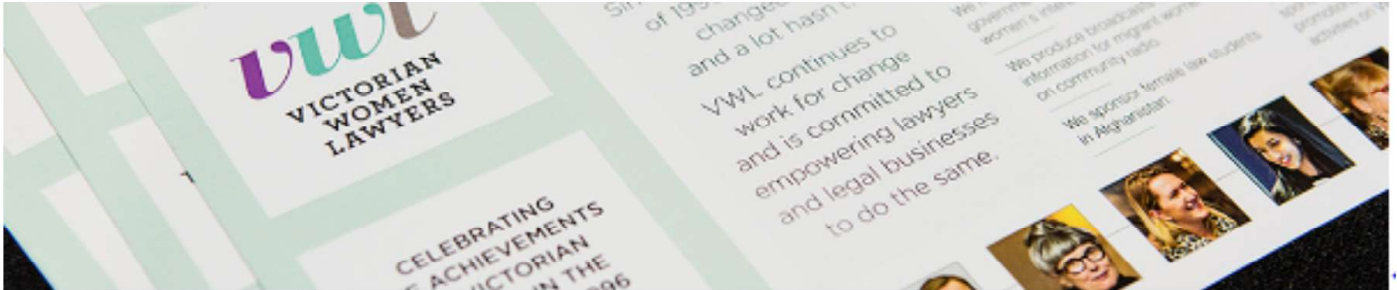


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Welcome to the May 2022 edition of VWLlist.

Last month, Victorian Women Lawyers returned to in-person events, kicking off the year with the *Return to Work Guide Launch* and *Networking Makes its Comeback*. Our annual *Dame Roma Mitchell Memorial Lunch* saw almost 400 members of the legal profession attend, with guests hearing Elizabeth Broderick AO and Michelle Cheng discuss the topics of leadership and equality.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events; details can be found below. We have also launched our annual Law Student Mentoring Program - applications to participate as mentor or mentee are now open.

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, INNOVATION & THE LAW

VWL and the Digital Law Association invite you to a panel discussion on emerging technologies, innovation and the law. This event is proudly sponsored by Allens.

## PROJECTS

### K&L GATES

#### LAW STUDENT MENTORING PROGRAM: APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Applications to participate in this year's Law Student Mentoring Program as a **mentor or mentee** are now open. Places are limited.

The Law Student Mentoring Program is a joint initiative

## SPONSOR NEWS



#### SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: FOLEY'S LIST

VWL thanks our sponsors for their ongoing support.

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

VWL is excited to announce **Joni Pirovich**, Principal Blockchain & Digital Assets Pty Ltd, **Samira Tollo**, Chief Technology Officer and Co-Founder of Elbaite and **Elyse Adams**, Partner-elect at Allens in the technology and data practice, as our panellists.

This event will be held on Tuesday, 10 May 2022 at 6pm at Allens at 101 Collins Street, Melbourne.

Register [here](#). This event is free for VWL members.



### A MULTI DISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO RESOLVING FAMILY VIOLENCE

Join VWL on Tuesday, 17 May 2022 at 12pm for a webinar on a multi disciplinary approach to resolving family violence. This event is held in partnership with our sponsor Nicholes Family Lawyers.

Hear from panellists **Helen Matthews** of Women's Legal Service Victoria, **Jane O'Hanion** of WIRE, **Julie**

run by VWL and the Women Barristers' Association, and is sponsored by K&L Gates.

Now in its 15th year, the program is a wonderful opportunity for women law students to gain insight into working in the law, develop valuable networks and share ideas with mentors in the legal profession.

Find out more about the Program and apply to be a mentor or mentee [here](#).

## PAST EVENTS



### DAME ROMA MITCHELL MEMORIAL LUNCH

On 28 April 2022, VWL and the Women Barristers Association held their annual Dame Roma Mitchell Memorial Lunch, proudly sponsored by Gatehouse Legal Recruitment.

Guests heard a discussion between **Elizabeth Broderick AO**, former Sex Discrimination Commissioner, and **Michelle Cheng** of the SBS, focusing on the topics of leadership and diversity.

For the month of May, we spotlight Maree Caminiti, Barristers' Clerk at Foley's List, who loves to help new barristers build confidence and thriving practices.

Read Maree's spotlight [here](#).



## PUBLICATONS

### ACCORDING TO MERIT: CONSIDERING INTERSECTIONALITY

This month, VWL's Diversity and Inclusion Committee Co-chair Stephanie Vejar contributed an article to the Law Institute Journal, describing the discrimination faced by women whose diverse backgrounds, abilities or cultures intersect with their gender.

