

Victorian Statute Law Revision Committee (VSLRC)

- *Local Government* (Pecuniary Interests of Councillors). The committee has commenced hearing evidence.
- *Privacy*. Submissions received. No evidence taken as yet. Meeting to be arranged with ALRC.
- *Protection of Animals Act 1966* and related provisions. Committee anticipates reporting on following two terms of reference during Spring session of Parliament:
 - should rodeos be permitted and, if so, to what extent should the Protection of Animals Act 1966 and the Regulations thereunder impose sanctions thereon; and
 - to what extent, if any, should the Protection of Animals Act 1966 provide for the handling, care and treatment of animals in riding schools.
- *The Constitution Act 1975*. WIH. Seven terms of reference to be examined.

Western Australian Law Reform Commission (WALRC)

- *Animals*. Liability of Highway Authorities (Project No 62). Report soon.
- *Unclaimed Money* (Project No 51). Report soon.
- *Criminal Procedure*. Compensation for Persons Detained in Custody who are Ultimately Acquitted or Pardoned (Project No 43). Report soon.
- *Probate*. Resealing of Foreign Grants of Probate (Project No 34, Pt. IV). WP soon.

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The Hon. Mr. Justice F.M. Neasey

The Federal Attorney-General, Senator Durack, has announced the appointment of Mr. Justice Neasey of the Supreme Court of Tasmania to be a part-time Member of the ALRC. He is the first State judge appointed to the ALRC, although State judges have, in the past, been appointed as Honorary Consultants. Mr. Justice Neasey was educated in Tasmania and practised at the Bar from 1949 until 1963. In that year he was appointed to the Supreme Court. He was Chairman of the Law Reform Commission of Tasmania from 1974 to 1975 and has continued his association with that Commission, in particular projects. Whilst at the Bar, he took a leading part in the affairs of the Bar Association and lectured at the Law School of the University of Tasmania between 1956 and 1962. In 1973 he was appointed a Royal Commissioner into urban transport in Tasmania. In 1975 he was a member of the Inquiry into the Tasman Bridge disaster. His appointment to the ALRC is for two years from 20 October 1980.

Mr. Graeme Aarons

The Attorney-General has announced the appointment of Mr Graeme Aarons as a part-time Member of the ALRC. Mr. Aarons, 41, is a solicitor of Melbourne. Mr Aarons has had extensive experience in commercial, income tax and insurance matters. This experience will be of assistance to the Commission in a number of its references, in which Mr. Aarons will take part. Mr. Aarons' appointment fills the vacancy left by the retirement of Mr. J.Q. Ewens, formerly First Parliamentary Counsel.

Other ALRC Commissioners

With the approval of the Attorney-General, Mr. Ewens is continuing his association with the Commission to assist in legislation arising out of reports in which Mr. Ewens took a part as Commissioner. Mr. Ewens drafted the legislation attached to the most recent Commission report, *Insurance Agents and Brokers* (see p.100). He is also continuing his work on the revision of the Norfolk Island statute book. In Canberra, the Federal Minister for Education, Mr. Wal Fife M.P., has announced the appointment of the ALRC Chairman, Mr. Justice Kirby, as a member of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO. Mr. Justice Kirby will hold his appointment for two years from 1 July 1980. Mr. Russell Scott, a former full-time Commissioner, has returned to Sydney after a year in London, where he completed a book on implications of new medical technology. On 5 September 1980, Mr. Scott was admitted to the NSW Bar, concluding nearly 30 years' practice as a solicitor, in which time he rose to be a senior partner in one of Sydney's leading firms. Mr. R.J. Ellicott Q.C., M.P., Federal Minister and former Attorney-General, moved Mr. Scott's admission to the Bar.

Nigerian Law Reform Commission

The appointment of the Commissioners of the Nigerian Law Reform Commission has been announced in Lagos. The Chairman of the Commission is the Honourable Sir Darnley Alexander, C.F.R., C.B.E., a former Chief Justice of the Federation. Sir Darnley's appointment was previously noted in these pages. The Commissioners are Dr. S.N.C. Obi, Dr. A. B. Yusuf, Mrs. T. M. Osindero, Dr. A. Abubakar, Professor R. O. Ekundare, Dr. E.E.J. Okereke. Dr. Yusuf, who was educated in the United States and France, has specific interests in customary law and in the sociological implications of law reform. He is paying particular attention to the development of the consultation techniques which will be challenging in a country of varied languages, races, religions and interests as is Nigeria. Dr. Abubakar has a particular interest in Islamic law. Approximately half of the population of Nigeria, particularly (but not confined to) the North, is Moslem. Professor Ekundare holds the Chair of Economic History in the University of Ife. Dr.

Okereke secured his Ph.D. from University College, London and is a practising barrister. Mrs. Osindero is not a lawyer but has a background in education. The Secretary of the Commission is Mr. T.N. Nnadi, an experienced civil servant. The Commission is now fully established in Lagos but awaits its programme, approved by the Federal Executive Council. See also above, p. 109.

