



# DE MINIMIS

A newspaper for the students of Melbourne Law School. Established 1948. Revived 2012. Made officially unofficial 2015.  
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## SCOOP!

*In a rare scoop, De Minimis has received an unverified leak from a highly-placed source within the Liberal Party. With all these leaks of late, it seems the Libs need a good plumber. I'm sure Ricky Muir knows a guy (Ed.)*

### **OPERATION RIGHTS FOR THE RIGHT — POLICY OF A-G GEORGE BRANDIS, QC**

**[Secret & Confidential — To  
be circulated to the Brandis  
Brigade only]**

#### *Mission objectives:*

Combat green vigilantism. Lawfare must be stopped.

Protect the vulnerable: Mega Mining, Inc., & affiliates. Reports show that Mega Mine Project #47 being delayed by lawfare could lead to revelations of financial unviability, resulting in significant impacts on levels of Synergy and Dynamism.

#### *Key targets:*

Greenie groups. They've found that blasted loophole in the Constitution — something to do with freedom of political communication, I don't know — and they're using it to communicate freely about political matters. This is clearly inappropriate and a threat to The Economy.



*Photo credit: Attorney-General's Department (CC Attribution 4.0)*

The people. They are too easily swayed by morality and reason; they can't be trusted with the government's generous gift of legal rights.

Community Legal Centres. When's the last time you let an employee you're paying help the competition? Exactly. Rank insubordination.

The courts. For some accursed reason, they still say what the law is in this country. This is clearly

nonsense, because that's what I do: see above. They have also been inconveniently willing to let individual citizens assert their legal rights, which is dangerous: see above.

Skins. They're not even real lizards.

#### *Tactics:*

Appoint former golfing mates to Positions of Influence (POIs).

*Continued on the next page...*

# Scoop

## OPERATION RIGHTS FOR THE RIGHT – POLICY OF A-G GEORGE BRANDIS, QC

*Continued from the first page...*

POIs include Royal Commissioners; Tribunal Members; Judges; Media Tycoons.

Have someone speak to Veronica over at the Country Club for list of potential candidates. Must be manipulable.

Evidence of consciencelessness encouraged. Anyone who queries whether 'consciencelessness' is a word is unsuitable.

Attack the 'rule of law'. I've never been clear on what this is, but it doesn't matter: it sounds dangerous.

I make the rules. And the law. The rules I make are the law.

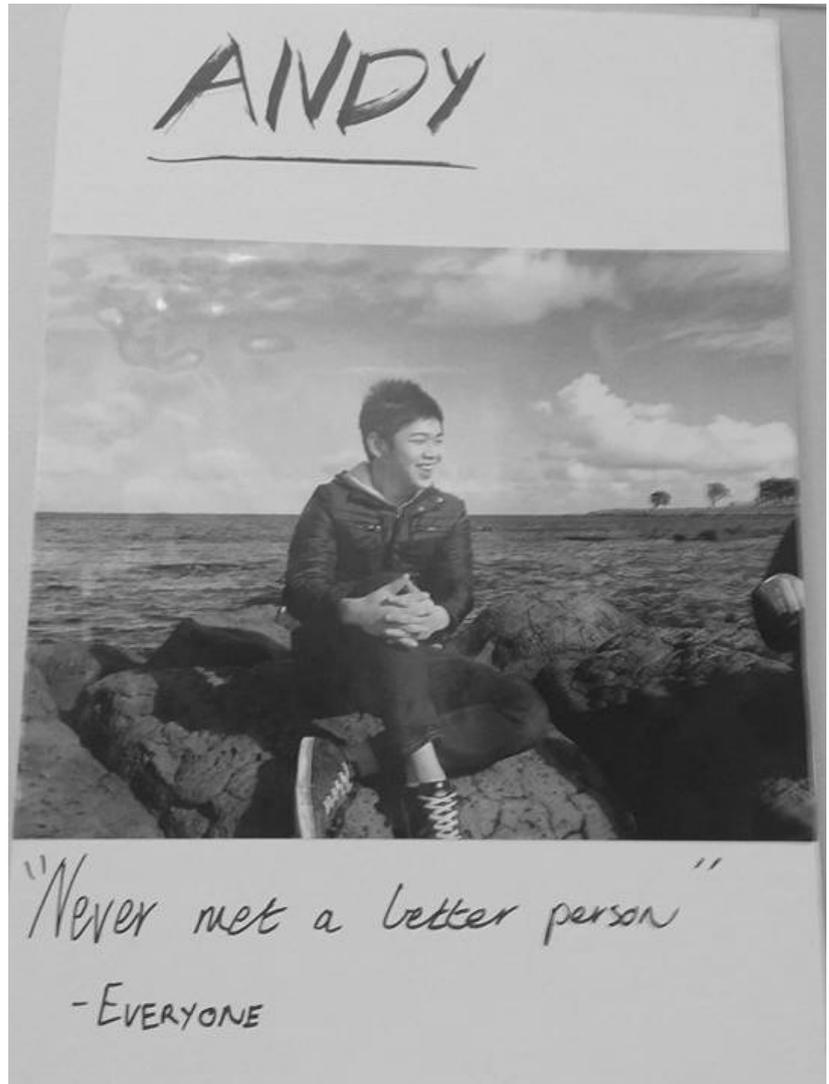
Distract and instill fear in the citizenry with pictures of terrorists and sharks. Can we put a shark in a hijab?

