



NSW YOUNG LAWYERS QUARTERLY REPORT TO MEMBERS MAY 2006

Dear Committee Members, Delegates, Regional Representatives, Students and Colleagues,

I am pleased to report that the past 5 months has been another exciting and invigorating period for New South Wales Young Lawyers ("NSWYL") and I would just like to draw your attention to a few of our past achievements. The key achievements for NSWYL in the last 6 months have included the following:

- A submission was prepared by the Business Law Committee in relation to the Australian Securities & Investments Commissions Draft Policy Statement - Better Prospects Disclosure.
- The Animal Rights Committee Christmas Appeal was held in December 2005 which involved the collection of various items (such as dog and cat toys, towels, treats, leads, collars, food, worming tablets, dog shampoo and bedding) on behalf of:
 - The Blacktown Pound;
 - The Sutherland Pound;
 - The Wollongong Pound;
 - Sydney Dogs Home.
- In February the Pro Bono and Community Services Taskforce made a submission to the Corporations and Market Advisory Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility and members of the Taskforce, Nathan Laird and Lily Matthews addressed those submissions before the Committee.
- The Human Rights Committee hosted a talk on Terrorism Laws presented by Ben Saul from UNSW and lawyer, Stephen Hopper.
- The Communications Entertainment and Technology Committee celebrated 10 years of existence.
- A Beer 'n Bowls Night was held on 16 March to celebrate/mourn the passing of summer.
- NSWYL participated in the Annual Law Careers Fair at Darling Harbour on 17 March 2006.
- The Older People and the Law Handbook was launched on 28 March 2006.
- The 14th Annual Golden Gavel Competition was held on 31 March 2006, with a record number of 522 attendees and 13 competitors.
- The Human Rights Committee announced the winner of its 2005 Essay Competition, Sebastian De Brennan and Runner-up Lucas Bastin.

New Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs

This year has marked a significant change in leadership as many Chairs and Vice-Chairs have resigned, making way for new leadership. The following changes have occurred:

- Ray Clack has moved into the role of Chair of Bushweb, replacing Mary Snell
- Adam Flynn replaces Andrew Perry as Chair of the Communications, Entertainment and Technology Committee
- Fiona Sams replaces Linda Barnes as Chair of the Criminal Law Committee
- Olivia Connolly has taken over as Chair of the Family Law Committee and Anna Leonard has assumed the role of Vice-Chair
- Rebecca Flynn has resigned as Chair of the newly formed Property Law Committee and Karen Criticos has taken over the role of Chair and Revell Norquay, has taken over from Karen as the Vice-Chair
- Duncan Brakell has replaced Tim James as Chair of the Business Law Committee and Ian Aldridge has taken over from Scott Alden as Vice-Chair.
- Louise Camenzuli has replaced Jacque Svenson as Vice-Chair of the Environmental Law Committee.

On behalf of the NSW Young Lawyers Office Bearers and Executive, I congratulate the newly appointed leaders and thank all the past Chairs and Vice-Chairs for all their time and contribution to the organisation.

I should also note that the following Executive Councilors have assumed the following roles:

- James Smith has been given the portfolio of “Webmaster” and is the co-ordinator of the NSW Young Lawyers webpage design and functionality;
- Katherine Bennett has taken over the Careers Portfolio from Michelle McCabe;
- Tayanah Caldarella has taken over the Student Portfolio;
- Davyd Wong has retained his position as the Pro Bono and Community Services Taskforce co-ordinator;
- Rebee Saibi remains as the Social co-ordinator;
- Rebecca Harper has taken on the role of Regional co-ordinator;
- Olivia Connolly is the Committee Chairs co-ordinator ; and
- Scott Alden is the Law Society Committee Representatives co-ordinator.

Submissions

One of the important roles, which each Committee undertakes, is to keep abreast of recent legislative changes and proposed developments. Committee submissions are a medium through which Committee members can express an opinion in relation to those changes and developments. Some examples of recent Committee submissions include:

- The Family Law Committee made a submission to the Federal House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs in relation to the *Exposure Draft of the Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) Bill 2005*.
- The Animal Rights Committee made a submission to the National Health and Medical Research Council's Animal Welfare Committee on its draft *Guidelines for the Creation, Care and Use of Genetically Modified and Cloned Animals for Scientific Purposes*.
- The Business Law Committee lodged a submission with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission on its Draft Policy Statement, *Better Prospects Disclosure*.
- The Pro Bono and Community Services Taskforce made a submission to Corporations and Markets Advisory Committee in response to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services' Inquiry into Corporate Social Responsibility.

Upcoming events and projects

The next few months promise to be very busy for the NSW Young Lawyers with the following upcoming events and projects:

- Three of our Committees, the Family Law Committee, the Business Law Committee and the Civil Litigation Committee, will all be launching updated versions of their handbooks;
- We will be launching a handbook designed specifically for students entitled “So, you want to be a lawyer?”
- The Employment and Industrial Law Committee and the Sydney University Law Society will be holding a joint IR Debate/Forum on the new Work Choices legislation in May.
- The Honourable Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG and Mr David Jackson QC will be speaking on the topic of Appellate Advocacy at a CLE to be held on 30 May at the Law Society.
- The Mid Year Assembly will be held on the last weekend in May.
- The Property Law Committee will be launching an e-newsletter which will provide a brief overview of recent developments in property law.
- NSW Young Lawyers will be holding a combined event with the Australian Legal Practice Managers Association on **17 May** entitled “Networking Made Easy” (for details see www.younglawyers.com.au)
- NSW Young Lawyers will be holding a combined cocktail function on **18 May** with the Young Business Forum with guest speaker, Stephen Mayne, the founder of Crikey. (for details see www.younglawyers.com.au or http://www.aicc.org.au/events_nsw.htm#Stephen%20Mayne)

To find out more about us, upcoming events, Committee activities and projects, please feel free to explore the various links across our Website.

Being an active participant in New South Wales Young Lawyers brings important benefits to you as well as benefits to the wider profession and the community. Involvement in New South Wales Young Lawyers provides an opportunity for you to give something back, both to the profession and the community at large, and an opportunity for you to fulfil your duty to be socially responsible, to recognise the privileged position you are in, and the fact that you have the ability to make a difference.

If you have any more suggestions about how New South Wales Young Lawyers can provide additional benefits or opportunities to our members, please feel free to contact me by email at susannah.maclaren@younglawyers.com.au.

Susannah Maclaren

President

New South Wales Young Lawyers

10 May 2006