

Committees

Chair's Report

G'day! I am the new Chair of the Young Lawyers' section (well, until the AGM in December that is, but more about the elections later). Our former chair, Grania Connors, was unable to complete her entire term given her posting overseas (see page 8 for more information on how you can be an Australian Youth Ambassador), so I have stepped into the gap. I would like to take this opportunity to record the section's gratitude for all the hard work done by Grania as a member of the Young Lawyers' section and especially during her term as Chair of the section.

I would like to encourage every young lawyer to consider involvement in one of the committees of the section. I have summarised some of our current projects below and I expect that everyone will find something of interest.

The excellent journal you hold in your hands is prepared by the Editorial committee of the Young Lawyers' Section. If you have an interest in journalism, editing, production, proof-reading, or any of the other activities involved in such a publication, you may wish to join the Committee.

The Professional Development Committee has just concluded its annual lecture series for 1999, which means that planning for the 2000 series has begun! The inaugural Hanover Moot Court competition was a terrific success, allowing budding advocates to showcase their skills and more importantly raising money for Hanover Family Welfare Services. The Young Lawyers' section kept a low profile, but our thanks must go to Nicole Stevens, Chair of the PD Committee, who worked tirelessly to help organise and run this competition.

The Community Issues Committee has continued to work on a number of projects and is currently planning campus visits to address law students at Victorian universities on topics including what to do with your law degree if you don't get articles or entry to the Leo Cussen Institute.

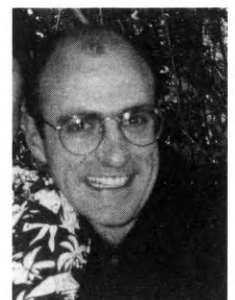
In December the members of the Young Lawyers' Section will elect a chair for the section and one for each of our committees. Occasionally two people

become "joint chair". This idea may not suit those with an autocratic streak but it has allowed two people to share the workload of being chair. Often the elections are simple – the number of candidates equals the number of positions – and this allows us to promptly close the Annual General Meeting and get on with the more serious business of eating and drinking! You should have already received the AGM notice in your letterbox.

A number of our committee members and chairs will not be continuing in their former roles. Although I haven't the room to name everyone, I must mention Phoebe Dunn, Natalia Urosevic and Marie Claire Putrino who have made significant contributions this year.

The Young Lawyers' section thrives on the involvement of our members in planning, running, and of course participating in our activities. There is much to be gained from contributing to the section, personally and professionally. The opportunity to meet and work with other young lawyers (the word "networking" is terribly 1980s) is terrific and don't forget the résumé value of involvement with your professional association. We can always use a hand and you will find us a friendly bunch. Whether you can spare only a little of your time, or want to run the show, give it a go.

If you wish to join one of the committees or run for chair please contact Darren Hogeboom on (03) 9607 9385. I will look forward to meeting you!



*Richard Kervin,
Chair,
Young Lawyers'
Section.*