



Word from our Chair

They say all good things must come to an end

(something I never wanted to believe but experience tells me otherwise)...and so comes the end of my terms as Chair of the AYLC.

It seems like only weeks ago that I took on this role from Susannah Maclaren who was headed off for the bright lights of London, catapulting me into the role earlier than I had anticipated but with a start, I realise it was back in July 2007.

More than two years has passed since that day on a freezing Canberra winter's day after I had lost my voice (despite what the Law Council executive thought at the time, it wasn't as a result of too much partying with the young lawyers the night before) and I couldn't even orally indicate my intention to nominate for Chair (my raised hand waving madly was clearly sufficient).

It has been a whirlwind experience and I have enjoyed every moment of it (even the

frustrating ones).

From organising the National Golden Gavel and Australian Young Lawyer Awards (having attended my first one in Perth in November 2006) in November 2007 in Hobart (thank you Anna Nicholson for your great work!) to Sydney in November 2008 (a big thank you Josh who pulled off a breakfast event – I must say I had my doubts) to the biggest event on the AYLC calendar – the Inaugural National Young Lawyers Conference in September 2009, the AYLC has certainly kept me busy in between my billable hours.

In the past two years, I have had the opportunity to get to work closely with the Law Council Executive (my sincerest thanks goes to LCA Presidents Tim Bugg, Ross Ray QC and John Corcoran who, during my term as Chair, were nothing but supportive and enthusiastic about the AYLC).

This role also opened me up to invitations to speak at international conferences such as International Weekend, a joint event hosted by the European Young Bar Association and the Junior Lawyers Division of the Law Society of England and Wales (in September 2007 and Sep-

tember 2008) which also scored me a very exclusive invitation to the Opening of Legal Year Ceremony (thank you Keith Etherington – this was an unforgettable experience)! At this conference, in 2007, I met Justin Goldstein, the incoming Chair of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, which led to an invitation to join the ABA YLD at their Spring Conference in Washington DC in April 2008.

Also as a result of my role with the AYLC, I was invited to the Future Leaders Conference in August 2008 and Korean Women's International Network in August 2009 hosted by the Overseas Korea Foundation and have now joined the LCA's International Law Section's South Korea Focus Group to strengthen the LCA's ties with the Korean Bar Association.

The AYLC launched its online newsletter (started by Susannah) and cemented as a regular quarterly publication by the great team that was the AYLC during my term. I am very proud to say that the newsletter is circulated widely across Australia and on the LCA website to ensure access to all young lawyers.

The AYLC has also developed and strengthened its relationships with the various Sections of the Law Council with AYLC representatives being invited to attend (as observers) the Executive Meetings of the Business Law Section, the Family Law Section, the Federal Litigation Section, the Legal Practice Section and being invited to be an honorary member of the International Law Section.

The AYLC has also been invited to sit on the Recruitment and Retention Working Group and the Legal Education Committee.

Even though we are only able to meet two or three times a year, the AYLC has become a close-knit group of professionals passionate about ensuring that young lawyers across the nation have a voice. We share ideas (I remember walking away from my first AYLC meeting in Perth in November 2006 all pumped with great new initiatives to implement in the ACT Young Lawyers Committee)...we share concerns and grief and realise that there are many issues facing young lawyers that are common to us all... whether we practise in the big national top tier firms, in government, in-house or as

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academics, there are issues that face all of us. Only at our very last meeting did we realise that bullying, harassment and depression were still very real and very live issues (had time permitted, we could have debated these issues into the wee hours of the morning).

To this end, the AYLC applauds the LCA for their initiative in establishing the Recruitment and Retention Working Group – and we look forward to their findings and work to be done in the future.

Another very exciting initiative for the AYLC during my term as Chair was the invitation to His Honour Chief Justice Robert French of the High Court of Australia to be the Patron of the AYLC. We are so grateful that His Honour accepted our invitation and I wish the AYLC well in the future in strengthening that relationship even further.

One initiative that I regret not being able to get off the ground is the work on our National Online Survey Project. After having put enormous efforts into this initiative (especially David Topp – thank you David for your countless hours and enthusiasm), it has unfortunately stalled...however, I am hopeful that the new Chair will take this project and run with it.

Australia's young lawyers are doing amazing things...I am constantly impressed with the level of commitment and enthusiasm shown by young lawyers doing so much for

social justice.

Having just celebrated my 30th birthday, I fear that my "young lawyer" tag is probably starting to wear thin... (yes, I know...officially, a "young lawyer" is a lawyer within their first 5 years of practice or under the age of 35...so I have a few more years up my sleeve...but hey, there's just something that clicks when a girl (woman?) turns 30).

I have made some amazing contacts through my role with the AYLC...not only across the nation but also internationally. I still keep in touch with friends who I met through the European Young Bar Association and the American Bar Association and I know I will always keep in touch with them (thank you facebook!)

