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# **COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING FOR TASMANIA**

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**THE JUDGES**  
OF THE  
**SUPREME COURT OF TASMANIA**

DURING THE PERIOD COMPRISED IN THIS VOLUME

The Hon ALAN MICHAEL BLOW, AO  
Chief Justice

The Hon SHAN EVE TENNENT  
(Until 3 November 2017)

The Hon DAVID JAMES PORTER  
(Until 21 May 2016)

The Hon HELEN MARIE WOOD

The Hon STEPHEN PETER ESTCOURT

The Hon ROBERT WILLIAM PEARCE

The Hon MICHAEL JOSEPH BRETT

The Hon GREGORY PETER GEASON

The Hon STEPHEN JAMES HOLT  
Associate Judge

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The Hon Dr VANESSA GOODWIN MLC  
(From 31 March 2014 until 2 October 2017)

The Hon MATTHEW GROOM  
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The Hon WILLIAM EDWARD FELIX HODGMAN  
(From 2 October 2017)

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(Until 16 May 2014)

FRANCIS COUNSEL NEASEY  
(Acting, from 19 May 2014 until 31 August 2014)

MICHAEL ERNEST O'FARRELL sc  
(From 1 September 2014)

## MEMORANDA

The HONOURABLE SHAN EVE TENNANT retired on 3 November 2017. On 2 October 2017, at a ceremonial sitting of the Supreme Court of Tasmania to mark the retirement of Justice Tennent, Blow CJ said:

BLOW, CJ: We have assembled here today to farewell the Honourable Justice Shan Tennent on the occasion of her retirement after 12 years' service as a judge of this Court. First of all, I acknowledge the traditional and original owners of the land on which this Court House stands, the Mouheneener people, and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community generally, and pay respects to their Elders, past and present. On behalf of the Court I welcome Her Excellency, the Governor, Professor the Honourable Kate Warner and Mr Warner. I would also like to welcome the Minister for Justice, the Honourable Elise Archer, Sir Guy Green, Justice Duncan Kerr of the Federal Court of Australia, other distinguished guests, relatives and friends of her Honour, members of the Legal Profession, and many others associated with the Court through their work and otherwise.

Justice Tennent grew up in Queensland, studied at the University of Queensland, began her legal career as an articled clerk in Brisbane, and was admitted as a solicitor there in 1975. After practising there for a couple of years, her Honour moved to Hobart with her husband and daughter in 1977 and obtained employment with a firm then named Page, Seager, Bethune, Thompson and Gray. She practised in family law at Page Seager for some eighteen years, becoming a partner in 1983. She was one of Hobart's leading family lawyers for many years. I have appeared against her in a trial in the Family Court and I can confirm that she was a formidable opponent.

In 1988 she was elected to the Council of the Law Society of Tasmania. She subsequently served as its treasurer, its vice president, and the chair of its continuing Legal Education Committee. Her busy practice precluded her from going on to become the first female President of the Law Society. She was a Member of the Law Council of Australia's Equalising Opportunities Committee. She was a committee member of the Family Law Practitioners Association for several years and served two terms as that association's president.

In 1998 she was appointed as a magistrate. She dealt successfully with the challenging transition from a specialist family law practice to the magistracy and quickly became a highly respected member of the Magistrates Court. As a coroner, she conducted an inquest into a number of deaths in custody. Her findings in that case resulted in significant changes at the prison. As a magistrate, she again took on work above and beyond the call of duty, serving terms as the Vice President of the Australian Association of Magistrates and as the President of the Tasmanian Magistrates Association.

Her Honour became a judge of this Court on the 15 March 2005, after the Honourable William Cox resigned from the Bench in order to take up his appointment as the Governor of Tasmania. She was the first woman to be appointed as a judge in Tasmania but made it clear at the time that she thought

too much was being said about that fact. In her twelve and a half years as a judge she has presided in hundreds of jury trials, sentenced over seven hundred offenders, and published well over three hundred reserved judgments, about half of them at first instance and about half in appeals. She has been diligent, conscientious, insightful, and well respected. She has always maintained appropriate priorities in relation to the treatment of jurors, litigants, witnesses, and staff, and a common sense approach towards the conduct of cases and the efficient disposition of the Court's business. She has been sensitive to issues relating to the treatment of vulnerable individuals and has always been respectful in her interactions with counsel.

