

# Our policy manager unrobed

Eva Scheerlinck, Melbourne

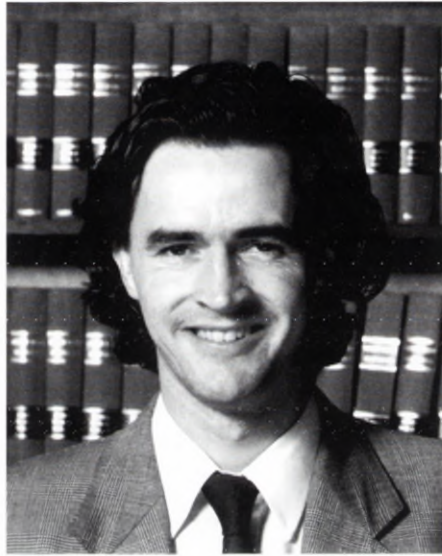
*Simon is a member of the Victorian Bar, and yet he has put his promising career as an advocate aside to pursue his passion for peace, justice and a greener world.*

As a former Court of Appeal Assistant Registrar, Research Coordinator and Editor of the Court's Judgment Summaries Bulletin, Simon knows many facets of the legal industry, including the solicitors' world which for him included three years with crime and family law firm, Kenna Croxford & Co. It is his interests outside the strict letter of the law, however, that have made him an invaluable member of the APLA team.

Simon is an active member of the Wilderness Society and to his credit had a hand in the recent triumph over the logging industry in persuading the Victorian Government to preserve the last unprotected forest region in the State. In addition to saving the Wongungarra region near Mt Hotham from logging for the next five years, he also helped save the Spotted Tree Frog, native to the area. Now if only Simon could save Victoria from Jeff Kennett in the next election.

When asked whether APLA will play a role in the upcoming Victorian election, he said, "We will certainly try, but will anyone other than Jeff play a part? That's the real question."

During the day Simon lobbies for the re-introduction of common law rights for all Australians on behalf of Plaintiff



lawyers. His dedication to fair and accessible justice has seen him enter his second year with APLA as the National Policy Manager. "Working with APLA was an opportunity to try and improve the legal system rather than just work away within a sausage factory," Simon said.

"APLA is increasingly becoming a force to be reckoned with. With lobbying victories in the Mitcham bi-election in Victoria, a win for motor vehicle accident victims in South Australia and success for Western Australian workers, APLA is achieving great things." With a twinkle in his eye he continues, "Much like myself, APLA is filled with vast untapped potential. APLA currently invokes a range of

emotions crossing between fear and respect. Respect from people that didn't realise that some lawyers are on the side of David and not Goliath."

"My role in APLA has grown from research to policy management and I hope that it will continue to expand into a full blown public affairs role."

Little known fact about Simon McGregor: He spent Christmas Eve 1997 with Yasser Arafat at the midnight mass service in Bethlehem's famous Church of the Nativity.

By night Simon transforms into a creature of rhythm. "I think it is important to lead a balanced life outside of work. For that reason I love my purely emotional hobby of deejaying and my girlfriend, Julie. I also enjoy working with other causes," Simon explained.

Simon read with Jack Forrest QC who had the following to say about APLA's National Policy Manager. "It's very hard having a reader who spends most of his time running a disco. He is however a very good lawyer and I think he should run some cases."

Simon, we hope that you stay with us, as without your policy direction and vision APLA would lose its main driving force. ■

**Eva Scheerlinck** was APLA's Media Officer in 1998, and is now an articulated clerk at Ryan Carlisle Thomas in Dandenong

## STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION

prize

Registration to the **Australian Plaintiff Lawyers Association Conference**

to be held in Sydney from October 21 - 23, 1999 including airfares (from any Australian capital city) & accommodation

essay (maximum 5000 words) should be forwarded to

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