

# Rest and Relaxation in the Western District



**Ruth Harris, Arthur E. George & Sons, Camperdown and Clarke & Barwood, Colac and Robert Morgan, Clarke & Barwood, Colac**

Having both come from the city, it was a challenge for us to find places to socialise in the Colac area outside of work hours. However, we soon discovered that there are a number of fantastic places for eating and drinking in this area.

Colac is traditionally dominated by pub cuisine and for a reasonably priced meal, you can't go past the Union Hotel. The menu is varied – offering everything from exotic cuisine to pub grub.

For a healthier alternative, the Country Foodstore in Murray Street has a great range of wholefood products. Recently, a colleague who had travelled from Melbourne to appear in the Colac Magistrates' Court ducked into the Foodstore for a pita wrap and on the way out filled his briefcase with organically grown vegies to take home.

Of course, one of the fantastic things about this area is its proximity to the Great Ocean Road and the Otways. An hour's drive from Colac, through the Otways, will take you to Lorne or Apollo Bay. For a good meal, we would recommend the Lorne Hotel where you can get a beautiful Seafood Platter complete with garlic prawns, baby octopus, salmon, scallops and Moreton Bay Bugs.

But if we had to choose our favourite pub, we would pick the Elephant Bridge Hotel, located on the tranquil Mount Emu Creek, in Darlington. Established in 1842, it was an original Cobb & Co resting place. Made of bluestone and with open fires and friendly hospitality, the Elephant Bridge is a lovely place to go out for a mouthwatering meal.

For those of you interested in a weekend away, the Elephant Bridge also offers bed and breakfast. Beware of the resident ghost, Adeline, who was born and died at the Hotel and held the Hotel license for 54 years. A friend stayed the night and swears that she saw Adeline. However, the large quantity of alcohol that she had consumed might have had something to do with the sighting!

Situated on the Curdies River, close to Peterborough and Port Campbell, is the Boggy Creek Pub. You can't beat it for a great steak and an easy-going atmosphere. It is also famous as the home of the Australia vs. England Darts Competition and the Ecklin Food and Wine Society (any excuse to drink vast quantities of wine with friends).

For those of you who want to spend a romantic evening in Port Campbell, we can suggest the Waves Restaurant and Napiers Restaurant (Southern Ocean Motel), both offering a variety of mouthwatering seafood.

Also in the category of fine dining, is the Pettival Winery and Restaurant which has the added benefit of being closer to Melbourne, being located just outside of Geelong in Waurin Ponds.

We have only done justice to a few places to eat and drink in the area. So if you get the urge to come away for the weekend, or to experience your own 'sea change' and work in the country, consider the Western District. There's heaps on offer! ■

# Transition: Navigating the Path from Law School to Law Firm

**Book by Michael Rush and Ben Ross, Baker & McKenzie, Sydney, 2000**  
**Book review by Elizabeth Ruddle, Holding Redlich**

Being an articled clerk can be a lonely position, during which you are supposed to survive on instinct. Rarely do you learn any skills during law school to assist you to understand the specific, even bizarre, interactions of a legal office. In the end, the only thing that gets most of us through is the swapping of stories with other articled clerks, acknowledging that they too suffer the injustices of being lowest rung on the ladder. In light of this problem, the authors of *Transition* have attempted to catalogue the skills that you need to develop during articles and those that you should be picking up along the way.

*Transition* is written by two clearly very bright young lawyers who completed articles at large city-based law firms. It is designed to assist

other articled clerks to make the most of their articles year. There is a focus on how to move up the ranks to obtain quality work and how to expand your 'toolbox' of skills, such as legal writing, research and skills specific to your practice area.

The beauty of *Transition* is that it doesn't actually teach you these skills, it tells you how to get them from your own articles experience. However, while it contains a number of useful hints, it is clearly written for other bright young things going to large city commercial law firms who plan to make partner in the first 5 years. For the rest of us mere mortals struggling to get through the grind of that first year, we may need to rely on other resources as well.

There is quite a lot of focus on how to get access to better quality work, which implies that it is written for those wrapped in cotton wool. The publication provides people in that situation with a range of useful tools to get around the problem, including analysing the reasons for the situation and ways to approach

the work so that you maximise what you learn. There is no mention of dealing with the 'thrown in the deep end to see if you will drown' methodology that plagues the year of many an articled clerk, however.

There is a small discussion about dealing with staff, which is an important issue, but it didn't answer the age old questions of "what if the partner always yells at me?" and "why won't the secretary type my dictation?"

*Transition* is full of practical advice you probably should know when entering your articles year. But what you probably really want to know is "what time can I go home?" and "how long to go until admission?" ■

**To obtain a copy of *Transition*, please contact Baker and McKenzie Sydney, tel: (02) 9225 0200.**