Over many years she has actively participated in advocacy exercises for trainees undertaking the Tasmanian Legal Practice Course. Since 2013 she has been in charge of the Supreme Court Practice and Advocacy Unit of that course and a director of Centre for Legal Studies Ltd. She has chaired the Board of Legal Education and has represented Tasmania on a national body called the Law Admissions Consultative Committee. She has been the regional convenor of the National Judicial College of Australia. She is the Patron of Tasmanian Women Lawyers and has been an active member of the Australian Association of Women Judges. As a result of her becoming the senior puisne judge in 2013, there have been a number of occasions since then when she has undertaken various vice regal duties as Administrator of Tasmania, particularly in 2014 during the months between the untimely death of the Honourable Peter Underwood and the appointment of Her Excellency, Professor Warner, as his successor. She has somehow managed to find time for her family, her cats, the playing of golf and the drinking of red wine. Her Honour's enormous contribution to the work of the Court and in various voluntary activities will be greatly missed.

Your Honour, you have consistently maintained the very best traditions of the Court. Your contribution to Tasmania and to the law has been enormous. On behalf of the Court, I thank you unreservedly and wish you and your husband a very long and happy retirement.

TENNENT, J: Thank you very much.

BLOW, CJ: Mrs Archer?

MRS ARCHER [Attorney General]: I thank you, your Honour. Your Honour, on behalf of the Tasmanian Government and the people of our State, I have the privilege today of bidding you farewell from your role as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Tasmania and, of course, thanking you sincerely for your years of dedicated service. It is my first official appearance myself today as newly sworn in Minister for Justice, having just resigned from my own female first role of the Speaker of the House of Assembly in the Tasmanian Parliament, and as we are all aware you were sworn in as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Tasmania on 15 March 2005, after having served as a magistrate for the preceding six and a half years. On that occasion Judy Jackson, the first Tasmanian woman appointed Attorney-General, addressed you, the first Tasmania woman judge, on the occasion of you joining the Bench of the Supreme Court of Tasmania. Ms Jackson at the time expressed her pride in addressing you on that occasion, heralding it as an appointment that reflected

the attitudes, diversity, and backgrounds of the people of Tasmania, and forecasting that you would bring a new dynamic to the Bench and it is clear that you have done exactly that.

Ms Jackson is here today, I'd like to acknowledge her presence twelve years later to celebrate your judicial career on the Bench and the work that has further enhanced your reputation as a diligent and tenacious member of the legal community to which you have contributed, not only as a judicial officer in two courts, but also through your involvement with a multitude of legal professional bodies.

So, forgive me if I am a bit repetitive, but after commencing your legal career, as we've heard, in Queensland, graduating from the University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Laws in 1973 and being admitted to practice as a solicitor on 4 February 1975, you came to Tasmania - a very good decision - and were admitted to practice here as a barrister and solicitor on 3 October 1977. By your appointment to the Supreme Court of Tasmania you have shown that being a woman is not a handicap to aspiring to the pinnacle of the legal profession. Although this has not always been so. At the very beginning of your legal career, both in Queensland and Tasmania, there were those who held the view that being female, married, and having a child would be an impediment to such a career. In those days, the legal profession in this jurisdiction also did not accommodate people working on a part-time basis, so we've come a long way since those days.

You commenced work in Tasmania and, I emphasise, on a part-time basis, in August 1977 with the Hobart firm of Page Seager, enabling you to dedicate time to your daughter, Kelly, who I also acknowledge here, an old school friend of mine of course - it is Hobart - as well the firm where you worked for the next 23 years, five of those as a partner specialising in family law, before being appointed as a magistrate on 3 August 1998. In addition to conducting your legal practice, your Honour was also twice the President of the Family Law Practitioners Association of Tasmania, Treasurer and then Vice President of the Law Society of Tasmania, the Deputy Chair of the Mental Health Review Tribunal, a Commissioner of the Legal Aid Commission, a Member of the Equal Opportunities Committee of the Law Society of Tasmania, and the Equalising Opportunities in the Law Committee of the Law Council of Australia, and a past Member of the Australian Institute of Family Law Arbitrators and Mediators.

You have also assisted with the education and development of current and future members of the legal profession through your membership of the Continuing Legal Education Committee of the Law Society, including as chair, and your contributions to the Legal Practice Course as a Director of the Centre for Legal Studies Inc. and having assisted with Magistrates Court and Supreme Court modules respectively and since 2013 acting as the Coordinator of the Supreme Court Module.

