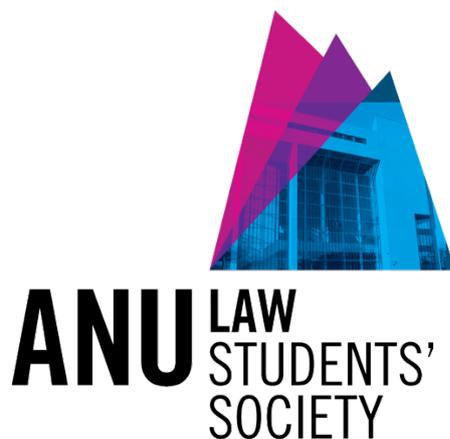


Australian National University  
Law Students' Society



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# OGM REPORT: PRESIDENT

*Suchara Fernando*

*17 September 2018*

## 1. IN REVIEW

I would like to thank the 2018 LSS Committee for a rewarding and excellent second semester thus far. The Society has been able to engage students with creative, constructive and engaging events, workshops and programs.

### *Affiliation*

At the Annual General Meeting earlier this year we affiliated with the ANU Student Association and this has been a fruitful experience. Whilst it has been a bit slow off the ground in terms of gaining access to the funding page and being voted on by the Clubs Council Committee we have been able to tap into the Special Annual Event Grant for Law Ball. Further, there is much scope to make the most of the opportunity of being affiliated and work closely on issues that affect our members as students of ANU.

### *Resignation*

We have had a rather high rate of Committee members resign as a result of extenuating circumstances or the general difficulty of balancing unpaid work against studies or paid work. At the beginning of my term I was of the opinion that I would rather Committee members resign than go missing in action. However, I think this rate of resignation has highlighted the broader issue of doing unpaid work. Whilst I don't have the answers, I think it's something to consider going forward, how the LSS can best assist its volunteers in managing their commitments.

### *Proud*

I am very humbled and proud of the initiatives that the Committee have done in this second half of the year. From having Gillian Triggs at Women in Law Breakfast, to careers workshops that practically enable students to be job ready has been a great asset. Not to mention a very large law ball that was in part a huge success as well our Competitions team who are consistently working to have a smooth internal and external competition program for students.

The reports of each Vice-President reflect the high calibre of experiences, opportunities, programs and publications that we provide. Everyone should be immensely proud of their hard work and dedication to the ANU Law Students Society.

## 2. REFORM

### *a. Constitutional Reform*

#### *I Equity Portfolio*

As you know, we hope to create an Equity Portfolio and a new role of Equity Vice-President at the end of this Ordinary General Meeting. This Portfolio would be responsible for creating

events and advocating within the College of Law for the creation and maintenance of a more inclusive, diverse and representative LSS. Initially, the Equity Portfolio will consist of the First Year Officers, Wellbeing Director and International Students Director. There is plenty of scope for this portfolio to expand and include other positions that are required to represent students.

Finally, it is unfair to the students in the position of First Year Officer, International Students Director and Wellbeing that the President directly oversee them. This is because it is difficult to provide the required oversight and guidance to these roles. They are very important positions and having a Vice President that directly oversees the Portfolio and bring their own unique ideas and initiatives would provide a more active and useful resource for students.

## *II General Constitutional Reform*

At this OGM we also hope to introduce our last round of proposed amendments in order to provide clarity on a few elements. The first includes changing where the Immediate Past President (IPP) and moving them to a Committee member instead of an Executive.

We also plan on bringing an element of fluidity to who attends ALSA. It is currently constituted that the Education VP attend but as we found this year the issues that are discussed may be more relevant to another Vice President. As such we hope to allow for the President to use their discretion in choosing who should attend ALSA.

### **3. PRESIDENT'S PORTFOLIO**

#### *a. International Students*

In the Winter-Break Tiffany Monorom resigned from International Students Director but continued her work very kindly to allow for a smooth transition to Daniel Kang taking over. This transition has allowed for Daniel to continue the HSF International Students Mentoring Program and the bLAWg. Further, he hopes to set up consultation hours in the law library foyer to let students know he is there to help. There will also be an event later on this term on Cultural Diversity in the Law. This event aims to provide students an opportunity to gain a better understanding of cultural diversity in legal representation and to consider the different ways to bridge the gap between diversity and leadership.

