

## Victorian Division Report

Membership of the Victorian Group continues to be high. As at early September we had 195 members with renewals still coming in.

A new committee was installed at the AGM held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2006. This committee comprises of:

### **Committee Members 2006/07**

John Botherway -- President  
Rachelle Summers – Secretary & Information Sheet Editor  
Alice Dowdle -- Treasurer  
Catherine Vardy -- Membership Secretary  
Lisa Smith -- Publishers' Liaison Representative  
Lisa Klug – Website Coordinator

Other Committee Members: Michael Coats, Bridget Dakin, Anjali Dandekar, Elisa Quattrocelli, Jennie Speirs, Penny Tatham

Caroline Knaggs, Miz Brmbota, Monika Zymuntowicz, Nalini Makan and Mary Muscara stepped down from the committee. Thank you to all of them for their time and expertise over a number of years.

### **Rule Changes**

Two resolutions were passed at the AGM. These increased the annual fee by \$10.00 to \$50.00 and makes allowance for a reduced membership for new members who join after the 1<sup>st</sup> Jan each year.

### **Grants**

A grant was awarded to Carol Bradford of the Federal Court to attend the VALA Conference in February 2006. Grants have also been awarded to Rosemary Hay of Dibbs Abbott Stillman, Karen McVean of the Equal Opportunity Commission Victoria, and Josie Cox of the Family Court of Australia to attend Southern Currents, the Australian and New Zealand Law Librarians Conference, September 2006.

### **Meetings**

A number of lunchtime continuing education meetings have been held over 2006.

Approximately 30 ALLG members assembled for the lunchtime session on the new WorkChoices legislation in April. Colin Fenwick Director, Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law at University of Melbourne explained the intricacies of the new regime and explained what the major changes will be.

The May lunchtime session on Wednesday 24 May was also well attended, for a meeting at Victoria Legal Aid to learn more about New and Emerging Web Technologies.

Larry Stillman, from the Centre for Community Networking Research (CCNR) at Monash University, spoke about the wide range of methods for publishing web-based media, including RSS feeds, streaming media, folkonomies and wikis.

In June, Justice Shane Marshall of the Federal Court and Tiago Amaral Sarmiento, Director of the Judicial System Monitoring Program in East Timor spoke to the group about Justice, the judiciary and the courts in East Timor.

The August meeting was an information session provided by 3 speakers from Comlaw, Mark Carpenter, Simon Hine and Bernadette Metschke. They outlined progress on the Comlaw project and sought feedback from members.

### **Finding the Law Online (FLO)**

This year was used to review the FLO module and build in feedback from the 2005 delivery. A significant amount of redesign went into the online learning exercises.

The annual workshops were held at the University of Melbourne on the 5th and 11th July. These workshops attracted librarians who are new to the law and this year we had more interest than places available.

Thank you to Catherine Vardy who coordinated this year's sessions, Caroline Knaggs and Naline Makan who delivered the presentations; to all who contributed in the preparation of the workshops and those that assisted on the day, Monika Zygmuntowicz, Elisa Quattrocelli, Anjali Dandekar, Michael Coats.

Thanks also to Lois Nichol and Murray Greenway of the Legal Resource Centre for allowing us to use the computer lab and their assistance in organising the workshop.

A special mention is also due to Monika Zygmuntowicz who has coordinated the overall FLO project since its inception and will be stepping down from the committee this year. Monika has done a terrific job in driving this project and has, along with other members of the project group, put in many hours of hard work in getting it to its present high standard.

### **Social Events**

The group ended 2005 with a very successful and well attended Christmas party held at Eat, Drink, Bento, Hardware Lane, Melbourne.

The first meeting for 2006 was also a social function, the annual "Start of the Legal Library Year" function, which was held at the County Court of Victoria.

Once again this was a most enjoyable evening, thank you to Lawlex for sponsoring the event and to Ian Edwards for providing the venue.

### **2006 ALLG/NZLL Joint Conference**

At the time of writing this report the inaugural joint conference between the ALLG and the NZLL to be held in Melbourne, at the Legal Resource Centre, University of Melbourne is only a week away.

The conference organising committee on this side of the Tasman comprises of Victorian Division members and in conjunction with their New Zealand counterparts have put in many hours of hard work. We are looking forward to what promises to be a well attended and most interesting conference.

John Botherway  
President ALLG (Vic).  
21<sup>st</sup> September 2006