

# Re Connected

The TressCox Alumni Newsletter

Issue 02 - June 2008

## TressCox elects new Board of Partners for 2008/09

TressCox recently elected a new Board of Partners for 2008/09.

The Board welcomed new members Michael Bracken, Philip Mitchell and Trevor Lloyd. Ron Heinrich and Alistair Little were re-elected.

Retiring board members Peter Thompson and John Petts were thanked by Managing Partner, Peter Smith, who said the following:

"I would like to acknowledge, on behalf of the Firm, our indebtedness to Peter and John for their guidance and counsel during their time on the Board. Peter has provided extensive advice in relation to the Firm's corporate history and business approach to our activities, whilst John has given enormously of his time and energy to the development of our Melbourne office."

We wish the new Board members the best of luck for their coming term.



Michael Bracken



Ron Heinrich



Alistair Little



Trevor Lloyd



Philip Mitchell

The new TressCox Board of Partners for 2008/09

Peter Smith  
Managing Partner

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## Partners named 'Best Lawyers' in Health and Aged Care

TressCox Lawyers was delighted to have a number of our Partners selected for inclusion in the inaugural edition of Best Lawyers®: Australia. Scott Chapman, Carol Lee, Don Munro, John Petts and Katharine Philp have been identified by their peers, as among Australia's top lawyers in the specialty of Health and Aged Care.

Best Lawyers has been published in America for more than 25 years and is regarded as the highest form of professional accolade.

The Best Lawyers®: Australia survey was an exhaustive and rigorous peer-review conducted over 6 months and comprised more than 20,000 confidential evaluations from more than 1,000 of Australia's top Lawyers.

TressCox is also thrilled to be listed by Best Lawyers®: Australia as the law firm dominating Australia in Health and Aged Care.



# TressCox Partner's Term as President of Commonwealth Lawyers Association

Ron Heinrich was elected the president of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA) at the Commonwealth Law Conference in Nairobi, Kenya in September last year. Over 2,000 lawyers representing all 53 Commonwealth countries attended this prestigious event. Ron's term will conclude at the CLA conference in May 2009

Ron joined the CLA in 2001, and until recently was the Vice-President of the Association. During the first 8 months of his two year term, Ron has used his presidency to build on a recent restructuring of the association and getting involved in more educational work and in promoting the Latimer House Principles. Ron said of his appointment "The attraction for me was that this wasn't just another Law Society or Law Council of Australia, which are involved in a plethora of things. This is a body that is focused on the Rule of Law, something very fundamental to the society we live in".

The Commonwealth Lawyers' Association (CLA) exists to maintain and promote the rule of law throughout the Commonwealth by ensuring that an independent and efficient legal profession serves the people of the Commonwealth. Commonwealth countries share a substantial common ground in their legal systems and the lawyers of these countries have much to learn from the comparative experience of their colleagues in other jurisdictions.

Ron began his career at TressCox over 40 years ago developing a reputation as a highly regarded corporate lawyer. He is well known for his expertise in assisting clients with issues requiring his broad ranging experience. Ron advises on all aspects of mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance and probity, as well as the defence of professional indemnity insurance claims, the drafting of insurance policy wordings, reinsurance agreements and developing due diligence systems for compliance purposes.



During his 40 years of service, Ron has contributed extensively to the legal profession, both in Australia and internationally. He is a past President of both the Law Society of New South Wales and the Law Council of Australia. He is also a past Chairman of LawCover Pty Limited, where he remains a member of the Board. He is a past Chairman of the Law Society's Professional Conduct Committee and has been involved in the investigation and prosecution of solicitors guilty of professional misconduct, fraud and corruption. Ron is also a past Chairman of the Law Society's Medico-Legal Liaison and Alternative Dispute Resolution Committees.

## Partner Appointments



Michael Westaway



Peta Tumpey



Nic Pullen



Mark Sheller



Rob Leacock

The Firm congratulates its new Partners Michael Westaway, Peta Tumpey, Nicholas Pullen, Mark Sheller and Rob Leacock, who have been appointed in the last 12 months.

Peta Tumpey joined our Sydney office as a specialist in employment law and is highly experienced in contentious and non-contentious aspects of employment and industrial relations law.

Michael Westaway joined our Melbourne office bringing with him more than 15 years experience acting in all types of commercial property transactions and providing general and strategic advice on a wide variety of property related matters. He also brings to the Firm significant experience providing specialist advice to aged care providers.

Mark Sheller joined our Sydney office. Mark is an expert in professional indemnity insurance law generally, with a particular focus on accountants' liability. He also acts for auditors in disciplinary matters including matters before the Companies, Auditors and Liquidators' Disciplinary Board and advises

large financial and commercial clients on their insurance needs and in relation to a wide range of disputes.

Nicholas Pullen, a high profile media and communications lawyer, joined our Melbourne office. Nic provides advice for some of Australia's largest media and publishing organisations. He has extensive experience within the entertainment sector especially in the television, radio, print, publishing, on-line publishing and advertising sectors. His main area of practice is in the media and communications industries. He is also a frequent presenter on the ABC Radio National book show.

Rob Leacock joined our Brisbane office. Rob is an expert in construction law and is considered to be one of Australia's top lawyers in the field, having worked for over 20 years as a construction and development industry lawyer. His clients include developers, building contractors, building owners, industry organisations and engineering and architectural consultants.