#### *b. Wellbeing*

At the beginning of Term 3 Claudia Weatherall resigned from her position as Wellbeing Director and Dylan McGirr has been appointed Wellbeing Director. In this role he plans to continue Claudia's work in terms of walks, free breakfasts as well as putting up posters around the law school letting students know what facilities are available to them.

#### *c. First Year officers*

The First Year Officers (FYO) operate in two ways, they are placed into two portfolios and work together to arrange events for other first year students. The FYO have been rotated for

the remainder of the year and will now be in new portfolios so that they get a holistic experience of the ANU LSS. They have also had their first coffee catch up with first years which saw approximately 25 students attend and have First Years at Fellows in October.

An enormous thank you to Henri, Adelaide, Grace and Thanaya for all their hard work, dedication and commitment. I hope that you continue to remain engaged with the LSS in the future.

#### **4. PARTNERSHIP**

##### *a. Reaching Out*

We have continued to maintain productive working relationships with ANUSA, PARSA, the International Law Society, the Law Reform and Social Justice Group, Law Revue and the Women in Law Organisation. It has been a privilege to work with, sponsor and support these groups in various capacities, and it has been great to see such high quality outputs coming from each of them.

##### *b. Sponsorship*

We continue to maintain productive and meaningful relationship with our sponsors, and are about to a process of evaluation and reflection to ensure that we continue to engage with our sponsors in valuable and mutually beneficial ways.

Going forward, I am of the opinion that the President should be in charge of maintaining and managing corporate sponsorship to ensure that relationships are managed professionally and consistently.

##### *c. ALSA*

This weekend is the last and final Council session for me at the Australian Law Students' Association, held in Perth. ALSA provides a unique opportunity for us as the ANU LSS to learn and incorporate practices and ideas at other LSSs into ours. The previous two council sessions have been as incredibly productive, both in terms of the activities and advocacy of the Association itself, and in terms of the lessons we can bring back to the ANU LSS.

# Administration OGM Report

Julia Faragher

## Administration Team

- Vice-President (Administration) – Julia Faragher
- Publications & IT Director – Conor Tarpey
- Publicity Director – Michelle Wang
- Peppercorn Editor-in-Chief – Elizabeth Harris
- First Year Officer – Grace Lee

## Semester 2

### 1. Bush Week

I organised an LSS stall and roster for Market Day in Bush Week. While I was overseas and unable to attend, I believe that the stall went well. However, the event is much smaller than in O-Week so perhaps the LSS should consider its involvement in the future. There may be scope to hold our own welcome event of sorts in Bush Week.

### 2. Casual Vacancies

I facilitated the filling of several casual vacancies over the winter break and throughout this semester, welcoming Michelle Wang (Publicity Director), Daniel Kang (International Students Director), Dylan McGirr (Wellbeing Director) to the committee and Madeleine Moore (Content Editor) and Lily Shen (Content Editor) to the Peppercorn Editorial Board. By the time of the OGM, we will also have a new External Competitions Director.

I believe that brings our resignation count to 7 for this year. While each person has had a valid and often personal reason for their resignation, I will be investigating what the LSS could do to better support its committee members in the remainder of my term.

### 3. Lead up to elections

A substantial part of the VPA's role is to oversee elections and act as the Returning Officer where appropriate. However, I have decided to run in the 2019 committee election and it is therefore not appropriate for me to act as Returning Officer. The role of the Returning Officer will be filled by Nic Ryan.

I have performed my VPA election duties to the best of my ability to the point where they will not influence my involvement in the election. I have set the timeline for the election and I am working with the Admin team to better publicise and inform students about the election so increase engagement. Last year there were a number of positions which were either uncontested or received no nominations at all. I would really like to see this change, thus I am working towards a more inclusive and accessible election period for all. I think the LSS has done great work towards this in the past (e.g. banning tickets) and I am excited to continue it. Michelle and I are working committee profiles and an election guide. All of my work on the election will be checked by the President.

