

# Court Network Newsletter

**April 2007**

## Executive Director's Report

I hope the work you do week to week continues to be a fulfilling pursuit for you. It was great to see ten Networkers recognised for their long service at a recent Department of Justice Awards ceremony. The list included Marg from Bendigo who has just notched up 25 years! Our work in Brisbane continues to go well, the final evaluation on the Commonwealth Law Court project will be released in several months. The initial findings have been very positive, paving the way for our nationalisation next year. We have a number of new projects underway designed to increase our profile and better assist court users. More information on these initiatives will be relayed at a members' information session to be held on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Nic Bolto**  
*Executive Director*

## Update from the State Manager

Thanks to all of those Networkers who made my recent visits out to courts such a success. I have learnt so much from listening to your views and stories. I hope that I will be able to incorporate some of your suggestions into the way we go about doing our business. I look forward to making this trek at least four times a year.

The Collingwood Neighbourhood Justice Centre was launched on March 8<sup>th</sup> by the Attorney General. He gave a rousing speech on the value of community justice principles and his vision for the centre's future. We wish our new team of Networkers well as they go about their duties. I would also like to congratulate one of our networkers, David Adams, who was named the City of Yarra's Citizen of the Year.

There were also other Networkers honoured this month. The Department of Justice held their inaugural Courts Division Awards on 19<sup>th</sup> March recognizing the contribution of volunteers for their services to courts. We congratulate Fay Costin, Adriana Godfrey, Helen Cook, Maria Cogo, Andrew Watson, Sandra Burdett, Ruth Smith, Margaret Roberts, Lorraine Keating and Kathy Fawcett.



## State Mgr Update *continued...*

On a sad note, Kerry Bergin has submitted her resignation. Kerry has been the Program Manager for the County/Supreme and Ringwood courts and has participated on the Public Speaking working group for 18 months. Kerry was also instrumental in the development of the Court Network Policy Booklet. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all staff and Networkers, to thank Kerry for her efforts and wish her well for her future endeavours.

**Sue Wilson**  
*Victorian State Manager*

## And the Award goes to...

Earlier this month the Department of Justice recognised Court Network for its contribution to projects and operations within the justice system.

The awards were based on the categories of the "One Justice" values and behaviours, Business Results, Leadership/Management and Service Outcomes.

Nine of our Court Network volunteers received an award and were recognised for their enormous commitment and contribution to the Court Network organisation and the wider community in general.

The event, held at the Department of Justice building on Exhibition Street, provided a good opportunity for Court Networkers to meet other members of the department.



**Networkers recognised at Awards with Executive Director Courts John Griffin (above).**

## Emergency Contact Forms

A reminder to hand or post back the Emergency Contact Form to your Program Manager for filing. Updating this information is an important part of our record keeping process. Thank you!

### From the Sunshine State....

From the Brisbane team and myself we wish to extend a big thank you to Melbourne Networkers Margery, Kath and Lynn who worked tirelessly with our Brisbane volunteers over their two week mentoring period prior to the Christmas break. Their knowledge and expertise was invaluable. The existing Brisbane Networkers just completed their Graduation Ceremony last Friday - Congratulations team.

Our new trainees have completed their training sessions with Judy Frazer and are ready to step into the courts. Best wishes go out to Alma, Dolly, Cheryl-Ann, Frances, Christie, Patty and Richard.

Thank you to Nancy for all her hard work and wonderful guidance in the setting up of the Brisbane pilot program. You will be surely missed. All the best for the future.

**Nicole Little**  
Program Manager



Training Manager Judy Frazer and six of the seven Brisbane Trainees (above).

### Sad passing of Robyn Grogan

The County and Supreme Court Networkers were deeply saddened by the death of their loved and respected team member, Robyn Grogan, on 4 February.

Robyn had been networking with the Wednesday team for about four years. Her friends and colleagues watched in admiration as she kept coming into the court right up until she was admitted to hospital, last December, in the final stage of the terminal illness that claimed her life. Robyn's grit and determination, in the face of her terrible pain and suffering, was a great inspiration to those who watched her courageous battle.

Everyone at Court Network will miss Robyn's lively and beautiful presence but will remember the enjoyable working relationship we shared with her.



### Court Round-Up for the month...

#### FAMILY LAW COURTS

**Melbourne** - Networkers at the Melbourne Registry have been steadily busy during the past months. Family Law cases bring court users with a myriad of challenges, and a great deal of emotion which constantly test Networking skills, which they handle with great tact and diplomacy. Yvonne transferred from Wodonga at the beginning of the year and she has been warmly welcomed by the team and has settled in and Networking beautifully.

**Dandenong** - is always a challenging court, Networkers are constantly kept on their toes; never quite knowing what challenging behaviour to expect. They are all extremely competent and cope very well. The promised refurbishment to the court building will commence at the end of March, when Court Network will move to a new location on the ground floor. The building will be painted and carpeted once again, hopefully providing a softer and more calming atmosphere for court users.

#### MAGISTRATES' COURTS

**Sunshine** - The team enjoyed meeting Sue Wilson, the new State Manager, at the last team meeting while also receiving updates on upcoming CN projects. The team at Sunshine has been reduced to only 7 Networkers due to a number of people having to take leave of absence due to family commitments. We look forward to the latest batch of trainees completing their training and hope that there are some volunteers prepared to undertake the trek to Sunshine.

**Wodonga** - We congratulate Margaret, Annette and Maggie on successfully completing 12 months service with Court Network in Wodonga. These three Networkers work consistently well together providing a dedicated service to all who enter the Wodonga Law Court.

**Echuca** - A very big Thank You to our lone Networker Maggie who continues to support Echuca court users every Tuesday. We look forward to new Networkers coming aboard this year to share the load.

**Ballarat** - An amazing seven Networkers from this court have become grandparents in the last few months! Fortunately, we have been able to cover their absences without problem. We also recently received a thank you letter from a family who had been assisted by our Networkers. While this is all in a day's work for the team, our support made a positive impact on the family who were very appreciative of the Court Network service.