Communication transformation – online publication in pipeline

From the President

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou katoa

On 9 November I was pleased to welcome over 70 members of the Wellington Branch to our annual dinner. It was a great night despite the atrocious weather! We were rewarded with a wonderful address by Hon Justice Peter Churchman, and honoured once again by strong support from the judiciary.

These dinners are an important opportunity for collegiality in a challenging profession. We have been asked to address some uncomfortable realities of late, as a profession and within the Branch, regarding the culture of our profession. This has been confronting and challenging. It is therefore all the more important to gather collegially at such events as this dinner; to be able to reflect on and enjoy the best in our profession.

As the year draws to an end I want to acknowledge someone who has contributed significantly to the Branch but who has never sought the limelight. That is – the wonderful editor of Council Brief, Chris Ryan. Chris has decided that this December issue of Council Brief will be his last. Chris started out in a low key way, filling in occasionally for a lancer with several different jobs in the mid-90s, and has been a vital part of the Wellington Branch ever since.

Council Brief has played an important role in communicating with members and we want to continue that momentum. With this in mind, we will be launching a new online publication next year, in conjunction with a much improved Wellington Branch presence on the NZLS website. Watch this space!

Finally, I can’t close without acknowledging the worthy winner of the Rex Mason Prize for Excellence in Legal Writing, New Zealand’s longest-established legal writing award. My warmest congratulations to Ms Sarah Alawi, of Auckland firm Gilbert/Walker, who was recently presented with the award at a function hosted by Branch VP Steph Dyhrberg.

To you all, a very Merry Christmas, and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Sarah Alawi (centre), was presented with the Rex Mason Prize for legal writing at the Wellington Branch NZ Law Society recently. She is flanked by two of the judges, Professor Mark Hickford, Dean of Law at Victoria University and Brenda Midson, editor of the NZ Law Journal (the third judge Hon Justice Winkelmann was not present), Wellington Branch vice presidents Steph Dyhrberg, left, and Annette Gray, right, hosted the event.

Mason legal writing prize awarded

AUCKLAND lawyer Sarah Alawi has won the 2017 Hon Rex Mason for excellence in legal writing. The prize is awarded every December for the best article appearing in a New Zealand legal publication in the preceding year.

Ms Alawai received the award for her article “Gestational Surrogacy Disputes: A Proposed Cause for Action for Intended Parents in New Zealand”, which was published in the New Zealand Law Review in 2017.

Victoria University Law Dean Professor Mark Hickford, said all three judges quickly and independently determined that Ms Alawi’s article was a highly justifiable choice for the premier award.

There were three other writers who warranted high commendation:


The Rex Mason prize for legal writing was established in 1973 and is the oldest such prize in New Zealand. It commemorates Hon Rex Mason, a long-standing Labour member of parliament who was Minister of Justice and Attorney-General. He was elected to parliament in 1926 and retired in 1966 aged 81. The Wellington Branch is the trustee for the prize.

The Solicitors’ Benevolent Fund – ways to donate

Donations to The Solicitors’ Benevolent Fund can be made through:

• “Give a Little”: http://www.givealittle.co.nz/organisations/Solicitors, which will be automatically receipted, or

• by Direct debit: Bank of New Zealand: 02-0506-0101108-097

All donations go directly to the capital reserve. The Solicitors’ Benevolent Fund Trust is registered as a charitable trust (number CC48709) and has tax deductible status.

If a receipt is required when making a direct debit, please email wellington@lawociety.org.nz with your name, the amount deposited and a contact number to ensure a receipt is issued and sent to the correct place.
Counsel in Concert – Christmas at St Andrew’s on the Terrace

COUNSEL in Concert is based at Crown Law and has been running since 2009. The choir and orchestra are comprised of lawyers and legal staff from throughout the Wellington region, augmented by members of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra Wellington. Each year Counsel in Concert performs a large scale charity concert raising funds for the Child Cancer Foundation. Over 60 lawyers are involved in the event.

This year’s festive programme has a Christmas theme and includes Carol of the Bells, Poulenc Gloria, songs from Love Actually, Jesus Christ Superstar and more. The performance will be conducted by Luke Cunningham.