I wish to thank Grant McAvaney and Susannah Maclaren who were the Chairs whilst I was on the AYLC and who led the way and showed me how to lead...I wish to also thank the AYLC members who have now moved on...Anna Nicholson, Luke Taylor, Natalie Wigg, Marie Botsis, Kris Norrington, Tom Kaye, Caroline Heske (oops now Norrington), Sally Williams, Tom Pledge, Steve Hogg, Donna Adams, Will Hammond, Lucy Terracall, Amber Beck, Fred Lester, Christian Jennings, Sarah Turner, Simon Pitt, Scott Alden, Margaret Holz, Esther Lawson, Kylie Day, Madeleine Avenell, Faraz Maghami, Paul Gordon and Verity Doyle. Thank you all

for your contributions to the AYLC in the past.

I would like to thank my current team: Lizzie Landford (ACT), Josh Knackstredt (NSW Young Bar), Louise Jardim (NSWYL), Kate Harry and Julie Fraser (LIV YLS), Ruth Hamnett and Samuel Hopper (VIC NBSC), David Topp (QYL), Liam Dollar (QLD Young Bar), Liam Gaunt and Kim Eldridge (SA NLC), Kate Cook (WA YLC), Mylinda Shepherd (TAS), Nick Johansen (NT), our ALSA observer newbie Jonathan Augustus...and, a huge thank you to our Administrator, Hendryk Flaegel...who really is the lifeline of the AYLC. From taking Minutes at our meetings to setting Agendas to organising our travel to pretty much single-handedly organising the Australian Young Lawyer Awards each year and recently having taken on the role of AYLC newsletter editor, the AYLC could not survive without him.

I would also like to extend a huge thanks to Andrew Perry, Rui Duan and their team at Legal.Consult who (making up for my non-existent technical skills) set up an AYLC email list for us to save us from typing in everyone's name each time we communicate.

I congratulate Liam Gaunt (of South Australia), the new Chair and David Topp who will take on the role of Vice Chair from March 2010. I wish you and the rest of the AYLC all the very best in a bright future and I look forward to every success and achievement, knowing that

(at least I think) I played some small part in getting the AYLC where it is today.

And I couldn't finish up this piece without a final word...it was my dad (who is a migrant who came to Australia and gave up his white-collar job in Korea and started a cleaning business in Australia) who said to me, "the law is there to help people, it is not meant to be a barrier. Lawyers are in a position where they can make the law easier and more accessible to people". This struck a chord with me and during my introduction to the Australian Young Lawyer Awards 2009, I could not help stating this (thanks dad)! And it was certainly demonstrated by the winners of the Australian Young Lawyer Awards – young lawyers who work so tirelessly in assisting others... making sure that those who need it most, have a voice, making sure that the law is "made easier" for everyone.

I encourage young Lawyers to keep this in mind...and this type of commitment is best demonstrated by way of example. I hope that all young lawyer leaders continue the great work they are doing and by example, other young lawyers will follow.

Good luck and good-bye!

Elizabeth Lee
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Introducing...the new Chair of the AYLC...Liam Gaunt of South Australia

Liam Gaunt has been a member of the AYLC since October 2007, representing the South Australian New Lawyers Committee ('SA NLC') of which he was Chair.

Liam has been involved with the SA NLC since his admission in 2005.

Liam is an Associate at Minter Ellison in Adelaide where he practises in the area of non-litigious competition, intellectual property and technology law.

Liam is heavily involved in social justice and pro bono work, and his film, 'Street

Level' won second prize at the National Pro Bono Resource Centre Short Film Festival.

Liam is also a Board Member of Arts-Access South Australia and is a Commissioner on the Tribunal of the South Australian Amateur Football League.

The AYLC welcomes and congratulates Liam on his new role as Chair of the AYLC.

We wish him and David Topp (Vice Chair) all the best in taking the AYLC forward into the future!



The West kicks it off in style...!

It is amazing how much planning and effort goes into a two day conference. When Marie Botsis and Kate Cook, the respective past and current convenors of the WA Young Lawyers Committee approached me in February to head up the local conference working group, it was difficult to imagine how it would all end up. Ably assisted by a team consisting of Kristina Botsis (Lavan Legal), Hayley Cormann (Clayton Utz) and Seranie Gamble (Aboriginal Legal Service), we set to the task enthusiastically, brainstorming ideas for the academic program, sessions presenters, networking events and venues. Our original program ended up looking almost identical to the ultimate program, with a few tweaks here and there.

The President's Cocktail function on Thursday evening was the perfect start to a conference where professional connections and friendships were made. Suddenly, after all the copious amounts of emails, teleconferences and planning meetings, the reality hit home: the conference was finally here, and all those names on the registration list were part of the next frantic few days.

