



# Eastern Community Law

## Newsletter

Spring 2010

### Lawyers Demand Access

#### Local Law Firms Add Voice To Call For A Yarra Ranges CLC

A leading barrister has added his voice to outer east law firms and community agencies calling for a community legal centre for the Yarra Ranges.

Tim Tobin SC, a barrister with over 30 years experience assisting people affected by bushfires spoke of the need for ongoing support.

"The people who are burnt in fire don't want to travel, to get on the train. The people who've lost loved ones, when things get bad, they will go into their community, but they won't go into the city – they have all that trauma from what happened in the fires."

Mr Tobin was speaking at a major event in Lilydale for local law firms, hosted by ECLC and major firm Maurice Blackburn. Local lawyers, MPs and other supporters attended to support the campaign for a Yarra Ranges CLC.

Mr Tobin outlined the challenging times still ahead for many people affected by the devastating fires of February 2009. "I can say from my experience with the bushfires (about 32 of them), that what you are going to now see are the real dislocation problems, and not necessarily physical dislocation, but emotional dislocation - breaking-up in communities and a whole range of problems. A lot of people are going to have significant long term psychological problems."

Mr Tobin emphasised how important the local community work would be for a recovering community. "What a lot of people don't appreciate (about Community Legal Centres) is that even though there is a lot of advice given, the benefit of CLCs is that they can be proactive, rather than always solving problems. Because once the people of the community who need that advice get it at one level, it spreads through the community and people who get advice at an early time get far better results." he said.

Legal firm Maurice Blackburn and their Ringwood office has publicly supported the campaign. "Lawyers from Maurice Blackburn's Ringwood office have a long association of volunteering with the Eastern Community Legal Centre," Maurice Blackburn Principal Kim Shaw said.

"We fully support the establishment of a full-time community legal centre in Healesville that offers local residents a wide variety of legal issues and services. No matter where you live in the Yarra Ranges, you should have local access to support for legal issues including tenancy and housing, family law and family violence.

"Maurice Blackburn has been fighting for people's legal rights for more than 90 years, and we give those less fortunate or previously overlooked a voice through our social justice practice. A community legal centre in Healesville would further help people access their rights.", she said.



*Tim Tobin SC and Kim Shaw, Maurice Blackburn Principal at the event*

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#### ECLC Services

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eclc@eclc.org.au

##### Outreach locations:

Bulleen - Hawthorn—Ashburton  
Ringwood Family Relationship Centre  
Ringwood Magistrates' Court

Serving the Cities of Whitehorse,  
Boroondara & Manningham

##### Boronia Office

Suite B, 6 Floriston Road, Boronia 3155  
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outereast@eclc.org.au

##### Outreach locations

Rowville - Lilydale - Yarra Junction  
Healesville - Yarra Glen  
Ringwood Magistrates' Court

Serving the Cities of Knox & Maroondah &  
the Shire of Yarra Ranges

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

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## Staff Snapshot

### Tanja Kovac, Community Lawyer and Human Rights are Aussie Rules Co-ordinator



#### What do you do at ECLC?

I am a community lawyer at the Boronia Office and the Co-ordinator of the Human Rights are Aussie Rules Project which is an innovative community legal education program using sport to teach children about human rights principles.

#### What did you do before working at ECLC?

I was a lawyer in the private sector for a number of years where I specialised in public interest/human rights cases and personal injuries. I then managed and consulted for NGOs with a human rights focus and I still do a bit of that, actually.

#### What do you like about ECLC?

I love the happy team environment here. I love never having to explain my passion for social change and commitment to going the extra mile for clients. I love driving 15 minutes to work.

#### Highlights of the work so far?

The Launch of the Human Rights are Aussie Rules Project, seeing the website come on line. More recently, it would have to be Attorney-General Halls speech about our project at the Human Rights Dinner last month. It showed how much impact we are having.

#### Any funny or embarrassing moments in the job?

Probably but I can't think of anything.

