

# Quinlaw - Winter 2010 Newsletter

There have been a number of new developments in our office over the past couple of months .....

We are very pleased to welcome ***Rose Mary Wilson*** to our team.

Many years as a Registered Legal Executive (plus many years owning her own business) have equipped Rose Mary to be an experienced legal executive in conveyance transactions, refinance, trusts, wills, estate planning and estate administration.

Rose Mary enjoys working with home buyers. Rose enjoys taking the time to explain the sometimes confusing process. She works hard, is efficient and is happy to go the extra mile for her clients whether this is in progressing a conveyancing transaction or working through an estate matter.

Trevor Knowsley retired from this practice in April after years of practising law. Catherine Quin (trading as QuinLaw) purchased Trevor's business in April of last year with the view to Trevor assisting with the transition, working as a part-time consultant for some months and then retiring in April of this year.



It was Trevor's wish to go quietly and with no fuss and we respected that. Be assured that if you were a client of Trevor's or his firm all your documents and Deeds are here with us at QuinLaw and we look forward to meeting you and helping you with whatever services you require. In addition to the Conveyancing, Refinancing, Trusts, Wills and Estate work, we also practise in Family Court work, Relationship Property, Estate Planning and Maori Land.

We look forward to being of service to you in the future.

Lisa Steffensen leaves us to join the world of resource management. We wish her all the best in her new job.

## QUINLAW BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

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Catherine Quin	-	Principal - Solicitor	Christine Frew	-	Legal Secretary
Gordon Wilson	-	Staff Solicitor	Carole Probert	-	Typist/Trust Administrator
Rose Mary Wilson	-	Legal Executive	Stephanie Patterson	-	Receptionist/Accounts
Maree Cotter	-	Legal Executive	Pauline Marfell	-	Typist/Administrator
Maria McCracken	-	Practice Manager	Jeremy McCracken	-	Office Junior

## Living wills, advance directives, medical management of end of life

These have been around now in common use for many years. These generally are requesting that there are no heroic measures taken if the person concerned is mentally incapable and has a condition that he/she will not recover from.

In New Zealand they are not legally binding but are important references when decisions are being made. The Courts certainly have referred to them as being useful and a factor to be taken into account when a Court has been asked to make this kind of decision. It does give an indication of the patient's wishes, and is made at a time when the patient is competent.

As said above, they are not legally binding but the doctor would benefit by knowing what the patient's views were, and it is the doctor at the end of the day who is involved with resuscitative support or treatment. Usually the family are also consulted but do remember not always do all of the family think with one mind. Obviously the family can also make better choices if the patient made his or her views known.

We encourage our clients to consider this and we can assist you with making your wishes known in a written form. Catherine Quin has drafted our form after much research and it is highly regarded as being effective, descriptive and useful.

Another matter that you could consider is whether you wish to be an organ donor. These are all issues which are useful to talk about with your children.

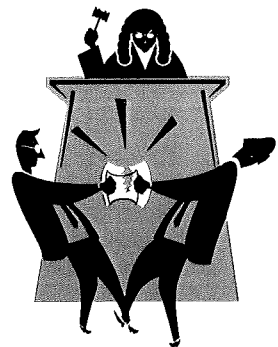
## Building Disputes & Builders

Over the years we have been involved in a number of building disputes including claims in the High Court.

What is common in all building disputes is that with the benefit of hindsight and/or proper research our client would never have entered into that agreement with that particular builder. If your builder gets it wrong then suing the builder does not fix the problem. A bad building job cannot be easily fixed and money compensation is not what you necessarily want. It does not put you into the property you wanted to be in.

To have your building plans go as smoothly as possible do the following:

- Check credentials of builder
- Speak to other clients of this builder
- Check the contract thoroughly—we can help
- Check the maths – that can be wrong
- Check that there is money to be held back at the end for the maintenance period.



It may well also pay to have your architect or an experienced builder or a project manager supervise or oversee the building work. Just remember, you cannot fix a bad building easily.

It also may be useful to talk about whether you have your own usual plumber or electrician involved. You do not have to use the builder's sub contractors. This may be especially relevant when you have a unusual plumbing system and need any additions or alterations to be made by your usual plumber.

**Family Law \* Conveyancing \* Refinancing \* Wills \* Enduring Powers of Attorney \* Estates \*  
Trusts \* Relationship Property \* PPPR Applications \* Senior Law Matters**