

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

**40** YEARS

VICTORIA LAW FOUNDATION  
1967 – 2007

*Making Law Accessible*

# Contents

OUR BOARD	02
OUR STAFF	04
GRANTS	06
ACCESS TO JUSTICE	10
PUBLICATIONS	12
SUPPORT FOR BEST PRACTICE	14

Financial section of this report available online at: [www.victorialaw.org.au](http://www.victorialaw.org.au) or contact us for a printed copy.

This annual report is printed on recycled paper, with ISO 14001 Environmental Accreditation.



## Victoria Law Foundation

Level 5, Hardware House  
43 Hardware Lane  
Melbourne Vic 3000  
DX 491 Melbourne

Tel 03 9604 8100  
ABN 64 131 425 884

[www.victorialaw.org.au](http://www.victorialaw.org.au)

# OUR PRESIDENT

## From Foundation President, The Hon Chief Justice Marilyn Warren AC

Since its establishment in 1967, Victoria Law Foundation has maintained a consistent record of excellence in community education, legal innovation and reform and capacity building on many fronts. We can be justly proud of these achievements.

This year's commemorative annual report records numerous highlights, including the 2007 Distinguished Pro Bono Service Awards. This year's awards honoured eleven outstanding contributions to Indigenous rights, coinciding with the 40th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum.

The Foundation launched the Civics Roadshow this year – a program to take legal information to regional schools and communities. The inaugural Roadshow took place in Morwell, with other regional centres to follow.

The Board also committed additional funds from its reserves for a Special Grants program. Grants were awarded to the Law Institute of Victoria to develop and implement community seminars throughout Victoria on understanding changes to family law and legal issues relevant to our ageing population.

I thank our Board and Foundation staff, as ever, for their skills and dedication. I also commend and farewell Executive Director Professor Kathy Laster. During the last four and a half years, Kathy's vision and dynamism have notably enhanced the

Foundation's reputation for innovation, capacity-building, clarity of purpose and relevance to the Victorian public. We wish her every success in her new position.

Finally, I acknowledge that the Board is fortunate to have members of high standing in the legal profession, the community and government. The Foundation is privileged to enjoy the Board members' continuous contribution to all that it does.



The Honourable Chief Justice  
Marilyn Warren AC

President, Victoria Law Foundation



# OUR BOARD

## Foundation Board

**Back:** Ms Cathy Gale (Law Institute of Victoria's nominee), Mr Geoffrey Provis (President Law Institute of Victoria ex officio), Mr Peter Seidel (Attorney-General's nominee), Prof Morag Fraser AM (Attorney-General's nominee), Mr Paul Lacava SC (representing the Chairman of the Victorian Bar Council), Ms Elizabeth Eldridge (representing the Attorney-General), Ms Alexandra Richards QC (Chief Justice's nominee), Mr Mick Hall (co-opted member)

**Front:** Mr Kevin Lyons (Chief Justice's nominee), The Hon Justice Marilyn Warren AC, Chief Justice of Victoria and President of Victoria Law Foundation, Her Hon Magistrate Jane Patrick (Chief Justice's nominee)

**Absent:** Mr Bill O'Shea (Law Institute of Victoria's nominee to May 2007), Ms Liberty Sanger (Attorney-General's nominee), Ms Victoria Strong (Law Institute of Victoria's nominee), Mr Mark Woods (Law Institute of Victoria's nominee)



## THE FOUNDATION BOARD

President and Chair  
The Hon Chief Justice Marilyn Warren AC  
Meets 4 times per year

## 4 EXECUTIVE SERVICES SUBGROUP

Ms Alexandra Richards QC (Chair)  
Prof Morag Fraser AM  
Ms Cathy Gale  
Mr Mick Hall  
Mr Kevin Lyons  
Mr Peter Seidel  
Mr Mark Woods  
Prof Kathy Laster (Executive Director)  
**Meets 8 times per year**

## GRANTS SUBGROUP

Mr Kevin Lyons (Chair)  
Mr Paul Lacava SC  
Ms Liberty Sanger  
Mr Peter Seidel  
Ms Victoria Strong  
Prof Kathy Laster (Executive Director)  
Joh Kirby (Grants Manager)  
**Meets 3 times per year**

## PUBLICATIONS SUBGROUP

Mr Mark Woods (Chair)  
Prof Morag Fraser AM  
Mr Kevin Lyons  
Her Hon Magistrate Jane Patrick  
Prof Kathy Laster (Executive Director)  
Jane Farago (Publications Manager)  
**Meets 3 times per year**

## AUDIT, FINANCE & INVESTMENT SUBGROUP

Mr Mick Hall (Chair)  
Mr Paul Lacava SC  
Mr Bill O'Shea (to May 2007)  
Mr Geoffrey Provis (from May 2007)  
Prof Kathy Laster (Executive Director)  
**Meets 3 times per year**

# OUR STAFF

## Foundation Staff

**Back:** Joady Donovan, Marketing and Communications Manager; Diane Shannon, Administration and Finance Manager; Robin Astley, Publications Officer;

**Front:** Joh Kirby, Grants Manager; David Thomson, Teacher in Residence; Prof Kathy Laster, Executive Director; Christine Walton, Finance Officer

**Absent:** Jane Farago, Publishing Manager; Kate Hanlon, Projects Officer; Fiona Harrison, Finance Officer (replacing C Walton); Maria McGarvie, Support for Best Practice Projects Manager; Tim Moyes, Publishing Projects Manager; and Tarni Perkal, Grants and Projects Officer



## From Executive Director, Professor Kathy Laster

This last year, the Foundation's 40th, has been particularly exciting, with numerous well-publicised, warmly received events and achievements.

