

THE

APLA

IN THE LAST EDITION OF PLAINTIFF you saw images of the opening of APLA's new Sydney office in Surry Hills and were probably wondering who these stunning-looking people were. The office houses the National APLA staff as well as the NSW Branch staff. With the list of staff members growing rapidly, these small profiles of the Sydney office staff should help you to get to know the team, both new and old.

SYDNEY OFFICE STAFF



Jane Staley,
Executive Officer

We all know Jane by now and are aware of her deepest and darkest secrets, revealed by Eva Scheerlink in her profile of Jane in the June 1999 edition of Plaintiff (see page 41). Despite her torrid past as a tap dancer, Jane has managed to keep her feet on the ground in her efficient and smart management of APLA. Jane has overseen the massive growth of APLA in recent years and the expansion of staff and membership.

Jane has a history of working with non-profit community organisations and in fact is set to collect her Masters of Community Management from UTS. Her desire is to assist enthusiastic people who are working for a cause to achieve their goals through the proper management of their organisations. Despite APLA's stunning growth as an organisation thus far, she believes that "it has its greatest achievements still ahead of it".

Jane is a Melbournite, but despite her nasty habit of going back there whenever she has the chance, we in the Sydney office no longer hold this against her. She is also a keen culinary master and is a walking dictionary of facts about food, recipes and ingredients. Yet this is only one of Jane's array of talents and under her steady and confident leadership, APLA can feel safe that its affairs are and will remain well-managed.

Maggie has just recently joined the APLA team as a full time administrator and book-keeper but already she is enjoying her work. "I am a person who has always been interested in social equity. My understanding of APLA is that the organisation is working for social equity in the legal system. I also like the motto 'Lawyers for the People'".

Maggie has previously worked for a peak NSW community organisation called People with Disabilities (NSW) Inc which she enjoyed immensely. She found it a very formative experience during which she learnt a lot about the challenges faced by people with disabilities.

She is currently studying an Advanced Diploma in Accounting at Petersham TAFE. On top of all of this she somehow manages to care for her three children as well.

Maggie is an avid art lover and especially loves the artwork of younger people as their creativity and energy amaze her. At the end of the day however, the best way to wind down for Maggie is a spot of permaculture.



Maggie Galley,
Office Administrator

Adam is the Membership Services Officer of APLA but his tasks at APLA often fall outside membership at the busy National office. Going against all gender stereotypes, Adam is the only person who has ever baked a cake and brought it in for morning tea, despite being the only male in the place! Because the office is small (but expanding beyond our wildest dreams) if you have made an enquiry or Expert Database request, you have probably spoken to Adam.

Adam has worked at APLA since July 1999 as the Membership Officer, full-time during his holidays and part-time during his full-time study at University of Technology, Sydney, where he is currently in his second year of BLaws/BA (International Studies), majoring in French. This year he is the publications officer of the Law Students' Society at UTS and he is a member of the Debating and United Nations societies. He is also the Publicity Officer of the UTS French Students' Society (FRESS) of which he was a founding member last year.

Adam finds working at APLA a rewarding experience. "It provides me with high job satisfaction that is boosted whenever news about the achievements of APLA and its members hits the press. My perception of the legal profession has been transformed by APLA; I have been astonished to learn how vastly different the plaintiff and defendant cultures can be, and that this culture can even vary interstate."

This semester Adam is studying Tort Law which is giving him a fuller appreciation of the efforts of APLA members and is persuading him to work for a plaintiff firm in the near future.

Adam's greatest "visions" for APLA would have to include an enlarged membership, an organisational structure like ATLA's to cope and a more spectacular website. "Currently, staffing to match that of our members would make the office more efficient. I am thrilled that Maggie Galley was able to join us in February to work full-time. Working with her has certainly made my visions more achievable."

"The introduction of a new platform for our membership database and APLA's Expert Database in the coming months will be a challenge to introduce to the office and an exciting development to better serve the needs of members as they become more aware of the benefits APLA has to offer."



Adam Flynn,
Membership
Services Officer



Joanne Choe,
Plaintiff Editor

Joanne took on this newly created role in July, 1999. She works part-time in her efforts to put together this fine publication along with the Managing Editor, Geoff Coates, the state editors and the new "in-house photographer", Bill Madden.