As for all the practical details of the election (e.g. online voting, collecting nominations), those will be left to the Returning Officer. I will work with Nic to ensure an effective handover of

those responsibilities so that I enter the election period without any advantage over other nominators.

#### 4. Constitutional Amendments

I have taken the lead on drafting the constitutional changes for the OGM in consultation with the executive and the committee.

#### 5. ANUSA Relationship

Our ANUSA affiliation has been a really positive move and we have had a great working relationship with ANUSA this year. Hopefully this can continue and improve moving forward. I recommend that the LSS affiliate next year.

#### 6. Publicity

Michelle has only been in this role for a few weeks at the time of writing this report, but already she has brought a new enthusiasm to the role. She has done well fitting into the committee even though more than half the year has passed and is doing a great job at event photography, cover photo design and poster design.

#### 7. Publications & IT

All tracking well with Publications & IT. As I reported at the AGM, the modifications to this position have been well-received this year and the professional level of our publications continues to improve.

#### 8. Peppercorn

Peppercorn had a fantastic launch at the end of Semester 1! The whole team, headed by Elizabeth, is to be commended for their beautiful print publication. They are always looking for new content and will be working on their second print publication to launch at the end of Semester 2.

### **Upcoming – Remainder of the Year**

1. 2019 election
2. Handover

# Finance Report

Nic Ryan

No report received.

## Vice President Careers OGM Report 2018

Rocky Lagudi

### Careers Semester 2

This year, there was a specific focus on providing students with practical skills in Semester 2.

#### 1. **Careers-Ed Infograph:**

- Infograph was released early this Semester
- Included details on APL, Crim & Torts
- Received a fantastic response!
- Thank you again Conor for a fantastic job
- Hopefully by the time of this OGM we will have released our second infograph, to feature Corps, Admin, Litigation

#### 2. **Networking Workshop:**

- Ran on Monday July 30 (Week 2, Semester 2) in the Law Theatre
- We had a fantastic speaker, Emily Kucukalic, accompanied by Jo Martin
- Her presentation was absolutely fantastic – probably one of the most memorable LSS events to date
  - Plenty of useful advice for networking events and interviews – everybody was frantically writing notes!
- It was received fantastically, with about 50 students all up, and a mixture of law and non-law students (we marketed the event to all students)
- Students were really engaged throughout and stayed back to ask questions well after the Q&A time finished
- In the future, there is absolutely scope to expand this event
  - Could look at the possibility of collaborating with different university societies so as to expand reach and minimise costs
  - Could also look at addressing different topics (and then rotate on a yearly basis)

#### 3. **Mock Interviews:**

- Mock interviews ran from Monday-Wednesday of Week 3 of this Semester
- The event was coordinated alongside ANU Careers Consultants
- Over the 3 days they held a total of 15 mock interviews
  - Both consultants sat in on interviews
  - Process was as follows: asked 2-3 questions in interview like format, then provided 15 mins of feedbacks
- All bookings were conducted through ANU Careerhub to success (although we did have a link issue initially)
  - Were able to really utilise this to make the interviews tailored
- Will be meeting ANU Careers during the mid-semester break (so hopefully will be able to report their feedback by this time)
- Further potential to expand this event to multiple dates throughout the year, so that students can have more opportunities to realise the services on offer

#### 4. **Legal Research in the Real World Workshop:**

- Co-ran this event alongside the Law Librarians (who were keen to run a workshop)

- Had a good turnout, with about 17 people coming along – event was held in the Law Link Theatre
- Students were also well-engaged with the event
- Happy with how the event turned out, given that there was not a lot of expectation and this was more of a tester
- Moving forward, more thought should be placed in how to best utilise the law librarians – I think there's usually a negative stigma surrounding anything to do with 'libraries', so it is often hard to excite student interest
- Probably alternative events can be ran that may take this place and gauge more interest – although as a group of staff who are really keen on working with the LSS, they should definitely not be disregarded
- Also am in the process of reaching out to the law librarians to get their feedback on the event

5. **SJ Careers Panel:**

- Event is confirmed for Wednesday Oct 3
- We are still in the process of confirming speakers (although hopefully this will all be confirmed by the end of the mid-semester break)
- Venue will be at the new Fellows Road Theatres
- So, come along – should be a cracking event!