In addition to the choir, Counsel in Concert regularly features soloists from the legal profession. This year’s soloists include jazz singer Stephanie Bishop. Stephanie combines a busy legal practice as a Crown prosecutor and partner at Luke Cunningham Clerke with an extensive background performing nationally and in the UK as a jazz vocalist. This gift for the voice and the heart which is revealed in the performances of the choir and orchestra has been augmented in recent years by the inclusion of a jazz soloist. The choir is very much enjoying the opportunity of performing in a different genre with such a high calibre soloist.

The organisers are very grateful for the support of the event: Simpson Grierson, Tripe Matthews Feist, Stout Street Chambers, Greg Kelly Law, Rachael Dewar Law, New Zealand Law Society, Fyfe & Doherty, Lambton Chambers Barristers, Duncan Cotterill, WCM Legal and Extra Law. Thank you also to St Andrew’s on the Terrace and Orchestra Wellington. The generosity of the sponsors and other supporters means that all donations from the concerts go to the Child Cancer Foundation.

Any experienced legal singers who would like to join the choir for the performances would be very welcome, and can contact: merran.cooke@crownlaw.govt.nz

The performances are on Tuesday 18 December 2018 at 12.15 and 5.30 at St Andrew’s on the Terrace, Wellington. Entry by donation, all proceeds to the Child Cancer Foundation.
Hon Sir John McGrath – 10 March 1945-19 October 2018

John Joseph McGrath was given the names of his grandfather who had come from the West Coast to set up the family law firm in Wellington. John’s grandfather was an early mean t there was never any real doubt that he would follow his grandfather and his father and become the third generation in the firm.

John’s father Denis McGrath was a considerable figure in law and in Wellington. He was president of the Wellington District Law Society and the New Zealand Law Society and deputy mayor of Wellington.

His mother, Margaret Fraser, a talented artist, came from New Plymouth where her family were in business.

He started school at Clifton Terrace School, continued at Karori Primary School after the family moved to Karori. After four years, he went as a boarder to Huntley School, in Marton, in the Wairarapa. He later went to Wellington Collegiate. John appreciated the activities and sports on offer at Huntley which drew him out from being a shy bookish boy. It gave him a lifelong love of sport, particularly cricket and hockey, although he admitted to having been more enthusiastic than proficient.

He enjoyed his time at Wanganui Collegiate, where he appreciated the sound education and the friends he made. He went on to Victoria University of Wellington to start a law degree.

In his first year John took political science, French and English as well as his legal system. But after his first year he concentrated on law alone, because he was impatient to get into legal practice. John appreciated the teachers he had at the university, particularly Jack Aikman, Ken Keith, Ivor Richardson, Don Matheson and Peter McKenzie. All became good friends and Ivor Richardson in particular became a mentor to John. After two years of full-time study, John studied part-time while clerking at Bell Gully as was then the usual pattern.

At university he became active in student politics of the Victoria University Students’ Association and then of the NZ Students’ Association.

He maintained his association with Victoria University for 20 years as a member of the Council and later the elected representative of the court of convocation.

He was treasurer of the university and pro-chancellor to Ivor Richardson’s chancellor. When Ivor decided to retire, he was an obvious if rather young replacement as chancellor.

Early practice

Following two years as a clerk at Bell Gully, John’s legal career began in 1969 when he joined his father’s practice in Woodward Street. John had a solid grounding in knockabout practice, but the firm gave him a regular rotation of John’s commercial work. John was always grateful for the instruction he had from Tim Blemmerhasset and Kevin Robinson, who were his father’s partners. He also had the opportunity to work with outstanding advocates such as BB Cooke QC, John Jeffries and Gerald Tuohy QC.

In 1975 he left the family firm and solicitors were taken on as a young replace ment as partner at Buddle Findlay. The firm was a much larger practice and John was recruited to undertake commercial work, which he did with real success.

Ten years later, at the age of 38 in 1983, a bold thing to do – there was no great tradition of practice at the junior bar in those days. But he was immediately successful to the extent that three years later he was appointed Queen’s Counsel. He gained a sound reputation in commercial law and was briefed in a variety of cases by firms from around New Zealand.