Hong Kong Law Reform Commission

The appointment of the members of the Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong has been announced. The Chairman is the Attorney-General, Mr. John Griffiths Q.C. Other ex officio members are the Chief Justice, Sir Denys Roberts K.B.E. and the Law Draftsman, Mr. G.P. Nazareth O.B.E. The Secretary of the Commission is Mr. Andrew Hodge of the Attorney-General's Chambers. On 15 April 1980 the Governor of Hong Kong appointed 10 additional persons to serve on the Commission for a term of two years. They include three unofficial members, three lay members, a member of the Hong Kong Bar Association, a member of the Law Society and two members of the Hong Kong University Law Faculty. The Honourable Mr. Justice T.L. Yang will be the representative of the Chief Justice when he cannot attend meetings.

Mr. David Malcolm Q.C.

It was announced in Perth on 16 July 1980 that Mr. Malcolm, Chairman of the WALRC, had been appointed one of Her Majesty's Counsel for the State of Western Australia. In February 1980, Mr. Malcolm retired from the leading firm of which he was a partner, to be admitted to the independent Bar on 1 March 1980. When the WALRC was reconstituted with full-time Commissioners in 1980, he was re-elected Chairman for a further term. Other details of his career appear in [1979] *Reform* 47.

Dr. John Morris

Dr. John Morris, a member of the QLRC for many years and its only full-time Commissioner resigned from the Commission on 4 July 1980. Dr. Morris commenced his university education with a view to practising medicine and acquired the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degrees within Queensland University. He later decided to pursue law and secured the Bachelor of Laws degree within the same university. He then pursued further education at Cambridge where he was awarded a Doctorate of Philosophy within that university. He attended a number of meetings of the Australian Law Reform Agencies Conference and was nominated by the Queensland Attorney-General as State representative to attend discussions at the ALRC concerning uniform defamation law reform. A versatile legal scholar, Dr. Morris contributed thoughtfully to the work of the QLRC.

Professor Kevin Ryan Q.C.

Following the resignation of Dr. Morris, Professor K.W. Ryan has been appointed a member of the Queensland Commission. Professor Ryan holds the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws within Queensland University. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the University of Cambridge in 1960. He was called to the Queensland Bar in 1950 and commenced duties as a law teacher in 1953, rising to Reader in 1964 and Professor of Law in 1968. He has written standard texts on international trade law, constitutional law (with R. D. Lumb) and income tax law. Initially, he has been appointed on a part-time basis for the period from 5 July 1980 to 31 October 1980. It is understood that this term may be extended. Professor Ryan was appointed one of Her Majesty's Counsel for the State of Queensland in 1978. He is a consultant to the ALRC on constitutional and other aspects of the reference on Aboriginal customary laws.

The Hon Sir John Minogue Q.C.

The Attorney-General for Victoria has announced the reappointment of Sir John Minogue Q.C. for a period of a year. The announcement was made on 25 June 1980. Sir John, a former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea, was appointed VLRC in 1977. Between 1976 and 1977 he headed the Board of Inquiry in Victoria into motor accident compensation. A note on his career appears in [1978] *Reform* 83. See also p. 122.

Professor T.B. Smith Q.C.

During a period when Lord Hunter, Chairman of the Scottish Law Commission, is engaged in a special judicial inquiry, Professor Tom Smith, a Member of the Scottish Law Commission, has been acting Chairman. Educated at Oxford University, where he gained a First Class Honours degree in Jurisprudence and at Edinburgh, Professor Smith has earned many scholarly distinctions by outstanding academic achievement. His links with law reform in Scotland go back to 1954. He has taught law in Scotland and at Harvard University. Recently, in Lagos, he delivered a leading address on the reception of common law in Commonwealth countries. He took the occasion to express regret that more attention had not been paid to the civil law tradition of Scotland. See also p. 110.

Mrs. Rosemary Howell

The Law Council of Australia has announced the appointment of Mrs. Rosemary Howell as Secretary-General, to succeed Mr Robert Nicholson, who is returning to private legal practice. Mrs. Howell, a 32-year-old Melbourne lawyer, has previously worked with the Law Institute of Victoria. In this work, she produced more than 100 continuing education courses, designed to help Victorian solicitors update their skills. She also took part

as a member of a team which examined nearly 2,000 legal practices throughout Australia and New Zealand, to advise solicitors on efficient management techniques. Mr. John Richards, President of the Law Council, pointed out that more than 50% of Australia's lawyers are now under the age of 35. Whereas in 1940 fewer than 2% of the profession were women, now more than a third of law students are women. Mrs. Howell took up her appointment on 1 September 1980 and has already had discussions with the ALRC concerning liaison between law reformers and the profession.

Mr. Stephen Mason

Mr. S.L. Mason has been appointed to the post of Assistant Legislative Draftsman to the ALRC. He is the first full-time legislative draftsman engaged by the Commission. Until now, the ALRC has utilised the services of the Office of Parliamentary Counsel, the Director of the Legislative Drafting Institute (Mr Noel Sexton) and former Commissioner J.Q. Ewens (formerly First Parliamentary Counsel). Mr. Mason was educated at the University of Sydney where he secured the degrees BA and LL.B. He also holds the degree of Master of Town & Country Planning. He worked for a time as a solicitor in Sydney and then as a Legal Officer in the N.S.W. Planning & Environment Commission where his duties were principally drafting. From 1978 he has been employed in the Department of Law in the Northern Territory of Australia drafting and settling Territory legislation and statutory instruments.