Your other current memberships of professional organisations, as we've heard, have included being Chair of the Board of Legal Education and a Member of the Law Admissions Consultative Committee, being the current Patron of Tasmanian Women Lawyers Association, a Member of the Australian Association of Women Judges, a Member of the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia, and a Member of the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration, the National Judicial College of Australia and the Judicial

Conference of Australia. And if that isn't enough, you have also found time to speak at conferences, deliver lectures and improve the accessibility and understanding the community has about the workings of the Court, through your involvement with Adult Education and, of course, I think, to work on your golf handicap. All in all, I trust it has been a very rewarding and fulfilling career and chapter in your life.

And now, on behalf of the Tasmanian Government I wish to congratulate you on the distinguished and illustrious judicial and legal career and thank you for your significant service to the State of Tasmania. That said, all that remains for me is one final duty and that is on behalf of the Government to wish a well and long and happy retirement. If your Honour pleases.

BLOW, CJ: Thank you. The President of the Law Society?

MR FOON [President of the Law Society of Tasmania]: Thank you, Chief Justice. Justice Tennent, on behalf of the Law Society of Tasmania and the legal profession, I thank you for your service to the administration of justice in this State. I congratulate you on your retirement from the Court, at almost 40 years since your admission to practice in Tasmania.

You have, both during your time in practice as a magistrate and as a judge, worked tirelessly for the benefit of the community, not only in those roles but by your involvement in what can only be described as an extensive list of extra-curricular activities during the course of your career. In preparing this address today I sought information from those who have known you as to things outside of the law which I might be able to address. Those investigations led to the two most unsurprising revelations. One, your love of cats, not just cat brooches, but even jackets with cats on them, and your love of golf. Your Honour described yourself as a keen golfer with a current handicap of about 28. Members of the profession describe your interest in the game as rabid. The fact that those are the only revelations unsurprising as they are, I think tells us what we already knew, and that is throughout your career and as time as a judge you've exemplified the highest standard of conduct in both your professional and personal life. Often judges get to quote their past comments in subsequent judgments, it's not something I ordinarily get to do but today I can, on announcement of your retirement I was quoted as saying:

*Justice Tennent has had an illustrious career and is a trailblazer and a role model for all practitioners, but particularly for female practitioners.*

What I think is important and really exemplifies why you are a role model, your Honour, is because you never set out to be one, rather you have achieved what you have through your intellect and strong work ethic, which have been consistent throughout your career. Notwithstanding you never set out to be a trailblazer, you are one, and I hope on reflection you and your family are extremely proud of your achievements. You were the first female partner at Page Seager when you became one in 1983. You were the second female magistrate appointed when you were appointed in 1998, and in 2005 you became the first female appointed to the Bench of the Supreme Court. Your Honour has always

strived to be appointed on merit, consistent with your view that gender should be irrelevant, and I hope one day it truly is.

Notwithstanding you had no intention of being one, you are an inspiration to young female practitioners of what can be achieved, and to quote Justice Wood from Friday night, "You've made it all seem possible". The attendance that night evidences how well your Honour is regarded. Coming to the Bench you were asked what sort of judge you would be and your response was "a fair one". You've more than achieved your aims and served with distinction for twelve years. You have been described in your time on the Bench as no nonsense, direct without being rude, diligent, hardworking, but most importantly objective. Your Honour's involvements over the course of your career in extra-curricular activities have been substantial and having heard the Chief Justice and the Minister for Justice set out what they are I won't repeat them for a third time. However, your Honour's dedication to the administration of justice and personal service to the community outside of your role as a judge is a fine example to all legal practitioners and we – whilst we can't all achieve the things your Honour has done, we can certainly aspire to that level of personal service.

So, on behalf of the profession, your Honour, thank you for your service, we hope that you enjoy retirement, which I understand you intend to be a law-free one. However, being – having been a magistrate and now a judge, your Honour is uniquely placed on your retirement to make comment to help improve access to justice, make comment in relation to areas of law reform, so I hope your Honour will, where appropriate, do so.

Finally, best of luck in reducing that handicap of yours, I have no doubt if you dedicate yourself to it as you have your professional life in the law it will be under 20 in no time. Thanks.

BLOW, CJ: Thank you. Mr Gunson?

