



Auckland Women  
Lawyers' Association Inc.

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This issue's editors:  
*Sophie Anderson*  
and *Lucy Riddiford*

# NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2005

## From the President...

It seems like only last week that we were welcoming news of the appointment of Judge Karina Williams to the District Court bench, sitting at Manukau. It was in fact September 2003, yet barely two years later we learned of her untimely death following a terminal cancer diagnosis only a month or two earlier. She was 42 years old.

I did not know Judge Williams personally, but after reading all the tributes to her (both at the time of her appointment and then in various obituaries) I have been struck by her humanity, her commitment to her family and community, and the quiet grace with which she accepted the mantle of role model for Maori and Polynesian women in particular. In the obituary she wrote for the ADLS News, close friend Catriona MacLennan said that Judge Williams "will perhaps be most remembered for her extraordinary facility for communication with all people." As John Tamihere (and no doubt many others) said at her funeral, "It's such a waste that she has been taken from us at such a young age."

There are several things that need to be said after being so rudely reminded of our own mortality by the

passing of this exemplary woman lawyer:

- Don't wait. If you want to do extraordinary things, get on and do them.
- Don't withhold your contribution. If you want to make a difference, or to give something back to your community or profession, find a way to do it now, even if you start small.

For my part, it occurs to me that while we call ourselves the "Auckland" Women Lawyers' Association, we don't spend enough time acknowledging or celebrating the diversity of the women lawyers practising in this metropolis. I'd like to see more women from South and West Auckland, and the North Shore, join the Association and serve on the Executive, and to find more ways to connect with those of our colleagues who don't practise in the central city.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM and Christmas dinner on 22 November. If you are interested in joining the Executive, please get yourself nominated.

Kind regards

*Jennifer Caldwell*  
President

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS for the Remainder of 2005

**AWLA Christmas Dinner  
22 November**

Jane Diplock, Securities Commission

## Profile: Dame Judith Mayhew-Jonas

One of the inspiring women who will speak at the AWLA 21st Birthday Conference in May next year is a New Zealander who became known as "the most powerful woman in the City of London".

Dame Judith Mayhew-Jonas studied and taught law at Otago University before moving to the UK, where she became a lecturer at King's College, University of London. She went into private practice in 1989 as an employment lawyer, rising to become Special Adviser to the Chairman at Clifford Chance.

She is best known for her role from 1996–2003 as Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee of the City of London. In this role, she was effectively leader of the Corporation of London, and gained the reputation of "the most powerful woman in the City of London".

She is currently Provost of King's College, Cambridge (where she is the first woman to be elected Provost, and the first external appointee for centuries), and Chairman of The Royal Opera House, as well as serving on the boards of a number of other educational and cultural institutions.

Dame Judith has had a long-standing interest and involvement in equal opportunities issues in education and the work-place. She is an adviser on global diversity to Merrill Lynch and, earlier this year, was appointed to a British government panel to investigate the causes of persistent discrimination and inequality in British society.

With such a wealth of achievement and experience to draw on, Dame Judith's address to the conference next year will be a wonderful opportunity for AWLA members and other conference attendees to hear from one of the top international role-models for women lawyers.

## AWLA 21st Birthday Conference Update

The organisation of the AWLA 21st Birthday Conference planned for next year is making good progress. **Please note that the dates for the Conference have changed. It is now scheduled for 12–13 May 2006.**

ADLS and WWLA have generously offered financial assistance and sponsorship applications to a number of organisations are in progress.

Her Excellency Dame Silvia Cartwright has also very kindly agreed to host a cocktail reception for conference attendees at Government House.

A number of speakers have been confirmed, including:

- Dame Judith Mayhew-Jonas (see the separate profile in this newsletter);

- Professor Julie Maxton, currently Dean of the Faculty of Law at Auckland University and soon to take up the position of Registrar at Oxford University;
- Imrana Jalal, former Human Rights Commissioner for Fiji; and
- Brenda Heather, Attorney-General of Samoa.

We will continue to keep members updated on developments. Please feel free to email any members of the Executive or conference sub-committee with any ideas or suggestions, particularly in relation to Sponsorship. There will also be an opportunity to put these forward at this year's AGM.

