

Lawyers in Queensland

# A STEP ahead



by Laura Hanrahan and Christine Smyth

QLS members belong to a diverse array of groups and associations representing specific interests across the legal spectrum. This month, Proctor profiles the Queensland branch of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP).

The Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP) is the leading professional body for practitioners working with trusts, estates and related issues.

With a head office in the United Kingdom, STEP has more than 17,000 members in more than 80 countries practising across legal, accountancy, corporate trust, banking and related professions. The Queensland branch of STEP, with about 120 members, is the largest branch in Australasia and is mainly made up of estate planning and litigation lawyers, barristers, trustee company employees and accountants.

### Membership

Membership of STEP is open to any professional who specialises in trusts and estates and who meets the requirements of associate or full membership.

STEP recognises there are many different professionals involved in the structuring, planning and administering of trusts and estates and therefore membership is open to all professionals practising in these areas.

Professionals with more than five years' experience in trusts and estates can apply for full membership and those with more than two years but less than five can apply for associate membership.

Full members are entitled to use the post nominal 'TEP' in recognition of their specialist knowledge.

STEP Qld holds bi-monthly member-only round-table events, at no cost, which are an excellent opportunity to discuss the latest developments in trusts and estates and network with fellow practitioners. Members also benefit from regular seminars, half-day intensives and our key calendar event, the STEP Qld Annual Trusts and Estates Conference.

### Recent events

STEP Qld provides regular continuing legal education through lunchtime seminars, two half-day intensives (one on trusts and one on powers of attorney) and the annual conference. These events are open to all professionals, not only members.

On 3 July STEP held a half-day trusts Intensive which included:

- Robert Whiteford TEP: 'Tedious and Titillating Trusts'



The 2012/2013 STEP Qld committee, left to right, Christine Smyth, Jeneve Frizzo, Ann Janseen, Laura Hanrahan, Angela Cornford-Scott (vice chair), Glenn Dickson, Caite Brewer (chair), Richard Williams, Renee Bennett, Emma Meadth, Jody Pezet, Stephanie Duggan Hameus and Judy Hayward. Absent: Vicki Mounts (Treasurer), Scott Forster.

- Richard Friend TEP: 'Taxation of Trusts – issues to consider when reviewing trust deeds'
- Andrew Fraser TEP: 'Torn in Two: Conflicts arising from split personalities in the office of trustee.'

On Tuesday 7 August, STEP will hold a lunchtime seminar on insolvent estates presented by David Topp TEP.

The 2nd Annual Trusts and Estates Conference will be held on Friday 7 September at Kingscliffe, New South Wales. The one-day program has been finalised and registrations are now open. More details are available by emailing the address below.

### Strong relationships

STEP Qld enjoys a strong reciprocal relationship with Queensland Law Society. Law Society House is our preferred venue for STEP seminars and the Society provides excellent telephone and video conferencing facilities. These technologies enable suburban and regional members (the large majority of whom are QLS members) to participate in our events.

STEP is an endorsing association of most QLS seminars on wills and estates.

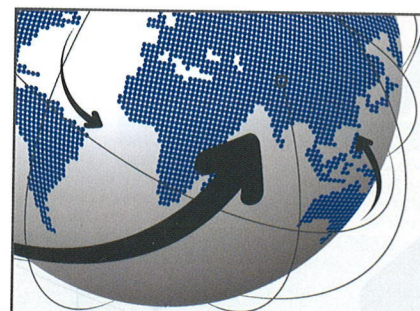
STEP has also supported Queensland University of Technology events through sponsorship, including the annual WA Lee Lecture, for many years.

It provides support for up-and-coming trust and estate practitioners through relationships with the College of Law and has recently become an inaugural sponsor of a subject in the college's Masters in Wills and Estates.

### How to join

Visit [step.org](http://step.org) for more information about joining STEP Qld or details of upcoming events. You can also email [Qldbranch@step.org](mailto:Qldbranch@step.org) to be placed on our mailing list.

Laura Hanrahan is a lawyer at HopgoodGanim and Christine Smyth is a partner at Robbins Watson Solicitors. Both are members of the 2012/2013 STEP Qld committee.



QLS Leadership luncheon

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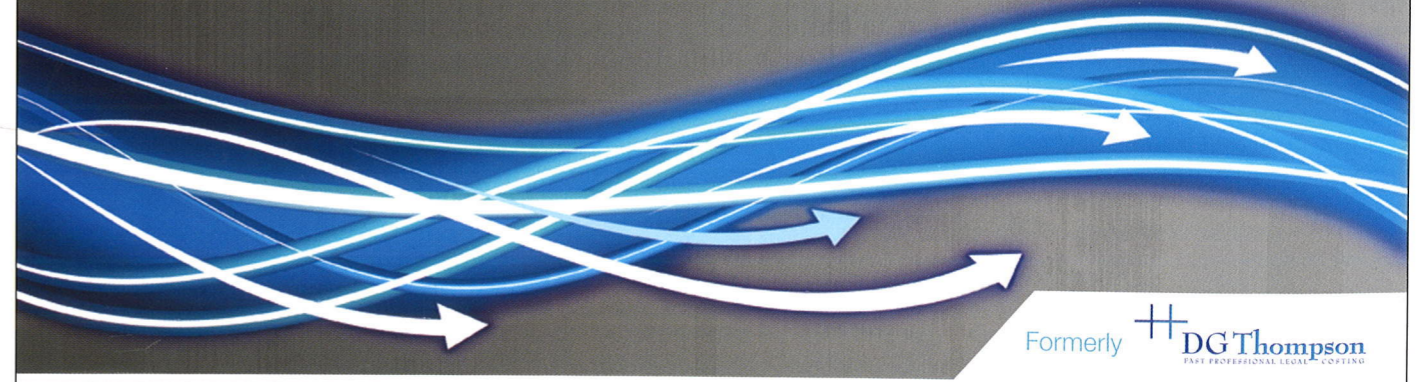
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