



Practising Certificates

Just a quick reminder to all volunteer lawyers at ECLC that we require an *up to date* copy of your practising certificates for our files.

As your new certificate arrives, please send a copy to us as soon as possible - a fax is often easiest and ensures our systems and your insurance coverage are current.

Staff Updates

ECLC would like to welcome Stefan Pantellis to the Box Hill office. Stefan joined ECLC in December 2008 and will be working in administration at Box Hill, completing a Certificate III in Business (Legal) Administration. ECLC would also like to welcome Catherine Jeffries to the legal team, and congratulate Donna Askew on her new role as a community lawyer in Boronia.

Upcoming Events

• Fitzroy Legal Service Volunteer Training Program

Fitzroy Legal Service is running a training session which volunteers from ECLC are welcome to attend. There is a session on 'A New Approach to Winning Insurance Complaints and Third Party Insurance Debt' being held on 28 April. Further details of this session are posted on the volunteer notice boards at both offices.

• Celebrating Youth

Celebrating Youth is an event organized for young people between 15 - 25 who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The festival will involve live bands, fun activities, a sausage sizzle and plenty of prizes and giveaways. It is being held on April 8 at Ringwood Lake. ECLC is seeking volunteers to assist at this event. If you are interested or would like further information please contact Armita at the Boronia office.

• Volunteer Dinner

As noted earlier in the newsletter, the Volunteer Dinner is currently being planned and will be held on 14th May. Make sure you keep an eye out for further details on this event and mark this date in your diaries!

• Volunteer Lawyer Training

ECLC is looking at running training sessions for its volunteer lawyers to update and refresh their skills in different areas. If you have any suggestions about what training you would like to have offered, or any feedback about such training in general, please contact Lauren at the Box Hill office. Further details of this training will be provided to all volunteer lawyers as plans progress.



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Welcome to new volunteers

ECLC would like to welcome all of the new volunteers beginning in 2009. We are very proud to have a full roster of fantastic volunteers at both of our offices and look forward to working with you throughout the year.

Volunteer Dinner

ECLC is busy planning the volunteer dinner for 2009. The dinner will be held in on 14th May, to coincide with both Law Week and Volunteers Week.

This year the dinner will also be a fundraiser for the local Bushfire responses.

This dinner is a thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers and a way for ECLC to show our appreciation for all of the great work that you do.

Further details of the dinner will be sent to you in the coming weeks as they are finalised, so stay tuned!

Responding to the Bushfires

I am sure it is not news to you to know life at ECLC has been very busy.

Like all of Victoria we have been deeply affected by the recent bushfires. As a large part of our community has suffered in the Yarra Ranges we were rolling up our sleeves immediately to see 'What can we do?'

As always our volunteers were wonderful. We simply asked who would like to help and we were overwhelmed with the responses from our team to offer any assistance possible. We have been able to provide legal advice sessions as well as by telephone. We continue to support our community in any practical way as we spend time networking and listening to workers and clients to see the best way forward in these unprecedented times. If you are interested in supporting our efforts please contact myself or Lauren to see what may be possible. Otherwise jump on our website and have a look at our latest news.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the volunteer dinner on 14 May to celebrate another year of great work as well as raise funds for our bushfire affected community.

Leonie Burnham
Co-ordinator of Volunteers

Another Year Begins: Volunteers Project

Welcome to a new year and a new look Volunteer Vibes newsletter. Another year has begun at ECLC and already it looks like being a busy one. With new projects, rapidly filling appointment books and the bushfire response there is plenty of work to be done.

Luckily, we have recruited a lovely bunch of committed volunteers who have filled up our rosters entirely. The work of our volunteers is more important than ever this year, with their valuable support allowing the centre to pursue the large amount of projects and work that has already arisen.

As the new Volunteers Project worker I am proud to be assisting Leonie in coordinating such a fabulous team. Both Leonie and myself will be developing the support and resources available to our volunteers, as well as our volunteer program in general. More news of the work we have done so far, as well as upcoming projects, is detailed on page 3 of the newsletter.

It's an exciting time at ECLC and I am looking forward to working with all of the volunteers, both new and old, throughout the year.

Lauren Hills
Volunteers Project Worker

Volunteer Profile

Katrina Stuart

Position:

Day Volunteer at the Box Hill office and Volunteer Paralegal for the Intervention Order Support Service

Studying:

Juris Doctor at Melbourne University

Favourite Colour:

Blue

Birthday:

13th October

Star sign:

Libra

What has been the highlight of your work at ECLC so far?

The client contact and the paralegal work at court for the IOSS service.

Did you do anything exciting in the holidays?

I went to America (Boston, Washington and New York)

Do you have any pets?

I have a ragdoll cat called Sammy

What is your favourite hobby?

Sewing and designing clothes, cooking

Favourite food?

Raspberries



BECOME A MEMBER OF ECLC

Are you a member of ECLC?

Membership costs only \$5.00 per annum and entitles people to participate in General Meetings and nominate for positions on the Board. You also receive a great newsletter quarterly.

The Membership elects a Board of Management at the Annual General Meeting that governs the Centre, assisting and supporting the manager and staff with a wide range of services.

Membership application forms are available from both the Box Hill & Boronia offices and on the ECLC website.

If you have any queries please contact Michael (michaels@eclc.org.au).

