



↳ WORD FROM CONVENOR

↳ UPCOMING EVENTS

↳ EVENT REPORTS

↳ UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Dear Member,

## WORDFROMTHECONVENOR

The progress of women's rights and women's advancement in the legal profession has been made possible by the hard work and support of both women and men in the profession. Women in Victoria have been fortunate to have had the longstanding support of the Honourable John Harber Phillips. His Honour was VWL's inaugural patron and continued to actively support VWL in his retirement. His Honour passed away last week. We are saddened by his passing, yet richer for having known him.

Blake Dawson



CLAYTON UTZ

Allens Arthur Robinson 

CORRS  
CHAMBERS  
WESTGARTH  
lawyers



  
Maddocks

MALLESONS STEPHEN JAQUES

## UPCOMINGVWLEVENTS [\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)

VWL Regional Sexual Assault Forum  
Warrnambool 21 August 2009

On Friday 21 August 2009 the VWL Justice Committee will host its annual regional sexual assault forum in Warrnambool. The forum will feature three speakers who will discuss the services available to victims of sexual assault and current law reform and policy issues, including issues specific to indigenous people.

VWL supports the development of networks for practitioners working in the field of sexual assault, and also supports those who wish to understand the justice system for victims including health practitioners and teachers. Issues such as civil compensation for psychiatric injury arising out of sexual assault will also be discussed at the forum.

The forum will be followed by drinks and an opportunity to meet with speakers and fellow practitioners. For further information or to register your interest please contact Tracey Spiller at [tspiller@liv.asn.au](mailto:tspiller@liv.asn.au).

### Women Migrants Legal Information Project

The project aims to provide legal information specific to women migrants. We encourage members and non-members alike to join this committee. The details of the next meeting are as follows:

Date: 18 August 2009  
Time: 1pm  
Venue: LIV, 470 Bourke St, Melbourne  
Inquiries: Caitlin Tierney - tierneycl@gmail.com

## VWL Submission: Inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009

The VWL Justice Committee is preparing a submission to the Inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009. The Bill seeks to remove all discrimination from the Marriage Act 1961 on the basis of sexuality and gender identity and to permit marriage regardless of sex, sexuality and gender identity. VWL supports the Bill. Submissions are due by August 28, 2009.

The Justice Committee is establishing a Working Group to prepare the submission to the Inquiry. If you have any expertise in family law or discrimination law or would simply like to help prepare the submission, please contact Melanie Hodge, Justice Committee Co-Chair, at [melanie.hodge@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:melanie.hodge@justice.vic.gov.au) or on 0402 313 979.

## VWL Submission: Review of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act (1999) and Agency

The Federal Government has announced a review of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act 1999 (EOWW Act) and Agency. The purpose of the review is to examine the effectiveness and efficiency of the EOWW Act and the Agency in promoting equal opportunity for women in the workplace.

A key objective of the review is to consider how the Government can support employers to remove barriers to equal employment opportunity, with a view to improving outcomes for women and business.

The VWL Work Practices Committee is establishing a Working Group to prepare a submission on behalf of VWL, in response to the Government's issues paper due to be released shortly. If you would like to help with the submission please contact Amanda Stevens or Alina Humphries, Work Practice Committee Co-Chairs, at [amanda.stevens@asic.gov.au](mailto:amanda.stevens@asic.gov.au) or [ahumphreys@mbccomercial.com.au](mailto:ahumphreys@mbccomercial.com.au)

---

## EVENTREPORTS [\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)

### VWL Arts Law Wine and Cheese Evening 6 August 2009

[VWL members, law students and practitioners recently enjoyed an evening](#) of Victorian wine and cheese in the surrounds of Melbourne's New White Gallery. Attendees were treated to a fantastic presentation by Robyn Ayres, Executive Director of the Arts Law Centre of Australia.

Robyn outlined the work of Arts Law in providing legal services to the Arts community, as well as pro bono opportunities for practitioners. See Arts Law's website for more information: <http://www.artslaw.com.au>. VWL extends its thanks

to Melanie Thornton and the New White Gallery for graciously hosting the event.

