

Saskatchewan : Proposals Relating to Guest
chewan Passenger Legislation, 1983.
LRC

Hong Kong

Hong Kong : *Topic 2* : Report on Laws Governing
Kong Homosexual Conduct, 1983.
LRC
: *Topic 7* : Report on Community Service
Orders, 1983.

Ireland

Ireland : 2 : Report on Civil Liability for Ani-
LRC mals, 1982.
: 3 : Report on Defective Premises,
1982.
: 4 : Report on Illegitimacy, 1982.
: 5 : Report on the Law Relating to the
Age of Majority, the Age for
Marriage and some Connected
Subjects, 1983.

New Zealand

NZCCLRC : Working Paper on Contribution
in Civil Cases
NZPLERC : Interim Report on the Law Relat-
ing to Water Courses, 1983.
: Interim Report on Legislation
Relating to Landlord and Tenant,
1983.
NZPALRC : 17 : Statutory Powers of Entry, 1983.

United Kingdom

Law : 121 : Law of Contract: Pecuniary
Com Restitution on Breach of Contract,
1983.
: 122 : The Incapacitated Principal, 1983.
: 123 : Criminal Law: Offences Relating
to Public Order, 1983.
: *WP 85* : Sale and Supply of Goods, 1983.
Scot LC : 79 : Obligations : Report On Rectifica-
tion of Contractual and other
Documents, 1983.
: *Memo 58* : Sale and Supply of Goods, 1983.
North- : *Dis Doc 3* : Landlord and Tenant: Land Law
ern Working Group, 1983.
Ireland
Office
of Law
Reform
: *Dis Doc 4* : Conveyancing and Miscellaneous
Matters, 1983.
: Interim Report: Ground Rents
and Other Periodic Payments,
1983.

United States of America

Cal : Recommendation Relating to Ex-
LRC ecution of Witnessed Wills, 1983.
: Tentative Recommendation Re-
lating to Liability of Stepparent
for Child Support, 1983.
: Tentative Recommendation Re-
lating to Disposition of Estates
without Administration, 1983.
: Tentative Recommendation Re-
lating to Independent Administra-
tion of Decedent's Estate, 1983.
: Tentative Recommendation Re-
lating to Notice of Will, 1983.
: Tentative Recommendation Re-
lating to Simultaneous Death and
Survival, 1983.
: Tentative Recommendation Re-
lating to Garnishment of Amounts
Payable to Trust Beneficiary,
1983.
Michigan : Seventeenth Annual Report, 1982.
LRC

Other

Ghana : Eighth Annual Report, October
LRC 1979-December 1982, 1983.
Kenya : First Annual Report 1982-83,
LRC 1983.
South : *Project 32* : Review of the Law of Admiralty,
Africa 1982.
LC

new references

ALRC : Insolvency. See above p21.
NSWLRC : Artificial Conception. See above
p40.
SALRC : Occupiers' Liability. Further
report necessary, relating to
owners or occupiers of land and
trespassers on that land.
: Charities.
VLCC : Subordinate Legislation
(Deregulation) Bill.

what's going on in the LRCs?

Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC)

- *Privacy*. Report tabled. See above p2.
- *Standing and Class Actions*. Work in hand.
(WIH). Draft on Standing awaiting completion
under Mr BM Debelle QC. Work on Class
Actions likely to revive in 1984.

- *Evidence*. WIH. Final meetings with consultants expected February 1984. Interim report with draft Evidence legislation expected mid 1984 under Mr TH Smith.
- *Aboriginal Customary Laws*. Final research papers being produced. Interim report expected mid/late 1984.
- *Debt Recovery*. Project revived following re-appointment of Professor Kelly. Meetings with consultants mid year and report due late 1984.
- *Sentencing*. Work in suspension. Hoped to be revived with new Commissioners in 1984.
- *Admiralty Jurisdiction and Law*. WIH. Dr D Cremean has concluded his period of service and returned to the Melbourne Bar.
- *Foreign State Immunity*. Discussion paper due to be released early 1984. Report with draft legislation expected mid 1984 under direction of Professor James Crawford.
- *Service and Execution of Process*. Issues paper to be released early 1984 by Dr Michael Pryles.
- *Contempt Law*. WIH. Issues paper to be released early in 1984 by Professor Michael Chesterman.
- *Matrimonial Property Law*. WIH in Canberra under Professor David Hambly. Close consultations with Institute of Family Studies and Family Law Council.
- *Law Reform Digest*. Now published. See [1983] *Reform* 143.
- *Community Law Reform*. New program being initiated under Professor Hambly and with participation of Mr Nicholas Seddon. See above p22.
- *Insolvency*. New reference. See above p21.

New South Wales Law Reform Commission (NSWLRC)

- *De Facto Relationships*. Report published and available. The recommendations in the report to be submitted to the NSW Cabinet in the near future.
- *Accident Compensation*. WIH. See above p13.
- *Legal Profession Inquiry*. Action announced and otherwise WIH.. See above p10.
- *Local Courts Act 1982*. Interim report tabled. The second part of the reference is to review the operation of the Act in its first year and to recommend whether amendments should be made. WIH.
- *Community Law Reform Program*
 - *Insurance Contracts – Non-Disclosure and Misrepresentation, First Report*. Legislation to implement this Report passed by the NSW Parliament in October 1983.
 - *Interest on Certain Debts, Second Report*. Legislation implementing this Report passed in November 1983.