After the official welcome, Friday saw the young lawyers academic stream unfold. All our sessions were well attended, and even had non-young lawyer delegates joining up – a good indication that the topics we were presenting were both engaging and relevant to the current legal profession. The fundamentals of Alternative Dispute Resolution was chaired by Kristina Botsis and presented by Judge Stevenson of the WA District Court and barrister Mary Walker. The session saw a presentation on the emerging issues in this important area and a panel discussion from other members of the Law Council's ADR Committee, includ-

ing a discussion of the "Multi-Door Courthouse" model that is being discussed on a national level. After lunch, Kate Cook chaired the session on Ethic in Litigation and Advocacy by the New South Wales Legal Services Commissioner, Steve Mark. Steve's background as a criminal lawyer and many years of experience as Commissioner provided to be a valuable contribution to the young lawyers stream, where he discussed the various ethical conundrums confronted by young (and not so young) lawyers in practice. The last session of the evening was chaired by Hayley Cormann and saw Alison Robertson, partner at top-tier Perth based firm Laval Legal (and incidentally a former convenor of the WA YLC) present on the topic of insolvency, discussing the current trends and various opportunities in the current economic climate. Those that were in attendance made many positive comments on Alison's clear engagement with the issues and well-targeted presentation.

Friday evening saw one of the highlights of the conference: the annual National Golden Gavel Competition and Australian Young Lawyer Awards for 2009. Hosted by our well-loved Chair of the AYLC, Elizabeth Lee, the event saw the very best of what young lawyers have to offer (a commitment to the community and a lot of humour!) For a more complete run down of the evening's proceedings, see Elizabeth's article on page 4. For those willing to squeeze as much out of the weekend as possible, the event was only the start of the night's festivities, that may have also included Elizabeth and other young lawyers crunk-style dancing on the upper level of Carnegie's Bar!

With some waking on Saturday morning a little bleary eyed, the best thing to start

the day was a wholesome breakfast and panel presentation of practicing law overseas from Melissa Parke, Federal Member for Fremantle, and Murray Wheater, partner at Blake Dawson. Their wide ranging experiences, including Melissa's involvement as an international lawyer for the United Nations in places like Pales-



John Corcoran and Maria Saraceni with Keynote Speaker, Professor Fiona Woods



Lucky young lawyers meet the ever-charming former Justice Michael Kirby



Speaking at the Inaugural Australian Young Lawyers Conference



The panel of the Young Lawyers Global Aspirations Breakfast

The West kicks it off in style...! cont'd

current economic climate and the effect on the global legal community.

It would be difficult for many young lawyers to imagine a better way to spend a beautiful Saturday afternoon than on the shores of the Swan River listening to one of the greatest judicial minds in Australian history, giving a humorous and honest account of how he ended up on the High Court of Australia. The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG was a keynote speaker at a special lunch for the young lawyers at Royal Perth Yacht Club, and the event proved to be a highlight of the conference for many of the delegates. The judge was not only happy to mingle with those in attendance, but was

just as eager to get his photo taken with everyone as well! The lunch succinctly demonstrated the importance of a conference such as this: the opportunity for junior legal practitioners to learn from and connect with seniors in the legal profession in an atmosphere of collegiality.

The remaining hours of the official conference proceedings were taken up with a keynote address from Professor Fiona Wood, whose work with the Bali bombing victims, contribution to medical science and involvement in the community has resulted in a long list of accolades that include being named Australian of the Year in 2005. Her inspirational words were an excellent closer to the bien-

nial convention.

And Saturday evening? For further details on the Gala Dinner at Fraser's in King's Park, overlooking Perth city and the iconic Swan River, skip ahead to Elizabeth's article on page 7.

Now the curtain falls on my conference involvement and a note of thanks must be extended. Without the hard work of the WA working group, and support from the Law Council, EECW and the Australian Young Lawyers Committee, this event would not have been the success that it was, and I pay my gratitude to you all. In particular, I express my sincere thanks to Elizabeth (Judge Kirby's classic type "A"

joiner!) for this wonderful opportunity and acknowledge her commitment not only to this event, but to the young legal profession in this country. Thanks guys, it's been unforgettable.

Adam Ebell
Chair
Inaugural Australian Young Lawyers Conference Working Group

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR: A huge thank you to Adam and his team for a fantastic job on the Conference! It would not have been possible without the great team: Adam Ebell, Kate Cook, Marie Botsis, Kristina Botsis, Seranie Gamble and Hayley Cormann!

From "lawgasm" to penis envy...the National Golden Gavel and Australian Young Lawyer Awards 2009 had it all..!

Having hosted the Australian Young Lawyer Awards in 2007 and 2008, you would think it would be old hat...not so...this year there was a twist. Not only would I be hosting the Australian Young Lawyer Awards but also the National Golden Gavel Competition...and it was being held during the Inaugural Australian Young Lawyers Conference in conjunction with the 36th Australian Legal Convention!

The venue was spectacular...the Perth Convention Centre where the night started with cocktails and light canapes overlooking the beautiful cityscape. Then we were ushered into the ballroom, set out in theatre-style and mood lighting (oh yes, besides the brightest spotlight you can imagine directly on my face, the rest of the room was quite dark!)

Australian Young Lawyer Awards 2009

After an introduction by Adam Ebell, Chair of the

Australian Young Lawyers Conference Working Group, the Awards Ceremony commenced.

The Australian Young Lawyers Committee ('the AYLC') rewards and acknowledges the achievements of the nation's young lawyers and young lawyer organisations with the Australian Young Lawyer Awards, which is held in conjunction with the National Golden Gavel each year.

