

Editorial

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1997 Young Lawyers Journals

The Journal has covered a number of varied themes this year including, "Starting Out", "The Republic Debate", "Technology and the Law" and "Holidays". We have introduced movie and restaurant reviews, competitions and give-aways, music reviews, issues concerning legal practice and topics which have direct impact on Victoria's Young Lawyers. We hope you have enjoyed these additions to the Journal.

Behind the scenes, we have been striving to market the journal and obtain more advertising and sponsorship - but there is still work to be done on this front.

We would like to thank all those on the Editorial committee who have put in so much time and effort in writing, commissioning, editing, proof-reading, and marketing the Journal. The Editorial committee is ALWAYS in need of people who have an interest in doing any of the above things, so please contact us if you can contribute in any way.

At the time of going to print, it is proposed that on 11 December, the Annual General Meeting and Cocktail Evening of the Young Lawyers' Section will take place at

Tatou Bar and Bistro. It is at this illustrious affair that the new Chair or joint Chairs of the Editorial committee will be elected. Whilst we will both be remaining members of the Committee, we wish the new Chair(s) every success in 1998.

1998

The Young Lawyers' Section will face new challenges in 1998 with the introduction of fees for membership of Victorian Lawyers RPA. We hope that all members who have read and enjoyed the Young Lawyers Journal over the last two years will join as a member of Victorian Lawyers RPA, and continue to be a member of the Young Lawyers' Section (which is free). While some employers may pay the fee for their young lawyers, there will no doubt be many that will not. If the membership does drop dramatically, then needless to say, there may be implications for the ongoing life of the Journal. So we encourage all our readers (we know you're out there) to become a paid up member, receive the benefits you have been hearing about in letters from the Law Institute, and in doing so, ensure that the life of the Young Lawyers Journal continues.

Glen Pauline & Sharne Bryan
Joint Chairs

Chair's Report

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The year is coming to a close, as is our chairship, and it is time to reflect on the Section's achievements for the year and to consider possible agendas and aims for the new year. The year has been a tempestuous, and at times a testing one, with the move to voluntary membership and the changes made to the status of the Law Institute and the introduction of full fee paying at a number of the Universities. Despite this, the Young Lawyers' Section should be applauded for achieving the aims we set for ourself at the beginning of the year.....well nearly!

Here is an update of where we are at....

Pro Bono Referral Scheme

The pro bono referral scheme was successfully passed by Council and has received funding from the Law Foundation for its initial year of operation. The team is now busily considering the most appropriate and effective means of implementing the Scheme and ensuring its success. We hope that the Scheme will be launched early in the new year and will progress without hindrance from bureaucratic red tape. We hope to see the Scheme supported enthusiastically by our members and we are in the process of developing a package to assist employee solicitors to broach the issue with their employers.

The Republic

The republic issue is coming to a head, with voting for the delegation currently in progress. The Section has a number of exciting proposals to ensure inspired and educated debate continues within the ranks of the Young Lawyers and the profession in general next year.

Making Links

Vy attended the NSW Young Lawyers' Association Conference in the Hunter Valley in November. He was greatly inspired by the work conducted by other Young Lawyers Sections in other States and is keen to see some of these ideas developed in Victoria. These include:

- a shadow scheme, where children from underprivileged and under-resourced schools can shadow a solicitor during Law Week (akin to work experience); and
- implementing a program aimed to give indigenous groups the opportunity to do their articles.

A Final Word

We would like to take the opportunity to thank the enthusiastic support and participation of committee members and section members in general. We hope that we have inspired junior solicitors to actively consider some of the major issues facing our profession as we approach the new millennium... Which brings us to the last item on our agenda-recruitment. As our grey hairs grow in number, and, dare we say it, the hair of the male members amongst our committees becomes thinner, we are desperately seeking energetic, youthful members to rejuvenate the now not so young minds of the Young Lawyers' Committee members!!!

Why not give it a go?

Phoebe Dunn/Vu Tien Vy
Joint Chairs