#### Any legal issues that frustrate you?

Lack of individual complaint mechanisms in our human rights legislation. The fact we didn't get a Human Rights Act federally after the National Human Rights Consultation. The stripping of rights to sue from people during the "insurance crisis" in 03.

#### Favourite food?

Too many to name which is probably a problem! I am personal training at the moment and am supposed to say "fruit" but in truth I like nothing more than choc coated nuts - peanut M&M's, macadamias.

#### Favourite holiday destination?

In Australia - Erskine House in Lorne; Overseas - Florence

#### Favourite time of the year?

Easy. Autumn. That's why I live in the Dandenong Ranges.

## Smart Justice to Counter Law and Order Auction

The community is not well served if election-fuelled debate about law and order becomes an auction about who can be tougher on crime, according to a coalition of legal and community organisations. The Smart Justice coalition has vast experience working in the criminal justice system with both victims and offenders.

Spokesperson Hugh de Kretser said solutions to reducing crime were complex.

"We are concerned that the public may only hear one side of the argument during the heated election period – that more police, new offences and tougher sentences are the way to tackle crime. We want to inform the public about what works, what is cost effective and how we can reduce crime without violating Victorians' human rights," Mr de Kretser said.

## Smart Justice

"community safety the smart way"

A coalition of legal and community organisations, led by the Federation of Community Legal Centres, has come together to promote understanding of criminal justice policies.

Smart Justice seeks to enhance the safety of all Victorians by promoting understanding of criminal justice policies that are effective, evidence-based and compliant with human rights.

The Smart Justice project is built on a joint commitment to:

- ~ healthy, diverse and inclusive communities
- ~ respect for human rights and enforceable human rights protections
- ~ enhanced support for victims of crime
- ~ stopping violence
- ~ greater focus on crime prevention and cost-effective crime prevention strategies
- ~ greater resources to address the causes of crime and repeat offending
- ~ sentencing options that address the causes of offending
- ~ a health-focused response to reduce alcohol abuse and related violence
- ~ reducing the use of knives and other weapons
- ~ policing that avoids unnecessary use of force and that builds community confidence

Legal and community supporters will seek to provide information and facts about the criminal justice system, law and order, sentencing and other justice issues. The program aims include enhanced support for victims of crime; greater resources to address the causes of crime and repeat offending; sentencing options that address the causes of offending and greater focus on crime prevention.

For details see: [www.smartjustice.org.au](http://www.smartjustice.org.au)



## Election Platform

ECLC has called on the political parties to demonstrate its commitment to the most marginalised and disadvantaged communities in the lead-up to the State Election. In line with its mission to promote equality and social justice, the Centre has articulated a series of key priorities requiring attention as Victorians consider their future on November 27.

While there are many needs across the many communities we serve, the key priorities ECLC is calling on to commit to are:

- Funding for a Community Legal Centre for the Yarra Ranges
- Increasing funding for ECLC's family violence lawyer from half-time to a full-time, like other Melbourne Courts
- Continuing and developing the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities
- Supporting and expanding the YRIPP program
- Ensuring criminal justice policies are effective, evidence based and human rights compliant (Smart Justice)

ECLC also endorses the election campaigns of

- Federation of Community Legal Centres
- Domestic Violence Victoria
- Centre for Multicultural Youth

### Lawyers Demand Access (cont. from page 1...)

Michael Smith, CEO of Eastern CLC welcomed the support. "Our Centre is very grateful for the long term support of law firms like Maurice Blackburn without whom we could not help all the clients we do assist. Unfortunately this vital pro bono assistance often remains unrecognised."

"It's fantastic that these firms recognise hat areas like the Yarra Ranges have some really disadvantaged communities that cannot access the legal help they need. Eastern CLC works closely with a range of private lawyers to ensure that clients get the most appropriate assistance."

ECLC has called on prospective governments to fund a CLC based in the Yarra Ranges. The Centre has completed a legal needs study highlighting a range of local issues where legal help is required. The legal needs study consulted broadly and identified a range of legal issues , especially family violence, tenancy and housing issues.