The judging panel consists of the President of the Law Council (currently John Corcoran), the Chair of the AYLC (currently me) and the Chair or President or Convenor of the hosting State/Territory young lawyer organisation (this year, Kate Cook of WA Young Lawyers Committee).

I have been fortunate enough to have been on the judging panel for three years in a row and I am constantly amazed at the achievements of the nation's young lawyers. This year was no exception.

It was a difficult task but someone had to do it!

In the end, there could only be one winner in each category and...drum roll...the winners for 2009 are:

Category 1 – A program implemented relating to professional issues:

NSW Young Lawyers Human Rights Committee for their 'Human Rights Opportunities Database'.

This is a database that was established in May 2009 designed to be a central source of information for anyone interested in pursuing human rights opportunities – from paid work, voluntary work, internships or scholarships. The database is widely accessed not only by NSW young lawyers but all members of the general public and opened up opportunities in the area of human rights for all.

Category 2 – A program implemented relating to com-

munity issues:

NSW Young Lawyers Animal Law Committee for their "What about me? Pets and your will" brochure.

Fuelled by the knowledge that over 90% of Australian households who own pets count them as a member of their family, the NSW Young Lawyers Animal Law Committee saw the need to provide information to pet owners concerned about their beloved pets' welfare after they pass away. The Committee researched, drafted and published a brochure containing information, in plain English, on options for including pets in wills. It is now distributed by NSW Young Lawyers free of charge.

Category 3 – Individual award in recognition of an individual's continuous and outstanding contribution to the profession and the community

From “lawgasm” to penis envy...the National Golden Gavel and Australian Young Lawyer Awards 2009 had it all..! Cont'd

The AYLC is proud to congratulate Matthew Keogh – WA Law Society – as the Australian Young Lawyer of the Year for 2009.

Matthew is one of those amazing young lawyers that you shake your head in amazement at...wondering how on earth he fits everything in.

He is a member of no less than 12 Committees – on the WA Law Society, the WA

ment of a Junior Lawyers Network at his place of employment, the Commonwealth Department of Public Prosecutions (‘CDPP’) to ensure that young lawyers at the Perth Office of the CDPP had a strong support network.

Outside assisting the legal profession, Matthew has also worked on the Board and Chairperson level with Starick Services assisting victims of domestic violence.

Matthew’s numerous achievements demonstrate his commitment to social justice and the reality that with hard work and the right mind-set, young lawyers can do anything.

It is no surprise to see why Matthew is our Australian Young Lawyer of the Year 2009. Congratulations Matthew and keep up the great work!

National Golden Gavel 2009

After congratulating all our winners, the second part of the evening, the National Golden Gavel Competition 2009 was under way.

An all male field of competitors took up this challenge this year to see who could take out the gong of the one with the biggest gift of the gab.

Sitting front and centre was our esteemed panel of judges – the Hon. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Western Australia, Wayne Martin QC, the Hon. Michael Mischin MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to the WA Attorney-General and the President of the Law Council of Australia, our very own John Corcoran.

It’s got to be nerve-wrecking going first but nothing could

throw our first competitor, Michael Hodge from Queensland whose topic was “Farmer wants a wife; lawyer wants a life”.

Those of us who were thinking that Michael may make reference to the soppy TV drama that’s capturing the hearts of single Australian women were to be disappointed. Not one reference to the TV show, however, Michael kept us rolling out of our seats with hilarious examples of lawyers and their (lack of) lives.

Michael made a fabulous start to the evening and set the bench high. What could the others deliver? As it turned out, quite a lot.

Second up was hometown hero, David Leith, who spoke on the topic, “I became a lawyer to help people’ and other lies I tell people at parties”. David (probably) correctly stated that this assumed that lawyers were invited to parties at all.

After making references to how well (or not) he was “hung”, David managed to throw in a pick-up line to the hundreds of female members of the audience by ending with a wink and a smooth, “ladies...”

So David, how many phone numbers did you get that night?

Following David was ACT’s Rouslun Churches who battled the topic, “Dancing with lawyers: critical moves for your career”. After confessing he would be making two very bad dance jokes (“tip: show that you have a “cancan” attitude” and...how I can’t even remember the second bad dance joke!), Rouslun showed what ACT lawyers know about dancing...well, not much in fact... but he did manage to end with a hilarious story about a

web posting by a Legal Workshop student looking for the perfect “assignment partner” who shared the same passion to achieve a HD.

Tom Payten from NSW was given the topic, “If sledging were a sport, lawyers would be world champions”. After confiding that since he was from NSW, he was two hours from the future, he knew more than any of us and knew what the outcome of tonight would be...like a true private practice lawyer, Tom stuck to his topic like glue and kept it all under one 6-minute increment...and the one thing none of us will forget is his impersonation of “ghetto talk” – one finger wagging, other hand on hips and going, “uh uh”.

Tom had us all convinced... yes, if sledging were an Olympic sport, lawyers would be second to none.

