



6 November 2024

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.

I attended Regional President meetings this year in Sydney and Kingscliff. I am grateful to our Vice President, Daina Reid, who attended the April 2024 meeting.

A key focus at the meetings has been on the changes to anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing legislation. I will continue to provide you with information as it becomes available and I encourage you to review the Law Society's [e-learning resource](#).

I would like to congratulate Vanessa Vasquez for receiving Highly Commended in both the Rural and Regional Practitioner of the Year Award and President's Medal at the Law Society of New South Wales Awards in December 2023.

I would also like to acknowledge my colleague Kirsty Evans for her pro bono efforts in advocating for businesses in Molong hit by the tragic 2022 flood event. Kirsty has been recognised for her efforts and is a finalist in the Women Lawyers Awards Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year to be held on 14 November 2024. She is also a finalist for the President's Medal in the Law Society of NSW Awards to be held on 6 December 2024.

I was delighted to see that Pat Bird, Bill Burke and Victoria Baker were recognised by the Law Society of NSW for having received a 50-year membership milestone. Many of our members have achieved 35+ years in the profession. We believe we will be aided in recognising member milestones from next year with the Law Society of NSW endeavouring to provide a list of member milestones to the committee.

Bathurst featured in the December 2023 issue of LSJ titled "Bathurst – A Powerful Legacy". It was lovely to see many of our members featured.

Please ensure you tell us about your colleagues' achievements as we often don't find out about the wonderful work our members are doing for the profession and in the community.

It has been a busy year for our committee hosting CPD and social events.

In January 2024, Brett McGrath, President of the Law Society of NSW and Kenny Tickle, CEO of the Law Society of NSW attended Orange for a regional visit. We had two sessions that afternoon on AI and wellbeing. That evening, we had dinner at the Union Bank where Her Honour Judge P M Musgrave of the District Court presented on the pre-record requirements in child sexual assault matters. Both the regional visit and dinner were well-attended and we again thank you for your support.

Our social calendar also included welcome drinks at The Carrier's Arms and another successful lunch at The Oriana Hotel.

Our end of year CPD event will be held on Friday 15 November 2024 in Orange. I would like to thank Beatrice Patterson and Beth Pratley for their tireless efforts in organising this year's CPD event. We aim to provide accessible and quality CPD opportunities in our region. Please ensure you complete the survey on the day and tell us if you have ideas for topics or speakers in 2025.

The Criminal Law Symposium will now be held on 15 February 2025. While we are not organising that event, we will keep you informed of registration details.

We started circulating Will request emails once per month. We will continue to build on our Will search email list so that we can limit the number of emails to all practitioners. Please ensure you complete your preferred Will search email. Until most firms have responded, we will continue to use our ordinary mailing list.

We have 122 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.

This year marked the 16th year of our Regional Law Society Bursary Scheme and in that time, we have given out in excess of \$38,000 (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 2025. Many of our bursary recipients remain practising in our region. This year's very worthy bursary recipients were:

Faith Watson \$1,000

Emmerson Sharwood \$1,000

Holly Hare \$1,000

I would like to extend thanks to my colleagues, our committee members. The 2024 committee members were:

President: Dannielle Ford

Vice President: Daina Reid

Secretary: Ingrid McKellar

Treasurer/Membership Enquiries: Beth Pratley

CPD Chair: Beatrice Patterson

Young Lawyers Reps: Bridget O'Kane and Danielle Hughes

Social Chair: Analiese McKelvey

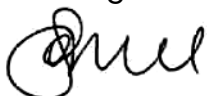
The committee positions will be declared vacant at the AGM on 15 November 2024 and nominations will be made for those who wish to take up a position for a term. I would encourage you all to consider whether you would like the chance to sit on our committee. Give a colleague a nudge during the AGM to nominate you or let us know ahead of time and nominations can be noted.

We sadly saw the loss of Peter Boyd in May and former member Joseph McNamara in June. We extend our condolences to their families.

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 2025 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