The study found that the number of Intervention Orders sought by Victoria Police in response to family incidents was higher than any other municipality in the Eastern region. Police, the Court and agencies identified that the lack of legal and support services, as well as the difficulty in accessing these services due to transport issues creates difficulties for women and children needing assistance.

"Police, family violence support and legal services are working much better and more closely to respond to family violence. But when these services are not available, the system quickly breaks down." Mr. Smith said. "The safety of women and children is a priority for us but clients from the Yarra Ranges are missing out."

## YRIPP makes an impact

For the last 6 years, the Youth Referral Independent Person Program (YRIPP) has been managed by CMY and delivered in partnership with the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria, ECLC, other CLCs, Uniting Care and Victoria Police. While it has developing an outstanding service and reputation for assisting both 'at risk' young people and the justice system, its funding is still not secure.

Since 2004 YRIPP has made sure that an Independent Person is available when young people are interviewed by the police in over 100 police stations across Victoria. Dedicated community volunteers with YRIPP support some of Victoria's most vulnerable young people when a parent or guardian is not available.



During the last six years, countless hours of police time has been saved, with YRIPP providing help at a critical time. Through this vital work, YRIPP improves early intervention and diversion of young people entering the criminal justice system.

YRIPP also provides essential services and resources for police and parents such as a 24-hour legal advice line for young people in custody.

## Yarra Ranges CLC Support

These organisations and people have publicly supported the campaign::

- |                                  |                                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ~ Ben Hardman MP                 | ~ Mercader                          |
| ~ Christine Fyffe MP             | ~ Yarra Valley Community Health     |
| ~ Shaun Leane MP                 | ~ Eastern Domestic Violence Service |
| ~ Bruce Atkinson MP              | ~ EACH                              |
| ~ Peter Harris, Evelyn Candidate | ~ Anglicare Victoria                |
| ~ Maurice Blackburn              | ~ Anchor                            |
| ~ Robinson Gill                  | ~ Bendigo Community Bank            |
| ~ Alpass & Associates            | ~ Victoria Police                   |
| ~ Hutchinson Legal               |                                     |

Tenancy issues were highlighted by the report with 86% of agency staff identifying this as a major concern. Local services for tenants are minimal and other community agencies are leaving their other work to assist residents who have to travel to Melbourne for tenancy hearings.

The campaign already has the support from a number of key community agencies in the Yarra Ranges including Yarra Valley Community Health, Anglicare, EDVOS, Anchor and Victoria Police.

The Reference Group identified Healesville as the preferred site for the new Community Legal Centre. There are high levels of need in this region and the police station has a high workload. A base in Healesville would also be able to respond to the Murrindindi region, an area with no free legal services, an issue exposed by the tragic bushfires.



# Human Rights are Aussie Rules goes to Garma

## Ali Abachi, ECLC Volunteer

In early August 2010 the HRaAR program was fortunate enough to be invited by the Castan Centre for Human Rights and the Yothu Yindi Foundation to attend the Garma Festival in Arnhem Land, Northern Territory.



The expo also provided an excellent opportunity to network with other CLCs and community agencies in the Northern Territory and the rest of Australia. The team received great support for the program and have identified a number of possible partners for the program to be extended around Australia.

The team comprised ECLC Community Development Officer Amy Johnstone, DLA Phillips Fox Lawyer – Natasha Stojanovich, CEO Michael Smith and HRaAR volunteer – Ali Abachi. Over the five day journey the team was able to experience some of the great wonders of the Northern Territory, but above all we are able to learn about a culture which is both spiritual and inspirational.

On behalf of the Garma Team we would like to thank the Castan Centre for Human Rights, DLA Phillips Fox and the AFL Northern Territory for making this opportunity possible. It was through their support and generosity that we were able to have the resources to attend this event and make it so successful.

The theme for this year's festival was 'Indigenous Education and Training' and ECLC was asked to present our human rights workshop as part of the festival's youth education program. The festival itself was a fantastic opportunity for the HRaAR program to expand and adapt our program to a cross-cultural audience.