Highlights of 2007 included:

- Major Michael Mori, high-profile US lawyer for Australian Guantanamo Bay prisoner David Hicks, who addressed an audience of over 700 at the University of Ballarat before fielding lawyers' questions at the VIP Breakfast held at the State Library of Victoria.
- Awarding the 2007 Community Legal Centre Fellowship to Fitzroy Legal Service's Rachna Muddagouni, to develop a planning manual for Community Legal Centres.

- Our best-ever Law Week, with over 100 exhibitions, plays, competitions, speeches, seminars and presentations. Law Week's disability rights focus enabled it to attract audiences that may not otherwise have been able to attend.
- Publication of a suite of teacher notes to support legal studies and civics and citizenship programs in schools.

Such achievements illustrate our overarching aim of making law accessible to the community, as well as demonstrating the Foundation's integral presence within Victoria's legal profession. Since 1967, we have matured into a vital "meeting point" for lawyers – in all areas of work, public and private – and the community.

2007 has been our most active and successful year to date, and for me a poignant finale. As Executive Director, this is my last year with the Foundation.

I am grateful to the Board for their hard work and commitment to the Foundation. It has been both a joy and privilege to work with the Foundation's talented and creative team. I am confident that the Foundation will continue its record of innovative and important work during its next 40 years.

Professor Kathy Laster,  
Executive Director

# GRANTS

Through its long-standing grants program, the Foundation is a consistent and committed supporter of a diverse range of access to justice initiatives.

During 2006–7, over \$500,000 was granted to legal and community sector organisations to undertake a wide range of innovative, legal-based programs and publications. In many cases, along with financial support, the Foundation also provided expertise in areas such as planning and publishing.

The Foundation supported a number of human rights-based projects this year, which coincided with the passage of Victoria's Charter of the *Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*. These projects include funding a special human rights-themed edition of the journal *Just Policy* and the development of a "Train-the-Trainer" program and resource kit on the Charter for community organisations.

- 6 Other significant projects include a grant to the Fitzroy Legal Service to develop an online version of their very successful *Law Handbook*, and a grant to Victorian Court Information and Welfare Network Inc to develop training for Court Network volunteers to raise awareness on cultural diversity issues.

These and many other initiatives build on community knowledge and encourage greater efficiency and networks, resulting in considerable value for Victorians.

## GRANTS BY THE NUMBERS

### GENERAL GRANTS

17  
**\$393,529.46**

### SPECIAL GRANTS

2  
**\$102,000.00**

### SMALL GRANTS

35  
**\$98,764.24**

### TOTAL

**54**  
**\$594,293.70**

## RECIPIENTS

### COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES

22  
**\$163,685.70**

### COURTS

4  
**\$58,946.00**

### PEAK BODIES

6  
**\$35,506.54**

### RESEARCH INSTITUTES

7  
**\$105,500.00**

### REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

3  
**\$150,557.92**

### STATUTORY BODIES

3  
**\$8,454.54**

### OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

9  
**\$71,643.00**

### TOTAL

**54**  
**\$594,293.70**

## SPECIAL GRANTS

### LAW INSTITUTE OF VICTORIA

Recent changes in family law community seminar

**\$33,500**

### LAW INSTITUTE OF VICTORIA

Life Legals - planning for a secure future

**\$68,500**

In a special grant round, Victoria Law Foundation funded the Law Institute of Victoria to develop two community seminar series to be presented throughout Victoria. The first seminar will focus on recent changes to family law legislation and the second series of seminars will provide information on legal issues for the over-50 age group. The first of these seminars was held in Melbourne at the LIV Lecture Theatre during August – September 2007.

## GENERAL GRANTS

Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS) \$12,000

*Just Policy* journal – human rights special edition

Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH) \$8,500

Research project on the effective provision of legal advice to the not-for-profit sector

Fitzroy Legal Service Inc \$30,000

Feasibility study for publication of the popular *Law Handbook* online. The website was successfully launched in May 2007



Rachna Muddagouni, Executive Officer, Fitzroy Legal Service, speaks at the launch of the Fitzroy Law Handbook Online.

Monash University – Faculty of Business and Economics, Department of Business Law and Taxation \$28,000

*Empirical Study of Class Actions*

**“Without the support, both financial and non-financial, of Victoria Law Foundation, I would not have been able to conduct an empirical study of Victoria’s class action regime, a project which numerous commentators have called for over the last two years or so.”**

Dr Vince Morabito, Associate Professor, Department of Business Law and Taxation, Monash University

Human Rights Law Resource Centre Ltd \$14,800

Just as the Victorian Parliament recognised a need for a Charter of Human Rights to protect and empower its citizens, the Foundation identified the importance of widespread understanding of human rights and responsibilities. To that end, a grant was awarded to the Human Rights Resource Centre to facilitate two significant projects:

1. A “Train-the-Trainer” program to assist pro bono lawyers;
2. A resource kit for community centres, providing advice on utilising and complying with the Charter

La Trobe University, Gay & Lesbian Health Victoria, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society \$52,583

*Making it Happen Together* – a study into the legal protection needs of gay, lesbian and transgender people

Victorian Court Information and Welfare Network Inc \$17,338

Improving cultural diversity awareness among volunteers and improving recruitment levels of new volunteers from diverse communities

Consumer Credit Legal Centre (NSW) \$14,600

Specialist insurance legal assistance service for consumers – a pilot program

Law Institute of Victoria \$48,558

*Collaborative Practice: From Research to Practical Application*

Western Suburbs Legal Service \$18,662

Child Protection Booklet

Lawyers for Animals (LFA) \$11,775

Legal project worker and volunteer coordinator

Monash University \$12,917

Increasing Jurors’ Comprehension of the Jury Charge: Judicial Interviews

Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS) \$12,007

Human Rights Charter: an analysis of needs

County Court of Victoria \$50,000

Court Information Office Pilot and Feasibility Study

Child Wise Ltd \$24,700

*Looking After The Children: Whose Duty to Care?*

Women’s Legal Service Victoria (WLSV) \$12,090

WLSV e-learning law project

PILCH Homeless Persons’ Legal Clinic \$25,000

*The Homelessness Law and Advocacy Resource Manual*

## SMALL GRANTS

Young People's Legal Rights Centre Inc (Youthlaw)  
\$2,727

*What's the Deal?* kit on legal issues for young people published in partnership with Victoria Legal Aid