Joanne is a law student studying at the University of Sydney and this year she is taking on an honours year in politics. She is writing her thesis on the human rights of women and she has a keen interest in women's issues, human rights issues and international law.

Joanne was an editor of the Sydney Uni student newspaper, Honi Soit, last year and also produced the women's handbook, "Growing Strong" the year before. Her interest and enjoyment in publications as well as her background and interest in the law make her consider her job as perfect for her.

"I enjoy working at APLA because it is full of intelligent, passionate people with ideals that are based on compassion for others. The people I have met through APLA

go against all the stereotypes of the greedy, money-hungry and ruthless lawyer. They are people that want to make the world a better place and are not afraid to say so. I also get some gin and tonics at Christmas and always have a laugh in the office."

Joanne has learnt a lot by reading numerous articles and case notes for Plaintiff. Everything from Y2K to GST seems to land on her desk. She has enthusiastically overseen the re-design of Plaintiff and feels lucky to work with a talented graphic designer and desktop publisher, Tianli Zu. The only further improvement she desires for Plaintiff now is to make it more democratic. "I hope to see more contributions from members that we have never heard from before. I also think we need more female contributors and more letters and general comments so that Plaintiff can be an eclectic site of controversy, challenging viewpoints and inspiration."

The moral of this story is: all you members out there, get writing!

APLA NSW BRANCH

Hannah has been working hard for APLA for about 18 months now in a variety of roles: campaigning, lobbying, media work, preparing briefing papers, working with the SIGs, organising regional tours and a million other tasks!

She finds her work at APLA immensely satisfying because it is interesting and worthwhile work. Her only qualm is that there are not enough hours in a day or days in a week to do everything she would like to get done.

Hannah comes from a background of academia, political activism in the peace movement, agitating for social change and social justice and fighting for Aboriginal land rights. She often comes to work wearing a badge that states "When injustice becomes law, resistance becomes duty".

There is of course another side to Hannah, as Hannah is a woman who will never cease to amaze with her many talents and rich collection of experiences. She enjoys growing herbs and succulents on her balcony as well as collecting funny office stationery (ask her about her furry purple folder).

Just to pick out one of the many interesting facts about Hannah: she was once the Mayoress of the London Borough of Greenwich whilst her mother was the Mayor.



Dr. Hannah Middleton,
NSW Branch Campaign
Coordinator



Kathy Thompson,
NSW Branch Coordinator

Somehow, in between caring for her three children, Kathy finds the time to organise Litigation at Sunrise seminars and do administrative and book-keeping work for APLA NSW. Kathy has been working for APLA since July, 1999 and it is the varied and interesting nature of the work that keeps her going. In one day she may write a report to the Committee, organise a masked ball, keep the books and do a massive mailout. All this, in between driving the kids to Greek school and picking them up from rugby and tennis!

Kathy is an experienced administrator and has worked for property developers such as CRI and Lendlease as well as organisations like the Division of General Practice.

Kathy balances out the practical nature of her work with regular art classes and is a master at the art of ceramics. She promises to one day create her masterpiece which will be a big plate that says 'APLA'. We are all looking forward to this day. **PL**

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from 3 April 2000

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WORKERS COMPENSATION SIG

The Workers Compensation SIG has approximately 150 members throughout Australia. Fortnightly e-mails are sent to registered members who have joined the List Serving Facility via the APLA Web Page. These bulletins keep members up to date with legislative developments, important cases, reforms to the various systems in Australia and recent articles or subscriptions of interest to workers compensation lawyers.

If you practise in this area you should register as a member through the Workers Compensation Special Interest Group site on the APLA web site. You will then be able to communicate with and receive e-mails from members of the SIG.

State and Territory convenors are:

VIC:	PAUL MULVANY
NSW:	DON CAMERON
QLD:	SIMON MORRISON
ACT:	SARAH TODD
NT:	GARRY SCHNEIDER
WA:	GUY STUBBS
SA:	STEPHEN LEISCHKE
TAS:	ROBERT PHILLIPS
NATIONAL CONVENOR:	SIMON GARNETT

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