PNGLRC staff changes

Since the last note, there have been a number of changes in the PNGLRC staff. Mr. Robert John Wanji commenced duties as Principal Legal Officer in November 1979. Mr. Wanji, before his appointment, taught land law at the Law Faculty of the University of Papua New Guinea. He holds the LL.B degree of that University and an LL.M degree of Harvard University, awarded in 1977. He is researching the review of succession law in P.N.G. Miss Margaret Loko commenced duties as a Senior Project Officer in September 1979. She came to the PNGLRC from the Ombudsman Commission where she was in charge of the Regional Office in Rabaul. She was one of the first Papua New Guinea woman to graduate from the University of P.N.G. where she took a BA degree with a major in Political Science. She served until June 1980 when she resigned. Mr. Brian Casey, assigned to the PNGLRC by the CFTC as an expert in legislative drafting, returned in May 1980 to New Zealand. He has been succeeded by Mr. Michael Mosoro, who is now the Commission's legislative draftsman. Mr. Mosoro in 1979, with two other Papua New Guineans, completed the legislative drafting course offered by Mr. Noel Sexton in the Institute of Legislative Drafting, Canberra. He holds the degree of LL.B within the P.N.G. University. Mr. Alasdair Finnie, a New Zealander, joined the Commission staff in

February 1980 as a Senior Legal Officer. He is finalising a paper on transfer pricing. Before his appointment to the Commission he taught company law and commercial law at Auckland University, later joining the office of the New Zealand Ombudsman in Wellington. Mr. Finnie's active interest is consumer protection law. He holds the LL.B degree with Honours in the University of Liverpool and a M.Ph (Law) was awarded to him by the University of Southampton in 1972.

ALRC staff changes

Mr. Mark Richardson, a Senior Law Reform Officer, has left the ALRC to take up a post as solicitor with the N.S.W. Legal Services Commission. Mr. Richardson, who holds the degrees of BA, LL.B within the Australian National University, commenced service with the ALRC in August 1977. During the past two years, he worked directly to Professor Duncan Chappell on research associated with the Commission's report on Sentencing. Miss Susan Reye, a Senior Law Reform Officer, has resigned to take up a French Government scholarship. She will study at the University of Paris towards a Doctorate, specialising in Public International Law. Miss Reye commenced with the Commission in August 1977. She holds the degrees of BA (Qld) and LL.B (ANU). Both degrees were conferred with Honours. The BA degree was awarded with University Medal. During her time with the ALRC, Miss Reye has led research on lands acquisition and compensation, and has had charge of the project on the Australian Law Reform Digest. Before leaving her duties, she completed the basic manuscript for the Digest which will be published in 1981. Mr. Peter Hennessey has been appointed a Senior Law Reform Officer to succeed Mr. Richardson. He holds degrees in Law (Western Australia) and Economics (ANU). He has worked in projects and research functions with the Trade Practices Commission and more recently as a Legislative Research Specialist with the Law and Government Group of the Federal Parliamentary Library. He came to the ALRC from the post of Acting Director of that unit and is now researching the ALRC project on Aboriginal Customary Laws.

Privacy Public Hearings

Members of the public will be invited to express their views on the subject of intrusions into personal privacy, in public hearings which will be held in major cities around Australia in November. Advertisements for the hearings will appear in all major Australian newspapers. The programme for the hearings follows:

All hearings will commence at 10 a.m.

- PERTH — Monday, 10 November 1980
Conference Room, Department of Veterans Affairs
5th Floor, Room 515, 11-13 William Street, Perth.
- ADELAIDE — Wednesday, 12 November 1980
Conference Room, Bureau of Meteorology, 25 College Road,
Kent Town.
- DARWIN — Friday, 14 November 1980
Supreme Court, Mitchell Street, Darwin.
- BRISBANE — Monday, 17 November 1980
Conference Room, Lower Ground Floor, Block 4,
Commonwealth Centre, Anne Street, Brisbane.
- MELBOURNE — Wednesday, 19 November 1980
Arbitration Court No. 1, Nauru House,
80 Collins Street, Melbourne.
- HOBART — Friday, 21 November 1980
Conference Room, 12th Floor, Savings Bank Building,
Cnr. Murray and Collins Streets, Hobart.
- CANBERRA — Tuesday, 25 November 1980
Conference Room, 4th Floor, Australian National Library,
Canberra.
- SYDNEY — Thursday, 27 November 1980
Family Court, 4th Floor, La Salle Building,
Cnr. King and Castlereagh Streets, Sydney.

Seminars

A programme of seminars is now being arranged. Details have not yet been finalised. They will appear in newspaper advertisements in November.

Sydney

10 October 1980

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, Australia.

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