police (and MoJ) and a willingness to discuss issues on a case by case basis.

On a positive note there is some hopeful news that the Law Courts may yet be named as such. Hopefully there is more to report on this front in the next issue.

150th celebrations

By the time this column is read the 150th celebrations will have occurred and no doubt will have been a success. From the dinner to the Ball and photograph, hundreds of our profession will have been part of these events. In these challenging times it would seem that the profession still remains in good heart – look out for photos from the events in next issue of Canterbury Tales.
Comings & Goings

Information for this column must be sent directly to the Canterbury-Westland branch due to privacy issues. We assume that by the firm supplying the information that the individual people have agreed to their names being published. Please send information regarding changes to firms or practitioners to canterbury-westland@lawsociety.org.nz or susan.newman@lawsociety.org.nz.

Ebborn Law is now to be known as Portia

The Greymouth firm of Carruthers & Wetherall has merged with Hannan & Seddon as at 1 October 2018. The firm is now known as Hannan & Seddon, all contact details as for that firm remain the same. David Carruthers and Peter Wetherall will be employed at Hannan & Seddon as Consultants.

Christchurch law firm Honoured by United Nations

Portia (formerly Ebborn Law) has been presented a White Camellia award at Government House in Auckland.

The White Camellia awards celebrate organisational commitment to the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs), a UN Women and UN Global Compact initiative which encourages gender equality in the workplace.

NZWEPs Committee Chair, Vicky Mee, says they were “impressed by [Portia’s] incorporation of the WEP’s principles into their business practise, and their valuable work in the community to promote gender equality.”

Principal Lawyer Erin Ebborn received the award from Governor General Dame Patsy Reddy. In her acceptance speech, Erin explained the logic of the firm’s new brand and the work that the firm does to promote equality of arms and access to justice for women.

Comings and Goings continued...

Sandford Law has merged with MDS Law, Roger Sanford is now a Consultant of that firm. Until further notice Sandford Law staff will continue to operate from their existing premises at 63 Maud Street, Riccarton, Christchurch.

Young Hunter is pleased to announce the promotions of Liz Rob and Megan Gall to Associates effective 1 October. Young Hunter is also pleased to announce the promotion of Sam Henry to Senior Solicitor effective 1 October.

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Your early money messages

By Andrew Nuttall

Over the years a number of lawyers have told me that money problems are frequently the cause of arguments which fester and result in relationship failures. Sometimes, it seems, we just seem to see the world differently than others when it comes to money. Why is this? Is it because men are from Mars and women are from Venus?

A number of couples I have worked with have mentioned how helpful they have found it to take 5-10 minutes to explore each other’s attitudes to, and relationships with, money. For some it works best to have an independent and impartial person to facilitate but I encourage you to ask your partner to tell you about their earliest memories of money. Was it their money box? Putting coins in the church offering? Hearing their parents argue about money? Going shopping? Buying a Christmas present etc?

Then ask them what messages they received from their parents and siblings about money. Did they earn pocket money? Encourage them to think about what was going on in their lives between ages four and eight. Have these experiences influenced their attitudes towards their money, savings and spending?

We all have different attitudes and some generations feel differently about money than others. Sometimes I wonder if our society has lost the virtue of thrift. My mother, who was born in 1927 and has strong memories of the depression years, was taught from a very young age to save and not waste. Leftovers from evening meals were saved for the next day and even now, in her 90s, she is mindful of not over-spending as it is still important for her to save.

What messages did you receive in your formative years about money?

If you find that there is friction between you and your partner concerning managing the household finances, and prioritising spending or goal-setting, take some time to listen before putting your “two bobs worth in”.

In his best-selling book, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, Stephen Covey encourages us all to “Seek First to Understand, then be Understood.” Ask your partner how they feel and try to understand more about their early money messages and sub-conscious money beliefs. You may find you both understand, and are understood, much better.