Federation of Community Legal Centres (Vic) Inc  
\$2,727

*Smart Justice Brochures* – a series of fact sheets covering criminal, human rights and social issues

Russian Cultural & TV Association Inc  
\$3,000

Legal Programs for Sputnik TV

Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission  
\$2,727

Exhibition held in Law Week 2007 to highlight human rights abuses and victories

PILCH Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic  
\$2,530

Assistance to present a Consumer Homelessness Forum with a UN Special Rapporteur

Springvale Monash Legal Service Inc  
\$2,350

Establishment of the South Eastern Migration Assistance Service

Flemington Kensington Legal Centre (FKLC)  
\$2,230

8 Non-violence community safety training for newly arrived refugees and migrant youth in dealing with police. Trainer fees, printing and program development

Flemington Kensington Legal Centre (FLKC)  
\$3,000

Grant to employ a local coordinator to commence the Youth Referral and Independent Person Program

Tarrwirri – Indigenous Students and Lawyers Association of Victoria (ISLAV)  
\$2,500

Rebranding and usability enhancement of the ISLAV website

University of Melbourne  
Law Students Society  
\$3,000

Printing the inaugural *RightNow* human rights law in Australia journal



John Tobin, Henrietta Zeffert and Julian Burnside QC at the launch of the *RightNow* journal



Barrister Stewart Bayles (left) and Foundation Executive Director Kathy Laster (right) listen to issues relating to sign language interpretation

Australian Sign Language Interpreters Association (ASLIA)  
\$3,000

The development of a legal training program by the Australian Sign Language Interpreters Association (ASLIA)

**“This course allowed ASLIA interpreters to acquire vital legal information and learn key skills that will enable them to work in the legal sector with confidence, thus enabling the deaf community better access to justice.”**

Emmalaura Messer, project coordinator

The Victorian Bar  
\$3,000

Compilation of suitable archival material for the Russell Street Melbourne Justice Museum

BOOBook Theatre  
\$3,000

*Law Matters* educational theatre performance

Victorian Association of Restorative Justice  
\$3,000

Group Conferencing instructional DVD – money to employ three professional actors

Swinburne University of Technology Institute of Social Research  
\$3,000

Plain language information on deportation law, its history and current application

Flemington Kensington Legal Centre  
\$2,756

Further assistance on multi-lingual series of public housing brochures on tenants' rights. (Available for download at: [www.communitylaw.org.au/flemingtonkensington](http://www.communitylaw.org.au/flemingtonkensington))



Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Legal Service  
\$2,925

Promotion for the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal

Women Barristers Association (WBA)  
\$3,000

*Women Barristers in Victoria –  
Then and Now*

**“This Law Week exhibition displayed the historic challenges and significant achievements of women at the Victorian Bar. We hope it results in the continued improvement of opportunities for women lawyers. The Foundation can certainly take credit for when these improvements do occur!”**

Simone Jacobson, Convenor, Women Barristers Association



Joan Rosanove, Victoria's first woman QC  
(from WBA exhibition)

Multicultural Sudanese Centre Inc  
\$2,830

Educational program to enhance awareness of legal issues amongst Sudanese and other African communities

PILCH Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic  
\$3,000

Series of educational short films and animations aimed at dispelling the myths of homelessness

Women Barristers Association (WBA)  
\$3,000

Oral history e-film featuring past and present WBA convenors

Office of the Public Advocate  
\$3,000

A poster promoting the Foundation-funded *Take Control* video to be displayed in community legal services, neighbourhood houses and doctors' surgeries

University of Melbourne –  
Dr Austin Lovegrove  
\$3,000

Assistance with publication of research profiling community perceptions on sentencing

Palliative Care Victoria Inc  
\$3,000

Consumer leaflet *Appointing an Enduring Guardian*

Magistrates' Court of Victoria  
\$2,946

Establishment of an historical database of former magistrates' experiences in this court

Peninsula Community Legal Centre Inc  
\$3,000

30th anniversary commemorative publication

La Trobe University – School of Social Work and Social Policy & School of Law  
\$3,000

Comparative research on international human rights to enhance the operation of the Victorian Charter

Darebin Community Legal Centre Inc  
\$3,000

Resource material on prisoners' rights, to aid CLC lawyers in their casework

Federation of Community Legal Centres (Vic) Inc  
\$3,000

*Anti-Terror Laws Training Manual*

Alternative Law Journal  
\$3,000

*Innovation in clinical legal education:  
Educating lawyers for the future*

Supreme Court of Victoria  
\$3,000

File Management Project – improved records management

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre  
\$1,000

Specific legal information aimed at women asylum seekers, presented in wallet-sized format

Footscray Community Legal Centre  
\$2,788

Bilingual facilitators to work with the legal service in assisting a key client group, the African community



The Hon Rob Hulls MP, Attorney-General Victoria awarding 2006 Victoria Law Foundation CLC Fellowship recipient Rachna Muddagouni of Fitzroy Community Legal Service

## COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE (CLC) FELLOWSHIP

Rachna Muddagouni – Planning Framework Training Toolkit  
\$50,000

This year, the Community Legal Centre Fellowship was awarded to Rachna Muddagouni, CEO of the Fitzroy Legal Service. Funding from the Foundation will enable the development of a planning framework training tool kit for community legal centres in Victoria. The kit will support effective service delivery models and strategic sector development.