## Grow, Protect and Manage Your Assets and the Importance of "Networking"

On 31 August 2005 AWLA members met at the offices of Buddle Findlay to learn how to grow, protect and manage their assets. As lawyers, we are used to providing advice to our clients, but often neglect our own affairs. A panel of women advisors spoke – Yvonne Proctor, life insurance broker, Nicky Lewis, property manager at Quinovic North Harbour, Pip Irwin a financial advisor with Northplan Financial Services and Annette Kann a mortgagor broker with Mortgage Choice North Harbour.

Yvonne told us about the pitfalls of not being adequately insured. Many people have in place life insurance and yet life insurance is often the least needed type of insurance. Often people hold life insurance and then cancel it as they get older and the premiums are more expensive. Insurance products available now have been developed to cope with the challenging situations we find ourselves in while we are still living. In particular, Yvonne spoke about health insurance, income protection and trauma insurance as being most practical insurances to have.

Speaking from experience a property manager is definitely the way to go if you are investing in rental property. Rentals can often take up a lot more time than anticipated and can be the source of much frustration. Quinovic can manage your property for you but Nicky Lewis from Quinovic some provided some practical tips on the many aspects of tenancing

properties, including finding new tenants, screening tenants, ensuring that tenants pay for any damage done to the property and maintaining the property. All issues which in our busy lives can be more adequately handled by a property manager. Nicky is also able to provide rental appraisals which are useful not just for knowing where to pitch the rent, but for obtaining funding.

We all know the theory behind risk, investing, cashflow and capital gains. However Pip Irwin from Northplan succinctly explained different investment tools (i.e cash, property and equities) and when and how they might apply to different circumstances. Once again, it is important to speak to experts when we are looking to invest our own assets. Different people have different risk personalities and it is important to ensure that the investment is right for you. Whether you wish to have high capital growth or high income, Pip gave confidence that she is able to assist in creating balanced portfolios.

There are numerous mortgage products on the market these days and Annette Kann from Mortgage Choice advised us of some of the more unusual ones, which have recently become available. For example, you can now obtain a mortgage even if you do not have proof of your income (if you are self employed).

*Continued on page 3 ➤*

## Notice of 2005 Annual General Meeting of the Auckland Women Lawyers' Association

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Auckland Women Lawyers' Association will be held (before the Christmas function) at:

The Northern Club  
19 Princes Street  
Auckland  
6pm  
Tuesday, 22 November 2005

### AGENDA

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of 2004 Annual General Meeting.
3. Treasurer's report.
4. 2006 Executive – nominations (last day for receipt of nominations being 15 November).
5. Report from AWLA 21st Birthday Conference Subcommittee (to be held 19–20 May 2006).
6. General business.

*Sharyn Larkin is leaving us, or, at least, resigning from the position of AWLA Administrative Assistant at the end of November. AWLA needs someone to fill her place.*

*The AWLA Executive would like to thank Sharyn very much for her contribution and efforts over the last two years.*

*If anyone is interested in filling her position (or knows of someone that might be, please see below).*

### Vacancy

#### AWLA Administrative Assistant 2006

The AWLA Executive wishes to engage a new executive assistant for 2006. This is a secretarial role requiring a good knowledge of computer systems to update member and mentoring databases.

An efficient and organised self-starter would enjoy this part time role (approximately 7–8 hours per week). The hours vary at different times of the year but can largely be undertaken at home in your own time.

Attendance and minute taking at monthly committee meetings and coordination of functions for members is also required.

For more information, please contact [awla@xtra.co.nz](mailto:awla@xtra.co.nz)

### *Grow, Protect and Manage Your Assets – Continued from page 2*

It is possible to get a mortgage if you have not managed to save a deposit. And of course many people are investing in rental property and properties other than their own homes. Alternative mortgage products may be preferable for those people. Gone are the days when we only dealt with one bank, and often a mortgage broker can obtain a better rate from your bank than you can. It does not cost anything to see a mortgage broker but it certainly can save you money.

The other important point made at the seminar is the importance of "networking" with other professional women. The speakers, including the writer, formed a small group this time last year. We are all professional women in our area (the North

Shore) and regularly meet to discuss what we have been up to at work and also actively look for work opportunities for each other. Networking with other women is a very important part of our careers. It can create not just opportunities for business development, but the opportunity to forge new friendships.

