

NEWSLETTER

A BI-ANNUAL UPDATE FOR MEMBERS OF THE MOONEE VALLEY LEGAL SERVICE



LIFE MEMBER TONY ISSACS ACCEPTS HIS LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD AT THE 2018 AGM

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2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MVLS was delighted to welcome Magistrate Mr Robert Kumar OAM attend as guest speaker at our AGM, sharing wisdom of his many years of service to the law.

Board of Management Chairperson, Helene McNamara acknowledged the excellent work of the service over the last twelve months, and acknowledged the wonderful contributions of Marissa Dosen who had made the decision to resign from the Board. At the conclusion of proceedings, membership of the Board remained otherwise unchanged.

A number of special resolutions were passed, introducing amendments to the rules of the MVLS. The membership also accepted a proposal from the current Board to award Life Membership to former Board Member and long-time supporter of MVLS, Mr Tony Issacs (pictured). Congratulations Tony! Ilsa Kuiper who was awarded Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations Ilsa!

Finally, the event gave us opportunity to acknowledge Jan Thorpe, Finance Officer and former Manager of the service, for ten years of service to MVLS. Thank you Jan!

MVLS would like to thank the Board, Staff and Volunteers for a fantastic year.

VOLUNTEERS

Moonee Valley Legal Service would not be the same without the amazing contributions of our many volunteers. Volunteers play an integral part in our service and do so with great commitment and enthusiasm. We sincerely thank you for your assistance. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer with us, please see our website for an application form. Completed volunteer applications may be sent to volunteering@mvls.org.au. Alternatively, call 9376 7929.

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Moonee Valley Legal Service acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the land on which our service stands. We recognise their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and to Elders past, present and emerging.



STAFF AND BOARD UPDATES

Welcome

Joanne Carlton - Principal Lawyer. Coming to us from Northern CLC, Joanne brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in the community legal sector and we are excited to have her on the team.

Brian Burton - Locum Generalist Lawyer. Brian has worked previously in private practice and the community legal sector and generalist areas of law.

Jeremie Nguyen - Office and Volunteer Coordinator.

John Foley - Board Member

Welcome all new Board and Staff Members

Farewell

Brendan Lacota - after five years at MVLS, most recently as our Principal Lawyer, Brendan has made the decision to move on, taking up a role with Justice Connect.

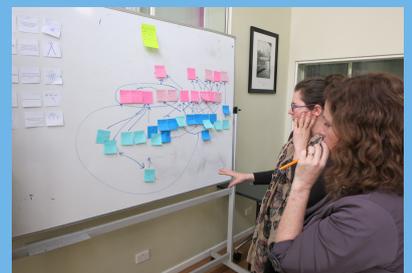
Marissa Dosen - Board Member

Lauren McAlpine - we farewelled Lauren who had worked with us since 2012 at the heart of operations, coordinating over fifty volunteers who work with MVLS each year.

We thank all exiting Board and staff members for their contributions and wish them all the best.



From L-R - Exiting Principal Lawyer Brendan Lacota, Nassim Arrage (CEO of NACLC), Olivia Blair (Tenancy Lawyer) and Jacki Holland (Manager)



Jacki and Olivia workshopping a project evaluation framework



A few of our many valued volunteers



PROJECTS

TENANCY ADVOCACY PROJECT

In 2017 MVLS began to run a weekly public housing tenancy clinic in conjunction with pro bono partners Gadens. In January 2018, we received funding from the State Government to support this work through the employment of part time lawyer. Olivia Blair has taken on this role, supporting the clinic and providing legal assistance to public housing residents with a range of tenancy matters, including maintenance, arrears matters, and utility debts. We have also offered related community legal education activities to local residents, AMEP English classes, and at local libraries.

People accessing the service often report feeling unheard when speaking with their local housing office, or worried that they may negatively affect their housing security. The Tenancy Advocacy Project is working hard to develop positive working relationships with key stakeholders to negotiate better and sustainable tenancies for individuals.

STREAMLINE FINES

Funded via the Public Sector Innovation Fund, the Streamlinefines Project is a partnership with Victoria Legal Aid, WEstjustice, and Peninsula Community Legal Centre to develop a technological tool to help health professionals and lawyers provide better integrated services for clients in inpatient facilities. Like FineFixer, Streamlinefines was an initiative that emerged through the RMIT Access to Justice Through Technology Challenge. Via this project MVLS is offering legal outreach services at a local cohealth service, assisting clients to address their fines and infringements and working in a streamlined manner with medical practitioners and service providers.

FINEFIXER

Fine Fixer launched in August 2017. Often it is stressful for people who many (or even one) outstanding fine, especially if they do not have the finances to pay them. As at 31 December 2018 Fine Fixer had been accessed approximately 34,000 times by the public, assisting people understand their fines and take action to resolve them. Fine Fixer continues to be funded until mid 2020

SAFE FROM HARM

Safe From Harm provides culturally appropriate, free legal advice and casework to anyone living, working or studying in Flemington, Kensington or Moonee Valley area who needs help with matters related to family violence.

OUR PROJECT PARTNERS



gadens

cohealth