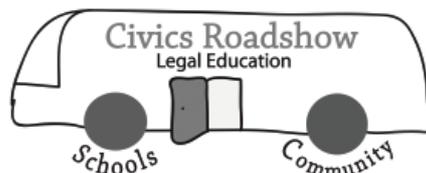
# ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Victoria Law Foundation's flexibility and independence enable it to engage in community project work with a wide range of organisations across the legal and not-for-profit sector, whilst ensuring that regional communities also benefit. In these working relationships, we focus on fostering a widespread understanding of our legal system, which is critical to the continuous improvement of access to justice.

## Civics Roadshow for Rural Victoria

In May 2007, the Foundation's inaugural Civics Roadshow offered Gippsland VCE students the same learning opportunities as their inner-city counterparts. In addition, the roadshow community program advised the general public on problems sometimes posed by neighbours, banks, telephone providers and even lawyers!

Both the school and community program were a success in Morwell, with the roadshow visiting Mildura in September 2007.



## Rural Law Online ([www.rurallaw.org.au](http://www.rurallaw.org.au))

Rural Law Online is regional Victoria's major online portal to legal information. A Foundation initiative, the website has attracted more than 4.5 million hits and 1.25 million page views since its inception in January 2005.

## RURAL LAW ONLINE STATISTICS

TOTAL VISITS TO FEB 2007

**322,881**

TOTAL PAGE VIEWS

**1,253,609**

TOTAL HITS

**4,580,913**

CURRENT AVERAGE DAILY VISITS

**607**

WEBSITE VISITS JAN TO DEC 2005

**100,396**

WEBSITE VISITS JAN TO DEC 2006

**183,378**

## Law Week 2007

Each year, Law Week brings together over 80 organisations, with more than 100 events held across Victoria including open court tours, exhibitions and seminars.

This year's Law Week was held in partnership with the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission.

### Law Week Oration – The Hon Michael McHugh AC QC



Law Week Orator The Hon Michael McHugh AC QC (second from left) with (from left) Assoc Prof Carolyn Evans, University of Melbourne, The Hon Chief Justice Marilyn Warren AC, Paul Lacava SC, Victoria Law Foundation Board member and Victorian Bar Council Junior Vice-Chairman, and Prof Jenny Morgan, University of Melbourne

### VIP Breakfast with Major Michael Mori, State Library of Victoria



Lex Lasry QC, The Hon Rob Hulls MP, Alexandra Richards QC and Major Mori at the VIP Breakfast during which Major Mori spoke of conditions in Guantanamo Bay and the charges against his client David Hicks

Victoria Law Foundation partnered with Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission to host a VIP Breakfast on Friday 2 March with Major Mori, whom Attorney-General Rob Hulls described as a man 'in pursuit of a just cause, not only in the interest of a client, but of justice itself'.



Major Mori addresses distinguished members of the legal profession at the VIP Breakfast hosted by Victoria Law Foundation, Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission and The Hon Rob Hulls MP Attorney-General Victoria

## Law Week Information Seminars



These dealt with disability law, human rights, animal welfare and a host of other topics. Legal Services Commissioner Victoria Marles (above) presented 'Getting the best from your lawyer' at the Law Institute of Victoria



A Body Corporate / Owners Corporation event was co-hosted by the Foundation, Coadys Barristers and Solicitors, Institute of Body Corporate Managers Victoria, Consumer Affairs Victoria, the Building Commission, Marshall Day Acoustics and the Law Institute of Victoria

## VCAT Egyptian Moot



VCAT mediators Frances Falduti and Julian Ireland sit in judgment at the VCAT Egyptian Moot



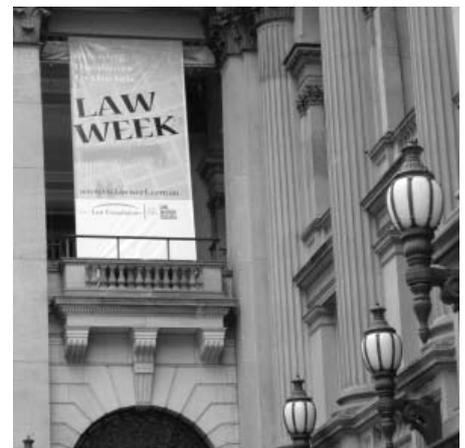
[www.vic.lawweek.com.au](http://www.vic.lawweek.com.au)



### Law Week School Poster Competition 2007

Winning entry (above) designed by Susan Van, Year 11 student

**“This winning design encapsulates the inclusive and positive spirit of the Human Rights declaration.” – Dr Helen Szoke, Chief Executive Officer of the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission.**



# PUBLICATIONS

## PUBLISHING STATISTICS

PUBLICATIONS CURRENTLY IN PRINT:

26

FREE PUBLICATIONS:

18

SUBSIDISED PUBLICATIONS  
FOR SALE:

8

AGENCIES ASSISTED THROUGH THE  
PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM:

41

NUMBER OF PUBLICATIONS  
DISTRIBUTED:

113,304

The Foundation has consolidated its reputation as a leader in quality plain language legal publishing. Emphasising as always the importance of plain English and communicating to a wide audience, the Foundation supported the development of legal information grants, and acted in an advisory capacity to grant applicants and other legal sector organisations.

The Foundation's own publishing program this year focused on provision of resources for schools with a new suite of teacher notes. We also built on the success of past products with reprints and new editions of popular products.