MR GUNSON SC [President of the Tasmanian Bar Association]: Your Honour, the Chief Justice and the President of the Law Society have both mentioned the fact that you were the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court of Tasmania in the Court's then 180-year history. This is an accomplishment that cannot be understated. Your Honour has been a strident and passionate advocate for women in the law and it's important to view your Honour's accomplishments in their context. Women in the law, especially at the Bar, are at a disadvantage. Nationally and in Tasmania women make up only 20 per cent of the Bar; only 10 per cent of senior counsel in Australia are women. In Tasmania, only one woman has been appointed senior counsel, Ms Tamara Jago SC, who was appointed in 2010 and now sits as a magistrate.

In a recent survey undertaken by the New South Wales Bar Association it was found that female barristers on average earned gross fee income of almost one hundred and seventy thousand less than their male counterparts in that State. Further, it found that 24 per cent of male barristers earned less than two hundred thousand in gross fees, whereas for female barristers 41 per cent earned less than that amount. Female barristers also receive less briefs than male barristers and fee value – when the fee value for each brief is considerably less.



While the Tasmanian Bar does not have similar statistics I know that the disparities exist. These systemic inequalities exist not only at the Bar but also in the wider legal profession, and exist notwithstanding the fact that Australian universities graduate more female lawyers than males each year. The Tasmanian Bar is acutely aware of the substantial gender imbalance that exists and is actively working to address them.

While I'm focused on the state of the Bar in 2017, of course, your Honour did not come to the Bench via the Bar, your Honour chose a much more challenging and difficult pathway. Your Honour started Law School at the University of Queensland in 1969, having matriculated at the young age of 16. Whilst at Law School you married and had a child. Your Honour graduated in 1973 and finding articles was difficult, predominately because of your gender and both marital and family status. In one interview for articles, after about 10 minutes, your Honour was told, "Look, I'm sorry, there's no point in continuing with this, you will never remain in the law, it's a waste of my time and effort to train you".

Having eventually obtained and completed articles your Honour was admitted in Queensland and subsequently moved to Tasmania with your husband in 1977. Moving from Brisbane to Hobart in the middle of winter was no doubt a considerable challenge; I understand that your Honour would, at that time, have quite happily moved back to Brisbane.

Your Honour practised in Hobart in a male-dominated and sometimes misogynistic profession and worked your way to being a respected partner of Page Seager, the first female partner of that firm. Your Honour practised predominately in family law and commanded respect as one of the leading Tasmanian practitioners in that field. You were a partner of Page Seager for 15 years before your Honour was appointed to the magistracy in 1998. During your Honour's tenure as a magistrate you conducted a high-profile inquest into multiple deaths at Risdon Prison which led to significant reforms of the Tasmanian Correctional System, including the ultimate rebuilding of Risdon Prison.

I've chosen to address the gender inequalities of the Bar and the wider legal profession to demonstrate the challenges your Honour faced from your time at university, your admission to the legal profession, and your practice as a lawyer right up until your appointment as a judge of this Court. Notwithstanding that adversity and inequality, your hard work and determination made it possible to achieve appointment to one of the judicial offices in the State. In short, your Honour's career and achievements serves as an inspiration to all, but particularly women who aspire to accomplish what your Honour has accomplished.

I understand that you and your husband Rob intend to take your caravan and travel around Australia for a while, as has been noted, your Honour is an avid golfer and I have little doubt that your golf clubs will be in the caravan, most likely together with a supply of a Diet Coke, which I understand that your Honour needs to survive. That will enable your Honour to work on your handicap, something that the commitments of judicial office have undoubtedly inhibited.

On a more serious note, it is important to recognise the commitment that being a judge of this Court requires; it involves long hours, regular travel away from home, a curtailment of social and recreational activities, and an impact on family life. Your Honour is a dedicated spouse, mother, grandmother, lawyer, and jurist. On behalf of the Tasmanian Bar I thank your Honour for many years of dedicated service to the law and the inspiration that your career provides and will continue to provide for many years into the future, and I wish you, Rob, and your family the very best in retirement.

To conclude, if I could take a quote from your Honour's Australian Women's Lawyers Online Biography, "It's not a bad outcome for someone who was told she wasn't worth training because she would never stay in the law." May it please the Court.

BLOW, CJ: Thank you, Mr Gunson. Your Honour?

