

Regional and Suburban YL Committee report



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

The Regional and Suburban Young Lawyers Committee kicked off 2004 with a week of networking, wine, food and inspiring speakers. From 1-4 April 2004, a variety of events were held throughout regions and suburbs of Victoria for Regional and Suburban Young Lawyers week (otherwise known as RSYL Week).

From winery tours to drinks nights, dinners and games of golf, young lawyers gathered together for events in their local region or suburb. Some travelled only a short distance, while others travelled 100 kilometres or more to meet with their local young lawyers. For some young lawyers practising in regional and suburban Victoria, it was an opportunity to catch up with familiar faces. For others, it was a chance to meet other young lawyers in their area and realise that they are not practising in suburban or county Victoria alone. It was also an opportunity to form support networks.

RSYL week was also an opportunity to meet and interact with special guests, including distinguished legal personalities, who attended at the events. Many words of wisdom were imparted by the guest speakers.

Young lawyers in the Western Suburbs were privileged to hear from his honour Justice Vincent that "we're here to practise real law". Over dinner in Beechworth, his Honour Justice Burke reminded young lawyers from the North East region of the "importance of treating every client as an individual worthy of respect". Young lawyers in Geelong were reminded by barrister Geoff Ambrose of the benefits of working in a regional area and "those experiences you just don't get in the city". Barrister, David Brustman warned young lawyers in the Mornington Peninsula of the three temptations for young lawyers – "money, sex and conflict of interest".

Much insight was given into the inspiring careers of many judges, magistrates, barristers, present and former LIV presidents and council members. In addition to formal speeches, many tales were told and views exchanged as the special guests joined the young lawyers for a glass of wine at the various events.

RSYL week was a great opportunity for all young lawyers in regional and suburban Victoria to join together. For many, it was their first opportunity to meet with and share stories of the daunting early days of their legal careers, to seek advice and tips from other young lawyers as to how they made it through. Many plans were made for further events in 2004, which much enthusiasm shown by all involved. It is hoped that this will improve the support networks for young lawyers in regional and suburban Victoria. ■

Professional Development Committee report



By Eleni Tsotsos and Felicity Cara-Carson, Co-Chairs of the Committee

The Professional Development Committee of the Young Lawyers' Section has recently been involved in or is currently working on a number of interesting projects, including:

Hanover Mooting Competition: This is a competition which provides an opportunity for teams of young lawyers, each comprised of junior and senior counsel and instructing solicitors, to demonstrate their advocacy skills before Justices of the Supreme Court while at the same time raising funds for homeless persons. Spectators are welcome. The competition commenced on 3 June and will run until 5 August 2004 on Thursday

evenings from 6pm to 7.30pm in the Supreme Court. The finalist teams will compete in the Grand Final Moot on 19 August before three Court of Appeal judges.

Life in the Law Program: This mentoring program, heading towards its second year, provides young lawyers with the opportunity to meet regularly and on an informal basis with a magistrate, judge or justice of a state or federal court and other colleagues from various areas of the profession and at differing stages of their careers. The current program ends on 30 June, and the launch for the 2004/05 program is scheduled for 11 August.

Making the Right Moves – An Essential Skills Series: This series of four seminars, held between March and September, covers topics such as Basic Court Etiquette, Effective Time Management, Understanding Financial Statements and Effective Communication Skills. All registration enquires can be directed to cpd-liv@hoo.com.au.

Annual Lecture Series: A series of lectures covering topics relating to various areas of the law which runs annually from March to November. All registration inquiries can be directed to cpd-liv@hoo.com.au. ■

Quick Quiz Answers (from page 21)

1. hammered. 2. Australasian Legal Information Institute. 3. Justice Ian Callinan. 4. 2000. 5. 64,000. 6. Sir Samuel Griffith. 7. In its mother's womb; a child not yet born. 8. *Australia Act 1986*. 9. 46%. 10. Chief Justice Gleeson; Justice McHugh; Justice Gummow; Justice Kirby; Justice Hayne; Justice Callinan; Justice Heydon.