## DISTRIBUTION HIGHLIGHTS

TITLE	UNITS
BODY CORPORATE QUICK GUIDE	16,545
BODY CORPORATE MANUAL	200
DOGS, CATS, NEIGHBOURS & YOU	27,290
MELBOURNE'S LEGAL PRECINCT MAP	2,614
NEIGHBOURS, THE LAW & YOU	15,527
PARKING, THE LAW & YOU	46,061
PRIVATE LIVES (via Information Victoria)	983
TEACHERS, STUDENTS & THE LAW	1,604

### Support for the Grants Program

Throughout the year the Publications Manager offers support and advice for grant applicants and recipients, ranging from designer referrals to advising on marketing and distribution strategies.

### Legal Education Titles

The Foundation recently launched a suite of teacher notes and student activities for the VCE legal studies and VELS civics and citizenship curricula.

Titles include:

- **Case Studies on Human Rights**
- **Danielle Come to Judgment:** a model hearing in the Magistrates' Court
- **Death at Blue Hills:** a model criminal trial in the Supreme Court
- **Dr Grant and his Underpants:** a model mediation
- **Melbourne's Legal Precinct:** teacher notes and excursion activity
- **We the Jury:** DVD, teacher notes and VELS unit of work

All except the DVD are available to download free from our website ([www.victorialaw.org.au](http://www.victorialaw.org.au))



### Women Barristers in Victoria – Then and Now

This exhibition was researched and written by the Women Barristers Association with the aid of a Foundation small grant and produced by our Publications department. The display was launched at the Supreme Court during Law Week, prior to touring different venues around the legal sector and the wider community.

### Pocket edition of Melbourne's Legal Precinct map

A new pocket edition of our illustrated map *Melbourne's Legal Precinct* was launched at the Legal Laneways Breakfast in January 2007. Copies were snapped up by law firms, legal agencies and legal education providers, which prompted a reprint of a further 2,000 copies in June.



### Reprints for Law Week and Civics Roadshow

To support the Civics Roadshow and Law Week events in May, the Foundation reprinted two of its popular publications – *Wigs & Gowns* and *The Supreme Court Dungeons*.



### Local Laws Pamphlets

There has been strong ongoing demand for our series of 'local laws' pamphlets. In October 2006, 17,000 copies of *Neighbours, the Law & You* were printed, and the new edition of *Parking, the Law & You* included 25,000 copies for Melbourne City Council, which is now sending out the pamphlet with all relevant correspondence.

**“The local laws booklets help people understand what their rights are, as they are simple to read and a good alternative to legislation.”**

Kaye Hall, Bass Coast Shire Council



# SUPPORT FOR BEST PRACTICE

We support “best practice” when we broker the exchange of ideas at special events or between pro bono coordinators in meetings arranged by our Pro Bono Secretariat. These have proven ideal opportunities to brainstorm and develop new methods of legal practice.

Similarly, the Foundation’s annual Legal Reporting and Pro Bono Distinguished Service awards, together with our internship program for students, are effective ways to model best practice for journalists reporting legal issues, lawyers doing pro bono work, and the students who will one day be the legal profession.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of our Legal Reporting Awards.

## Distinguished Pro Bono Service Awards

Recognition of commitment and excellence in pro bono work has been an important focus for the Foundation. This year’s awards coincided with the fortieth anniversary of the passing of the landmark 1967 Constitutional Referendum on the rights of indigenous people. The awards recognised outstanding contributions to indigenous rights and were presented by The Hon Rob Hulls, Attorney-General of Victoria.



Victoria Law Foundation Distinguished Pro Bono Service Awards recipients 2007 recognised for their outstanding contributions to indigenous rights (back) Peter Seidel, Bryan Keon-Cohen QC, His Honour Judge Parsons, John Emerson AM, Mark Leibler, The Hon Justice Geoffrey Eames and (front) Inala Dodson for Prof Mick Dodson AM, Dr Alf Bamblett and Dr Kate Auty. Other award winners were the late Ron Castan AM QC and Ron Merkel QC

## Legal Reporting Awards 2007



Legal Reporting Awards winners 2007 (from left to right): Best Report on Radio, Damien Carrick, ABC Radio National; Best Report in Print and Best News Breaking Report – All Media, William Birnbauer, The Sunday Age; Best Report on Television and Columb Brennan Award, Rachael Brown, ABC TV; Best Photograph, John Hart, Herald Sun; Tony Smith Award, Katherine Kizlos, The Age; The Hon Justice Kevin Bell; Reporter of the Year, Geoff Wilkinson, Herald Sun; and The Hon Chief Justice Marilyn Warren AC

### Legal Sector Publishing Forums

The Foundation hosted three professional development forums for 25 different agencies, including Victoria Legal Aid, Department of Justice, Footscray Community Legal Service and the Environment Defenders Office on legal information publishing. As the auspice for legal information publishing, the Foundation funds, publishes, keeps a register of planned projects, and provides sources of expertise and brokers fruitful collaborations. Topics for this year included: "An introduction to copyright law", "Publications that work: plain language and simple processes" and "Reaching culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) audiences: translation and other strategies".

**"Thanks to Victoria Law Foundation for organising today's seminar. It was both informative and stimulating."**

Bronwyn Hammond,  
Self-Represented Litigants Coordinator,  
Supreme Court of Victoria

**"Good presenter, well organised, tight, appropriate to my needs. ... Best of all, it revived my faith in project-managing publications."**

Mandy Johnson, Administration  
and Projects Coordinator,  
Environment Defender's Office



Participants at the Legal Sector Publishing Forum listen to publishing specialist Steve Carey share his tips and tricks of the trade

### Education Forum

The Education Forum is consistently growing in size and scope. Comprising court and other agency representatives, the Forum meets quarterly at the Foundation to discuss and develop educational and civics resources for schools. One of these initiatives, spearheaded by the Foundation, is the Civics in the City online resource for teachers to access information ranging from school excursions and classroom materials to legal and civics related websites.

