

Our people

“ I have found myself incredibly inspired by my colleagues to take the next step in my career ”

What has been your pathway to becoming a paralegal?

My passion for learning about the legal system and industry began in High School when I undertook VCE Legal Studies which enabled me to build knowledge of the Court processes in both criminal and civil matters. This course solidified my decision to complete my Bachelor of Criminal Justice and Criminology, a three-year degree of which I majored in Behavioural Studies to gain a deeper knowledge of the various possible reasons behind why individuals commit crimes. My interest in the legal system assisted in the completion of numerous assignments to a high standard, ultimately graduating in 2021 with Distinction. Straight away I began looking for employment openings and came across a local boutique firm where I was hired as a Legal Secretary. I worked for one lawyer, alongside three other secretaries, and specialised in matters such as residential and commercial conveyancing, leases, general advice, wills, powers of attorney and estate planning. After two years of working at the smaller firm, I knew my desire was to further develop my knowledge on a larger scale. That's when I came across Nevetts Lawyers where I was offered a Paralegal role in the conveyancing team.

Tell us about your current role and what a typical day looks like for you

My current role is to support several lawyers on a range of matters, from residential and commercial conveyancing to property transfers between related entities. As conveyancing is quite fast-paced and often has short timeframes, a typical day in my role is usually filled very quickly. I assist in preparing and reviewing Contracts, ensuring clients meet critical due dates of special conditions under Contracts, as well as attending to various tasks to prepare for settlements (many of which require calculations for high-valued properties). I also frequently liaise with clients, real estate agents, banks, financial advisors, accountants and solicitors from other firms. This communication has enabled me to expand my contact base and ultimately be the point of contact for several professionals seeking information on matters.



Charlee Nicholls

What do you enjoy most about working with Nevetts Lawyers?

Nevetts Lawyers is an all-round amazing workplace full of friendly colleagues who have a wealth of knowledge across many areas of law. I thoroughly enjoy coming to work each day and seeing the smiling faces around the office. Where I am unsure or wish to gain clarification in a matter, I am comfortable in asking questions from my colleagues and being provided not only with an answer, but with an outline of the reasoning behind the answer. This constant learning enables me to progress my knowledge further every day.

What opportunities are you looking forward to in the future?

I am fortunate to have the support of my employers to commence my Juris Doctor studies at Deakin University this year. This postgraduate degree is not necessarily something I have given thought to prior to beginning employment at Nevetts Lawyers. I have found myself incredibly inspired by my colleagues to take the next step in my career and am confident that I am in the best space for my work to compliment my studies. I believe my role as a Paralegal will substantially assist me throughout this next degree.

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Nevetts
Lawyers

Who we are

An experienced team of professionals, with Accredited Specialists across many areas of law. We are dedicated to finding our clients the perfect fit in their legal partnership. We have an accomplished team of lawyers, paralegals and support staff.

Connection is at the heart of everything we do and we believe in building trust through deepening relationships with our clients, our community and each other.

Our Vision

Trusted and valued by our communities, excelling in the work we do and the way we connect, building on the legacy of those who have come before us.

What we offer

We would be pleased to discuss any requests for work experience, clerkships or employment which suits the right candidate.

Our door is always open to discussing opportunities with motivated and energetic individuals, regardless of how far progressed they are in their career path.

“Connecting as people, to deliver as professionals.”

Tips for starting out



Marnie Papst

- **No experience is wasted** – seize every opportunity for hands-on experience. Every experience helps you understand your strong points and areas you need to work on. There's no substitute for experience when it comes to deciding which area you'd like to work in.
- **Don't discount regional businesses** – there is a wealth of experience in regional areas and an incredible amount of job satisfaction comes from the meaningful relationships you form with clients and other professionals in regional areas.
- **Flip your commute** – invest in the ultimate work/life balance by cutting your commute to the office to 15 minutes or less. Regional areas are thriving with activities, good food and wine, beautiful scenery, hikes and bike trails and it's just a short commute into Melbourne for your weekend fix of the city life. Base yourself in Ararat close to Gariwerd – the Grampians National Park or Ballarat and the historic goldfields region boasting beautiful historic architecture.
- **Look for a business that truly lives and breathes work life balance** – look for a business that values you as an individual and nurtures your work ethic and expertise. This is the perfect environment for you to thrive.



