



PRESIDENT'S FIRST PIECE

By Wadi Nadzi

Finding it hard to see? Breathing been difficult? Your car a complete mess? Your home looks like something from Lord of the Rings..? The window view looks like Armageddon..?? Yes we have all been feeling it, the Dust Clouds that have hit Brisbane have wreaked havoc on what was once this dust free river city of ours, (although putting a smile on window cleaning businesses). But it was not that long ago when Brisbane was responsible for creating its own little dust storm.

Our busy little streets used to be unsealed dusty pathways where horses, carts and boys with billy carts would scamper along going about their daily business.



Oh if only we had a few 'bob' we would all know what properties to invest in.... but unfortunately going back to the future only works for Michael J Fox and even then you risk exposure to some chronic disorder. I'm getting side tracked.

Brisbane has come along way since its dusty street tram days progress does not seem to stop and things get better. But stepping up to the plate as President for QYL following from Julian Creagh will be next to impossible. His efforts and consistency in structuring, organising and hosting events throughout the year has been impressive to say the least. Julian thank you. Luckily for us he is continuing on in the committee and will be contributing towards the newsletter with those entertaining articles that keep us reading.

It is with great pleasure that I introduce your 2010 committee:

Vice President:	Adrian Moffatt
Treasurer:	David Topp
Secretary:	Ebru Upcin
Committee Members:	Too many to list here! See page 10

Well out of the dust we hopefully progress I sincerely hope we can make this coming year of 2010 a great one...!

What's happening?

Queensland wins Golden Gavel 2009!

QYL would like to officially congratulate Michael Hodge for winning the national Golden Gavel competition!

In August Michael won Queensland's Golden Gavel competition and accepted his plane ticket to the national final.

On Friday 18 September, at the Perth Convention Centre, Michael impressed a judging panel that included WA Chief Justice Wayne Martin and LCA president John Corcoran to take out the national title.

Fantastic work Michael! Photos from the National Golden Gavel final follow.

Young Professionals charity cocktail party - 22 October 2009

The Source, QYL and a handful of other Brisbane young professionals' associations invite you to join us for a cocktail evening. Hear from some amazing speakers including Paul Borrud, Vice President of *Facebook* and Stu McMullin, Founder of the expanding NZ franchise *Hell Pizza*.

All proceeds raised from this event will go to *Brisbane Youth Services* to assist their fine work helping the young homeless.

WHERE:	Liber Lounge, Port Office Hotel, 40 Edward Street, Brisbane.
WHEN:	22 October 2009, from 6pm.
COST:	\$35 includes two drinks and canapés.
RSVP:	18 October 2009.

Book online at www.thesource.org.au or call Sammie on 07 3852 4618 (see the flyer accompanying this newsletter).

Young Lawyer seminar series cancelled

In our last newsletter we promoted a 3-part business law seminar series prepared by LexisNexis in collaboration with QYL. This series has now been cancelled. QYL apologises for any inconvenience caused. LexisNexis has made contact with those who had registered.

LexisNexis and QYL will continue their long association which will manifest next at the annual litigation seminar in February 2010.



QYL Annual General Meeting 2009

By Julian Creagh

On the evening of Monday 28 September QYL held its Annual General Meeting at the *Pig 'n' Whistle Riverside* to usher in a new wave of talent and enthusiasm to the Committee and Executive positions.

It is pleasing to see the QYL committee change and expand in an “evolutionary” rather than “revolutionary” way.

The bumper crop of new faces will be supported by many continuing committee members who hold valuable knowhow about running events (eg “*test your Powerpoint slideshow well in advance of the event start time*” and “*do not have too many throw-able objects on the tables for a quiz night*”).

We extend our thanks and best wishes to the committee members who have now moved on, collectively after many years diligent service.



Above: the “outgoing” 2008/2009 QYL committee (L-R) Danielle Keyes, Leanne Doxey, Adrian Robins, Steve Mackie, Julian Creagh (President), Janita Singh (Secretary), Wadi Nadzri (Vice President), Leah Mangano & David Topp (Treasurer). Absent from photo: Joanne Bennett, Anne Connell.



Above: the new 2009/2010 committee (L-R) Steve Hogg, Danielle Keyes, Emmelene Gray, James Hiller, Adrian Robins, Steve Mackie, David Topp (Treasurer), Janita Singh, Julian Creagh, Wadi Nadzri (President), Leah Mangano, Kristin Duff, Stephanie Byrne & Adrian Moffatt (Vice President). Absent from photo: Leanne Doxey, Simon Taylor, Ebru Upcin (Secretary).

The new committee is made up of an unprecedented number (in recent history anyway) of 17 people! Thank you all for your interest and support for the 2009/2010 QYL year.

For those who voiced their concerns; none of the goats were harmed during the initiation ceremony for new Committee members and those orange traffic cones were returned afterwards.

The new QYL Executive of Wadi, Adrian and Ebru look forward to the challenge of keeping a committee of this size singing from the same hymn sheet when organising a full calendar of great events for 2010. As outgoing President I thank everyone for a great year and wish the new Executive the very best.