Day Service Reports

Boronia Bits by Denise Budge

With the Christmas break just a distant memory, ECLC Boronia has welcomed several new members to the volunteer team. As these volunteers are finding out, there are many facets to working at front desk and lots of new things to learn. All of our volunteers are proving to be a great asset to our service under the careful guidance of Armita Hira.

But with all the welcome backs there is often a goodbye or two. This year we're losing one volunteer, Grace Kelly, who started with us during the day a couple of years ago and then moved to our night service. Grace has secured full time employment to do her Articles and we congratulate her and wish her well.

The outer east has experienced immense devastation from the recent bushfires and as a result there has been a fantastic team effort to provide assistance over the past weeks. This could not have been achieved without the generosity of so many volunteers and the huge efforts of Leonie Burnham. We are now at the recovery stage of the bushfire relief and ECLC will continue to have a weekly presence at Yarra Glen on a Thursday afternoon. Thank you all for making it possible for us to continue supporting our outer east communities.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers, welcome back and let's look forward to a rewarding year.

Box Hill Bits by Leonie Burnham

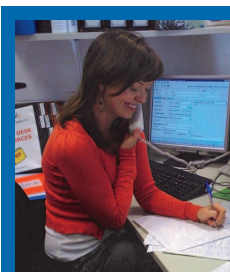
For those who are not aware, the Box Hill office has grown and we now have office space over two floors. Part of our team is now located in an office area on the third floor affectionately referred to as 'the loft'.

Projects and partnerships continue to flourish as we continue to provide legal service and education throughout the inner eastern suburbs.

The most recent intake for day volunteers at front desk has brought some wonderful new faces to compliment some of the existing team at Box Hill. With a volunteer on every shift clients are welcomed at front desk by a friendly smile and all staff are being helped with many varied jobs in the office. Our day team is diverse in background and all currently studying in some area of the law. Between the teams we have students from 6 different tertiary institutes that range from first year under graduates to postgraduate students. We appreciate all of the time our volunteers dedicate to helping us and hope that they are gaining valuable experiences that they will take into practice in years to come.

Richard Edmonds and Carol Barton are still providing day appointments during the week with many happy clients leaving with their wills completed and Denise O'Shannassy continues to offer family law appointments each week while keeping the rest of her week busy with other volunteer services.

Overall the team at Box Hill are great as we enjoy a period of stability until the dreaded change of semester timetables and the roster problems begin again...but until then... Keep up the great work!!



Front Desk Facts

For the first time ECLC has a full compliment of day volunteers supporting front desk. 19 volunteers are sharing their week with us across both offices.



Night Service News

The night service is off to a good start this year with several new paralegals and lawyers joining our night service teams at both the Boronia and Box Hill offices and some of our trainee lawyers beginning to take appointments.

New resources have also been created for the night services at both the Boronia and Box Hill offices to assist the night service teams and help things run to as smoothly as possible.

There is a new computer log-in for night service volunteers, which contains a collection of resources for both volunteer lawyers and paralegals alike. A new SMS reminder service has also begun this month, with text messages being sent to all registered volunteers the day before their shift. If you have not yet registered for this service and would like to do so please contact Lauren at the Box Hill office.

There have also been night service meetings held at both offices which were very successful. The night co-ordinators got together at Box Hill and the

night paralegals had a meeting in Boronia. These meetings were a chance to introduce the new night to day referral systems, as well as the new night log-in and other resources and share experiences between teams.

ECLC would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new night service team members and a big thank you to all of the existing staff and volunteers who have been training our new volunteers and making them feel comfortable, keep up the good work!

Congratulations

to Frank Clarebrough who recently celebrated 40 years since being admitted. What a great achievement! That's a lot of new legislation to learn!

YRIPP News

YRIPP East has three volunteers attending the current Metro Training sessions which concludes on March 25th. Other training opportunities will be held at Leongatha over the weekend of 2nd and 3rd of May and a Croydon based training program will be conducted in July.

The East Metro Quarterly Meeting was held on Thursday 12th March at the Box Hill Town Hall Hub and a visit to the Children's Court undertaken on Thursday 19th March. We have had some

volunteers who have moved out of the region and others who are temporarily unavailable which has made roster coverage quite a juggling act! Fortunately we have some wonderful and generous volunteers who are willing to cover additional time slots until our trainee volunteers have completed the course.

For any queries regarding the YRIPP program please ring Susan on 9285 4821 or email east@yripp.org.au.

Intervention Order Support Service

The IOSS program continues at Ringwood Magistrate Court every Tuesday and Friday. As well as dedicated staff lawyers the program is supported by a team of 10 paralegals and lawyers from Moores Legal and Robinson Gill. As the bushfire service has added to ECLC's workloads these firms have provided more support by attending for extra sessions in recent months.

With new legislation proclaimed in December 2008 there has been an increase in the need for more complex legal advice by the duty lawyers. As always this has been provided with sensitivity and consideration to our clients and in a stressful environment that is less than ideal for taking difficult instructions. We have assisted approximately 91 clients in the past six months.

Many thanks to everyone involved in this program for your ongoing support.

New Volunteer Noticeboards

A new volunteer noticeboard has been put up at the Box Hill office and will soon be established at the Boronia office. These notice boards contain information about upcoming events, training and employment opportunities that are of interest to our volunteers.

All volunteers are welcome to contribute to these boards.