

# Community Issues Committee Report

By Cecelia Irvine and Leanne O'Donnell, Co-chairs of the Committee

2004 was another full year for the Community Issues Committee. Again one of the highlights of the program was the social justice essay writing competition; this year on the topic of poverty.

The Young Lawyers' Section continues its successful association with One Umbrella and the Community Issues Committee was pleased to be involved in organising a drinks night in support of One Umbrella. The Young Lawyers' inaugural One Umbrella Bake Day was held on Saturday, 2 October at Hanover Crisis Centre and we look forward to getting more young lawyers regularly involved in baking for such a great cause.

A new association for the Community Issues Committee and the Young Lawyers' Section Executive is their involvement in the review of the *Over the Rainbow* publication, which is a legal guide published by the Victorian Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby.

The Executive is currently in discussions with the Inter Church Gambling Taskforce on the possible joint development of a pamphlet for lawyers regarding gambling and the impact on clients and with Georgina Costello and Project Respect in relation to raising awareness of the issue of women being trafficked to Australia for prostitution.

The lawyers-as-volunteers web page, which aims to encourage volunteering among the legal profession, will soon be launched as part of the LIV website.

The committee also continues:

- the indigenous law students program;
- the corporate responsibility project;
- its new project on people trafficking; and
- its new project on young people and debt.

The co-chairs wish to thank our committee members for their tireless efforts during the year. It is testament to all our members that they combine committee work with full time work and study.

If you would like to get involved please contact Cecelia Irvine on [cirvine@mooreslegal.com.au](mailto:cirvine@mooreslegal.com.au) or Leanne O'Donnell on [leanne\\_odonnell@middletons.com.au](mailto:leanne_odonnell@middletons.com.au). ■

# Social Committee Report

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

The feedback that we have been receiving from you suggests that young lawyers want more networking events with other organisations.

So, on 7 October 2004 we held the successful "Bowled Over By Networking" event at Strike QV. This event gave young lawyers the opportunity to socialise through a game of bowling with members from the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, Young Engineers Australia and Melbourne Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The venue, which is at the bottom of the QV building, was chosen for its fun atmosphere and locality.

A DJ played funky tunes while happy bowlers took advantage of being able to eat, drink, bowl, socialise, and play pool surround by groovy neon lights.

The next quarterly social and networking evening will be held with new barristers on Friday, 12 November 2004 at Zargatt in Federation Square. This will be a great opportunity for young lawyers to meet new barristers in a social and relaxed setting.

On Monday, 22 November the LIV will be holding the annual Legal Fun Run and Power Walk. Registration forms will be distributed shortly.

The Young Lawyers' Section is celebrating its 25th year anniversary. The celebrations will take place in early December at the Young Lawyers' AGM which will be aptly themed "Silver".

On behalf of the Social Committee, we would like to thank everyone for their feedback and support and look forward to seeing you on more occasions in 2004.

If you would like to become involved with the Social Committee or have any further suggestions or comments, 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

The Regional and Suburban Young Lawyers Committee (RSYLC) aims to address the needs of young lawyers practising outside of the Melbourne CBD. In particular, the RSYLC aims to ensure that these young lawyers have access to the same services as their counterparts in the CBD.

One of the difficulties faced by young lawyers outside of the CBD is access to continuing professional development (CPD). Since the introduction of mandatory CPD, it is essential that all young lawyers have access to CPD programs to ensure that they meet the necessary requirements of the Legal Practice Board.

It can be difficult for young lawyers outside of the CBD to attend to CPD sessions held in the CBD, particularly where a drive of three hours each way is required to attend a one-hour CPD session. Attendance at even a short CPD session can mean

an afternoon or even a whole day out of the office, which often means that the difficulty of attending outweighs the benefits and regional young lawyers can miss out attending CPD.

The Law Institute of Victoria (LIV) is attempting to address the needs of lawyers practising outside of the CBD by providing videoconferencing to allow country practitioners to attend CPD at local magistrates' courts, and by providing CPD sessions in regional and suburban areas.

The RSYLC aims to improve access to CPD for young lawyers in the regions and suburbs. The representatives on the RSYLC have teamed up with the LIV's training librarian Catherine Vardy to bring Internet research training to many regional and suburban areas. Over the past year, a number of Internet research training sessions have been

held in regional areas, including Horsham and Shepparton, as well as in the suburbs, including the eastern, northern and southern suburbs.

The feedback from these sessions has been great, with young lawyers finding a lot of helpful hints to improve their research skills, as well as appreciating the increased accessibility to CPD sessions in their region.

Thanks must be given to Catherine Vardy and the RSYLC representatives for organising the Internet training sessions.

Surveys are also being conducted by the RSYLC to determine how access to CPD can be improved for young lawyers outside of the CBD. It is hoped that the RSYLC can assist in organising more CPD events for regional and suburban areas, including talks by local magistrates and barristers, as well as formal CPD sessions organised through the LIV. ■