

## Committees

# Chair's Report

The first half of this year has been extremely busy for the Young Lawyers Section and Committee members should all be congratulated for their efforts. But for the wicked there is no respite, and the new financial year brings fresh challenges, and tight deadlines!

Our efforts to date to 'build bridges' between young lawyers (both intra and interstate) and the broader community have been successful. Here is the progress report of where we are at and what we have in store for you for the remainder of the year.

### **Building Bridges between the haves and have nots**

The Community Issues Committee Shadowing Program was a resounding success, with positive feedback received from both students and participating lawyers. The Committee is now busy working on the Aboriginal Cadetship Program, and will be calling for the assistance of anyone who is interested. So please feel free to put your hands up.

### **Building Bridges between Australian Young Lawyers**

As I noted in the last Chair's Report, the annual conference of AIJA (International Young Lawyers Association) will be held in Sydney in September. We are all looking forward to this exciting event, which should prove to be both educational and rewarding. Of course, I don't have to mention the social benefits ... (we may be older and wiser(?) than we were in our ALSA days ... but we are still 'young lawyers' and can hopefully remember that before networking came socialising!).

### **Building Bridges between young lawyers, students and the wider profession**

We are currently working hard with the Law Institute to build an effective information exchange system, to help build greater awareness and support from the legal profession for our initiatives. We hope to make more effective use of our ties with the Law Institute by increasing our voice in the Law Institute Journal and by submitting monthly reports to the Council. We also intend to meet regularly with members of Council and the journal editor to assist the information exchange process.

We are continuing to build our ties with the various Law Students Associations, whose representatives attend our monthly executive meetings. We are currently involved in the Monash University's "legal challenge" initiative. We hope to build a strong information exchange system with the various LSS's and to continue to lend our support to their programs and initiatives in the future.

### **Building a strong young lawyers network**

Our Professional Development Committee has worked particularly hard this year to ensure young lawyers are kept up-to-date with changes in the law. The Young Lawyers lecture series is progressing well and the Gordon Lewis Speakers Trophy was a resounding success.

We are also looking forward to the multimedia seminars in October, which have previously been extremely well attended - book early so you don't miss out.

Adrian's team has just finalised the program for the inaugural Young Lawyers Conference, to be held on 21 September. It is an action packed program, offering practical and interactive instruction on current topics such as e-commerce. As an added bonus, the conference will culminate in the 'Young Lawyers Cocktail Party' which will be held that evening.

We hope that you will all support the Conference with your attendance and we look forward to meeting you over a martini or 2 at the Cocktail Party (shaken, not stirred and with a twist please!)



*Phoebe Dunn,  
Chair*