# Connected Women's Network Launched at TressCox

TressCox Lawyers was delighted to host the launch of its Sydney Connected Women's Network on Wednesday 14 May 2008. The network aims to bring like minded women together to discuss hot topics, to workshop business and personal development ideas and, importantly, to have fun!

The capacity audience was privileged to hear guest presenters Kate Southam, founding editor of CareerOne.com.au and author of career column Ask Kate, and Heather Gordon of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA), discuss gender pay equity and other issues that are confronting women in the workplace.

Kate's presentation titled 'Nice Girls ask for More Money' provided practical tips on how women can pro-actively approach the topic of pay equity in their workplaces.

A presentation from Heather Gordon that provided insight into how EOWA assists organisations in advancing women in the workplace, and the benefits of its Employer of Choice for Women citation followed.

TressCox Lawyers' Connected Women's Network was created in 2007 as a result of overwhelming feedback from female clients after the Firm's 2007 International Women's Day celebration. The network aims to provide a forum for women in which can help each other, share business contacts, information and ideas for success in order to reach their full potential in business.

The network has also hosted a lunch for clients in the Melbourne office to celebrate International Women's Day 2008 with special guest speaker Dr. Rhonda Galbally AO, CEO of Our Communities and author of "Just Passions – The Personal is Political". "Just Passions" outlines Galbally's journey over the past five decades and reveals the sources of her passion for social justice, and her long held belief in community and group action that continue to fuel her working life today.

The dynamic Galbally, opened her speech by asking "where has the passion gone?" to the capacity audience. She spoke candidly about the content of "Just Passions" which brings to life a variety of personalities she has encountered in her years of community service and gives insight into the creative solutions she has found to prove her worth in a male-dominated arena at the top. Clients also received a copy of "Just Passions" which Galbally signed after the event.

Today, some of Australia's most well known and influential senior executives are members of the group which is growing rapidly.



Above: Photos from the Melbourne Lunch  
Below: Photos from the Sydney Launch



## TressCox hits Darling Harbour for Chinese New Year Dragon Boat Racing

The Sydney office woke at dawn to be down at Darling Harbour to participate in the Chinese New Year Dragon Boat Races at Cockle Bay. The team had been training during the months prior to ensure that they were a competitive force on the day. After two races, TressCox placed third in the "Industry Challenge", only 3 seconds behind Deacons, and less than a second behind Freehills, with Hunt and Hunt a distant fourth. Many members of the Firm helped make the day a success, with the team consisting of over twenty team members, with some additional family and friends. This was the first time TressCox had participated in the Chinese New Year Dragon Boat Races and we hope to knock off the reigning champs, Deacons, at next year's races!



# Unveiling of New TressCox Melbourne Office to Clients

TressCox is delighted to have completed the renovation of its Melbourne office.

The Melbourne office has come a long way since its opening in 1992.

It was originally established in order to service a major Melbourne based client in the financial services sector which was being serviced from the Firm's Sydney office. Over the years, the Melbourne office has diversified its practice offering a depth of expertise in areas such as media, government, corporate and commercial, insurance, property, litigation and health law.

The Firm was pleased to host a function that invited clients to view the renovated premises. During the function Peter Smith, Managing Partner of TressCox, addressed the clients in attendance and thanked them for their

patience and support during the 5 month renovation which saw the Firm's meeting room availability vastly reduced.

Peter Smith said at the conclusion of the function "The evening was an outstanding success and the refurbishment reflects the rapid growth and success the Firm has enjoyed over the past several years, not only in Melbourne, but also in its Sydney and Brisbane offices."



Above Left: TressCox Board of Partners - Ron Heinrich, John Petts, Peter Smith, Peter Thompson and Alistair Little

Above Top Right: Peter Smith with Melbourne Partners Michael Westaway, Nigel Watson and Nic Pullen

Above Right: Hayley Petrony and Nicola Barnett with guests



## TressCox Sponsors the RSPCA Million Paws Walk at Albert Park Lake

TressCox sponsored the RSPCA Million Paws Walk again this year at Albert Park Lake. Over 16,000 people and their dogs set off for a stroll around Albert Park Lake to raise funds for the RSPCA.

During the lead up to the event and on the day the Firm received significant promotion via print, radio and mainstream media.

The Firm hosted a marquee for clients who met before and after the walk with their four legged friends. Philip Jones cut the starting ribbon along side Dr. Hugh Wirth - President of RSPCA and Maria Mercurio - CEO of RSPCA to kick off the walk.

Melinda Barrand, a PA in our Melbourne office, had her pooch Henry selected to be the poster dog for EMPAWRIUM cruelty-free pet couture.

### Global Affiliations - ALFA International

In order to provide legal services around the globe, TressCox maintains strong international affiliations with other law firms through our membership of ALFA International. Founded in the USA in 1980, ALFA International is the premier association of law firms in the world and is currently comprised of 120 independent member firms throughout North America, Latin America, Asia / Australasia and Europe.

There is only one ALFA International member firm in each major jurisdiction in Australia, with TressCox being the member firm for New South Wales and Queensland. ALFA International's basic objective, through its member firms, is to improve the quality and efficiency of legal services and to provide those services to clients at a reasonable cost.

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