

Letters to the Editor

Foundation Law on Internet

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chairman of The Law Foundation of New South Wales. The recent annual dinner of The Law Society of New South Wales saw the launch of Foundation Law, the world's first national legal database available on Internet.

Foundation Law has been established by the Law Foundation of New South Wales with the support of the Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII), the Law Society of New South Wales, the New South Wales Bar Association and the New South Wales Attorney General's Department. The aim of Foundation Law is to provide virtually free access to all primary legal materials and to information relating to the legal profession. There is no cost to users of the database, which is totally funded by the Law Foundation. The only costs to users are those incurred in Internet connection.

In order to ensure the usefulness of the database, it is proposed that the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration will, with the cooperation of the courts, produce a Uniform Electronic citation (UEC) system. Current available information on the database includes:

- Commonwealth Legislation,
- Federal Courts and Tribunals
- Legislation and Supreme Court Judgments in most states,
- Northern Territory Legislation and Supreme Court Judgments.

In addition to the database referred to above, Foundation Law offers information on Daily Court Lists, Law Society, Bar Association and Law Foundation information, general access to the Internet and conference/discussion groups.

Connection to Foundation Law (and to any other Internet service) will be available through Open Net from anywhere in Australia for the cost of a local phone call (no matter how long the connection is). The technical serv-

ices offered by Open Net are provided by Pacific Star Communications which is a joint venture between Telecom New Zealand and Bell Atlantic. We are advised by our technical consultants that the services provided by Open Net are at least as good as those offered by any other Australian Internet provider.

If Foundation Law is accessed via Open Net there is a connection fee of \$9.00 per hour from the NT (\$4.00 per hour from most other major Australian cities).

If you would like to access Foundation Law for a trial period please ring Sandra Dacey at the Supreme Court (Sydney) on 02 299 5621. If you already have Internet the address of Foundation Law is <http://www.fl.asn.au>.

Justice Vince Bruce
Supreme Court, Sydney.

Bar Council Election

Following a recent election of The Bar Council of Victoria, the following office bearers have been elected for the next twelve months:

- Chairman: John Middleton QC
- Vice Chairman: Neil Young QC
- Vice Chairman: Graeme Uren QC
- Hon. Treasurer: David Curtain QC
- Ass. Hon Treasurer: David Beach
- Hon. Secretary: Daryl Dealehr
- Ass. Hon Sec: Garrie Moloney

Daryl C. Dealehr
Honary Secretary

Contributions to Balance.

Contributions to Balance may be made in the form of an article, feature or Letter to the Editor. Every contribution will be published and in addition, the best letter each month will receive a free bottle of wine courtesy of :

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