

A nighttime photograph of a cityscape. In the foreground, a large steel truss bridge is illuminated with bright lights, spanning across a body of water. In the background, a tall skyscraper with many lit windows stands against the dark night sky. The image is partially obscured by large, diagonal, light-colored geometric shapes that create a modern, abstract design.

2021 Annual Report

**WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF
QUEENSLAND**

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www.wlaq.com.au

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

CATHERINE CHEEK, WLAQ PRESIDENT & SPECIAL COUNSEL, KENNEDY SPANNER LAWYERS

With 2020 having been the year of contained celebration and closed venues, 2021 saw WLAQ sparkle and sizzle with face to face activity. The year started with a strategic planning meeting to determine the focus of 2021 which was, in addition to the objectives set out in the 2020 – 2022 plan, to assess how to manage a number of issues that had been thrown into sharp relief by working from home and the need to provide support for women lawyers who were facing bullying and harassment in the workplace.



Pictured (L-R): Dr Vicky Comino (UQ), Rebecca Treston QC & Catherine Cheek (WLAQ President)

Ann-Maree David has continued in her role as WLAQ Support Person to provide members with a contact with whom they could discuss bullying or harassment issues. Interest in an inter-organisation committee, with senior lawyers from various law firms, commenced engagement on bullying and harassment issues and we liaised with QLS into ways parental leave can be made financially easier.

The International Women's Day (IWD) event at the Banco Court in 2021, held in-person, was a wonderful evening. The annual IWD panel discussion, a collaborative event with the Bar Association of Queensland and the Queensland Law Society, was one of a number of fantastic events in which the organisations partner. On this occasion - sold out with 145 registrations - those who attended were treated to hearing how Dr Dinesh Palipana OAM, Zinta Harris, Ashleigh DoRozario and Sandra Creamer challenged in line with the #choosetochallenge IWD 2021 theme.

WLAQ held the Una Prentice Awards night in person in 2021, an event hosted by College of Law. The Una Prentice Awards are presented to the highest achieving female graduate of each university in Queensland. The awards were presented by the Hon Justice Debra Mullins, patron of the Una Prentice Memorial Trust.

The Ladder Mentoring Program for 2021 was outstandingly supported, and involved the committee organising a record breaking number of mentor/mentee relationships of 123 pairs of participants. The enthusiasm with which the women of the profession participated in this programme and the willingness of mentors to share their time and knowledge was inspiring.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Gender Diversity Forum was held before the 2021 AGM at Maurice Blackburn Lawyers on 23 June 2021. This event included:

- A panel discussion with Richard Douglas, Alison Haly and Kara Thomson on managing sexual harassment and bullying in the legal profession in a workshop format; and,
- A presentation on taking the next step in your career with presentations by Dominique Lamb, Jessica McClymont and Ann Fitzpatrick involving study and learning options, moving to boards and moving through more traditional pathways and judicial appointments.

In 2021, WLAQ was approached by Suzie Miller to organise a women lawyers' theatre night for her play "Prima Facie" produced by Queensland Theatre. The topic of the play was sexual abuse in the legal profession with a Q and A to follow in which WLAQ was invited to participate. I hope that we have the opportunity to partner with other creative events in the future.

During the course of the year, WLAQ has engaged with key stakeholders to ensure that we are well positioned to promote the interests of women lawyers in the state.

The return of the Beryl Donkin Memorial Scholarship Fund was announced in 2021, with its new patron, former WLAQ President Jennifer McVeigh. We are looking forward to continuing the operation of this Fund in the years to come.

Our flagship event of the year is the Annual Awards Night and the 43rd WLAQ Annual Awards Night was a magnificent night of acknowledgment of women in the profession and a special opportunity to engage with each other. The practice of women lifting up other women is one that is very important to me and, whilst most of this occurs in unremarkable circumstances, the opportunity to celebrate this publicly was heady stuff. As motivating as such events are, I hope we do remember that, after everyone has left the room, the echo of that support remains (Emma Mactaggart, Toowoomba Zonta Woman of the Year 2021).

