

V.C.J.L.R.C.: *Unincorporated Associations*: Second Interim Report.

V.S.L.R.C.: *Report on the publication of lists of writs and summonses.*

: *Report on Access to information concerning adoptions.*

: *Report on the law relating to animals on highways.*

: *Report on certain matters relating to trustee companies.*

: *Report on the proposals contained in the Constitution (Local Government) Bill 1978.*

: *Report on the use of steel-jawed leghold traps.*

: *Report on Privacy (Debt Collection Agencies—Publications).*

W.A.L.R.C.: Proj. No. 34 Pt. III: *Report on administration of deceased insolvent estates.*

: Proj. No. 66: *Report on Fatal Accidents.*

: Proj. No. 28: *Report Official Attestation of Forms and Documents.*

: W.P. Proj. No. 43: *Compensation for persons detained in custody who are ultimately acquitted or pardoned.*

United Kingdom

Law Com.: No. 91: *Criminal Law: Report on the territorial and extraterritorial extent of the criminal law.*

: No. 92: *Thirteenth Annual Report 1977-78.*

: W.P. No. 73: *Insurance Law non-disclosure and breach of warranty.*

Canada

C.L.R.C.: *Seventh Annual Report 1977-1978.*

N.S.L.R. Advisory Cte.: *Report on Builders' Liens.*

Papua New Guinea

P.N.G.L.R.C.: W.P. 13: *Committal Proceedings.*

: W.P. 14: *Young persons in conflict with the law.*

: Occp. P. 10: *Sorcery among the East Sepiks.*

Other

N.Y.L.R.C.: *Cumulative Topic Index 1952-1977.*

N.Z.P.A.L.R.C.: *Twelfth Report.*

: *Report on identification.*

Sri Lanka L.C.: W.P.: *Draft Ombudsman Bill and Report.*

N.S.W.L.R.C. relevant to costs and practicalities of reform proposals proceeding.

- *Insurance Contracts*: Work in hand (W.I.H.). Discussion Paper #7 under consideration and comparison with Law Commission Working Paper (see p. 42).

- *Class Actions and Standing*: Further research proceeding towards Consultative Paper (See p. 41).

- *Privacy*: W.I.H. Research Papers circulating. D.P. #8 on Privacy and the Census released. Further D.P. on Informational Privacy due soon (See p. 32).

- *Aboriginal Customary Laws*: W.I.H. (See p. 42).

- *Lands Acquisition*: Draft legislation in advanced stage. Report due late 1979.

- *Sentencing*: W.I.H. (See p. 28).

- *Child Welfare*: New reference received (See p. 26).

- *Law Reform Digest*: W.I.H.

N.S.W. Law Reform Commission (N.S.W.L.R.C.)

Summary of the present state of work in the Commission.

- *Legal profession Inquiry*: Discussion papers and background papers are nearing completion on the topics General Regulation of the Profession and Complaints, Discipline and Professional Standards.

- *Unincorporated Associations*: W.I.H.: Discussion and redrafting continuing.

- *Money Judgments*: W.I.H.: Co-operation with A.L.R.C.

- *Evidence*: W.I.H.: Further working papers drafted and under discussion.

N.T. Law Review Committee (N.T.L.R.Cte.)

See [1979] *Reform* 22.

N.Z. Property Law and Equity Reform Committee (N.Z.P.L.E.R.Cte.)

See [1979] *Reform* 22.

N.Z. Public and Administrative Law Reform Committee (N.Z.P.A.L.R.Cte.)

See [1979] *Reform* 22.

N.Z. Rules Committee (N.Z.R.Cte.)

See [1979] *Reform* 22.

Papua New Guinea Law Reform Commission (P.N.G.L.R.C.)

- *Young Persons in Conflict with the Law* (W.P. 14, Nov. 1978): contains a draft Youth Court Services Bill.

- *Committal Proceedings* (W.P.13, Jan. 1979): proposes that the present system be speeded-up by the introduction of hand-up briefs. It also includes an alternative proposal to abolish committal proceedings altogether.

- *Customary Compensation*: An occasional paper (O.P. 11). This topic is now in its third draft. The Chairman of the P.N.G.L.R.C., William Kaputin, and Commissioner Joseph Nombri are to tour the Highlands Provinces in the first half

What's going on in the L.R.C.s?

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

- *Defamation*: Report expected from printer shortly.

- *Debt Recovery*: Commission considering submissions at Public Sitings and Seminars held 1978. Research survey of courts in N.S.W. with

of March talking to provincial governments about the Commission's tentative proposals. Further drafts can be expected before publication.

