



ANNA STEWART



ALEX MATHEY

care to contribute?

If you are interested in joining the editorial committee or contributing the occasional article, please contact us. With a broader base of contributors, we'll be able to draw on more expertise to make the *Journal* better and more interesting for you.

contact us

...with your comments, inquiries, letters and submissions at:
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New Editorial Committee members and occasional contributors alike are welcomed.

join a committee

The Social Committee has been given a new lease on life, and a new Law Reform Committee has been established. If you are interested in joining either of these or any other of the Young Lawyers' Section committees, contact Jacqui Boymal (9607 9379) or email: younglaw@liv.asn.au

Welcome to our third and last edition of the *Young Lawyers' Journal* for 2001.

As promised, in this edition of the *Journal* (still under the broad theme of the law in 2001) we look at why young lawyers are becoming disillusioned and leaving the law and what can be done to make practice more enjoyable.

The Young Lawyers' Section undertook a survey of young lawyers in 2000. 11% of the 377 respondents perceived their future in the law to be short term. A further 35% were uncertain or did not answer the question as to whether they thought they had a long term future in the law. (You can access a summary of the survey at www.liv.asn.au/sections/younglawyers/misc_articles/ylsurvey2001.) It is heartening to see that many firms are starting to get the message that young lawyers want a balance between their careers and life outside the office, and, for example, more flexible work practices are gradually being introduced.

We have also looked beyond the legal profession and interviewed some high-profile people – those who have left the law to do other things – such as Libbi Gorr (aka Elle McFeast).¹ It seems though that even when you leave the law, it never truly leaves you!

Some recent events have changed our world (on both a global and local scale) and, no doubt, the residual effects of these occurrences will continue to be experienced for some time. In this climate, the law and government become a focus of attention. And, as legal practitioners, we face new challenges. For example, how can our systems meet these challenges? How can they adapt? And, importantly, how can we, as young lawyers, participate and contribute effectively and meaningfully to the processes of change?

We hope that we have fulfilled our aim to make the *Journal* relevant and informative, as well as an enjoyable read! We hope that you have found the *Journal* inspirational. Perhaps the imminent festive season may provide an opportunity for you to take time to consider whether you are enjoying life as a young lawyer and if not, what you can do about.

We are very grateful to have had the opportunity to be involved with the *Journal*.

Thank you to all of the people who contributed articles this year – we regret not being able to have included them all. And finally, a big thank you to Jacqui Boymal for all her assistance and hard work in helping us bring each edition of the *Journal* together.

Happy reading.

Alex Mathey and Anna Stewart

1. Alex also interviewed Steve Vizard, but due to space constraints you'll have to wait until the first edition of next year's *Journal* to read about yet another varied and interesting career path that began with articles in a law firm.