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Dear FLPA member

It is my great privilege to be appointed as FLPA president for 2019 and I am excited about working with the profession over the coming year.

Firstly, I would like to thank the entire 2018 committee, particularly resigning members Fraser Murray and Nardine Collier for their hard work. I would also like to thank outgoing immediate past president Clarissa Rayward, who has been on the committee since 2008, and outgoing president Fiona Caulley, who has been on the committee since 2009, for their contribution to FLPA over many years.

In acknowledging the tireless efforts of Fiona Caulley over the last two years as our president, I would like to highlight the enormous amount of time and effort that Fiona has devoted to representing members’ interests in relation to the various family law changes afoot. This has been in addition to all the roles that the president undertakes and including hosting the inaugural Family Law Retreat in 2018.

As past committee members move on, I would like to warmly welcome and congratulate our new members of the board. We have an introduction of them in this edition of Round Table.

Congratulations too to The Honourable Brian Jordan who was awarded the Travis Lindenmayer Award for 2018 at the FLPA Christmas party held at Persone in late November – a very worthy recipient indeed. Read about His Honour in this edition of Round Table and also see photo highlights of this evening.

As you would know, preparations are well underway for the Family Law Retreat in 2019, which will be held again at Peppers Resort & Villas at Noosa, from 13 to 15 June 2019. We look forward to seeing many of you at next year’s event.

Apart from the Retreat, FLPA has recently completed submissions on behalf of members to the ALRC and to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee with regard to the proposed changes to the family law system currently being discussed. In this tumultuous time for family law, the board and I are committed to continuing to represent our members’ interests in the discussion about the future of family law and look forward to doing so in 2019.

As the year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported FLPA during the year, including the team at Office Logistics, Altitude PR, and Iceberg Events, our fabulous FLPA sponsors, and all our members who have volunteered their time in 2018, whether it be presenting at seminars or participating in the pro bono mediation pilot. I would also like to thank all members who have participated in FLPA events this year. Your ongoing support is most appreciated.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and holiday period.

Warm regards

James Steel
President
THE NEW FLPA COMMITTEE FOR 2019

FLPA is proud to announce the new committee for 2019 following the recent Annual General Meeting held on 8 November.

Congratulations to James Steel who was elected unopposed as the new FLPA president for 2019 after serving two years as vice president. James is a principal in Barry Nilsson Lawyers family law team and is a Queensland Law Society Accredited Family Law Specialist.

Director of specialist family law firm BGM and previous FLPA secretary Dan Bottrell was elected vice president while barrister Rebecca Horsley was elected the new secretary. Both roles were unopposed.

Three new family law practitioners also join the thriving committee - barrister Dearne Firth as a committee member, Amalie Grima director at Cairns Family Law Group as a regional committee member and Skye Trevanion from Rice Naughton McCarthy as early career committee member.

Incumbent committee members who will continue their great contribution to the FLPA committee are treasurer Peter Haley, regional committee member Kate Pateman, and committee members Joe Box, Clare Dart, Shannon Daykin, Lisa Foley, and Kate Buckley, who served as early career member in 2018.

Past president Fiona Caulley will continue with the committee as immediate past president.

Congratulations to the FLPA committee for 2019, welcome to the new committee members and thank you for the wonderful efforts of outgoing committee members – Clarissa Rayward, Nardine Collier and Fraser Murray.

We look forward to a successful and collegial year ahead.

President: James Steel
Vice-President: Dan Bottrell
Secretary: Rebecca Horsley
Treasurer: Peter Haley
Committee: Joe Box, Clare Dart, Shannon Daykin, Lisa Foley, Kate Buckley, Dearne Firth
Regional Members: Amalie Grima, Kate Pateman
Early Career Member: Skye Trevanion

2018 TRAVIS LINDENMAYER AWARD WINNER

The Honourable Justice Murphy proudly announced FLPA member and great friend The Honourable Brian Jordan as the deserving winner of The Honourable Travis Lindenmayer Award for 2018 at the FLPA Christmas party on 29 November.

Awarded to a practitioner for outstanding contribution to the family law profession, the recipient of the Award must embody ‘integrity, intellect and industry’. The Honourable Jordan was the 10th recipient of the Award.

In presenting the Award to his long-time colleague with The Honourable Travis Lindenmayer in attendance, Justice Murphy humorously spoke of The Honourable Jordan’s distinguished career both on and off the bench.

