

# Social Committee



by **Suzi Stanicic** (pictured) & **Jerrie Kaduthodil**, Committee Co-Chairs

**P**icture this: cool mist draping over the river, a display of glamorous dresses, feathers and masks amongst grand gold-trimmed architecture. A night in medieval Venice we hear you ask? Well almost – this is the mood we will be recreating at the 2005 Young Lawyers' Masquerade Ball. We hope to see you in your finest on Saturday 27 August at the glorious Treasury (corner of Collins St and Queens St). You can expect a selection of luscious hot and cold canapés, a well-stocked bar, dancing and an after-party that will ensure the frivolities go until late. For one best dressed guest, in addition to those who win our raffle, we have wonderful prizes, including a night for two in the Sebel's Studio Heritage Suite. If you can't be bothered shopping for a mask, you can buy one on the night; the proceeds from the sale of the masks will be donated to the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind.

The Social Committee recently held the Winter Warm Up – a Social and Networking Evening at The Bureau. Our generous sponsor, Michael Page Legal, ensured that section members who attended had a drink in their hand and plenty of delicious canapés to stave off hunger.

There was also the hugely successful Young Professionals Network function held on Friday 13th May.

This exclusive networking event drew in 560 young professionals from the Law Institute of Victoria, Melbourne Junior Chamber of Commerce, Institute of Chartered Accountants, Australian Institute of Management, Young Engineers Victoria and CPA Australia's Young Professionals Network. Rosati in Flinders Lane provided a great venue to foster networking among all of the young groups.

In the last edition of the YLJ, we recapped on the Legal Comedy Debate. What we did not mention is that the event raised \$3850 for the Bone Marrow Donor Institute (BMDI). The BMDI was extremely grateful for our contribution and we sincerely thank all of those who were part of, and assisted in the debate.

For all the sporting lawyers out there, it is time to get back into training for the Annual Legal Fun Run and Power Walk. Keep Monday 21 November free and watch this space for more details.

The Social Committee is dedicated to ensuring an extensive social diary for young lawyers, and to that end, we are always keen to hear from young lawyers who have ideas for social events, or want to get involved. If this is you, please contact Suzi Stanicic at [sstanicic@ghb.com.au](mailto:sstanicic@ghb.com.au) or Jerrie Kaduthodil at [jerrie.kaduthodil@iag.com.au](mailto:jerrie.kaduthodil@iag.com.au). ■

# Regional and Suburban Young Lawyers Committee



by **Rex Afrasiabi** & **Amanda Graham**, Committee Co-chairs

**T**he Regional and Suburban Young Lawyers Committee (RSYLC) provides a vital support system for young lawyers practicing in regional Victoria and suburban Melbourne by establishing a social and professional network for these practitioners.

In mid March, the RSYLC hosted the annual Regional and Suburban Young Lawyers' Week, with a variety of events being organised across Victoria. RSYL Week provided young lawyers with an opportunity to network with other young lawyers in their area, as well as other senior practitioners within the legal profession. The event was an overwhelming success, with more attendees than ever before! The social calendar was jam-packed in June and July with the Eastern and Northern Suburbs' "Drinks Networking Night" and "Bowling Evening", the Southern Suburbs' "Wine, Cheese and Mentoring", the Gippsland Regions' "Health & Well-being Workshop" and the Wimmera Region's "Mexican Fiesta".

August is already looking busy, with dinners at the Goulburn Valley region, as well as the Western district. If you are based in these regions or suburbs, we encourage you to attend these events because it provides a great opportunity to meet with other junior lawyers who practice in the same area as you. The RSYLC is always organising new events and activities, so refer to Law Bytes and Friday Facts for new events.

In addition to hosting social events in regional Victoria and suburban Melbourne, the RSYLC is working on a

number of projects to encourage young lawyers to consider practicing in suburban and regional areas of Victoria. These projects include presentations to Victorian law schools about the benefits of practising in the regions and suburbs, and a program to encourage law students to do their seasonal clerkships with law firms based in the region where they originated. This seasonal clerkship program will be trialed in the North East region this month.

The RSYLC has also written to Continuing Professional Development providers, encouraging them to make their education programs more accessible to regional and suburban lawyers. As a result, Leo Cussen Institute has agreed to provide teleconferencing for some of its young lawyers seminars.

The RSYLC believes that regional and suburban young lawyers find that there is a big difference between their salary levels and that of lawyers practising in the CBD. To assist regional and suburban young lawyers in negotiating their salaries, we have written to legal recruiters to encourage them to make a distinction between salary levels in the CBD and country/suburbs in their salary surveys.

The RSYLC would like to invite all young lawyers to become involved. Please direct any inquiries or suggestions to Rex Afrasiabi at [rexa@rennicks.com.au](mailto:rexa@rennicks.com.au) or Amanda Graham at [amandagraham7@hotmail.com](mailto:amandagraham7@hotmail.com). On a final note, we would like to thank Monika Henke for all her tireless efforts and great work during her reign as co-chair of the RSYLC. ■