

The main purpose of the Newsletter is to inform Fellows about a proposal to hold meetings of local members of the Academy in all the capital cities. Before coming to that, however, may I report on the work of the Academy's three Committees.

Projects Committee

Reference has previously been made to the Panel Discussion to be held jointly by the Academy and the Australasian Law Teachers Association to be held at the University of Sydney on Tuesday 3 July 2012 on the theme "*The linkage between research and the work of the courts and the legal profession*". A committee of Professor Croucher (the Chair of the Projects Committee) Emeritus Professor Michael Chesterman, Laurie Glanfield AM and The Hon Peter Rose QC are assembling an eminently qualified panel and otherwise organising this event. Further details of it will be supplied in the near future.

May I remind Fellows of the Symposium to be held in the Banco Court of the Supreme Court of Victoria, 210 William Street, Melbourne 3000 on 19 April. John Digby QC has organised a first class Symposium on "The Victorian Charter of Rights—Past, Present and Future".

The proceeding will be introduced by The Hon Marilyn Warren AC, FAAL, Chief Justice of Victoria and the discussion will feature an outstanding Panel comprising The Hon Marcia Neave AO, FAAL, their Honours Justices Kevin Bell and Geoffrey Nettle of the Supreme Court of Victoria, and Associate Professor Jeremy Gans FAAL of the University of Melbourne.

If you have not already registered you should do so without delay because space is limited and there is little space left. You can RSVP to johndigbyqc@vicbar.com.au or you could telephone John's Assistant Kerrie on (03) 9225 7498.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is in the course of dealing with the nominations of individuals for admission as Fellows of the Academy. Some 15 nominations are in the course of being forwarded for approval with a further 10 still under consideration. Any "pairs" who have not yet forwarded their recommendations are asked to do so as soon as possible.

Publications and Website Committee

I suggest that fellows may care to view the Website. While it could be improved, it is certainly better than it was a short time ago. Members of the Academy are encouraged to forward to me any papers or articles which they would be willing to have placed on the Academy's website. The number of them there is slowly increasing.

Local "think tank" meetings

These meetings of locally resident Fellows are designed not only to provide an occasion for getting to know the other members of the Academy who reside in one's own city but also to encourage Fellows to engage, in an informal setting, in a discussion of the *raison d'etre* and desirable future direction of the Academy.

To facilitate discussion Melissa Perry and I have prepared a brief Discussion Paper which is attached. I will not summarise

its contents here—it speaks for itself. The intention is that discussion be wide ranging and that Fellows be at liberty to introduce additional questions and ideas not reflected in the Discussion Paper.

A member of the Academy in each capital city has agreed to be the convenor of the meeting so you should hear from him or her soon. Those persons are:

Sydney: Melissa Perry

Melbourne: Gordon Hughes and/or John Digby

Brisbane: Glenn Ferguson

Adelaide: Rosemary Owens

Perth: To be confirmed

Hobart: Kate Warner

Canberra: Margaret Thornton

Darwin: Stephen Southwood

They will contact you in the near future to arrange a time and place for the meeting which I hope you will attend.

Finally, there is enclosed a list of all members of the Academy divided up into the respective States and Territories. This should be helpful for the purpose of the present project and more generally in facilitating contact between members of the Academy. If any details listed are incorrect, please notify the Secretariat.



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