

Editorial

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Welcome to our sophomore offering: the "Arts Issue". Thank you to everyone who assisted in the preparation of our previous "Climate Change Issue".

We were proud to receive a swathe of support, as well as constructive criticism. With hindsight, the "Climate Change Issue" did not so much as take aim at and execute key topics in its broad topical ambit but, rather, fired indiscriminately into a dark and often frightening abyss.

This was partly intentional, but mostly happenstance and poignantly revelatory.

The more we searched for answers to the myriad problems presented by climate change, the more we realised that young lawyers form a small but nonetheless very important role in addressing a global and (supposedly) apolitical crisis that requires the deployment of all skills in all disciplines.

To some, climate change is not a euphemism for global warming. Somehow, climate change seems so much more menacing, like a steadily marching and brooding Leviathan which some believe is stirring in the air we breathe, amongst the rustling leaves, and in the depths of the seas.

Why the "Arts Issue"? Because we do not believe that the practice of law is the mere parroting of static and arcane methodology.

At the very least, the practice of law is the rigorous and challenging art of mental gymnastics. At its very best, the practice of law is the distillation of progressive and dynamic liberal thought.

It is in this issue that we bring attention to and celebrate all that is creative, novel and, dare we say it, "arty".

After all, following the "Climate Change Issue", perhaps it is high time to focus on the proactive rather than reactive invocations of the law. We take time to look at young lawyers who do not merely moonlight as writers and musicians, but who actively pursue parallel lives in the law and the arts.

We feature the wonderful and inspiring Choir of Hard Knocks, Spring Street's latest attempts to distinguish criminal "graffiti" from "street art", performers' rights under copyright, as well as digital rights management in the music industry.

We also have a laugh with celebrities who chose fame instead of the law (remember Julio Iglesias anyone?), as well as look back on the Legal Comedy Debate.

Without wishing to neglect our duty to keep you informed of recent case law, we have searched the world for cases and have returned with tales of perfumes, yachts, paintings, and . . . Ian Turpie? Read on. ■