The activities of WLAQ in 2021 was driven by very hardworking and always supportive committee members. These women have given an extraordinary amount of time and energy to the multiple events and initiatives that have operated under the WLAQ banner. I am very thankful to you all.

I also extend that thanks to all WLAQ members and members of the legal profession of Queensland who supported our organisation in 2021.

WLAQ COMMITTEE

FY 2021

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President I Catherine Cheek, Special Counsel, Kennedy Spanner Lawyers

Vice-President I Jessica McClymont, Barrister, Hemmant's List

Vice-President I Stephanie Williams, Barrister

Treasurer I Melissa Simpson, Lawyer, McCullough Robertson

Secretary I Emma Lewis, Lawyer, Shand Taylor Lawyers

Immediate Past President I Jamie Shine, General Manager - Head Trauma, Shine Lawyers

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Amie Mish-Wills, Acting Director FWO
Magistrate Dzenita Balic, Magistrates Court of Queensland
Hannah Wordsworth, Solicitor, MA Kent & Associates
Jessica Goldie, Barrister, Queens Arms Chambers
Jessica Popple, Lawyer, Pippa Colman & Associates
Kirsten Van Der Wal, Associate, Maurice Blackburn Lawyers
Krystal Kovac, Head of Legal & Compliance, Oncore
Lauren Austin, Associate, Wilson Lawyers
Nichola Di Muzio, Special Counsel, Thynne + Macartney
Sarah Ford, Senior Associate, Gilshenan & Luton

WLAQ COMMITTEE

FY 2022

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President I Catherine Cheek, Special Counsel, Kennedy Spanner Lawyers

Vice-President I Jessica McClymont, Barrister, Hemmant's List

Vice-President I Stephanie Williams, Crown Prosecutor, ODPP

Treasurer I Amie Mish-Wills, Acting Director, FWO

Secretary I Emma Lewis, Lawyer, Shand Taylor Lawyers

Immediate Past President I Jamie Shine, General Manager - Head Trauma, Shine Lawyers

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Dr Bridget Cullen, Senior Member, AAT
Magistrate Dzenita Balic, Magistrates Court of Queensland