Three years after taking silk, John was approached by that fine spotter of talent, Sir Geoffrey Palmer, then Attorney-General, to succeed Paul Neazor as Solicitor-General. Ivor Richardson, who had been a mentor and friend to John since teaching him his Master’s degree, had already told John to think about the Solicitor-General position as a next step and sold it as the best legal job in the country. Bruce Robertson, who had his ear to the ground then, as ever, tipped John off that the position was becoming vacant with Paul Neazor’s appointment to the High Court. So, when Geoffrey Palmer asked John whether he was interested, as they walked in the capping parade together in 1989, John accepted the spot – just in case, as he later said, Geoffrey changed his mind. It was a demonstration of the decisiveness for which John was celebrated.

Crown Solicitor

John had no doubt that this was his life’s work to do. He understood its scope and its essentiality. No one before or since has ever explained so well why the role of Solicitor-General is central to the constitutional balances in our legal order. John saw that underlying the role of the Solicitor-General was the constitutional responsibility of the government to govern in accordance with law.

He served successive governments of different stripes with great distinction: he fronted for the Crown in all important cases in the courts, appearing 64 times in the Court of Appeal and seven times in the Privy Council. He was part of the distinguished legal team that represented New Zealand at the International Court of Justice in the French underground case.

His own view of the role of the Solicitor-General was that it had two functions, one enabling and one constraining. First it was necessary to ensure that government was not impeded by legal process from lawfully implementing its chosen policies. To that extent, the role of the Solicitor-General was to assist in the exercise of governmental functions. Secondly, however, it was critical for the Solicitor-General to ensure that the government acted within the law in pursuing its objectives. That was its constitutional obligation.

The 11 years in which John McGrath was Solicitor-General were full of what he later called “constitutional drama”. They were the years of restructuring of the electoral system, of coalition government and caretaker governments, of development of new constitutional conventions to respond to the different circumstances of proportional representation, of the new climate of freedom of information (which transformed the way government worked), the adoption of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act, and the years of corporatisation of the Crown’s trading activities. They were years in which, following the New Zealand Māori Council case in 1987 legal issues affecting Māori were litigated in the courts. John valued the opportunity to participate in resolving grievances that had been outstanding for so long and was conscious that this was a significant moment in our history.

John McGrath was Solicitor-General at a time of great change, and therefore some risk. But in 2003, John regarded abolition of appeals to the Privy Council as essential if New Zealand law was to develop with an understanding of New Zealand conditions, history and traditions. He saw the Supreme Court as not another level of appeal but as the ultimate responsibility for elucidating the legal principles important to the legal order.

John found the work on the Supreme Court extremely fulfilling and enjoyed having the opportunity to draw on his experiences in law and policy while Solicitor-General and in university administration. He was a truly fulfilling life with a number of Court – and he was an intellectual mainstay of it. As a judge he was always well prepared, polite and attentive. He was cautious, as any judge of a final court of appeal would be, but he had the confidence and experience to move the law when it was required and as long as the development was principled and was true to the judicial oath. John was a thoughtful, sometimes funny and always careful. They were clearly expressed. He relieved me and others of a huge amount of work, was always cheerful and effective.

He was a supportive colleague with an impish sense of humour.

One has no more contributed as a Judge of the Supreme Court in the exposition and development of legal principles than Justice McGrath. In 300 substantive judgments in the Supreme Court he was in the minority only 19 times. In general, where John went, the Court went.

Appreciation

John McGrath’s life’s work was his commitment to constitutional government in which he strongly believed. He has been to the great benefit of our society. Rightly, then, he was acknowledged in his lifetime with a number of honours, Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa), Knight Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit, Honorary Bencher of the Inner Temple. He valued these awards, they were more than lip service. For him, the satisfaction was in work well performed and the knowledge that it was of value to the country he loved.

I am conscious that in describing John McGrath’s life and public achievements I have said too little about the man. Our friend. So let me end with a short summary of the man. John McGrath was someone who was kind and warm and passionately engaged in life. He was curiously always about the world. He had a vivid mind. A mild manner and covering courtesy concealed a steely determination. He was someone who had no time for pretence. And someone who saw his role as inevitable and important: our society’s protection of the rights of the citizen. That did not of course mean that he had to set the world to rights. As John saw it, the rule of law also operated to restrain judicial action because judges were bound by constitutional principles. He developed appreciation that the chains that bind judges are what ensure their legitimacy.