Please feel free to contact any of the speakers from the seminar if you have any further queries:

- Pip Irwin – Phone: 414 1835  
– [pirwin@northplan.co.nz](mailto:pirwin@northplan.co.nz)
- Annette Kann – Phone: 415 4294  
– [annette.kann@mortgagechoice.co.nz](mailto:annette.kann@mortgagechoice.co.nz)
- Nicky Lewis – Phone: 448 5819  
– [nicky@quinovic-northharbour.co.nz](mailto:nicky@quinovic-northharbour.co.nz)

*Tammy McLeod*

## BOOK REVIEW

**The Darling** *by Russell Banks*

*The Darling* is Russell Banks' most recent novel. Set largely in Liberia, and intertwined with the political upheaval/civil war suffered there, the book tells the story, through her own eyes and experience, of Hannah Musgrave's life until the present.

Hannah Musgrave is the daughter of a celebrated pediatrician and anti-war protestor. Rebelling against her family and privileged upbringing, Hannah drops out of Harvard becoming a radical activist and playing a peripheral role in the Weather Underground. After finding herself on the FBI's wanted list, she goes underground and eventually flees to Africa, which is where, largely, her narrative is then set.

*The Darling* reads like a confession, and, like a confession, it is not direct, but hesitant and winding, the narrative building in confidence, as more information is revealed and Hannah draws the reader more fully into her story.

Hannah marries Woodrow Sundiata, a Liberian government minister, has three children to him, and is expected to settle down to married life. At least initially, Hannah seems happy to fulfill this role. However, eventually her feeling of alienation and her inability to bond with either her husband, her children or the African people around her, draws her to a new cause, a sanctuary for abandoned and abused chimpanzees. She calls the

chimpanzees her "dreamers". She sees their consciousness as akin to that of the Aborigine during dreamtime – "not drifting or soporifically sliding through life, their attention always askew or elsewhere, like ours, but behaving as if they were free to look at every single thing as if it had never been seen before, as if everything, a leaf, an ant, a human ear, were of terrible and wondrous significance."

Eventually, Hannah is forced to abandon both her dreamers and her sons, her husband having been brutally murdered in front of them, caught up in the politics and events of the civil war. Hannah's later return to Africa is the final step in her struggle to explain to herself those events and her reaction to them. Hannah's character is not an easy one to warm to but compelling nonetheless. The book eggs you on in its spare elegant prose to its fairly savage (in detail at least) climax, followed by a more humanizing denouement personal to Hannah.

Russell Banks' uses history – real events and real people – to ground his fictional characters and their story. His historical referencing gives sufficient information to feel informative but, if the reader was very motivated, sparks sufficient interest to find out more. All in all, a great read.

## What's happening in Wellington

Being based in Auckland, it is sometimes easy to lose sight of what is happening in Wellington. With a new government, it is timely to take stock of changes to the cabinet that affect women and lawyers.

The arrangements for the new government are as follows:

- A coalition agreement has been signed with the Progressive Party. Jim Anderton will continue as a Cabinet Minister.
- New Zealand First and United Future have agreed to confidence and supply agreements for the Labour-led government. The leaders of both parties, Rt Hon Winston Peters and Hon Peter Dunne will both become Ministers outside Cabinet. Collective responsibility will apply to the areas for which they have portfolio responsibility. Rt Hon Winston Peters will become Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Racing, and Associate Minister for Senior Citizens. Hon Peter Dunne will become Minister of Revenue and Associate Minister of Health.
- The Green Party has signed a co-operation agreement with the government in which it undertakes not to oppose confidence or supply for this term of Parliament, and agrees to work with the government on agreed policy and budget initiatives.

There are 29 Ministers, of whom 6 are women. The Hon Lianne Dalziel is the Minister of Women's Affairs. She holds a law degree and has a background in the trade union movement.

The Attorney-General is relative newcomer, the Hon David Parker. Controversially, neither the Minister of Justice, nor the associate Minister have legal backgrounds. The Minister of Justice is the Hon Mark Burton (who is also Minister for the Law Commission), with the Hon Clayton Cosgrove as associate Minister. We can watch developments in this area with interest.

It is also interesting to see what work is being undertaken by government departments that is relevant to women and/or lawyers. There are some interesting initiatives and we've included a small selection.