Emma Davis, Student, QUT

Hannah Wordsworth, Solicitor, MA Kent & Associates

Jessica Goldie, Barrister, Queens Arms Chambers

Jessica Grumelart, Solicitor, DA Family Lawyers

Jessica Shuttleworth, Principal, Shuttleworth Legal

Kirsten Van Der Wal, Associate, Maurice Blackburn Lawyers

Nichola Di Muzio, Special Counsel, Thynne + Macartney

Sarah Ford, Senior Associate, Gilshenan & Luton



ADVISORS & AMBASSADORS

WLAQ ADVISORS

Boutique: Amy Honan

Criminal: Wendy Mulcahy

Government: Patrina Clohessy

In-House: Melissa Scott

Student: Kerala Drew

First Nations: Avelina Tarrago

Barrister (Metro): Susie McNeil

Barrister (Regional): Claire Grant

WLAQ AMBASSADORS

Atherton Tablelands: Tiffany Veschetti

Cairns: Laura Neil & Kellie Walker

Gold Coast: Helen Ashton

Ipswich: Annette Power Martel

Mackay: Kim Back

Rockhampton: Stephanie Nicholas

Sunshine Coast: Samantha Bolton

Toowoomba & Darling Downs: Katrina Pedersen

Townsville: Jessica Shuttleworth & Merissa Martinez

Wide Bay: Edwina Rowen & Rebecca Ballantyne

AWARDS & APPOINTMENTS

WLAQ AWARD WINNERS

Woman in Excellence: The Hon Margaret McMurdo AC

Leneen Forde AC Woman Lawyer of the Year: Rebecca Treston QC

Regional Woman Lawyer of the Year: Kyna Morice

Emergent Woman Lawyer of the Year: Ashleigh DoRozario

Legal Aid Queensland Equitable Briefing Award: Cridland & Hua Lawyers

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

Federal Court of Australia: Justice Kylie Downes

Supreme Court of Queensland: Justice Kerri Mellifont

District Court of Queensland: Judge Deborah Holliday QC

District Court of Queensland: Judge Amanda McDonnell

Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia: Judge Dearne Firth

Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia: Judge Patricia Cope

Magistrate: Susan Warrington

Magistrate: Janice Crawford

Magistrate: Megan Power

Magistrate: Stephanie Gallagher

Magistrate: Dzenita Balic

Magistrate: Veena Goverdhan

Magistrate: Edwina Rowan

UNA PRENTICE AWARDS

University of Queensland: Laura Heit

Queensland University of Technology: Irene Gallagher

Bond University: Renee Shike

James Cook University: Bianca Rapisarda

Griffith University: Grace Manahan

University of Southern Queensland: Olivia Duncan

Central Queensland University: Joanna Maier

University of the Sunshine Coast: Talia Rosa-Denham

TREASURER'S REPORT

AMIE MISH-WILLS, WLAQ TREASURER &
TECHNICAL LIAISON OFFICER, FAIR WORK
OMBUDSMAN

In addition to the WLAQ General Account, WLAQ is trustee of the Una Prentice Memorial Trust Award, and operates the Beryl Donkin Memorial Award Trust. An extract of WLAQ's financial position for 2021 is included below and we confirm that WLAQ has complied with all legislative and accounting reporting requirements.

Thank you to Grant Thornton who check WLAQ's financials and prepare and issue our audited financial reports to ensure compliance with WLAQ's legislative requirements. We are grateful for their continued support and assistance.

As at 31 December 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Current assets		
General – Bank Australia	16,027	20,896
Paypal	916	3,557
Petty Cash account – Bank Australia	2,817	1,812
Expenses to be reimbursed	1,465	-
Total current assets	21,225	26,265
Total assets	21,225	26,265
Total liabilities	-	-
Net assets	21,225	26,265
Equity		
Retained earnings	21,225	26,265
Total equity	21,225	26,265

As at 31 December 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Current assets		
Beryl Donkin - ANZ Term deposit	23,153	23,130
Total current assets	23,153	23,130
Total assets	23,153	23,130
Total liabilities	-	-
Net assets	23,153	23,130
Equity		
Retained earnings	23,153	23,130
Total equity	23,153	23,130

As at 31 December 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Current assets		
Una Prentice Bank Account	6,917	5,999
Total current assets	6,917	5,999
Total assets	6,917	5,999
Total liabilities	-	-
Net assets	6,917	5,999
Equity		
Retained earnings	6,917	5,999
Total equity	6,917	5,999

SECRETARY'S REPORT

EMMA LEWIS, WLAQ SECRETARY & LAWYER,
SHAND TAYLOR LAWYERS

In terms of the regulatory requirements that WLAQ is obliged to comply with, I can confirm that we have complied with the requirements under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981*, including the requirement to lodge annual returns and to have our financial records audited and verified.

We conducted eleven committee meetings, at each of which we had enough committee members attend to reach quorum. An agenda was compiled through contributions from committee members each month and circulated prior to each meeting. Minutes of those meetings were recorded and circulated at the following committee meeting for approval.

A copy of the Minutes from the 2020 AGM were provided at the AGM. The 2021 AGM was held in June at Maurice Blackburn Lawyers.

Thank you to our 2021 Corporate Members for their ongoing support - Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Slater & Gordon Lawyers, Hemmant's List, McCullough Robertson, Maurice Blackburn Lawyers, Shine Lawyers, Legal Aid Queensland and King & Wood Mallesons.

MEMBERSHIP	NUMBER
Junior	82
Government < 15 FTE	15
Government >15 FTE	21
Student	75
Retired	2
Regional	32
Honorary	13
Barrister	51
Judicial	13
Corporate < 15 FTE	0
Corporate > 15 FTE	8
CLC & NFP	19
General < 15 FTE	40
General > 15 FTE	32
TOTAL	403

AWL REPORT

JAMIE SHINE, WLAQ IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT, AWL REPRESENTATIVE & GENERAL MANAGER - HEAD TRAUMA, SHINE LAWYERS

Australian Women Lawyers Limited (AWL) was established on 9 September 1997. AWL is governed by a board of directors comprising of representatives from each State and Territory women lawyers' associations whose goal is to be "a justice and equity champion, advancing women within the legal profession and beyond".