The Honourable Jordan has all of the necessary attributes and is a worthy recipient of the Award.

His Honour practised as a family law solicitor and barrister before being appointed to the Family Court bench in Brisbane in 1991 where he sat continually until he retired in 2005.

Since his retirement, The Honourable Jordan has embarked on a successful arbitration and mediation practice and has assisted the Family Court of Western Australia on multiple occasions.

Congratulations to The Honourable Jordan.
INTRODUCING OUR NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

DEARNE FIRTH – COMMITTEE MEMBER

Dearne Firth was called to the bar in 2010 and practises primarily in family law, child protection, domestic violence matters and criminal law.

Dearne has extensive experience appearing in the Federal Circuit Court and Family Court, as well as the Supreme Court, District Court and Magistrates Court of Queensland.

Dearne has been a member of FLPA for several years and says she considers it to be a fantastic organisation for family law practitioners.

“The collegiality created by FLPA, whilst also providing continuing education, is second to none. I relish the opportunity to assist in further strengthening this collegiality, whilst also contributing some fresh ideas for upcoming and new FLPA events,” Dearne said.

AMALIE GRIMA – REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBER

Amalie is a director at the newly formed Cairns Family Law Group and has eight years experience working solely in family law. Amalie commenced her law career in Cairns. She relocated to Brisbane for two years before recently returning to her home town of Cairns where she co-created Cairns Family Law Group.

Amalie describes being a family lawyer as being a problem solver.

“My focus is to obtain practical and commercial outcomes for clients,” Amalie said.

Amalie wanted to become a contributing committee member of FLPA in order to connect and engage with other family lawyers in Queensland.

“Having worked as a family lawyer in both Brisbane and regional Queensland, I am keen to ensure regional Queensland family lawyers have access the services and benefits of the FLPA.”

Amalie will complement existing regional committee member Kate Pateman in Townsville.

SKYE TREVANION – EARLY CAREER COMMITTEE MEMBER

Skye was admitted in 2013 after graduating from Griffith University and works with Rice Naughton McCarthy. Skye says for better or for worse, she’s wedded to family law.

Skye was particularly keen to become the early career member on the FLPA board because she believes early career practitioners in particular find themselves facing a public cynicism about legal and professional processes, and an uncertainty about the future of the profession.

“From my perspective, and that of my colleagues at Rice Naughton McCarthy, FLPA’s role in articulating the views of family law practitioners in areas of policy, as well as providing meaningful and directed continuing legal education is critical to ensuring that the practice of family law is robust and agile,” said Skye.

For Skye, the opportunity to be a part of that was difficult to resist. She has spent some time in the executive of the Queensland Young Lawyers, and felt it was time for a new challenge.

“Of course, the collegiality that FLPA fosters is an absolute highlight, and in that regard, I look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones during the upcoming year of FLPA events.”
FLPA PERSONALITIES AT PERSONE FOR CHRISTMAS

FLPA members and guests celebrated 2018 and the beginnings of another Christmas season at the new Persone Restaurant at Brisbane Quarter on 29 November. With the Travis Lindenmayer Award presented, members enjoyed the company, the food, wine and fabulous views at this new restaurant.

For more photos of the evening, please visit the FLPA website.

2019 RETREAT – SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Plans are well underway for the 2019 Family Law Retreat, which will be held from 13 to 15 June.

The 2019 Retreat website is now online and registrations will open in February. Remember, it was sold out last year and there will be limited early bird registrations available, so don’t miss out!

Event organisers have sourced extra accommodation options for guests and the framework of the program has been included to use as a guide for booking.

If you are interested in sponsoring this fantastic event, the Sponsorship Prospectus will be available in the New Year. Last year’s sponsors will be given the first opportunity to sponsor the 2019 event.

If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please contact FLPA president James Steel directly on james.steel@bnlaw.com.au or phone 07 3231 6384.

We look forward to hearing from you!
FLPA SUPPORTS FLS SUBMISSION

After much consultation with interested members, FLPA is pleased to have made a submission to the Australian Law Reform Commission on 13 November 2018 responding to the discussion paper issued by the Commission in relation to family law.

After meeting with ALRC part-time commissioner, Geoffrey Sinclair, and attending forums held by the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia, FLPA unreservedly supported the submission advanced by the Family Law Section on behalf of family law practitioners around the country.

FLPA president James Steel said in addition to the submission made by the Family Law Section, FLPA raised additional points with the Commission.