**'Pathways for Women':** This is the sixth issue of **workINSIGHT** and focuses on women's experiences and future challenges in the job market. Published by the Department of Labour, it is available on their website, [www.workinsight.govt.nz](http://www.workinsight.govt.nz) or can be ordered through Robert Heyes at the Department on 04 915 4118.

**Panui:** If you would like to keep up to date with the New Zealand Action Plan for Women, or see what else the Ministry of Women's Affairs has been up to lately, visit their website and have a look at the *Panui* newsletter online: [www.mwa.govt.nz/cont\\_pb.html#panui](http://www.mwa.govt.nz/cont_pb.html#panui)

**Latest EEO Trust resources:** You can download the latest Work & Life Bulletin, a free quarterly publication or sign-up to receive future issues. The latest issue focuses on successful work-life initiatives.

A new EEO Trust resource on the business benefits of implementing EEO is now available.

*Versatile Workplace Business Success*, and other resources can be found in our resource centre. [www.eeotrust.org.nz](http://www.eeotrust.org.nz)

### **New Process For Dealing With Complaints**

**About Judicial Conduct:** During the debates on the Judicial Matters Bill there was much discussion about the merits of introducing a new process for dealing with complaints against judges. Green Party Justice Spokesperson Nandor Tanczos argued at the Bill's third reading that "we need a process that depoliticises the investigation of complaints and allows them to be dealt with fairly and transparently".

The new Judicial Conduct Commissioner and Judicial Conduct Panel Act 2004 is now in force, Ian Haynes ONZM has been appointed the first Judicial Conduct Commissioner and as of 1 August 2005 the new process for receiving and dealing with complaints against the judiciary is operational.

A new booklet entitled *Complaints About Judicial Conduct* explains the process for complaining about the conduct of any judge. Copies of the booklet are available on the Ministry of Justice website: [www.justice.govt.nz](http://www.justice.govt.nz) or by writing to the Office of the Judicial Conduct Commissioner, PO Box 2661, Wellington.

## Why not have your say in 2006? Become an AWLA Committee Member!

The AWLA is looking for members interested in joining the Executive for 2006. The Executive is a hard working group of women but we do have fun. Time commitments include a monthly meeting (held alternately at lunchtimes and 5:15pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays), taking joint responsibility for organising one event and editing the bi-monthly newsletter. The AWLA constitution provides for a President, Vice President, Treasurer and up to eight Executive members with a power to co-opt members during the year.

If you are interested in joining the Executive for 2006, and are a current paid member, please complete the AWLA nomination form below signed by another financial member of the AWLA.

Thank you and the AWLA looks forward to receiving nominations from new Executive members in 2006.

The final date for receiving nominations is 15 November

The 2006 AWLA Executive Committee will be announced at the Xmas dinner on Tuesday 22 November 2005.

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
(your name – being a financial member of the AWLA)

**nominate**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name of nominee – also a financial member of AWLA)

**as a member of the 2006 AWLA Executive Committee.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Nominator)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signed consent of Nominee)

Please post to:

AWLA Secretary  
PO Box 6568  
Wellesley Street  
Auckland



## Auckland Women Lawyers' Association

# Xmas Dinner 2005



**Guest Speaker**  
**Jane Diplock, Securities Commission**



The Northern Club  
 19 Princes Street, Auckland  
 Tuesday 22 November 2005  
 7pm



(AGM from 6.00pm with pre-dinner drink from 6.30pm)

Tickets: \$70.00 current AWLA members  
 (or \$130 non-members including 2006 membership)



RSVP with payment by 11 November 2005 to the Secretary,  
 AWLA, PO Box 6568, Wellesley Street, Auckland

Please return to: Secretary, AWLA, PO Box 6568, Wellesley Street, Auckland

### **AWLA Christmas Function, Tuesday 22 November 2005**

- Members: Xmas Function & 2006 membership (\$120.00)
- Members: Xmas Function only (\$70.00)
- Non-Members: Xmas Function only (\$80.00)
- Non-Members: Xmas Function & 2006 membership (\$130.00)

Enclosed is a cheque for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ tickets including \_\_\_\_\_ memberships  
 (If you are a new member, please complete the membership form in this newsletter)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## A.W.L.A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2005 – CONTACT DETAILS

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