



Attorney General's
department of nsw

agenda

News magazine of the Attorney General's Department of NSW



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Staff newsletter celebrates 20 years

This month the Department's newsletter goes platinum to celebrate 20 years of production.

In the newsletter's first edition (pictured), then Secretary Trevor Haines said 'the Department needs special mechanisms to ensure that its staff are kept informed of developments in policy and administration, both at the Department's centre and in the various constituent units'.

What began as a self-titled newsletter in May 1987 evolved to become *The Journal* in 1990 and then *Agenda*, from 1995.

The tradition has continued, with *Agenda* recording two decades of often ground-breaking news.

The May 1987 first edition detailed the announcement of the multi-million dollar Courtnet computer network, across all three levels of courts.

Also featured in 1987 was the appointment of the state's first Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Reg Blanch QC, who went on to become the Chief Judge of the District Court.

In December 1989 an earthquake cracked two chimneys at Newcastle Courthouse, one of which came to rest in a precarious balance over the courtroom ceiling.

The February 1990 edition announced new courthouses were to be built at Burwood for \$11.4 million and Byron Bay for \$2 million.

In February 1993 a trainee court reporter at the Downing Centre finished the final chapter in the murder-mystery novel *Repercussions*, set in 1960 Sydney.

In April 1993 the celebrity wedding of Paul Hogan and Linda Kozlowski was officiated by the clerk of Byron Bay Local Court.

The May 1993 edition told of Lismore Courthouse's lucky escape from an arson attack.

In August 1993 we heard that bail applicants would soon be able to appear in court via video link.

Also in 1993, staff were informed that Newcastle's Community



The Department's first newsletter was published 20 years ago this month.

Justice Centre was the busiest in the state, after less than two months in business.

In March 1994 *Agenda* reported

that Manly Courthouse was a safer place following a \$500,000 upgrade. Before the upgrade magistrates, staff, prisoners and

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The Department's newsletter was published from May 1987 to December 1989, before becoming *The Journal* from February 1990 to December 1991.



In September 1995 the newsletter changed its name to *Agenda*, which has been retained for the past 12 years.



The current version of *Agenda* is the result of a redesign in 2006 to convert the news magazine into a full colour, broadsheet format.

Message from the Director General

Looking through this platinum edition of Agenda takes many of us down memory lane.

It was in May 1987 that the Department's then Secretary Trevor Haines introduced the first newsletter to keep staff 'informed of developments in policy and administration' so they would be able to 'understand how their work relates to overall organisational goals and priorities'.

Two decades on the newsletter still strives for these ideals.

It continues to be a valuable source of information despite major changes in how we communicate over the years.



In 1990, it was renamed to The Journal, a title which lasted five years before it became Agenda in 1995.

It has since evolved into a broadsheet style, colour news magazine that is printed quarterly, and every month online.

During the past 20 years, Agenda has grown from modest beginnings to become one of the most popular sources of news and information for you and your colleagues.

I believe communication across the Department has improved and helped to make our work culture more open, collaborative and innovative.

Agenda will always have a place in the Department's history no matter what its format.

How we communicate may continue to change but in the words of my predecessor our Department will always strive to keep its people informed.

Laurie Glanfield



The Agenda staff newsletter has continued to change in appearance over the years, and is now a full colour news magazine.

on the
agenda

THIS EDITION...

- 20 years for Agenda
- Law Week successes
- Public Defender's event
- Harmony Day every day
- Alumni's first gathering
- New Attorney General

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20 years for staff news magazine

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the public were sharing common areas and walkways.

In May 1994 it was reported by Agenda that two Sheriff's Officers saved the life of a barrister who collapsed in Wollongong Court.

In September 1994 Sandra Sue was believed to be the first Aboriginal woman appointed as a judge's associate.

Also in September, the state's first Aboriginal dispute resolution program was being established with the assistance of a State Government grant of \$50,000 through the International Year of the Family Secretariat.



In November 1996, from left, Director General Laurie Glanfield and Crown Solicitor Ian Knight, at the announcement that the Crown Solicitor's Office was to operate under commercial principles with a new address, new management structure and new computer technology.



Bail Video Link Project Officer Bernie Marden, in August 1993.

The February 1995 edition reported that the John Maddison Tower was to be formally opened by then Premier, John Fahey.

The January 1996 edition commended the Office of the Legal Services Commissioner for 'making its presence felt in legal circles' within its first 12 months of operations.

In May 1996 the Crime Prevention Division replaced the Juvenile Crime Prevention Division.

Agenda's May 1996 edition detailed how the Department was reviewing flexible work practices including job sharing, career breaks and working from home.

The January 1997 edition informed readers that the Department was a step closer to launching a website.

In July 2001 NAIDOC Week was celebrated with the Norimbah Unit hosting a lively and entertaining morning tea under the theme Treaty, Let's Get it Right.

