

# Kingsford Legal Centre

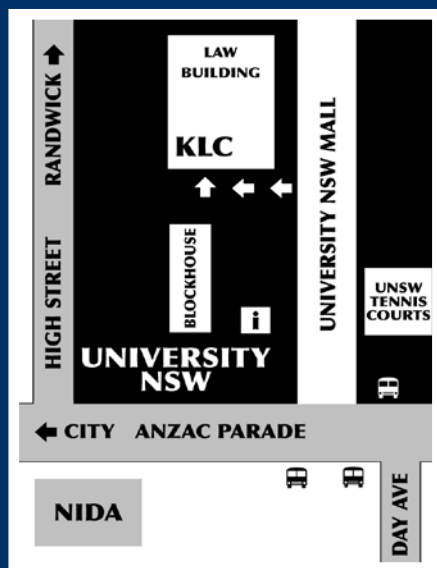
## E BULLETIN SUMMER 07

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### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- City bus routes 392, 394, 396, 397, 398
- Central Station bus routes 391, 393, 395
- Bondi Junction/Burwood bus route 400, all stop at the main Anzac Parade entrance to the UNSW.



Kingsford Legal Centre is located to the left of The Mall, approximately 75 metres from the entrance. We are on the ground floor to the rear of the Law Building.

## 2007 NSW WOMEN LAWYERS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

We are delighted to announce that KLC Director, Anna Cody, was the recipient of the NSW Women Lawyers Achievement Awards in the government or community lawyer category on Friday 19 October. It is wonderful to see this sort of recognition for not only Anna and the Centre – but for the work of the community sector as a whole.

Congratulations Anna.



ANNA CODY

## JUSTICE ACTION – SUPREME COURT MATTER

KLC recently assisted a member of the criminal justice activist group, Justice Action, in an expedited Supreme Court hearing against the NSW Commissioner for Corrective Services, Ron Woodham. Our client challenged the Commissioner's refusal to allow copies of the Justice Action newsletter, 'Just Us', to be distributed to inmates in prisons across the State. KLC and barrister Ben Zipser represented our client against the Commissioner. The matter was heard over almost 2 days before Justice Fullerton, who will hand down her decision early next year.

## SUE MORDAUNT HIGHLY COMMENDED VOLUNTEER AWARD

KLC Volunteer Sue Mordaunt was Highly Commended in the 2007 Combined Community Legal Centres Group Award at the 2007 Law and Justice Awards. Sue is a long, long term volunteer at KLC whose commitment to "giving back" deserves this recognition. All the staff at KLC are really proud of Sue – we think she is champion now its public knowledge!

Well done Sue.

## **LAUNCH OF THE GUIDE TO UNFAIR DISMISSAL LAWS**

After many years hard work by Kingsford Legal Centre and Inner City Legal Centre, the guide was launched as a web resource in October 07. Although the federal election results will mean this will need to be updated, the ever-changing industrial relations environment makes it very difficult to provide easy to read up to date information. The constantly changing law also makes the need for clear guides to the law very pressing. The guide was launched by the State Minister for Industrial Relations and will assist unrepresented litigants and employment lawyers advise and represent clients in this area of law.

## **LAUNCH OF 10TH EDITION OF THE REDFERN LAW HANDBOOK**

The 10th edition of the extremely useful Redfern Law Handbook was launched in mid September. This resource is used intensively by our volunteer solicitors and staff solicitors in giving advice. Both Anna Cody and Linda Tucker were contributing authors of this edition of the Handbook.

## **EMPLOYMENT LAW CLINIC**

The Employment Clinic has had a number of successful outcomes for clients over the past few months. Conciliations of several matters at the Australian Industrial Relations Commission and one matter at the Anti-Discrimination Board all settled on favourable terms for our clients. We were also successful in chasing up severance pay for a client who was in dispute with her former employer as to whether she was in fact made redundant. The employer quickly agreed to pay once the client filed for recovery in the chief industrial magistrates court. A notable trend in recent months has been the number of pregnant clients we have taken on who have been discriminated against and/or dismissed shortly before their planned maternity leave. These matters have settled favourably but have clearly been a source of stress for our clients at a vulnerable time. On the policy side, the clinic has been active in organising election campaign materials on employment issues on behalf of clcs at state and national level. In October the Unfair Dismissal Guide, a joint effort between KLC and Inner City Legal Centre, was launched at state parliament.