John was a hard-working and valued member of the Court of Appeal, then as now an extremely busy court. He sat in over 700 appeals in his five years on the Court, dissenting in only a handful. He was delighted to join Sir John Steadman and Sir Sir Anthony Gault as a President. John’s collegiality and experience made his contribution to the Court especially valuable when the setting up of the Supreme Court in 2003 cleared out all the senior members of the Court of Appeal, including its then president, Sir Thomas Gault. The new intake of Court of Appeal judges relied heavily on John. All spoke of the help they received from him.

It was clear however that John’s time at the Court of Appeal was going to be limited because the seniorness of the first appointees to the Supreme Court made it clear that a new Court would occur shortly. John was the obvious replacement at the first retirement. He therefore became the first judge to be appointed to the Supreme Court when it was established in 2003.

His was an appointment for the future and important because it was the appointment of someone who believed in the Court and the aspirations with which it was set up.

John’s appearances in the Privy Council have convinced him that although the British judges were, as he said, “clever and charming”, they also had a genuine lack of knowledge of New Zealand conditions, and little interest in developing law that was fit for our needs. John had written a report on replacing the Privy Council for the Roger government. Although the step was not taken at that time, it was accomplished in

Justice Rt Hon Dame Sian Elias at

Continued page 4
Annual Dinner

Donations to the Solicitors Benevolent Fund can be made through:

- "Give a Little" http://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/Solicitors, which will be automatically receipted, or
- by Direct debit: Bank of New Zealand: 02-0506-0101108-097

All donations go directly to the capital reserve. The Solicitors’ Benevolent Fund Trust is registered as a charitable trust (number CC48709) and has tax deductible status.

If a receipt is required when making a direct debit, please email wellington@lawsociety.org.nz with your name, the amount deposited and a contact number to ensure a receipt is issued and sent to the correct place.

The Solicitors’ Benevolent Fund – ways to donate

Law graduate CV scheme

WELLINGTON Branch runs a scheme to assist law graduates into work.

Graduates seeking employment leave their CV’s with the Branch. These are then made available to potential employers looking for staff.

Employment offered need not be permanent – any work in a law office will give graduates valuable experience.

And the scheme does work! A graduate emailed: “I’ve been meaning to email to say a big ‘Thank you’ to the CV scheme folks. Last year my CV got passed on to a firm in Palmerston North, and I’ve been working there since late January. So, many thanks for having me in the CV scheme, it made all the difference! I am now in employment.”

Contact the Branch: email wellington@lawsociety.org.nz or phone 04 463 2925.

Sir John McGrath

powerful mind and fierce attachment to principle.

John believed himself lucky in his life. It may seem as though he was born to succeed – but really he was born to service. Any luck he had was of his own making and because of his own qualities. He was one of those rare people who set the frames of reference by which the rest of us aspire to live. Our hearts go out to Chris and to John’s family at this time. All of us who had John in our lives count ourselves very fortunate. And we will miss him all our lives.

The Last Resort golf tournament is planned for Friday 22 February 2019. Don’t miss out – note in your diary now!
AS part of celebrations of the 125th anniversary of women’s suffrage in New Zealand, Hon Justice Dame Susan Glazebrook reflected on gender equality in the law, at a meeting with members of the Women in Law Committee in October.

Dame Susan started her presentation by discussing the progress made in the year celebrating the 125th anniversary since women won the right to vote, but also the mixed messages that the early New Zealand suffragists would give our society in the present day.

Her Honour discussed the statistics regarding the position of women in the profession, which lead to greater third party partners in law firms and members of the judiciary are women, and the percentage of female QC’s is even lower at around 20%. She also raised the issue of position of women who are non-Pākehā, and not from privileged backgrounds. 50% of students from high decile schools go to university, and only 17% from the low deciles make it to university. This differential is even more marked in university courses like law, with 60% of students accepted into law, medicine, and engineering in the past 5 years coming from the richest third of homes, while 6% came from the poorest third, and just 1% from decile one schools.

Her Honour then discussed why we have not achieved the changes we need in the legal profession, and did so by debunking popular myths such as “it’s just a matter of time”, “women choose different career paths”, “mentoring is the key”, “women should network more”, and “it’s all about merit”.