Insert the following provision into all legislation relating to migration, citizenship, the environment and whatever it is poor people care about (Centrecare? Medilink?):

'Decisions made by the Minister in the exercise of powers conferred under this Act are to be considered acts of God and therefore above contestation on any grounds whatsoever.'

FIRE GILLIAN TRIGGS. Run a defamation suit against First Dog on the Moon. Have Waleed Aly sent back to wherever he came from. (*Ed: Monash, I think*).

**Sarah Moorhead** is a JD student.



### IN MEMORIAM

The *De Minimis* editors would like to pay tribute to Andy Omar, who sadly passed away on 7 August.

Many law students were fortunate enough to get to know Andy during his time at the Porta Via cafe.

He brought a smile to people's faces when they most needed it and was uniformly loved by those around him. There are few better indications of a life well spent.

Andy, you will be missed. Rest in peace.

#### DE MINIMIS IS...

**Chief Editor**  
Hamish Williamson

**Managing Editor**  
Duncan Wallace

**Co-Editor & Secretary**  
Jacob Debets

**Equity Uncle & Treasurer**  
Tim Matthews Staindl

# Choir

## JOIN THE CHOIR: TALENT NOT REQUIRED! (TALENT NONETHELESS WELCOME)

The Melbourne Law School Choir is the single best use of your time on Thursday afternoons at 1pm in the Law Clinic, Mezzanine level.

Here are three reasons why:

1) Everyone in the choir is incredibly attractive. Simply by joining you go up a few points: a 5.5 becomes a 7.5, and so on.

As a middling 4 myself, I can attest to the powerful aesthetic boon that the Law School Choir has given to my romantic allure. (*Ed: The author's opinions are his own and do not represent D.M. editorial policy*).

2) Singing is amazing for your mood: the increased flow of oxygen to your brain will reinvigorate you for those dolorous 2:15-4:15 classes, and soporific afternoon study sessions.

3) Socio-legal theorist Max Weber contrasted a group of practical and radical American associations with the 'tranquilising effects of the Ger-

man choral society'.

He found that singing in a choral society habituates a person to 'let tremendous sentiments gush from their heart and through their larynx, free of any relationship whatsoever to his [or her] behaviour'.

So here's the rub: whoever grows accustomed to singing in unison with others, very easily becomes 'a good citizen'... in the passive, membership-oriented sense of the word.

'It is no wonder', Weber observes, that monarchists are so fond of this sort of thing: 'where peoples are singing, you can settle down and feel at ease'.

What on earth, you are now asking yourself, does this have to do with motivating people to join the Choir? Well – you want a job, don't you?

You want to show that you're a 'team player', don't you? You want to show that you have (as Weber suggests a choir facilitates) an easy relationship with oppressive authority, don't you?

Then surely a choir is the ideal training for a corporate legal environment!

I say this with my tongue in my cheek.

One of the best things about choir, in fact, is that it's one of the few places that is insulated from the pressures of law school, be it thinking about applications and jobs, or writing assignments (one of which I am, at this very point in time, clearly avoiding).

Just to be clear: *you do not need to be good at singing to join the choir*. You will, however, become better by practicing with us in a supportive and friendly environment!

So come along – 1pm, Thursdays. It will be the best decision you've made all week.

