

Law Week 2013

13 ~ 19 May



Law and us

By John Clarke

All solicitors have a professional responsibility to promote access to the law and also measures to assist individuals to protect their legal rights.

However, access to basic legal services to rural communities in NSW continues to be of ongoing concern.

Studies conducted by the Law Society of NSW indicate that these continues to be a steady decline in the proportion of solicitors working in country NSW and this trend is predicted to worsen over the next 10 years.

Up to a third of country solicitors are expected to retire in the next decade, with current indications being that there will be insufficient young lawyers entering private

practice in country areas to replace retirees, despite the increase of law graduates and ready availability of jobs.

Notwithstanding, the Law Society of NSW continues to promote a policy that people from rural and regional communities deserve the same opportunities to pursue their legal rights and gain access to justice as their city counterparts.

The Andrew Warren Associates firm is endeavouring to maintain and, if possible, expand the range of legal services we provide.

We are also working with educational institutions and providing work experience for young members of our community contemplating a career in law.

• John Clarke is a solicitor director of Andrew Warren Associates.



Insight into Law Week

NATIONAL LawWeek is an annual event aimed at increasing public awareness about the law, the legal system and the legal profession as well as educating the community about the legal services available in NSW.

Law Week is a registered charity administered by a board.

The board is comprised of leaders from the NSW justice system.

Most people in NSW will come into contact with the legal system at some stage of their lives and Law Week provides advice about how to best access the law when this happens.

In addition, Law Week provides an opportunity for legal service providers throughout NSW to participate in programs and events that engage the public and highlight social issues in the community.

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Free legal advice for women

ON MAY 23, a solicitor from Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre will be visiting Bega to provide free legal advice to women with booked appointments.

Shoalcoast is situated in Nowra, but is funded to provide free legal services to women living in the South East NSW communities of Bega Valley, Bombala, Cooma, Queanbeyan and Palerang shires.

Shoalcoast solicitors are experienced in resolving many types of legal problems.

Shoalcoast's advice clinics provide residents with a good opportunity to get free professional advice regarding their legal problem.

If Shoalcoast is unable to help, it will ensure people contacting its service are provided with an appropriate referral to another service which can assist them.

The next Bega legal clinic will be held at the Women's Resource Centre at 14 Peden St, Bega on May 23 from 9am until 2pm.

On May 22, a clinic will be held at the South East Women's and

Children's Services at 187 Imlay St, Eden from 2-4pm.

Appointments must be made to ensure the matter is one in which Shoalcoast's service can give advice.

Shoalcoast deals with most non-commercial areas of law, including consumer credit and debt, family law involving children, Centrelink problems, employment, tenancy issues, power of attorney and guardianship, discrimination and victims' compensation for childhood assault, sexual assault or domestic violence.

To make an appointment or to make inquiries as to whether Shoalcoast can assist you with your legal problem, phone the Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre on 1800 229 529 or 4422 9529.

If you ring on a mobile phone, Shoalcoast will call you back.

Shoalcoast also provides weekly telephone legal advice sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10am and noon, and community legal education for workers and community members.

Ten step plan

IF YOU are interested in getting involved and organising a National Law Week event, simply follow the 10 step plan.

Step One: Identify what type of Law Week event/activity you wish to coordinate and determine your audience

Step Two: Choose a date and time. In 2013, Law Week runs from May 13-19.

Step Three: Locate a suitable venue. Organise presentation aids such as microphones, amplifiers, loud speakers, laptops and more.

Step Four: Determine your event budget and apply for a grant. Required items may include equipment hire, name badges and brochures.

Step Five: Finalise your guest list and draft an invitation, accompanied by vital information such as parking and disability access.

Step Six: Draft an event program, providing an overview of the event.

Step Seven: Register your event by visiting www.lawweek.org.au.

Step Eight: Promote your event by notifying the media manager at the Law Society of NSW.

Step Nine: Organise the items that you may wish to have at your event, such as brochures and business cards.

Step 10: Evaluate the methods you may wish to do after the event, such as a thank you letter.



Peter Tierney & Associates

LAWYERS



Dixie Fitzclarence



Louise Allery



Julie Duce

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