

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS from all of us at QuinLaw

OUR BIGGEST NEWS

We are moving! As from 17 January 2011 we will be on the ground floor of the same building (where the NZ Army was) so same address and all our contact details remain the same.

This has been a long term plan for THIS practice. Now we are accessible to all our clients without the need for stairs or a lift to our offices. It has also enabled us to extend our office capacity

We look forward to showing you around ...

STAFFING OVER THE HOLIDAYS

The main office is closed BUT Catherine, Rose and Pauline are running a skeleton staff to assist you, especially with sale and purchase agreements and family issues, wills and estates.... ring and leave a message at the office 7699687 or email catherine@quinlaw.co.nz We will check these daily....

The big office shift is happening Thursday 13 January 2011 and we will be open for business on the ground floor Monday 17 January 2011 ... ready for your calls and to be of service ...

GIFTING CHANGES AND WHAT THEY MAY MEAN TO YOUR TRUST IN 2011

The Government has recently signalled that it intends to do away with gift duty as from October 2011. It appears that from October 2011 there will be no further need for gifting. You can then gift assets and cash straight to your Trust by Deed. At this stage no Act has been passed. However, if this comes about you will still need to do one final Deed to forgive the rest of the debt. This means that the balance of the loan could be forgiven all at once. We will advise you later in 2011 when Parliament has confirmed this. We would then prepare the final Deed of Gift.

In some cases it can be important to continue gifting now. This may be because there is a need for you or your estate to have little or no assets. In those cases, please discuss with us.

In the meantime we will leave it up to you whether you wish to continue gifting this year, up to October 2011. We will contact you when your gifting date falls due.



QUINLAW

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RECENTLY SEPARATED – MUST MAKE A NEW WILL

We are **always** reminding recently separated clients to make a new Will. This is because if you die without a Will, which is called intestate, then your separated spouse can obtain control of your estate. This is because the law for people who die without a Will is set out in the **Administration Act** and that provides that the first person who can apply to control your estate, is your spouse. If you have not divorced then it is your spouse who can control your estate. This also means that the separated spouse can obtain the benefit of your estate.

separated in May 2001. They made a Matrimonial Property Agreement later and Mr Trotter took the house under that Agreement. He died eight years later. They were not divorced. He did not make a Will. This meant that his separated wife who had already had her entitlement to half the relationship property then controlled his estate and could make a further application for some property.

It is the **divorce or a new Will** that stops your ex partner having a role in your estate.

There was a recent High Court decision involving exactly this situation. There Mr and Mrs Trotter had

WILLS AND ENDURING POWERS OF ATTORNEY

These are highly recommended for anyone eighteen years and over. Do you have a current Will and Enduring Powers of Attorney?

Have your circumstances changed? We are here to help and advise phone 769 9687 to make an appointment with Catherine, Rose or Maree.

FAMILY TRUSTS

Thinking about forming a Family Trust but require further information on how one will protect assets and inheritances phone 769 9687 for an appointment.

www.quinlaw.co.nz

HAVE A LOOK FOR A GREAT INFORMATION SITE AND GREAT PICTURE OF THE NEW BRIDGE ...The website gives an outline of the professionals available to you and their areas of expertise which include Wills & Trust, Property - Sales and Purchases, Maori Land, Family, Elder Protection, Mental Health and Estate Planning.

Under Resources we have a multitude of helpful links including carjam, school holiday dates, the time, mortgages, building, maps and local government, legal aid, depression, immigration plus many more informative sites. This is for your convenience and this will become the place to go to get information.