Andrew Nuttall is Director and Principal Authorised Financial Adviser of independent, fee only, firm Cambridge Partners. He has worked with members of the legal fraternity for nearly 30 years and his disclosure statement is available on demand and free of charge www.cambridgepartners.co.nz phone 3649119.
New project for disadvantaged city youth

The Youth Hub : Te Hurihanga O Rangatahu

By Judge Rob Murfitt

Dr Sue Bagshaw is Christchurch’s Mother Teresa. Ably assisted by her husband, Dr Phil Bagshaw, she is a pocket dynamo in pursuit of projects aimed at creating better lives for the poor and disadvantaged.

Sue and Phil Bagshaw have been the driving force behind the Charity Hospital in Harewood Road. This provides dental and medical services for those who are unable to afford medical care, or access public health services. Medical specialists, doctors and support staff provide time and skill voluntarily. Corporate sponsors and service clubs assist with the essential financial costs of the operation.

The Bagshaws have also been a driving force in the development of the 298 Youth Health Centre in Bealey Avenue. This provides medical treatment, counselling and youth work support for troubled youth aged 10 to 24.

Now the doctors are planning to create a one-stop shop Youth Hub. With the support of the Anglican Church, land has been purchased in central Christchurch for the purpose of constructing accommodation units, and venues for helping agencies including 298, WINZ, and a range of other service providers so that counselling and support services can be readily available for the most deprived youth of Christchurch. These are the young people for whom life on the streets is a better option than life in their own homes, or for those who, by reason of addiction, mental health issues or other dysfunction find themselves homeless or without family support. “It’s such a shame,” Dr Bagshaw says. “People who are making their wills are more thoughtful of charitable bequests for the health needs of the elderly. Sadly, the needs of young people who are in such dire need are overlooked.”

On that land the goal is to provide a haven for those young citizens whose critical needs often sail under the radar.

A variety concert is being planned at St Margaret’s College, Charles Luney Auditorium, on 5 December from 7pm to 10pm. A wide range of performers are providing their time at reduced or no cost. They will include the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, Julia Deans, Ali Harper, Brendan Dooley and others, with Te Radar as MC. The purpose of the concert is to showcase the concept development of the Youth Hub, and you are all invited to attend with as many friends and colleagues as possible. Refreshments will be available. Tickets are $70 per head.

Members of the Trust Board, including Jules Fulton, Ingrid Taylor, Judge Rob Murfitt, Roger Sutton and others will be there along with Dr Sue and Dr Phil Bagshaw.
‘Gateway’ has been up and running in Canterbury DHB for seven years and is making a big difference to the health and education of children and young people coping with adversity and who have come into the care of Oranga Tamariki or who are involved in a family group conference.

The Gateway process is a collaboration between Oranga Tamariki, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. It involves a holistic and global health assessment of the child/young person and their family, which is completed by a paediatrician or youth health assessor and psychologist, if required. The health assessment includes an education profile and gathers information from all three agencies to inform a full and comprehensive medical and psychosocial health check, a health assessment report with recommendations, and an inter-service agreement.

The health assessment report recommendations made by the paediatrician or youth health assessor are discussed at a multidisciplinary meeting with Oranga Tamariki and the Ministry of Education, and an inter-service agreement is completed. The report identifies interventions to improve the overall health, education and wellbeing of children and young people with their families. The interventions, as agreed by all stakeholders, are followed up three months after the assessment to check they have been completed.

Many Gateway children/young people and their families have a combination of health and education problems that have gone unidentified or untreated prior to them coming into Oranga Tamariki care. Often the complexity of the problems means that no single agency is able to provide the full package of care and services required. These children and young people will often have a number of barriers to accessing health services such as parents with drug or alcohol dependency or mental health issues.

Gateway has its own primary mental health provider, which in Christchurch is the Methodist Mission. They provide or facilitate a number of programmes for our Gateway children/young people and families such as Watch, Wait and Wonder (attachment programme), trauma-based therapy and home-based family behaviour support.

The child or young person and their family are involved as partners throughout the process and must give consent to the release and sharing of health information before the Gateway process can progress. At the completion of the Gateway Assessment a report is sent to the family’s Oranga Tamariki social worker, GP, and counsel for child and, if consented, a shortened version of the report is sent to the Ministry of Education. This Gateway report and inter-service agreement could be used by the counsel for child to inform planning for the child or young person and their family.

