

Dates for your Diary:

- ❖ NDLS SUNDOWNER
25th March, tickets
selling up until the 25th

Individual Highlights:

'TEACHER FEATURER'

SOCIAL REPORTS

FEATURE FIRM

ALSA REPORT

Frat Friday...Sexy Times



- Matt O'Leary Vice-President Social

On Friday the 11th of May, after a whirlwind schedule of academic showdowns, WA's law students once again kicked back in style at the annual Tri-law Party. This year saw a new venue – the Ocean Beach Hotel – after many years of the event being held at the Cottesloe Beach Hotel. The new venue proved a hit with students as a near capacity crowd partied long into the night. The theme – Frat Friday – was also warmly embraced, with enough cheerleaders and jocks to rival Van Wilder Party Liaison.

In true American Pie style, however, the night did not run completely according to plan. Notable problems (and highlights) included:

- A NDLS Vice-President (hint:

not yours truly) being escorted from the premises on more than one occasion;

- The difficulty of organising a traditional boat race between the three universities on account of Murdoch and UWA's utter disorganisation (I propose that Notre Dame was, as a result, victorious by default); and
- A certain final year Notre Dame student throwing a beer at the DJ (an incident that nearly put a premature end to festivities).

Despite these mishaps, the night proved a stunning success. More memorable times are expected at the annual NDLS Sundowner to be held this Friday (25 May) at Maria's on the Terrace. Tickets for this event are on sale each day this week in the law courtyard at a cost of \$40 for members and \$45 for non-members (cost includes drinks and finger food).



**Congratulations to our
Competition winners:**

**Mallesons Negotiation
Competition:
Adele Nardizzi &
Gulshan Price**

**Freehills Open Moot
Competition:
Rachel Beresford Ord &
Nick Maroutchtak**

NDLSS Team Members 2006:

James Henderson - President

Ben Martin - Education VP.

Matt O'Leary - Social VP

Mike Riley- Treasurer

Rosalie Poole - Secretary

Terry Francis- Sponsorship

Ruth Burnett - Competitions

Nick Wilson - Publications

Gulshan Price - Sports

Eden Code - Mature Age Rep.

Adele Nardizzi -

Social Justice Rep

Annabel Hay - 4th Year Rep.

Adele Kay - 3rd Year Rep.

Tri-Law Academic Wrap-Up

James Henderson, President

Law week was another great success for all those involved, and many thanks must go to the Law Society for their efforts. The academic challenges kicked off with the Quiz, hosted by Murdoch. This is traditionally the biggest event as spectators get involved cheering their respective teams on.

Our quiz team this year was full of talent with Tom French, Sunili Govinnage and Matt Goerke flying the Notre Dame flag. Notre Dame teams sporting dress sense was a great hit with organizers of the event asking Tom, whether he was in the right place and then proceeding to direct him towards the gym. Yes, we're all class here at Notre Dame. Looking at the other teams, I think we made the mistake of sending a team which had a social life. Results: Murdoch 1, UWA 2, ND 3.

The negotiation comp was hosted by Notre Dame and was another great night. The competition was tough with all three teams fighting hard to ensure their client got the best deal. The night was well attended by around 40 spectators

Our star talent of Chris Rosario and NDLSS member Matt O'Leary took winning honors on the night. Many thanks must go to Mary McComish for writing the question and to the judges; Jane Power and Robyn Carroll. Results: ND 1, UWA 2, Murdoch 3.

With an even spread of results the stage was set for a tough final showdown in the moot competition, hosted by UWA.

All the judges were in fine form, firing out questions thick and fast to all competitors. The standard was exceptionally high this year and our representatives in Andy Kirk and Tom Fitzgerald were fantastic. To be honest, I thought going to the event, that sitting through two hours of submissions was going to be tough, but in the end the competition was very entertaining. Results: UWA 1, ND 2, Murdoch 3.

Murdoch Ball

Adele Kay, 3yr Rep

As soon as Matt said that he didn't want his ticket to the Murdoch Law Ball this year I jumped at the opportunity to go. I thought I had hit the mother load: a night of drinks and food completely free, what could be better!?! And then I heard that it included spirits, I thought all my Christmases had come at once!

As Friday night drew near, I was actually getting really excited (yes, I'm a poor Law student who loves to get things for free, especially a night out!). James (our president) picked me up and we got there around 8. Unfortunately, we arrived during speeches but that didn't matter because everyone was talking and we couldn't hear them anyway (this would never happen at ND, I thought to myself!)

We were treated to a four course dinner which was amazing and the drinks were equally good! Everything was going well until a fight (yes a real life fight) broke out just next to our table. There were easily 10 guys involved but the bouncers soon sorted it out. The music was ok but that didn't stop us from getting up on the dance floor and doing ND proud!