## Vice-President (Competitions) OGM Report

Victoria Hoon

### The Competitions Portfolio

**VP:** Victoria Hoon

**Directors:** Zachary Shunmugam, Sophia Xian, Melly Zhao and Kunal Vankadara

**First Year Representative:** Henri Vickers

### ALSA

All ANU competitors did really well. Our Championship Moot team broke into the quarterfinals. Really well done!

### Internal Competitions

#### **1. Questions**

- Received Novice Mooting Question from Matt Staraj. The question is being used this semester.
- Expecting to receive an updated question from Ben Ye.
- After discussing with a witness examination judge, Scott Pobihun, we have arranged with his colleagues for new witness examination questions to be written. Will follow up when they will be sent through – hopefully they can be used for the semi and grand-finals.

#### **2. Rule Amendments**

- All internal competition rules were amended due to some inconsistencies within the rules and after all Competitions Directors' review and reflection of semester 1.
- A key amendment was the introduction of the "Special Bye" which operates alongside the 2-day ban rule. The rule was also introduced to reduce the effect of teams who have good/ compelling reasons from receiving a "forfeit" mark for that round. The rule has been implemented successfully and we have had less teams dropping out, less bans and more fairness throughout the Competitions.
- Another key amendment made was the process regarding appeals. We removed the concept of an appeals by-law and introduced and mandated the members of the Board of Appeals.
- Other amendments include amending or clarifying eligibility to compete, questions and clarifications, withdrawals and forfeits.

#### **3. Competitions Guide**

- Over the semester break, the Competitions Guide was produced.
- New sections – Competitions Timetable, Competition Overviews, "Meet a Judge", Competitions 101, Sample Written Submissions, Student Testimonials and ALSA were added this year.
- Lot more contributors from previous years, but it is a good step towards producing a more comprehensive Competitions Guide.
- Contributors consisted of volunteer judges/ lecturers and past student competitors.

- Worked closely with Conor and BnC to get the quality that was expected and desired.
- Received a lot of good feedback about the Guide.

#### **4. Novice Competitions Launch**

- From feedback last year, decided not to have a BBQ.
- Good turnout – around 90 people attended.
- Had the Competitions Guides, signups and Directors and VP mingling with students.
- Contributors to the Guide were also invited to attend and mingle with the students.
- Food options were party pies, sausage rolls (etc.) which were heated up in the CoL staff kitchen oven before the event. They were a good alternative to a BBQ - didn't cost too much and were convenient.

#### **5. Competitions Workshops**

- Mooting Workshop
  - o Speakers: Tracey Mylecharane and Madhav Fisher
  - o Around 50 attendees
- Negotiation Workshop
  - o Speakers: Craig Collins and Sarah Monkhouse
  - o Around 40 attendees
- Witness Examination Workshop
  - o Speaker: Michael Eburn
  - o Around 5 attendees
  - o Feedback for next year: work on publicising and promoting the Witness Examination Competition and workshops as it is a less popular competition.
- Client Interview Workshop
  - o Speakers: Samantha Woodforde and Gabriella Imperial
  - o Around 20 attendees
- Feedback forms were introduced this year, we have received good feedback from the workshops.

#### **6. Negotiation**

- Director: Melly Zhao
- 32 teams
  - o No withdrawals
- Received support from Clayton Utz judges.

#### **7. Mooting**

- Director: Zach Shunmugam
- 28 teams
  - o 5 teams have withdrawn
- Due to CoL construction, have all Novice Competitions in the Baldessin Precinct Building and moved the timeslots 1-hour later.
- Received support from King & Wood Mallesons judges.

#### **8. Witness Examination**

- Director: Kunal Vankadara

- 14 teams
  - 7 withdrawals
- Opened signup forms for people who wanted to volunteer as witnesses. Good response.
- Other witnesses have been filled in by committee members.
- Due to CoL construction, have all Novice Competitions in the Baldessin Precinct Building and moved the timeslots 1-hour later.