“We considered 10 specific areas of the discussion paper of particular importance and raised these in our submission on behalf of members, in addition to the endorsement of the lengthy and comprehensive submission made by the FLS,” James said.

On 15 November 2018, FLPA made an additional submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee in relation to the Federal Circuit Court and Family Court of Australia Bill 2018 and associated bills.

“In this submission, FLPA raised a number of issues on behalf of members in relation to the draft bills.

“An important aspect of the submission was to ensure that all Judges appointed to both divisions of the proposed Court, and its appeal division, hold specialist knowledge and experience in family law.”

If you have any specific questions regarding the submissions that were made on behalf of FLPA members, please contact FLPA president James Steel directly on james.steel@bnlaw.com.au or phone 07 3231 6384.
AN EVENING WITH JUDGE MIDDLETON – TWILIGHT SEMINAR/WEBINAR IN TOWNSVILLE

In Townsville last month, FLPA members were given a helpful presentation by his Honour Judge Steve Middleton.

His Honour discussed all things family law, answered questions from the floor and online, and offered practical tips for the practitioners appearing routinely in Townsville in relation to how the Court list is managed, preparing clients for the process and drafting court material.

Below are a few takeaways from the Twilight:
- his Honour expects clients to be at each and every Court event,
- he prefers for town agents as opposed to appearances by telephone, and
- he prefers to order a Child Inclusive Conference (CIC) before making any interim determination where there is no other independent evidence.

Regional FLPA committee member Kate Pateman also developed new technical skills and introduce a webinar option for members unable to attend the Twilight seminar in person.

If you missed this Twilight, it’s available for purchase and CLE points on the FLPA webinar shop.

TOWNSVILLE TOP TIPS

JUDGE MIDDLETON’S LEAVE DATES FOR 2019

Judge Middleton will be on leave for the following dates in 2019. At this stage, there will be no Federal Circuit Court appearances scheduled in Townsville during these times.

- 8 to 18 April 2019
- 16 September to 4 October 2019
- 28 October to 1 November 2019

FROM TOWNSVILLE REGISTRAR BOYD

FLPA members, please note this message from Registrar Boyd:

When signing acknowledgments of service of behalf of clients, practitioners must sign personally, not in their firm name. Any received without personal signatures will be rejected from the court file.
FLPA members should be aware that the Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages is no longer accepting orders for sole parental responsibility as sufficient authority to cause a child's name change.

In a recent letter from the Registry, they stated that due to a recent challenge and following advice, they will now interpret the Act differently and “the Registrar will be unable to register the child's name change without an Order of the Magistrates Court approving the change of name, or an amended Order of the Family Court of Australia specifically approving the child's name”.

The letter stated that it had previously been the Registry's interpretation of Section 17 “that a parent/guardian granted an Order giving them parental responsibility was recognised by the Court as the guardian and therefore the mother/father's consent to the change of name was not required”.

DE FACTO PROPERTY MATTERS

The Civil Law and Justice Legislation Amendment Act 2018 has received royal assent. Of relevance, this Act makes amendments to section 44(5) of the Family Law Act which allows de facto couples to consent to financial orders being made after the statutory limitation period has expired.

CONTACT CENTRE DETAILS UPDATED ON FLPA WEBSITE

FLPA’s member only section of the website has been recently updated with two new Contact Centre details in Brisbane. The Contact Centre and Wait List page also has information about the latest Contact Centre Wait List. If you have any updates, please email membership@flpa.org.au.

CHANGES TO NUMBERING IN SUPERANNUATION SPLITTING/FLAGGING PROVISIONS

The Family Law Act 1975 has undergone recent changes and portions of the Act have been renumbered. The compilation available on Federal Register of Legislation shows the text of the law as amended and in force as at 22 November 2018. Members should note that:

- section 90MT which dealt with superannuation splitting orders, now falls under section 90XT; and
- section 90MU which dealt with superannuation flagging orders, now falls under section 90XU.

Draft consent orders, initiating applications and response documents which refer to the old numbering of the relevant provisions will need to be updated.
MEMBER SEARCH FUNCTION
NOW MOBILE FRIENDLY

FLPA website’s Find a Member search function has been updated to make it more mobile friendly.

On any page, just click on Find a Member on the top right, and narrow down your search based on Profession, Region and other criteria. Profession search categories include Accountant, Arbitrator, Barrister, Counsellor, Family Court Writer, Financial Adviser, Mediator, Psychologist, Social Worker, or Solicitor.

