

## **CLS 2016/ 17 President's Report**

### **1. Members registry**

Members registry now up to 50

**Membership drive:** we will be starting subscriptions again for the new FY from 1 July.

### **2. Referral services**

David to report.

### **3. Meet the Profession Event – 7 September 2016**

Held at CQ Events on Queen Street again.

We had roughly 50 attendees with a roughly 1:1 ratio of students to professionals. In previous years it was 1.5 or 2 students: 1 professional. Mostly Monash students which is good as we have invested in Monash but highlights the need to reach out more to Melbourne, Deakin and other universities.

The speaker was Peter Agardy who shared on the topic of RECONCILING CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES WITH THE PRACTICE OF THE LAW

His paper is published on the website.

Traineeship offered by Lewis Holdway to Hannah Barton, who has since been actively involved with the Monash campus CLS.

Shadow opportunity with Ray Ternes, barrister in commercial law.

### **4. Australasian Christian Legal Convention – 29 September – 1 October 2016**

This was the highlight of 2016. This ACLC was the 3rd convention and the last one was held 14 years ago. The Convention was held in Brisbane and Victorian CLS together with Queensland CLS and Christian lawyers from all States in Australia and NZ were involved on the steering committee which took 12 months to plan and execute. Our gratitude to our Grant Hutchinson and Paul Holdway who chaired the steering committee. I also played a part in helping organise the religious freedom stream.

The keynote speaker was Mike Schutt from US Christian Lawyers Society and author of the book Redeeming Law,.

The Convention was broken into streams

- Being a Christian Lawyer
- Religious Freedom
- Peace Making
- Slavery/Trafficking/Refugees
- Not-for-Profit Law

Other speakers included Justice Debra Mullins, the President of the Queensland Law Society, NGOs such as IJM, Prison Fellowship, Peacewise etc

There was 180 attendances and there were Christian lawyers, judges and others from 25 countries represented.

There was a profit of \$13,000 approx which is held by CLEAR, who was ultimately responsible for housing the event under their legal structure and will be looking to sow those funds back into the various State-based CLS.

Overall an overwhelmingly successful event and everyone left feeling encouraged.

Vic CLS played its part by pledging \$5,000 and a further \$10,000 privately from members to help with seed money.

## **5. Follow up on ACLC event – 22 November 2016**

The summary of that meeting is that people want to have a voice. I hope that the CLS will find a way to become a medium for that voice. I will be formalising this in a report to members but a verse that resonates with me is Isa 52:

*For thus says the Lord God:  
“My people went down at first  
Into Egypt to dwell there;  
Then the Assyrian oppressed them without cause.  
5 Now therefore, what have I here,” says the Lord,  
“That My people are taken away for nothing?  
Those who rule over them  
Make them wail, <sup>[a]</sup> says the Lord,  
“And My name is blasphemed continually every day.  
6 Therefore My people shall know My name;  
Therefore they shall know in that day  
That I am He who speaks:  
‘Behold, it is I.’”  
7 How beautiful upon the mountains  
Are the feet of him who brings good news,  
Who proclaims peace,  
Who brings glad tidings of good things,  
Who proclaims salvation,  
Who says to Zion,  
“Your God reigns!”  
8 Your watchmen shall lift up their voices,  
With their voices they shall sing together;  
For they shall see eye to eye  
When the Lord brings back Zion.  
9 Break forth into joy, sing together,  
You waste places of Jerusalem!  
For the Lord has comforted His people,  
He has redeemed Jerusalem.  
10 The Lord has made bare His holy arm  
In the eyes of all the nations;  
And all the ends of the earth shall see  
The salvation of our God.*

## **6. Christmas Carols Service – 6 December 2017**

20+ people

We heard from our Natalie Fielding updating on CLEAR

Natalie just returned from another mission trip in Africa.

## **7. Upcoming Events: Annual Dinner – 13 June 2017**

Bi- annual dinner.

We had SC Justice Cameron Macaulay in 2015.

This year, we have the current Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations and former Victorian Attorney-General Robert Clark as our keynote speaker on the topic of “The Defence of Christian Values”

## **8. Final year**

Around May last year I announced that I would be stepping down in serving as President. That has come and gone really quickly. I am thankful for God in His faithfulness, in my committee whom I am not only proud to serve with, but have become good friends and the support of my family and friends.

I pray that the new Committee will be bolder, stronger and achieve great things, greater things than what He has done. I pray that this Committee will step into the destiny that our good Father has laid out, that He has called them for a time such as this.

I pray that the new committee will continue to examine themselves to find whether the CLS is fulfilling the Micah 6:8 mandate – ie to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God.