

# Social Committee Report



*By Charlotte Hanna and Nalini Moore, Co-chairs of the Committee*

**T**he Young Lawyers' Section of the Law Institute of Victoria continues to work hard to provide a collegiate social life to our members!

On 27 February, The Apartment in Little Bourke Street again played host to over 200 young lawyers, as our first social and networking evening for the year. Sponsored by Michael Page, the event was a fantastic opportunity for young lawyers to meet and greet over fine wine and fare. We are currently scouring new and exciting venues for similar events.

Continuing in last year's footsteps, the Social Committee was again proud to incorporate this year's LIV annual Legal Comedy Debate as part of the 18th Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

This event was held at the Forum Theatre on 29 March 2004 and proved to be another huge success. Those members of the legal fraternity who were brave enough, battled it out on stage, deliberating over the topic "That lawyers don't have a sense of humour".

These events give you a snapshot of the festive year ahead! The Social Committee is dedicated to bringing you many more events to keep you entertained. These include the annual LIV Legal Fun Run in November and a young professional networking evening. A tennis competition, a formal evening of wining and dining, and a trivia night are among the events that have been mooted as potential draw cards for the year.

On behalf of the Social Committee, we thank everyone for their support of events held this year to date, and look forward to seeing you on more occasions in 2004!

We also encourage you to be involved in the Social Committee. If you are interested in joining the Committee, or making a contribution, please contact Charlotte Hanna on [charlotte.hanna@kahns.com.au](mailto:charlotte.hanna@kahns.com.au) or Nalini Moore on [nalini.moore@mahlab.com.au](mailto:nalini.moore@mahlab.com.au). ■

# Regional and Suburban YL Committee Report



*By Tabatha Pettitt and Alicia Carroll, Co-Chairs of the Committee*

**W**e have lots planned for 2004 and we look forward to another successful year. The Regional and Suburban Young Lawyers' Committee (RSYLC) represents Young Lawyers practising in the suburban and country regions of Victoria. The RSYLC is aware that Young Lawyers practising in these regions often have different needs and problems than those practising in the Melbourne CBD. One of the major problems is that of isolation which is often due to the networks between Young Lawyers in these regions being less developed than those in the Melbourne CBD. Another problem is that of reduced access to resources, law courts and Continuing Legal Education programs, all of which can result in Young Lawyers leaving practice in these regions and moving to CBD firms. This in turn can lead to staffing pressures in suburban and country firms, as well as inadequate legal assistance for local residents. The RSYLC is working to increase the networks between Young Lawyers in these regions and improve practising life for Young Lawyers in those areas.

There are 15 regions in Victoria, with five being in the suburbs and the remainder in the country. Each region has representatives who are members of the RSYLC and organise functions within each region to help Young Lawyers meet one another and increase their networks. Each representative also acts as a contact point for Young Lawyers in their region so that their concerns as to practice and related issues can be voiced and passed on to the Law Institute. The RSYLC also has two members who sit on the Council of the Law Institute of Victoria. The RSYLC has two co-chairs, one a suburban representative and the other a country representative.

Regional and Suburban Young Lawyers' Week was held from 29 March 2004 to 4 April 2004 to promote the RSYLC to current and new Young Lawyers in each of the regions. During that week, we held events in each of the regions, including dinners, winery tours and golf days.

We are also planning events throughout the year in some of the country regions for Young Lawyers from all over Victoria to attend and meet other Young Lawyers. We will continue to hold social nights within each region which have proved to be a great success in the past. We are also investigating arranging Continuing Legal Education seminars in each region aimed at Young Lawyers to help them keep up to date on the law and ensure that they accumulate enough CPD points for the year. Another thing that we are organising is internet training sessions in conjunction with the Law Institute within each region to help Young Lawyers improve their internet research skills for everyday practice.

If you would like to know more about the RSYLC or how you can get involved in the Young Lawyer activities in your region, please contact either of our co-chairs, Alicia Carroll on [acarroll@coulterroache.com.au](mailto:acarroll@coulterroache.com.au) or Tabatha Pettitt on [tabatha.pettitt@mst.com.au](mailto:tabatha.pettitt@mst.com.au). ■