---

## INTRODUCING VWL INTERNS [\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)

The Women Migrant's Legal Information Project is focused on informing newly arrived female migrants of their legal rights in Australia. The aim of the project is to produce a small publication that will address legal issues that female migrants may face. The publication will be translated into different languages, and hopefully broaden a migrant woman's understanding of her rights and enable her to seek further assistance. Yagmur and Emilia are currently researching the gaps in information provision for female migrants, and they would appreciate any feedback or advice from VWL members. They can be contacted on [ycagrier@students.latrobe.edu.au](mailto:ycagrier@students.latrobe.edu.au) or [emiliamichael1@gmail.com](mailto:emiliamichael1@gmail.com).



Emilia Michael

Emilia Michael is in her third year of an Arts/Law degree at Monash University. She is the Women's Equity Officer of the Monash Law Students' Society and has been involved in a number of key projects to raise awareness of social issues. Emilia has also worked as the National Affairs Analytical Sub- Editor of the Monash University Paper, 'iLot's Wife', and is involved with the Sunrise Children's Association, an orphanage in Nepal.



Yagmur Cagrier

Yagmur Cagrier is a fourth year Law/ Media Studies (Journalism) student at La Trobe University. She volunteers regularly at the Darebin Community Legal Centre. She has previously been a committee member of the La Trobe Law Students' Association and has written articles for online publications. She will be spending the rest of 2009 on exchange in Ottawa, Canada.

---

## UNDERTHE SPOTLIGHT [\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)

This month we profile Danya Linden,  
Senior Associate, Blake Dawson



I became a lawyer because I surprised myself and actually enjoyed the work. I studied Arts/Law because I was not sure what life after uni would hold and seemed like it would be a good solid degree which would hopefully open up hundreds of options at the end of it. Around third year I was convinced by a uni friend to give summer clerkships a go because "it really isn't that bad and mostly involves socialising and firm financed drinks". With that promise in hand, I turned up at Blake Dawson, a fresh faced clerk, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Yes, it might have been assisted by the firm financed drinks, but it was the turning point when I realised that a job in the law (and particularly employment law) may be much more rewarding than I had initially expected . . .

I am really proud of being a member of a team of such highly regarded, experienced and focussed lawyers.

You can have it all if you accept you will be very tired.

I am extremely grateful for all the things we often take for granted - in particular, the education and employment opportunities and lifestyle we have available to us here in Australia.

If I wasn't a lawyer I would love to have a glamorous, creative job like an events designer but, realistically, since I have no creative skills at all, I would probably be working in another people-orientated area like recruitment or HR.

Before I started at Blake Dawson I would have done anything to avoid wearing a suit.

The best advice I ever received was ... approach your career like a marathon not a sprint.

One of the key legal initiatives I am involved in is as a champion of a firm wide expertise program to train and support our lawyers in developing and enhancing our commercial focus in writing, language and presentation skills.

Outside of the law I am planning my wedding, enjoying long weekend walks and looking forward to more Spring sunshine.

---

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS [BACK TO TOP]

This is a reminder that membership renewals are now overdue 2009. Please forward payment as soon as possible to Tracey Spiller, [tspiller@liv.asn.au](mailto:tspiller@liv.asn.au).

[Please click here to access the renewal notice.](#)

# VWL COMMITTEES [\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)

## VWL COMMITTEES

Joining a committee is a great way to become more involved with VWL. All committee work is voluntary. The time commitment is flexible; we are looking for enthusiasm most of all. Please send your expression of interest in joining a committee(s) to our Assistant Convenor, Astrid Haban-Ber at [astrid.haban-beer@ags.gov.au](mailto:astrid.haban-beer@ags.gov.au).

Our committees are:

Justice - dealing with all justice related issues including submissions to government, organising the annual sexual assault forums, supporting indigenous law students, spearheading the Women Migrant's Legal Information Project.

Work Practices - addressing the important issues that affect women lawyers in the workplace; conducting research, and holding forums.

Networking - organising events with many organisations including the Women Barristers Association, liaising with regional lawyers networks, and encouraging members and friends events.

Communications - organising this newsletter, co-ordinating the editing and publication of Portia, our annual magazine, and liaising with the media.

Membership - Looking after our members needs and promoting VWL membership within the legal community.