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WELLINGTON BRANCH NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS – 2022 AGM



The Wellington Branch Annual General Meeting was on 15 June. Christopher Griggs, Wellington Branch President, presented his Address - please see below.

Tēnā koutou ki ngā mema katoa o te wāhanga o Te Whanganui-a-Tara o Te Kāhui Ture o Aotearoa!

When my immediate predecessor, **Annette Gray**, reported to you all at the last AGM, she noted that *“life in the Covid 19 pandemic world is going to continue for some time into the future. This presents challenges to all practitioners and how we operate at both the national NZLS and local branch levels”*.

Those words proved prophetic – Covid has had continuing impact on our activities during much of the last year. However, we are now seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. While our events up until the Government’s adoption of the Orange setting were almost exclusively on-line, in recent times we have been able to host some very successful in-person events, most notably the hugely successful Hutt Valley Bar Dinner at La Bella Italia on 2 June, which was sold out. My thanks for that go to **Vicki Nathan**, the Hutt Valley representative on the Branch Council, and **Leonie Vines**, our hard-working and enthusiastic Branch Manager. It is clear from this and other events now being run by the Branch and its many specialist committees that there is a real appetite for in-person engagement in the wake of the restrictions imposed by Covid. With that in mind, I encourage you to register early for the Branch’s charity dinner to be held at St John’s Bar on 7 July. Every ticket sold includes a donation to the Solicitors’ Benevolent Fund, a very worthy charity which is our own important safety net for members who may fall on hard times.

My earlier mention of Vicki reminds me that, as at the AGM last year, I had a very small Branch Council indeed, reflecting what I saw as a very undesirable erosion of our members’ engagement with the Branch. At that stage the Branch Council consisted of me, **Julius Maskell** as a Vice

President, **Harrison Cunningham** from Crown Law and the ex officio representatives of Wairarapa and the Young Lawyers’ Committee. Rather than seeing it as a cause for despair, I saw that as an opportunity to rejuvenate and diversify the Branch Council. We have done that. A very important part of that kaupapa has been the establishment of “twigs” of the Branch in Kāpiti, Porirua and the Hutt Valley, with local lawyers from those areas volunteering to join the Branch Council, so that we ensure the Law Society is active around the region and we hear about the issues that matter at the grass roots. My inspiration for that was the longstanding Wairarapa twig. When I attended their last twig AGM, 50% of all Wairarapa practitioners were present. We are now well on the journey to emulating that success across Greater Wellington, although there is still much to be done. I am glad to see so many of you here this evening.

In addition to the new “twig” representatives, **Saar Cohen-Ronan** volunteered to join the Branch Council and accepted the mantle of Vice President, alongside Julius. Saar is a senior legal manager in the public sector and has been instrumental in assisting the Branch to cement and develop our ties with the Government Legal Network and ILANZ, of which he is now also a board member. I am acutely aware that about one-third of this Branch’s 3132 members are in-house (primarily Government) lawyers; that proportion is now reflected in the membership of the Branch Council.

Another strategy which we have implemented to lift our engagement with members over the last year is the establishment of the Branch’s monthly Newsletter. Many of you will remember the old Council Brief newspaper, which played an important role in the life of the Branch. The Branch was very fortunate that, among the young (and not so young) volunteers who agreed to join the Branch Council following the last AGM, **Bridget Sinclair** and **Aimee Dartnall** agreed to take on the job of developing a new monthly publication which is colourful, informative and provides a vehicle for members to share their thoughts on the issues which matter, whether through articles and opinion pieces or letters to the editor. Much of the content is fairly light, but we have also grappled with serious matters of principle where the Branch Council has taken a stand on behalf of Wellington members. You have a right to know what we are saying and doing in your name (and to tell us if you think we’re wrong), which is why we decided to proactively release the minutes of the Branch Council’s meetings with each edition. My sincere thanks to Bridget, Aimee and Leonie for this joint effort, which is going from strength to strength.

At the start of my tenure as Branch President, I held a strategy day for the Branch Council so that we could adopt

a vision and validate our mission and values. The vision we adopted was **to be the leading positive voice for lawyers in Aotearoa**. It is an ambitious goal, which has spawned a number of lines of effort, including those I have mentioned previously. We have begun the necessary kōrero with Te Hunga Rōia Māori o Aotearoa and tangata whenua to better align the Branch's values with the principles of Te Tiriti. We have spoken up on issues of principle, including the issue of judicial independence which is to be canvassed at this AGM. With your support, we will continue to do that.