- *Compensation for Deaths following Motor Vehicle Accidents*: A report (No. 9) is now in its final draft. It reviews the operation of the *Motor Vehicles (Third Party Insurance) (Basic Protection Compensation) Act* 1974 and suggests a number of amendments. It briefly summarises the appalling motor vehicle death and accident statistics for Papua New Guinea and suggests that accident prevention should be emphasised rather than the payment of compensation.

Queensland Law Reform Commission (Q.L.R.C.)

- Working Paper 22: *Associations Incorporations Act* plus supplementary paper circulating.
- Report 23: *Pawnbrokers Act*, recommendations accepted by Governor in Council 14 Dec. 1978.
- Report 27: *Criminal Law*, submitted to Minister 8 Dec. 1978.

Tasmania Law Reform Commission (T.L.R.C.)

- *Exclusion clauses and implied obligations in contracts of sale and services*: Mr. J. Livermore, Lecturer in Commercial Law, Univ. of Tas., has been researching this project and has undertaken to report to the Commission no later than 30 April 1979.
- *Wills*: Revised Interim Report received from Committee and Final report promised within six months. Commission Report expected later this year.
- *Second-Hand Dealers Act* 1905: Review completed and Report settled.
- *Insanity and Diminished Responsibility*: Medico-Legal Committee under the chairmanship of Hon. Mr. Justice F. M. Neasey has commenced work on this reference.
- *Ejectment: Common Law Procedure Act 1854 and Supreme Court Orders and Rules*: Committee work proceeding.
- *The rule in Hollington v. Hewthorn*: Committee from North of State being set up to report on this reference. Mrs. J. A. Tunney of Launceston has been appointed Commission representative on this Committee.
- *Conveyancing Reference*: A Committee of conveyancing experts under the Chairmanship of Mr. P. R. Cranswick, the Law Society nominee on the Commission, has been asked to settle priorities and report on fifteen conveyancing matters comprised in this multiple reference.
- *The Annual Report* for the year ending 31 Dec. 1978 has been settled and is awaiting signature at the March meeting of the Commission prior to submission to the Attorney-General.
- *Stock Straying on the Highway*. This Committee is in abeyance awaiting the handing down of the High Court of Australia Judgment in *State*

Government Insurance Corporation v. Trigwell and Others.

South Australian Law Reform Committee (S.A.L.R.C.)

- Reforming the Law of Locus Standi.

Criminal Law Reform Committee of South Australia (S.A.C.L.R.C.)

- *Mentally Ill Offenders*: Review of existing legislation in relation to these offenders.
- *Inquiry into Corporate Criminal Responsibility*.

Victorian Chief Justices Law Reform Committee (V.C.J.L.R.C.)

- *Unincorporated Associations*: The Committee adopted the Second Interim Report of the sub-committee. The Committee approved the appointment by Monash University of a Research fellow to investigate the topic under the supervision of the sub-committee.
- *Trustee Companies; and Contribution*: The Committee deferred consideration of the reports of the sub-committees on these two topics until its next meeting, which is to be held on 27 March.
- *Construction of Wills; and the Family Law Act and State Welfare Legislation*: The Committee referred back to the respective sub-committees their reports on each of these topics for further consideration.
- Progress Reports received for:
 - # *Oaths and Affirmation*
 - # *Insurance on Real Property*
 - # *Habeas Corpus Act*
 - # *Supreme Court Act 1958, ss.142-159* (Foreign Attachment)
 - # *Exemption Clauses in Contract*
 - # *Wills for Mentally Disturbed Persons*.

Victorian Law Reform Commissioner (V.L.R.C.)

- *Crime: Duress, Coercion and Necessity*: W.P. distributed widely for comment in September.
- *Company Law: Pre-incorporation Contracts*: Draft report now circulating.
- *Crime: Corporate Crime*: Preliminary work being done on problems in investigation and prosecution.
- *Crime: Offences Against the Person*: W.I.H. on provocation.

Victorian Statute Law Revision Committee (V.S.L.R.C.)

- *Local Government (Pecuniary Interests of Councillors)*: Correspondence has been initiated and the Committee is now waiting to receive replies from the interested parties.
- *Privacy*: Submissions are still being considered but evidence has not been heard as yet.
- *Protection of Animals Act 1966 and Related Provisions*: The Committee is continuing to examine the remaining eight terms of reference in this inquiry.

