

ReConnected

The TressCox Alumni Newsletter

Issue 01 - September 2007

Ten Years in Queensland and Stronger than Ever

We were delighted to host a function on Wednesday 25 July at the Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA) to celebrate the ten year anniversary of the opening of our Brisbane office.

The office has come a long way since its opening in 1997. It was originally established in order to service the Firm's health sector clients, which remains a key practice area today, having grown to the extent that TressCox is now widely recognised as one of Queensland's premier health law practices.

Over the years, the office has diversified its practice and in addition to its extensive health sector capabilities, it now also offers a depth of expertise in areas such as banking and finance, energy and resources, insurance, property and international law.

We were honoured to welcome the Chief Justice of Queensland, Paul de Jersey as our guest of honour who spoke of the Firm's historical ties with the legal community in Australia and of its growth and position in the Brisbane legal market.

The evening was an outstanding success and Chief Justice de Jersey's kind and gracious comments regarding the Firm and its position, particularly within the Queensland legal community, reflected enormously well on the entire Firm, but specifically on all those in our Brisbane office.

Over the next ten years we look forward to growing with our valued clients who collectively represent the growth industries of Queensland.

Above Left: Peter Smith, Chief Justice de Jersey, Ron Heinrich, Katharine Philp and Scott Alden

Left: Andrew Cheetham, Alistair Little, Arthur Dyer and Paul French

Below Left: Fiona Burns, Kathrin Wolf, Sean Farell and Jeni-Lee Kerswill

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



Welcome to TressCox 'ReConnected'!

At TressCox, we know how important our people are in developing our culture and delivering outstanding services to our clients. Everyone at TressCox contributes to our success, and although it is inevitable that some of our team will move on from TressCox, we consider it important to stay in touch and keep connected.

Our alumni program has been developed in order to provide former colleagues with updates on the progress of the Firm and to develop networking opportunities with past colleagues and our existing team through our alumni events.

A key way to keep in touch with our Alumni is this newsletter. 'ReConnected' will be our way of letting you know what's been happening at TressCox each quarter. It will have articles about significant events that have occurred, inform you of new appointments to the Firm, include a feature profile of an Alumni member who has made contact with us and many other relevant items that will be of interest to you.

We do hope that you find this newsletter enlightening and that you are able to attend our Alumni Launch Party on Thursday 22 November. I am sure there will be many people who you will be able to share old stories with, as well as be able to meet some of the new faces that are now at TressCox.

Peter Smith
Managing Partner

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TressCox lends a helping hand to future lawyers

TressCox announced the winners of its 2007 Scholarships in Law Program which recognises students in their penultimate year who, because of either financial disadvantage or personal circumstances, are finding it difficult to continue their studies in law.

The winners of the 2007 scholarships were Hannah Bushell (University of Technology Sydney), Ashkan Kebriti (University of NSW) and Alexander Skinner (University of Sydney).

The winners were presented with \$2,000 each at a luncheon hosted at TressCox's Sydney offices on Friday 3 August 2007. Professor Mary Crock (University of Sydney), Professor Jill McKeough (University of Technology,

Sydney) and Professor Christopher Lemerrier (University of NSW) were also in attendance to show their support for the achievements of these three outstanding students.

The TressCox Scholarship program is a hand up, not a hand out, by awarding scholarships to promising students and assisting those who may otherwise be denied the opportunity to pursue a legal career.

We are proud to have supported law students for 17 years. Whilst it is one of the largest monetary scholarship awards provided by a law firm in Australia, the benefits are not only financial. Previous winners have participated in our summer clerkship program



Peter Smith with Scholarship winners Hannah Bushell, Alexander Skinner and Ashkan Kebriti

and gone on to pursue diverse legal careers, with some joining TressCox.

The winners will also be interviewed for a position in the Firm's summer clerkship program.

Partner Appointments



Andrew Bruton



Dominique Egan



Kotaro Matsuda



Torquil Murray



Hayley Petrony



Katharine Philp



Greg Thomas



Nigel Watson

The Firm congratulates its new Partners Andrew Bruton, Dominique Egan, Kotaro Matsuda, Torquil Murray, Hayley Petrony, Katharine Philp, Greg Thomas and Nigel Watson, who have been appointed in the last 12 months.