### Chief Justice's Medal for Excellence and Community Service



Victoria University student Daniel Matta received the Chief Justice's Medal for Excellence & Community Service

### Legal Policy Internship Program

During 2006–7, Victoria Law Foundation's Legal Policy Internship Program connected 45 volunteer law students with 21 public sector organisations for a 20-day working period.

**"The Victoria Law Foundation Legal Internship Program gave me a unique insight and first-hand experience in areas of public interest law."**

Tom Davidson  
(Judicial College of Victoria intern)

**"Interning with the CCP showed me that I was able to cope with the law in the real world, that nothing is ever insurmountable, and that with a bit of encouragement, the world really can be your oyster."**

Claire Lindsay-Johns  
(Office of the Chief Commissioner of Police intern)

### Legal Laneway Breakfast

The Legal Laneway Breakfast – an inspiration of the Foundation's Kathy Laster – is a cross-sectoral, secular celebration to mark the opening of the legal year.



Melbourne's legal sector out in force at the Legal Laneway Breakfast on 30 January 2007. The Hon Justice Marcia Neave AO from the Victorian Court of Appeal was this year's guest speaker



Foundation Board member and Victorian Bar Council Junior Vice-Chairman Paul Lacava SC draws the raffle with help from Justitia (aka the Foundation's Lorin Clarke). Over \$700 was raised for the Women's Legal Service Victoria (WLSV)



## FINANCIAL REPORT 2007

# 40 YEARS

VICTORIA LAW FOUNDATION  
1967 – 2007

### Contents

INCOME STATEMENT	02
BALANCE SHEET	03
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY	04
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS	05
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	06
FOUNDATION MEMBERS' DECLARATION	15
INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT	16

# Income Statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

---

	Note	2007 \$	2006 \$
Sales revenue		44,089	92,707
Profit from sale of investments		33,860	14,472
Other income		1,955,651	1,775,364
	2	2,033,600	1,882,543
Employee benefits expense		(720,958)	(628,369)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	3	(14,199)	(13,475)
Program expenses		(874,409)	(826,014)
Occupancy expenses		(61,543)	(64,772)
Administrative expenses		(165,262)	(154,814)
Other expenses		(43,990)	(34,002)
		(1,880,361)	(1,721,446)
<b>Profit before income tax expense (income tax benefit)</b>		<b>153,239</b>	<b>161,097</b>
Income tax benefit (income tax expense)	1(i)	-	-
<b>Profit from continuing operations</b>		<b>153,239</b>	<b>161,097</b>

---

# Balance Sheet

AS AT 30 JUNE 2007

	Note	2007 \$	2006 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	641,454	576,187
Trade receivables	5	275,488	175,045
Available-for-sale financial assets	7	1,250,478	1,560,679
Other	6	10,912	6,346
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>2,178,332</b>	<b>2,318,257</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Available-for-sale financial assets	7	2,252,438	2,101,329
Property, plant and equipment	8	53,476	49,298
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>2,305,914</b>	<b>2,150,627</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>4,484,246</b>	<b>4,468,884</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	9	78,411	100,641
Provisions	10	761,041	773,060
Other	11	34,979	34,979
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>874,431</b>	<b>908,680</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Provisions	10	11,110	-
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>11,110</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>885,541</b>	<b>908,680</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>3,598,705</b>	<b>3,560,204</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Other reserves	12	97,485	212,223
Accumulated funds	13	3,501,220	3,347,981
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>3,598,705</b>	<b>3,560,204</b>

# Statement of Changes in Equity

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

---

	Note	2007 \$	2006 \$
<b>Total equity at the beginning of the financial year</b>		<b>3,560,204</b>	<b>3,219,792</b>
Gain/(loss) on revaluation of investments		(114,738)	179,315
<b>Net income recognised directly in equity</b>		<b>(114,738)</b>	<b>179,315</b>
<b>Profit for the year</b>		<b>153,239</b>	<b>161,097</b>
<b>Total recognised income and expense for the year</b>		<b>38,501</b>	<b>340,412</b>
<b>Total equity at the end of the financial year</b>		<b>3,598,705</b>	<b>3,560,204</b>

---

# Statement of Cash Flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

	Note	2007 \$	2006 \$
<b>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Approved Grants and Projects		(811,702)	(626,670)
Funding from Public Purpose Fund		1,527,000	1,440,063
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,092,288)	(913,003)
Dividends and distributions received		297,405	220,038
Interest received		11,420	21,473
Sale of goods		40,006	102,883
Sponsorship and Project income		30,000	5,000
Sundry income		3,544	3,324
Recoupment of imputation credits received		2,061	14,070
Net cash provided by operating activities	15 (b)	7,446	267,178
<b>CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		-	350
Proceeds from sale of investments		1,930,000	991,503
Payment for property, plant and equipment		(19,869)	(7,209)
Payment for shares and managed funds acquisitions		(1,852,310)	(2,300,475)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		57,821	(1,315,831)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		65,267	(1,048,653)
Cash at beginning of financial year		576,187	1,624,840
Cash at end of financial year	15 (a)	641,454	576,187

# Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

## NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Interpretations and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Corporations Act 2001.

The financial report is for the entity Victoria Law Foundation as an individual entity. Victoria Law Foundation is a body corporate pursuant to the Victoria Law Foundation Act.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Foundation in the preparation and presentation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

### (a) Basis of preparation of the financial report

#### Compliance with IFRS

Australian Accounting Standards include Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRSs). Compliance with AIFRS ensures compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

#### Historical Cost Convention

The financial report has been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by revaluations to fair value for certain classes of assets as described in the accounting policies.

### (b) Revenue

- 6 Revenue from sale of goods is recognised upon the delivery of goods to customers.

Funding revenue received from the Public Purpose Fund is brought to account in the year to which it relates. Part of this funding relates to specific tied projects.

