

Regional and Suburban Young Lawyers Committee



By **Amanda Graham** (top) and **Monika Henke**, RSYLC co-chairs

The Regional and Suburban Young Lawyers Committee (RSYLC) was established in 2000. With representatives in each of the 15 regions in Victoria, it has become an important link between the urban sector of the profession, based in Melbourne, and all other points of Victoria ranging from Mildura in the north, to Warrnambool in the west and Gippsland in the east.

The RSYLC has provided a conduit for young lawyers in the regions and outer Melbourne suburbs to have their needs and concerns heard by the LIV and the wider profession.

The RSYLC is committed to encouraging young lawyers to return to practice in the suburbs and country towns from whence they may have come before commencing university. Presentations have been given at universities in Melbourne in the past few years and in 2005 it is proposed that a promotional PowerPoint for practice in the country and suburbs be prepared for presentation at university career days.

In addition, the north-eastern region is to trial a law students' clerkship program which is aimed at having local firms offer work experience to law students who have originally come from a regional or suburban area.

In 2004 the RSYLC assisted in facilitating a regional "life in the law" program. This is to continue on into 2005. The continuing professional development requirement

introduced in 2004 poses a special challenge for regional and suburban practitioners due to issues of time and the tyranny of distance. How the RSYLC can assist in bringing courses to the regions is an area to be looked into in 2005. In 2004 Southern Suburbs trialed free seminars at Dandenong Magistrates' Court. This is to continue into 2005.

The issue of succession on the RSYLC is of great concern, particularly where some regions have few young lawyers. Proposed guidelines to succession planning were discussed in 2004 and will remain on the 2005 agenda.

The RSYLC encourages social interaction between young lawyers and other professionals. We are working to develop events involving networking with new barristers, CPA Australia and other professions who work closely with the law.

Socially, the second Avoca race day will be held in 2005 and we encourage all young lawyers throughout Victoria to attend for a fantastic weekend of horseracing and networking.

The RSYLC would like to invite all young lawyers to become involved and active within your region and within the wider legal community.

If you would like any assistance, please contact the co-chairs Amanda Graham at amandagraham7@hotmail.com or Monika Henke at monikah@slatergordon.ccm.au. ■

Social Committee



By **Suzi Stanicic** and **Jerrie Kaduthodil**, Social Committee co-chairs

The Social Committee is gearing up for another year of fun, festivities, new people and networking.

We are well aware of how hectic work can get and how important it is to maintain a work/life balance, wind down and meet other colleagues over a drink instead of a timesheet. The Social Committee is dedicated to ensuring an extensive social diary for young lawyers.

The first big event of the year was the Legal Comedy Debate and it was huge. A total of 830 guests filled The Athenaeum Theatre and laughed out loud at the wit, humour and antics of the debaters who debated the point that "Women lawyers do it better". The twist was that the women (consisting of County Court judges Liz Gaynor and Betty King, and Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions solicitor Clair Duffy) had to argue the negative while the men (Rupert Burns, of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, comedian and former lawyer Yianni Agisilaou and David Reckenberg of AXA) did their best with the affirmative. In the end, the women's team prevailed, leaving this vexed issue undecided. The Social Committee thanks the debaters for giving so much of their time to participate in this debate and the legal

community who supported the show. Proceeds will be donated to the Bone Marrow Donor Institute.

At present, we are busy planning our 2005 calendar with many new events scheduled, as well as the annually anticipated events such as the Legal Fun Run and the End of Year Cocktail Party.

Riding on the success of last years' networking events such as the Networking Extravaganza and the Bowling Night, a themed Networking Night will be held on Friday, 13 May for young lawyers in conjunction with the Melbourne Junior Chamber of Commerce, Chartered Accountants, Young Engineers and CPAs.

Also, back by demand is the Young Lawyers Ball. The Ball is set to be held later on in the year and is sure to be an unforgettable night. It is always a good opportunity to frock-up and mingle in an out-of-work environment. Watch this space for more details.

We are always keen to hear from young lawyers who have ideas for social events, so please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to contribute or to become a member of our lively committee. Our contact details are Suzi Stanicic at sstanicic@ghb.com.au or Jerrie Kaduthodil at jerrie.kaduthodil@iag.com.au. ■