We would also like to thank Tanja Kovac – the HRaAR Coordinator for all her incredible work in organising and making this trip possible. It has been through her vision and guidance that the program has been so successful thus far.

The primary reasoning for attending Garma was to conduct the Human Rights are Aussie Rules workshop. Our one hour workshop was highly successful with secondary school students finding the program both enjoyable and enlightening. It was clear that participants became more lively and engaged when the lesson was taken outdoors and it culminated with a fitting game of Aussie Rules football on the traditional 'bunggul' or ceremonial dance grounds.

**For latest news:**

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

Our work at the Garma Festival also involved staffing a small expo tent which provided information to participants about the work the ECLC does and the HRaAR program. Without a doubt the highlight of the expo was Handball for Human Rights which was one of the most popular activities during the festival.



## Project Recognised

ECLC's innovative Human Rights are Aussie Rules project has been recognised at a national awards ceremony. It was a National Finalist in the Children's Law Awards, organised by the National Children's Youth and Law Centre (NCYLC) and Mallesons Stephen Jaques. The Awards were presented by the President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, the Honourable Catherine Branson QC.

The project was one of two National Finalists in the Media Award for raising awareness of important Children's Legal Rights Issues.

## Volunteer Awarded

ECLC Volunteer Ali Abachi has won the Award for Community Service and Development from Deakin University Law School in recognition of his involvement in the Human Rights are Aussie Rules Project.

Ali has been involved in all aspects of the project and brings unique insights, knowledge and passion to the project. Congratulations Ali.



## Aussie Rules project gets State Government boost

Deputy Premier and Attorney-General Rob Hulls has announced a \$100,000 State Government grant for ECLC's project using good sportsmanship and fair play in sport to teach schoolchildren about human rights.

Speaking at the Australian Athletes' Alliance conference, Mr Hulls said the 'Human Rights Are Aussie Rules' project had been successful in promoting positive messages about social inclusion, reducing racial, religious and cultural bullying and intolerance among children.

"Sport does so much for the expression and promotion of human rights and this project leverages off the goodwill of sport – a fundamental part of the Australian way of life," Mr Hulls said.

"The program teaches young people that just as we expect fair play on the sporting field, human rights protect fairness on the playing field of life. It uses sport as a metaphor through theatre productions and workshops to teach students about human rights."

Minister for the Respect Agenda Justin Madden said the project was developed by the Eastern Community Legal Centre and partly funded through a Respect Agenda partnership grant and the Department of Justice. "Since the project's launch in 2009, 1500 students have participated in workshops which use theatre production, games and other activities, in simple language, to make the rights in Victoria's Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities accessible to young children," Mr Madden said.

ECLC CEO Michael Smith welcomed the funding support. "This began as a tiny community festivals project with support from the Victorian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission that has developed a life of its own and resonates with children and people from across the community.

"As our support and partnerships have grown, new opportunities have emerged for the project to develop. We thank the State Government for their support and their commitment to human rights. These rights are for everybody everyday and we look forward to sharing this message in new ways over the next year."

The project thanks its many supporters and friends for their assistance.



## Hulls highlights project at Human Rights Dinner

At the annual human rights dinner presented jointly by the Human Rights Law Resource Centre and the Public Interest Law Clearing House, Attorney-General Rob Hulls spoke extensively about the need for human rights education and enthusiastically about ECLC's project. Key excerpts from the speech are below:



"What is it about the concept of human rights that causes such a rush of blood to the head? What is it that incites some to channel Henny Penny and flap around crying 'the sky is falling' at the mere prospect of rights recognition?"

After all, sixty years ago Australia led the charge at an international level in the hope that we might prevent past atrocities being repeated. Yet, here we are, still struggling to make that same claim for ourselves in a new century. My view is that we need to go back to the drawing board – not in our stance on the importance of rights recognition but in how we communicate this importance to others.

It's no good arguing it out on the opinion pages of the broadsheets, if the language isn't resonating. Human rights are simple and straightforward matters but, as with so much in life, too often we complicate things.

