

President's update



By **Catherine Dwyer**, Senior Associate, Wisewoulds

2005 has been a fantastic year for the YLS. One just needs to take a look at our past year's Calendar of Events to see why we have gained the reputation as one of the "busiest sections of the Law Institute of Victoria" (LIV). With seven committees focusing on different areas, there is no doubt that the YLS would have a busy year in 2005.

The Community Issues Committee have conducted a couple of events throughout the year on the important issue of human trafficking. Earlier in the year, a successful film night was conducted, aimed at raising awareness of people trafficking and sex slavery, where guests saw the powerful movie *Lilya4Ever*.

In August, a discussion forum was conducted as a way of again raising awareness of human trafficking, which is characterised as a billion dollar industry. Georgina Costello moderated the evening with the speakers being highly experienced in this area – Anne Gallagher, an international lawyer specialising in human rights, and Jennifer Burn, a senior lecturer in immigration and administrative law at the University of Technology, Sydney. These are just a number of ways through which the Community Issues Committee has attempted to address such a significant topic.

The Professional Development Committee has had an exciting year, particularly with the introduction of the new Negotiations Skills Competition. A lot of effort went into organising the competition and it was fantastic to see so many young lawyers wishing to participate in the competition. The YLS was grateful for the time and effort given by the adjudicators to judge the competition – all were busy practitioners but kindly offered their assistance to be involved in the competition. The heats were held on 20 September 2005 at the LIV with 10 teams (comprising two participants in each team) participating for a spot in the Grand Final on 27 September. The Grand Final was held at the State Library of Victoria – the team from Blake Dawson Waldron competed against the team from Monahan + Rowell before the adjudicators, Mr Tim McFarlane and Master John Efthim. After displaying impressive negotiating skills and tactics, congratulations goes to the team from Blake Dawson Waldron which took out the title as winners of the 2005 Negotiations Skills Competition.

The Later Lawyers Network (LLN) have regularly conducted informal lunches for their members with a

special guest invited to come along and join the group (such as Kate Rowe, a criminal barrister who was involved in the "Society Murders" trial and Neill Hutton who is also a barrister). The purpose of the lunches is to provide later lawyers with an opportunity to network with each other and to also hear about the experiences of a later lawyer and the progression of their legal career. The LLN is always interested in meeting new members and I would encourage later lawyers to come along to some of the events which are organised or even join the Committee.

It's hard to believe that my presidency is almost over but over the past year:

- I've been supported by a new and incredibly enthusiastic Executive Committee. They have been fantastic in conducting the projects and events through the various subcommittees of the YLS or acting as liaison representatives between the YLS and various LIV Committees. I would like to thank each and every one of them for their time and effort in taking on their roles.
- I've had the opportunity to be involved in some challenging and exciting projects and events and particularly the introduction of a new Negotiations Skills Competition for the YLS. I hope this Competition can continue in years to come because it is designed to give young lawyers an opportunity to develop their negotiation skills (and to win a great prize as well!).
- The theme of the YLS has focused on professional development issues and in doing so, we have addressed an important aspect of a young lawyer's practice by providing you with some useful seminars, competitions, programs and social events with such topics in mind.

As president of the YLS this year, I have found the experience to be rewarding in so many ways. It has been an absolute pleasure to represent the interests of all Victorian young lawyers and ensuring that the projects and events conducted in 2005 were relevant to YLS members. On behalf of the YLS Executive I would encourage you to come along to the other events which are being conducted for the remainder of the year. In the meantime, I would like to wish you luck with your future endeavours in the law. ■

Quick Quiz (answers on page 12)

By **Kate Ashmor**, Articled Clerk, Pointon Partners

- 1.a) Who is US President George W Bush's nominee for the vacancy on the US Supreme Court?
- 1.b) Which judge is retiring?
2. Who is the Speaker of Australia's House of Representatives?
3. What does UNICEF stand for?
4. Which former New Zealand Prime Minister died on 13 August 2005?
5. Which Australian state is the first to prosecute someone under the Spam Act 2003 (Cth)?
6. Which companies did Steve Vizard use his position as a Telstra director to trade shares in?
7. In what year did Israel first establish settlements in the Gaza strip?
8. Who took over from Bob Carr as premier of NSW?
9. Which country, whose people are currently languishing through terrible drought, is the second poorest country in the world?
10. Which famous scientific theory turns 100 this year?
11. When was David Hicks captured by US forces in Afghanistan?
12. Which celebrity lawyer said: "Money will determine whether the accused goes to prison or walks out of the courtroom a free man"?
13. Which is the world's largest lake?
14. Name three famous events in Australia's history which occurred on 11 November.
15. Which Australian High Court judge is due to retire in November of 2005 when he turns 70?