

# Chair's Report

## 1998 - a Year for Building Bridges

Well, here we are again but we are about the only things that have remained the same! We are pleased to welcome the following fresh faces to the Executive:

- Marie-Claire Putrino and Natalia Urosevic - the new editors of the Journal;
- Alexandra West - Joint-Chair of the Community Issues Committee with the stalwart Natalie Greenberg;
- Adrian Fung - Chair of the Professional Development Committee; and
- Grania Connors - our liaison with AIJA (International Young Lawyers)

With talents like these, you can expect us to roll-out a number of exciting new initiatives. Our aims for the year are centred around the theme of building bridges between young lawyers, with one another and with the broader community. Here's a taste of what we've got in store for you.

### Building bridges between the haves and have-nots

The Community Issues Committee is busy organising the shadowing program which is an opportunity for kids from under-resourced schools to be exposed to life in the law, or at least a week in the life of a lawyer. They are also working on the cadetship program which will be a collaborative effort with firms to provide clerkship positions for indigenous Australians. Hopefully programs like these will help to increase the diversity of people in our profession.

### Building bridges between town and country

Amongst several projects that Adrian and his Professional Development team are working on, is an event to bring young lawyers from the country and those in the city closer together. Look out for more information on this in forthcoming journals.

### Building bridges between Australian young lawyers and international young lawyers

A particularly exciting event this year is the Annual Conference of AIJA (International Young Lawyers in French!) which will be held in Sydney. This will be an opportunity for you to meet with your colleagues from overseas. If you are unable to go but are still keen to meet with some of these people, we are organising a billeting program for those international delegates who may be interested in also visiting Melbourne. Grania is our liaison with AIJA, so if you have any questions, give her a call on 9608 2209.

### A new format for the Journal

And we will keep you all updated with the progress of our initiatives in this Journal. Under Marie-Claire & Natalia's editorship, we will be offering you a re-formatted version of the Journal. We are moving from four editions to three chunkier editions throughout the year. You may get the Journal less often but when you do there'll be more in it!

We were glad to see a number of people taking up our invitation to become involved in the activities of this Section. If anyone is interested in any of the programs we've spelt out above or if you have any ideas of your own on how we as a profession can build some more bridges, why don't you join us?

Phoebe Dunn/Vu Tien Vy  
Joint Chair



Phoebe Dunn