## **STUDENT ADVOCACY**

On 26<sup>th</sup> September a student from Kingsford Legal Centre participated in the Student Advocacy Program at Waverley Court. They made submissions on behalf of the client, with the leave of the court, in relation to a common assault matter. The student was successful in getting the matter dismissed on the condition of a 12 month good behaviour bond. The client was very pleased with this outcome, as was the student.

The Student Advocacy Scheme has recently extended to Newtown Local Court. On 23 October, a student clerk (supervised by Linda Tucker) appeared on behalf of a client who was charged with driving on a suspended licence. The plea in mitigation was successful and the magistrate ordered a good behaviour bond, with no conviction recorded. The client was very pleased with the outcome and it was an invaluable first time court experience for our student.

On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October a KLC student went to Waverley Local Court to represent a client charged with negligent driving occasioning greivous bodily harm as part of the Student Advocacy Scheme. She presented her plea in mitigation and was successful in obtaining a s10 and a 2 year good behaviour bond for her client.

## SEMESTER 2 STUDENTS HUGE BAKE SALE

Our wonderful students in semester 2 decided that they wanted to hold a bake sale to raise funds for the Centre. All students contributed by either baking cakes, making signs or staffing the stall. The sale was a huge success with over \$460.00 raised for the Centre. Staff are very grateful to all semester 2 students for their effort but would like to particularly thank Sachin and Avigail – the main organisers of the day.

## KLC SEEKING VOLUNTEER SOLICITORS ....

KLC currently has a number of vacancies on its evening advice rosters for solicitors with a current practising certificate and at least 1 year experience. We particularly need solicitors with employment law experience for our fortnightly Thursday night roster. Our advice sessions are held every Tuesday and Thursday evening between 6pm and 9:00pm. We ask that our volunteer solicitors commit to either a Tuesday or Thursday evening session fortnightly. If you are interested in joining our wonderful team of volunteer solicitors contact Denise Wasley at: [d.wasley@unsw.edu.au](mailto:d.wasley@unsw.edu.au).



GRAEME BANNERMAN, SACHIN KUMAR AND AVIGAIL SHAI EATING INTO THE PROFITS AT THE BAKE SALE!

## KLC VOLUNTEER SOLICITOR SURVEY

Over the past month KLC has undertaken a survey of our volunteer solicitors for their feedback on the advice nights. Overall, it seems the advice nights are running well and the move to campus has been a successful one. The majority thought there was no change in client type but some have noted a change in the type of clients we are now seeing. We are trying to tackle this by providing more outreach services and increasing our promotion in a more targeted manner. There are some problems

with the physical premises at Maroubra Junction which we can't do much about at this stage but otherwise this outreach is proving very successful. Volunteers had many ideas for training and we will try to act on them in the coming year. Thanks for those of you who completed the survey. We are always open to suggestions from vol sols on ways to improve our night services so if you have any ideas please pass them on to either me or your supervising solicitor. If anybody is interested in obtaining a copy of the evaluation report contact Denise on [d.wasley@unsw.edu.au](mailto:d.wasley@unsw.edu.au) and she will forward it to you.

## VISIT TO KLC BY DELEGATES FROM VIETNAM'S JUSTICE SECTOR

Kingsford was very pleased to host a visit from various key members of the Ministry for Justice, Legal Aid and Attorney General's in Vietnam in September. They are exploring the possibility of setting up a clinical centre and were keen to learn more about how we work.

## KLC EX-STUDENT SURVEY

KLC has recently completed an online survey of our ex-students to get a sense of their experience of KLC and the influence it has had on their career and pro bono choices. We are currently analyzing the results but note that that nearly all of the respondents had an extremely positive experience with clinical legal education and the KLC. Thanks to all those students who responded to the survey.

## PRE-LAW PROGRAM FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

In late November 10 pre-law Indigenous students came to the Centre for a half day program to learn more about law in practice and justice issues in the community. This is part of KLC's ongoing commitment to



ANNA CODY AND ANNA HARTREE WITH MEMBERS FROM THE MINISTRY FOR JUSTICE, LEGAL AID AND ATTORNEY GENERAL'S IN VIETNAM

improving access to legal education for Indigenous students and is part of the Nura Gili Program to increase Indigenous participation in higher education.

