

Australian Young Lawyers

Grania Connors

The Young Lawyers' Section of the Law Institute of Victoria has for a number of years been represented on the Law Council of Australia Young Lawyers' Executive Committee. In 1997, Vicky Bolton acted as the Victorian Representative to Australian Young Lawyers (AYL). This year, Vicky has taken up the auspicious position of Chair of Australian Young Lawyers, and I will be stepping into the role of Victorian representative. The projects currently underway are very exciting - 1998 will definitely be a dynamic year! Items on the agenda for 1998 AYL include:

- Developing a national mentor scheme;
- Increasing communication between State Young Lawyer organisations;
- Increasing sponsorship for projects undertaken by the AYL Committee;
- Establishing the AYL Award on an annual basis and increasing the awareness of this award within the profession; and
- Raising awareness of environmental issues.

In relation to environmental issues, Simon McGregor, the AYL Bar Representative, has been working on a critique of the submission by the Planning and Environmental Law Committee. Another major

project which has recently been completed is the Law Council of Australian Guidelines for the Employment of Employee Solicitors and Articled Clerks. The final version of these guidelines reflects two years of hard work on the part of previous Victorian representatives to the AYL, in particular Jason Newman.

The major event of 1998 in which AYL is involved is the aija 36th Annual Congress being held in Sydney from the 20-25 September 1998. The program set out for the Congress is extremely comprehensive and informative. The congress should be of great interest to all young lawyers and should be a lot of fun! I have taken up the position of International Young Lawyers Representative and will be assisting to promote the aija conference, in addition to promoting international work and study exchanges for Victorian Young Lawyers. Many opportunities exist through bodies such as aija, and I encourage all Victorian Young Lawyers to tap into existing networks.

Should you require a registration brochure or further information relating to the aija Conference or Australian Young Lawyers, I can be contacted on 9608 2209 or email grania.connors@conwallstodart.com.au.

*Vicky Bolton
AYL Chairperson*



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Victorian AYL Rep.*