



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

13 NOVEMBER 2012

The Board

Our Board comprised the following for 2011/2012:

President:	Deborah Awyzio
Vice President:	Trent Waller
Secretary:	Rebecca Parry
Treasurer:	Peter Haley
Board Members:	Rebecca Hardy (regional member)
	Fiona Caulley
	Joseph Box
	Clarissa Rayward
	Dan Bottrell
	Clare Dart
	James Steele

The following sub-committees were formed:

- Scholarship & Prizes – Clarissa Rayward



- Professional Development – Clarissa Rayward, Joe Box, James Steele
- Family Law Residential – Deborah Awyzio, Dan Bottrell and Claire Dart
- Regional/Strategic Development – Clarissa Rayward, Rebecca Harding and James Steele
- Social – Fiona Caulley, Joe Box, Claire Dart and James Steele
- Media, Marketing and Submissions – Deborah Awyzio, Trent Waller, Rebecca Harding, Dan Bottrell
- Court Services – Fiona Caulley and Rebecca Harding

Acknowledgements

I wish to acknowledge the invaluable contribution made to our association by past President Keith Slack, who sadly passed away on 17.12.11.

I would like to thank Trent Waller for his support as Vice President throughout the year.

I would like to thank Rebecca Parry for her dedication in serving as Secretary for over seven (7) years. Rebecca has not re-nominated for a position.

I wish to acknowledge the contribution we receive from Geoff Sinclair, the President of the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia, through the dissemination of information from Geoff. This is a valuable resource for FLPA and allows us to ensure that our members have up to date information about Family Law.

I acknowledge the awarding of an AM to Federal Magistrate Michael Baumann in the Australia Day Honours this year.

I acknowledge the awarding of an AO to the Chief Justice of the Family Court Dianna Bryant in the Australia Day Honours this year.

I acknowledge and thank the firm Grant and Simpson for the assistance they have provided over many years in managing the photocopying services provided by FLPA in Rockhampton.



Members

As at **13 November 2012** there are 691 members – comprising of 563 renewing members, 88 new members and 40 honorary.

The members (excl. honorary) comprise:

Academic: 1
Accountants: 11 (incl. 2 Forensic Accountants)
Barristers: 70
Commercial Agent: 1
Counsellors: 5
Court Employee: 1
Family Report Assessor: 1
Financial Advisors: 2
Government Agency: 1
Graduate Lawyer: 1
Law Clerk: 1
Legal Advisor: 1
Mediators / Social Workers: 19
Paralegal: 1
Process Server: 1
Psychologists: 3
Rec 7 Family Consultant: 1
Registered Property Developer: 1
Solicitors: 517
Students: 10

Regions:

Ipswich to Chinchilla: 53 (incl. Toowoomba 24)
Far North Qld: 84 (from Gladstone, Rockhampton)
North Coast: 47
South East Queensland: 452
NSW: 12



As at **18 November 2011** there were 669 members – comprising of 552 renewing members, 74 new members and 43 honorary.

We have maintained the same annual membership fee this year of \$77, which has not been increased in the last six (6) years.

Strategic Direction

The Association has continued its engagement of Public Relations Consultants, Altitude Public Relations. They have been instrumental in the following:

- Developing a membership renewal program
- Delivering of our quarterly high quality newsletters
- Liaising with the media and providing media advice
- Surveying members
- Updating and developing our website
- Filming our CLE's
- Commencing our webinars.

We have continued to service our regional members by having CLE's outside of Brisbane and through the introduction of webinar facilities.

Functions

- 01.12.11 FLPA member Christmas party
- 05.07.12 Retirement function for Barbara McGuire

Partnership with other organisations

Queensland Law Society

- 30-31
March 2012 Endorsement of Vincents 50th Anniversary Symposium
- 17-18
August 2012 Family Law Residential at Royal Pines, Gold Coast



Pathways Group

- 08.08.11 Attending Grandparents and family law symposium
- 18.04.12 Vice President Trent Waller spoke at Domestic Violence program
- 06.06.12 Attendance at Pathways Information Expo

Serving on their steering committee

President's Functions

- 08.12.11 Attended Pathways Grandparents and family law symposium
- 23.12.11 Attendance at the funeral of the late Federal Magistrate Keith Slack
- 06.03.12 Attended media training with CBC Group
- 27.04.12 Speaker at Valedictory Service of Federal Magistrates Court in Honour of the late Federal Magistrate Slack

CLE

- 01.05.12 Property, caveats, and conveyancing twilight seminar
- 19.05.12 Cairns seminar
- 07.06.12 Domestic violence laws twilight seminar
- 13.09.12 Consent orders twilight seminar and first webinar
- 14.09.12 Rockhampton one day conference
- 08.11.12 Secret documents twilight seminar and webinar



Media Activity

- 01.12.11 Media Release – Civil Partnership Bill passed
- 01.12.11 Radio interview 4BC – court resources and delays
- 02.12.11 Article in “Brisbane Times”, Family Courts buckle under load
- 05.12.11 Media Release – FLPA calls for more court resources
- 21.02.12 Media Release – Seek advice in Family Disputes (following murder/suicide death in Brisbane)
- 23.02.12 Media Release – FLPA calls on government to ratify de facto property and maintenance orders.
- 27.02.12 Article in “Gay Star News”, Civil Unions could end with next month’s Queensland Election
- 06.03.12 Media sub-committee members attended media training with CBC Group
- 14.03.12 Media Release – Separating couples risk reduced returns through GFC
- 15.03.12 Media Release - FLPA welcomes de facto financial causes amendment
- 22.04.12 Article in “The Sunday Mail” - Experience ongoing to Family Court of Australia
- 14.05.12 Media Release – More people protected under revised Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act, says FLPA
- 14.05.12 612 ABC radio interview
- May 2012 Extensive radio, television, newspaper coverage about Italian sisters case
- 16.05.12 Media Release - FLPA explains law and process for 'four sisters custody matter'



25.05.12 Media Release - Family Law Practitioners' Association comments on 'four sisters custody matter'

October 2012 Extensive radio, television, and newspaper coverage about Italian sisters case

New Initiatives

- Addition of employment advertisements and student work experience register on our website.
- Made arrangements to pay for photocopying facilities to be provided at Toowoomba and Gold Coast FMC circuits
- Media training for our media sub-committee
- Case watch on website commenced
- Online poll of members through website commenced
- Webinars commenced
- Computer in Cairns registry
- Free membership to students
- Competition and prize in memory of Keith Slack

Submissions

We have Dan Bottrell and Rebecca Hardy from our committee attend a free training session provided by the Queensland Parliament about attendance at Parliamentary Committees.

Family Law Residential

We called for expressions of interest in presenting at our flagship event, the Family Law Residential and received many responses, which confirmed the esteem in which the Residential continues to be held.

We were excited to confirm the Honourable Justice Kirby AC CMG as our opening presenter this year. We also continued to have the support of the Chief Justice of the Family Court, who presented at our conference.



Family Law Practitioners' Association of Queensland Ltd

Deborah Awyzio
President