

# Kingsford Legal Centre

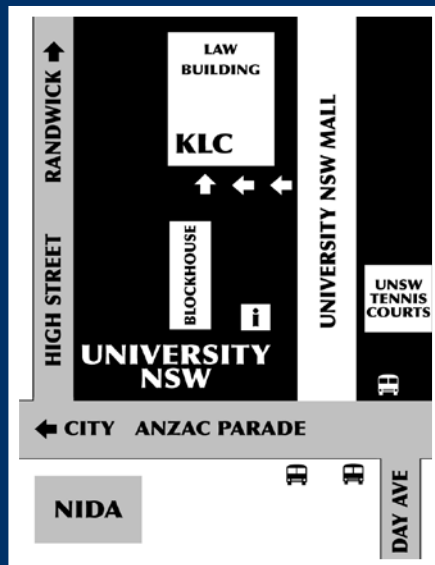
## E BULLETIN SPRING 07

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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.

## CELEBRATION OF 15 YEARS OF FREEHILLS SECONDEE PROGRAM

KLC and Freehills celebrated their 15 year partnership with a cocktail bash hosted by the Freehills Foundation on 16 July 2007. The event was attended by past and present KLC staff and secondees and other members of the wider KLC community, and was a great success. Peter Butler, Freehills's Managing Partner, and Annette Bain, Executive Director of the Freehills Foundation, both thanked KLC for the

invaluable experience that the secondment has been providing to Freehills solicitors (this was confirmed by past secondees Mark Gillard and Susan Wan in their speeches), and expressed their delight that the partnership had proved to be both successful and sustainable. Anna Cody acknowledged Freehills's continued support for and contribution to the program and raised a toast to the next 15 years and beyond.

KLC COORDINATOR ANNA HARTREE, FREEHILLS SECONDEE MAY YII SIM, L&J GEOFF MULHERIN, FREEHILLS MANAGING PARTNER PETER BUTLER



## **ALLENS ARTHUR ROBINSON SECONDEE, TOM GLASSON, COMMENCES AT KLC**

We are delighted to welcome Tom Glasson to the KLC team. Tom started on KLC on 13 August as part of the Allens Arthur Robinson secondee scheme whereby a solicitor joins the KLC team for 6 months per year. Tom Glasson is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year solicitor at Allens Arthur Robinson, and specialises in the firm's Intellectual Property practice group. Tom studied at the University of Sydney where, in addition to his law degree, he undertook an honours year in International Politics to write a thesis on the global suicide bombing phenomenon. Outside of work, Tom is also an avid sportsman and (he confesses sheepishly) an occasional television writer.

## **SOUTH MAROUBRA UNITING CHURCH OUTREACH CLOSES**

As a result of a recent review of our outreach services we have decided to close our outreach at the South Maroubra Uniting Church. As our Thursday night advice nights are now held at The Junction Neighbourhood Centre it is felt that clients in that area had



**TOM GLASSON, NEW ALLENS ARTHUR ROBINSON SECONDEE SOLICITOR TO KLC**

adequate access to our services. Outreach services take a great deal of commitment of time and resources and it is important that we place them in areas of greatest need. Our outreaches at South East Neighbourhood Centre, The Junction and Yarra Bay are proving very successful and our commitment to them continues.

## **TIMOR LESTE HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING**

Kingsford Legal Centre recently agreed to develop and present a 5 day training in Timor Leste for UNIFEM. The training included 2 days on the nature of human rights and specifically the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against women (CEDAW) as well as 3 days on how to prepare a shadow report. This arose out of the work which Kingsford has done domestically in preparing Australia's shadow report.

The project, while funded by UNIFEM, the United Nations Office for Women, is in conjunction with Rede Feto, a local women's NGO. It was a lively and interesting time learning more about the reality of life for Timorese women and the challenges which they face. One of the barriers identified by the training participants was entrenched views about the roles of men and women, as well as health issues including high maternal mortality as Timor Leste is the poorest country in South East Asia with limited prenatal and postnatal care for women.

There were 30 participants in the trainings and it certainly provided an opportunity to reflect on issues in common, such as violence against women. Timor Leste, unlike Australia, has ratified the Optional Protocol



SHIRLEY SOUTHGATE, ANNA CODY AND PARTICIPANTS IN TRAINING PROGRAM

which means that Timorese women can make individual complaints to the CEDAW Committee. we are still waiting for this to occur in Australia. Kingsford hopes to continue the relationship with Timor Leste NGOs and UNIFEM.

## INDIGENOUS LEGAL EDUCATION

As a part of our commitment to Indigenous legal education, Kingsford continues to host winter school Indigenous students. This is part of a UNSW program encouraging high school students to consider university

careers. We welcomed 19 students from around Australia considering studying law. They were very enthusiastic and keen to learn about the work of the Centre.

We also are currently running our Indigenous first year course for 5 students, focussing on client communication skills. This course includes a general introduction to the legal system with various visits to the Local Court, Legal Aid and other legal centres. Students are also taught interviewing skills and interview clients to develop their oral and written communication skills

## EMPLOYMENT CLINIC

The clinic has had a significant increase in its caseload with 7 new clients taken on in the past two weeks. The new matters comprise workplace discrimination and unfair and unlawful dismissal cases.

The clinic has also had some successful outcomes with good settlements in a discrimination case which was set down for hearing in the ADT as well as several of our unfair/unlawful dismissal matters.

In other work, Linda Tucker recently provided training on employment law to solicitors who volunteer at Sydney's four community legal centres and her rewrite of the Employment edition of Hot Topics has now been released by the State Library.

## CITY TO SURF

Anna Hartree, Teena Balgi and Linda Tucker took the plunge this month and entered the City to Surf. While no records were set by Team KLC, they conquered heartbreak hill and powered into Bondi Beach at a good clip, managing to avoid all urges to break into a run.

## REVIEW OF DISABILITY STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT 2002

In 2002 the Commonwealth Government enacted the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport (the Standards). The Standards attempt to make public transport more accessible for people with disabilities by setting out minimum requirements which public transport providers in Australia must meet. The Minister for Transport and Regional Services is required to review the efficiency and effectiveness of the Transport Standards every five years.

KLC made a submission to the review setting out some concerns we have with the Standards as they currently are. We suggested that the Standards be amended to implement a system of monitoring of the Standards, so that it is not up to individuals bringing complaints to



ANNA HARTREE, TEENA BALGI AND LINDA TUCKER

ensure that the Standards are being complied with. KLC has also noticed a reluctance on the part of public transport providers to accommodate new or different mobility aids. We therefore also recommended that the Standards be amended to encourage public transport providers to accommodate new or different technologies, as far as possible.

The Draft Review Report will be released for public comment on 15 October 2007.

## COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION UPDATE

KLC's has had a busy couple of months in terms of community legal education. We have continued our ongoing series of workshops for community workers, with seminars on domestic violence, family law, employment law and credit & debt law. We are grateful to all our presenters, including Laura Donnelly from Legal Aid, Susan Winfield from Consumer Credit Legal Centre and Alicia Jillard from the Domestic Violence Advocacy Centre, for giving up their valuable time and expertise. Our upcoming workshops are on powers of attorney and enduring guardianships, discrimination law and social security law. KLC has also done a number of ad hoc workshops and talks, including to the Randwick Area Soroptimists and the Randwick Botany National Seniors Association. We also conducted some training for volunteer lawyers on employment and discrimination law. Please contact Teena Balgi at [t.balgi@unsw.edu.au](mailto:t.balgi@unsw.edu.au) if you would like more information about the centre's community legal education work.

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