A mother whose children went through a Gateway assessment says: “I want to say thank you for all the help and support you gave me and my children when I could no longer cope with the family struggles ... I learnt a lot from you guys who have been involved ... feeling ashamed is not useful, talking to someone and asking for help to get back on track is.”

How you can use Gateway in your work

If a lawyer evaluates that a child or young person could benefit from a Gateway Assessment, communication with the Oranga Tamariki social worker needs to occur to activate a referral to the Gateway Service.

For more information on the process or to request a completed Gateway report for a client, please contact Linda Stokes, Gateway Assessment Coordinator, on 03 364 0905.
Sentence review

By John Burn

The report last month about the Invercargill case where a tourist was pressured into a plea of guilty, her conviction being later overturned by the Court of Appeal, is really only a worse than usual example of a practice where the criminal courts must take part in a sentence review. The judge was described as a bully, but that seems a little unfair – he was simply going through the bargaining process prescribed by the legislation with something of a heavy hand. The defendant was told that she did not have a defence and if she did not plead guilty, she could be convicted of a more serious offence and jailed.

But the whole process is surely open to such over-reaches: that the parties and the judge should discuss the risks in what is described as a sentence review, before the evidence is heard, is clearly prescribed by the legislature (which means the Ministry of Justice) to diminish the number of defended prosecutions, the cost of justice always being uppermost in the minds of these administrative paragons. I feel that they would not be too upset if the right to defend were completely removed, as in totalitarian regimes, provided sufficient savings to the State were created.

There will always be judges in whom the initial balance and desire for justice will be worn away by the constant pressure for the clearing of lists and the shortening of cases, and these are much beloved by the administrators. All understandable, unless the ordinary people find some traditional rights removed from them. It is common for the police, before such a sentence review, to replace the crime alleged with a more serious one, so that the pressure on the defendant is increased. This may be common in casinos and car sales yards but it is disgraceful in a court of law. And it is unbelievably worse when the judge is also obliged to chair the negotiation, let alone enter into it.

Over the last two decades or so, the crucially important objectivity of the judges is being stripped away. They are now directed how to treat pleas of guilty, how to avoid sentences of costly imprisonment, and increasingly how to do much more on the documents – to prepare for a sentence review, to decide whether to allow a private prosecution to begin, and to follow a course of prescribed points in every summarising. The old days when a judge opened each criminal case in complete ignorance of what evidence he was about to hear, and with no pre-determined attitude to either party seem long ago indeed. (I except the High Court, where depositions were already in view.) The judicial mind is being overborne by the administrators, and this can only get worse.

Indeed, as I write, the District Court in Christchurch is being closed for part of each court day, due to industrial action by employees of the Ministry of Justice. I make no criticism of those involved, but it is a pity that the members of the public who come to the court are being sent away by unexpected adjournments, these again arising from the administration of the court rather than by its judges.

News from the New Zealand Institute Of Legal Executives - Canterbury Southern Districts Branch

By Jill Forde, President

Our AGM was held on Monday, 15 October. The branch adopted new rules and our name was changed to the New Zealand Institute of Legal Executives Canterbury Southern Districts Branch. The change of name is to better reflect the geographic spread of members. Previously, we were known as the New Zealand Institute of Legal Executives Canterbury Southern Districts Branch (incorporating Otago and Southland) and were commonly just referred to as the Canterbury Westland Branch.

The adoption of new branch rules was in conjunction with the other NZILE branches throughout New Zealand, to better streamline them and ensure consistency.

Our seminars have now finished for the year. The next seminar will be in February 2019.

The branch is in a healthy financial position. We are always looking for ways to use our funds for the benefit of our members and we are pleased to be able to subsidise branch social functions.

Christmas functions will be held throughout the region in November. The function in Christchurch will be on 29 November at the Chi Kitchen at the Christchurch Casino and details will be sent to members soon.

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Library news

By Julia Wartmann, Librarian

The Canterbury Westland Branch of the Law Society had its beginnings when a small group of lawyers met on 16 October 1868 in Dr Foster’s Chambers, followed by the first meeting of the “Law Society of the Province of Canterbury” at Morton’s Hotel on 1 December 1868.