All in all it was a great night and I thank Murdoch for giving our society the chance to attend. It was great to meet the members of the other law societies.

Stop That Ball Rolling

- Emma Cullen

Last Friday, as I sat staring at my computer screen, I seriously considered driving to the airport and flying out to wherever the next plane was going. "Morocco, Fiji, Manilla, Adelaide, wherever... JUST GET ME OUT OF HERE", I thought. The reason for this stronger than usual desire to escape Perth was the prospect of writing a 2000 word evidence assignment, having just handed in a 3000 word IP essay and before that a 2000 word constitutional law assignment and before that a 1000 words corps assignment and before that... you get the picture. I honestly thought "there is no possible way that I can construct another thesis statement, another introduction, another footnote or another bibliography... in fact I don't think I can do this assignment!"

Looking back a year, I can't remember being this stressed about assignments. I couldn't figure out if that's because I don't remember last year... alcoholic student's memory, or if I really wasn't this stressed. Then I realised the root of the problem, none other than

SEMESTERISATION! This new phenomenon has caused the big bang in assignment loading, it is the catalyst of not only the newly surfacing pimples on my face and bags under my eyes but also has made being a law student actually HARD! All this time I thought being a student of the law meant doing as little work as possible with maximum recognition. Apparently the law school has cottoned on to this and has upped the anti!

Not only this but we also get pressure loaded emails from lectures who-won't-be-named telling us if we don't attend lectures we'll fail and laptops are now frowned upon in tutes! Where did the system that we know and love go.... skipping lectures in favour of the orient without fear of retribution or failure, typing up the fabulous answers given by tutors in tutes without doing any preparation, cramming like crazy for the semester 1 exam which is worth 40% OF THE WHOLE YEAR and then being super stoked with the C grade at the end of it all.

After realising there was absolutely nothing I could do to stop the inevitable assignment ball rolling, I drank four Redbull's, opened my evidence book and wrote possibly the worst essay Lisa Tovey may ever had the misfortune to read. Could have been worse though I could have been in Adelaide

*Sundry Crimes
Contributors:*

Nick Wilson- Editor

James Henderson

Matt O'Leary

Adele Kay

Ben Martin

Emma Cullen

Michael Robbins

Mallesons

*Thank you for your
invaluable
contributions.*

Surviving University

Guest Reporter – 'Harrison Ford'

Having studied at uni for a few years now, I have come across some sure-fire ways to cut a swathe through the university lulls.

First semester is about over, and you're bound to be bored. After a few weeks at uni nothing can really excite you anymore, you've obviously stopped caring about tests and essays and you've gone from embracing the 'relaxed' look to being just plain dull.

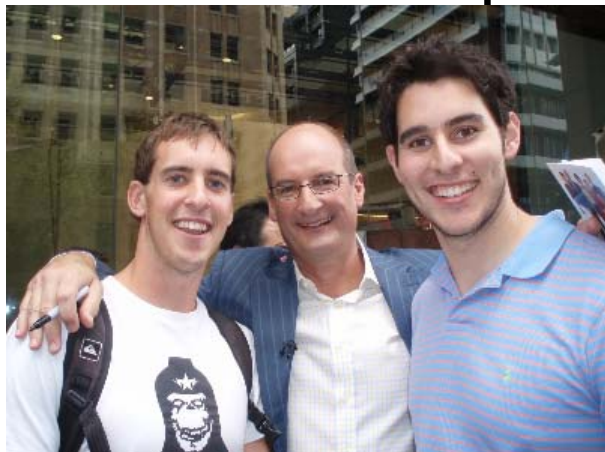
You're dangling over the black abyss that is the monotonous existence of a uni kid just about through 1st semester. But wait! I have just the answers to add zing to your mind-numbing reality and to get you through your lectures.

The answers lie at NDLSS social events. They are ...awesome; the Fresher Party, Tri-Law show and Sundowner to name a few. And if you've lived under a rock up until now make sure you make it out in time for the Law Ball and the other sublimely awesome events of second semester.

So now you've got no excuse to be bored, I just supplied you with some great ways to bring some exhilaration into your bleak life. Any one of my above suggestions will do, but don't be afraid to try your own recipe for entertainment; all you need is a good imagination, a wild streak and a complete lack of common sense and basic reasoning skills.

