



**Victorian
Women
Lawyers**



WOMEN KEEPING IN TOUCH

VWL E-NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2011

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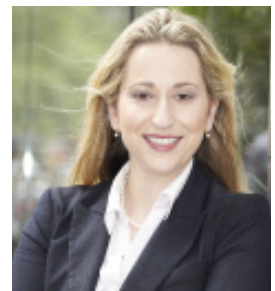
Allens Arthur Robinson

A WORD FROM THE CONVENOR

Dear Members,

Welcome to another edition of *Women Keeping In Touch!*

In 2011, we've been determined to 'reach out' to regional and rural practitioners. Therefore over the last two months, we've braved the cooler weather and headed into regional Victoria for two very special events: a networking dinner with the Geelong Law Association; and, in conjunction with the Women Barristers Association, a [CPD/CLE event in Warrnambool](#) (see the Event Report later in this month's edition). It's been wonderful to meet local practitioners in these regions and learn about their unique experiences and the challenges they face.



Kate Ashmor
2011 Convenor

And now as Winter draws to an end and many members return from sojourns to warmer destinations, we've prepared a mouth-watering smorgasbord of events for VWL members to enjoy throughout August and September. These events are either free for members or are heavily discounted. They include:

- > Our annual [Members and Guests' Evening on 10 August at The Apartment](#) (free to VWL members if you bring along a non-member to this fabulous networking event);
- > Our annual [Coming to the Bar session on 17 August at Owen Dixon Chambers](#), in conjunction with the Women Barristers Association (free for VWL members);
- > The inaugural [Animal Law Breakfast on 18 August at Maddocks](#), in conjunction with Lawyers for Animals (free for VWL members);
- > A special CPD session on [Assisting Traumatised Clients on 24 August at Lander & Rogers](#), in conjunction with the Women's Legal Service (VWL members receive a discounted rate); and
- > [WL's Fifteenth Birthday Party on 2 September at the Melbourne Museum](#), a very special evening to celebrate our achievements over the last fifteen years (VWL members receive a discounted rate).

A reminder to please [renew your membership](#) (if you haven't already) to ensure you can continue to enjoy exclusive member-only events, pricing and networking opportunities. Members who haven't renewed by 15 August will be removed from our membership and mailing databases.

Cheers,
Kate

PH: 0403 334 245

E: kate.ashmor@gmail.com

Blake Dawson

middletons |
straight talking

Maddocks

MinterEllison

MALLESONS STEPHEN JAQUES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recent Sponsor Firm Appointments

VWL is delighted to congratulate the following recent Victorian female appointees within our sponsor firms:

Allens Arthur Robinson

Kate Axup, Special Counsel, Energy & Resources
Alanah Barham, Senior Associate, Projects

Blake Dawson

Vanessa Flax, Special Counsel, Property
Meredith Gibbs, Special Counsel, Environmental
Anna Leung, Senior Associate, Banking & Finance
Phoebe Berridge, Senior Associate, Corporate
Eliza Blandford, Senior Associate, Corporate
Audine Bartlett, Senior Associate, Corporate
Quyen Le, Senior Associate, Employment
Alex Folie, Senior Associate, Litigation & Dispute Resolution
Elizabeth Hunt, Senior Associate, Construction & Infrastructure

Clayton Utz

Deborah Polites, Special Counsel, IT/IP
Lisa Billington, Senior Associate, Corporate Advisory/MA
Rebecca Hayward, Senior Associate, Construction & Major Projects
Ada Lam, Senior Associate, Taxation
Caroline van Grieken, Senior Associate, Real Estate

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

Janine Young, Partner, Workplace Relations
Frances Wheelahan, Partner, Intellectual Property, Technology & Competition
Jennifer DeJong, Partner, Litigation
Christiana McCudden, Special Counsel, Litigation

DLA Piper

Cynthia Sica, Special Counsel, Corporate
Kirin Mathews, Special Counsel, Litigation & Regulatory
Belinda Randall, Special Counsel, Litigation & Regulatory
Kristy Cappellotto, Senior Associate, Litigation & Regulatory
Nadia Cooke, Senior Associate, Corporate
Van Do, Senior Associate, Corporate
Elana O'Reilly, Senior Associate, Litigation & Regulatory
Christine Willshire, Senior Associate, Litigation & Regulatory

