



Welcome to the first issue of VWList for 2021.

We have had a busy start to the year already and cannot wait to show you what we have in store for the year. We hope to see you at our events and invite you to participate in our projects.

This year, VWL's theme is Resilience and Re-emergence for women lawyers, and all women generally, post pandemic. We will continue to advocate for the end of sexual harassment in the legal profession, as well as keeping the gender pay gap on the agenda, engaging with and celebrating diverse women in law, and promoting wellbeing and healthy work cultures as we return to in person work.

VWL thanks each of you, including all of our members and sponsors for continuing to support and engage with VWL for what has been a very challenging past year.

Keep up to date with our activities via our [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) page. Don't forget to tag your posts with [#victorianwomenlawyers!](#)

NEWS



BRAZEN HUSSIES VIRTUAL FILM SCREENING AND LIVE Q&A

VWL, in collaboration with Womens Barristers Association and Women's Legal Service Victoria, welcomes you to a screening of Brazen Hussies, a documentary written and directed by Catherine Dwyer, Executive Produced by Sue Maslin AO and Produced by Phillipa Campey and Andrea Foxworthy.

PROJECTS



THE FUNDING NETWORK VIRTUAL LIVE

VWL was delighted to partner with The Funding Network's (TFN) Live Melbourne event for an evening of inspiration and collective giving on 29 February 2021.

VWL members' generous efforts supported TFN, the IOOF Foundation and Waratah Foundation to present a high-impact, virtual crowd-funded event.

PUBLICATIONS



PORTIA 2020

All members should have now received their hardcopy of the 2020 edition of *Portia*. An [electronic version](#) is available on our website also.

The pages of *Portia 2020* are dotted with stunning works of portraiture submitted by women artists as entries to the 2020 Portia Geach Memorial Award, including the winning piece by Caroline Zilinsky, a portrait of dancer

A documentary celebrating the bold women of the Women's Liberation Movement who reignited Australia's feminist revolution

Join us on **Wednesday, 31 March at 5:50pm** with your dinner or a snack for the screening.

Join us at 7:30pm for a special live Q&A with Catherine and Executive Producer Sue Maslin.

Free for members of VWL & WBA. \$10 non-members

Register [here](#)



MINDFULNESS SERIES: YOGA AND MEDITATION

Wellbeing and resilience are increasingly recognised as imperative to building and maintaining a successful and rewarding career, especially for women working or studying in the legal field.

Victorian Women Lawyers is pleased to invite you to join us for a yoga and meditation session with Emily Rose, Owner and Yoga Teacher at Emily Rose Yoga. This event is specifically designed to equip members of the legal profession with techniques to assist you manage stress throughout your personal and professional lives. ‘

Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothes to join Emily for a guided meditation session followed by a series of stretches and movement exercises.

These exercises are suitable to complete with children and

Three social enterprises discussed how their organisations support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in the community through education and leadership.

In total, \$176,600 was raised towards these three important organisations and the impactful work they do in the community.

For those who were unable to attend, you can watch the recorded event [here](#)

2021 PROFESSIONAL MENTORING PROGRAM APPLICATIONS CLOSED

We are pleased to announce that we have now received approximately 80 mentor and mentee applications.

VWL thanks all mentors who have graciously volunteered their time to take part in the program.

Applications have now closed and the matching process between mentees and mentors will occur in the next couple of weeks.

Building on the success of the VWL Law Student Mentoring Program, VWL was proud to relaunch the Professional Mentoring Program in 2021, designed for graduate or admitted members of the profession.

With the gradual return to the office, we envisage greater flexibility in meeting with your mentee and investment of your time with existing obligations. It is an exciting initiative and an opportunity to impart your knowledge and learnings from your career to

Anthea Pilko titled '*Anthea May or May Not*'.

VWL extends gratitude to all sponsors, members and supporters for contributing to this edition.

LAW REFORM

INQUIRY INTO THE JUDGES' PENSIONS AMENDMENT (PENSION NOT PAYABLE FOR MISCONDUCT) BILL 2020

VWL's Law Reform Committee Co Chairs, Andrea de Silva and Claire Rapson, recently made a submission to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry into the Judges' Pensions Amendment Bill 2020.

While VWL supports the Amendment, VWL recognises the need for additional complementary approaches to strengthen and effectively deliver on the purpose of the Amendment and prevent sexual harassment of women in the legal profession.

VWL supports all action taken to address judicial misconduct and particular sexual harassment in the legal profession, but primarily supports prevention and gender equality as a means of eradicating sexual harassment, including the adoption of government primary prevention strategies to facilitate broader cultural and social shifts needed to address gender equality.

You can read the full submission [here](#).

YOO-RROOK JUSTICE COMMISSION ANNOUNCED

are for people of all levels of experience and fitness.

