



# THE WORD ON THE STREET



Issue 5

Spring 2007 Edition

## PENNY ROBBINS ADMITTED



Penny Robbins proudly showing Louellyn Gane, General Manager and Principal solicitor her Legal Practice certificate following the ceremony at the Supreme Court.

**Penny Robbins** commenced work at Sussex

Street on 20 February 2006 as an Articled Clerk, during that time she worked as our Welfare Rights Advocate. It was with pride and excitement that on the 3rd of July Louellyn Gane General Manager and Principal Solicitor moved Penny's admission to the Supreme Court of WA as Barrister & Solicitor.

Penny will continue to do work in the Welfare Rights Unit but is looking forward to expanding her skills and experiences to include civil and family law.

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*Merry Christmas  
And  
Happy New Year*

### **Christmas Closure**

Sussex Street will be closed for the Christmas break from  
Friday 21 December  
Until  
Wednesday 3 January

## CONFERENCES

Conferences are always a great place to network and catch up with colleagues in other agencies. Sussex Street has been fortunate in being able to provide opportunities for Staff to attend national conferences. Firstly Penny Robbins attended the Welfare Rights conference in Brisbane. This was followed by the national conference for CLC's, also in Brisbane, at which Katrina Leonard attended. Katrina delivered a paper on the Human Rights Bill during the conference. Lee McLeay attended the national Tenancy conference in Melbourne. All staff members provided feedback on the respective conferences and spoke about the value of attending and discussed the various topics they found interesting.

## DCP FUNDING

The department of Child Protection has confirmed the continued funding of Sussex Street to provide financial counselling services to the people residing in the Town of Victoria Park. The new contract is to provide services from 1 October 2007 until 30 September 2010. The continuation of the contract is due to the excellent and committed work of the Financial Counsellor Iris Watt. Iris has worked tirelessly to ensure that clients who are experiencing financial difficulty receive her utmost attention and assistance to bring their finances under control. In 2006-2007 Iris gave 1045 advices.

## New Staff Arrivals



### LAUREN BUTTERLY

Lauren is a Law/Arts student at UWA who will be completing her Honours in law next year. Prior to joining Sussex Street she has held positions as a volunteer at the Dunedin Community Legal Centre in New Zealand and as a legal intern at the Torres Strait Regional Authority Native Title Office in far north Queensland. Whilst at Sussex Street she hopes to increase her knowledge in a broad range of areas of law and social policy, particularly in relation to Indigenous peoples. Looking to the future, Lauren hopes to become a Native Title lawyer but is also interested in pursuing a career as a legal academic. Lauren is sure she will always have a connection to community legal centres in a volunteer capacity given her belief in their important role. On a more personal level, Lauren has an unhealthy addiction to chocolate, which she maintains is 'cancelled out' by her love of bushwalking and waterpolo!

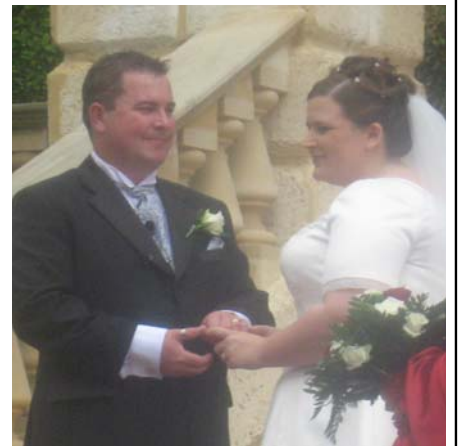
### REBECCA TEDDER

Rebecca is a solicitor on secondment from Freehills who has recently joined us for one year. As part of its pro-bono work, Freehills funds the placement of a full-time solicitor to Sussex Street each year. The position is advertised across the firm nationally and Rebecca was accepted to come and join us. She moved from Brisbane to Perth to take up the opportunity (and enjoy the beautiful West-Coast beaches!). Rebecca has degrees in law and psychology. As a commercial solicitor she has a background in litigation, property, discrimination, employment and occupational health and safety issues. Prior to working at Freehills, she volunteered as a paralegal at the Environmental Defenders Office. Rebecca is looking forward to the chance to work on more people centred issues, and a focus on assisting disadvantaged clients to access justice.

## Weddings Everywhere

2007 has been the year of weddings for Sussex Street. It started early in the year with Cheryl's daughters being bridesmaids at her brothers wedding. This was followed by our receptionist Karen marrying and was followed by Denise being the mother of the bride on the first day of spring. Four weeks later Karen

flew to England for her nieces wedding and the same weekend Sussex Street staff were out in force for the wedding of General Manager and Principal Solicitor. Louellyn Gane. Louellyn had a lovely wedding in the hidden gardens at Caversham House followed by the reception at the Novotel Langley. Congratulations to all the brides and grooms.



## Staff Departures



### Katrina Leonard

It only seems a short time ago that we were welcoming Katrina to Sussex Street and now we have said good-bye. Katrina was employed as a Restricted Practitioner doing Family and Civil Law and moved to the Belmont Outreach when Rachael left. During the time she was at Sussex Street she was involved in a number of activities including delivering Community Legal Education and working on a number of policy issues including the submitting comment on the draft Human Rights Bill.

Katrina has now moved to the UK to work overseas. We wish her luck in her chosen career move.

### Editor's Bits

Sussex Street has been fortunate to have had Mirella Dodd a Curtin University social work student doing her Prac. Mirella has been here since June and finishes up at the end of November. She has provided valuable support to the caseworkers and will be missed. Good luck in the future Mirella.

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