It has also been a year of considerable change and challenge for the Law Society as a whole. The Wellington-based staff are now well ensconced in the Society's new head office at Whitmore Street. I do enjoy the new décor and the recorded New Zealand birdsong, but apparently not everyone shares my view! Our new Chief Executive, **Joanna Simon**, tells me that the Wellington Branch will have improved facilities and meeting space at Whitmore Street once the fit-out is completed – so that's something to look forward to. We have a new NZLS President in Jacque Lethbridge, who replaced **Tiana Epati** on 8 April. The commitment required of a practitioner aspiring to that role cannot be underestimated, so I'd like to publicly thank Tiana on behalf of this Branch for her mahi (especially as a mother of small children) and look forward to working with Jacque on the opportunities and challenges which lie ahead. At the same time, **Arti Chand** completed her term as Vice President (Wellington) on the NZLS Board (only to be snapped up shortly afterwards as President of the Pacific Lawyers' Association). Congratulations to Arti and many thanks for her advocacy on the Board on behalf of the Wellington Branch. Arti has been replaced by **Ataga'i Esera**. Ata brings a new and valuable perspective to the Board and the Branch Council looks forward to working with her to achieve the strategic goals of the Branch at the national level. One of those goals is to increase the transparency of the Law Society. You will have read about that in recent editions of our Newsletter, so I need not labour the point here. Suffice to say it's a work in progress. The Law Society's annual report published earlier this year was a major improvement on earlier years in terms of the quantity and quality of information provided. The Law Society also did excellent work in gathering the necessary data and using that data to successfully advocate for the significant increase in legal aid funding announced by the Government in its most recent Budget. At the same time, the Society has commissioned an independent review of its structure and operations, which presages the possibility of the most significant reforms of our profession in a

generation. The review panel, including Wellington member **Jane Meares**, has just released their discussion document. It is available on the Law Society website. I encourage you all to read it. The Branch Council will be looking for ways to make sure the voices of Wellington Branch members are heard in this important mahi.

Over a number of years, an issue which has been consistently raised at this AGM is that the Wellington Branch did not have any funds to undertake and support worthwhile activities. I am very pleased to say that the previous NZLS Board responded to that sentiment and approved a discretionary fund budget of \$15,000 for the Branch for our financial year which ends on 30 June 2022. In accordance with prudent financial management, I produce a brief financial report in respect of the funds which the Branch Council has expended on your behalf at the end of this report.

I want to conclude by noting the heartfelt thanks of the Branch Council to all of you who run or participate in the activities of our specialist committees. At last count we have 15 active committees in the Branch, which I believe is a national record in the Society. I am attaching to my report a list of the Branch's events since the last AGM, but that only includes whole-of-branch events. The committees organise many, many more, some of which I have had the pleasure of attending since becoming your Branch President. As the Branch's pages on the Law Society website say, the committees are the lifeblood of this Branch.

I have now been your Branch President for 12 months and I have another 12 months before I will hand over the reins to someone new. I have been on the Branch Council since 2016. Some might question why a barrister with a busy practice would bother. The simple answer is that the Law Society has been around since 1869. This Branch has been around in one form or another since 1879. It is the voice of our profession and it is important. If we work together as one, we can achieve great things. I encourage you all to get involved.

He waka eke noa



Christopher Griggs, Wellington Branch President



Victoria University of Wellington – Faculty of Law – Dean’s column – Petra Butler



Graduation is always a highlight- not only for students. This year’s May Graduation for Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington was no exception.

Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture Faculty of Law held a special graduation celebration at Parliament’s Banquet Hall, hosted by two Faculty of Law alumni: the Hon. Kiritapu Allan and National MP, Chris Bishop.

Students, together with their guests, gathered in the Banquet Hall along with the Pro Vice-Chancellor Government, Law, and Business, Mark Hickford, and Faculty of Law academic and professional staff.

