



vwl^{ist}

Welcome to the latest issue of VWList for 2020.

VWL remains committed to keeping members connected and supported during these challenging times.

We will continue to deliver our events and projects digitally over the coming weeks and months.

Keep up to date with our activities via our [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) page.

VWL encourages our members to contact us if we can be of further support.

NEWS

STATEMENTS ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE PROFESSION - THE HEADS OF JURISDICTION OF VICTORIA'S COURTS AND TRIBUNALS, AWL AND VWL

The Heads of Jurisdiction of Victoria's Courts and Tribunals recently issued a joint statement on the importance of safe, healthy and respectful workplaces.

"..... We are united in our commitment to providing a positive and inclusive environment for all who work with us. Together, we will continue to build a culture of respect in our courts and tribunals."

Read more [here](#)

VWL endorses the recent statement by Australian Women Lawyers (AWL) on sexual harassment in the profession, recognising the bravery of women who come

EVENTS

JUSTITIA LAWYERS AND CONSULTANTS

RIDING OUT THE PANDEMIC - RECAP

On 27 May, VWL in conjunction with sponsor firm Justitia Lawyers & Consultants hosted a webinar '*Riding out the pandemic: from the perspective of the employer*'. Four law firm leaders shared their insights and experiences over a virtual coffee on navigating the various stages of the pandemic and how they have adapted, pivoted and kept teams and staff supported and engaged.

If you missed the live webinar, a recording is available on the members' section of our website under 'videos'.

WORK-LIFE INTEGRATION AND THE FUTURE OF WORK - RECAP

PROJECTS

K&L GATES

VWL & WBA LAW STUDENT MENTORING PROGRAM 2020

VWL and the Women Barristers' Association (WBA) are proud to announce the commencement of the 2020 Law Student Mentoring Program.

We are delighted to have expanded the program, matching 115 mentors and mentees this year.

The program is endorsed by the Honourable Justice Rita Incerti and sponsored by K & L Gates. VWL thanks K & L Gates for its support.

Stay tuned for our Mentor Coaching Session and Mentoring Program Launch with K & L Gates.

DIVERSITY: LIV WELCOMES 13-GROUP

forward with complaints.

In 2019, AWL produced a paper tabling recommendations to the profession for addressing sexual harassment. Standing with AWL, VWL calls on the profession to implement these recommendations, and also on the government to act swiftly on the recommendations of the Respect@Work national inquiry.

Read the statement [here](#).

Further, AWL and VWL Board members, together with over 500 women, recently signed an open letter addressed to the Honourable Chief Justice Kiefel expressing gratitude for the decisive action taken by Her Honour and the Court's Principal Registrar Ms Phillipa Kelly, and for treating the complainants with dignity, compassion and respect.

AWL and VWL Board members also joined hundreds of women, in signing an open letter written to the Commonwealth Attorney-General, the Honourable Christian Porter MP, copied to the Honourable Chief Justice Kiefel, calling for:

1. an independent judicial complaints and oversight body; and,
2. transparency in judicial appointments.

Read the letter to the Attorney-General [here](#) and the letter to the Chief Justice [here](#).

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

VWL appreciates our members' continued support and engagement with our events and projects, including

On 5 June, VWL held a free webinar on integrating work and home life. This webinar was held in response to requests from members and the legal community to hear voices from women, including mothers, "who have gone out on their own".

The webinar was delivered by Emma Heuston and Lauren Cassimatis who are both law firm proprietors and mothers.

Emma and Lauren shared their experiences and insights on life and the law, including how they integrated their high-performing careers with being a mum and other aspects of their lives.

A video of the event is now available in the members' section of our website.



CLAYTON UTZ

CLERKSHIP AND GRADUATE MASTERCLASS WITH CLAYTON UTZ - RECAP

On 24 June 2020, VWL held an informative panel discussion with sponsor firm Clayton Utz on mastering clerkships, graduate roles and life as a junior lawyer.

Three panelists from Clayton Utz shared their tips and tricks on clerkship applications, the clerkship experience, working as a graduate lawyer at a top tier law firm, and how to manage the pressure of working in an often challenging and fast-paced environment.

The discussion was moderated by VWL's

NETWORK

Special interest law associations are coming together to coordinate their efforts and create a strong voice for diversity and inclusion in the law.

On behalf of VWL, our President Deborah Kliger is proud to join the LIV's Network of Cultural and Diverse Association Presidents.

This Network includes 13 special interest law groups, including the Asian Australian Law Association and LIVOut.

Read more about this Network and its objectives [here](#).

VWL VICE PRESIDENT VOLUNTEERS WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

In March, VWL's Vice President Vanessa Shambrook volunteered for not for profit, *Habitat for Humanity Australia*.

Vanessa initially planned to travel to the village of Nepalgunj, Nepal, to help build homes for women who were separated, widowed or abandoned and faced social stigma. She raised a total \$2,600 towards the build.

Due to COVID-19, Vanessa was unable to make the trip to Nepal. Instead, she put her hand up to volunteer in bushfire affected parts of South Australia.

Vanessa got her hands dirty and assisted with both the clean up and photography for the day. Her photographs can be seen in the latest edition of the Habitat newsletter.

those we have offered digitally over recent months.