Tied project funding is recorded as income received in advance until such time as the funds are spent for the purpose for which they were provided.

Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established. Managed fund distributions are recognised on an entitlements basis.

Interest revenue is recognised when it becomes receivable on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the relevant financial assets.

Other revenue is recognised when the right to receive the revenue has been established.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

### (c) Plant and Equipment

Each class of plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

#### Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment is measured on the cost basis.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from those assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows which will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to present values in determining recoverable amounts.

#### Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated over their estimated useful lives to the Foundation commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

# Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

The depreciation rates used for each class of assets are:

Class of fixed asset	Depreciation rates	Depreciation basis
Leasehold improvements	2.5%	Straight Line
Plant and equipment	5%	Straight Line
Office equipment	11.25% – 40%	Straight Line

## (d) Employee Benefits

Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave, sick leave and any other employee benefits expected to be settled within twelve months of the reporting date are measured at their nominal amounts based on remuneration rates which are expected to be paid when the liability is settled. All other employee benefit liabilities are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflow to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

Contributions to be made by the Foundation to an employee superannuation fund are recognised in the balance sheet as a liability, after deducting any contributions already paid and in the income statement as an expense as they become payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payment is available.

## (e) Finance Costs

Finance costs can include interest, amortisation of discounts or premiums relating to borrowings, ancillary costs incurred in connection with arrangement of borrowings, foreign exchange losses net of hedged amounts on borrowings, including trade creditors and lease finance charges.

Finance costs are expensed as incurred.

## (f) Impairment of assets

Assets with an indefinite useful life are not amortised but are tested annually for impairment in accordance with AASB 136.

Assets subject to annual depreciation or amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or circumstances arise that indicate that the carrying amount of the asset may be impaired. An impairment loss is recognised where the

carrying amount of the asset exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount of an asset is defined as the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

## (g) Financial Instruments

### Classification

The Foundation classifies its financial instruments in the following categories: financial assets at fair value through profit and loss, loans and receivables, held-to-maturity investments, and available-for-sale financial assets. The classification depends on the purpose for which the investments were acquired. Management determines the classification of its investments at initial recognition and re-evaluates this designation at each reporting date.

### Available-for-sale

Available-for-sale financial assets are measured at fair value. Unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are taken directly to equity. The cumulative gain or loss is held in equity until the financial asset is de-recognised, at which time the cumulative gain or loss held in equity is recognised in profit or loss. An impairment loss arising in relation to an available-for-sale instrument is recognised directly in profit and loss for the period.

## (h) Grants

The Foundation brings to account as a provision all amounts approved under the Foundation's Grants Program. Recognition of the provision occurs when formal approval of a grant is given by the Foundation and the conditions of grant are accepted by the Grant recipient.

## (i) Tax Exempt Status

Victoria Law Foundation is exempt for income tax purposes.

# Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

---

	Note	2007 \$	2006 \$
<b>NOTE 2: REVENUE</b>			
<b>Operating activities</b>			
- sale of goods		44,089	92,707
- profit on sale of investments		33,860	14,472
Other income:			
- Public Purpose Fund		1,527,000	1,440,063
- imputation credits refund		2,061	14,070
- dividends		-	4
- interest		11,420	14,394
- managed funds distributions		381,626	298,259
- sponsorship and Project income		30,000	5,000
- other revenue		3,544	3,574
		1,955,651	1,775,364
Total revenue		2,033,600	1,882,543

---

## NOTE 3: PROFIT FROM CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

Profit / (losses) before income tax has been determined after:

Expenses:

Depreciation of non-current assets

- plant and equipment 14,199 13,475

Remuneration of the auditors for:

- audit services 17,570 13,180

Employee benefits:

Other 739,957 633,058

Net loss on disposal of non-current assets

- property, plant and equipment 1,492 577

Revenue and net gains

Net gain on disposal of non-current assets

- property, plant and equipment - 250

- investments 33,337 14,472

# Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

---

	Note	2007 \$	2006 \$
<b>NOTE 4: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>			
Cash on hand		200	167
Cash at bank		43,168	23,568
Cash on deposit		98,086	52,452
UBS Cash Fund – operational funds		500,000	500,000
		641,454	576,187

---

## NOTE 5: RECEIVABLES

### CURRENT

Trade debtors		7,633	3,550
Investment income entitlement		229,874	145,653
GST receivable		37,981	25,842
		275,488	175,045

---

## NOTE 6: OTHER ASSETS

### CURRENT

Prepayments		10,912	6,346
-------------	--	--------	-------

---

## NOTE 7: AVAILABLE-FOR-SALE FINANCIAL ASSETS

### CURRENT

– Cash fund at fair value		1,250,478	1,560,679
		1,250,478	1,560,679

---

### NON CURRENT

– Listed investments at fair value		551,543	570,511
– Managed funds at fair value		1,700,895	1,530,818
		2,252,438	2,101,329

---

# Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

	Note	2007 \$	2006 \$
<b>NOTE 8: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>			
<b>Leasehold Improvements</b>			
At cost		5,420	7,024
Less accumulated depreciation		(402)	(358)
		5,018	6,666
<b>Plant and Equipment</b>			
Library			
At cost		3,150	3,150
Less accumulated depreciation		(2,120)	(1,962)
		1,030	1,188
Office equipment			
At cost		61,111	59,174
Less accumulated depreciation		(40,907)	(36,826)
		20,204	22,348
Computer equipment			
At cost		66,352	48,420
Less accumulated depreciation		(39,128)	(29,324)
		27,224	19,096
Total plant and equipment		48,458	42,632
Total property, plant and equipment		53,476	49,298

## (a) Additional Information

### Library

The cost of purchases which represent long term holdings of the library are capitalised and subsequently depreciated.