Following Tom was Lucas Arnold from SA with his topic, “Lawyers and penis envy: my firm is better than yours”. Impressively with no notes to assist his argument, Lucas confessed that he was a Judge’s Associate and was paid \$60,000 a year to stand up and say, “Silence, all stand” a few times a day...we



Law Council of Australia President, John Corcoran, presents the Australian Young Lawyer Award

Young Lawyers Committee and the Australian Labor Party, affectionately earning him the nickname, “Committee Whore” by his dearest and closest friends.

Matthew’s work for social justice is surpassed by none...even to the envy of former Justice of the High Court, Michael Kirby, who made it clear at the young lawyers lunch on Saturday 18 September that being a Type-A personality, at this point in time, he wonders why he is not named, Australian Young Lawyer of the Year (he conceded that Matthew had youth on his side).

Matthew initiated the imple-



Australian Young Lawyer of the Year 2009 Matthew Keogh, WA Law Society

From "lawgasm" to penis envy...the National Golden Gavel and Australian Young Lawyer Awards 2009 had it all..! Cont'd

all knew who had penis envy then...

Lachlan Clancy from VIC's topic, "Lawgasm" – how to finish in 6 minutes" I'm sure caused a few ripples amongst the crowd and Lachlan did a great job of firstly explaining that 'lawgasm' was a 'climax reached out of a purely legal event' – an example being a legal secretary who finds out her lawyer has obsessive compulsive disorder and insists on doing his own filing.

As you can imagine, with example after example, the crowd were treated to all too true stories of starry-eyed lawyers and what makes us "lawgasm"...

Our second hometown competitor was Stuart Packham



Our panel of judges, John Corcoran, the Hon. Chief Justice Martin QC and the Hon. Michael Mischin MLC

on the topic, "Lawyers in love: a match made in heaven?" After paying out his firm ("it's a comedy event and there are three Allens lawyers who made it to the final...how did that work

out?") but confessing he did love Allens lollies. Stuart confused the Hon. Owen Dixon for Owen Wilson (was it the golden locks of hair, the crooked nose or the comedy movies that was confusing?) and confessed he recycled a joke he had used at the local competition (which apparently you had to be a Western Australian lawyer to understand) to hilarious consequences.

Our last competitor was Damien Jones from NT, whose topic was, "Can I approach the bench?" and other useless tips I learnt from TV". Damien came prepared with props (a plastic skull no less) and was adept at TV voices (I haven't seen anyone quite repeat the line, "you can't handle the truth!" with as much emphasis as Damien since Jack Nicholson in the movie).

After the hilarity was over, it was up to the judges to deliberate...a job they took very seriously (they even stepped out of the auditorium to confer in private).

The only blemish to the night was the absence of our Tasmanian competitor, who was unable to attend at the last minute due to a personal tragedy. This was unfortunate not only because that meant not all States and Ter-

ritories were represented but also because Tasmania had the only female competitor. We wish our Tasmania winner all the very best.



Winner of the National Golden Gavel 2009, Michael Hodge of Queensland

After a few minutes of deliberation, our judges returned and the Hon. Chief Justice Wayne Martin QC took the microphone to present the winners...but first, His Honour had his own comments to make...and comments he did make...on each and every single competitor...from paying out the competitors to impersonating the "ghetto talk" himself with the finger wag, the Chief Justice had everyone in stitches and I was disappointed that we couldn't award him with first prize!

After his own hilarious comments, the Chief Justice announced the winners:

Third place: NSW's Tom Payten with "If sledging were a sport, lawyers would be world champions".

Second place: WA's very own David Leith on the his topic, "I became a lawyer to help people' and other lies I tell people at parties".

And *first place* went to...

The very first competitor, on the topic, "Farmer wants a wife, lawyer wants a life" was QLD's Michael Hodge.

WA YLC's very own Adam Ebell presented the People's Choice prize to VIC's Lachlan Clancy who's interpretation of "Lawgasm" – how to finish in 6 minutes" as a result of the greatest cheering and applause by the crowd.

Congratulations boys!

Some of the young lawyers kicked onto the formal after-party where the drinks kept flowing and the man of the night, Matthew Keogh, was joined by his parents for a celebration.

Despite having to chair a breakfast session at 8am the next morning, I couldn't help being dragged to the second place and the third...and dancing away until 2am. Ah yes, I'm still a young lawyer yet...!

Elizabeth Lee

New dance craze to hit the waves...Justice Kirby invents the "High Court shuffle"!

Upon his immediate return from the States where he had a whirlwind trip of talks, Justice Kirby once again shows why he is so popular amongst young lawyers.

Adam Ebell and I were the lucky recipients of a letter penned by His Hon-

our and I publish a segment here:

Thank you for having me as your guest at the inaugural Australian Young Lawyers' Committee luncheon in Perth.

It was a great occasion and

the best moments happened later in the day when I launched onto the dance floor with my own unique version of the High Court shuffle.

...Please send my best greetings to all the young lawyers who participated in the Perth

conference.

I had a ball!

"High Court shuffle" - I am sure it's the next "beyonce bounce" move to hit the legal profession!