She discussed recent trends and provided interesting case examples highlighting unconscious and conscious biases that women encounter. Her overall conclusion was that she had a “cautious optimism” about the future. She drew on positive examples of trends and changes in various industries and parts of the world to show this. For example, so called ‘female characteristics’ that have often been viewed in a negative light are now understood to be beneficial in leadership roles. Further, that companies with a gender balance and ethnic diversity perform better, and diversity at senior levels may lead to greater understanding of the client base and also provide new ways of thinking.

Her Honour’s view is that the pressure for change will also come from “outside forces”, including from clients. One example she provided was a client requiring reporting from the firm it worked with about not only the number of women partners and solicitors, but also on the level and value of work done by these women. She also noted that pressure will also come from within, from both men and women.

Many young men now want time and proper involvement with their families and a life outside work. Justice Glazebrook posited that gender equality is “a man’s issue as much as a woman’s issue”, and that any real change will require men in senior positions to commit to ensuring that the playing field is levelled.

---

**Footnotes**

1 Teicher and Samson, 2016
2 New South Wales Therapeutic Care Framework

---

**Family Courts Association hears of the ‘dilemmas and difficulties’ of foster care**

By Shelley Stevenson

Dr Kelly said that there is very little research on how best to manage children transitioning from one placement to another. Oranga Tamariki has a clear guideline for transitioning children which is not always followed. Oranga Tamariki need easy access to psychologists and psychotherapists to provide developmental information and advice to social workers about transitions.

Children who are placed with their siblings are much less likely to experience a change of placement than children placed alone. But Dr Kelly encouraged careful assessment of suitability of siblings to be placed together, including whether younger siblings were at risk from older siblings (e.g. violence, sexual behaviour, observing alcohol and drug abuse).

Dr Kelly suggested a road map for changes to improve the outcomes for children in out of home care as follows.

1. A specialist Masters level qualification in care and protection social work which would include training in maltreatment dynamics, trauma-informed care, including foster parents in the team, mental health diagnosis and treatment and preventing burn-out.
2. A clear social work best practice pathway for placement transitions, sibling placements and early and intensive intervention for placements at risk of disruption.
3. Clear, regular reporting to government about the average number of reports of concern before action is taken to remove a child and the number of placement changes for the children in Oranga Tamariki care.
4. Urgent need for research into the threshold for placing children in out of home care as follows.
5. Research into whether transitional changes made to siblings that are treated differently, especially at a higher or lower threshold or both.
6. Individualised, team-based, holistic therapeutic care for children in out of-home care to deal with the complex impacts of trauma, the separation from families and other forms of severe adversity. Ideally in-house therapy units within Oranga Tamariki.
7. Specifically trained in-house psychologists and psychotherapists employed by Oranga Tamariki to be available to advise social workers.
8. A ‘poor practice’ phone line for professionals to report such poor practice.

There is a lot of work to be done. People like Dr Kelly are significantly better equipped to make a significant difference to New Zealand children who are most at risk of the worst life outcomes.
Select Committee recommends trans* rights

By Rosie Jimson-Healey, Kaihāpai Hapori/Community Education Coordinator

AS Aotearoa inches away from straight, cis-gendered norms, so too does the law bend to accommodate. This is little bit queerer. Now our sex is considered more diverse than ever, so AS Aotearoa inches away from the legal standard. Of course, desire but financial incapacity to undergo treatment or surgery is a very real risk for many people. We know the minority stress experienced by these communities is behind rampaging suicide and mental health statistics, often compounded by intersecting oppressions including race and class; and mismatched identity documents can provide ammunition for further discrimination. Being outed by a stray piece of mail that uses your old name or title is a very real risk and the associated loss of privacy, safety, and even stability in housing and employment is real; I’ll never forget moving my family to Wellington in the middle of the night following a neighbour finding mail addressed to his old name, and the risk this posed to his immediate safety.

The recommended new process outlined in the Select Committee recommendations is an administrative one-step statutory declaration process, in line with the processes for correcting gender markers on driver licences and passports. This kind of self-declaration simply requires you to state the sex or gender identity you need on your passport or driver licence. You could also choose to add how long you’ve maintained that gender identity. The options for sex/gender markers recommended by the committee are: Intersex, X (unspecified), Female, Male. Our sex is now considered more diverse than ever, so our legal frameworks need to keep up.