Free stretch classes for staff began at the Crown Solicitor's Office in September 2001.

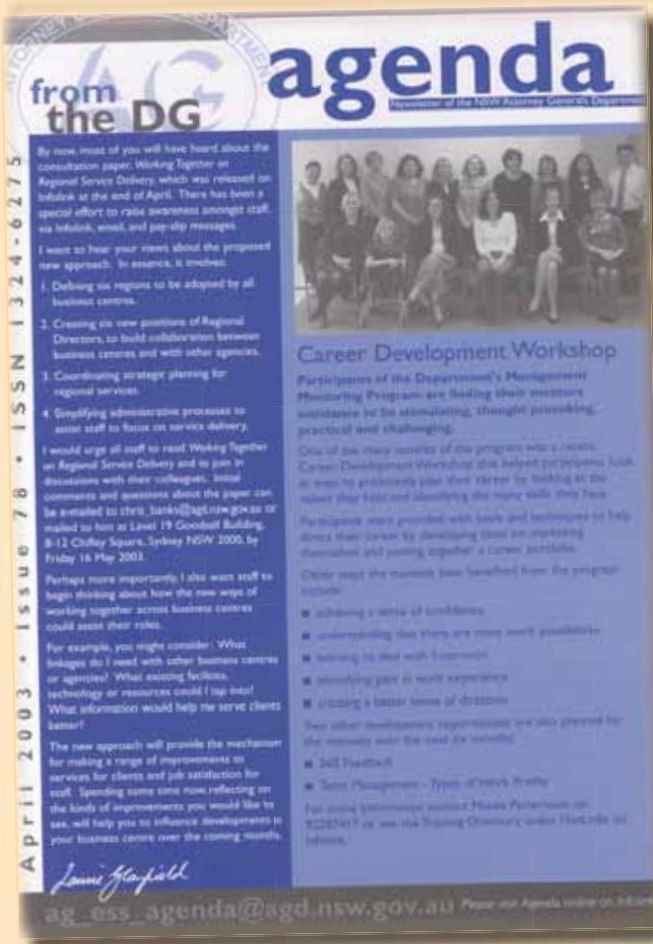
In December 2001 Muswellbrook Local Court reduced its paper consumption by 20 per cent.

In December 2002 Agenda reported that Parliament House had been resonating with the Hip Hop sounds of the Bakandji

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In December 1994, Yulefest revellers, Parramatta Sheriff's Officer Sabrina Foenander (left), Downing Centre Sheriff's Office Assistant Manager Alan Back, Downing Centre Criminal Registry Clerk and event organiser Barbara Mitchell, Human Resources Assistant Personnel Officer Greg Thornton and District Court Policy Officer Ken Sims.



In April 2003 the Agenda newsletter asked for 'your views' on the consultation paper called Working Together on Regional Service Delivery.



The inaugural Annual Achievement Awards and the Crown Solicitor's Office's Continuing Legal Education Seminars, featured in September 2003.



In May 1994, Project Officer Debbie McDonald and Cadet Brendan Thomas promote the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy endorsed by the Department in February 1994.

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Boys to mark the launch of the Aboriginal Youth Justice Network. Agenda in July 2002 promoted the launch of LawAccess NSW, to provide a central point for people to access information and services to resolve legal queries.

The April 2002 edition detailed how the new Skools Out forum to stop homophobic bullying was jointly supported by the Crime Prevention Division, Violence Against Women Specialist Unit, NSW Anti Discrimination Board and Department of Education and Training.

Issue 71 in August 2002, detailed the opening of Vanuatu's South Pacific Community Legal Centre, to allow university law students to provide free legal advice under the supervision of qualified lawyers.

The August 2003 edition highlighted the Northern Community Justice Centres' 10th birthday in Newcastle, celebrated by 135 people who took part in the World's Greatest Handshake.

Agenda for September 2003 reported that CourtLink had gone 'live' in the Adoptions and Cost Assessment areas within the Supreme Court.

September's Agenda also detailed ways to reduce harmful greenhouse gasses at work.

In May 2003 the leading V8 car drivers Craig Lowndes and Steve Richards helped promote the anti-violence campaign called Violence Against Women - It's Against the Rules.

The 2003 Summer edition covered the traditional, annual



In September 1994, DOCA graduates were, from left, Regional Training Officer Carol Carter and Relieving Clerk of the Courts based at Port Macquarie Courthouse, Stephen Shields.



In March 1995 Downing Centre staff try the new DOCA neckties, from left, Office Manager Ken Wallace, Chamber Magistrates Mark Vine and Paul Morgan and Registrar Graeme Roberts.

Red Mass parade of court judges and the legal profession through the streets of Sydney.

In April 2004 the Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre's architect was consulting with Aboriginal young people about decorating the facility.