Our 150 year milestone is a time to reflect on our past, and the National Library’s Papers Past offers a perfect way to travel back in time for first-hand accounts, some beautifully written, of the early days of the legal profession and the administration of justice in Canterbury and Westland.

“The walls are lofty, and the room is well lighted by five dormer windows on the east side in the roof, there being a triangular opening on the west end. This arrangement, which throws all the light from above, avoids unpleasant cross lights so disturbing to comfort.”

This evocative description of the ‘New Supreme Court Building’ written nearly 150 years ago, is one of many historical treasures to be found on Papers Past (full article reproduced opposite).

In October 1869 the Law Society’s meeting minutes noted that Dr Foster was to consult with Mr Justice Greeson about which books should be ordered from England for the law library, and as early as July 1864 the Lyttelton Times reported that “The number of law volumes for the reference of his Honor the Judge and various practitioners of the Supreme Court has been greatly increased by recent arrivals, and we learn that upwards of £200 is about to be remitted to England for the purchase of additional works”. If only the Lyttelton Times also reported the titles of those law books, which we trust are still part of our treasured pre-1901 ‘Historical Collection’.

A number of reports can be found in Papers Past about the need for a suitable building for the growing law library collection and the Supreme Court Library was finally built as an addition to the Supreme Court building in 1896. A surprising number of topics relating to the courts and the legal community reported in those early days sound very familiar, including mention of earthquakes! Papers Past is a fascinating way to discover the stories of our past – and it’s free.


Judges’ photos digitised

The long-standing tradition of displaying a judges’ photo collection in the law library was lost when the Library moved to the Justice Precinct. The judges’ photo wall was a notable feature of the High Court Library in the Durham Street courthouse from 1978 until 2017. The earlier photos had been displayed in the Supreme Court Library located in the Supreme Court building from around 1896 until the library moved into a new purpose-built library at Durham Street in 1978. With no suitable wall or other display space for the 42 photos in the collection in our new law library, the judges’ photo collection has been digitised and the originals are now stored in archive boxes. A link to the digitised judges’ photo collection can be found on the Canterbury-Westland Branch section of the NZLS website.

New books

Fortunately we are still adding to the law library collection started by legal visionaries over 150 years ago. Our recent new purchases include:

- Arbitration by Anthony Willy & Terry Sissons, 2nd edition (2018);
- Environmental law in New Zealand by Peter Salmon, Peter & David Grinlinton (general editors), 2nd edition (2018);
- Fair Trading Act handbook by Debbie Wilson (2018);
- Judicial review: a New Zealand perspective by GDS Taylor, 4th edition (2018);
- Mahoney on evidence: Act and analysis by Elisabeth McDonald & Scott Optican (general editors), 4th edition (2018);
- New Zealand employment law guide by Richard Rudman (2018);

See the “New titles” tab on our Library catalogue to find more titles recently ordered or added to the Law Society Library collection nationally.

Contacting the Library

For further information or for any research or document delivery requests, email canterbury@nzlslibrary.org.nz or phone 377 1852.

Legacy

The Canterbury Medical Research Foundation has funded more than $20 million in health research in the Canterbury area. The mission of the Foundation is to fund new research that will make a difference to people’s lives, now and for future generations.

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NEW SUPREME COURT BUILDINGS.

STAR, ISSUE 482, 2 DECEMBER 1869 (PAPERS PAST)

We have had the advantage of seeing the plans of the original building, and can, therefore, judge of the difficulty the architect has been forced into in order to make use of the permanent as temporary, and the temporary as permanent. The clever adaptation shown in the present arrangements reflects upon him a great deal of credit, there being only one window in the building which will not be required when the whole structure is perfected. The original design included a perfect system of gaol cells, entirely separated from communication with the rest of the buildings, except by the prisoners’ stairs, and these easily guarded and kept under inside supervision; also a tower, in which the public were admitted into the gallery. These were on the east side. On the south side, the grand jurors and witnesses for the case on trial were to have been accommodated.