Maddocks

Angela Wood, Partner, Tax Controversy
Marelda Hibberd, Partner, Corporate/Commercial
Jade Rowarth, Partner, Corporate/Commercial
Lindy Richardson, Partner, Employment Safety & People
Jacquie Browning, Special Counsel, Corporate/Commercial (& VWL's Treasurer!)
Adriana Orifici, Senior Associate, Employment Safety & People
Farzeen Alam, Senior Associate, Tax Controversy
Kate Morris, Senior Associate, Public Law

Amanda Jones, Senior Associate, Corporate/Commercial
Cath Debreceny, Senior Associate, Corporate/Commercial
Prue Campton, Special Counsel, Commercial Disputes

Mallesons

Sarah Weinberg, Senior Associate, Dispute Resolution
Fleur Shand, Senior Associate, Dispute Resolution
Kate Johnson, Senior Associate, Mergers & Acquisitions
Mary Roberts, Senior Associate, Mergers & Acquisitions
Agata Bober, Senior Associate, Mergers & Acquisitions
Nicolette Vassilopoulos, Senior Associate, Mergers & Acquisitions
Natasha Cox, Senior Associate, Mergers & Acquisitions

Maurice Blackburn

Lyn Honan, Special Counsel, Costs
Janet Van Der Kolk, Special Counsel, Medical Negligence
Siobhan Keating, Special Counsel, EILS
Danielle Leo, Senior Associate, TAC
Thalia Kalaboukas, Senior Associate, Commercial
Lizzie O'Shea, Associate, Social Justice Practice
Victoria Keays, Associate, Asbestos Diseases

Middletons

Lisa Egan, Partner, Commercial Litigation
Zoe Bare, Senior Associate, Corporate & Commercial
Brihony Boan, Senior Associate, Property, Development & Construction
Jacqui Guthridge, Senior Associate, Corporate & Commercial
Hannah Jankiewicz, Senior Associate, Commercial Litigation
Elise Martello, Senior Associate, Commercial Litigation
Rebecca Roberts, Senior Associate, Corporate & Commercial

Minter Ellison

Rebecca Bedford, Partner, Dispute Resolution
Kylie Diwell, Partner, Corporate
Joanne Dunne, Partner, Taxation
Lisa Ridd, Partner, Dispute Resolution
Kate Rintoul, Special Counsel, Corporate
Trudy Ararat, Senior Associate, Dispute Resolution
Kate Sanger, Senior Associate, Construction
Jessica Heyes Senior Associate, Corporate
Bo-Mi Kim, Senior Associate, Taxation
Prani West, Senior Associate, Dispute Resolution
Gabrielle Wolf, Senior Associate, Human Resources & Industrial Relations

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Coming to the Bar, 17 August

VWL, in association with the Women Barristers Association, will be holding our annual Coming to the Bar event on Wednesday 17 August at The Essoign at Owen Dixon Chambers from 5:30pm. This event is free for VWL members, with drinks and canapés served prior to the presentations.

Click [here](#) for further details or [register online](#).

Animal Law Breakfast, 18 August

VWL, in conjunction with Animals for Lawyers, is pleased to invite members to the inaugural Animal Law Breakfast on 18 August at Maddocks from 7:30-8:45am.

This event aims to promote Animal Law in the Melbourne legal community by highlighting key issues and cases in Animal Law and how lawyers and law students can get involved.

Speakers include Ruth Hatten, Legal Counsel and Communications Officer of Voiceless - the Animal Protection Institute and Graeme McEwen from the Barristers Animal Welfare Panel.

The event will be moderated by Nichola Donovan, President of Lawyers for Animals and is free for all VWL and LFA Members.

Click [here](#) for further details or [register online](#).

Assisting Traumatized Clients CPD Workshop with the Women's Legal Service, 24 August

VWL, in association with the Women's Legal Service Victoria, invites members to attend the Assisting Traumatized Clients Workshop on 24 August from 5:45pm at Lander & Rogers. The Workshop is worth 1.5 CPD points for Practice Management or Practical Skills.

Many clients who seek assistance from a lawyer are traumatized because of the nature of their case or as a result of their prior life experiences. A client's experience of trauma can impact severely on their ability to access or cope with the demands of the legal system. Vicarious trauma is a significant workplace health and safety issue for lawyers and can lead to negative outcomes for firms due to staff illness, absenteeism and turnover as well as client dissatisfaction that stems from dealing with a 'burnt out' lawyer.

This is an interactive session where participants will have the opportunity to share their experiences, discuss issues and ask questions. Please note that numbers are strictly limited and VWL members are eligible for a special discounted rate. Drinks and finger food will be provided.

Click [here](#) for further details or [register online](#).