All thanks to Justice Kirby!

The night I spent with Justice Kirby...

Lest there be any doubt as to the status of the former Justice of the High Court, Michael Kirby, let me put that doubt to bed right now.

He is a legend.

Having kindly accepted our invitation to be the keynote speaker at the Young Lawyers Lunch on Saturday, 19 September 2009, at the beautiful venue of the Royal Perth Yacht Club, we were terribly excited to hear that His Honour (I know I know he is no longer a Judge but I can't get out of the habit) was going to be sitting with us on the bus to the venue!

Justice Kirby sat with one lucky young lawyer and when we reached the venue, I could not help observing the throng of young lawyers nervously waiting with anticipation – wanting so much to speak to His Honour but at the same time too awe-struck to approach him.

After making an announcement that all the young lawyers should feel at ease to approach His Honour (but ensure they moved on as there were many young lawyers who were waiting to meet him), chaos broke out and it was like the red carpet...flashes went off as we all wanted a shot with Justice Kirby and I made sure the younger lawyers were ushered through so everyone got a chance at a memento.

Even though I am fully aware of how captivating Justice Kirby is as a speaker, I was not prepared to be in such close proximity (I sat next to him during the entire lunch and then was only mere metres away when he spoke) and listening to His Honour

speak for 45-minutes without a single note.

Speaking to a room full of young lawyer leaders from around the country, Justice Kirby motivated, inspired and shared with us his experiences of how he became a



“joiner” (being a Type-A personality, we “just can't help ourselves”)...starting out with being a student who just wanted better pay for articulated clerks...to acknowledging and applauding the reasoning behind the decisions in the Communist Party case and the Mabo case...to his journey all the way through to landing a job on the highest court in the land.

Justice Kirby was a charming, funny and inspirational speaker and within no time, 45-minutes went by in a flash and we sat down to enjoy a scrumptious lunch.

Needless to say, all the young lawyers at the lunch had their very own “lawgasm” (see the “Lawgasm” to penis envy...the National Golden Gavel and Australian Young Lawyer Awards 2009 had it all!” article on page 4 for a full explanation of the term)!

During lunch, Justice Kirby leaned over to me with a copy of the menu and a pen. Jokingly, I said, “did you want my autograph, Judge?” to which he responded with a nod and a cheeky smile...so the young lawyers spent the



time between the main course and dessert writing messages on our menus (the most common question I got was, “what do we call him?” and fair enough...I saw everything from “Justice Kirby” to “Mr Kirby” to “Michael” to “Kirbster”). I am sure that he will always read them fondly!

That night, Justice Kirby was awarded the Honorary Lifetime Membership into the Law Council of Australia during the Convention Gala Dinner.

If I didn't think he was a hero before this (as if!) during his acceptance speech, Justice Kirby acknowledged the great work being done by the Australian Young Lawyers Committee and me personally! Awe-struck that I was, I'm not sure whether I waved, bowed or just turned red in

my seat...

However, the highlight of my weekend in Perth came after the main course. Having approached His Honour to thank him for his kind reference to me and the Australian Young Lawyers Committee, I said, “Judge...you've got to do one more thing for me. I have told the young lawyers that my challenge tonight will be getting you on the dance floor” to which he responded immediately, “well, let's go then!”

You can imagine the surprised faces of all at the dinner seeing me leading Justice Kirby onto the dance floor... and here's a secret that most people may not have know...the man can dance! Everything from disco finger pointing to

complicated moves which I didn't even have the courage to copy (not in my 9cm high heels), Justice Kirby blew everyone away!

I don't think many young lawyers can say they've boogied with Justice Kirby...so I feel very privileged to be able to say that I have!

After dancing the night away with young lawyers, we saw His Honour off to a flood of applause and cat calls...even more impressive was that Justice Kirby was being whisked off to the airport where he was going to board the red-eye to Sydney... before flying out to the United States the next morning for speaking engagements at three universities during a whirlwind 9-day trip.

Amazing. And who said Justice Kirby was retired?

Elizabeth Lee

Changing of the guard...the meeting where it all happened

Date: Thursday
17 September 2009.

Venue: Freehills, Perth.

Time: 1pm (Perth local time).

What: The last ever AYLC meeting that I would ever chair.

Having made sure I flew in the night before (nothing more draining than chairing a 4-hour long meeting just before a two-day conference where you're required to speak in front of 300+ people), I thought I would be well

rested for the 1pm start AYLC meeting in the beautiful city of Perth...I didn't anticipate the two-hour time difference playing havoc with my sleeping pattern!

On the agenda were the usual business items such as the State/Territory reports, the AYLC newsletter, liaising with the Sections of the Law Council, the National Golden Gavel and Australian Young Lawyer Awards...at this meeting, however, in addition to this, we had a last minute discussion on the first ever National Young Lawyers Conference starting the very

next day (well, that evening if you count the President's Welcome Reception as the official opening) and held an "election" to elect the new Chair and Vice



The Committee at the 'changing of the guard' meeting at Freehills, Perth

Chair of the AYLC.

