



30 October 2023

Dear Colleagues

Thank you for the opportunity to represent our region again this year.

We encourage our members to engage with our committee and we hope that you feel as if your concerns and achievements are heard and noticed.

Our communities of Molong, Eugowra and Forbes experienced devastation with the floods in November 2022. In collaboration with Legal Aid's Disaster Response Legal Service, we coordinated the provision of pro-bono legal assistance to individuals and businesses impacted by the disaster. With the support of the Law Society of New South Wales, I engaged with the media to raise the profile of the valuable work of our members.

I also met with Judge Gerard Phillips of the Personal Injury Commission and President of the Law Society of New South Wales, Cassandra Banks and President of the Orana Law Society, Jennifer Spear in March 2023 in relation to the launch of the hybrid venue for the Personal Injury Commission, located within Service NSW at Dubbo. We hope that the availability of the hybrid venue will improve experiences for claimants.

I continued to attend the Regional President meetings throughout 2023. Our Vice President, Daina Reid, attended the Regional President meeting hosted in Dubbo in June 2023. I thank Daina for her attendance at that meeting.

In July and August 2023, we collated feedback from members in relation to the Online Probate Service and provided to both the Law Council of Australia and the Law Society of New South Wales, who passed that feedback to the Supreme Court. We encourage members to continue to provide feedback to us, or to the Court direct in respect to the Online Probate Service.

I will attend the final Regional President meeting of 2023 in Sydney on 7 December 2023, which coincides with the Annual Member's Dinner and Awards night.

I would like to congratulate our following members on receiving Law Society of New South Wales Awards in December 2022:

James Horsburgh of McIntosh McPhillamy & Co – Accredited Specialist of the Year Award

Melissa Arndell of Bourke Legal – Early Career Lawyer of the Year Award

The achievements of our members often sneak through unnoticed, so we encourage you to notify us of your achievements.

We have 140 financial members in our Regional Law Society, which has increased from the last few years. It is excellent to see that our members are continuing to utilise financial membership to receive discounted attendance costs to our CPD and social events.

Our social calendar included welcome drinks at The Carrier's Arms in March and another successful lunch at The Oriana Hotel. We were joined by Cassandra Banks, the President of the Law Society of New South Wales.

This year marked the 15th year of our Regional Law Society Bursary Scheme and in that time, we have given out in excess of \$35,000 (with more than half funded by the Regional Grants Program). We had an overwhelming number of applicants for the bursary and student prize this year with a field of a talented and worthy recipients. We have a goal to make the prize money impactful for recipients, which means some applicants were unsuccessful. We encourage applications again in 2024. Many of our bursary recipients remain practising in our region. This year's very worthy bursary recipients were:

Sophie Quince \$400

Faith Watson \$750

Holly Hare \$400

Cheyenne Sciascia \$600

Bridget O'Kane \$350

Anthony Harris was the recipient of the Student Prize and received \$500.

I would like to extend thanks to my colleagues, our committee members. The 2023 committee members were:

President: Dannielle Ford 6362 5433 dannielle@cheneysuthers.com.au

Vice President: Daina Reid 6331 2911 d.reid@kennyspring.com.au

Secretary: Ingrid McKellar

Treasurer/Membership Enquiries: Beth Pratley 6331 1533 epratley@mcmc.com.au

CPD Chair: Beatrice Patterson 6331 2911 b.patterson@kennyspring.com.au

Young Lawyers Reps: Jodie Sheen jodie_sheen@hotmail.com and Charles Henley
6393 9200 bsl.chenley@blackwellshort.com.au
Social Chair: Jes'Se Rushby

The committee positions will be declared vacant at the AGM and nominations will be made for those who wish to take up a position for a term. I would encourage you all to consider whether you would like the chance to sit on our committee. Give a colleague a nudge during the AGM to nominate you or let us know ahead of time and nominations can be noted.

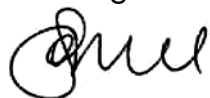
We understand that Peter Moffitt will formally retire at the end of this year. Peter has been a valuable and longstanding member. We wish him all the best.

We sadly saw the loss of Julianne Garvin in September 2023. We extend our condolences to Julianne's family.

The CWLS Committee email is cwls.committee@gmail.com for all general committee matters, alternatively committee members are happy to be contacted directly to field any enquiries. Information can also be found on our website www.centralwestlawsociety.org.au. Please do not hesitate to contact committee members if we may be of assistance or if you would like to be involved in assisting or organising events. Please ensure that you notify us if new members join your firm. The membership application is included on the website.

We look forward to working with you again in 2024 and beyond. We wish you, your team and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It has been a pleasure to represent you this year.

Kind regards



Dannielle Ford
President
Central West Law Society