VWL's Fifteenth Birthday Party, 2 September

VWL is fifteen years old this year and we will be celebrating in style on Friday 2 September at the Melbourne Museum. This event promises to be a fabulous opportunity for networking with distinguished women lawyers, members of the judiciary and our friends from the Bar in a relaxed and fun environment. It is also a rare opportunity to visit the Melbourne Museum after dark.

Click [here](#) for further details or [register online](#).

SAVE THE DATE: Migrant Women Speak Out, 21 September

VWL invites you to learn more about the experiences of female migrants in Australia. This event will be held on Wednesday 21 September from 5.30pm at Maurice Blackburn Lawyers.

Join speakers Marion Lau OAM JP and lawyer Azmeena Hussain as they participate in a conversation about the role the legal profession can play in supporting female migrants.

Save the date and keep an eye out for further details.

OTHEREVENTS

Towards Success in the Law: ReLaunch you Career Conference, 22-23 September

This inaugural two-day conference, an initiative of the LIV, VWL, VicBar, WBA and ACLA, will provide participants with an opportunity to assess where they are at in their legal careers, explore other opportunities within the law or transition from a break and return to the profession. Participants will complete a career assessment tool prior to attending, and this will assist with career planning on the day.

The conference will address current industry trends and opportunities, perspectives for different career paths and tools that will enable participants to identify risks and opportunities, plan their next steps and decide whether to stay and grow, move or go. There will be streams offered for those currently working or wanting to move into private practice, the Bar or in-house. The conference will be followed by networking drinks.

Click [here](#) for conference details and online registration. Special rates are available for VWL members.

EVENTREPORTS

Warrnambool CPD/CLE Seminars & Networking Dinner, 22 July

VWL recently teamed up with the Women Barristers Association to present two CPD/CLE sessions at Deakin Uni's Warrnambool Campus. The sessions on Ethics and Professional Skills were followed by a networking dinner at a fantastic local restaurant. About 40 people, including local VWL members and practitioners from Warrnambool, Colac, Hamilton and Horsham attended this pioneering regional event, a feature in our year of 'reaching out' to rural and regional lawyers.

VWL gratefully acknowledges the support of the WBA, with special thanks to WBA Convenor and presenter Suzanne Kirton, and presenters Anna Robertson and Alexandra Golding. Thank you to local members for their attendance and to Deakin Uni's for graciously hosting the event. Photographs are available to view on our [Facebook Page](#).

Reforming Australia's Equality Laws – Equality Law Conference, 26 July

On 26 July 2011 the Human Rights Law Centre, in association with RMIT and the Department of the Attorney General, hosted a conference focusing on best practice models and frameworks for the promotion of equality in Australia. The conference was arranged in light of the Federal Government's ongoing project to consolidate of Federal anti-discrimination laws.

Akane Kanai, Francesca Steele and Emily Hart attended the conference on behalf of Victorian Women Lawyers, along with representatives from government, community groups, NGO's, private practice and the corporate world.

Conference topics included 'International Trends and Best Practice Models of Promoting Equality' presented by the Conference's keynote speaker, Dr Dimitrina Petrova, Executive Director of the Equal Rights Trust, an international organisation based in London which aims to combat discrimination and promote equality as a fundamental human right and basic principle of social justice.

Some of Australia's leading voices on equality issues took part in panel discussions on topics such as Access to Justice, Tackling Systemic Discrimination, and Promoting Equality in Australia – Perspectives from Public, Private and Community Sectors.

The Conference provided a fantastic opportunity for debate, sharing of ideas and forging of links between a variety of groups and organisations involved in the reform of Australia's equality laws.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR PORTIA 2011

Portia is VWL's annual publication comprising event recaps, committee reports and individual contributions on various topics that explore VWL achievements during the year.

This year, to complement our diverse membership and the diverse range of VWL events on offer in 2011, Portia will focus on the theme 'reaching out'. We welcome all written contributions from members based on this theme (500 to 2000 words in length).

We are particularly interested in hearing from rural, regional and suburban practitioners.

To discuss your contribution or any questions you may have, please contact Communications Committee Co-Chair [Jessica Saunders](#). Previous editions of Portia can be viewed [here](#).

Contributions must be received by no later than Monday 3 October.

MEMBER UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Every month, WKIT will feature a profile of one of our members as well as a lawyer from one of our sponsor firms. This way, we will introduce you to a broad spectrum of female lawyers who are proud to be associated with VWL.

This month we profile **Jennifer Bowdern, Legal Support Planner** at [Bayside City Council](#).

