

- NSWLRC** : Annual Report 1982  
 : 34 : Community LR (First Rpt) *Insurance Contracts: Non-Disclosure and Misrepresentation*, 1983  
**SALRC** 66 : Report relating to the reform of the law of distress, 1983.  
**WALRC** 36 : *Limitation of Action: Latent Disease and Injury* 1982 (see above p 67)  
 : 56 : *Strata Titles Act* 1982 (see above p 66)

**Canada**

- CLRC** : : Eleventh Annual Report, 1981-1982  
 : 18 : Report on Obtaining Reasons before Applying for Judicial Scrutiny — Immigration Appeal Board, 1982.  
**Alberta ILR**  
 : 38 : Report on the Uniform Sale of Goods Act, 1982.

- BCLRC** 56 : Report on Presumptions of Survivorship, 1982  
 : *WP* 39 : Breach of Promise of Marriage, 1983

- Manitoba LRC**  
 : 52 : Report on the Structure of the Courts; Part I: Amalgamation of the Court of Queen's Bench and the County Courts of Manitoba, 1982  
 : 53 : Report on the Law of Domicile, 1982

**Hong Kong**

- HKLRC** *Topic* 6 : Report on Bills of Exchange, 1982  
 : *WP* : Damages in Civil Proceedings, 1982

**South Africa**

- SALC** : : Annual Report 1981  
 : Report pertaining to the Matrimonial Property Law with Special Reference to the Matrimonial Affairs Act, 1953, the Status of the Married Woman and the Law of Succession in so far as it affects the Spouses, 1982

**United Kingdom**

- Law** 116 : Family Law: Time Restrictions

- Com** : on Presentation of Divorce and Nullity Petitions, 1982.  
 : 117 : Family Law: Financial Relief After Foreign Divorce, 1982.  
 : *WP* 84 : Criminal Libel, 1982.  
**Scot** 71 : Fourth Programme of Consolidation and Statute Law Revision, 1982.  
**LC** : 72 : Family Law: Report on Financial Provision After Foreign Divorce, 1982.  
 : 73 : Seventeenth Annual Report 1981-1982

**United States**

- Calif** : : Recommendation relating to Marketable Title of Real Property, 1981.  
**LRC** : : Recommendations relating to Statutory Bonds and Undertakings, 1981

**Zimbabwe Advisor Com LR**

- : 2 : Report on Aspects of Capital Punishment, 1982.

**new references**

- NZPLERC** : Charges for Land Tax; involves study of the enforcement of land tax charges and the problem that arises where a purchaser acquires land which is subject to an unregistered land tax charge.  
**PNGLRC** : Official Secrets and Freedom of Information  
**QLRC** : Admiralty Jurisdiction  
**WALRC** : Companies Code: Special Interests (see above p 68)

**what's going on in the LRC's?****Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC)**

- *Insurance Contracts*. Printed report now available and being distributed. See above p. 59.
- *Law Reform Digest*. Manuscript with printer. Publication expected May 1983.
- *Sentencing*. Work in suspension. Hoped to be revived in 1983.
- *Privacy*. Work in hand (WIH). Draft report being completed. Draft proposed legislation under consideration with Federal departments,

agencies and others. Final report to go to printer May 1983. Project led by Professor Robert Hayes.

- *Evidence*. WIH. Two further research papers published March 1983. Next meeting of ALRC Commissioners with consultants fixed 23 April 1983.
- *Aboriginal Customary Laws*. WIH. Regional consultants meeting held in Darwin. See [1982] *Reform* 125 for full report. Program of research papers continuing on schedule. Latest research paper on ACL and Substantive Criminal Law (ACL RP 6, 1983).
- *Standing and Class Actions*. WIH. Draft report on standing is being completed with draft legislation. Expected publication mid-1983. Mr B.M. Debelle, Q.C. now working on class actions report.
- *Debt Recovery*. Project revived and draft chapters being prepared. Further statistics from State debt recovery process being collected. Report expected end 1983.
- *Admiralty Jurisdiction and Law*. New reference. See [1983] *Reform* 11. WIH.
- *Foreign State Immunity*. See [1983] *Reform* 17. WIH
- *Service and Execution of Process*. New reference. See above p. 85.

#### NSW Law Reform Commission (NSWLRC)

- *Accident Compensation*. Issues paper circulating. 80 submissions received. Three consultative committees formed. WP expected April 1983. WP will explore possibility of no fault scheme for road accidents, capable of expansion later to other cases of accidental injury. In-coming ALP Federal Government expresses interest. See above p. 71.
- *De Facto Relationships*. WIH. Drafting of final report proceeding. Completion expected April 1983. Incoming ALP Government policy includes national attention to NSWLRC report. Report will include detailed surveys conducted by Australian Bureau of Statistics and Institute of Family Studies.
- *Community Law Reform*. First report on insurance contracts. See above p. 60.
- *Legal Profession Enquiry*. WIH. Fourth and final report under preparation (trust accounts, solicitors' fidelity fund and professional indemnity insurance).
- *Evidence*. Work proceeding in co-operation with ALRC.
- *Criminal Procedure*. First draft of issues paper completed. Paper on sentencing due mid 1983. Work commenced on paper on trial on

indictment. Submissions being received on published issues paper on General Introduction and Courts of Petty Sessions, until May 1983.

#### New Zealand Law Reform Committees

- See [1982] *Reform* 150 and [1983] *Reform* 39.

#### New Zealand Evidence LRC

- New committee. See below p. 91. Co-operating with ALRC project on evidence.
- Corroboration. WIH.
- Confessions. WIH.
- New technology. WIH.
- Business records. WIH.

