

2020 — A YEAR IN REVIEW

Creevey Russell
LAWYERS

excellence in law, service and communication

Against the backdrop of the global coronavirus pandemic, 2020 has been full of challenges and changes for individuals and businesses across the globe.

Despite this, through all the chaos and uncertainty, the partners at Creevey Russell Lawyers are proud to say that our team has overcome each challenge that has presented itself and our firm is looking forward to a bigger and brighter 2021.

New Additions

2020 started with Creevey Russell Lawyers welcoming three legal practitioners to our team; Michael Burrows (Senior Associate) and Craig van der Hoven (Lawyer) in our Crime and Misconduct team; and Vivianne Wilson Tonscheck (Senior Associate) in our Family Law team.

We were also delighted to welcome Tim Horrell (Special Counsel) back to our Commercial and Property and Succession Planning teams.



COVID-19 Lockdown

Like many offices, the lockdown restrictions early in the year meant packing up the work stations and adapting to a new 'work from home' arrangement. Our team managed this transition without difficulty as our remote working arrangements were already largely in place.

In April, our Civil Litigation team's Shattercane Class Action was the final Queensland civil trial to be heard in person prior to the COVID-19 restrictions. While it was a last on one front, it was a first on another, being the first class action to be heard in the Queensland civil jurisdiction.

The trial began 16 March 2020 and finished on 9 April 2020. It was conducted by way of an e-trial, meaning documents and transcripts were all managed electronically which happened seamlessly and efficiently. Judgement is still to come and our team and clients eagerly await the result.

During the COVID-19 lockdown our team appeared in various courts via electronic means. At one stage our boardroom was converted to a court room, with a New South Wales Supreme Court trial being conducted electronically.

PEXA Conveyancing

Since COVID, more law firms, clients and banks have welcomed the online property settlement system PEXA with open arms. Although not mandatory in Queensland, it seems to be the preferred option across law firms in Queensland for conducting property settlements.

For the past six months Creevey Russell Lawyers has experienced PEXA and we are keen to transact more and more on the PEXA platform. We have found the experience seamless and as PEXA says, it is a quick and a simple way to complete the exchange of property. Once we took the leap forward to PEXA there was no looking back!

OUR OFFICES

BRISBANE | Level 24, 300 Queen Street | PO Box 10091 Brisbane QLD 4000 | +61 7 3009 6555

TOOWOOMBA | 1/1B Kitchener Street, PO BOX 833 Toowoomba QLD 4350 | +61 7 4617 8777

ROMA | 42B Wyndham Street, Roma QLD 4455 | +61 7 4622 7925

Professional Achievements

- Samantha Robinson has been promoted to the role of Associate (Civil Litigation).
- Jakob Mignone was admitted to the Supreme Court of Queensland and has been promoted to the role of a solicitor (Civil Litigation).
- Dan Creevey Junior graduated with his Bachelor of Laws and will be admitted as a solicitor in the New Year with Dan Creevey Senior moving the admission.
- Michael Burrows achieved his Accredited Specialisation in criminal law.
- Our Partner, Tom Rynders, already an Accredited Specialist in Personal Injury Law, was recognised for the first time in Doyles Guide, an independent organisation that rates and recommends solicitors and firms. Our Medical Negligence team was also recognised as one of the leading firms in medical negligence in the state.
- Our Principal, Clare Creevey, also an Accredited Specialist in the area of Personal Injury Law, has been awarded an impressive 11 individual listings in Doyles Guide over the last five years in categories such as Motor Vehicle Accident Compensation, Medical Negligence Compensation, Public Liability Compensation and Workers' Compensation



Notable Results

Our team has worked hard and have results to show for it.

- Our Personal Injuries team reached settlement of a significant and long-standing medical negligence/product liability matter.
- The decisions in two complex matters relating to a statutory will and a stay order, where Creevey Russell Lawyers were acting, have been reported.
- Our Civil Litigation team acted for a group of irrigators in Hampton (QLD) obtaining declarations against their opponent with indemnity costs being awarded to our client.

The Social Side

At the beginning of the year, our team had a number of outback trips planned which were unfortunately interrupted due to the COVID-19 restrictions. When the restrictions lifted, Dan Creevey Snr and our practice manager, Tony McCallum, headed west to Roma and Charleville to visit clients and colleagues.

While unfortunately the Wallumbilla Rodeo was not an option this year, there was a fight for tickets to get to the Longreach races with 10 of the Creevey Russell team attending and enjoying themselves immensely. The partners have now had to offer it as an annual event for the team.

Looking back on the year that will no doubt be remembered by all, we are immensely grateful to our dedicated team, clients and referrers for their loyalty and support as we all navigate through these difficult times.

We look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible in the New Year to hear about your 2020 and your plans for 2021.

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