## PRACTICAL LEGAL TRAINING STUDENTS

KLC has had the assistance of three wonderful PLT students over the semester break;- Graham Bannerman, Kav Vassie and Margot Egan. Their commitment, hard work and caring attitudes have been an asset to the

Centre and we all want to wish them well in their future careers. Thanks!

## FREEHILLS SECONDEE MAY YII SIM DEPARTS ....

May Yii's 6 month secondment ended in October and she has returned to Freehills, via South America. May Yii was a great addition to the KLC team who will be greatly missed. Students enjoyed working with her as did staff and we all wish her the very best in the future. Thanks May Yii!!!

## **NEW FREEHILL SECONDEE MAHREEN HASAN ARRIVES**

Mahreen Hasan is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year solicitor at Freehills, where she works in the firm's Employee Relations practice. She is a graduate of the UNSW Law School, having completed her studies in 2003 after a semester on exchange at McGill University in Montreal. Outside of work, Mahreen enjoys travelling, shopping and trying out new restaurants.

## **BI-ANNUAL AUSTRALIAN CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE**

In late September Teena Balgi, Anna Cody, Shirley Southgate and Linda Tucker attended the bi-annual clinical legal education conference hosted by Griffith University in Queensland. The conference was a valuable learning experience in which issues such as reflective journals, grading of students, research quality frameworks and access and equity issues were discussed. Anna Cody presented a paper on educating non Indigenous students about Indigenous issues and providing a supportive clinical program for Indigenous students.



MAY YIH HANDS OVER HER FILES TO MAHREEN

## **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The annual conference of legal centres was held in Brisbane in mid September. Anna Hartree, Linda Tucker, Teena Balgi, Shirley

Southgate and Anna Cody all attended a very useful and dynamic conference. It is always an important opportunity for networking and meeting. Anna Cody also co presented a workshop session on clinical legal education and the needs of community legal centres shaping graduate attributes from Faculties of Law around Australia.

## BOOKS FOR PRISONERS DRIVE

When Anna Cody sent an email to Law Faculty staff asking for books for NSW prisons she had no idea how huge the response would be. The response from faculty and students was very generous and the Centre started to look like a second hand book store. KLC student, Janna Hayes, however, thought we could do better so she got the word out to her human rights network and the response was literally overwhelming. The books have now all been delivered thanks to Evan Manolios and his Tarago. Janna is working with Sydney City Council to make the project ongoing but for now the drive is over. Thanks to all who contributed and special thanks to KLC students who did all the grunt work, sorting, stacking and carrying hundreds of books and Janna who, as always put her heart and soul into a worthwhile project.

## ANNUAL VOLUNTEER SOLICITOR GET TOGETHER

The Annual Volunteer Solicitor Get Together is being held this year on Wednesday 12 December from 6pm – 8pm at the common room, Law Building, UNSW. We are again doing the Secret Santa with the theme being 2<sup>nd</sup> hand books. Any vol sols who haven't



KLC STUDENTS REST BY EVAN'S RACEY TARAGO AFTER LUGGING 100S OF BOOKS

already rsvp'd but would like to attend, please let Denise know on [d.wasley@unsw.edu.au](mailto:d.wasley@unsw.edu.au) before Friday 7<sup>th</sup> of December.

## COMBINED COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES GROUP (NSW)

KLC has continued its commitment to the CCLCG at its recent AGM by nominating Anna Cody for the position of Deputy Chair and Denise Wasley as Treasurer – both were elected unopposed. Anna and Denise are looking forward to contributing to the smooth running of the CCLCG over the next 12 months.

## CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR SHUT DOWN

The Kingsford Legal Centre will close at 5pm on Friday 21 December and reopen at 9am on Monday 7 January. Our last advice session for the year will take place on Tuesday 18 December and the first one for 2008 will be on Tuesday 15 January. We would like to take this chance to thank all of our volunteers, clients and friends for all of their support over the past year and we hope you all have a restful and safe break.

*As this is the last E-Bulletin for the year, KLC staff would like to extend seasons greetings to all our readers and supporters. We hope you all have a wonderful New Year!!*



KLC SOLICITORS LINDA TUCKER AND SHIRLEY SOUTHGATE NEARING THE END OF THE MS SYDNEY TO THE GONG BIKE RIDE 2007