



# Boardroom and Bench

The quarterly newsletter of the Women Lawyers' Association of South Australia Inc.

June 2007

Volume 1, Issue 2

## Special points of interest:

**New look mentoring scheme for 2007!**

**Events Diary 2007—plan your diary in advance**

**Inaugural National Women Lawyers Conference**

**Profile: Justice Kemerl Murray**

**Taste SA's finest wine and cheese— at our next function!**

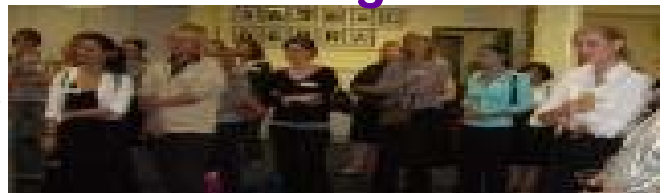
**How to join WLA**

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## First Function in 2007 —A big hit!

On the 22nd March WLA held its first networking function for 2007 with drinks to celebrate the new year.



WLA committee member Claire O'Connor spoke on the topic "Where a law degree in a skirt can lead you—fighting for truth and justice or against lies".

Over 50 guests attended the function at Law Society House which had a specific focus for law students and recent graduates.

The event provided an excellent opportunity for students

and new members of the profession to mingle and speak with current members about practising as a female practitioner in South Australia.

We were also pleased to welcome many new members to the Association.

Feedback from guests was extremely positive with many young practitioners inspired by Claire's experiences and em

powered by her advice on how to stay focused and become a successful female practitioner.

WLA will be holding more networking events throughout 2007 including the upcoming function **'Women winemakers and women cheese makers' on July 5th 2007 at Law Society House.**

**Amy Challans**

## WLA mentoring scheme

WLA has decided to expand its judicial mentoring scheme between female members of the profession and South Australia's female judiciary.

The scheme is open to all law students and female practitioners in South Australia.

The aim of the scheme is to foster a collaborative and supportive networking

environment where female practitioners can meet and discuss common issues and share experiences.

The mentoring scheme will be hosted by WLA in the form of informal drinks on the first Tuesday of alternate months from 6:00 –7:00pm at the Kings Head Hotel 357 King William Road, Adelaide.

Each meeting will be attended by at least 2 female members of South Australia's judiciary

in addition to senior female barristers and solicitors.

Law students and current practitioners who are interested in joining WLA are welcome to fill out a membership form on the night!

**Stay tuned for the next mentoring session which will be announced shortly!**

# Profile Series: Justice Kemerl Anne Murray

## Career Highlights

- 1955** Admitted as barrister and solicitor of the South Australian Supreme court
- 1955** Married Eric Murray and had 2 children
- 1956-73** Partnership with Giles Magarey & Lloyd, SA
- 1973-1976** Judge District Court, SA
- 1974-1996** Council member, Flinders University  
Judge of the Family Court of Australia
- 1976** Awarded Queens Silver Jubilee Medal
- 1977** Member of the Church of England Commission of Social Responsibilities
- 1978-1992** Member of Commonwealth Government Advisory Council of Inter-Government Relations
- 1980-1984** Judge Administrator of Adelaide Registry
- 1982** Chairman of the Sex Discrimination Board, South Australia
- 1982-1985** Chairman of the Church of England Commission of Women's Issues
- 1986-1992** Appointed Dame Commander Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem
- 1995** Companion at Flinders University, SA
- 1997** Chairman of the commonwealth Club
- 1998-1999** Retired from Family Court of Australia
- 2007**



**Name:** Kemerl Anne Murray

**Occupation:** Judge

**Court:** Family Court Australia

**Born:** 28 January 1932

**State:** Adelaide, SA

In this profile we acknowledge and celebrate the career of Justice Kemerl Murray, Australia's longest serving judge who has recently retired after 34 years on the bench.

Kemerl Murray graduated from Adelaide University in 1953 with a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor Arts in 1954. One year later she married Eric Murray and was admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of South Australia.

Justice Murray studied piano under Raymond O'Connell while doing articles at Vaughan, Porter and English, a well known South Australian Law firm.

After being admitted in 1955 she transferred to Brian Magarey and was offered a partnership, making her the first married woman to be offered a partnership in South Australia.

In 1973 she was appointed to the Bench of the District Court in South Australia, becoming the second woman judge in the State behind Dame Roma Mitchell.

In 1976 Justice Murray was appointed to the bench of the Family Court, where she continued to preside until her retirement in 2007.

In 1977 Justice Murray was awarded the Queens Silver Jubilee Medal and was appointed as Dame Commander Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem in 1995.

During her long and distinguished career in the law, Justice Murray has held a number of important positions including Chairman of the Sex Discrimination Board of South Australia between 1982 - 1985 and Chairman of the Church of England Commission of Women's Issues between 1986 and 1992.

We congratulate Justice Murray on her long and distinguished career in the law and wish her all the best for the future.

*In 1973 Justice Murray was appointed to the Bench of the District Court in South Australia, becoming the second woman judge in the State behind Dame Roma Mitchell.*

## President's Message

Dear Members and Friends

The management of Women Lawyers SA continues to be busy organising activities to support, encourage and provide a social outlet for women in the legal profession.

I encourage you to join us on the evening of 5 July at the Law Society for a wine and cheese tasting night at which well-respected Family Law expert Julie Redman will speak informally on what it is like to manage your own practice.

As President of WLASA, I also represent us on the board of Australian Women Lawyers.

Having recently attended a face-to-face meeting in Sydney I would like to take this opportunity to report on two events being organised by AWL this year.

The first is a dinner to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of the founding of AWL. It will be held at Zinc restaurant in Melbourne on 7 September 2007.