In their addresses speakers celebrated their different journeys in the law. The Hon. Kiri Allan began her welcome recounting her first impressions of the Law School. Former Victoria University of Wellington Law Students’ Society president, Meghan Grant, and former co-President of Ngā Rangahautira, Herewini Amunson, reflected on what it is like to study at Te Kauhanganui Tātai Ture in rather unprecedented times and alumna Horiana Irwin-Easthope paid tribute to Moana Jackson and his influence on the law and life in the law.

The celebration ended with the traditional University Graduation Parade through town and an acknowledgment of all Graduands’ achievements by the University’s Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Jennifer Windsor, and the Mayor of Wellington in Civic Square.

The May Graduation celebration was special, since it marked the first in-person event in nearly a year which brought together the Faculty of Law whānau.

Our next large scale in-person event was held in June as the Faculty commemorated the life of Lecretia Seales with

the Lecretia Seales Memorial Lecture on Law Reform. Chlöe Swarbrick MP was the guest speaker this year and spoke about cannabis law reform in front of full (orange compliant) lecture theatre. In addition, we will have the inaugural lectures of Professors Joel Colón-Ríos and Catherine Iorns. Professor Geoff McLay will give this year’s Woodhouse Lecture and rounding out our events in the next three months is a visit from Professor Liz Fisher, from the University of Oxford.

You can find more information about our event [here](#). If you would like to be on our mailing list, please visit the Faculty of Law webpage <https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/law/sign-up-form>.

Besides enjoying being able to host in person events and teaching in person again, colleagues have been busy researching, for example, Alberto Costi, “Urgence climatique : l’obligation de prévenir la disparation de l’État” , in Geneviève Dufour and Kristine Plouffe-Malette (eds) *Hommage à Daniel Turp: Amicorum discipulorumque liber* (Hors-série (janvier2022)) *Revue Québécoise de Droit International* 233, Dean Knight, “Cabinet Governance in New Zealand under MMP: Multi-Party Government and Condoned Dissent” (2022) 26 *Edinburgh Law Review* 79, Hai-Yuean Tualima et al, “The Mismatch of Intellectual Property and Heritage Law with the Legal Frameworks of First Peoples and Pacific Island Communities” in L Lixinski, L Morisset *Routledge Handbook of Heritage and the Law* (Routledge 2022), Ruiping Ye, “ Supreme People’s Court (Zuigao Rénmín Fayuàn)” in *Max Planck Encyclopedia of Comparative Law* (OUP 2022), or Marnie Lloyd, “Brokers and Translators: Exploring the Limits of Pluralism”, 13 (2022) *International Humanitarian Negotiation Journal of International Humanitarian Legal Studies* 1.

Many academics do get involved in the real world, too. For example, Catherine Iorns Magallanes was legal counsel for Save Our Springs in the Environment Court hearing for a Water Conservation Order for Te Waikoropupū Springs. She summarised her experience as, “It was most satisfying to be able to use my academic research in legal submissions, and to have them discussed and even affirmed by the other parties.”

We would be delighted to welcome you as part of our Faculty of Law whānau, please contact law-postgraduate@vuw.ac.nz, including if you are interested in auditing one of our courses. You can also find out more [here](#).

Wishing everyone a great winter
Noho ora mai
Petra Butler
Acting Dean, Faculty of Law



ILANZ PROFILE - KIRSTY MILLARD



I'm Kirsty Millard and by way of my "day" job I am the Chief Legal Advisor/director procurement at the Ministry for the Environment. I am also a committee member of the In-house Lawyers Association of New Zealand (**ILANZ**). I'll give you a little bit of insight into what ILANZ is about.

ILANZ's core function is providing a vehicle to bring in-house lawyers together. It is a section of the Law Society (much like the property and family law sections) and its key mandate is to connect, support and lead in-house lawyers. It principally does this by holding an annual conference, hosting training or speakers, and holding network catch-ups (particularly in the regions). It also makes submissions on matters that affect in-house lawyers. You can check out more about what ILANZ does here - <https://www.ilanz.org/>.

I am a general committee member on ILANZ and together we oversee how ILANZ can provide the connection and support for in-house lawyers. The committee is made up of a great bunch of in-house lawyers who are really committed to making a difference to the in-house legal profession. We have recently held elections for our new committee.