Expenditure on library materials of a short term reference nature are expensed in the year of purchase.

## 10 (b) Movements in Carrying Amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year

	Leasehold improvements \$	Library \$	Office equipment \$	Computer equipment \$	Total \$
<b>2007</b>					
Balance at the beginning of the year	6,666	1,188	22,348	19,096	49,298
Additions	-	-	1,937	17,931	19,868
Disposals	(1,492)	-	-	-	(1,492)
Depreciation expense	(156)	(158)	(4,081)	(9,803)	(14,198)
Carrying amount at end of year	5,018	1,030	20,204	27,224	53,476

# Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

---

	Note	2007 \$	2006 \$
<b>NOTE 9: PAYABLES</b>			
CURRENT			
Unsecured liabilities			
Trade creditors		27,925	60,933
Sundry creditors and accruals		50,486	39,708
		78,411	100,641

---

## NOTE 10: PROVISIONS

CURRENT			
Employee benefits	(a)	42,626	30,585
Provision for approved grants		718,415	742,475
		761,041	773,060
NON-CURRENT			
Employee benefits	(a)	11,110	-
		11,110	-
(a) Aggregate employee benefits liability		53,736	30,585

---

## NOTE 11: OTHER LIABILITIES

CURRENT			
Income received in advance	19	29,979	29,979
Indigenous Barristers Scholarship Fund		5,000	5,000
		34,979	34,979

---

# Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

---

	Note	2007 \$	2006 \$
<b>NOTE 12: RESERVES</b>			
Asset revaluation reserve	12(a)	97,485	212,223
<hr/>			
(a) Asset revaluation reserve			
Movements during the financial year:			
Opening balance		212,223	32,908
Available-for-sale financial assets restated to fair value		(114,738)	179,315
<hr/>			
Closing balance		97,485	212,223
<hr/>			

The asset revaluation reserve records revaluations of available-for-sale financial assets.

## NOTE 13: ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year	3,347,981	3,186,884
Net profit (loss) attributable to members of the entity	153,239	161,097
<hr/>		
Retained profits at the end of the financial year	3,501,220	3,347,981
<hr/>		

## NOTE 14: SEGMENT REPORTING

The Foundation operates as a public benefit organisation in the legal industry, predominantly in Australia.

# Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

---

	Note	2007 \$	2006 \$
--	------	------------	------------

---

## NOTE 15: CASH FLOW INFORMATION

### (a) Reconciliation of cash

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and at call deposits with banks or financial institutions, investments in money market instruments maturing within less than two months and net of bank overdrafts.

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statements of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

Cash on hand	200	167
Cash at bank	43,168	23,568
At call deposits with financial institutions	98,086	52,452
UBS Cash Fund – operational funds	500,000	500,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	641,454	576,187

### (b) Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with profit from ordinary activities after income tax

Profit from ordinary activities after income tax	153,239	161,097
<i>Non-cash flows in profit from ordinary activities</i>		
Depreciation	14,199	13,475
Net (gain)/loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	1,492	327
Net (gain)/loss on disposal of investments	(33,337)	(14,472)
<i>Changes in assets and liabilities</i>		
Increase in receivables	(69,939)	(62,804)
Increase in other assets	(4,566)	(2,646)
Decrease in grants received in advance	-	(77,231)
Increase/(decrease) in payables	(22,229)	96,936
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(909)	152,496
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash flows from operations	37,950	267,178

# Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

## NOTE 16: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

### (a) Interest rate risk

All investments held by the Foundation are non-interest-bearing except for cash. The effective weighted average interest rate on cash is 5.5% (2006: 5.1%).

### (b) Credit risk

The maximum exposure to credit risk, excluding the value of any collateral or other security, at balance date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount of those assets, net of any provisions for doubtful debts, as disclosed in the statement of financial position and notes to the financial statements.

The Foundation does not have any material credit risk exposure to any single debtor or group of debtors under financial instruments entered into by the Foundation.

### (c) Net fair values

The net fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities approximates their carrying values as disclosed in the statement of financial position and notes to the financial statements.

## NOTE 17: FOUNDATION DETAILS

The registered office of the Foundation is:

Victoria Law Foundation  
Level 5  
43 Hardware Lane  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Note	2007	2006
	\$	\$

## NOTE 18: EXPENDITURE COMMITMENTS

Operating lease commitments  
(office rental and photocopier)

Due no later than one year	62,916	72,391
Due later than one year and not later than five years	19,438	82,354
	82,354	154,745

## NOTE 19: TIED FUNDING COMMITMENTS

14

At 30 June 2007 the estimated costs of projects approved by the Foundation, to be incurred in future periods, was \$29,979. This expenditure relates to the deferred tied project income received in the current year and prior years which has not yet been expended at 30 June 2007. Refer to Note 1(b).

## NOTE 20: FOUNDATION BOARD – MEMBERS' REMUNERATION

No remuneration was paid to any member of the Board during the year.

# Foundation Members' Declaration

---

The members of the Foundation declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 1 to 14:
  - (a) comply with Accounting Standards in Australia and other statutory requirements; and
  - (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2007 and performance for the year ended on that date of the Foundation.
2. In the members' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Foundation will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the members.



Member

Michael John Hall



Member

Paul Gregory Lacava

Dated this 18th day of September 2007

# Independent Audit Report

---

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Victoria Law Foundation, which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2007, and the Income Statement, Statement of Changes in Equity and Cash Flow Statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the Foundation members' declaration.

## THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MEMBERS FOR THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The Foundation members are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations). This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

## AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Foundation members, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

## INDEPENDENCE

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

## AUDITOR'S OPINION

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Victoria Law Foundation as at 30 June 2007 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations).

16



P A Jose



PITCHER PARTNERS

19 September 2007

Melbourne