

Court Network Newsletter

April 2008

Executive Director's Report

I hope the year is going well for you and that your volunteering at court is stimulating and challenging. There are a number of new projects underway at Head Office. Our Victoria Law Foundation funded CALD training and recruitment project is in its last stages and we have been busy training new Networkers for Melbourne courts in a joint venture with Monash University.

We have also been in discussion with judicial and community representatives from Singapore and Japan regarding the establishment of a Court Network service in these countries. Did you know that Japan's Victim Service Network is funded by Police? More than 2,000 Police donate \$30 a year to cover the costs of three part time Counselors. Our own setting compares well to these.

For those celebrating their 2, 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 year milestones as volunteers, I hope to see you at the recognition event we have planned with the Deputy Lord Mayor in late May or early June. Letters will be sent to you shortly.

Our new Brisbane courts will also be celebrating a milestone in May with the Queensland Governor launching the service at a reception.

Nic Bolto
Executive Director

Shepparton Update

It's been over two years of dedicated service so far from our Northern Regional Networkers, and already another Recruitment Program is being headed up by Vi from Geelong.

We are all looking forward to the new members working within the courts.

Shepparton, Wangaratta and Wodonga now enjoy combined Team Meetings/Training together and the venue of towns is alternated along the way to facilitate transportation to the events.

This has proven very beneficial with Networkers enjoying the significant gains achieved through the mutual sharing of information, swapping stories, experiences and rapport building.



Shepparton Update *continued...*

On another note, a Shepparton Networker was recently commended by a Magistrate for appropriately and respectfully bringing to her attention a court user's desire to swear on the Koran and not the Bible, as he was being directed to do.

Congratulations and great job done by all Networkers!!

Heather Kelly
Program Manager
Northern Region

Continuing Education for 2008

The Continuing Education Program for 2008 is listed below.

Please remember to book in advance by calling the office and securing your place.

Date	Topic/speakers
Thur 17 Apr	Centrelink and Court Users Claire Seppings <i>Centrelink</i>
Mon 5 May	What is Islam? Tim Lindsey <i>Melbourne University</i>
Tues 10 Jun	<i>To be announced</i>
Wed 16 July	Victim Impact Noel McNamara <i>Victims of Crime</i> Ben Elisha <i>Victims Support Agency</i>
Thur 21 Aug	<i>To be announced</i>
Mon 1 Sep	Looking After Yourself and Dealing with Distressed Court Users Patricia Lo Cascio <i>Psychologist (TBC)</i>
Tues 7 Oct	Koori issues Lee-Anne Carter <i>(TBC)</i>
Wed 12 Nov	Police Involvement in Court

For more information on the Continuing Education Program, please contact Rob Glas on 9603 7416 or rob@courtnetwork.com.au

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Help run our Conference...

Fancy yourself an Event Manager? Would you like to choose the food at this year's Conference?

The Conference Working Group (CWG) extends a warm invitation to all Networkers interested in joining the team.

The CWG meets monthly to plan the annual state Conference. The group co-ordinates the speaker line-up, venue, catering and all other associated tasks.

If you are interested in participating in the Steering Committee, please call Beth on 9603 7477 or email beth@courtnetwork.com.au
All suggestions, ideas and queries are welcome.

We look forward to bringing you another successful and enjoyable event this year!

Beth Parle
Administration Manager

Court Jesters run for life!

Warrnambool Networkers and Court staff recently participated in the Relay For Life.

With the team name *The Court Jesters* (hence the hats!!) more than \$3,000 was raised for cancer research.



Pictured above (left to right) are Magistrate Michael Stone, Warrnambool Court Network Program Manager Maj Williams, Court Networker Lyn Wilson and Warrnambool Court Registrar Dave Howard.



All those involved enjoyed the experience so much they have decided make it an annual event. Well Done Court Jesters!

Welcome Rob Glas

A warm welcome is extended to our newest team member Rob Glas.

Rob has been busy visiting Networkers and convening meetings since his inception at Court Network last month.



Rob previously worked in Counseling and Community Services at the Shire of Yarra Ranges. He will take on the role of Program Manager covering courts including Ringwood, Children's and Coroner's.

Rob will also oversee the Continuing Education Program.

Rob says he is enthusiastic, energetic and excited to be joining the team at Court Network. He looks forward to meeting even more Networkers in the upcoming months.

Goodbye, Farewell

Pam Carty-Salmon, Program Manager at Court Network, has recently bid farewell to the organisation to pursue new challenges.

Pam will undertake to a more active role with court users around the state. She will be the Convenor of the Restorative Justice, Victim Offender Conferencing Pilot Program which is based at the Neighbourhood Justice Centre in Collingwood.

"I am going to miss working with such skilled and committed volunteers who provide an unique service", Pam says.

Court Network thanks Pam for the contribution she has made during her time in the role.

Do you like talking on the phone?

We are always on the look out for more Phone Volunteers to assist with taking calls in the office. We will provide training and a great work environment.

Just a one day commitment per week is required. Volunteers provide support and information to members of the public who phone and ask about Court Network services.

If you are interested in being part of a bright and energetic team, please call our office on 9603 7433 and register your interest today!