Our incoming committee will be made up of ten members in total, ably led by our President (**Grant Pritchard**) and our in-coming Vice President (**Hiramai Rogers**). I'm looking forward to working with the in-coming committee on some exciting initiatives we have already started planning for.

I joined the ILANZ Committee to bring both the Government legal network and the Wellington in-house lawyers voice to the committee. I also joined as it is great working with representatives of the inhouse legal community across the country and working in quite different areas of practise. This means we get to hear and work through issues with quite a range of perspectives. We are all focused on how we can make the profession better and address the specific needs of inhouse lawyers.

In-house lawyers make up over 25% of the profession. A lot of those lawyers work for Government or regulatory bodies, usually based in Wellington. So ILANZ is very important for the Wellington legal community to ensure our in-house voices and experience is being reflected in the Law Society and elsewhere, and to shape what training and discussion topics we include in ILANZ supported events. ILANZ runs a number of training opportunities which are specifically targeted to skills and issues facing in-house lawyers, including General Counsel. And of course I would encourage any in-house lawyer to join us at the conference in Ōtautahi (Christchurch) on 5 and 6 October. The theme is Whakapuāwai/Flourish and we have some great topics and speakers lined up, including **Ethan Jerome-Leota** from Tainui (Waikato) and **Dame Sophie Pascoe**. You can check out more details here - [ILANZ Conference 2022 | ILANZ](#).



NEW HOUSING AND SUPPORT SERVICE IN LOWER HUTT

A new iwi led reintegration service has opened in Naenae for people either coming out of prison or who are serving a community-based sentence or order and have a housing need.

Te Whare Whakaruruhau o Raumanuka is run by Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa in partnership with the Department of Corrections.

The service provides wrap-around support and transitional accommodation for up to twenty-six men to facilitate their reintegration back into the Hutt Valley and wider Wellington community. There is a strong emphasis on re-connecting men with whānau as well as Māori culture. Residents will usually stay for between 6-12 months but can stay for as many as 18 months.

The service is suitable for people who are from and/or have whānau, hapū or iwi connections to the Wellington Region, or are genuinely looking to reintegrate into the area. The service is not suitable for men with high and complex needs, those who have been charged with sexual offending or men subject to extended supervision and intensive monitoring conditions. It also cannot be used for bail as an alternative to being remanded in custody.

Read more at www.raumanuka.co.nz

If you want to know more or think this could be a place for a client you are working with please contact Anaru Para, Service Manager at Te Whare Whakaruruhau o Raumanuka on 0800 100 160 or email enquiries@raumanuka.co.nz Alternatively you can speak to Probation Officer Amy Wood on 027 886 6009.





UPDATES AND EVENTS



Interactive session with Independent Review Panel

A once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape how lawyers and legal services are regulated in Aotearoa New Zealand is under way. It has the potential to directly impact the work of all providers of legal services – so we're keen to hear from all quarters.

Please join the Independent Review Panel for an interactive one-hour engagement event on the key issues that will shape how lawyers are regulated and represented in the future. This is an opportunity to hear from the Panel and to put your questions and ideas directly to them.

Date: Monday 1 August

Time: 10am

Venue: Level 7 JacksonStone House, 3-11 Hunter Street, Wellington

You can register for the event [here](#).

Participating in an engagement event may count towards 1 CPD hour of your CPD requirements.

Speaker event: Human rights issues arising from the COVID-19 response

The NZLS Human Rights Committee (Wellington) welcomes you to join them for their first event of 2022 – an evening of speakers sharing their expertise on the human rights issues arising from the COVID-19 response. You will earn 1 CPD hour from attending this event.

The following speakers will share their different perspectives:

- **John Hancock** – Human Rights Commission.
- **Peter Cranney** – Oakley Moran Chambers.
- **Peter Fraser** – New Zealand Māori Council.
- **Matt McKillop** – Crown Law.

When: Wednesday 13 July, 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Where: Moot Room, Wellington University Law School

Tickets: Free entry – register through this link [here](#).

Kapiti Social Function

For those who have confirmed they are attending don't forget the Kapiti function:

When: Thursday 14 July 2022 - 4:30pm-6:30pm

Where: The Refinery at Kapiti Lights, Paraparaumu, Private Room

Any queries contact Sue Scutter sue@lawconnect.co.nz