

You're invited...

...to our open day, ball and breakfast.
Renewals and reconciliation also on
this month's agenda



QLS president Ken Taylor has already mentioned Law Week in his column this month.

It's a very significant event for our profession and I would also like to highlight some of the activities of particular relevance to members.

On Wednesday 16 May we are delighted to offer you a complimentary half-day of professional development event at our QLS Open Day, held at Law Society House. This afternoon program, which is followed by networking drinks, features two streams with a number of meaty topics on both law and subjects of interest to the profession.

The Open Day is invariably popular, so make sure you book now.

The QLS Annual Ball wraps up Law Week and is also well-attended, particularly by our early career lawyers. This year's ball, on Friday 18 May, takes a different tack to the usual with a Brisbane River excursion on Seadeck, a 42-metre vessel with excellent dining and entertainment facilities spread across three luxurious decks.

I would like to draw particular attention to one event during Law Week, the Leading Wellbeing in the Legal Profession complimentary member breakfast on Thursday 17 May. This is an initiative of the QLS Wellbeing Working Group and aims to raise awareness and help all practitioners better understand mental health and wellbeing within the profession.

Belinda Winter, who will be on a discussion panel at the breakfast, is a member of the group and a partner at Cooper Grace Ward. I have spoken with Belinda about the responsibilities that employers face in regard to mental health in the workplace, and this interview appears on page seven of this edition of *Proctor*.

Limitation of Liability Scheme

We have written to a number of law practices to advise of a change in the operation of the Queensland Law Society's Limitation of Liability Scheme under the *Professional Standards Act 2004*. The scheme operates to limit the liability of Society members for damages for acts or omissions in relation to legal services to amounts of \$1.5 million or \$10 million, depending on the size of the law practice in which they are staff or a member.

The Society has operated membership of the scheme on the basis that, in order to be covered by the scheme, a Society member must opt in to the scheme and pay the relevant administration fee. This will change this year so that a member of the Society is a member of the scheme unless they have applied for and been granted exemption from the scheme.

For those who wish to be exempt from the scheme, the facility to apply for and be granted exemption is available on our annual practising certificate and membership renewal form, which is now available on your myQLS profile.

To be exempt from participation, a solicitor should choose to opt out of it. If the exemption is not chosen, then the member will be enrolled in the scheme and charged the Society's administration fee.

If you have any questions about the scheme, please contact our Records and Member Services team on 07 3842 5887 or email capscheme@qls.com.au.

Renewing practising certificates and QLS membership

The annual renewals process, covering practising certificates and QLS membership, runs from 1 May to 30 June, and can be completed quickly and easily by logging in to qls.com.au/myQLS and selecting the renewal walkthrough tab.

There are, of course, many reasons to renew your QLS membership, including the work the Society undertakes to protect legal practitioners through measures such as the Limitation of Liability Scheme discussed above. QLS membership will ensure you are 'first to know' about important legal issues, guide you throughout your career, represent your interests and the interest of the wider profession through advocacy, and connect you with other members of our collegial profession...and provide access to a plethora of legal articles every month in *Proctor*!

Reconciliation Week

This month we will be joining in the celebration of National Reconciliation Week, which runs from 27 May to 3 June, and I would encourage all practices to include this on their event calendars.

In keeping with this year's theme, 'don't keep history a mystery', we encourage the profession to learn about the true history of Indigenous Australians, share your stories of reconciliation, and together grow our understanding of what reconciliation means.

As an integral part of our QLS Reconciliation Action Plan, we recently had cultural awareness training consultant Tom Kirk provide training to all staff and Council members. This was very well received, and provided QLS staff and Council members with an opportunity to learn, develop insight and gain a greater understanding of First Nations Peoples' history and culture. If you would like to learn more about this training please let us know.

I look forward to seeing members during Law Week and at the QLS Ball. In coming months I am heading north as far as Townsville with a few stops on the way to run training sessions and meet members as part of our learning and professional development calendar of events. I'll update you on this in future editions of *Proctor*.

Rolf Moses
Queensland Law Society CEO