

CLANT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
FRIDAY 21THOCTOBER 2011
TIM'S SURF AND TURF
MINUTES

Commenced: - 5.30pm

Attended

1. John Lawrence SC
2. Jodi Truman
3. Robert Welfare
4. Alan Woodcock
5. Thomas Wallace-Parnell
6. Chantelle Bala
7. Beth Wild
8. Amie Hancock
9. Melanie Robinson
10. Tom Berkley
11. Mark Johnson
12. Simon Lee
13. Suzan Cox QC
14. Peter Thomas
15. David Morters
16. Chrissy McConnell
17. Libby Armitage
18. Ian Read
19. Imogen Taylor
20. Claire Henderson
21. Megan Voller
22. Nicola MacCarron
23. Fernanda Dahlstrom
24. Koulla Roussos
25. Louise Bennett
26. Ian Rowbottam
27. Rosemary Jacob
28. Iva Ninkovic
29. Michael Burrows
30. Jon Tippett QC

Apologies

1. Jenny Blokland J
2. Dean Mildren J
3. Helena Blundell
4. Russell Goldflam
5. Carly Ingles
6. Sandy Lau
7. Les McCrimmon
8. Ruth Brebner
9. Austin Asche QC
10. Ian McMinn
11. Peter Elliott

President John Lawrence opened the meeting, welcoming everyone and running through the order of business.

The President then asked if anyone wanted to comment on the minutes of the 2009 AGM; no one did and those minutes were accepted.

President's Report

It has been a great privilege and an honour to serve as the President of the Criminal Lawyers Association of the Northern Territory, which this year marked its 25 year anniversary of being founded at the Sheraton Hotel. CLANT has remained an active and progressive association during the last 25 years and a special dinner will be held later this year to celebrate the anniversary.

The President noted that he had served as President for the last four years since being elected in 2007 as well as for a previous term of four years beginning back in 1999. He noted that during that period CLANT has grown considerably, with this year's conference being an outstanding success with the largest ever number of delegates attending. The President has been approached by a number of life members of CLANT who have said that it was the best CLANT conference ever. The conference has traditionally been held at the Bali Hyatt which will be unavailable in 2013 as renovations will be taking place at the time it is usually held and this will pose a challenge for the new committee. The President announced he is retiring as President.

The biggest issue facing CLANT for a long time has been the outrageously disproportionate number of Aboriginal citizens imprisoned in the Northern Territory. Twenty years ago, a Royal Commission headed by Jim Muirhead examined this situation, with many enquiries, much research and hundreds of recommendations having been made to governments in the years since. Twenty years after the Royal Commission the situation is worse. We have gone backwards. As the players in the criminal justice system we are partly responsible for this. Mandatory sentencing among other things has seen the Aboriginal portion of the prison population rise to almost 80%.

CLANT has campaigned vigorously against the new prison. Unless the rate of imprisonment declines, it will already be filled to capacity when it opens. The money that is being used for the new prison should be going into addressing the causes of crime. Government policy can surely be turned around. Prisons are, in Mike Scuttecky's words, a 'fiscal and moral failure.'

The President thanked the CLANT committee for its assistance and Dee Berkley and Lyn Wild for their hard work organising the conference. Special thanks were made to Jodi Truman for her hard work as Vice President.

The President then invited attendees to raise any general business; nothing was raised.

Election of Committee

Jodi Truman nominated Mark Johnson as returning officer which was seconded by Robert Welfare.

Mark declared all positions on the committee vacant and emphasised that anyone considering nominating for a position must bear in mind the importance of having the support of the committee.

President

Mark announced that a nomination of Russell Goldflam for the office of President had been received. Russell is a criminal lawyer who is likely known to all members present who works for the NT Legal Aid Commission in Alice Springs. He is committed to criminal justice issues and has presented a number of papers at conferences.

Mark then invited other nominations for President; none were made.

Russell Goldflam declared President.

Vice President

Libby Armitage was nominated by Beth Wild and seconded by Chrissy McConnell.

Mark invited other nominations for Vice President; none were made.

Libby Armitage declared Vice President.

Secretary

Beth Wild was nominated by Libby Armitage and seconded by Jodi Truman.

Mark invited other nominations for Secretary; none were made.

Beth Wild declared Secretary.

Treasurer

Sandy Lau was nominated by Libby Armitage and seconded by Jodi Truman.

Mark invited other nominations for Treasurer; none were made.

Sandy Lau declared Treasurer.

Counsellors

Nominations were received from

1. Dara Read

2. Ruth Barsons
3. Michael Burrows
4. Chantelle Bala
5. Chrissy McConnell
6. Helena Blundell
7. Nicola MacCarron
8. Amie Hancock
9. Alan Woodcock
10. Robert Welfare

Mark invited other nominations for Counsellor; none were made. It was noted that ten people was enough as this is the maximum number of counsellors our constitution allows.

The ten people nominated were declared counsellors.

Closed: - 6.03pm