

## Castan Centre welcomes a new Deputy Director

The Centre is pleased to announce that Tania Penovic has been appointed a Deputy Director of the Castan Centre. Ms Penovic, who has been an Associate for the past 4 years will be replacing Susan Kneebone who has had to move on from her role with the Centre (see story on page 9). Ms Penovic says that she is thrilled about becoming a Deputy Director because she loves the Castan Centre.

Ms Penovic has been an active member of the Centre and been involved in a number of the Centre's programs. She has written numerous submissions for the centre on topics including civil procedure and human rights, regulation of billboard advertising, refugee and migration law, and abortion rights among others. Ms Penovic has assisted in organising the annual Human Rights Conference, supervised students working in the human rights professional practise placement program, marked essays for our annual Writing for Human Rights Essay Competition, and been a sounding board on Centre activities.

Ms Penovic regularly teaches human rights in the undergraduate program alongside torts and civil procedure. When asked which areas of human rights interest her she notes 'I am particularly interested in children's and refugee rights as well as the mass media's role in the realisation of human rights. I try to take a broad approach in my research and teaching and avoid compartmentalising rights, bearing in mind that they are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated!'

Centre Director Sarah Joseph told *Rapporteur* that she is thrilled to have Ms Penovic on board as a Deputy Director. "Her commitment to the Centre as an Associate has been unwavering and we look forward to her having a hands on role as a Deputy Director."

## International criminal law expert jets in

One of the world's leading authorities on international criminal law is coming to Melbourne to teach in the Monash Law Faculty's postgraduate program, and to deliver a public lecture for the Castan Centre.

Professor William A. Schabas will speak on "Victor's Justice: Selecting the Targets of International Tribunals" at a Castan Centre event on 1 June 2011. Professor Schabas is the Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland, Galway, and chair in human rights law. In addition to his international criminal law expertise, Professor Schabas is an internationally respected expert on human rights law, genocide the death penalty. He is the author of more than 275 journal articles and 20 books, including most recently *The International Criminal Court: A Commentary on the Rome Statute*, which was published by Oxford University Press in 2010.

Professor Schabas was previously a member of the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He is the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary

Fund for Technical Cooperation in Human Rights. He is also an Officer of the Order of Canada, a member of the Royal Irish Academy and he has been awarded the Vespasian V. Pella Medal for International Criminal Justice of the Association Internationale de Droit Penal.

While in Australia, Professor Schabas will be participating in the Holding Redlich Distinguished Visiting Fellow Program. The program was established with the generous support of Holding Redlich to attract world renowned human rights scholars and experts to the Centre.

Professor Schabas will be lecturing in the Monash Law JD/LLM programs on Genocide in International Law during the first semester. His public lecture will be held at the Monash University Law Chambers, 472 Bourke Street, Melbourne on 1 June 2010.

***The Distinguished Visiting Fellow Program has been sponsored by Holding Redlich since 2001.***

## Indigenous students get a taste for the law

In December 2010, Castan Centre directors helped organise sixteen participants of the Hands on Monash Indigenous summer camp to visit the Dandenong Magistrates' Court. The camp is a fully funded Monash University initiative for Indigenous senior secondary students and involves all of the Monash faculties. The students are given the chance to participate in activities run by each faculty to gain a better understanding of career prospects resulting from tertiary study.

Deputy Directors Ms Melissa Castan and Dr Julie Debeljak, along with Senior Lecturer of Law Dr Bronwyn Naylor, organised for the Koorie students to gain an understanding of the court process and possible career prospects in the law. The students toured the holding cells in the Court and the tunnel to the police station. Drawing on the skills, experience and enthusiasm of the people working at the Dandenong Magistrates' Court, the students were given advice on the many and varied career paths with the Court and the Department of Justice. Presenters included Ms Kelly Drayton, Aboriginal Community Engagement Officer from the Dandenong Magistrates' Court and Mr Mark McCutchan, Senior Registrar of the Dandenong Magistrates' Court. The students were hosted by Magistrate Pauline Spencer, who showed

the group around and talked about her role in the administration of criminal justice and how she came to be a Magistrate. She also explained the court etiquette, and what to expect when they watched cases taking place in the court. The role of the lawyers and police prosecutors was explained.

Sergeant Gary Gladwell from the Victorian Police discussed with the students his experience in the Victoria Police and talked about building stronger relationships between Victoria Police and Indigenous communities. Ms Belinda Jose, a Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer of Victoria Police, told of her own career pathway.

Following the presentations, the students had the chance to observe court. They watched a case involving racial tension between a migrant family and their (so called) 'Aussie' neighbours. The Magistrate resolved the problem with much common sense, fairness and consideration for the circumstances, demonstrating to the students that going to court does not always have to be a negative experience for the accused. At the conclusion of the visit the students commented on the unexpected variety of pathways into working in law and justice, and their interest in seeing more cases one day.