Book for Law Society events

Most events presented by NZLS Wellington Branch are on a user-pays basis. It is very helpful if bookings are made as soon as possible so that the viability of the event can be assured and catering can be accurately estimated. Members are able to book for most events at: http://bookwhen.com/wellington-branch

Cricketing lawyers wanted!

We are looking for cricket playing lawyers to play against a team of Australian lawyers in Hamilton on 7 and 8 January 2019. The games will be 35 overs and will be a good mix of social and competitive. If you think you should be on the team or know a lawyer who should please call Scott Donaldson on 022 623 0711 or email sidonaldson@gmail.com

Participate – join a committee!

OJIR special interest groups or “committees” play an extremely important part in the life of the Wellington Branch. Amongst other activities, they provide a place for people who work in the same area of law to meet; share information and common areas of concern; feed into the NZLS national Law Reform Committee submissions; organise relevant and timely CPD events; provide a forum for lawyers in private practice and in-house practice to meet; allow newly-admitted lawyers to benefit from the experience of those who have been in practice for many years.

How to join a Committee

A “call for committees” goes out in the middle of May, at which point conveners will receive the forms to allow existing members to re-enroll; forms for new members will be available through E-brief and in the June issue of Council Brief. Existing and intending members of committees are invited to register their interest by completing a form which they send to Wellington@lawsociety.org.nz by 30 June. You can join a committee at any time during the year, however, by emailing wellington@lawsociety.org.nz.
Putting your best foot forward – etiquette at professional events
By Ella Scown, Prosecutor with the Police Prosecution Service in Lower Hutt

Most young lawyers can think of a time where they have shown up to a professional event under-prepared, having over-indulged on alcohol, or feeling too nervous to speak to unfamiliar people. But don’t let those awkward moments put you off attending future events! There is nothing more valuable to a young lawyer’s career than connecting with peers and other legal professionals. Each event should be treated as a not-to-be-missed learning and networking opportunity.

1. Leading up to the event
When you sign up or receive an invitation to an event, RSVP in a timely manner. Usually, event organisers will have an attendance quota – RSVPing you are locking in your spot and ensuring you can attend this valuable networking opportunity. If you can no longer attend an event for a legitimate reason, offer your apologies to the appropriate person as far in advance as possible. If it makes sense, and is appropriate to do so, offer your place to someone else so that the event does not suffer from lack of attendance.

Before you attend the event, do your due diligence. If there are VIPs attending, make sure you have some idea of who they are, what they do, and how to address them. Brainstorm some intelligent questions you might want to ask them, or topics you could raise for conversation. A question as simple as, “have you been having a busy week” or “are you working on any interesting cases at the moment?” opens up discussion on interesting matters. Plus, most people love to talk about themselves and share war stories, so this is a great place to start.

If you are the type of person who gets nervous when attending networking events, make sure you are prepared. Check that your personal hygiene is acceptable – wear deodorant and a blazer if you are prone to sweating. You could also wear cologne or perfume, but make sure you don’t overdo it.

Invite someone from your firm or another friend in the profession to come along with you – but try not to stick with them all night. The aim of the game is to exude confidence on the outside, even if you aren’t feeling it on the inside.

Lastly, ensure the event is being held and how to get to there. This will mean you avoid turning up flustered or late. Check traffic delays, what time public transport is operating or where the nearest parking is, and what room the event is being held in.

2. At the event
Punctuality is a sign of respect – show others that their time is just as important as your own.

“Better to be late, than arrive ugly” might be a fitting excuse for a weekend social event, but it will not go down well in a professional situation.

In saying that, it is important to ensure that you are wearing professional attire. This means dressing formally in work attire. Formality can vary based on the type of event – take this into consideration when choosing your outfit. Carrying a tie in your pocket so that you can put it on if the situation demands it. Ladies – avoid wearing anything that suggests you are heading out clubbing after the event.

Aim to exude professionalism. Introduce yourself with a firm (but not overly firm) handshake. If you have business cards, bring them along. Make sure your phone is either turned off, or at least on silent. If possible, leave your phone in your pocket or bag for the duration of the event. Not having your phone in your hand will mean that you engage with other attendees with fewer distractions.

