

C&F LEGAL

WINTER 2007

Well its that time of year again and a lot has happened with C & F Legal since our last newsletter! We hope the winter season is treating you well and you have managed to keep away from the colds and flus going around.

Thanks to Rick & Kathy we had a fantastic time away in Punakaiki earlier this year for a work weekend away. We have attached a few pictures so you can see what we got up to while we were there! Enjoy!



New Associates

We have great pleasure in recognising the contributions to our firm from our senior staff members, Pauline Scott and Martin Carter who have now been appointed as Associates of C & F Legal. Pauline's appointment is effective immediately, and Martin's is effective as from 1 October 2007. Congratulations Pauline and Martin!



Introducing Rhonda Le Brun – Legal PA

The C & F Legal Team welcomes Rhonda Le Brun to the firm. Rhonda joined C & F Legal in June 2007 as Legal PA to Rick Farr and Martin Carter. Rhonda has 15 years experience as a legal secretary as well as having been involved in operating her own businesses. Rhonda has worked for a number of law firms in Nelson and Australia and we are thrilled that she has decided to join our team bringing such a wealth of knowledge and experience with her. Rhonda says **"It is wonderful to work in a firm that is a team, with everyone working together to get the job done"**.

GRANDPARENTS AS GUARDIANS OF CHILDREN

Did you know? If you are a grandparent and you are being refused access to your grandchild/grandchildren, you can apply for an order from the family court to grant you contact with your grandchild/grandchildren. These orders are granted under the Care of Children Act 2004. This Act is aimed at promoting the welfare and best interests of children. A grandparent's contact with a grandchild is seen as an important part of the child's wellbeing. Please contact Martin Carter if you have any queries about this.





Legal Humor from Rick Farr, Senior Partner

A young lawyer, starting up his private practice, was very anxious to impress potential clients. When he saw the first visitor to his office come through the door, he immediately picked up his phone and spoke into it, "I'm sorry, but my caseload is so tremendous that I'm not going to be able to look into your problem for at least a month. I'll have to get back to you then." He then turned to the man who had just walked in, and said, "Now, what can I do for you?"

"Nothing," replied the man. "I'm here to hook up your phone."



Rachel Scott has been promoted to full time employment as our Office Administrator/ Receptionist.

Rachel joins Karen and Melanie as our youngest team members.



Landonline

Did you know that your old parchment Certificate of Title for your property is now of historical interest only? Over recent years the national land registry system has come increasingly computerised, and it is the electronic copy of your title held at Landonline which is now the definitive document. With the appropriate passwords, we can not only access the Landonline database and obtain up-to-date search copies of your title instantaneously, we are also now able to electronically register transactions as long as we have the written authorities from the parties involved. Transfers, mortgages and releases of mortgage are now all required to be completed electronically, so "signing the mortgage" is a thing of the past. What you will be signing in the electronic age is an Authority & Instruction form to us to electronically register a mortgage in a certain form on your electronic title. Although it takes a bit of getting used to for those of us used to conveyancing in the "real" environment, there are some advantages. For example, electronic registration is completed virtually instantaneously, so if you buy a new property we can usually get a print out of the title for your new property registered into your name on the same day as your purchase.

REST HOME ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA—UPDATE

If you are 65 or older you may qualify for a residential care subsidy if the value of your assets is \$170,000 or less. This applies from 1 July 2007, and increases by \$10,000 on 1 July each year. If you have a partner who is not in care and living in your house then you can choose the threshold of \$75,000 not including the value of your house and car or \$170,000 which will include the value of your house and car.

If you have any questions about rest home eligibility and asset planning in general then contact Kathy Carr at our office who deals with these matters.



Business & Succession Planning

Families are becoming more and more aware of the need to proactively plan and manage the transfer and control of their wealth and assets to the next generation. Approaching this issue is always a challenge, both in terms of the relationships between family members and in the range of legal aspects that need to be considered. For example, a successful business and succession plan needs to have regard to tax consequences, Property (Relationships) Act, Wills, Trusts, Shareholders Agreements and so-on. Not that this should put anyone off, because the legal consequences of not planning appropriately are likely to be even more challenging (and generally messy and expensive) than proactively addressing the situation.

SITUATIONS VACANT—CIVIL LITIGATION LAWYER

Our commercial law firm is looking for a third civil litigation lawyer to join our busy team. We offer:

- Competitive salary and other benefits
- Modern surroundings and technology
- Attentive supervision and guidance as required
- Friendly professional team

If you can offer:

- a strong academic record
- an excellent work ethic
- a keen interest in civil litigation—preferably with experience
- excellent presentation
- a willingness to learn
- long term commitment
- an understanding of the need to be client focused

then we would like to hear from you.

If you know of anybody who might be interested in applying for this position then please let them know about this vacancy.