

A very difficult year, made ever more heartbreaking

2020 has been a particularly difficult year. We have been dealing with the flow on effects of a global pandemic which has resulted at times in restrictions that have impacted upon the manner in which our courts and criminal justice system undertake our core business.

We face an uncertain short term future, in particular with regard to interstate and international travel. This has disrupted a number of events that CLANT would normally host or sponsor and unfortunately events such as the Tony Fitzgerald Memorial Lecture 2020 and the Children's Court Practitioner's Conference 2020 have both been cancelled.

It is almost certain that our biennial Bali Conference in 2021 will need to be relocated and held on home soil. The committee is currently determining when, how and where our conference will convene. This task will be made all the more difficult as it will need to be organised without our much loved Lyn Wild.

For almost 30 years, Lyn was the principal organiser, promoter, administrator, trouble shooter and much-loved mum of the Bali conference.

The Bali conference has long been a much anticipated social fixture for bar and bench. It has been a forum for the exchange of views and the generation of ideas in relation to pressing legal and policy issues in our criminal justice system. Thanks to Lyn's leadership, skill and tenacity the conference has also been a particularly successful commercial venture, which has resulted in the ongoing financial security of CLANT, and enabled us to donate substantial sums of money to support various worthy cases and causes.

In 2015 Lyn was made an Honorary Life Member of CLANT and to date she remains the only such appointment of the Association. At that time Lyn had already been diagnosed with breast cancer and commenced treatment, but she continued her role as conference organiser, ably supported and assisted by Dee Berkley, in 2017 and 2019. Unfortunately last week, after a long and brave fight, our dear friend passed away.

It is hard to imagine our CLANT conference without Lyn's welcoming smile, patient guidance and indefatigable direction. We have relied on her to wrangle everyone from over-excited guests and overbearing dignitaries to over-zealous officials. We have leant on and at times cried on Lyn's broad shoulders. Whatever the future holds for the Bali conference, its past is inextricably linked to the extraordinary contribution of Lyn Wild.

Our hearts go out to all the Wild family, especially our fellow CLANT stalwarts Rex, Beth and Matt.