

31 MARCH 2005

**Dear WLA NSW Members & Colleagues**

If you are interested in becoming a committee member or just becoming more involved in the organisation of local events, please feel free to come along to one of our regular committee meetings. They are held on the **1st Wednesday of each month** at 1pm at the Bogie Hole Cafe in Hunter Street Newcastle. The next meeting is on **Wednesday 6 April**. We have changed the format of our regular monthly networking events, **the next lunch event Friday 8 April**, and have a great opportunity for you to participate in a **Mediation Pilot Programme/Mediation Training** as noted below. Please feel free to pass this email onto colleagues and ensure they are on our email/invite list. Looking forward to seeing you at an event soon.

Kind regards, Liz Pinnock, Convenor Newcastle Chapter

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**Mediation Pilot Programme/Mediation Training: RSVP Friday 1 April 2005**

Members may already be aware of the success of the Newcastle Mediation Pilot Programme which was run last November, in which the vast majority (11 out of 13) of matters ordered to mediate were settled by mediation. The success of the programme was due in large part to the support of Her Honour Judge Sidis of the District Court and the involvement of a number of local mediators. In conjunction with the Newcastle Law Society, we are continuing to support this programme by being involved in the organization of further pilot programmes and local mediation training courses in 2005. We also held a Mediation Seminar on 15 February where we learned more about mediation, its aims and benefits, and the role of the mediator from Scott Pettersson, CEO of LEADR, and Salli Browning, an experienced mediator.

LEADR will be providing a four day mediation training course in Newcastle from **Wednesday 27 April to Saturday 30 April inclusive**, 8.30am-4.30pm each day, for those members of the local profession who are interested in becoming mediators. LEADR have indicated there will be a substantial reduction in their standard fees, around \$500, per participant; this course is normally provided in Sydney at a cost of \$1870 (incl. GST). There are still some places available for both the full course and for refresher training on days 1 and 4. As this may be the last opportunity to undertake mediation training in Newcastle at a significantly reduced cost, **please confirm your registration by Friday 1 April 2005 to [executive@womenlawyersnsw.org.au](mailto:executive@womenlawyersnsw.org.au)**. In addition, those who complete this training are likely to have the opportunity to obtain essential

experience by becoming involved in the next District Court mediation pilot programme which is now in train and will take place in May or June of this year.

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**Newcastle Networking "Informal Gatherings"** have changed format in response to a number of suggestions by members and we will now be meeting for lunch on the **2nd Friday of each month**, 1pm at the Sticky Rice Thai Restaurant, 19 Scott Street, Newcastle. BYO, cheap and cheerful - no need to book, just turn up! The next lunch will be on **Friday 8 April**. A great opportunity to network, catch up with the latest news and colleagues. Please diarise this regular monthly event: 13th May, 10th June, 8th July, 12th August, 9th September, 11th October, 11th November.

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#### **Events and News:**

Check the latest updates at [www.womenlawyersnsw.org.au](http://www.womenlawyersnsw.org.au)

#### **Are you financial?**

**New Regional members \$37.50; Students/Unemployed members \$11.25! Email us to check your membership status:**  
[executive@womenlawyersnsw.org.au](mailto:executive@womenlawyersnsw.org.au)

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For more information [contact us](#)

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