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media release

Corporate philanthropy and the business/community partnership:

Yering Station Sculpture Exhibition & Awards **10 October 2005**

MELBOURNE, 10 October 2005: Jonathan Wenig, a partner at prominent commercial law firm, Arnold Bloch Leibler, highlighted the benefits of corporate philanthropy and explained why his firm devotes more than \$1.6 million dollars a year to unpaid legal work.

Speaking at the media launch of the Yering Station Sculpture Exhibition & Awards, of which Arnold Bloch Leibler is principal sponsor, Wenig explained why Arnold Bloch Leibler is supporting the Awards: "Doug Rathbone, managing director of Nufarm Limited, and his family have been clients of the firm for 25 years and, through them, we have worked with Yering Station for some time now. In the Rathbones, we recognise kindred spirits, ones that are guided by the conviction that those who enjoy success have an obligation to use their skills, networks and resources for the public good. So when Doug approached us for support, we were happy to get involved".

For more than fifty years, giving back to the community has been a core value at Arnold Bloch Leibler. This commitment to serving the public is one of the firm's guiding principles. Today, it operates a dedicated public interest law practice that offers pro bono advice to more than 100 organisations and causes across Australia. An audit of the public interest law practice revealed that, in the 2003/04 financial year, the firm devoted more than \$1.6 million dollars or 3,500 hours to pro bono work. This figure does not take into account time spent by partners who sit on boards and councils of charitable organisations, or the \$800,000 in cash donations made annually. "Given the relatively small size of our firm (25 partners and less than 200 staff), that is an extraordinary achievement," says Wenig.

While the firm is probably best known for its work with Indigenous groups, Arnold Bloch Leibler's community support covers a broad spectrum of causes, including social, environmental, research and cultural. Key public interest clients include the Yorta Yorta peoples, the Australian Conservation Foundation, Make-A-Wish and the Australian Himalayan Foundation.

Says Wenig: "A vibrant arts community is an essential component of a vibrant society. When people recognise and celebrate the creative potential of artists they are more likely to recognise the unique contributions of other groups in the community. And that leads to a fairer and more equitable society."

Arnold Bloch Leibler supports Australian art and artists in a variety of ways. Some members of the firm sit on the boards of art galleries, some provide financial assistance, while others offer pro bono legal advice to arts groups. In addition, the firm maintains a collection of contemporary Australian artists.

Throughout October and November this year works by some of the Yering Station Sculpture Award finalists will be on display at Arnold Bloch Leibler's Collins Street office. For additional information regarding the Yering Station Sculpture Exhibition & Awards please refer to the Yering Station press release.

ATTACHED: additional information regarding business/community partnerships.

HI-RES IMAGES of the Yering sculpture finalists and the media launch will be available shortly by email.

About Arnold Bloch Leibler

Arnold Bloch Leibler is a leading commercial law firm with offices in Melbourne and Sydney. The firm represents a wide range of individuals and corporate clients, including high-net-worth individuals and entrepreneurs, large family businesses and blue-chip corporations. Arnold Bloch Leibler also has a dedicated pro bono practice providing advice on social and environmental issues.

Arnold Bloch Leibler is particularly known for its expertise in commercial law, litigation and dispute resolution, taxation and property. The firm also has an expanding presence in trade practices law. In these areas, the firm has been involved in many landmark matters and transactions.

For additional information: please contact Stephanie Green of Arnold Bloch Leibler on (03) 9229 9715 or sgreen@abl.com.au.