

Western Australian Law Reform Commission (W.A.L.R.C.)

- *Bail Procedures*. (No. 64.) W.P. issued. (See p. 11.)
- *Annual Report 1977*. Report issued. (See p. 8.)
- *Appeals from Petty Sessions*. (No. 55(1).) W.P. due in the near future.
- *Highway Authorities: Reliability for Non-Feasance*. (No. 62.) W.P. due soon.
- *Fatal Accidents Act*. (No. 66.) W.P. due in near future.

New Reference

The following new references were received between October 1977 and December 1977:

V.L.R.C.: *Pre-Incorporation Contracts*. Referred 16 December 1977.

V.S.L.R.C.: *Trustee Companies*.

- (1) The restriction on shareholdings in trustee companies. Whether directors should be empowered to refuse to register transfers of shares.
- (2) Participation of real estate agency activities in trustee companies.

Personalia

The New Australian Ministry

Following the General Election in Australia, a new Ministry has been announced. Senator Peter Durack, a Perth barrister and a Senator since 1971, remains Attorney-General. Some details of Senator Durack's career are to be found in [1977] *Reform* 59. During the last quarter he has addressed himself on several occasions to law reform. A former Attorney-General, Mr. Robert Ellicott Q.C., returns to the Ministry as Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for the Capital Territory. During his term as Attorney-General he gave the A.L.R.C. many challenging references. He also introduced the *Criminal Investigation Bill 1977* into Parliament. The revival of a Department of Home Affairs raises the hope in some quarters that new initiatives will be taken to remove, what the *Canberra Times* has described as the "log jam of the law" in the Federal Territories. The Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, in his first statement following the election, named as major objectives "seeking to remove areas of disadvantage in Australia" and "seeking to enhance individual liberty and justice for all Australians, wherever they may be"; commitments important for the work of the A.L.R.C.

Senator-elect G. J. Evans

One of the initial Commissioners of the A.L.R.C., Mr. Gareth Evans, a Melbourne barrister, has been elected to the Australian Parliament as a Senator for Victoria. Mr. Evans joins the Opposition ranks in the Senate. He resigned from the A.L.R.C. in 1975 to contest, unsuccessfully, a Senate seat. Since the review of his career in [1976] *Reform* 13, Mr. Evans has left academic life to practise at the Melbourne Bar. In 1977 he edited a collection of essays *Labor and the Constitution*.

Mr. M. R. Wilcox Q.C.

In December 1977 it was announced that one of the A.L.R.C. Commissioners, Mr. Murray Wilcox, had been appointed one of Her Majesty's Counsel for N.S.W. On 31 December 1977, Mr. Wilcox completed an 18-month term as a full-time Commissioner of the A.L.R.C. During this time he was Commissioner in charge of the references on Defamation and Publication Privacy, Lands Acquisition and Standing. His innovation of Discussion Papers and their distribution through the *Australian Law Journal* promises to be a lasting development in law reform technique in Australia. Mr. Wilcox returns to his practice at the N.S.W. Bar.

Tasmanian L.R.C. Changes

The two new Commissioners of the Tas.L.R.C. are Mr. Peter Cranswick and Mr. Peter Underwood. Mr. Cranswick, whose appointment to the Tas.L.R.C. was noted in the last issue of *Reform*, was educated in Hobart and Launceston before admission to practice in 1955. He was President of the Law Society of Tasmania in 1972. In 1975 he joined the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department in Canberra, returning to Hobart in 1976. Mr. Underwood holds the LL.B. degree and was a member of the Law Society Council 1973-5. He is a committee member of the Tasmanian Bar Association.

A.L.R.C. Staff Changes

Mr. William Tearle, LL.B. has been promoted to Senior Law Reform Officer within the A.L.R.C. Mr. Bryan Keon-Cohen has been appointed a Senior Law Reform Officer. He was granted leave of absence from Monash Law School for three years where he edited the *Legal Service Bulletin*. New Law Reform Officers are Mr. Mark Richardson and Miss Susan Reye. Mr. Richardson, 25, holds the degrees of B.A., LL.B.(A.N.U.) and is a practitioner of the A.C.T. Supreme Court. Between 1975 and 1977 he was a research assistant at the A.N.U. Miss Reye received an Honours B.A. degree (Qld.) with university medal. Her LL.B. degree was conferred with Honours by the A.N.U. where she was on the editorial board of the *Federal Law Review*.

Sydney

9 January 1977

Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Attorney-General, his Department, or the Commission. Correspondence, information and views should be addressed to G.P.O. Box 3708, Sydney, N.S.W., 2001 (Telephone 02-231-1733 (Sydney)).

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