The Annual General Meeting for AWL was held on 23 November 2021, where the executive committee listed below remained for a further term and new committee members were appointed:

- **President:** Leah Marrone, Women Lawyers Association of South Australia
- **Vice President:** Holly Lam, Women Lawyers Association of NSW
- **Immediate Past President:** Adrienne Morton, Tasmanian Women Lawyers
- **Secretary:** Jamie Shine, Women Lawyers Association of Queensland
- **Treasurer:** Astrid Haban-Ber, Women Barristers Association of Victoria
- **Board Members:** Harriet Boothman (Women Lawyers Association ACT); Janette McCahon (Women Lawyers of Western Australia); Traci Keys (Northern Territory Women Lawyers' Association); Vanessa Shambrook (Victorian Women Lawyers) and Jessica Sabapathy (Tasmanian Women Lawyers).

The Board has been extremely active in the past year providing comments and submissions in areas particularly relevant to sexual harassment in law and the workplace, giving a voice to not only women in law but to all Australian women, referring to its previously published Seven Strategies for Addressing Sexual Harassment in the Legal Profession. These can be found on AWL's website.

AWL REPORT

The major work undertaken by the board in the past year has been related to planning AWL's first in-person event since 2018, that is our 2022 National Conference. The Conference will be hosted in Brisbane and be held on 5 -7 August 2022. The theme of the conference is: **Securing a safe, just, and equitable future for women.**

AWL is delighted to confirm that the keynote speech at the Conference will be delivered by our Patron, the Honourable Chief Justice Susan Kiefel AC.

The Conference will include a welcome function on the first evening, a full day conference on 6 August 2022, followed by the Conference Gala Dinner. The conference will be held both in-person and online due to the ongoing impact of Covid restrictions during the planning phase of the Conference.

The Gala Dinner will be held at Custom's House and feature the presentation of the AWL Award. The Award recognises women who have provided long-term leadership and commitment in the support and advancement of women in the legal profession. AWL have secured comedian and lawyer, Steph Tisdall as the keynote speaker at the Gala Dinner.

The Conference will host a range of sessions focussing on a mix of substantive law, with women lawyers who are expert in their fields leading the discussions, and equity and human rights focussed sessions consistent with our organisation's objectives.

AWL is excited to put their planning in 2021 into action at the 2022 AWL Conference!



MEDIA REPORT

KIRSTEN VAN DER WAL, WLAQ MEDIA ADVISOR
& ASSOCIATE, MAURICE BLACKBURN LAWYERS

WLAQ continued to work to publish community-oriented content with a view to celebrating inspiring Queensland women, promoting achievements and appointments within our professional and advising our members of the support and resources available to them, with a particular focus on inclusivity for regional members and the promotion of events that would be of benefit to our members throughout Queensland.

We reached over 4,300 followers on Facebook, over 4,400 on LinkedIn and over 1,000 on Twitter. From January 2021 to December 2021, we saw a large increase in followers and engagement with our posts across all social media platforms, in particular Facebook and LinkedIn and we thank our members for their continued support.

We used our social media platforms to regularly provide information regarding the available resources and events for members including the IWD Panel Event, LinkedIn Marketing for Students and Early Career Lawyers event, Gender Diversity Forum, Women at the Bar event, Criminal Lawyer specific events, fundraising details for the WLS and Dancing CEOs event and shared other important resources including the WLAQ maternity jacket, details on how to access the inaugural WLAQ support person and the WLAQ female barristers list.

The WLAQ shared updates regarding COVID-19 lockdowns and the resources available for our members during the challenging periods of lockdowns.

The WLAQ sought feedback and shared the published submissions the organisation made with respect to the Judges' Pensions Amendment (Pension Not Payable for Misconduct) Bill 2020 and the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. The WLAQ shared a survey with its members to seek input from female lawyers who shared their experiences or insights into the justice system and we collated this information as part of our submissions.