## **9. Client Interview**

- Director: Sophia Xian
- 15 teams
  - 1 team has withdrawn
- Opened signup forms for people who wanted to volunteer as clients. Good response.
- Other clients have been filled in by committee members.
- Received support from Ashurst judges.
- Due to Law Ball, round 2 of the competition was changed to a Tuesday. No problems regarding this arose (apart from room availability), due to the early notice.
- Overall, have received a lot of support from the ANU GDLP staff regarding judging. Students have been a really helpful resource as well.
- Regarding some discussions at ALSA, Suchara and I will meet with the Law Society to discuss whether judges can get CPD (continuing professional development) points when they judge.

## **10. Grand Finals**

- TBC – hopefully in Week 10
- Sponsor firms and Supreme/Magistrates Court will be contacted in Week 7 (or earlier if possible) to arrange the possibility of them hosting the grand finals

## External Competitions

- External Competitions Director, Prisca Ochan resigned.
  - As a result, there have been delays in organising practice moots.
- Has been replaced by <insert name>.

### **1. Policy Amendments**

- Amendments need to be made regarding the new travel subsidy, coherence and other recommendations from last year.
- Amendments will be made before elections.

### **2. AAT Moot**

- 11 applications.
- Team of 3 selected.
- ANU team won first round and progressed to second round, however, did not progress to the third.

### **3. Animal Law Moot**

- No suitable candidates so we decided not to send a team.

### **4. Castan Centre Human Rights Moot**

- 6 applications.
- Team of 3 selected.

### **5. Baker McKenzie National Women's Moot**

- 8 applications.
- Team of 3 selected.

### **6. Sir Harry Gibbs Constitutional Law Moot**

- 8 applications.
- Teams of 3 selected.

### **7. Kirby Contracts Moot**

- 13 applications.
- Team of 4 selected.

### **8. Gilbert + Tobin Intersociety Legal Technology Law Moot**

- Only one application received, so not sending a team.

### **9. UOW Criminal Law Moot**

- Due to the feedback from last year, decided not to open applications/ send a team.

### **10. External Competitions Database**

- Recommendation for next year – keep an extensive database and draw upon past competitors for mentoring/ coaching/ support.

### Meeting with Imogen

- Met with Imogen during the semester break.
- Discussed additional support from College of Law staff. Unlikely to get additional support unless a lot of advanced notice is given as staff are busy and don't receive any teaching credit from volunteering as internal competition judges/ practice moot judges.
- Also discussed which competitions the CoL funded/ LSS funded.
- Notified from CoL that competitors from LSS external competitions were eligible to \$250 grant from CoL.
- Also talked about the new Advocacy course and how students may be able to use their participation in LSS external competitions as the relevant experience. However, the course is still being formed, so there wasn't much discussion regarding this.

## OGM REPORT – EDUCATION

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*Lauren Skinner*  
*28 August 2018*

### **1. NAIDOC Week Speaker Event**

In line with the ANU Indigenous Department's NAIDOC week in early August, we ran a small panel event with Associate Professor Asmi Wood and the ANU's inaugural Postdoctoral Indigenous Fellow, Dr Virginia Marshall. The event provided students an opportunity to engage with the topic of Indigenous Australians and the law, and discuss ways in which we as law students and graduates can improve outcomes for Indigenous Australians.

### **2. CEC & College of Law Collaboration**

I have been continuing to meet regularly with the College of Law Sub-Dean, Anne MacDuff, and to attend College Education Committee meetings with Suchara. We have had the opportunity to provide input on assessment return policy; a new legal clinic/internship policy; new courses to be introduced over the coming years; and other changes within the law school. We were also able to work with students, the ANUSA law reps and the law school on the issues with assessment return and feedback last semester.

### **3. Student Resources**

The problem-solving workshops held last semester in conjunction with the College of Law were very successful and will be run again towards the end of this semester. This provided an extra resource to work on their HIRAC and problem-solving skills in the context of specific subjects.

### **4. Pre-Exam Tutorials**

We ran seven very successful pre-exam tutorial last semester, with some tutorials attracting over 100 students. The program will run again towards the end of this semester, with the potential inclusion of some additional group study sessions.