Our new membership year runs from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

VWL is thrilled to deliver a host of free online and accessible events, projects and initiatives this membership year.

Membership offers many benefits including the opportunity to participate in our mentoring programs and Warren Moot and access to our members only resources.

In recognition of the impacts of COVID-19 on our members' engagement with VWL, we have elected to **discount membership fees** for all members who will attend VWL's events by electronic means for any part of the 2020-2021 year **by 20%**.

To continue receiving member benefits, please log on to your member profile and renew your membership [here](#).

RECENT APPOINTMENTS TO THE SCV AND CCV

VWL welcomes Ms Kathryn Lucy Stynes, who was recently appointed to the Supreme Court of Victoria Trial Division.

VWL also welcomes Sarah Leighfield, Fiona Todd and My Anh Tran for their appointments to the County Court of Victoria.

VWL congratulates their Honours on being appointed.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS 2020

Executive Committee member, Stephanie Pasharis.

VWL thanks Clayton Utz for sponsoring this event and to the special guest speakers for their honest and insightful discussion.

FOLEY'S LIST

NETWORKING AND WORKING REMOTELY - HOW TO SURVIVE AND THRIVE FROM HOME

VWL is holding a collaborative panel discussion today at 1:00pm on the challenges and opportunities which come from networking and working remotely, and how you can not only survive from your home office, but truly thrive during this time.

Each of our panelists will share their personal experiences, strategies and lessons on how they balance working from home, maintaining their professional networks and managing other aspects of their busy lives. This will be an online pre-recorded panel discussion. Link will be emailed to registered attendees 24 hours prior to the event.

Registrations for this event have closed. A recording of this event will be shared on our social media and website.

CPD RESOURCES

THINK FOLEY'S PODCAST

Foley's List continues to deliver Continued Professional Development during these difficult times with 'Think Foley's' podcast, dedicated to providing

All funds from Vanessa's efforts have still been donated towards Nepalese women's homes.

Read [more](#).



SPONSORS



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

VWL thanks our sponsors for their ongoing support.

Each month we celebrate the achievements and people of our sponsor firms by spotlighting their leading female lawyers.

This month we celebrate the appointment of Anne O'Loughlin to Managing Principal and Bonnie Phillips to Head of Department (Family Law) at sponsor firm Coulter Roache.

Read Anne O'Loughlin and Bonnie Phillips' spotlights [here](#).

WELLNESS SUPPORT

With most of our members working from home over the coming months, we will share content and resources to nourish your minds and keep you entertained and feeling connected.

VWL congratulates the women lawyers who were recognised in the 2020 Queen's Birthday Honours (Victoria):

- The Honourable Justice Susan Coralie Kenny;
- Jennifer Jane Batrouney QC; and
- Carolyn Dianne Douglas, Victoria.

VWL also congratulates CEO and Managing Partner of sponsor firm MinterEllison Annette Kimmitt on being awarded an Order of Australia.

AWL CONFERENCE

We are delighted to share that AWL's National Conference will be held digitally this year. For the first time, the conference will be **free** for registered attendees.

The Conference will run from **8:00am on 28 August 2020 to 5:00pm on 29 August 2020.**

The Conference will cover important issues for women in the law as the legal landscape and social and financial climate change rapidly.

Watch this space for further details on the Conference including how to register your attendance.

informative and convenient on-the-go CPD listening for legal professionals.

Listen to the latest episodes [here](#)

ARTICLES

ACCORDING TO MERIT: WHEN DISASTER STRIKES FOR WOMEN

VWL Executive Committee Member Eleanor Weir has been published in the June issue of the *Law Institute Journal*.

Eleanor discusses the exacerbation of gender inequality during times of crisis.

Read the full article [here](#).

ACCORDING TO MERIT: RESPECT AT WORK - THE TIME IS NOW

VWL Publications Committee Member, Jessica Awad, was published in the latest issue of the *Law Institute Journal*.

Jessica discusses the findings and recommendations of recent Respect@Work: Sexual Harassment National Inquiry Report (2020) released in March. Jessica explains that in order to eliminate sexual harassment in the profession, we must address the attitudes which underlie sexual harassment.

Read [here](#)

We have put together a digital care package with our top-rated books, podcasts and resources. We hope you enjoy them.

Books

- *The Tracksuit Economy* by Emma Houston, The Remote Expert;
- *Option B* by Sheryl Sandberg; and
- *Daily Mantras to Ignite Your Purpose* by Lisa Messenger.

Podcasts

- *The Guilty Feminist* by Deborah Frances-White;
- *Unlocking Us* by Brené Brown;
- *Happy Lawyer, Happy Life* by Clarissa Rayward; and
- *Money Power Freedom* hosted by Cal Wilson and Santilla Chingaipe from Victorian Women's Trust.

Mental health support

- *Smiling Mind* meditation app;
- *Mind-spot* online free mental health clinic - 1800 614 434 ; and
- *Beyond Blue Coronavirus Mental Health Support Service* - 1800 512 348.

Victorian Women Lawyers acknowledges the traditional Aboriginal owners of country, recognises their continuing connection to land, water and community and pays respect to Elders past and present.



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