Chief Justice (Victoria) Marilyn Warren will be the speaker with former High Court Justice Mary Gaudron a special guest..

I encourage anyone interested in attending to contact me via the Law Society as we may be able to organise a "SA" table. It should be a great night.

The second is still a while off, but make a note in your diaries. hosting another on 13-14 June 2008, in Melbourne. After the success of the inaugural 2006 Women Lawyers conference in Sydney, the



Next AWL event will be on 13-14 June 2008, in Melbourne

Wishing everyone the best for what is often a very busy time in the lead up to the end of the Financial Year. Ward off those winter chills by joining us for a glass of wine on 5 July!

**Kerry Clark**  
**President of WLASA**  
**Associate**

## Inaugural Women Lawyers' Conference

Sydney in Spring is hard to beat. Especially when you are attending an inspirational conference in the luxurious and comfortable Sheraton Park Hotel with the beautiful surrounds of Hyde Park and the magnificent gnarled Moreton Bay Fig Trees just a step away.

This was the setting of the inaugural Australian Women Lawyers' conference late last year. Attended by over 200 women lawyers from around Australia (including 9 from SA) the conference was lively and jam-packed with interesting speakers who spoke eloquently on a wide range of diverse and substantive topics.

The conference theme was 'Celebrating Excellence'. Such excellence was evident, not only in the calibre of the speakers, but in the conversations and questions of engaged participants and the smooth running of the 2 day conference delivered by an outstanding team of conference organisers. There were a number of plenary sessions at the conference which covered the human rights theme, and a number of different streams which covered various topics including property and finance, litigation and corporate governance. There was a stellar cast of speakers, including a number of excellent

speakers from South Australia. At times it was difficult to choose between the different streams given the interesting papers being presented and the calibre of the speakers concerned.

The very inspiring speakers included (but were not limited to) Mary Gaudron QC, AWL's patron and the keynote speaker, who spoke in her usual inimitable feisty style (despite a bad case of laryngitis/flu) about the need for women lawyers to keep demanding gender equality to ensure a just society.

Nicola Roxon (then shadow Attorney General) provoked much thought with her wry observations about the public perception of lawyers. Alexandra Richards QC talked about the Rwandan War Crimes Tribunal; Professor Hilary Charlesworth talked about the role of women in building a democracy after conflict and Justice Robyn Layton spoke of children and the criminal justice legal system in Australia.

In the final plenary session Jennifer Burn described the horrors of the human trafficking and slavery in Australia and there was discussion of the insanity defence and the impact of detention on the mental health of detainees



The latter paper was presented by our own Claire O'Connor who spoke passionately and inspiringly on the impact of detention on the mental health of detainees. Despite the difficulties of being the last speaker, Claire still managed to attract rousing applause and great accolade. The conference culminated in a dinner which by all accounts was a lively and noisy affair where everyone danced the night away!

All in all the conference lived up to its promise to be an exciting and stimulating event and provided a great opportunity to hear inspirational speakers, meet other lawyers from around Australia and catch up with old friends. Rumour is that the next conference will be held in 2008 in Melbourne – we look forward to it and suggest you look out for it!

**Polly Dixon and Jane Knowler**  
**WLA Committee Members**

# Events Diary 2007

## WLA Events

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Women wine makers and women cheese makers | Thursday 5 July        |
| Annual General Meeting (AGM)              | Wednesday 26 September |

## Law Society Events

- |                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Law Society's Annual Dinner | Friday 15 June     |
| New Lawyers' Ball           | Friday 13 July     |
| LSSA/AMA Golf Day           | Friday 7 September |
| Quiz Night                  | Friday 5 October   |
| Lawyers' Picnic             | Sunday 25 November |

## Professional Development

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Helping young Lawyers Build a Strong Law Foundation — Half Day Workshop  | Thursday 21 June      |
| Etiquette in the Court Room  | Wednesday 27 June     |
| Stamp Duty Update  | Wednesday 13 June     |
| IPPA Training and Development Workshop—<br>Career Planning in the Public Sector<br>Contact IPAASA (08) 8212 7555 | Thursday 18th October |
| IPPA Training and Development Workshop—<br>Emotional Intelligence<br>Contact IPAASA (08) 8212 7555               | Thursday 13 September |



### Women Lawyers Committee Members

Katherine Arcondoulis

Sarah Attar

Melissa Ballantyne

Anne Barnett

Ruth Beach

Shelley Broadbent

Amy Challans

Jo-Anne Deuter

Polly Dixon

Anne Hewitt

Lisa Jarrett

Anna Kennett

Jane Knowler

Karla McCulloch

Christina Von Meunster

Sarah Mitchell

Claire O'Connor

## WLA who are we?

The Women Lawyers' Association of South Australia Inc is a professional association that represents the interests of women legal practitioners across South Australia. The Association is an affiliate of the national branch of Women Lawyers' and meets once a month at the Law Society of South Australia.

The SA branch of the Association runs many fundraising events for charity as well as making representations to parliament and other bodies on issues that impact upon the status of women in the law and society. The Association also fosters networking amongst women members of the profession by hosting a range of social and professional development events through out the calendar year.

## Membership

Membership of the Association is open to all female practitioners and female law students who wish to further the interests of women under the law and women legal practitioners in South Australia. To find out how to become a member of the Women Lawyers' Association of SA log on to our website at [www.womenlawyerssa.org.au](http://www.womenlawyerssa.org.au) or contact the Law Society of South Australia.

## NOTICE

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 26th September 2007

Law Society House, Waymouth Street

## Next Event

Women Winemakers and Women Cheese makers

5:30 –7:00pm Thursday 5th July

Law Society House ,Waymouth Street

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

WWW.WOMENLAWYERSSA.  
ORG.AU