### **5. Indigenous Cultural Competency**

The education team have been working collaboratively with the ANUSA CoL Reps, the ANU Indigenous Department and CoL staff to work on an advocacy project supporting compulsory Indigenous cultural competency in the ANU law school and around Australia more regularly. Suchara and I presented on this in July at the ALSA National Conference and have so far received 23 signatures on our letter supporting compulsory Indigenous cultural competency. This letter will be presented to the Law Dean's Council in September. We are also working collaboratively on a survey to assess wider student interest in increased Indigenous content at the ANU and nationally.

### **6. Corporate Law Speaker Event**

In week 7 we will be hosting a speaker event on the current issues surrounding competition law, recent criminal charges and the ongoing banking saga. The panel will feature ANU academics, Peta Spender and Alex Bruce, and hopefully an outside guest speaker.

### **7. Collaboration with Careers**

We published our first infographic on electives and career choices early this semester. It was disseminated on Facebook and received strong positive feedback. We will be publishing a further infographic on three more core subjects in the mid-semester break.

# Events Report

Lucy Price

No report received.

# LSS End of Year AGM Social Justice Report

Sarah Svehla

## Portfolio Team

- VP: Sarah Svehla
- Directors: Carina Stone and Nila Norbu
- First Year Representative: Grace Lee

## Reflections

1. Law in Action: Cambodia Initiative
2. Social Justice Mentoring Program
3. LGBTIQ\* Issues in the Law
4. Women in Law Breakfast

## Upcoming

1. Social Justice Careers Event
2. Social Justice Dinner

## Ongoing

Law in Action: Cambodia Initiative

## Reflections

### Social Justice Mentoring Program

- Small group of 10 mentor-mentee partnership, including Dean of College of Law- heavily supports and endorsed
- Sending out a follow up poll to gain feedback on how the program is tracking but thus far have heard positive reports (very dependent on how well the two get along which is difficult to predict)
- Rather than a meet and greet, inviting all to the Social Justice Dinner to attend with their mentor
- In future years would love the group to be bigger so could model the WILO events etc. and build the program up

### LGBTIQ\* Issues in the Law Discussion Panel

- Very successful- 60ish people came to the free even
- Peter Hyndal, Heidi Yates, Karen Toohey, Stephanie Lum and mediated by Ben Lawrence
- Emphasis on issues facing LGBTIQ\* community with less limelight- focus on transgender and intersex peoples
- Good venue as intimate and could hear without microphones used
- Great catering from Vanilla Bean with lots of food

### Women in Law Breakfast

- Fantastic event with Professor Gillian Triggs
- Incredible turn out- 100 guests (a few no shows)
- Great catering from University House with a light breakfast

- Really interesting, engaging and intellectually challenging address from Triggs and a lot of feedback loved how her speech had direct relevance to their studies (Criminal law, Administrative Law, Commonwealth Constitutional Law, APL etc.)

## **Upcoming**

### Social Justice Careers

- Arranged for 3 October in Fellows Road Theatre
- Finalising food and speaker arrangements

### Social Justice Dinner

- Deng Adut had to pull out last minute due to personal reasons
- Julian Burnside AO QC Australian Human rights and refugee advocate coming from Melbourne
  - Flights and accommodation booked
- Also trying to get Marion Lê, huge refugee advocate/ migration agent in Canberra- awaiting her response
- University House booked for 28<sup>th</sup> September 6pm
- Would love to see as many people there as possible!

## **Ongoing**

### Law in Action: Cambodia Initiative

- Sub committee formal LSS body under Social Justice portfolio- haven't attended any meetings as of yet as no huge interest or need to but will look to increase attendance as trip is nearing
- Introduced a budget to facilitate fundraising initiatives and team bonding which is facilitating activities
- Itinerary and flights all booked in
- Fundraising is around \$1.5 grand at the moment with a goal of \$6 grand- proposed individual targets for each group member as well as hosting a Trivia Night, Thursday afternoon market stall at Pop up, barbeques (as the staple fundraising)