Law Week activities across the state were featured in the June 2004 edition, a highlight being the Aboriginal Art Exhibition at Wollongong Courthouse.

Issue 91 of Agenda in September 2004 announced the Department would be housed in a new multi million-dollar justice precinct at Parramatta.

The April 2005 edition featured an obituary for Judge Belleair, Australia's first Aboriginal judge who was truly inspirational and

committed to Aboriginal justice.

Autumn 2005 revealed that the Land and Environment Court celebrated its 25th birthday.

In June 2005 Agenda covered the launch of the NSW Aboriginal Justice Plan.

Issue 101 for December 2005 to January 2006, featured the winners of the 2005 Annual Achievement Awards which had more than 330 staff nominations.

The February 2006 edition announced a first for the Reporting Services Branch with new, highly specialised technical training being provided to its staff.

Cupid's arrow struck on Valentine's Day in 2007 with a record 26 couples married at the Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages' Sydney office, according to the Autumn edition.



In May 1993, the 'world-beating' Petty Sessions A and B cricket teams (and friend) after their grand final wins in the Public Service Cricket competition.



Law Week's statewide success

For Law Week in Western Sydney residents had a rare opportunity to see works by Macarthur Aboriginal artists at Campbelltown Courthouse.

The Department hosted nearly 50 events for Law Week this year.

The new Indigenous Law Week program comprised 13 activities in regional NSW, plus 35 general events under the National Law Week theme of Know the Score, Check out the Law.

Law Week is an annual, national event to inform and educate the community about the law, the legal system and legal services.

It aims to give members of the community the chance to participate in education programs and activities about legal issues.

Staff are encouraged to participate in the week by helping to organise activities, events, seminars or presentations.

Ballina's teenage motorists were encouraged to attend a safe driving event at Ballina Courthouse.



Actors from Ballina Players brought a touch of theatre to Law Week.

In Lismore, the police Booze Bus was onsite at an open day and the Police Citizen's Youth Club provided information about its Traffic Education Program.

There were many other events across the state, detailed on the website: www.lawweek.com.au

New Attorney General

The Premier Morris Lemma has named John Hatzistergos as the state's new Attorney General and Minister for Justice following Labor's election win in March.



Mr Hatzistergos replaces Bob Debus, who retired after almost seven years in the job. He becomes the State's 54th Attorney General.

Mr Hatzistergos was elected to the Upper House in 1999 and has held several portfolios since, including Minister for Health, Minister Assisting the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Justice and Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship.

He is married to Maria and has three children.

Mr Hatzistergos was awarded a Bachelor of Economics in 1982, Bachelor of Laws in 1983 and Master of Laws in 1994. He is a former Senior Legal Officer with the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions and has been a member of the NSW Bar Association since 1989.

He is a Member of Canterbury Leagues Club and the Sydney Cricket Ground Trust.



Volunteers across the state distributed orange ribbons for Harmony Day. Pictured from left: Roenna Colaco, Laura Joseph, Zyne Schroeder, Naomi Von Senff, Julieta Bonita, Catherine Umali, Jacqui Berrell and front, Julia Haraksin.

Staff promote harmony everyday, everywhere

Staff across NSW wore orange ribbons for Harmony Day in March, to promote and support the different ways cultural diversity can be used to enhance our services to the community.

It was also the first anniversary of the Department's Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities' Access Plan.

The plan has already generated a series of forums for people who speak Arabic as a first language, with other forums planned for 2007.

The Department's agencies provide services recognising, supporting and

promoting the diversity of cultures, languages and religious affiliations of people in NSW, such as:

- interpreter services for all criminal court cases
- court assistance for people with a disability
- free legal information and advice via LawAccess NSW
- training for staff on how to provide services to culturally and linguistically diverse clients and clients with a disability
- Aboriginal Client Service Specialists at courts statewide.

Alumni nears 200

The Department's new Alumni network had its first function in April, attended by many of the 185 people who have expressed interest in joining.

Director General Laurie Glanfield told guests the Department values their expertise and encourages them to share their experience and provide advice and input into innovative programs.

The Alumni welcomes ex-employees' ongoing involvement in the Department's future and, in return, provides an ideal forum for former work colleagues to network and keep up to date on news and activities.

www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/alumni



Wayne Priddle and Barbara Phillips enjoy the Alumni's first information session.



Counsel for David Hicks, Major Michael Mori, at the conference.

Mori meets Defenders

The Public Defenders Office's annual Criminal Law Conference featured an appearance by counsel for David Hicks, Major Michael Mori.

Over 200 practising criminal lawyers attended the recent conference, which covered practical and topical legal subjects.

Major Mori spoke about the conditions in which David Hicks is being held, and the USA system of prosecution that applies to foreigners accused of acts of terrorism.