

# New DLA presidents: Uniting the profession

New Gold Coast District Law Association president Ross Lee, of Lee Lawyers, *right*, sees one of the key priorities of his term as bringing local members of the profession together.

"I hope to bring people together," he said. "Some more fun events are needed locally and as lawyers are a bit prone to keeping their troubles to themselves, it also helps to talk things over with other practitioners, such as talking about practice management systems or overhead or whatever.

"We'll be doing this in different ways, including drinks functions and breakfasts with speakers such as representatives of the Gold Coast City Council, the local Co-ordinating Magistrate and head of the local Community Legal Centre."

Mr Lee said he would also encourage practitioners to help out at CLCs and with pro bono activities. "Often pro bono work is done at the level of a principal or partner, such as writing off time or not charging for taking a phone call," he said. "However, it would be good for both principals and employed solicitors to keep practices that help the community, in a more visible way."

Mr Lee is a born-and-bred Gold Coaster, and principal of Lee Lawyers, a specialist civil litigation firm in the Southport CBD. While he has been in the law for 11 years, he has eight years' prior experience with insurance claims, loss adjusting and underwriting. He is on the Queensland executive committee of the Risk



Bringing local members of the profession closer together is also the aim of new Townsville District Law Association president Angela Lowe, *left*.

"We hope to achieve this through social functions and the distribution of our newsletter, which we aim to distribute to our members on a monthly basis" Ms Lowe said.

Other aims for the Townsville DLA are to represent the interests of local lawyers in a number of areas, including liaising with the QLS and other organisations on issues that concern local practitioners, and to assist members in meeting their Compulsory Professional Development (CPD) requirements

through coordinating CPD seminars and the maintenance of a CPD DVD library.

"We are also working to create closer ties with the James Cook University Law School and one of the ways we do this is by inviting a student representative to sit in at the beginning of our meetings for the discussion on items of mutual interest," she said.

## 'Annual law ball'

"The law school also has an annual law ball and we hope that this can be expanded into an event for all members of the profession."

Ms Lowe, who completed her studies at James Cook University in 2004, became an associate for Justice Cullinane at the Townsville Supreme Court before joining Ruddy Tomlins & Baxter in 2006.

She was featured in the December 2007 issue of Proctor as an active young lawyer and again in September 2008 after she participated in the QLS-organised young lawyer exchange with the Fiji Law Society.

Following the annual general meeting of the Townsville District Law Association meeting on July 3, other members of the committee are: vice president Maxine Romagnolo (Wilson/Ryan/Grose), treasurer Michael Brennan (Offermans Partners), secretary Diane Ruhl (Boulton Cleary & Kern) and committee members Raoul Giudes (Giudes & Elliott), Gerard Meade (Wilson/Ryan/Grose), Jameelie Melick (GBRMPA), Naomi Galvin (Roberts Nehmer McKee), Rae Heather-Radnedge (MacDonnells Law), Travis Schmitt (Wilson/Ryan/Grose), Michael Bice (Department of Justice & Attorney-General) and Amber Beck (Maurice Blackburn). ■

Management Institution of Australasia and wrote the insurance chapter of the 'Queensland Law Handbook'.

The association's new management committee was elected at its annual general meeting on June 19. It also includes Mark Treherne (Mark Treherne & Associates) as vice president, Mary Atallah (JHL Lawyers) as treasurer and Matthew Harman (Cronin Litigation Lawyers) as secretary, with members Kathy Atkins (Jones Mitchell Lawyers/Bond University), Paul Brake (ACP Insolvency Lawyers), Brian Carey (Worrells Solvency & Forensic Accountants), Associate Professor Janine McMaster-Kirkwood (Griffith University), Glenys Owen (Haney Lawyers), Pam Roberts (Woods Hatcher Solicitors) and Ted Skuse (Skuse & Co Solicitors). ■

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