

CENTRAL WEST LAW SOCIETY



15 November 2021

Dear Colleagues

Thank you for the opportunity to represent our region at the Law Society of New South Wales Regional Presidents meetings. Unfortunately, the meetings have been few and far between in 2021 and those we have had were online. Nevertheless, it has been a great opportunity to network with our practitioners and experience my first term as President.

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.

We currently have approximately 131 financial members in our Regional Law Society. It is comforting to us that financial membership is taken up and that those financial members receive discounted attendance costs to our CPD and social events. Sadly, the pandemic and lock-down dampened the opportunity for us to host more networking events. In particular, we missed the chance to host our annual luncheon and to celebrate our bursary recipients. We hope 2022 will see that event return. We were fortunate to sneak in a social function for the Opening of the Law Term at Birdie. We also hosted the President, Juliana Warner, and CEO, Sonja Stewart, of the Law Society of New South Wales for a dinner at the Oriana ahead of the FLIP Roadshow in Orange. Both of those events were well attended and we thank you again for engaging in those opportunities.

This year marked the 13th year of our Regional Law Society Bursary Scheme and in that time, we have given out in excess of \$30,000 (with more than half funded by the Regional Grants Program). Many of our bursary recipients remain practising in our region (including myself). This year's bursary recipients were:

Casey Mutton \$700

Danielle Hughes \$700

Sarah Wilkinson \$700

Foebe Gladdish \$500

I would like to extend thanks to my colleagues, our committee members.. The 2021 committee members were:

President: Dannielle Ford 63625433 dannielle@cheney-suthers.com.au
Vice President: Steph Hughes 6852 1211 steph@hughesco.com.au
Secretary: Eunice Adetifa 6852 1211 eunice@hughesco.com.au
Treasurer/Membership Enquiries: Beth Pratley 6331 1533 pratley@mcmc.com.au
CPD Chair: Michael McGill mick-mcgill@hotmail.com
Young Lawyers Reps: Jessica Spence jess.spence@hotmail.com and Beatrice Patterson beatrice@cptlegal.com.au
Social Chair: Lucy Gahan lucy@rwlaw.com.au

As with every year, the committee positions will be declared vacant at the AGM and will be taken up for another 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.

2021 has brought its own challenges with the overhaul of the family law system. Many of us (me included) are coming to terms with the changes and I encourage you to be kind to one another when navigating the new system.

Sadly, one of our own members, David King, passed away this year as well as former Local Court Magistrate Terry Lucas. I again extend my condolences to their family and friends.

The following members have retired from practise this year:

Robert Hood (who is a Life Member)
Lee Dalton

To my knowledge, Kim Rickards has stepped away as from his role as Principal at Rickards Whiteley and is now a Senior Consultant focussing on mentoring, and enjoying his role with NCAT. Aaron Suthers has stepped away from his consultancy role at Cheney Suthers and is now a Principal Member in Guardianship and Appeals in NCAT.

The comings and goings in our region do slip through the cracks and we would be grateful if you could notify us if you (or a colleague) are retiring or moving away from the region. We congratulate our members on their long and successful careers and wish them well with whatever their future holds.

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 organizing 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 2022 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danielle Ford', followed by a period.

Danielle Ford
President
Central West Law Society