- *The Constitution Act 1975*: The Committee has commenced hearing evidence in relation to this inquiry. A report relating to a Bill of Rights is expected to be presented to the Victorian Parliament in 1979.

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

- *Bail* (Proj. No. 64): Report due soon.
- *Appeals from Courts of Petty Sessions* (Proj. No. 55 Part I): Report due soon.
- *Small Debts Court* (Proj. No. 63): Report due soon.
- Working Paper due soon on *Retention of Court Records* (Proj. No. 72).

New References

The following new references were received by L.R.C.s or notified since January 1979:

A.L.R.C.: Child Welfare. See above p. 26.

V.L.R.C.: Law relating to Delivery of Deeds.

Personalia

The Hon. J. K. McLay, M.P.

The new Attorney-General for New Zealand and Minister of Justice is Mr. James Kenneth McLay. He succeeds as Attorney-General his half-brother, Mr. Peter Wilkinson, who resigned because of ill health. Mr. Wilkinson remains a Member of Parliament. Mr. McLay practised in the amalgamated profession from 1971-1974 and after 1974 practised exclusively at the Bar. He was elected to Parliament in 1975. To him will fall the responsibility of charting the future direction of law reform in New Zealand, about which there has lately been active discussion. See p. 39.

The Hon. Nahau Rooney, M.P.

The new Attorney-General for Papua New Guinea is the Honourable Mrs. Nahau Rooney. She was one of the foundation Commissioners of the Law Reform Commission of Papua New Guinea and remained a member of that Commission during its vital first years. She holds the degree of B.A. in social work in the University of Papua New Guinea and in January 1979 she called on the A.L.R.C. during her visit to Sydney, following a meeting of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General in Hobart.

Judge Edward Houston

A new Commissioner of the Law Reform Commission of Canada is Judge E. J. Houston, a Judge of the York County Court in Toronto since 1975. Born in Ontario in 1918, he was educated at the University

of Ontario and took his LL.B. degree at Osgoode Hall Law School. Called to the Ontario Bar in 1950, he was appointed a Q.C. in 1972.

The Hon. Mr. Justice J. F. Nagle

The author of the Report of the Royal Commission on Prisons in New South Wales, the Honourable Mr. Justice John Flood Nagle, has been appointed Chief Judge at Common Law in the Supreme Court of N.S.W. His Honour has been a Judge of the Court since 1960. He holds the degrees B.A. and LL.B. within Sydney University. His Report on Prisons and the important suggestions made for law reform are now under consideration in the Federal sphere in the A.L.R.C. Reference on *Sentencing*. Senior Counsel assisting Mr. Justice Nagle in his inquiry, Mr. David Hunt Q.C., has now been elevated to the Supreme Court. Hunt J. was a consultant to the A.L.R.C. in its project on Defamation.

Tasmanian L.R.C. Changes

The retirement has been announced of Professor Derek Roebuck, a member of the Tasmanian L.R.C. and Dean of the Faculty of Law in the University of Tasmania. Professor Roebuck was appointed Professor of Law at Hobart in 1969. He has taken a leading part in several of the projects of the Tas.L.R.C. His resignation is to allow him to take up an appointment in London as Director of the Research Unit of Amnesty International. Mr. Frank Bates, a member of the full-time academic staff of the Faculty of Law at the University of Tasmania, has been appointed a member of the Commission in place of Professor Roebuck. Mr. Bates, a Master of Laws from Sheffield University, England, and a Reader in Law at the University of Tasmania, is well-known to readers of legal publications for his articles on a variety of subjects, but particularly on Family Law topics. Mr. Bates has been appointed, and all the other members have been reappointed, until 31 July 1979. The existing Law Reform Commission Act is due to expire on that date. However, a Bill to repeal the time-limit provision in the Act was introduced in the last Session of Parliament and, it is understood, will probably be re-introduced into the next Session of Parliament.

Mr. Kenneth L. Chasse

Chairman of a new Federal/Provincial Task Force on Uniform Rules of Evidence is Mr. K. L. Chasse, Crown Counsel and formerly official advisor on criminal law policy in the Federal Department of Justice in Ottawa. The Task Force was formed in August 1977 by Federal and Provincial Governments in Canada with a view to harmonising the approaches to the reform of evidence law proposed in the respective reports of the Canada L.R.C. and Ontario L.R.C. The Task Force is established in the Ministry of the Attorney-General in Vancouver, British Columbia. It has published its first Draft Report. This deals with spousal competency in criminal and civil cases, privilege for marital communications, the oath and competency of children. Scope of professional privilege is also dealt with.