You can read the full article [here](#), as well as past articles contributed to the LIJ by VWL members [here](#).

## AUTUMN MATERIAL



**Borninkhof** of PANDA and **Louise Simms** of Safe and Equal as to why people need access to a range of support services when experiencing family violence, and how these different services are actually connected.

Register for this free webinar [here](#).



## EMPOWERING WOMEN: BOOK LAUNCH

You're invited to join us for the launch of *Empowering Women: From Murder and Misogyny to High Court Victory*, co-hosted by VWL and Maurice Blackburn Lawyers.

The book is an inspiring story of activism in action and how the death of one man, security guard Steve Rogers, helped change the future of women's rights in Australia, ultimately leading to the decriminalisation of abortion and introduction to safe access zones throughout Australia.

Authors **Dr Susie Allanson** and **Lizzie O'Shea** along with **Fiona**

**or** readership and equality. Elizabeth spoke about the challenges facing women lawyers in reaching and maintaining leadership roles, her current role as United Nations Special Rapporteur, and her time as Australia's Sex Discrimination Commissioner.

A recording of the event can be found [here](#). Photographs can be found [here](#).



## RETURN TO WORK GUIDE LAUNCH

On 6 April 2022, VWL's Work Practice Committee held a panel discussion which explored the challenges and experiences faced by parents going on, and returning from, parental leave. The event launched VWL's practical 'Parental Leave in Practice. A 'How To' Guide for Lawyers'.

Thank you to our host and sponsor firm Maurice Blackburn, our panellists **Honour Judge Claire Quin**, **Jayne Parker**, **Catherine Brooks** and **Daniel Victory**, along with our moderator, **Natalie Campbell**.

## AUTUMN READS

- *Dropbear* by Evelyn Araluen;
- *Bodies of Light* by Jennifer Down;
- *No Document* by Anwen Crawford;
- *Take Care* by Eunice Andrada;
- *Homecoming* by Elfie Shiosaki;
- *Stone Fruit* by Lee Lai.

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING



## VWL RUN CLUB

To promote health and wellbeing, the VWL Networking Committee invites you to join our Run Club. Grab your running gear and join us every Monday at 6:00pm at Federation Square, just outside the Transport Hotel

All levels of running are welcome! Sign up on our website [here](#).

**Patten MP** who championed the introduction of safe access zones will participate in a panel discussion and audience Q&A hosted by **Jen Kanis**.

Register for this free event [here](#).

**GATEHOUSE**  
LEGAL RECRUITMENT

### MEMBERS & GUESTS EVENING

VWL is celebrating its long history of supporting and advancing women in law with its annual Members & Guests Evening. This event is proudly sponsored by Gatehouse Legal Recruitment.

VWL is proud to announce **Penny Locaso** will be our guest speaker for this event with the tagline: *The busy shall inherit the future but the intentionally adaptable will shape it.*

This event will be held on Thursday, 5 May at 6pm at The Garden State Hotel. Tickets are \$10 for VWL members and \$15 for non-members. Register [here](#). Tickets are limited.

Photographs of the event can be found [here](#). A recording will be uploaded to our website shortly.



### NETWORKING MAKES ITS COMEBACK

On 7 April 2022, VWL's Networking Committee held its first in-person networking event for 2022, "Networking Makes its Comeback". And indeed, it did!

100 guests were greeted by 100 colourful balloons, which served as a game for guests to find others with the same coloured balloon. Keynote speaker **Emily Barnes**, Founder of and Mediator at Dewberry, led an intimate conversation about building your own authentic brand. **Anna Svenson**, Director of Svenson Barristers, then joined Emily for an inspiring and educational Q&A session.

Thank you to Svenson Barristers for sponsoring this event. Photographs of the event can be found [here](#).

**STOP THE EXPANSION OF  
THE DAME PHYLLIS  
FROST CENTRE**

The Dame Phyllis Frost Centre (DPFC) is the State's only maximum security prison for women. On 20 April 2022, VWL's members and guests, in conjunction with FlatOut who are running the Homes Not Prisons campaign, heard from panellists **Vickie Roach, Jill Prior, Sara Stilianos** and **Karen Fletcher** regarding concerns about the expansion of DPFC and women's gendered experiences of incarceration.

A recording of the webinar can be viewed [here](#).



*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.*

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