

welcome

from Tory Strong, Deacons & President, Young Lawyers' Section



TORY STRONG

Welcome to the first edition of the Young Lawyers' Journal for 2001.

Some of you will have already met me as I continue my whistle-stop tour through the city law firms. Others I have already met at the various Young Lawyers' functions, but to those who don't know me yet, I say "Hello".

I'm often asked to say a few words outlining what is happening in the Section. From reading the journal in its entirety you will get a fairly good idea. Rather than duplicate the reports later, I'll give you a brief overview of some of the highlights so far this year and an idea of what's coming up soon.

I remember when I left law school a while ago and travelled back to the mainland full of ideas of changing the world. Several years at a large commercial law firm had managed to dampen my enthusiasm for such ideals. However, this perspective was bought home to me when I met several younger lawyers who enquired "What

does the Young Lawyers' Section do about law reform?" At the time, the answer was not much.

How things have changed. Mid-way through last year the section created the Law Reform Committee. This Committee provides an opportunity for those of us who still recall the ideals that prompted us to study law. So far this year the Committee has made submissions on migration law reform and on the racial and religious tolerance bill.

Each of our 5 Committees (Law Reform, Community Issues, Professional Development, Social and Editorial) meet once a month – usually at lunchtime. This participation does not mean a lot of time out of your busy schedule and the meetings can provide you with the opportunity to meet new people and make a change. I highly recommend giving some thought to joining a committee. Our fantastic Manager – Jacqui Boymal (phone 9607 9379) – can provide you with further information.

Recently, young lawyers had the opportunity to spend a weekend at Cape Schanck for CLE and some R&R. It was not only educational, but a lot of fun as well. There will be more

activities throughout the year. So if you're keen to pick up some new skills (or even hone the old ones a little) and to meet other young lawyers, please consider attending.

Another way in which you can become more involved in the legal community is to join a specialist Section of the Law Institute of Victoria. From my own point of view, I admit to be amazed by the number of specialist committees in existence, all of which encourage younger members.

On behalf of the Section, I'd like to extend our thanks to our Manager (the celebrity lipstick tester) Jacqui Boymal for all her bright ideas and exhausting enthusiasm. We're very lucky to have you.

Finally, congratulations to two young lawyers who were recently elected onto the Law Institute Council. I think their election has lowered the mean age of Council by about 10 years (at least). Council is the engine room of the LIV so it is very important that we are properly represented. Aurora Kostezky and Briony Le Duc are to be thanked for their commitment and enthusiasm and we look forward to working closely with both of you in the future.

CLE by the sea

By Catherine Dwyer, Abbott Stillman & Wilson, Co-Chair Professional Development Committee

Recently, the Professional Development Committee of the Young Lawyers Section gave young lawyers the opportunity for the perfect getaway – To spend a day focusing on improving their legal skills combined with a weekend of leisure activities at the Young Lawyers Conference. Held on 19 May 2001 at the Shearwater Resort in Cape Schanck, the Conference was

an initiative of the Committee and was designed to provide young lawyers with up-to-date information on a range of topics from different areas of law in a peaceful and relaxing atmosphere.

The topics were selected to focus on two streams – litigation and commercial law – and they included tortious liability, family law, advocacy, intellectual property, competition law, mediation

and settlement negotiations and GST on court orders and settlements. There were several combined sessions which involved all participants, whilst the other sessions allowed conference participants to select topics from either stream depending on their career path or specific interests.

The Conference speakers, all of whom were experienced in their areas of