Perhaps, then, we should take a lead from younger generations. All across Victoria, schools use ideas of 'mutual respect' and 'fair play', without raising an eyebrow – children expecting that everyone should get a fair go, that all should get their turn and feel included. That's why the Eastern CLC has had such a fantastic response to its 'Human Rights are Aussie Rules' school campaign, one which explains that, just as there are expectations of fair play on the sports field, human rights are about fairness on the playing field of life.

Just as we could not conduct a fair game of footy without an independent umpire, then, so too we need an independent legal system to resolve disputes and address inappropriate behaviour. Just as rules that outlaw striking and fouls are taken seriously in sport, so too we're all entitled to go about our lives without threat of violence.

Alternatively, can you imagine going to a footy final without the freedom to wear your team colours, sing your team song or barrack for your favourite footy legend? We might take freedom of assembly, speech or religion for granted in Australia, but the recent controversy about Islamic dress reminds us how tenuous and subjective our grasp of these concepts really are.

The response to this campaign from school kids has been that, really, it's a bit of a no brainer. Kids know, often better than anyone else, what's fair and what's not - a fact that gives me great hope for the future.

It also, however, reminds us that we have a responsibility – right here and now - to guarantee this better future.



## Celebrating Diversity

In May ECLC celebrated the diversity amongst our community and took the opportunity to acknowledge and thank our volunteers at our annual volunteer dinner.

As well as great food and plenty of it there was great company, great entertainment and great speakers. "Celebrating diversity" was the theme and this was a chance to showcase ECLC's diversity of volunteers and programs.

The night was a huge success with some familiar faces and some new faces but as always the spirit in the room was high. Our volunteers had a chance to mingle with others that they often don't see and our distinguished guests, including our patron Chief Magistrate Ian Gray, along with other local magistrates, were able to learn more about the working of a community legal centre and the critical support of our volunteers that we have across the east.



The gathering was welcomed with the delightful voices of a local Burmese choir who were pleased to share their musical gifts with the very appreciative volunteers and supporters.

George Lekakis was the guest speaker with many well shared sentiments of the role of community groups for multicultural society as ours. Within his speech, he shared:

*Multiculturalism is not a new phenomenon. It's part of our history in this country. Part of who we are. Australia's history of migration has taught us that there is more than just one way of doing things. That we can learn and have learned to do things better, and faster, and more tastefully and more beautifully, and more enjoyably if and when we embrace multiculturalism as an opportunity for improvement rather than as a threat to orthodoxy.*

*Multiculturalism presents its fair share of challenges. One of the perennial anxieties surrounding cultural diversity is the question of how does one maintain a shared public culture on the one hand, while encouraging cultural, linguistic and religious pluralism on the other?*

*And there are a number of answers. But one of the most important ones is to point to the values and structures that underpin a society, because they're usually what really holds it together.*



## Family Violence Video

ECLC and its project partners have developed a new video explaining the Family Violence Intervention Order process.

The resource will be available on the website after the launch on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 at

[www.eclc.org.au/steps2safety](http://www.eclc.org.au/steps2safety)

*The law is one of the best examples of such a structure. By outlining the rights and responsibilities of individuals within a society, the law offers a basis for determining social conduct.*

*And the rule of law is, of course, fundamental to both the spirit of democracy and to the efficacy of its practice. And so, the law is a foundation stone of culture. Because what matters is not only collective adherence to the law, but universal recourse to it as well. We have to ensure that people from all cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds not only follow the law, but appreciate their freedom to avail themselves of its power.*



*We have to ensure that everyone has equitable access to the law and legal services. It's no more than protecting the basis of our democracy.*

Tanja Kovac spoke with passion about ECLC's commitment to human rights and compared this to the passion many of us share for football and all things sport.

However the most important purpose of the evening was to share ECLC's thanks and appreciation for the volunteers that continue to support its work and vision.