If you have already attended a few of these networking events, you may have noticed that, more often than not, free alcohol is provided. That certainly doesn’t mean that you should try and get your money’s worth. As a general rule of thumb, it might pay to enforce a strict two-drink limit on yourself. That way, you remain professional and in control at all times, and avoid those awkward moments we mentioned before. This really is one of the most important tips to take from this guide – leave your mates at home! You don’t want people’s impression of you to be “slurry Sam” or “shouty Samantha” – you want to leave people with the impression that you are a skilled and sharp young lawyer.

Finally, as nice as it is to enjoy your comfort zone, try to step outside of it. Approach people you haven’t spoken to before, and refrain from standing huddled in a group of your friends. Networking is a skill you must learn and practise. If you feel confident enough, make introductions to any newcomers who join the group. This helps to assimilate them into the conversation and can also be a polite way to leave the group if you want to move on to talk to others.

3. After the event
If you have made any meaningful connections, follow these up by connecting with those people by email, phone or on LinkedIn. Whether you’re a law student, a law clerk or a solicitor, LinkedIn is for anybody looking for new opportunities to grow their careers and to connect with other professionals.

Keep these hot tips in mind when you think about attending your next event and it is sure to be a success!

This article was written on behalf of the ADLS Newly Suited Committee and first appeared in LawNews Issue 34, 28 September 2018, published by ADLS. It is reproduced here with permission.

Former judge and Wairarapa practitioner dies
FORMER Judge Neville Jaine died recently.

Mr Jaine was born and raised in Masterton. He was admitted in 1962 and was a partner in the firm Burridge Blackwood Jaine and Leitch.

He was appointed to the district court bench at the age of 38 in 1978. He held a warrant as a temporary High Court Judge in 1992 and 1995, and was acting Chief District Court Judge in 1995 and 1997. He was appointed as Police Complaints Authority in 1997.

You can use this diagram for either the Quick or Cryptic Clues, but the answers in each case are different. This month’s solutions are on page 2.

COUNCIL BRIEF CROSSWORD

Quick Clues

ACROSS
1. Meal (6)
4. Peril (6)
9. Distance round (13)
10. Go before (7)
11. Tend (5)
12. Decrease (5)
14. Did business (5)
18. Happen (5)
19. Swiss lake (7)
21. Receptacle for (6)
22. Straight (6)
23. Call to help (6)

DOWN
1. Formula (6)
2. Upright (13)
3. Drains, dips, sumps (7,3,4)
4. Dispose (7)
5. Spanish dictator (7,6)
6. Bird (5)
7. Lasting a long time (5)
8. Took off (6)
10. In (6)
11. Kindly (6)
12. Staggered (6)
13. Peril (6)
14. Upright (13)
15. Took twice in a moment, but I (7)
16. Lax (5)
17. Relish (5)
18. Upright (13)
19. Formula (6)
20. Hut (5)
21. Take of (6)
22. Wind a kind of thread (5)
23. See 9 Across
The fourteenth annual Des Deacon memorial dinner was another glittering and sold-out triumph. Many members of the local bench and bar gathered again at the Wellesley Boutique Hotel’s grand dining hall to celebrate another year.

The event organiser Lucie Scott gave a wonderful welcoming speech, before Judge Noel Sainsbury returned to introduce the evening’s main speaker, Judge Peter Hobbs.

Judge Hobbs reflected on his many achievements as a scholar, including being head-hunted by Canterbury University when the local school failed to see his potential, before paying credit to the vast experience of the current Wellington judicial common room.

Liz Hall rounded off the evening with the year’s awards.

Council Brief editor bows out

By Chris Ryan

This issue of Council Brief is my last as editor.

Over the years I have worked with more than a dozen presidents who have all, unfailingly, been amiable, accommodating and helpful to me, and respectful of my role as editor. The same goes for the Wellington Branch manager Annelies Windmill and previous managers, and for two executive directors of the previous Wellington District Law Society. I have enjoyed working with them all.

I would like to thank the many lawyers who have welcomed me – a non-lawyer – into their seminars, meetings, social engagements and sporting events, and trusted my judgement. It has been a stimulating and enjoyable time.

And thanks also for David Dunbar’s kind words at the annual dinner on 9 November and for the presentation.

E noho ra.