



**RADHIKA KANHAI, CLAIRE MAHON, JUSTICE KIRBY, YVETTE NASH AND KARYN PALMER**

The work that the Executive and Committee members do sometimes goes unnoticed but the members play a crucial role in the success of the Section. My personal thank you to these incredibly hardworking people, especially to Yvette Nash and Karyn Palmer (Chairs of the Law Reform Committee), Iresha Herath and Philippa Moorfield (Chairs of the Social Committee), Diarmid McGann and Aurora Kostezyk (Chairs of the Regional Young Lawyers Committee), Penny Martin and Kristen Abery (Chairs of the Community Issues Committee), Catherine Dwyer and Katie Coghlan (Chairs of the Profes-

sional Development Committee), Catherine Symons and Selina Sawaya (Chairs of the Editorial Committee), Immediate Past President, Tory Strong and Vice President, Anna Stewart.

Thank you also to the liaison representatives appointed to the Section's Executive: Georgina Costello (Law Institute of Victoria (LIV) Administrative and Human Rights Section), Craig Morgan (LIV Commercial Law Section), Zoe Damos (LIV Property and Environmental Law Section), Lara Ruddle (LIV Family Law Section), Beverly Burns (Indigenous Young Lawyers), Penny Martin (International Young Lawyers),

Shane Lethlean (Victorian Bar), Anna Brown (Monash Law Students Society), Ivan Rubenstein (Deakin Law Students Society), Darren Boyd (Latrobe Law Students Society) and Ken Nguyen (Melbourne Law Students Society).

Finally, of course, I would like to thank all Young Lawyers' Section Members for your support of the Section. Your ideas on how we can improve our services are always welcome and I thank you for your encouragement and attendance at our functions this year.

See you all in 2003! ●

# Focus on Corporate Responsibility

*Kristen Abery, Wisewoulds and Penny Martin, Minter Ellison,  
Co-Chairs Community Issues Committee*

In 2001, Paula Gerber of The University of Melbourne spoke to the Young Lawyers' Assembly on the topic of Corporate Responsibility for Lawyers, and Kirsten Hagon wrote papers on corporate responsibility and ethical investment for lawyers. These initiatives led to the Community Issues Committee starting a project on corporate responsibility for law firms. We are pleased that the editors have dedicated this edition of the Young Lawyers' Journal to the same issue.

One of the first questions the Committee discussed was whether principles of "corporate" responsibility should be applied to law firms, being partnerships in a profession with strict

ethical standards. In our view, it is appropriate given that law firms are profit-making businesses generally operating in the corporate sector.

As a committee, we hope to identify and promote the contribution that lawyers make to the community, conduct research on initiatives in the corporate sector, such as the United Nations Global Compact and the Corporate Code of Conduct Bill, and identify strategies that law firms can use to improve their performance as good corporate citizens. Our work on voluntary and legislative codes of conduct suggests that a code could be developed for law firms to give practical ideas to busy lawyers

who seek to make a contribution beyond the bottom line.

The longer term goals for the Project are to encourage lawyers to contribute to the community, for instance in the areas of (1) Pro bono and volunteering, (2) 'Green Office' practices, (3) Workplace and Employment practices, and (4) Ethical Investment, and improve the community's perception of lawyers and the legal profession.

We encourage you to contact us with examples of member lawyers and law firms who excel in their contribution to the community, and to join us at our lunchtime meetings every six weeks to discuss the next stage of the Project. ●