## Many Stories One Centre

A year with numerous highlights was acknowledged at the ECLC AGM in October. Members, volunteers and supporters joined with the board and staff to share stories and celebrate together.

Guest speaker, James Merlino, Minister for Police, Corrections, Sport, Recreation, Youth Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs, congratulated ECLC on its great work for the community.

"As a local member, we often have residents contact us seeking help with various issues, whether that's a neighbourhood dispute or a family law matter or something else. Of course we put them in touch with their local CLC, which is nearly always the Boronia office of ECLC.

"It's actually five years ago this month that the Outer East office opened in Boronia and it's still one of this government's achievements of which I'm most proud and especially because of the great services which you offer to clients every day.



Minister James Merlino MP

Mr Merlino had very recently been appointed Police Minister and looked forward to the opportunities this presented, particularly in relation to the family violence focus of the Centre. "Stepping into the new role, I am deeply concerned about the issues of family violence and sexual assault. While reporting of family violence has increased, there is still a level of under-reporting and I will work with police on what more can be done in this area."

Mr Merlino congratulated ECLC on its work throughout the years and spoke of the high needs of the community, particularly in the Yarra Ranges, where isolation, transport and lack of access to services have long been key a major issue.

The AGM also presented some of the projects through the year, including the Steps 2 Safety Video that outlines the Family Violence Intervention Order Process.

Mr Merlino congratulated ECLC on the project and looked forward to its benefits in assisting people seeking assistance at a most difficult time.

## Stories of a record year

At the ECLC AGM, the Centre's Annual Report was released, highlighting a record year in clients assisted as well as community education and development. Key statistics included:

- 2,502 clients assisted through the 2009/10 year
- 177 more clients than last year
- a 25% increase in casework assistance
- 71 community legal education sessions

The report also outlined major partnership and other projects undertaken through the year, particularly the:

- Family Relationship Centre pilot
- Intervention Order Support Service
- Youth Referral and Independent Person Project
- Diversity Consultancy Panel
- Bulleen Outreach Project
- Seniors Rights Victoria

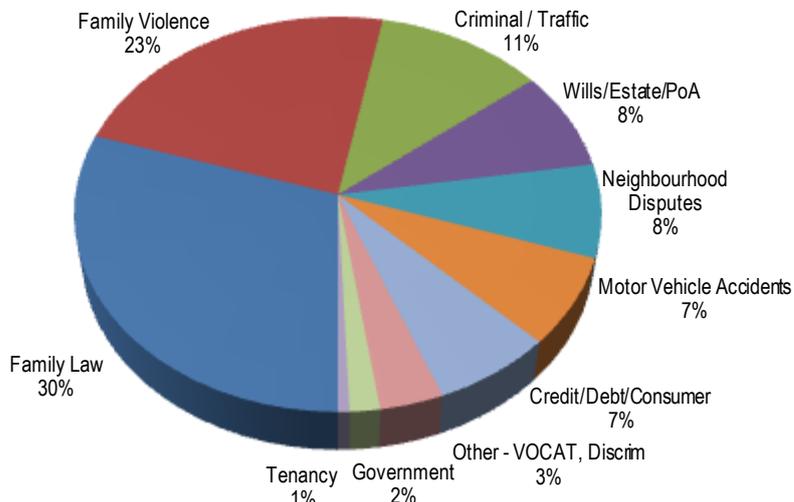
For a copy of the full report, please contact the Centre or go to [www.eclc.org.au](http://www.eclc.org.au)

## New Board

At the AGM ECLC was delighted to welcome two new members to its Board of Management. Jose Abalo, a senior social worker with Centrelink and Tim Robinson, partner with Box Hill firm Robinson Gill, have both joined the Board bringing new skills and talents.

Longstanding members Lance Wilson and Rhonda Goodall have retired from the Board. Both were publicly acknowledged and thanked for their excellent contribution to the Centre over many years by their work on the Board by ECLC Chairperson, Helen Killmier. Rhonda will continue her involvement as a legal volunteer and Lance will remain a strategic adviser to the Centre.