The WLAQ shared the Ladder Mentoring Program across our social media platforms and had a record year for mentor/mentees with a total of 250 women being involved in the 2021 Ladder Program.

We continued our WLAQ Inspo List, aimed at celebrating women who hold a law degree, are either from or based in Queensland, and have inspired the WLAQ Committee. The list was released to coincide with IWD to express our thanks to firms, chamber groups and other organisations for contributing to the 2021 theme.

MEDIA REPORT

We were also able to return to our in person Annual Awards Dinner and celebrate the many incredible women within the legal profession and share the results across our social media platforms.

In 2021, we were pleased to promote inspiring women both via these platforms, and internally, with some notable mentions including:

- The Honourable Justice Jacqueline Gleeson who was appointed to the High Court of Australia;
- The Honourable Justice Kylie Downes who was appointed to the Federal Court of Australia;
- The Honourable Justice Kerri Mellifont who was appointed to the Supreme Court of Queensland;
- The Honourable Justice Helen Bowskill (now Chief Justice) who was appointed as Senior Judge Administrator of the Supreme Court of Queensland;
- Her Honour Judge Patricia Cope and her Honour Judge Dearne Firth who were appointed to the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia;
- Her Honour Judge Deborah Holliday QC and her Honour Judge Amanda McDonnell who were appointed to the District Court of Queensland;
- Magistrate Susan Warrington, Magistrate Janice Crawford, Magistrate Megan Power, Magistrate Stephanie Gallagher, Magistrate Dzenita Balic, Magistrate Veena Jattan and Magistrate Edwina Rowan who were appointed to the Queensland Magistrates Court;
- Ruth O’Gorman QC who was appointed as Queen’s Counsel;
- Elizabeth Shearer who was appointed President of the Queensland Law Society;
- Dr Jacoba Brasch QC who was appointed President of the Law Council of Australia; and
- Nicky Davies who was appointed as CEO of Legal Aid Queensland.

WLAQ are pleased to have continued to utilise our platform to connect members and supporters of the WLAQ. We have been extremely proud of the wonderful relationships developed with other Queensland-based organisations. We are grateful for your continued engagement, and we hope to continue to inspire and support members via these platforms in the year to come.



ADVOCACY REPORT

JESSICA MCCLYMONT, WLAQ VICE-PRESIDENT
& BARRISTER, HEMMANT'S LIST

WLAQ continued its efforts to support women advocates and to advocate for women. WLAQ persisted to advocate for equitable briefing of women barristers in maintaining and regularly updating a list of female barristers which is available to the public on our website.

The Pregnancy Bar Jacket was utilised for a good part of 2021, and now remains in its permanent home in the Inns of Court so as to be proximate to the Brisbane court precinct.

WLAQ received a number of notifications of legislative changes and enquiries, many of which were outside our core focus and circulated among our members for their interest. That being said, in January 2021, WLAQ formulated submissions as to proposed changes to the legislation governing judicial pensions, in the event of serious misconduct. WLAQ was able to provide data from its 2019 survey of female criminal lawyers to inform the Senate Committee investigating that issue.

In July 2021, the Criminal Law sub-committee put an enormous effort into submissions to the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce.



In November 2021, we were also excited to host the Women at the Bar event after a two year hiatus. It was a wonderful evening to connect solicitors and female barristers!

In the forthcoming year, WLAQ will continue to be involved in responding to proposed legislative changes and matters concerning our members. The Management Committee members are available to all members to consult and work with on any areas of the profession that are a cause for concern.

DIVERSITY REPORT

MAGISTRATE DZENITA BALIC, WLAQ DIVERSITY ADVISOR & MAGISTRATE

The journey of diversity was outstanding in 2021.

Firstly, we commenced with WLAQ's vital submission regarding serious misconduct for judicial officers and consequences that flow from that.

We also provided a submission to the Women's Safety and Justice including a focus by the criminal sub-committee on women from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Our focus on diversity channelled itself through a couple of speaking arrangements by me on behalf of WLAQ to highlight how WLAQ can enhance the space for diversity within the legal profession through our reach across Queensland. In particular, WLAQ has strengthened its connections with Pride in Law, the Asian Australian Lawyers Association, the Indigenous Lawyers Association Queensland, the Pasifika Lawyers Association of Queensland, QLS Diverse Abilities Network and the Queensland African Lawyers Network.