The present building consists of a large chamber, or court hall, with side offices attached. The present entrance on the east side, which, in the perfect building, will be devoted to the use of Counsel and officers of the court, leads into a temporary wooden lobby, on the left of which is the Counsel’s retiring-room; this lobby opens into the hall, which forms the main part of the building. The walls are lofty, and the room is well lighted by five dormer windows on the east side in the roof, there being a triangular opening on the west end. This arrangement, which throws all the light from above, avoids unpleasant cross lights so disturbing to comfort. The hall is 50 feet long by 40 feet wide; the side walls are 24 feet in height, and 2 ft 6 ins thick; and the total height of the hall, from the floor to the apex of the roof is 46 feet. The walls are of grey tufa rubble work, well bonded with bond iron—a very important matter in this earthquake country. The jambs and lintels are of dressed stone of a lighter colour. There are four fireplaces, two at the back of the judge’s dais, and one on each side of the hall; these will perform the office of ventilating shafts. On the left hand corner of the room, and on a level with the dais, is a door leading to the old chambers. It is proposed to have a covered passage joining the two buildings together. On the right side of the hall are three rooms—the one nearest the dais is the judge’s retiring-room; the other two are to be devoted, on the original design, respectively to the male and female witnesses, but at present will be used by the grand jury. Between the judge’s and wit-
Collaborative practice training

By Gerry Deacon

On 21 and 22 September seven Canterbury lawyers, one Auckland barrister and a local chartered accountant completed introductory training in collaborative practice.

Collaborative practice is an out of court resolution process. It aims to help separating couples reach acceptable agreements without the acrimony commonly found in legal negotiations. “It is a better way to achieve fairness without the excessive stress and cost associated with legal proceedings,” says Cameron & Co partner Angeline Boniface.

The process involves meetings between the parties and their specially trained lawyers.

“There is an emphasis throughout the process on what is important to each client, and any children they may have, moving forward. This focus generally produces more satisfying and creative solutions for clients and their families,” explains Selina Trigg, Chair of Collaborative Advocacy NZ (CANZ).

She has been using the process with her own clients for the last six years. “The process has been used successfully overseas since the 1990s. It is exciting to see it introduced into Canterbury so that its benefits can be accessed by clients there,” she says.

Collaborative practice is an effective way of finding the interests that connect people – instead of focusing on what divides them. Before immigrating to New Zealand I practiced as a collaborative family lawyer in Edmonton, Canada. In Canada, collaborative practice has been widely adopted resulting in reductions in matters that would otherwise have gone to court. More importantly, the collaborative approach has often been transformative and parties have been better equipped to deal with ongoing issues as they arise. The results can be more enduring and damage to relationships can be reduced.

It is important for lawyers who undertake the collaborative process to be specially trained. “It’s an entirely new way of thinking about your client’s needs, and the client most definitely comes first,” says Ms Boniface.

She completed training in collaborative practice last year and is pleased to see the process adopted in Canterbury. “The training will provide Canterbury practitioners with valuable insights into this exciting way of sorting out family disputes. With one process, we will be able to achieve ‘win-win’ outcomes covering all aspects of a separation,” she says.

For those who missed out on the training this time around, CANZ is conducting a further two-day introductory training session in Dunedin on 16 and 17 November. For details and to find out more about collaborative practice, please go to: collaborativelaw.org.nz.

Are you happy at work?

By Leonie Queree

There are few reasons to believe the average solicitor is happy in their job. Recent Gallup data on employee engagement suggests that only three in 10 employees are happy in their jobs. Just try typing “My job is” into Google. What did you see? Chances are that the following appear at the top of the list “My job is boring”, “My job is making me sick” and “My job is done here”.

Conversations with employees often end up shifting from career success and productivity improvements to wellbeing and happiness. Yet, generally speaking, employers are more concerned about productivity and performance than employee happiness. In fact, some research has shown that increased happiness does not translate into higher productivity or performance (for example, a 2017 Gallup survey, “The Right Culture: Not Just About Employee Satisfaction” by Jim Harter and Annamarie Mann.