### ECLC Assistance by Problem Type (2009-10)





## Law Week

How can a simple game of bingo improve your knowledge of legal matters? If it's 'Legal Lingo Bingo' of course!

To celebrate Law Week in May, ECLC invited local residents to participate in a fun game of 'Legal Lingo Bingo' to explore common legal problems and raise awareness of legal support services available. An interactive display of materials including a legal-themed crossword puzzle and free word search were also made available at libraries across the region.

Approximately 70 people participated in ECLC's program, run in partnership with five local neighbourhood houses. The feedback from this program has been overwhelmingly positive, with participants enjoying a game of 'Legal Lingo Bingo' and becoming familiar with a wide range of common legal issues.

Following the success of Law Week, it is a good time to encourage community organisations to consider future programs and events you may like to host for your community. Sessions can be adapted to suit particular audiences (eg. legal issues facing seniors, youth or migrant and refugee communities), on a range of specific legal issues and can be tailored to suit your requirements. Booking forms can be obtained by calling ECLC or an electronic version can also be accessed on our website at [www.eclc.org.au](http://www.eclc.org.au)

Law Week offers residents the opportunity to learn about the law and how to recognise a legal issue. It is an annual, community focused initiative coordinated by the Victoria Law Foundation. .



Participant Edith Martin enjoys a game of Legal Lingo Bingo with ECLC Outer East Manager Denise Budge during Law Week

### Would you like to donate to ECLC?

For more details and how your donation will be used, please visit ECLC's website. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible and can be made on-line.

## Boroondara gets Older and Wiser

ECLC is launching the latest edition of 'Older and Wiser' for the City of Boroondara with an event at the Evergreen Centre in Balwyn.

ECLC received a Boroondara Council grant in conjunction with Balwyn Welfare Association to reproduce the publication which addresses common legal issues facing seniors. With a local focus on Boroondara services and issues, the publication will be distributed to agencies and seniors groups within the municipality and to any interested local residents.

'Older and Wiser' includes 16 facts sheets covering legal areas such as financial, family, neighborhood and consumer issues. This will be the fourth publication of 'Older and Wiser' and positive feedback from the Whitehorse, Knox and Manningham communities has confirmed its importance as a valuable community resource.

The publication is being launched by the Mayor of Boroondara, Cr Jack Wegman on November 25.

For copies of Older & Wiser, please contact ECLC Box Hill

## Support

The ongoing support of these financial and other partners is gratefully acknowledged:

- Victoria Legal Aid
- Commonwealth Government
- Victoria Law Foundation
- Legal Services Board
- Department of Planning and Community Development (Vic)
- City of Boroondara
- City of Whitehorse
- Knox City Council
- Manningham City Council
- Maroondah City Council
- Helen Macpherson Smith Trust
- Victorian Multicultural Commission
- Sports Without Borders
- Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission
- Balwyn Welfare Association
- Box Hill Citizen's Advice Bureau
- Carp Productions
- Castan Centre for Human Rights Law (Monash University)
- Centre for Multicultural Youth
- Centrelink
- Clayton Utz
- Council On The Ageing (Victoria)
- Devenish & Co
- DLA Phillips Fox
- EACH
- EDVOS (Eastern Domestic Violence Service)
- Family Access Network
- Federation of Community Legal Centres
- Gateway LLEN
- GordonCare
- Holding Redlich
- Inner East Community Health Centre
- Inner East PCP
- JH Legal
- Knox Community Health Service
- Knox Infolink
- Loddon Campaspe CLC
- Louise Multicultural Community Centre
- Maurice Blackburn
- Mercader
- Migrant Information Centre (Eastern)
- Moores Legal
- NACLC
- Outer East Health & Community Support Alliance
- Public Interest Law Clearing House
- Ringwood Family Relationship Centre
- Ringwood Magistrates' Court
- Robinson Gill
- Seniors Rights Victoria
- Shire of Yarra Ranges
- Victoria Police
- Women's Legal Service Victoria
- Yarra Valley Community Health Service

- Volunteers and members of ECLC