

***ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WOMEN BARRISTERS FORUM SECTION OF THE  
NEW SOUTH WALES BAR ASSOCIATION 2012 - 2013***

In 2012-2013, WBF continued to promote awareness of the talents of, and diversity amongst, women at the New South Wales Bar. The following warrant specific mention:

- Co-hosting with the WLA the twice yearly Women Readers lunches, known as the “Janet Coombs Lunch for New Female Barristers”, to coincide with the May and October Bar Readers’ Courses. In the preceding 12 months, the Lunches were held on 19 October 2012 and 17 May 2013.
- Hosting a cocktail function to celebrate the appointment of Women Silk in NSW. On 15 November 2012, WBF celebrated the appointment of twelve female senior counsel: Chrissa Loukas SC, Elizabeth Cheeseman SC, Kylie Nomchong SC, Carol Webster SC, Julia Lonergan SC, Kate Eastman SC, Kelly Rees SC, Sarah Pritchard SC, Nicole Noman SC, Natalie Adams SC, Jennie Girdham SC, and Jacqueline Gleeson SC.
- Organisation of the first four in an annual program of lunchtime CPDs aimed at women barristers.
- Organisation of the women’s mentoring scheme for barristers in their post-readership year, with Sandra Duggan SC, Mandy Tibbey, and Kerrie Leotta forming the subcommittee of WBF volunteers.
- Provision of a memorandum on equitable briefing policy to Jane Needham SC for discussion purposes at the ABA Pathways for Women at the Bar teleconference.
- Submissions to Bar Council including a submission on the Bar Association’s Draft Strategic Policy, and Bar Retention Statistics.
- Ongoing liaison with the Equal Opportunity Committee of the NSW Bar Association in relation to matters within WBF’s remit, including the Equitable Briefing Policy, Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Policies of the Bar Association.
- Ongoing co-operation between WBF and WLA in their efforts to promote women lawyers, particularly through Margaret Holz’ membership of both the WBF Committee and the WLA Committee, Sandra Duggan SC’s and/or the WBF Secretaries’ attendance at WLA functions as the WBF guest, WBF committee member Larissa Andelman speaking at the “Coming to the Bar” seminar held by the WLA and meetings with the President and past President regarding surveying women’s participation in the law.

27 May 2013

**Sandra Duggan SC**, Chair, Women Barristers Forum