#### Papua New Guinea Law Reform Commission (PNGLRC)

- *Bribery and Corruption*: WP 19 published coinciding with report of PNG Ombudsman highly critical of named politicians and permanent department heads.
- *Official Secrets and Freedom of Information*: New references. See above p. 77.
- *Criminal Code*. The Minister for Justice, the Hon A.L. Bais, M.P., has reported concern about the need for immediate reforms in the PNG criminal code. He has established a committee to review the code. The committee will work very closely with PNG Law Reform Commission. Aim is to 'update our failing Code which is deficient in meeting the changing situation' of PNG. See also [1982] *Reform* 151; [1983] *Reform* 39.

#### Queensland Law Reform Commission (QLRC)

- *Admiralty Jurisdiction*. New reference. See above p. 87.
- *Enforcement of Judgments*.
- *Criminal Law*.
- *Real Property Acts*.
- *Procedural Rules in Civil Proceedings*.  
The QLRC has submitted a program to the Queensland Minister for Justice on the above four major topics which are to take some time. The QLRC is host for the 8th Australian Law Reform Agencies Conference. See above p. 51.

#### South Australian Law Reform Committee (SALRC)

- *Escheat*. WIH. Report being circulated for signature.
- *Wills and Intestacies*. WIH. Report being circulated for signature.
- *Set Off*. Paper for discussion at March 1983 meeting of SALRC.
- *Survivorship*. Death in a single accident; the

problem of proof where two or more persons are killed in the same accident and it is not possible to establish who died first for purposes of the law. WIH.

Otherwise see [1982] *Reform* 152.

#### **Tasmanian Law Reform Commission (TasLRC)**

- The approved program of the TasLRC, subject to appropriate arrangements for funding, is as follows:
  - *Statute Revision: Progressive Annotation of Tasmanian Statutes*. Nine Acts have been approved as the first stage. WIH.
  - *Statute Revision: Review of Obsolescent Acts* — Eighteen Acts have been selected at this stage. Subject to changes in staffing now taking place in Parliamentary Counsel's office, this program will continue. WIH.
  - *Occupiers' Liability*.
  - *Criminal Code*. Computer Crimes, Mentally Disordered Persons, Fitness to Plead, Defence of Insanity, Sentencing, Intoxication and Property Offences. WIH.
  - *Succession: Administration and Probate Act*. WIH.
  - *Debts: Interest on pre and post judgment debts*. WIH.
  - *Land: Rights of Access to Neighbouring Land*. WIH.
  - *Guarantee Law*. WIH.
  - *Contracts: Minors' Contracts*. WIH.
  - *Trusts: Variation of Trusts Act*. WIH.
  - *Revision of Local Courts Act Rules*. WIH.
  - *Sentencing*. Formula for automatic increases in statutory penalties. WIH.
  - *Land: Long term contracts for the sale of land*. Report almost completed.
  - *Rule Against Perpetuities*. Report almost completed.
  - *Contracts: Exclusion Clauses*. Report being completed.
  - *Boundary Fences Act*. *ibid*
  - *Trusts: Variation of Charitable Trusts*. *ibid*.

#### **Victorian Chief Justice's Law Reform Committee (VCJC)**

- See [1982] *Reform* 153.

#### **Victorian Law Reform Commissioner (VLRC)**

- See [1982] *Reform* 153.

#### **Victorian Legal and Constitutional Committee (VLCC)**

- See [1983] *Reform* 39.

#### **Western Australian Law Reform Commission (WALRC)**

- *Strata Titles*. Report delivered. See above p. 66.
- *Limitations: Latent Injury*. Report delivered. See above p. 67.
- *Privacy*. Work proceeding in co-operation with the ALRC.
- *Companies Law: Prescribed Interests*. WIH. New reference.
- *Criminal Records Expunction*. WIH.
- *Local Courts Acts and Rules*. WIH.
- *Trustees' Powers of Investment*. WIH.
- *Justices Act: General Procedure*. WIH.
- *Illegitimacy: Rights of Putative Fathers*. WIH.
- *Criminal Proceedings and Mental Disorder*. WIH.
- *Recognition of Interstate Foreign Grants and Probate*. WIH.
- *Administrative Review*. WIH.
- *Evidence: Reproductions*. WIH.
- *Uniform Law on Medical Services for Minors*. WIH. See generally [1983] *Reform* 40.

## **Personalia**

### **The Hawke Ministry**

The first Ministry of the Honourable R.J. Hawke, A.C., the new Prime Minister of Australia, includes a number of lawyers with established interests in law reform. They include the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Mr Lionel Bowen, the Leader of the Government in the Senate and Minister for Industry and Commerce, Senator John Button, the Federal Attorney-General, Senator Gareth Evans and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Clyde Holding. The Prime Minister holds the degrees of B.A., LL.B. within University of Western Australia as well as the B.Lit. degree from Oxford. He gained his degree at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar for Western Australia in 1952. Though he has not practised as a lawyer he had many encounters with lawyers before industrial tribunals during his period of service with the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

### **Senator the Honourable G.J. Evans**

The new Federal Attorney-General, Senator Gareth Evans is a past ALRC Commissioner whose proposed initiatives on law reform are mentioned throughout this issue of *Reform*. Notes on Senator Evans' earlier career are to be found in [1976] *Reform* 13; [1978] *Reform* 20 and [1981] *Reform* 38. Described in the *National Times* (20 February 1983) as an 'action man, impatient in the shadow' Senator Evans is now in the shadow no more and has achieved, at the age of 38, the key position in Executive Government for an Australian lawyer. During the election campaign he said that an attractive aspect of law reform was that, even when economic times are tough, 'it does not cost very much'. Offering a reason for