TENNENT, J: Thank you. Thank you, Mrs Archer, Mr Foon, Mr Gunson and I can I say now, I hope my voice lasts out for the next few minutes, but thank you for your kind words.

Your Excellency, Mr Warner, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, may I welcome everybody who has come here this afternoon, particularly my husband Rob, my daughter Kelly, and her partner Doug. I am very grateful that you've all found the time to be here. I would not be here to say goodbye this afternoon without the help and support of my husband Rob, in particular. When the vacancy arose for this position late in 2004 I was encouraged by Rob to apply for the position, I threw my hat in the ring as a result, and I have him to thank for the fact that I was even there to start off with. I should also like to thank Judy Jackson, who is here today. Judy, as the then Attorney-General, made it quite clear that she wanted to appoint a woman to the vacant role as a judge of this Court. I am very grateful to her for selecting me and I am very grateful for the position she allowed me to take up, I hope that I have not let her down.

There were at the time no females on the Bench and only two female magistrates, the perception was quite clearly that the next judge would come from the then largely male-dominated Bar. My elevation left a few noses out of joint, I have no doubt of that, some of the owners of those noses were a little vocal in their criticism which was, perhaps, unfortunate in what was a very small profession.

When I was appointed, the late Peter Underwood was Chief Justice. I'm not sure he was wholly happy with having me effectively landed in his lap, but having said that he was exceedingly welcoming to me, he made sure that, for example, the title of judges was altered to reflect a gender balance, we were no longer described as "Mr Justice" or the like. Having said that there are a number of practitioners who still use the term and there's been one particular practitioner throughout most of my career on this Bench and as a magistrate who referred to me as "Sir" on a fairly regular basis – I just don't think he could ever quite get away from the practice.

The registrar at the time I was appointed was Ian Ritchard and Ian also went out of his way to make sure that I was welcome in the Court and that I was able to make changes in my chambers, which reflected a slight difference in gender,

because when I first came here they were very much dedicated to men, I can only describe them I think as “man caves”.

The then judges of the Court were also very welcoming. Save for the late Peter Underwood of course, and Ewan Crawford and Peter Evans, who are off travelling, all those I’ve worked with are here. Pierre Slicer is here in two capacities, one as a judge that I used to work with on a full-time basis, and now again as an acting judge that I’m also working with, or have been. I owe a special thanks to Pierre; he went out of his way to help me, to support me, and to make sure that I didn’t make too many very obvious gaffs. So I will always be grateful to him for that support and help. Pierre in his semi-retirement, and I call it “semi” because he’s of course back here as an acting judge, has become an avid four-wheel drive enthusiast, which I suspect in part may be due to my husband who told him long and tall stories about his travelling through the Outback.

The day I was to start as a judge I was allocated an associate and an attendant. The associate was Alan Hensley, who is now a senior officer with the Legal Aid Commission. Alan had been associate to the then Chief Justice Cox, and spent the entirety of his time with the then Chief Justice working on a fascinating case which involved a highway in the North West of the State. Alan was then left in a sort of a hiatus between when the Chief Justice left and when I was appointed, he then came to me, and the first sittings we had was a criminal sittings. It would be fair to say, I think an understatement it would be to say that neither Alan nor I were greatly experienced in criminal jury trials, but we managed, I don’t think there were too many disasters through that first sittings. I think part of that was perhaps due to the attendant we were given, Ed Fry, who is also here today. Ed was a marvellous support and I think he knew more about the general practice of the Court than Alan or I certainly knew at all, and I think his contribution made sure we didn’t make too many errors as well.

I’ve had a number of associates over the time since Alan, some of them are here today and I’m very glad that they were able to be here. My current associate Bek Fleming is seated in front and I am very grateful to all of you for the help and support you gave me, or have given me and continue in Bek’s role to give me today. Most of my former associates have stayed in the law although one, as I understand it, jumped ship entirely and is doing nursing.

I’d like to thank my current attendant, Richard, he’s not my dedicated attendant but he’s been working with me for the last few years. His calm has proved invaluable. For someone who spends a great deal of his down time dressed in lycra and cycling for miles his presence in court and his persona in court is one of person always impeccably dressed and formal.

When I first started as a judge of the Court, the Court as an environment was very much more formal than I think it is today. There was almost – well there was very much a ‘them and us’ divide between the judges and the court staff. I think - I’m very glad to see that has altered over the years. At the end of the day, in my view, without the secretaries in chambers, people in the registry and all the support staff this Court couldn’t function and that’s despite the view, I think sometimes judges may have, that we can just carry on regardless. So I am very grateful to all the staff at the Court for the support and friendship that they’ve shown to me.

