



ROSS BECROFT



CRAIG DOOLAN

care to contribute?

If you are interested in joining the editorial committee or contributing the occasional article, please contact us.

With a broader base of contributors, we'll be able to draw on more expertise to make the Journal better and more interesting for you.

contact us

...with your comments, inquiries, letters and submissions at:
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New Editorial Committee members and occasional contributors alike are welcomed.

new committees

The Social Committee has been given a new lease on life, and a new Law Reform Committee has been established. If you are interested in joining either of these or any other of the Young Lawyers' Section committees, contact Karen Hermann (9607 9379) or Darren Hogeboom on (9607 9466) or email: younglaw@liv.asn.au

THIS EDITION - You will find, as usual, reports from each of the committees comprising the Young Lawyers' Section. There are also reports from the recent inaugural Young Lawyers' Conference and a delegation who attended the NSW Young Lawyers Mid Year Assembly. The profile is on comedian, producer and former lawyer David Guthrie. The legal update includes an article on the new national privacy principles and an update on the Surveillance Devices Act. This edition's review features new bar Khokolate and restaurant Zukini.

IMMIGRATION THEME - Australian immigration policy is no stranger to controversy. However, it is perhaps accurate to say that never before has Australia been under such international scrutiny for its immigration policies and procedures as it is at present.

Since Australia granted temporary resident status to several thousand Kosovar refugees in 1999, the issue of immigration, and particularly, stories about 'boat people' - have made daily headlines in all major news media as smuggled human cargo in hazardous and expensive journeys to our shores, often via several international ports, and their protracted detention of Australia's various remote immigration detention centres. We have also heard about the conditions they endure during their incarceration, and the bureaucratic obstacles which they face in their quest to obtain various visas to permit them to remain in Australia.

With an immigration policy that arguably is at odds with international human rights conventions, and non-residents arriving weekly in large numbers, now is an appropriate juncture at which to look at Australian immigration policy and practices.

Many countries do not detain refugees for lengthy period of time. Rather, refugees are generally allowed to integrate into the broader community while their application for refugee status is processed. Due to the current overcrowding of its Immigration Detention Centres, Australia may have to adopt a similar approach in the future.

There are many other issues and angles which we would have liked to explore (eg. comparative studies of immigration intake levels and policies around the world, or the fact that Australia's immigration detention centres are run by private American companies) but space and time, and the fact that the contributors to the YLJ are full-time lawyers and not journalists, do not permit.

It has been our perception that news stories often focus on the economic and emotional angles of immigration and provide scant background on the various types of visas, grounds for assessment and approval of applications, and avenues of review for unsuccessful applicants. We hope that the articles gathered in this edition assist in providing an insight into the broader legal and administrative context of immigration into Australia.

Craig Doolan and Ross Becroft