Having put his hand up in advance for the role, Liam Gaunt (SA), who could not be in attendance at the meeting, was elected unopposed. Having been an active member of the AYLC for the past two years, Liam was well positioned to lead the AYLC into the next phase.

The AYLC was also excited to obtain approval from the LCA Executive to create a new position of "Vice Chair" and David Topp (QYL) accepted the role. After having been a key contributor to the AYLC over the past two years, I know that David will do a fantastic job in this new role.

I wish Liam and David and the rest of the AYLC the best of luck in this exciting time!

We also welcomed to some new people to the AYLC – including Kim Eldridge (SA Young Lawyers), Amelia Macknay (VIC NBSC), Jonathan Augustus (ALSA) and Pouyan Afshar (Vice President) who filled the shoes of

Louise Jardim of NSWYL (Louise was lucky enough to be at the International Bar Association conference in Madrid!)

We were also joined by Adam Ebell, who had been doing an absolute stellar job in organising the Australian Young Lawyers Conference, for a last minute update on the conference.

I went into this meeting with somewhat sadness that it would be the last one I would be chairing but also with excitement as I knew the AYLC would be in good hands long after I had left.

I will stay on board until the next meeting (early 2010) but will play a smaller role – to ensure a smooth transition to Liam and David.

I wish the AYLC all the best and sincerely hope that each and every member gets out of the AYLC as much as I did.

Elizabeth Lee

What's going on down there?

In July of this year the Young Lawyer's Committee farewellled one of its members, John Moore, who moved to Melbourne to begin practice. John was a member of the Committee for a number of years and was secretary up until his departure. Many in the profession would know John and remember his participation in events put on by the Committee, such as Golden Gavels and the "Great Debate" held as part of the end of year function staged at the Old Hobart Gaol in 2008. I would like to recognise and thank John for the valuable contribution he made as part of the Committee and wish him all the best for the future.

The Committee's series of CLE lectures have

proved popular and there are still a few more to go. Recently, Magistrate Michael Daly prepared and presented a detailed paper on adducing evidence-in-chief, which was well received. I know in my practice how difficult leading evidence can sometimes be. His insights into the skills he developed in his time as an advocate, as well as his observations from his more recent time on the bench, were very helpful. I encourage anyone who missed that or any of our other lectures to contact the Law Society about obtaining a digital recorded copy. Keep an eye out in the weekly Law Society update for upcoming lectures.

On 10 July 2009 the Committee hosted another of its "Winter Long Lunches". The



Committee chose Catch as the venue and it was – as usual – a good way for those in attendance to mingle, down a few drinks and enjoy a nice meal. Tim Bugg from Dobson Mitchell and Allport spoke and we thank him for his time and particularly for his support both of the Committee and young lawyers generally. Most of those who came kicked on after to other venues, although some (like myself) made the mistake of going back to work a bit glassy eyed and thirsty for some more of the wine that had been on offer. Thank you to the members of the Committee who took the substantial time necessary to put together such an event.

Another great night was had at the annual Golden Gavel public speaking competition on 24 July 2009. David Sealy, Samantha Byles and Kirsten Siejka each (bravely) presented a 3 to 5 minute humorous talk to a large audience at the Law Society and to judges Anita Smith, Luke Rhenberger and Chief Magistrate Michael Hill. Kirsten won with her talk on "Twitter Time: How making all my work 140 characters or less would improve productivity in my practice." Samantha gave an insight into "Ways to make yourself indispensable at work" and David came up with some interesting ideas about how firms could save money in the era of the global financial crisis so as to not cut out Friday night

drinks. Again, I received a lot of very positive feedback from those who came along. It wouldn't have been possible to stage such a successful event without the significant time and effort put in by members of the Committee, which I recognise, as well as the support of the Law Society.

At our last committee meeting prior to me writing this report, we began to hatch ideas for the end of year function. It was agreed to stage another "Great Debate". This year's debate will again feature prominent members of the legal fraternity but

will be based around a "family feud"-type concept with brothers and sisters and husbands and wives "in law" battling it out. It should be another massive night (if last year was anything to go by), so do keep an eye out for an invite and for promotion. We are looking at mid-November dates at this stage.

On 21 August the Law Society and the Committee hosted Admission drinks which was a great opportunity to meet all the new practitioners, which I am sure will become an annual fixture in the professions calendar. One of the good things about being on the Committee this year is that it has kept grow-

ing. New members are always welcome, so please send me an e-mail if you would like to be a part. Mylinda Sheppard has been keeping us up-to-date with young lawyers events that are happening around the country in her role as our State's representative on the national young lawyer's forum. There are certainly a few events our interstate colleagues host that I would like to see made a part of our agenda for (maybe) late this year and next year. I thank Mylinda for her continued and valued contribution to the Committee.

Next year we hope to become involved more with

graduates as they go through the legal practice course. The Committee resolved to encourage some mentoring between young practitioners and graduates, and would offer to move admissions for graduates at their admissions ceremony at the end of the course, which I think is an excellent way to build a rapport between graduates and young practitioners during their transition into the profession.

