

## ACLA is expanding

In late 1980 a group of people in Melbourne interested in the law relating to the media, formed an association called "The Media Law Association".

The representatives of this group held discussions with the Australasian Communications Law Association, based in Sydney.

The discussions culminated in a confravision between the two groups. At this confravision, the basic shape of a remodelled national organisation to be called "The Australian Communications Law Association" was determined. Groups are to be independent, but operating under the one constitutional scheme.

Details of an umbrella national organisation with representatives of each group and the attendant constitutional alterations were left to be decided later. Discussions on the constitutional amendments are nearly completed.

Early this year, plans were made for a similar group to commence in Adelaide as part of the national scheme.

Adelaide people interested should contact Professor A. Castles, Law School, University of Adelaide, GPO Box 498, Adelaide, SA, 5001.

The Melbourne group has placed an emphasis on educational activities.

In May 1981, in conjunction with the Continuing Legal Education Department of the Faculty of Law at Monash University, a seminar was held at the Leo Cussen Institute for Continuing Legal Education in Melbourne on "The Legal Regulation of Media Control".

Mark Armstrong, Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales, spoke on "Competition and Group Control in Communications Law". Commentaries were given by Sally Walker, Faculty of Law, University of Melbourne, and Bill Gillard, QC.

Henry Von Bibra spoke on the "Legal Ramifications for Implementing Cable Television in Australia". A commentary was given by Bernard Teague.

In November 1981, a seminar on "Cables, Satellites and People" was held at the Leo Cussen Institute for Continuing Education. The speaker was Alex Curran, Assistant Deputy Minister, Space Program, Department of Communications, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, who spoke on "Affordable Broadcasting". A commentary was given by Dr Robert Pepper from the University of Iowa. Responses were given by Senator John Button, Shadow Minister for Communications, and by Dr F. Gurry, Faculty of Law, University of Melbourne, in a paper titled "Opportunities for Diversification".

### The Melbourne ACLA executive is:

Chairman: John Hockley, barrister  
Secretary: Tony Summers, ABC  
Treasurer: Lyle Tucker, Senior Lecturer in Journalism, RMIT

Sally Walker, University of Melbourne Law School  
Bernard Teague, solicitor  
Dirk Bakker, Justice in Broadcasting.

Melbourne people interested should contact one of the Executive members or the Secretary, Tony Summers, on (03) 609-8528 or C/o ABC, GPO Box 1686, Melbourne 3001.

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A further step towards the national scheme was taken on 26 May this year when the Annual General Meeting of the Australasian Communications Law Association in Sydney resolved to modify its constitution to conform with the new national scheme and to change its name to "Australian Communications Law Association (Sydney)". Hence the new name on our masthead.