



3 November 2022

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.

We again have 131 financial members in our Regional Law Society. 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 saw the return of our annual luncheon at the Union Bank in Orange and it was overwhelmingly attended by many of you. It was fantastic to see such great attendance where we have had an unfortunate hiatus on events due to COVID-19. We were joined by Joanne van der Plaats and Sonja Stewart, the President and CEO of the Law Society of New South Wales.

This year marked the 14th year of our Regional Law Society Bursary Scheme and in that time, we have given out in excess of \$32,500 (with more than half funded by the Regional Grants Program). Many of our bursary recipients remain practising in our region. This year's very worthy bursary recipients were:

Ashleigh Keiley \$1,100
Danielle Hughes \$800
Amanda Ferrier \$600
Foebe Gladdish \$500

I would like to extend thanks to my colleagues, our committee members. The 2022 committee members were:

President: Dannielle Ford 6362 5433 dannielle@cheneysuthers.com.au
Vice President: Steph Hughes 6852 1211 steph@hughesco.com.au
Secretary: Ingrid McKellar 6362 5433 ingrid@cheneysuthers.com.au
Treasurer/Membership Enquiries: Beth Pratley 6331 1533 pratley@mcmc.com.au
CPD Chair: Lucy Gahan 6361 9532 lucy@rwlaw.com.au
Young Lawyers Reps: Jodie Sheen jodie_sheen@hotmail.com and Beatrice Patterson b.patterson@kennyspring.com.au

Social Chair: Pip Poole 6362 5433 pip@cheneysuthers.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.

I was again able to represent our region at the Law Society of New South Wales Regional Presidents meetings. There have been a number of important issues discussed this year. Two issues that I considered were particularly important to our region included:

1. Delay in the filing of applications for Probate and Letters of Administration

The Elder Law Committee and the Law Society are aware of the delay presently encountered in obtaining a Grant from the Supreme Court of New South Wales. We understand that staffing levels at the Court have now improved, and we should hopefully expect some relief in the coming months. A reminder was issued to consider sales of deceased property and the special conditions for inclusion in the Contract in respect to the time for the executor/administrator to obtain the Grant.

2. Succession planning in legal practice

I encourage any sole practitioners to consider their legal practice succession plan. The Law Society intends to circulate a checklist and arrange for Law Society staff to attend the regions to present the resource. Further developments in this space are expected in 2023.

The following members have retired from practise this year:

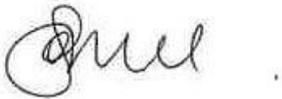
Mr Bill Walsh, barrister
Mr Kim Rickards
Mr Dennis McGroder

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 2023 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 'Dannielle Ford', followed by a period.

Dannielle Ford
President
Central West Law Society