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media release

Yering Station Sculpture Exhibition & Awards 2006: Welcome by Alex King, Arnold Bloch Leibler

19 September 2006, Melbourne

Good morning and thank you for joining us. I'm Alex King, a partner at Arnold Bloch Leibler. It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Arnold Bloch Leibler for the media launch of the 2006 Yering Station Sculpture Exhibition & Awards.

We are delighted to assist Yering Station to provide a platform for the exhibiting artists to share their works with the community.

Various people here today will speak about this year's sculptures and exhibition. They include Yering Station's Darren Rathbone, Award judge, Diana Gold of Gallery 101, and 2005 finalists, Eli Giannini and Sue Buchanan. You'll hear from them shortly. I would also like to welcome Ann Rathbone and Award judges Geoffrey Edwards of Geelong Gallery and Caroline Fields of Australia Galleries.

For now, I would like to speak with you about why Arnold Bloch Leibler has extended its sponsorship of the Exhibition and Awards into 2006.

For more than 50 years, giving back to the community has been an organic feature of Arnold Bloch Leibler. Today, we operate a dedicated public interest law practice that offers *pro bono* advice to more than 100 organisations and causes across Australia. That adds up to around \$2 million dollars or 5,500 hours in *pro bono* work annually. We assist people and organisations with public interest and charitable causes in the fields of education, research, migration, general community activities and, of course, indigenous issues and affairs. Our senior partner, Mark Leibler, is co-Chair of Reconciliation Australia. Our public interest law practice sits like a 'transparency' over our entire commercial practice. The two practices are complimentary, they resonate with one another. We believe those resonances, those connections, benefit our firm and all those who work within it, and also benefit our clients: individual, community and corporate.

Here at Arnold Bloch Leibler we are privileged to enjoy a long-standing relationship with the Rathbone family, at both business and community levels. Doug Rathbone and his family have been Arnold Bloch Leibler clients for more than 25 years. We are very pleased to be able to continue to support the family's community contributions.

Like art, and like winemaking, an initiative such as the Yering Station Sculpture Exhibition & Awards takes time, commitment and shared vision to reach its potential. Now in its 5th year, the Exhibition is a highlight of the Australian arts calendar. The Exhibition and Awards generate financial benefits for the exhibiting artists, the Yarra Valley community generally and for leukaemia research (which I will touch on in a minute). With continuing support, the Exhibition will continue to have a significant impact on our community.

Another reason for Arnold Bloch Leibler's support of the Exhibition and Awards is – frankly – driven by self-interest. As you'll have seen, our Melbourne office becomes a gallery for some of the exhibition works. Life in a busy law firm can be rather frantic and the opportunity to take 'time out', view and reflect upon something other than paperwork or a computer screen is much appreciated by all of us here at Arnold Bloch Leibler, and also our clients.

After the formal part of the event is concluded, please feel free to wander through the public areas of our office and have a look at the works. They offer a small taste of what is to come when the Yering Station Sculpture Exhibition & Awards opens on Sunday, 22 October.

I'd now like to ask Darren Rathbone to say a few words.

The Rathbone family have a 20-year involvement with LARCH, the Royal Children's Hospital 's Leukaemia Auxiliary. LARCH, together with the Yarra Valley Arts Council, is the recipient of commission proceeds from the sale of the exhibited sculptures. Darren will tell you more about LARCH and the great work it does. Please join me in welcoming Darren Rathbone.

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 further information, please telephone David Pleydell, Director of Marketing & Business Development, on 03 9229 9620 or Stephanie Green, Marketing Communications Executive, on (03) 9229 9715. Visit: www.abl.com.au.