

- *Proof of Prior Convictions*. Report submitted to committee, awaiting consideration.
- *Wills for Mentally Disordered Persons*. WIH.

Victorian Law Reform Commissioner (VLRC)

- *Corporate Crime*. WIH.
- *Crime : Provocation*. Preparation of a report on this subject has been postponed pending completion of work on diminished responsibility.
- *Crime : Diminished Responsibility*. WP in course of preparation.
- *Criminal Procedure*. Unsworn statements of accused persons. Report with printer.

Victorian Statute Law Revision Commission (VSLRC)

- *Local Government (Pecuniary Interests of Municipal Councillors)*. Report presented to Parliament on 5 May 1981.
- *Statute Law Revision Bill*. Report presented to Parliament 5 May 1981.
- *Privacy*. Submissions received, no evidence taken. Meeting with ALRC in May 1981, further meeting planned in September 1981.
- *The Constitution Act 1975*. Committee is taking evidence in relation to Role of Upper House.
- *Protection of Animals Act 1966 & Related Provisions*. Six terms of reference still to be examined in relation to this inquiry.

Western Australia Law Reform Commission (WALRC)

- *Liability for Stock for Straying on to the Highway*. Report available soon.
- *Liability of Highway Authorities for Non-Feasance*. Report available soon.
- *Compensation for Persons Detained in Custody who are Ultimately Acquitted or Pardoned*. Report available in near future.
- *Amendment to Local Court Act & Rules*. WP available in near future.
- *Review of Administrative Decision - Supervisory Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court*. WP available in near future.

obituary

The Hon. Mr. Justice J.B. Sweeney AO

The death has occurred in Perth of Mr. Justice John Sweeney, a judge of the Federal Court of Australia. He was in Perth to preside at sittings of the Federal Court in that city. Educated at Fort Street and Sydney University, he became a leader of the Sydney Bar, taking silk in 1962.

He was appointed first to the Arbitration Commission and then to the Industrial Court in 1973. When the Federal Court was established in 1977, he became a judge of that court. In 1981 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in recognition of his services to the law. His contributions to law reform in the area of industrial law were many. Most notable was his report following *Moore v. Doyle* (1969) 15 FLR 59 in which he proposed legislative solutions to the severe complexities of Federal and State industrial law in Australia concerning the registration of unions and union rules. Tributes were paid to him by Sir Nigel Bowen, Chief Judge, at a Memorial Sitting of the Federal Court on 14 May. On 16 May, at a gathering of his friends, Mr. Justice McClelland and the Premier of New South Wales (Mr. N.K. Wran QC) led tributes to a reformer who sought 'a better and more humane society'.

Mr. W.A.B. Forbes QC

Bill Forbes, one of the Commissioners of the Law Commission of England and Wales, died suddenly on 4 May 1981, aged 54. He began his career in Scots law, graduating from the University of St. Andrews with first class honours in Modern History and Economics. At Oxford he became a pupil of Professor Rupert Cross and Dr. John Morris, taking a first class honours degree in Jurisprudence. Called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1953, he went on to professional success, taking silk in 1972 and becoming a Recorder in 1974. In 1977 he was appointed to the Law Commission. In 1978 he received a commission as a member of the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure. In the Law Commission he led efforts to reform the law of criminal attempts. Sir Michael Kerr has written that he was 'devoted to the cause of law reform and in particular to the ideal of the comprehensive codification of the whole of our criminal law'. In 1979 he visited Australia for the Royal Commission and made many friends in legal and law reform circles.

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The Hon. Lord Maxwell

The Chairman of the Scottish Law Commission, Lord Hunter, is to retire from the chairmanship of that Commission at the end of September, when his second term of office expires. He will then have served ten years as Chairman. He will return to judicial duties and be succeeded by the Honourable Lord Maxwell. Peter Maxwell was appointed to the Bench in 1973. Before that, he was a part-time Sheriff Principal for some years. He was educated at Balliol College, Oxford. After the War, he joined the Civil Service for a time but was then called to the Scottish Bar and took silk in 1961. He was a leading member of the Scottish Royal Commission on Legal Services which reported in 1980 after four years of deliberation.