



Leadership in Family Law

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
26 NOVEMBER 2013

The Board

Our board comprised the following for 2012/2013

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| President: | Trent Waller |
| Vice President: | Clarissa Rayward |
| Secretary: | James Steel |
| Treasurer: | Peter Haley |
| Board Members: | Rebecca Hardy (regional member) |
| | Fiona Caulley |
| | Joseph Box |
| | Dan Bottrell |
| | Lindsey Miles |
| | Clare Dart |
| | Jeffrey Bunning |
| Immediate Past President: | Deborah Awyzio. |



The following sub-committees were formed:

- **Scholarship & Prizes:** Clarissa Rayward
- **Professional Development:** Joe Box, Clarissa Rayward and James Steel
- **Family Law Residential:** Clare Dart, Trent Waller and James Steel
- **Regional:** Rebecca Harding, Clarissa Rayward, Jeff Bunning and Dan Bottrell
- **Social:** Lindsey Miles, Clare Dart and Fiona Caulley
- **Strategic Development and Marketing:** Joe Box, Trent Waller, Deborah Awyzio, Fiona Caulley and Peter Haley
- **Submissions and Editorial:** Clare Dart, Dan Bottrell, Jeff Bunning and Deborah Awyzio
- **Court Services:** Fiona Caulley, Jeff Bunning and Trent Waller
- **Media:** Dan Bottrell, Deborah Awyzio, Trent Waller, Clarissa Rayward and Rebecca Harding.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Vice President, Clarissa Rayward and all members of the Board for their invaluable assistance in the administration of the Association during the past year.

I also wish to thank Caroline Thurlow from Altitude Public Relations for her efforts in assisting the Association, primarily in the areas of arranging and managing the webinar facilities and moderating the Twilight Seminars, compiling the FLPA Round Table quarterly newsletter and managing content and updates to our web page.

As always, the Association thanks and acknowledges the continued tireless efforts of Donna Bennett and Stephanie Hodgson from Office Logistics. FLPA values our association with Office Logistics.



I wish to personally thank those who, notwithstanding their practice or judicial demands have volunteered their time to present papers at our Twilight Seminars, Regional Intensives and the Residential and in doing so made an invaluable contribution to continuing legal education for our members

I finally thank members for their support of the inaugural “*Keith Slack Memorial Not the Writing Competition*” in memory of the creative writing talents of the late Federal Magistrate Keith Slack which was held at the Residential dinner. We were honoured to have Keith’s family, Charmaine, Kate and Tom judge the competition.

Membership

Consistent with the 2011/2012 year, we have again had a 20% increase in membership. This is so notwithstanding that the annual membership fee was increased from \$77.00 (which it had been for the previous 5 years) to \$99.00. A large proportion of this increase has been due to the increase in student membership who are full time undergraduate students. While this membership is free we see this as a future investment in the membership of FLPA.

The breakdown is:

As at **26 November 2013** there are 843 members – comprising of 665 renewing members, 141 new members (86 of them being new student members) and 37 honorary.

The members (excl. honorary) comprise:

Accountants: 13
Barristers: 73
Counsellors: 3
Court Employees: 2
Financial Advisors: 4
Government Agency: 1



Mediators / Social Workers: 7
Other: 2
Paediatric Ethics & Law Scholar: 1
Practice Manager: 1
Process Server: 1
Psychologists: 5
Registrar: 1
Social Worker / Family Report Writers: 14
Solicitors: 548
Students: 130

Regions: (not all students have indicated)

Ipswich to Chinchilla: 57 (incl. Toowoomba 28)
Far North Qld: 103 (from Gladstone, Rockhampton)
North Coast: 52
South East Queensland: 580 (incl. 91 Gold Coast members)
NSW: 12

As at **13 November 2012** there were 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.

The members (excl. honorary) comprise:

Accountants: 12
Barristers: 75
Counsellors: 6
Court Employee: 1
FDRP & Mediators: 3
Financial Advisors: 4
Law Clerk: 1
Legal Advisor: 1
Paralegal: 1
Property Valuer: 1
Psychologists: 4
Public Sector Manager: 1
Social Workers: 21
Solicitors: 464
Student / Trainee Solicitor: 1

As at **10 November 2010** there were 558 members – comprising of 453 renewing members, 67 new members and 38 honorary.

As at **4 November 2009** there were 521 members – comprising of 434 renewing members, 47 new members and 40 honorary.



FLPA Functions in 2013

- 07.02.2013 Function to mark the retirement and farewell of the Honourable Justice O'Reilly.
- 14.03.2013 Welcome function to celebrate the appointment of the Honourable Justice Hogan.
- 25.07.2013 Welcome function to celebrate the appointment of the Honourable Justice Tree.

CLE and President's Attendances

- 4/12/2012 Attended the Twenty Years of the Griffith Law School celebration
- 21.01.2013 Spoke on behalf of FLPA at the Ceremonial Sitting for the swearing-in of the Honourable Justice Hogan.
- .02.2013 Attended on behalf of FLPA at the Ceremonial Sitting for the swearing- in of the Honourable Justice Tree
- 8.03.2013 First of the quarterly meetings with Family Court Regional Management team
- 21.03.2013 Twilight Seminar - Magellan Cases – Honourable Justice Forrest
- 12.04.2013 First of the quarterly Family Court of Australia Case Management Meetings



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|------------|---|
| 20.04.2013 | FLPA One Day Family Law Intensive - Cairns |
| 06.06.2013 | Twilight Seminar – Ethics - Deborah Awyzio |
| 19.07.2013 | QLS & FLPA Family Law Residential |
| 26.09.2013 | Twilight Seminar – Preparing and conducting a family law case in the Family Law Courts – Judge Spelleken and Trent Waller |
| 30.09.2013 | FLPA One Day Family Law Intensive - Rockhampton |

Strategic Direction for 2013

This year the FLPA Board brought its focus back to our core mission to provide valuable services to its members. FLPA replaced the photocopying facilities in the Brisbane registry and Northern registries for the benefit of our members. We continue to work with the Court to bring effective Wi-Fi within the Court precinct for the benefit of our members.

We have focused on effectively providing information about the Court's practices, expectations and requirements so that practitioners can be more effective in their preparation. This, we think, has been primarily achieved by the Judiciary and leading family lawyers kindly giving of their time to present at Twilight Seminars, the Residential and our Regional intensives. Members have also benefited from the resources now available on our web page in the form of case summaries and precedents.

We have endeavored to work constructively with the Federal Circuit Court and Family Court of Australia to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.



Leadership in Family Law

We have been conscious of the fact that FLPA could be more effective in representing members who practice in Northern Queensland. At the AGM we propose a resolution to amend the constitution so as to facilitate 2 Country members constituting the board, with at least one member practicing primarily in either Mackay or a location north of Mackay.

I thank the members of FLPA for their support of the Association in 2013.

Trent Waller

President

26.11.2013

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