Sessions will be held between 1:10pm and 1:50pm on 7 April, 14 April and 21 April 2021. Free for members, \$5 per session for non-members.

This series is proudly sponsored by Svenson Barristers.

Register [here](#) for the 7th April, [here](#) for the 14th April, or [here](#) for the 21st April.

GATEHOUSE

LEGAL RECRUITMENT

GATEHOUSE INSIGHTS INTERVIEW WITH VWL PRESIDENT - VANESSA SHAMBROOK

On 16 February 2021, VWL's President, Vanessa Shambrook, was interviewed by Louise Hvala, the CEO of Gatehouse Legal Recruitment.

Vanessa discussed her journey in law, her personal challenges with mental health and spoke about the importance of pursuing a career that you are passionate about.

She also revealed how VWL has assisted her in building a strong support network, and the importance of self-care.

You can listen to the full interview [here](#).

VWL OPPORTUNITIES

SEEKING VWL JUSTICE COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

VWL's Justice Committee is seeking a second Co-Chair. An exciting opportunity to

help female-identifying mentees in the profession.

A launch of the program will be held in the coming months for mentors and mentees.



VIRTUAL LEGAL LANEWAY BREAKFAST 2021

On 3 February 2021, our Executive Committee joined Victoria Law Foundation virtually to welcome the new year via the Legal Laneway Breakfast.

VWL was pleased to hear from Lynne Haultain, Executive Director of Victoria Law Foundation, who spoke on supporting and improving diversity in the profession including gender and culture diversity, those living with disabilities, identifying as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, working parents, regional and suburban lawyers. VWL agrees with Lynne's important statement that "*opportunities are lost when some of us are left out*".

This year, the Breakfast raised funds for Igniting Change, an organisation that has been providing practical support during the COVID-19 pandemic to vulnerable community legal centre clients, prisoners re-entering the community and others without access to essential resources. You can read more about Igniting Change [here](#).

You can watch a video of the breakfast [here](#)

VWL welcomes the announcement of the Yoorrook Justice Commission in Victoria. Truth-telling is long overdue and has been called for by our First Nations People for many years. This Commission will enable a shared understanding of our colonial history and its ongoing impacts, and the systemic inequalities which continue to pervade all areas of our social, political, cultural and economic life. There is much left to be done, but true reconciliation cannot be achieved until the truth is heard and acknowledged.

You can sign up to be a commissioner or read more [here](#).

SEXUAL HARRASSMENT TASKFORCE ANNOUNCED

VWL welcomes the establishment of the new Sexual Harassment Taskforce to scrutinise the reporting of sexual harassment across all industries. As the multiple recent allegations of sexual assault and harassment in our federal politics have reminded us, sexual harassment remains a significant and pervasive issue across our society, including in the legal profession. We look forward to reading the Taskforce's report, and continuing to contribute to the conversation on ending sexual harassment.

You can read more [here](#).

MATERIAL

Books to kick start 2021

- *A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf

help explore, evaluate and publicly comment on justice related issues for female identifying lawyers and members of the community by leading the Justice Committee to host a range of events and projects and contributions to parliamentary submissions.

Please submit a maximum 300 word expression of interest to vwl@vwl.asn.au by no later than **9 April 2021** to apply. You can read further about the Justice Committee [here](#) or contact us to find out more.

SEEKING OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

VWL's Outreach Committee is seeking committee members. An excellent opportunity to contribute to ensuring that members in regional and suburban areas have access to VWL, by undertaking projects to broaden our regional and suburban memberships, and digital offerings. Read more about the Outreach Committee [here](#). Please submit a maximum 200 word expression of interest to vwl@vwl.asn.au to before **16 April 2021** to apply.

- *Sister Outsider* by Audre Lorde
- *My Own Words* by Ruth Bader Ginsburg
- *Hood Feminism* by Mikki Kendall
- *We Should All Be Feminists* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- *The Sun and Her Flowers* by Rupi Kaur
- *This Will Be My Undoing: Living at the Intersection of Black, Female, and Feminist in (White) America* by Morgan Jerkins

Podcasts for your commute

- Behind the Grind Podcast;
- Tiddas 4 Tiddas;
- Women's Media Center Live with Robin Morgan;
- Pretty for an Aboriginal;
- Peace Lab 2020 with Elva Zhang; and
- Secret Feminist Agenda.

Mental Health and Sexual Harassment Support

- 1800Respect 1800 737 732
- Sexual Assault Crisis Line 1800 806 292
- Linceline Australia 13 11 14
- *Smiling Mind* meditation app; and
- *Mind-spot* online free mental health clinic - 1800 614 434



helping women in law and through law

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.

K&L GATES



Maddocks



MinterEllison



SVENSON
BARRISTERS

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