

valuable passport into other fields. These sessions were followed in September by a Job Skills Seminar aimed at young solicitors keen to change their jobs or indeed career paths. Speakers at the seminar, which was held at the Leo Cussen Institute, gave practical advice on whether life "really was greener" on the other side of the fence. Special thanks to Derek Neilson and Michelle Florenini for organising the sessions and seminar.

gay and lesbian rights booklet

On on-going project of the Committee, the production of a Gay and Lesbian Rights Booklet is finally underway. The booklet, which is being funded by the Victorian Law foundation, will be a joint production of the Young Lawyers' Section and the Victorian Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby. It was due to be released in late 2000/early 2001, although legislative reform in the area of same-sex relationships looks like it will be pushed through Victorian Parliament soon. So for the first time in the history of this Committee, a delay in getting a project up and running has worked in our favour!

juvenile justice project

At the suggestion of the David Baxter of the Seaford Legal Service, the Committee is planning an advice booklet for young people of South-

East Asian background who find themselves in trouble with the law. It is planned that the booklet will be produced in several languages, and thanks to the work of Sasha Manova and Liza Grange-Perry, it looks like this project will be a great success.

essay contest

Inspired by the now not-so-recent Corroboree 2000, the Committee will next year conduct an essay contest for secondary school students on the theme of reconciliation. Committee member Georgie Costello suggested the questions, which will be "Reconciliation – what can I do to help the process?" and "A treaty with Indigenous Australian – the end or the beginning of Reconciliation?" Students and schools will be offered valuable prizes and a chance to have entries published in "Education Age". The prize winners will be invited to attend a special function in their honour during Law Week. The Committee plans to make the Social Justice Essay Contest a regular feature of the Law Week calendar.

other plans for 2001

Anna Skarbek has initiated a new project aimed at distributing leftover food from law firm meetings to welfare agencies and soup kitchens around Melbourne. While we're still looking into the health regulations involved, and it may develop into a donation

rather than a leftovers project, the Committee is hopeful of finding some way of re-directing the dozens of sandwiches and trays of food which get thrown out in law firm kitchens every day.

The Committee has also been approached by the Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Unit to conduct various joint projects in 2001. While details are yet to be finalised, plans include a mock "International Criminal Court" trial and a series of debates on important international law issues.

thanks

No report of this Committee would be complete without a thank you to each and every Committee member (who hasn't already been mentioned!!) – Llewellyn Fleming, Fonda Gazis, Sally Gluyas, Emma Gordon, Karen Grima, Leanne Simons, Margaret Wang, Kristy Calvert, Vanessa Cullen, Irina Shainsky, Kristen Abery, Greg Stander, Kirsten Hagon, and our secretary, Jacqui Boymal. Without everyone's willingness to give up their lunchtimes and spare time (and eat the same LIV-prepared lunch every single week!) we wouldn't have a Committee at all.

young lawyers' law reform committee - annual report

The Young Lawyers Law Reform Committee met for the first time on 13 June 2000.

The Committee is made up of young lawyers from all walks of life. Not all Committee members are practising lawyers and this certainly adds to the variety and the quality of contributions made.

The objectives of the Committee are

- a. to further the objectives of and assist the sections of the Law Institute;
- b. to provide a forum for discussion and continuing education;
- c. to stimulate interest and participation of young lawyers;
- d. to undertake research into the law

and make recommendations for change;

- e. to produce discussion papers and engage in consultation with non-lawyer organisations.

The Committee has written a press release on drug reform. The press release talks about measures which the Committee thinks are likely to be

effective in reforming the public's understanding and use of illicit substances. These include public education and government regulation of certain illicit substances. At the time of writing this report the press release is before the Executive of the Young Lawyers for approval.

Before choosing to write a press release on drug reform the Committee considered other projects, including

law reform proposals in transport accident law, privacy issues in e-commerce and the introduction of legislation allowing army involvement during the OPEC forum in Melbourne and during the Olympics in September 2000.

Committee members are committed to law reform and have interesting and valuable contributions to make. I hope next year that the Committee will

continue in its efforts to put forward the ideas of young lawyers on topical issues. I think it is important that the Committee deals with topical issues because the public will be most receptive to the Committee's message.

Tiziana D'Costa (Tuckers Lawyers)
Co-Chair Young Lawyers' Law Reform Committee

professional development committee report

Anthony Beck-Godoy (Tres Cocks and Maddox) and Radhika Kanhai (Anderson Rice)
- Co-Chairs Professional Development Committee

hanover mooting competition

The competition was organised jointly by the Professional Development Committee and Hanover Welfare Services. The Grand Final in the seven part series was held on 24 August 2000. Court of Appeal Justices Winneke, Chernov and Buchanan presided over the final between Freehill Hollingdale and Page and Blake Dawson Waldron. The winning team from Freehills (Robin Bayley, Josh Sgro and Nicole Iseppi) were presented with the winners' trophy by Law Institute President, Tina Millar. The standard of the competition was very high and all participants found being judged by members of the Supreme Court bench an enormously rewarding experience. Over \$30,000 was raised for Hanover Welfare Services in aid of their work for homeless people in Melbourne. This competition will be run again next year and we invite all law firms to participate in this event.

healthy balance guidelines for law firms and employee solicitors

After launching the draft Guidelines at the inaugural Young Lawyers' Annual Conference on 13 May 2000, submissions were received from the Law Institute of Victoria's Membership Committee, Small Practice Committee, the Industrial Relations Branch and

members of the Young Lawyers' Section. Useful feedback on the Guidelines was also received after it was promoted at the Victorian Women Lawyers' symposium on retaining women in the legal profession on 16 August 2000. The Guidelines were endorsed by the Young Lawyers' Executive on 26 September 2000 and submitted for endorsement by the Law Institute Council on 12 October 2000.

information technology seminars

After a successful run last year, the seminars were once again conducted over three weeks on 1, 8 and 15 November 2000 and were very well received.

young lawyers lecture series

These seminars were held this year on Tuesday evenings at the Institute between 6 and 7 pm. The final seminars for the year were on family, employment and environment law. Each seminar is conducted by a speaker with particular expertise in the topic. This year's series concluded on 14 November 2000. At \$33 for Young Lawyers' Section members, \$44 for other Institute members and \$55 for non-Institute members, the seminars are an inexpensive way to obtain a useful overview on a variety of practice areas. Stay tuned for the series next year where, in addition to new topics, we will be offering advanced seminars on a wide range of practice areas.

other continuing legal education seminars for young lawyers in 2001

The Institute's Taxation and Revenue Committee is planning to run a 13 week taxation course for young lawyers in conjunction with Monash University next year. The Professional Development Committee will be involved in these seminars which will provide comprehensive training in this specialised area.

young lawyers' section annual assembly

The first Annual Assembly was held on the weekend of 18 and 19 November 2000. The objective of the Assembly was to provide a forum for Young Lawyers' Section Committee members, young professional representatives from suburban and country law associations and invited members from associated legal bodies to formulate future policies for the Section, discuss the needs and concerns of young lawyers and plan Section projects for the year 2001. Look out for details of the outcomes from the Assembly in future editions of the Young Lawyers' Journal and Law Bytes.

New members are welcome to attend our meetings held six-weekly at the Institute. Please contact Jacqui Boymal at the Institute on 9607 9379, if you are interested in being involved in the Professional Development Committee.