Simon Nicholson
President
Southern Young Lawyers Committee

(article taken from recent publication of *Law Letter*).



Queensland Young Lawyers—the last 5 months in review

The last 5 months (May 2009 – September 2009)

have continued QYL's run of putting on a number of varied events of interest to young lawyers in Queensland and also building on the recent revitalization of QYL publications and stakeholder correspondence.

May 2009: After the great success that was the April 2009 War of the Wits trivia evening, the May event was a change of pace: **Lads and Ladettes to Lawyers**.

Ladette to Lady was yet another tiresome reality TV show, the premise of which was supposedly converting

bogans to high class/high culture. Inspired (if inspiration is actually the right word) by the concept, QYL provided genuinely non-bogan young lawyers in Queensland (if the rest of the country can believe that) with tips and insights into matters of good manners, networking skills, deportment and etiquette.

This was achieved by retaining the well known June Dally Watkins organisation's business/corporate division head, Jodie Bache-McLean, to present her many useful insights on the topics.

And while some may think that such concepts should be self-evident to all self-respecting lawyers, it's never

too late or inappropriate for a refresher and also to pick up some other subtleties which may not be as well and as universally understood.

Many thanks must go to the Brisbane office of Deacons for providing their office for the venue.

June 2009: the **Financial Planning Seminar** has become an entrenched item on QYL's yearly agenda, due in no small way to the great support – both financial and promotional – which we are fortunate to receive from local financial planner, John O'Brien of Visis Financial.

John was able to organize speakers on topics of personal insurances for lawyers, projected trends for the GFC dazzled stock market and some useful tax deduction tips in the lead up to the 30 June EOFY.

"The Stock Market Game" was also great fun with winners "Team Swine Flu" edging out "Coke Fiends" and "The Brisbane Chapter of the Jane Austen Book Club" in second and third place respectively.

July 2009: Another en-

trenched item on QYL's calendar is **Wine Tasting**. As each year passes the event becomes more professional and attendances rise as a result.



Pinkies up! Young Lawyers learn to develop their palate

This year we decided to book a more 'intimate' and exclusive venue – the Brisbane Polo Club's wine cellar. As a result this event was one that booked out well before the scheduled date and time.

August 2009: August is the month during which QYL traditionally holds its second annual signature event: the **Golden Gavel**.

2009 Golden Gavel Queensland was a massive



Lads and ladettes to lawyers...QYL lawyers get a 'brush up' on deportment

success; after a slightly slow start to the RSVP's, the final week saw a veritable deluge of last minute guest requests; I had told the venue one week out that 50 was our estimated number. By kick-off on the night we scored the full century of attendees (to mix football and cricket clichés).

Nine young lawyers from in and around Brisbane regaled the audience on a number of interesting topics, including:-

1. *"The Kyle Sandilands guide to tact and discretion with traumatised witnesses"*
2. *"I've misplaced my briefs"* - Why barristers and solicitors should not date
3. *"My car is more important than my legal career"* – Tales from Marcus Einfeld
4. *"It's black. Further, or in the alternative, it's white"* – The law according to Michael Jackson
5. *"Nothing's for nothing"* - The inaugural Gordon Nuttall pro bono oration
6. *"Life as a Lawyer"* - The Musical
7. *"Reintroducing the notion of fault in divorce"* - Lessons from Jordan and Peter Andre
8. *"In search of class actions"* - Matthew Johns' marketing lessons for lawyers
9. *"How to prove your case"* - Evidence 101 by Malcolm Turnbull

Your present writer outs himself as being responsible for the first and fifth of the above topics!

We also altered the chairing arrangements this year; no judge or senior barrister. Instead we asked McCullough Robertson senior associate Petrina McPherson, a former QYL president and

Golden Gavel contestant, and current participant on Brisbane's stand up comedy circuit, to judge. Petrina proved to be a fantastic event chair and also an unbelievably prescient one: by awarding the title of Queensland Golden Gavel champion to local Brisbane counsel, Michael Hodge, Michael represented Queensland at the national final in Perth and won that as well!!

Fantastic work Michael and Petrina. QYL extends sincere thanks to both of you.

Derran Moss was adjudged the runner up for Queensland's event, while for people's choice, no-one could possibly go past QYL's vice president, Steven Mackie's half singing, half dancing rendition of *"Life as a Lawyer"* - The Musical.

September 2009: QYL's September event was a debut event – **Solicitor/Barrister Networking** - a joint venture between QYL and the Bar Association of Queensland designed to get young barristers and young lawyers mixing and mingling in an informal atmosphere. Marketed with the assistance of the BAQ's email list, the event was a great success in terms of both actual numbers in attendance and also in generating an even mix of barristers and solicitors.

QYL will be holding its 2009 AGM on 29 September. In a great indication going forward, there has already been a healthy influx of nominations for committee positions – even the traditionally unpopular role of secretary has a potential nominee – which definitely bodes well for QYL's future going forward.

David Topp is the Treasurer of QYL and was elected Vice Chair of the AYLC in September 2009.

Julian Creagh is the President of QYL.

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