*David Allinson is a member of the MLS Choir, which meets every Thursday afternoon at 1 p.m. in the Law Clinic, on the mezzanine level of the Law Building.*

## Don't like the content? Write your own!

*De Minimis* is written by, and for, the students of Melbourne Law School.

We welcome any and all quality writing that might interest our readers.

If you have insights into the student experience, the legal industry, events on campus, politics, movies, or even fashion, send an email to the editor:

✉ [mlsdeminimis@gmail.com](mailto:mlsdeminimis@gmail.com)

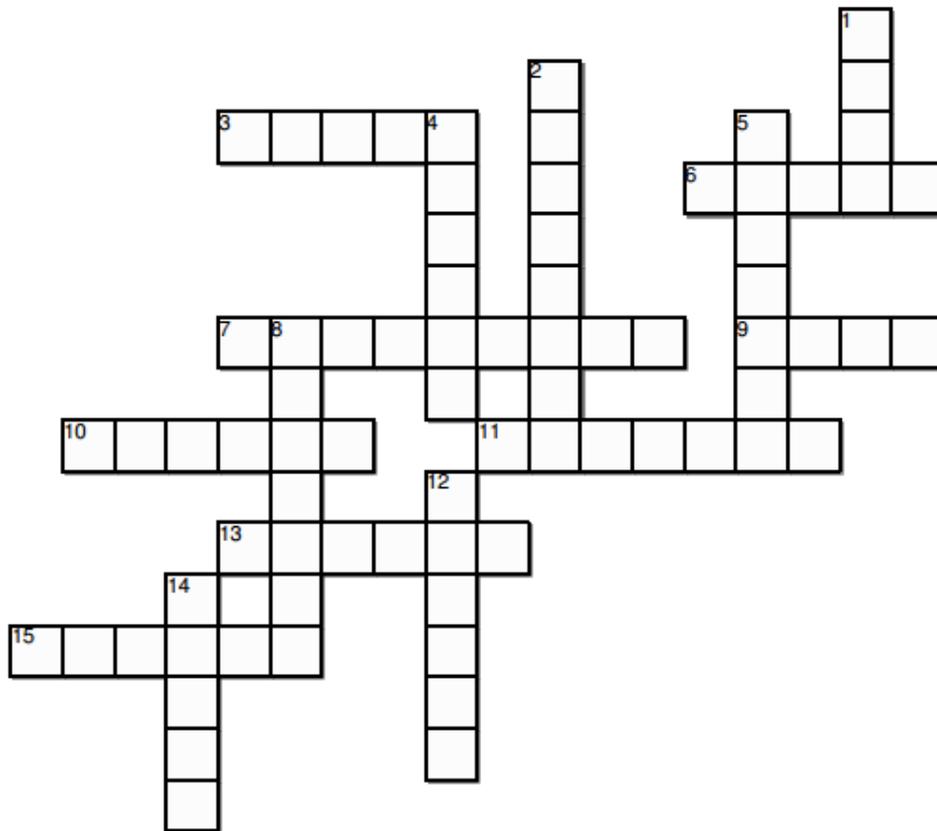
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# CROSSWORD

## In The News



Created on [TheTeachersCorner.net](http://TheTeachersCorner.net) Crossword Maker

### **Horizontal**

3. Who is the recently-appointed Speaker of the House of Reps?
6. Who is the current shadow treasurer?
7. Which team won the AFL women's exhibition match last Sunday?
9. Which was the highest-ranked art gallery in the Lonely Planet's List of 500 Best Places in the World?
10. What's the name of our embattled President of the Australian Human Rights Commission?
11. Which House of Reps seat in WA will be contested at a bi-election on 19 September?
13. Which former leader of the Labor opposition was last seen screaming obscenities at the audience of a writers festival?
15. In which country did two men recently find an armoured train reportedly filled with Nazi-era treasure?

### **Vertical**

1. How many same-sex marriage bills are currently before the Australian Parliament?
2. Who currently holds the record for the longest reigning British monarch?
4. Who recently 'overlooked' a couple of important details?
5. Which medal is given to the player who scores the most goals in an AFL season?
8. Which country won bronze at the netball World Cup this year?
12. Which Liberal candidate was in a troop of soldiers who chopped off the hands of dead Taliban fighters in Afghanistan?
14. Which species of skink will soon have to mount its own vigilante litigation?

*Crossword courtesy of Tim Matthews Staindl.*