I am going to single out one person of that and that's Malcolm Farmer who is standing in the back of the Court, Malcolm is the fount of all knowledge, as far as I'm concerned, as far as civil matters is concerned – are concerned, and he has been very helpful, very supportive, in all that he's done while I've been here at the Court, so I am grateful to that as well. I often wonder how he's managed to cope with the plethora of unrepresented litigants that we've had through this Court over the years and his calm I think has been absolutely magnificent because some try the patience of saints.

There have been a few registrars in my time, our current registrar was, of course, the – formally the Administrator the Family of the Magistrates Court – I'm giving him another role – so I've ended up working with Jim Connolly over a number of years and I thank him for the support that he's given me, both as a magistrate and a judge.

To my current colleagues, thank you, I've particularly enjoyed Helen Wood being here over the last few years. The role of a Supreme Court Judge can be a very isolating one and it was particularly so when I was the only female judge. Helen and I have both been very fortunate to be Members of the Australian Association of Women Judges and to have the networks that we've been able to establish through that association. I certainly have had occasions where because there was nobody here that I could talk to I was able to talk to judges that I'd established friendships with in other States and that was an invaluable thing for me.

To members of the profession, the relationship between the profession and a judge can be a difficult one at times. Some practitioners don't take kindly to losing an argument and struggle to do so graciously. There have been, I think, some members of the profession who over the years have struggled to get used to the idea that judges can be both genders and that a judge of either gender deserves respect. Most practitioners, I'm very happy to say, have been courteous and helpful. Some, who shall remain nameless, did seem to at times take delight in taking me on views in civil trials, one of my first involved climbing a gantry on the Burnie Wharf only to have the case settle with indecent haste thereafter, and I have to wonder whether that view was entirely necessary. I should also say that during the time that I've been coordinating the Supreme Court Module of the Legal Practice Course, I have been exceedingly grateful to members of the profession who have given up their time to come down to the Court and to either act as judges or to appear opposite trainees in exercises.

We are, despite the fact that it perhaps looks otherwise today, only a small group of permanent judges, and it's often been somewhat difficult to be able to cover the courts needed for the Legal Practice, so I am grateful to those practitioners who quite regularly gave up their time to help out. We have a Legal Practice Course which has an enviable reputation in Australia for the type of course it is and part of that is because judges and magistrates have regularly involved themselves on a hands on basis.

Judges retiring from this Court have, on occasion, used the opportunity of their retirement to take a parting shot or two, it's probably a rare opportunity that we have when we're almost released from the shackles of political correctness and have an audience. I contemplated a few words about suspended sentences

and dangerous criminals but decided that anything I said was probably not likely to see any dramatic change for the better. As to the latter, what I can say is that I am very pleased at the work that was recently done by the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute about the position of dangerous criminal legislation. I think it needs – that legislation needs serious review, there have, in recent years from my direct involvement, been significant injustices done in that area because of the way the current legislation operates.

It would be remiss of me if I did not separately thank the Tasmanian Women Lawyers. When I first came to Tasmania in 1977 there were very few practising female lawyers, there was, however, an association which, over the years, has gone from strength to strength. Tasmanian Women Lawyers has provided young female lawyers with a valuable network, both within the State and nationally which I never had when I started in the profession. That network has provided a framework for young females in the law to get advice, be inspired, and move forward in what remains a very male-dominated profession, and I wish the Tasmanian Women Lawyers well in the future.

On that fairly pleasant note I propose to end my remarks. I have enjoyed my time as a judge. I will miss the Court, the interaction with staff, profession, and the variety of matters in which I have had to routinely deal. I doubt, however, that when I stand on a golf tee at 10 am on any given Tuesday morning in the future that I will shed a tear for the loss of a criminal plea list.

Before I adjourn, may I take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to Dr Vanessa Goodwin for her future.

Goodbye and thank you very much for coming today.

BLOW, CJ: Thank you. The Court will now adjourn.

On 16 November 2017, the HONOURABLE GREGORY PETER GEASON was sworn in as a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Tasmania.

On 26 January 2018, the HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE ALAN MICHAEL BLOW was made an Officer of the Order of Australia.