Andrew Bruton who joined the Firm from Clayton Utz is highly regarded for his expertise in energy and resource law; including electricity, renewable energy, gas, mining & petroleum, water law and infrastructure & transport. Andrew's appointment is testament to TressCox's rapidly expanding energy & resources team.

Former Chairman of Hunt and Hunt, Nigel Watson' joined the Firm with a practice focused on trade practices law, corporate insolvency, infrastructure projects, water industry related work and the automotive industry. He also advises professional indemnity insurers in relation to claims against lawyers for alleged negligence arising out of commercial matters.

Notably, Nigel is the past Chairman of the Insolvency and Reconstruction Committee and the Law Council of Australia.

Dominique Egan and Hayley Petrony are both new Partners in the Health division. Dominique specialises in the provision of advice to, and the representation of, health professionals and associations, while Hayley is a specialist in representing a range of health professions in medical malpractice, medical board hearings, criminal proceedings and Medicare Australia.

New Partner Kotaro Matsuda practices in legal risk management, project structuring, international joint ventures, company restructuring, commercial and property transactions, as well as international litigation. Notably, he was the first Japanese citizen to be admitted as a barrister in Australia.

Torquil Murray, Partner in the property division has developed a specialty in the management and conduct of commercial litigation on behalf of real estate agents and valuers, as well as other professionals, with respect to claims made against them of a professional nature.

Greg Thomas has extensive legal experience in business law providing legal services to a broad range of entities, including corporations, trusts, joint ventures, associations, partnerships, directors and equity holders covering a variety of industries. He also advises on all aspects of franchising including the preparation and regulation of franchising documentation, transfers, terminations, Franchising Code compliance and dispute resolution.

Katharine Philp recently joined our Brisbane office, bringing with her impressive insurance litigation experience. She specialises in medical negligence and has successfully defended a number of major matters in the medical negligence area for high profile clients with all decisions challenged upheld on appeal. She has more than fifteen years experience in personal injury litigation.

TressCox Toasts the Insurance Sector

In order to celebrate the continued success of our insurance practice, we treated our insurance sector clients to a wine tasting evening on Thursday 16 August.

Guests were invited to taste a variety of quality wines from the Upper Hunter Valley region, whilst hearing entertaining and informative commentaries from their producer, Peter Orr from James Estate Wines.

Colin Porter, Partner in our Sydney office who heads up the Firm's insurance practice said, "TressCox has shown a strong commitment to the insurance market in various ways over many years and looks forward to strengthening its position and becoming the firm of choice for an increasing number of those both needing and offering legal services.

"The purpose of our wine tasting evening was to thank some of our clients for their continued support which has contributed to making TressCox one of the top insurance-focused law firms in Australia."

The strength of TressCox's offering has been evidenced recently in both the litigation and merger arenas.

In March, judgement was handed down in a mammoth piece of litigation in favour of our client, the international reinsurance broker Guy Carpenter. The team defending the claim for more than \$200 million was led by TressCox partner Alistair Little. A myriad of difficult and sometimes highly technical issues arose and the case took up 108 days of the New South Wales Supreme Court's time.

In May, the Federal court approved the merger of UNITED Medical Protection Limited and the Medical Defence, two of the leading medical professional indemnity defence organisations. The new group is known as the Avant Mutual Group and has gross assets in excess of \$1.3 billion insuring over 50% of doctors in Australia.

Ron Heinrich, partner at TressCox, led the team at TressCox acting for UNITED. Ron said, "This was a challenging project as it involved the merger of two mutual companies. This required the amendment of tax legislation and liaison at the highest levels of Government, Treasury, ATO, ASIC, APRA and ACCC. TressCox's blend of specialist skills in mutuals and schemes of arrangements combined with its extensive knowledge of the health industry means it was uniquely placed to provide a tailored package of expertise to meet UNITED's specific needs."

In August, TressCox acted for the insurer in the landmark case of Garcia -v- CGU Workers Compensation (NSW) Limited which confirmed that the tortious duty of good faith does not exist in Australia. "Insurers can breathe a sigh of relief and know that they are not exposed to any claims for exemplary or punitive damages arising from alleged breaches of a suggested common law duty of good faith," said Alistair Little who led the team that achieved this ground breaking victory.



TressCox 'ReConnected' Alumni Launch Party - Thursday 22 November 2007

The TressCox 'ReConnected' Alumni Launch Party will take place nationally on Thursday 22 November 2007.