Right: David Topp, our long serving Treasurer, long-distance runner and renowned non-drinker enjoys a whisky. The rumours that frustration with the outgoing 2009 administration has driven David to the bottle are mostly exaggerated.





Law Council of Australia Convention 2009

By David Topp

The Burswood Convention Centre, Perth WA, was the venue for the latest instalment of the bi-annual Law Council of Australia convention.



(The Intercontinental Burswood Hotel)

For the first time ever the convention had a dedicated young lawyers' stream, featuring seminar topics of young lawyer interest, a pre-convention dinner with the dedicated members of the WA Young Lawyers Committee and the perennial staple of young lawyering nationwide, the final of the National Golden Gavel 2009.

Young lawyers from Queensland were represented by your present writer (in his capacity as Queensland's delegate to the Australian Young Lawyers Committee which timed its scheduled meeting to coincide with the convention), Liam Dollar of the Queensland Bar (in his capacity as the Bar Association of Queensland's young bar delegate to the Australian Young Lawyers Committee) and dedicated QYL members Rahel Clarke and Angelica Monardez who self-funded their travel to and attendance at the convention.



Also our numbers were boosted for one of the days by local Counsel, Michael Hodge, who visited Perth on the Friday of the convention in his role as Queensland's Golden Gavel competition winner and hence entrant in the national final.

Michael Hodge more than simply represented our state; he won! Great work Hodgo!

Left:- Michael Hodge presenting his winning speech "Farmer wants a wife, lawyer wants a life".



The convention attracts its fair share of heavy hitters. Respectively the Federal Attorney-General, High Court Chief Justice and LCA president each give State of the (legal) Nation/Courts/Profession addresses.

McLelland

The Attorney General's speech was consistently themed around various proposed reforms. Reform of counter-terrorism laws, reform of federal courts to become more service orientated, reform of judicial selection processes and a potential "triage" process of individual problems being assessed at an early stage with a view to guiding parties towards the cheapest and quickest dispute resolution mechanisms that may be appropriate.

Pro bono legal services were, for obvious reasons, highlighted for their worthiness, with congratulations being forthcoming for the large amounts of high quality pro bono services being offered nationwide. However the Victorian model (of actual pro bono quotas in return for state government tenders) was rejected on the basis that in real terms quotas reduce the overall level of pro bono work performed.



The present make up of the Australian Young Lawyers Committee from L-R;

Pouyan Afshar (NSWYL)

Mylinda Shepherd (Tas YL)

Jonathon Augustus (ALSA)

Kim Eldridge (SAYL)

Nick Johansen (NTYL)

Elizabeth Lee (AYLC Chair)

David Topp (QYL), Amelia Macknay (Vic Young Bar)

Julie Fraser (VYL)

Kate Cook (WAYL)

Lizzy Langford (ACTYL)

Liam Dollar (Qld Young Bar)

French

The Chief Justice began his speech by highlighting the federal nature of our nation, with an over-arching common law that applies in each state/territory but without being a creature of any specific state/territory. The



case that many insolvency lawyers would know about (*ASIC v Goldsbrough Gold Mines*) was expressly cited by His Honour as being reflective of our federal character.

Perhaps due to that context, the Chief Justice noted the trend towards treating certain issues at a national level that previously would have been considered matters of state interest only, examples given being health & ageing, housing and climate change and water.

And appropriately given the tripartite nature of the speeches, His Honour reiterated the importance of the separation of powers doctrine with the Courts at all times having to remain completely insulated from any executive commands and also remembering their roles as being not merely dispute resolution centres but as an essential component of a constitutional democracy.

Corcoran

John Corcoran, the present LCA president, did not miss the opportunity to specifically address the Attorney General with a request for more federal funding for legal assistance schemes.

This point would not be lost on readers of this newsletter who have dealt with any legal assistance body.

On a national professional level Corcoran made mention of a proposed national system of regulation of legal practitioners, it being “unacceptable” that there is not one standard piece of uniform legislation to govern the profession.



Above; The AYLC delegates meet the star guest of the Young Lawyers' Lunch

Moreover lawyer regulation at present is over-regulated. For example; migration lawyers have obligations to not only be officers of their state/territory courts but also to be separately registered under migration-specific regulations. The LCA therefore welcomed a recently formed task force into the issue of lawyer regulation.

Another issue emphasised by Corcoran was the present exemption for lawyers from stage-one anti money laundering reforms. Initially lawyers were not exempt. Thankfully strong LCA lobbying generated an exemption, which for obvious reasons of lawyer/client confidentiality, must stay in place before any final reforms become actual legislation.



The Social Side

It was not all heavy content speeches and CLE's. There was much in the way of socialising, including networking lunches, formal and informal dinners, the Golden Gavel final and the undoubted highlight – the dedicated young lawyers' lunch at the Royal Perth Yacht Club with someone who needs no introduction at all, former High Court Justice Michael Kirby.