If you are not listed and would like to list yourself on the FLPA Member Directory, you need to login and update your details. More than 360 members are now listed.

If you have any difficulties logging in or changing your details, please send a quick email to membership@flpa.org.au and they will assist you to make the changes or can do it for you.

FANCY YOURSELF AS A FAMILY LAW PRESENTER?

FLPA members are a wonderful resource full of knowledge and insightful perspective. Our Family Law Retreat and professional development events throughout the year are testament to this.

FLPA is inviting expressions of interest for more fabulous speakers to present on topics they are passionate about at events such as the Family Law Retreat, next year’s Twilight Seminars and Lunchbox Webinars.

FLPA’s aim is to deliver a professional development program which is practical and informative, and encourages our members to think outside the box. As a sign of the times and continuing changes in the professional development space, FLPA is always looking for ways to deliver this information to our members in a new, fresh and dynamic style which engaging.

We are also often approached by other organisations to recommend great speakers, as we recently have been for the ACT Law Society.

If you think you would be interested in speaking or presenting on family law, please send us a 2-minute video which tells us a little about you and your proposed topic to membership@flpa.org.au for the attention of our Professional Development Committee.

We look forward to hearing from you!
WEBINAR SHOP – LATEST CLE VIDEOS ONLINE

FLPA’s webinar shop has all the latest Twilight webinars and Lunchbox webinars for purchase.

If you need to update your learnings or gain your CLE points and you’ve missed some of the latest FLPA professional development events, take a look online and see what interests you.

The latest additions include:

- Forum-related issues in Children and Property Cases Twilight – Murray Green (November)
- An evening with Judge Middleton Twilight (November)
- Untangling technical tax law Twilight – Frances Becker and Melissa Davidson (September)
- Family Law Valuations Twilight – Peter Haley and John Thynne (August)
- Involving financial planners in Family Law settlements Lunchbox – Helen Baker (May)

https://www.flpa.org.au/webinar-shop/

WANT TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN ROUNDTABLE?

FLPA’s Round Table magazine is offering appropriate businesses the opportunity to communicate with FLPA’s 900 plus members. FLPA will consider advertising applications from businesses that are relevant to family law practitioners. These would include mediators, accountants, financial services, social services and other professional services as well as personal businesses relevant our members, such as personal training. If you are interested in advertising your business, space is limited to only three advertisers. Please contact roundtable@flpa.org.au for the advertising rate card and policy.

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UPCOMING FLPA EVENTS & OTHER EVENTS FOR 2019

HERE’S A GLIMPSE OF SOME OF THE FLPA AND OTHER EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2019. KEEP AN EYE ON FLPA’S FACEBOOK PAGE AND YOUR INBOX. DON’T MISS THEM.

FLPA’S FAMILY LAW RETREAT 2019

13-15 JUNE 2019
PEPPERS NOOSA RESORT & VILLAS

Leadership in Family Law
familylawretreat.com.au

LIMITED SPACE!

REGISTRATIONS WILL OPEN IN FEBRUARY. SPACE IS LIMITED AND TICKETS ARE LIKELY TO SELL OUT.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN IN LAW LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

The 2019 Summit will provide a unique opportunity to learn from an unparalleled group of female leaders from on the ground front-line barristers, solicitors and general counsel to inspirational executive decision makers.

WHEN: 7 March 2019
TIME: 8.30am - 4.30pm with webinars and pre-reading before the course.
WHERE: RACV City Club, Melbourne
MORE INFO: https://www.wla.edu.au/womeninlaw.html
The below button takes you to the Child Support Agency's Care Estimator and Child Support/FTB Estimator. Bookmark it for easy access and reference.

View website

The Titles Office website for industry professionals includes: the Land Titles Practice Manual (how to complete and lodge land registry forms), The fee calculator (calculates the lodgement fees payable on land registry forms), and the latest land registry forms.

FLPA's library of family law cases continues to grow in Case Watch thanks to our army of FLPA members. Don't forget to log in to the member section of the FLPA website to check out the cases reviewed.

If you would like to volunteer to write a case for Case Watch, please email your interest to roundtable@flpa.org.au.

If you're on LinkedIn, don't forget to follow FLPA's group. It's a closed group, open only to FLPA members. Click here to find the group.

www.flpa.org.au