I became a lawyer because... I was addicted to watching LA Law and I wanted to wear nice suits like Grace Van Owen. Seriously, I wanted a change from teaching and law seemed like a good idea at the time. I also loved Perry Mason as a child and am still greatly moved by the court case in "To kill a Mocking Bird". I guess I just had to be an advocate. I also am grateful that I live in a country where the rule of law prevails.



I am really proud of... getting my law degree because it was six long years of hard slog, working full time teaching senior English at a Girls Grammar School and studying part time for two years, and then finally studying full time for the last two years of my degree which made me very poor. I really don't know how I did it! However I did get very thin from the stress. I was the first person in my family to get a university degree, a BA from Monash and later a LLB.

You can have it all... but it comes at a cost. You simply have to prioritise what is important in your life.

I am extremely grateful for... having parents who always encouraged me to aim high and emphasised the importance of education for women.

A key mentor who influenced my career is... Susan Pryde. She managed to make being a lawyer look so effortless and glamorous. Susan encouraged and mentored me during my studies. She also moved my admission to practice in the Supreme Court, which was very special. As she has known me since I was 16 she could really vouch for my bona fides and good character. She also insisted, no excuses tolerated, that I simply had to become a member of VWL. I joined during my articles at Maddocks.

If I wasn't a lawyer... I would definitely be a singer. I love performing! A desperate Thespian lies under my skin. Never invite me to karaoke!!!

Before I started at my present position... I worked at the Department of Infrastructure (now DSE) where I was seconded to the Minister of Planning's Office, the Hon Rob McLellan. It was great fun!

The best advice I ever received was... never give up and if you get more than 51% on a law exam you are working too hard. The latter I found a great comfort when studying property law which was my "bete noire". I managed to get 104% cumulatively over two years.

One of the key legal initiatives I am involved in is... trying to improve the scope of submissions and advocacy at VCAT. I represent Council at VCAT on planning appeals which is very challenging as we have a very demanding and well educated municipality to represent. I am encouraging and training Planners at Bayside to represent Council at VCAT.

Outside of the law I enjoy... I love dining out, films, travel, theatre and socialising and spending time with my family and friends.

SPONSOR UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

This month we profile **Allison Davis, Senior Associate** in the **Workplace Relations Group** at [Clayton Utz](#):



I became a lawyer because... it was all I ever really wanted to do. I decided to practice in the area of workplace relations and employment as it is such a diverse area of law and it is relevant to every day life.

I am really proud of... the great relationships both professionally and personally that I have developed through work.

You can have it all... if you are determined enough

I am extremely grateful for... my close friends and family. I think it is important to have a life outside work as it makes working harder so much easier.

A key mentor who influenced my career is... a family friend who is a criminal barrister. I did work experience with him when I was 16 and he helped reinforce that I did like the law but that perhaps criminal law wasn't for me!

If I wasn't a lawyer... I would do something completely different that didn't involve working in an office.

Before I started at Clayton Utz... I worked at Trindade Farr and Pill Lawyers, a boutique workplace relations firm.

The best advice I ever received was... give everything you do 100%.

One of the key legal initiatives I am involved in is... I am the only female member of the Appeals Tribunal for the Essendon District Football League. I like football as I have grown up with 2 brothers and a dad who love it. I have enjoyed being on the Appeals Tribunal as I find it interesting to see the way in which the law and sport interact even at a local level. I think it's great that gradually more and more women are getting involved in the AFL and I would like to continue to be a part of it.

Outside of the law... I love playing netball, shopping, spending time with my fiancé, family and friends and supporting Carlton Football Club (who are definitely going to win a premiership in the next few years... I hope!).

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 email your expression of interest in joining a Committee to our Secretary, [Beth Hilton-Thorp](#).

Our Committees are:

Justice - dealing with all justice related issues including special events such as the annual sexual assault forums and supporting indigenous law students.

Law Reform - monitoring law reform proposals and coordinating submissions on behalf of VWL.

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

Networking - organising events with affiliated organisations including the Women Barristers Association, liaising with regional lawyers' networks, and coordinating annual events including the Members and Guests' Evening and VWL's End of Year Celebration.

Women Migrants Legal Information Project - planning and producing various publications (in several languages) to assist women migrants with key legal rights and support.

Women in Government (WiG) – VWL's newest Committee, in conjunction with the Victorian Government Solicitor's Office, plans events and initiatives to assist female practitioners working for public authorities and agencies.

Communications - organising this newsletter, coordinating the editing and publication of Portia, our annual magazine, maintaining VWL's website and liaising with the media.

Membership - looking after our members' needs, leading VWL policy and protocol development and promoting VWL membership within the legal community.