Till next time kids,

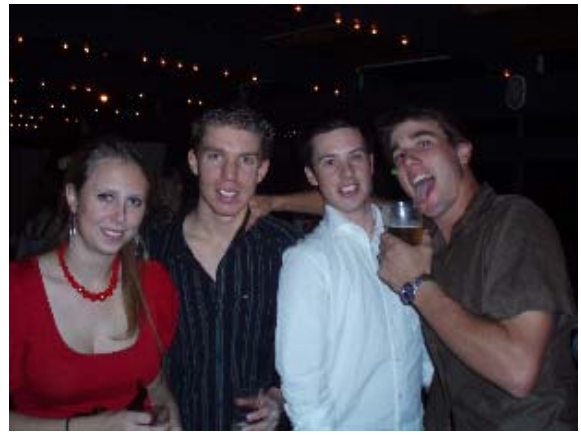
April ALSA Council



Fresher Bowling Night



Tri-law Party



Q and A with Meredith Blake

What kind of student were you?

Unlike most of today's student I was conscientious. I went to all my lectures notwithstanding the fact that my lecturers sometimes didn't turn up. I was a crammer but that's because I was busy doing too many other things. I was a crammer and can understand the cramming attitude; I can't understand the not coming to lectures attitude. I was very sociable.

When did you decide to start teaching law?

When I was over in the UK, in London. (Initially) I did 20 months with the Crown law dept (now the DPP and State Solicitors office) I applied to do masters of laws anywhere outside of Perth and Australia and I got a place at Kings College London. So I did that for a year, and waited around for my results. I wanted to have a go at a lectureship teaching, at the end of 1993. I came back here and finished off my restricted practice. Then I was keen to do some human rights work so I worked for the refugee council of Aus, representing the boat people and then I had a date to go back to London and teach so I started lecturing in September 1994

Rank the following in order of importance? Hockey, Oxygen and Health Law

I'd have to think about this, well obviously nothing could happen without the oxygen and less of course I could be assisted with my breathing and go around the hockey field with an oxygen tank on my back. **So hockey could be first?** At the moment hockey's not in my good book so Health law, I'm very passionate about health law. I'd feel worse if I couldn't engage my interest in health law. Because at least if I couldn't play hockey I could still go and watch the games and catch up with my mates afterwards and therefore experience it subliminally.

How does it feel to be the current Notre Dame Law School City to Surf Champion?

I'm not sure how popular that made me actually, I know I never got a mention even though I wore that hideous fluoro green t-shirt. I enjoyed it, I must say its good when the students recognise that we lecturers have a life as well and I'm not the only staffer who's like that, you might know that Sarah Withnall has a black belt. So we have our other interests

In a recent health law class after a student revealed she had a bad clerkship interview you replied with words to the effect of her being a real chance for the job, do you think its important to cut through the bullshit?

Yes definitely. I think that sarcasm is a great virtue **not the lowest form of wit?** No not at all and I think as long as the recipient takes it in the right manner it can lighten things up a bit. I use caustic sarcasm and never make remarks that are personal about people. I think teasing and gentle sarcasm are good tonics

Meredith you like making jokes during class, do you believe the law needs a sense of humour.

Definitely. Unfortunately just this week when I was desperately trying to lighten things up in torts law and specifically Lord Dennings speech in *Butcher* whilst at that point it wasn't illegal not to wear a seatbelt it wasn't a clever thing to do, just as its not a clever thing to ram ones head into a brick wall. It was quite a funny comment but unfortunately it didn't get much of a response so I'm not sure how successful my sense of humour is sometimes, I think that there is a lot to be said for trying to find the humour in situations although clearly not laugh at situations that need to be taken seriously.

Do you believe laptops are used effectively in class?

Because you seem highly suspicious of some of us who use it in class

I want to know what goes on behind those screens, because all we see is the tops and we're not sure what's going on behind them if students are legitimately accessing their notes and inserting important information to those notes then that's a good thing. But if they are looking at their holiday snaps or they are emailing their friends or something like that, then perhaps that's not the best use of a laptop in a lecture. What I would say is that in lectures laptops are perfectly acceptable in tutes we got to get your head out of the box, lift your eyes up and make contact with the real world. Engage with the tutor and classmates and participate because there's nothing worse than a student who has something to offer but doesn't because he's got his head stuck inside the laptop.

I understand your family/parents work in the health profession. Did they stop talking to you when you started teaching a medical negligence?

We just don't talk about it. I had an argument with my mother about caesarean section and the women's right to choose, and it didn't end particularly pleasantly. And it seems to me there are certain views and I don't even know if they are tied to the lawyer vs. medical profession I think they also reflect generational views. There are reasons why we don't talk about these thoughts of things, one (reason) is that it's a sensitive subject, and also it's to do with generational differences. As health law is to do with the rights of patients and rights of patients a generation ago was not nearly as important a concept as it is today.

Finally Meredith I understand you've taught the law to graduates in England and mainly undergraduates back here in ND, which group is more enjoyable to teach.