In September, WLAQ also co-hosted the successful "Why Diversity?" event at the Banco Court in collaboration with many of the above organisations. The Honourable Walter Sofronoff moderated the event and there was a wonderful sharing of

experiences of diversity from members of the Queensland legal profession. This event showcased our dedication to creating a more diverse profession and a more diverse judiciary.

The WLAQ is looking forward to continue to promote the diversity portfolio in 2022!



Pictured at the Pride in Law Address (L-R): Hannah Wordsworth, Avelina Tarrago, Magistrate Dzenita Balic, Dr Bridget Cullen & Catherine Cheek

STUDENT REPORT

EMMA DAVIS, WLAQ STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE & LAW STUDENT

Throughout 2021, WLAQ continued to foster its relationship with law schools across Queensland. WLAQ placed a particular focus on cultivating a strong relationship with the University of Southern Queensland ('USQ') who have recently opened another campus in Ipswich.



The prospect of beginning a legal career in the regions can feel daunting for law students across Queensland.

Pictured (L-R): Justice Debra Mullins, AO, 2021 Una Prentice Award recipients, Catherine Cheek & Ann-Maree David

With that in mind, WLAQ hopes to collaborate with regional universities to host events which connect successful practitioners across the regions with students to provide tips, feedback, and encouragement. Unfortunately, due to circumstances outside of our control, this was unable to come to fruition in 2021.

The Una Prentice Awards were held with success. The Una Prentice Awards are held in memory of Una Prentice, the first female to graduate from the Faculty of Law at the University of Queensland. This award recognised the female law student from each university in Queensland with the highest GPA in her graduating cohort.

WLAQ also had a presence at the QLS Careers Expo which provided an opportunity to meet the next generation of lawyers and introduce them to the WLAQ.

WLAQ is eager to see the student portfolio expand and provide opportunities for female law students to engage with and learn from the legal profession in 2022.

SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

JESSICA GRUMELART, WLAQ SOCIAL SECRETARY & SOLICITOR, DA FAMILY LAWYERS

2021 was an excellent year for events hosted and supported by the WLAQ.

While things may have started off a bit rocky, and we had a few lockdown interruptions throughout, the resilience of our committee to reschedule events again (and again!) led to a fantastic, albeit busy, year of events for the WLAQ

We held our monthly breakfasts in Brisbane where casual networking provided an easy access point for many members.

2021 also saw WLAQ host a number of events outside of Brisbane, including Townsville, Toowoomba and the Gold Coast areas where regional practitioners were able to connect with each other and WLAQ Ambassadors.

We held two workshops for early career lawyers and students to master LinkedIn and other online marketing strategy tools which are essential in a post-COVID world. We also held timely workshops on wellbeing where recommendations for boundary setting provided invaluable advice. As these sessions were held online, we were able to present these topics to a wide section of our community.

2021 was also the year WLAQ championed events focused on diversity. Our AGM in June included a gender diversity forum which focussed on topics important to our members including sexual harassment and taking the next step in their careers beyond the law.

In July 2021, WLAQ was proud to co-host the Women and the Law Theatre Night with the team from Queensland Theatre for a special viewing of the play, Prima Facie. The performance was moving, thought-provoking and powerful, especially for the female lawyers in the audience.

In September 2021, WLAQ co-hosted a sold-out panel discussion at Banco Court with the Asian Australia Lawyers Association, Pride in Law, Pasifika Lawyers Association of Queensland, Indigenous Lawyers Association Queensland, QLS Diverse Abilities Network and the African Lawyers Network joining together to bring members an important panel discussion on why diversity matters. The important topics highlighted, and insightful discussions led to meaningful conversations in the legal community in the months following

SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

WLAQ's 43rd Annual Awards Night, our largest annual event, was a highlight of the year and afforded us the opportunity to celebrate incredible women who inspire our organisation. The excitement on the night was electric as our members and supporters finally had the opportunity to meet up, drink and be merry! For the first time, we also provided remote access to the event, with viewing parties in many regional cities. This is a service we as a committee hope to be able to provide again in the future. We were also delighted to use this event to raise much needed funds for the Women's Legal Service.