Yet today, many employees believe that they deserve to be happy at work and if their job can’t make them happy they should switch employers or look at other options. There is huge pressure to find the “perfect job”. Trying harder to “be happy” at work often results in employees becoming less happy. In attempting to float, you often end up sinking. The more energy and focus you put into being happy at work, the less happy you will be.

It may in fact seem back-to-front, but employees that have a certain level of in-built dissatisfaction (unhappiness) tend to be the most productive. It is dissatisfaction that leads to a desire to change or invent new ways of doing things – which in turn results in more productive work processes and happiness.

Perhaps it was someone who was unhappy with the slow speed of manually registering land transfer documents that led to the automation of Landonline, which ultimately made a lot of people happy and improved productivity.

Leonie Queree can be contacted at leonie@leorecruitment.co.nz or phone 021 205 7342.
 NZLS Continuing Legal Education (CLE Limited) To register and for other information check the CLE website, www.lawyerseducation.co.nz.

Christchurch

November

» 12-13 Nov – Reading Accounts and Balance Sheets
» 17 Nov – Evidence and Trial Preparation
» 21 Nov – Webinar – Domain Name Commission Advising Clients
» 22 November – Trust Account Supervisor Training Assessment day (40-50 hours prior self-study learning material)
» 28 Nov – Sentencing – In short

Out of Christchurch:

» 1 Nov – Auck Injunctions and other Emergency Relief
» 6 Nov – Auck – Spousal Maintenance – update and best practice
» 8-10 Nov Auck – Stepping Up
» 13 Nov - Wgtn, 14 Nov – Auck – Sub Division intensive
» 14-15 Nov Wgtn – Lawyer as Negotiator
» 16-18 Nov – Auck – Mediation for Lawyers part b – Civil/Commercial & Family
» 19-20 Nov Wgtn, 26-27 Nov – Auck – Intro to Family Law Advocacy and Practice
» 22 Nov – Auck – Gift or Loan

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MISSING WILL

Kleyzen, Jennifer Cherrie

Would any person or firm holding, or knowing the whereabouts of a Will or other document purporting to embody the testamentary intentions of Jennifer Cherrie Kleyzen formerly of Unit 11, 51 – 57 Meron Street, Southport Qld 4215 who died on 3 March 2018, please contact Emma Blay at Barry Nilsson:

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Harmans are delighted to announce the promotion of Harriet Daley and Rebecca Dempsey to Associates of the firm. Harriet is an integral and important member of our family law team which has an enviable reputation in all areas arising from relationship breakdowns. Rebecca has swiftly proved herself to be a valuable asset to our commercial and property team with special expertise in subdivisions. Both Harriet and Rebecca have earned their promotion through ability and hard work.
After 50 years of holding a practicing certificate, and 46 of those years with Wynn Williams, Andrew Young has decided to retire from practice.

Andrew started university studying history and political science, graduating with a Master of Arts with Honours. He then graduated with his law degree in 1966 and worked as a clerk with a Dunedin firm before moving to Oamaru. After a couple of years, he moved to Christchurch and worked as a planning assistant at the Christchurch City Council. This work was a great starting platform for becoming an expert in local government law.

There were no in-house legal counsel in the early 1970s and therefore his role was not strictly that of a lawyer. He was heavily involved in the first Christchurch City Council plan and one year handled over 200 appeals on that plan. After working with the council, he moved to Wynn Williams.

Andrew had a panel of partners interviewing him, comprising the late Sir Alan Holland, Justice Andrew Tipping and John Brown. He was clearly able to impress them sufficiently and was hired by Wynn Williams in 1972.

Andrew used the experience he had already gained to impress the partners at the time, and rose rapidly to become a partner himself, entering the partnership on the same day as Peter Whiteside, on 1 October 1974.

Andrew’s extensive knowledge and experience of local government and planning law matters continued and he acted for Selwyn District Council until the mid-1990s. He also provided legal advice to the Canterbury United Council (later to become the Canterbury Regional Council). In addition to this work he has had a substantial base of rural and private clients and has been involved in a great deal of trust work.

He will be greatly missed by his clients and by the partners and staff that have worked with him over the years. Andrew is wished all the very best for a happy, healthy and well-deserved retirement.