I suspect the answer to this could get me into trouble either way. How can I answer that? They pose their different challenges. I like to think with undergrads I have more raw materials to work with. So I can pummel them into shape, get them thinking the right way. With grads these people have by and large seen a bit of the world, they've already had a tertiary education they've already got some views the problem is some of them are already stuck in those views and so some of them can be a little bit inflexible. It's important to be flexible when it comes to subjects like the law of torts, which you can't just put into boxes. The pleasure of teaching grad students is that they tend to be very committed because they are doing from a career focused position.

The Best Go on your Behalf

-Ben Martin Ed VP

Don Hendo and myself travelled afar during the mid-semester break, all the way to the steel refining town of Wollongong. We endeavoured on this journey in your best interests, to represent NDLSS at the Australian Law Students Association (ALSA) April Council. The council meetings stretched over 3 long, long, long days; during which time we managed to discuss, at length, the following matters:

- Melbourne Universities move to scrap undergraduate law degrees
- ALSA's core values
- Who ALSA represents
- Strengthening ALSA's image

Along with commitments to the meetings, the social aspects also took their toll. With extravagant dinners provided at "Food World" and colossal bar tabs at a plush micro-brewery we managed to mingle (James did a fair bit of schmoozing too) with a plethora of like-minded law students.

Some notable highlights for myself was meeting

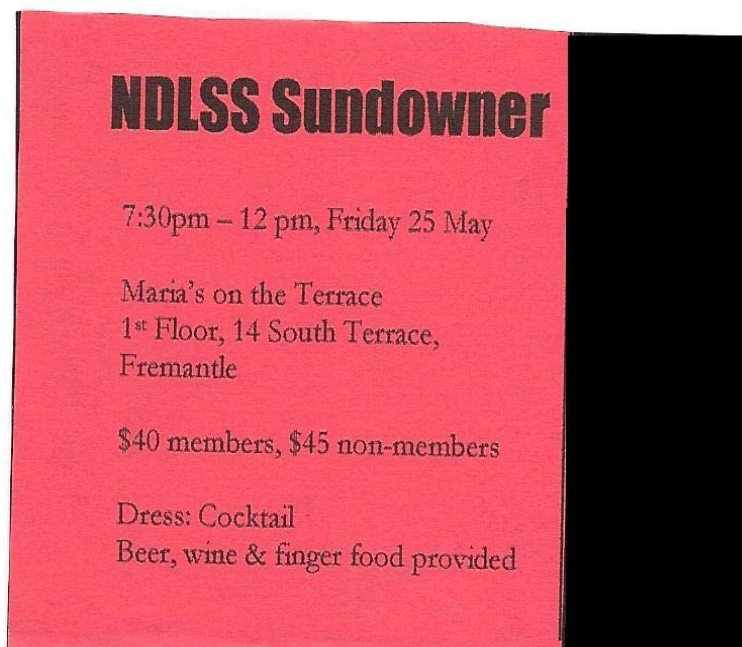
Kochie on the set of Sunrise whilst in Sydney, arm wrestling a bloke from the University of Queensland who spent more time eating chicken than studying law who thus had the nickname "Bi-ceps Mcgee;" and acquiring the right to host September Council here in little old Freo.

On another note, ALSA's July Conference is coming up in July... amazing! We have a strong contingent going across to represent NDLSS. Some people liken the conference to "leavers for law students." The conference is open to any law students at an exceedingly subsidised cost. The conference includes a Gala Ball in the Great Hall of Parliament House, Cocktail Party at the Australian War Memorial, Closing Ball at the National Museum, a State of Origin paint-ball competition, tours of Parliament House and the High Court as well as lectures and workshops by some of Australia's finest legal minds.

It is from the 2nd till the 8th of July and anyone interested in going should check out www.alsaconference.com.au or contact me at bmartin@nd.edu.au

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Freehills Essay Competition closes in week 13. Entries must be between 2500 and 5000 words.



MALLESONS STEPHEN JAQUES

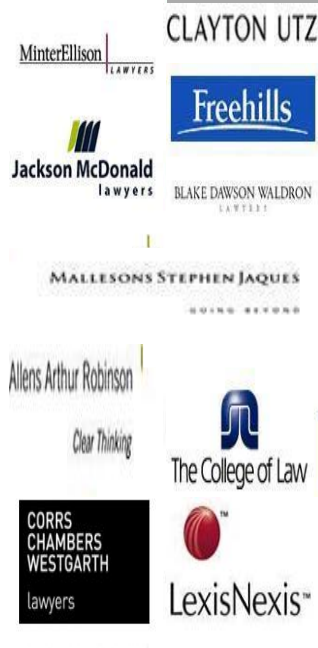
NDLSS Newsletter

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