In November 2021, we were able to host the annual Women at the Bar event at the Inns of Court after a long hiatus. It was great to hear from guest speaker Jodie Wooldridge QC (now Judge Wooldridge QC) regarding her path at the bar and celebrate her appointment as silk.

Throughout the year, the WLAQ Criminal Lawyers Sub-Committee was also active with events aimed at tackling the unique issues faced by female criminal law practitioners - especially in the area of personal wellness and balancing life as a criminal lawyer with raising a family. The year was capped off with a well-attended Christmas Drinks at Cicada in Brisbane City which celebrated the fantastic events spearheaded by the Sub-Committee over the past year.

As a committee, we are thankful for all our members who supported our events in 2021 and are so excited to continue to deliver events to our WLAQ community in 2022.



REGIONAL REPORT

JESSICA GOLDIE, WLAQ SOUTHERN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE & BARRISTER, QUEEN'S ARMS CHAMBERS
JESSICA SHUTTLEWORTH, WLAQ NORTHERN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE & PRINCIPAL, SHUTTLEWORTH LEGAL

WLAQ's presence in the regions continues to grow. There is an open dialogue between the WLAQ regional representatives and the WLAQ regional ambassadors across the State. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic did provide some difficulties with hosting regional events due to the level of uncertainty with restrictions and numbers. Nonetheless, regional ambassadors have continued to plan events and networking opportunities for members in their regions.



Pictured: IWD Townsville Breakfast Event

From a regional perspective, a major milestone was the live-streaming of the WLAQ Awards Night. 2021 was the first time that the WLAQ Annual Awards dinner was live-streamed so that members across the state, no matter where they reside, had the opportunity to celebrate other exceptional women lawyers. It is anticipated that the WLAQ will continue to live-stream the event to its regional members in the future.

South Queensland

The WLAQ Ipswich Ambassador, Annette Power Martell, has continued to host lunches for women lawyers in the Ipswich region. These lunches are generally well attended, and have a positive impact on building comradery between women lawyers practising in the Ipswich region. It is anticipated that these lunches will continue to be held into 2022.

In Toowoomba, the WLAQ was a co-sponsor for the Ladies in Law Luncheon in Toowoomba on 19 March 2021. The previous Chief Justice Catherine Holmes was a keynote speaker at the event, along with Jessica Goldie and Dr Katie Murray from USQ. The purpose of the event was to promote networking and collaboration between local women lawyers. WLAQ was also represented by our Regional Ambassador, Katrina

REGIONAL REPORT

Pedersen, who spoke at the event. The event was well attended and the feedback from the event was very positive.

In Maroochydore, the WLAQ Ambassador, Samantha Bolton, teamed up with the SDLA to host a Women in Law Breakfast on 21 October 2021. The event was hosted at Pier 33 at Mooloolaba and was well attended by women lawyers on the Sunshine Coast. On the Gold Coast, the WLAQ Ambassador, Helen Ashton, also hosted an evening event as an opportunity for local women lawyers to catch up and network together.

In 2022, the WLAQ regional ambassadors are keen to organise events in their local areas, particularly now that restrictions on events are lifted.

North Queensland

In 2021, Jessica Shuttleworth (who was the Townsville Ambassador at the time) hosted monthly coffee catch ups and by way of more formal events, organised a breakfast on International Women's Day with Magistrate Keegan being the special guest in attendance. On 22 April 2021, a breakfast was held for Justice Brown during her Honour's visit to Townsville.

Following the AGM in 2021, Townsville Ambassador Jessica Shuttleworth joined the WLAQ committee as the North Queensland Regional Representative. Merissa Martinez then accepted the position of Townsville Ambassador.

After her appointment, Merissa Martinez hosted Christmas Drinks on 7 December 2021.



43RD ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT



43RD ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT



43RD ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT



WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND INC

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