(Above left) QYL meets the great man! From L-R Angelica Monardez, Michael Kirby, David Topp and Rahel Clarke

And what a venue – the Royal Perth Yacht Club (above right) and the stunning view towards the Perth CBD (below)



Kirby entertained the audience in his own inimitable style of witty anecdotes about his life in the law and that of others. One aspect of both his speech and tributes given to him by others was Kirby's view on work/life balance: for him recreation includes work and vice versa.

Yet to meet him you'd never guess that a fit, healthy and vibrant personality like him could possibly be 70 years old.

The 2011 Law Council convention venue has yet to be chosen. Watch this space for updates. QYL would definitely commend the convention to all members.



Queenslanders in Perth

In addition to Golden Gavel competitor Michael Hodge, three QYL members travelled to Perth last week to attend the Law Council of Australia convention.

At not insubstantial personal cost, members Rahel Clarke and Angelica Monardez brought their sunny and radiant Queensland personalities to what was a tad grey and chilly WA capital.

QYL was also represented by Treasurer and Australian Young Lawyers Committee delegate David Topp, who also was voted in as that committee's first ever deputy chairperson (*Editor's note – Congratulations David!*)

Many thanks to all of you for your dedication to flying the Queensland flag interstate.



(Above left) The cat that got the cream! A very happy Michael Hodge post win in the National Golden Gavel, with his Qld-based fans Angelica and David.



(Above Right) The QYL connection at the pre-convention drinks function (L-R) Angelica Monardez, David Topp and Rahel Clarke.

Official Awards

The winners of the National Golden Gavel were:

- Third Place - Tom Payten (NSW): "If sledging were a sport, lawyers would be world champions"
- Second Place - David Leith (WA): "'I became a lawyer to help people' and other lies I tell people at parties"
- First Place - Michael Hodge (QLD): "Farmer wants a wife, lawyer wants a life"
- People's Choice - Lachlan Clancy (VIC): "'Lawgasm' - how to finish in 6 minutes"

The winners of the Australian Young Lawyer Awards were:

- Category 1 (a program implemented relating to professional issues): NSWYL Human Rights Committee for their Human Rights Opportunities Database
- Category 2 (a program implemented relating to community issues): NSWYL Animal Law Committee for their brochure, "What about me? Pets and your will"
- Category 3 (individual's continuous and outstanding contribution to the profession and community): Matthew Keogh, WA Law Society/Commonwealth DPP



Introducing: WADI NADZRI 2010 QYL President



Employer: Clear Legal Solicitors

Position: Principal

Age: 31Already! Gee that went fast!

Area/s of Practice: You name it I have most probably done it.

Study: Only if it is necessary to get in to the profession/career you want to pursue.

Pets: 1 large South American Fish called Oscar and his pal a large electric blue Cray Fish called Mr Krabs, he was feeder cray (fish food) that went wrong and survived to be the toughest cray on the block. In a complete 6ft tank with stand including external & internal filters, heaters, gravel, glass lids, fish food, everything you need for \$500 ono.

Sport: Cycling, cycling, riding bikes, cycling, racing bicycles, cycling, occasionally kite boarding and windsurfing, touch football, triathlons, rock climbing and cycling.

Favourite Book: Most of Bryce Courtenay's works particularly the classic 'The Power of One' the Tomo and Hawk series were pretty good as well.

Favourite TV Show: The Tour De France.... which means late late nights and usually falling asleep 20km before the finish line. Great to see Australia's Cadel Evans wearing the World Champs Jersey!

Why a Lawyer: Having 10 generations of doctors on one side of the family and another 10 generations of architects & engineers on the other side it was about time someone became a lawyer.. Oh and when I was really young for some reason I thought Perry Mason was cool... just listen to that groovy jazzy theme song.. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHqebO8aAc4>

What if you weren't a lawyer?: A Professional Cyclist. Riding around Belgium, wind in my hair.. (you don't have to wear helmets there)

Where in 10 Years: Hopefully somewhere that puts a smile on my face, whilst reflecting back on the last 10 years and most probably thinking.... "Gee that went Fast!"



Management Committee

President:	Wadi Nadzri	- Principal of Clear Legal
Vice-President:	Adrian Moffatt	- In House Counsel
Secretary:	Ebru Upcin	- Solicitor with Carter Newell Lawyers
Treasurer:	David Topp	- Barrister

Committee Members

Stephanie Byrne	- Graduate Lawyer with Carter Newell Lawyers
Julian Creagh	- Solicitor with Quinn & Scattini Lawyers (& QYL newsletter editor)
Leanne Doxey	- Associate with Bain Gasteen Lawyers
Kristin Duff	- Solicitor with Harmers Workplace Lawyers
Emmelene Gray	- Solicitor with Blake Dawson Lawyers
James Hiller	- Solicitor with John M O'Connor & Co Lawyers
Steven Hogg	- Solicitor with Tucker & Cowen Lawyers
Danielle Keyes	- Solicitor with Deacons Lawyers
Stephen Mackie	- Solicitor with Deacons Lawyers
Leah Mangano	- Associate with Carter Newell Lawyers
Adrian Robins	- Solicitor with James Conomos Lawyers
Janita Singh	- Solicitor with Ellison Moschella Lawyers
Simon Taylor	- Barrister

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