Each state office will host their alumni at a cocktail reception, with video link-up to our other state offices.

This will give the perfect opportunity for many of our alumni to ReConnect with old acquaintances and friends, whilst seeing the recently renovated Sydney and Melbourne offices.

Register now through our website to receive further information on this and other future alumni events.

Go to
www.tresscox.com.au
to find out more

Above Top Left: *Torquil Murray* introduces Peter Orr from James Estate Wines

Above Left: *Jaime Murray, Jo Duggan, Jason Newman, Candice Jupp* and Linda Satchwell

Left: *Bob Guest, Colin Porter, Gary Fallowfield* and Phil Nash

Below: *Michael Bracken* accepts runners up award for Quality Management Systems excellence at the Australian Business Excellence Awards

TressCox Recognised at the the Australian Business Excellence Awards

TressCox Lawyers was recently recognised at the Australian Business Excellence Awards. The Firm received the runners up award in the Quality Management Systems excellence award category. This is a significant achievement for TressCox as it was the only law firm in Australia to be recognised in any of the award categories.

The awards night, which took place on Thursday 21 June at the Westin Hotel, was run by SAI Global, an applied information services company that helps organisations manage risk, achieve compliance and drive business improvement.

Michael Bracken (pictured), Partner in our Sydney office, was at the awards ceremony to receive the prize.

TressCox is one of only a few firms that is quality assured to the LAW9000 Standard of Quality Management - the highest quality accreditation available for law firms.



ReConnecting with Kate Brady

We recently caught up with Kate Brady and here is what she had to say!

Q: When did you work at TressCox and who did you work closely with?

A: I worked at TressCox full time from 2001 to 2003 and then part-time in 2005. Initially I worked in Tim Unsworth's group, where I started as a graduate solicitor, then later in Alistair Little's group (thanks for employing me Tim and A!).

Q: What is your fondest memory during your time at TressCox?

A: Definitely the people. I appreciate having had the opportunity to work with so many great individuals - especially Jules! Ms Sorbara and I met at the firm as baby solicitors and have been friends ever since (she's even agreed to be one of my bridesmaids).

Q: What have you been doing since you left TressCox?

A: When I initially left I spent a little under a year travelling in the UK and Europe, then when I returned home I took up a legal counsel role with McDonalds. I left McDonalds in 2005 to study journalism and returned to TressCox part-time. In 2006 Mark Bamford sent me on secondment to a client called XYZnetworks, where I ended up staying on as legal counsel. XYZ owns a number of Foxtel channels including Arena, Channel [V] and The Lifestyle Channel.



A few months ago I left XYZ to move to Network Ten as Business Affairs Manager, which is my first non-legal role (although it is quasi-legal). I mostly work with our programmers and producers to negotiate deals for buying and producing programming for the network, which I'm really enjoying.

I've also travelled a little, become engaged to my fiancé Brad and a couple of weeks ago we bought a place in Erskineville - so it's goodbye travel for a little while!

Q: Who are you still in contact with at TressCox?

A: I see a lot of Julia and touch base with Tim and Alistair (especially when in need of a kind referee!) and I occasionally catch up with other old workmates at professional functions or when I crash a TressCox get together.

Q: What are your plans for the future?

A: I plan to live it up as much as possible between now and when my mortgage kicks in, get married in January and talk about myself in a TressCox newsletter. So far I'm feeling confident of ticking all boxes.

TressCox wins "Sydney's Brainiest Law Firm"

TressCox Lawyers beat out eight other law firms to win the right to call themselves "Sydney's Brainiest Law Firm".

TressCox won this prestigious title at the inaugural Cicero Cup, organised by the recruitment company Cicero, and held at the Equilibrium Hotel on Thursday 21 June. The event was organised to help raise funds for Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect). Autism is now the most common disability affecting children, with one in 160 Australians diagnosed with the disorder.

The night was a great fundraising success, with over \$8,000 raised for the charity. Part of the fundraising came from an auction of a print drawn by a 13 year old child of the specialist autistic school run by ASPECT at Forestville. The child is an autistic savant, with a special talent for art. The painting was an extraordinarily detailed print of Sydney's Circular Quay and Opera House, drawn entirely from memory.

TressCox is delighted to have won this impressive title and is honoured to be able to lend our support to such a great cause.



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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.