Nevetts
Lawyers

Why choose us

Nevetts Lawyers is a long-established regional law firm with offices in Ballarat and Ararat, servicing the Ballarat and Grampians regions and the Western District.

We are privileged to have developed deep connections with our clients and community over the years. We find fulfilment in providing clarity, advocacy and security for them.

We recognise the value that comes from collaboration and meaningful engagement with the community.

We have an experienced team of lawyers, paralegals and support staff. Authenticity, empathy and excellence is part of our DNA. We invest in our staff and a significant proportion of our lawyers are accredited specialists in their chosen field of practice.

We offer a truly regional experience with our Tivey and Holland, Nevetts Lawyers office in Ararat, proudly servicing the Grampians and western districts.

We are serious when we talk about work-life balance. We recognise the critical role it plays in good mental health, and the critical role that good mental health plays in allowing us to best serve our stakeholders.

Areas of law

A large proportion of our lawyers are Accredited Specialists in their chosen field. We invest in our team and pride ourselves on ongoing growth and development, specialisation, and excellence.

We practise in a broad range of fields including:

- Business and Commercial Law
- Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Wills, Estate Planning and Probate
- Property Law and Conveyancing
- Employment and Workplace Relations
- Wind and Solar Farms

We have significant expertise in each of the areas of law in which we practise.

“ We are privileged to have developed deep connections with our clients and community over the years.”

Our History

Our firm has its roots deep in the veins of Ballarat's goldfields, dating back to 1854. The Nevett name is traced back to Horatio Arthur Nevett who arrived in Ballarat from London in 1868. The firm excelled in gold mining law at the peak of the Ballarat goldrush.

In 1907, joined by Horatio's son, Arthur Horatio Nevett, the firm became Nevett and Nevett. The firm experienced multiple partnership changes over the years but the Nevett name lived on becoming Nevett Coutts and Wilson in the 1970s, Nevett Ford in 1989 and since evolving to Nevetts Lawyers.

Recently, long-standing Ararat firm Tivey & Holland joined the Nevetts family, combining strengths and the legacy of both firms to service clients in the Ararat, Stawell and Grampians region.

We have also been a longstanding member of Law Australasia, a coalition of 19 law firms across Australia enabling us to remain connected and collaborate with a specialised network.

“...recognise the value that comes from collaboration and meaningful engagement with the community...”





Rhylee Hanrahan
Senior Associate

Finding a firm that fits “the vibe”

Finding a firm that fits for you and your needs as well as aligns with your values and provides an environment that is equal parts supportive, fun and engaging is an important consideration when setting out in your law career.

I am a Deakin University alumni (2017) and currently employed as a senior associate at Nevetts Lawyers which is one of the largest and oldest firms in Ballarat. I have practiced law since completion of my practical legal training in 2018 and work across both the commercial and property law teams which exposes me to a great variety of matters as well as interactions with different colleagues and clients – no two days are ever the same for me!

I am very fortunate to work at a firm that allows the flexibility to adapt to my lifestyle and personal arrangements. I work from the Ballarat office Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and then work from home on the Surf Coast on Thursdays and Fridays. This is a unique aspect to me as it allows me the best of many worlds – I get to spend some parts of my week catching up in person with my colleagues, running through any curly matters with them and meeting clients face to face (as well as spending my lunch breaks trying different cafes each week where our office is located in the main foodie hub of Ballarat!). I also get to retain my personal and social ties to where I now call my home (and enjoy the occasional lunch break walk with the dog at the beach).

Our people

“weigh up how a business aligns with your values and needs...”

A typical day for me (as “typical” as it can be when no two days are ever the same!) in the office would involve a coffee and croissant to start, then a review of any new emails that came in and a plan of my day to set up what I can achieve around appointments and deadlines. I will then make a start on some substantial tasks. As a morning person, I find I am most productive in the AM and therefore this time is usually reserved for the likes of researching case law and legislation, drafting of agreements or contracts and preparation of letters of advice to clients. After lunch, with a coke zero and sweet treat in hand, I’ll continue on with some substantial work or often have set aside some time for catch ups with a colleague to bounce ideas on some files or meet with clients to round out my day.

Don’t be afraid to weigh up how a firm aligns with your personal and work values and needs – after all we may be working for a large part of our lives! Having found something that works perfectly for me, I can definitely say it will keep you motivated and provide a positive outlook on your work and personal life.