- *Service of Civil Process on Sunday*. Report tabled and has been approved by Cabinet for legislative implementation.
- *Recording of the Proceedings, of Courts and Royal Commissions by Representatives of the Media*. Consultants' comments received. Final report in preparation.
- *Passing of Risk in Contracts for the Sale of Land*. First draft report has been completed.

New Zealand Contracts and Commercial Law Reform Committee (NZCLRC)

- *Insurance*. The second report released. Bill to implement report for study by Select Committee over Recess deals with protection of life policies from creditors, insurable interest, insurance on children's lives, payment of interest, average and insurance over property sold. On the subject of average, NZCLRC adopts minority view of ALRC and proposes abolition.
- *Warranties in the Sale of Consumer Goods*. WP distributed July 1977. Final Report near completion awaiting preparation of a draft Bill.
- *Chattels Securities (Secured Transactions)*. Discussion Paper in preparation. It will examine the possibility of a comprehensive chattels security registration system or an indemnity insurance scheme.
- *The Right of Set-off*. A preliminary WP has been prepared for the Committee. This will be released in the form of a discussion paper late in 1983.
- *Frustration*. Preliminary WP has been prepared for the Committee. Draft report is in preparation.
- *Arbitration Act 1908*. Discussion paper is in preparation.
- *Contribution in Civil Cases*. Working Paper is released. (See New Reports).

New Zealand Criminal Law Reform Committee (NZCLRC)

- *Drunkenness as a Defence to a Criminal Charge*. Draft report in preparation due 1984.
- *Discovery in Criminal Cases*. Discussion Paper in preparation.
- *Protection of Trade Secrets*. To be considered.
- *Right to Comment on the Failure of an Accused or Spouse to Give Evidence*. To be recommitted for discussion, it was first considered in 1971.
- *Theft of Computer Information*. To be considered.

New Zealand Evidence Law Reform Committee (NZELRC)

- *Corroboration*. WP to be released 1983.
- *Confessions*. Background paper to be considered.

- *New Technology*. Background paper in preparation.
- *Business Records*. WP in preparation.
- *Compellability*. Yet to be considered.

New Zealand Property Law and Equity Reform Committee (NZPLERC)

- *Positive Covenants Affecting Land*. Final report near completion.
- *Capital Profit Dividends*. Report in process of being finalised.
- *Law Relating to Residential Tenancies*. WP is being prepared for general distribution.
- *Imperial Law Application Bill*. Report is being prepared.
- *Trustee Investments*. Interim report near completion.
- *Family Protection and Testamentary Promises Legislation*. Preliminary investigations are under way.
- *Land Tax Charges*. Initial inquiries have been made.
- *Acquiring Prescriptive Title to Land held in Co-ownership*. WIH.
- *Law Relating to Water Courses*. An interim report has been presented to the Minister of Justice and the Committee has been asked to proceed to prepare a final report.

New Zealand Public and Administrative Law Reform Committee (NZPALRC)

- *Privative Clauses* WIH.
- *Powers of Delegation*. The terms of reference for the study have been settled and the Committee is preparing draft statement of the issues.
- *Land Rating Classification Appeals*. A WP has been circulated and comment on it has been received from a number of government department.

Northern Territory Law Reform Committee (NTLRC)

- *Local Courts Act* Report has been finalised and submitted to the Attorney-General.
- *Oaths*. Report has been finalised and is due towards end of December 1983.
- *Supreme Court Rules*. Revision of the rules is underway and a final report is expected by mid 1984.
- *De facto Relationships*. Final report due mid 1984.

Papua New Guinea Law Reform Commission (PNGLRC)

- see [1983] *Reform* 88.

Queensland Law Reform Commission (QLRC)

- *Juries in Criminal Trials*. To review the role of juries, WIH.
- *Computer Technology*. To prepare desirable legislation to take account of the new technology, WIH.
- *Execution of Judgments with Particular reference to Enforcement of Judgments in Debt*. The methods of execution at Supreme, District and Magistrates Courts level, WIH.
- *Admiralty Jurisdiction*. WIH.

South Australian Law Reform Committee (SALRC)

- *Doctrine of Frustration in the Law of Contract*. Report being printed, No 71.
- *Perpetuities*. Report being circulated for signature, No 73.
- *Inherited Imperial Law 1225-1557*. Report being circulated for signature, No 78.
- *Survivorship*. WIH.
- *Locus Standi – Environmental Law*. WIH.
- *Delivery of Deeds*. WIH.
- *Supreme Court Rules*. Draft has been considered by the members and a further draft to be prepared for consideration of the Judges.
- *Inherited Imperial Law*. WIH.
- *Settled Estates Act*. WIH.
- *Limitation of Actions – Prescription*. WIH.
- *Limitation of Actions – Radiation Induced Illness*. WIH.
- *Administrative Appeals*. WIH.

Tasmanian Law Reform Commission (TasLRC)

- *Variation of Charitable Trusts*. Synthesis of responses to questionnaire to be completed in the new year.
- *Sale of Land by Instalments*. Report finalised.
- *Perpetuities and Accumulations*. Draft final report circulated.
- *Fifteen Conveyancing Matters*. Draft final report circulated, further discussion necessary.
- *Wills*. Draft final report circulating.
- *Powers of Attorney*. Draft of a WP is soon to be available.
- *Boundary Fences*. WIH.
- *Human Tissue Transplants*. WIH.
- *Fines*. Deals with s 76 of the Justices Act 1959 to require Commission to make particular reference to the level of mandatory penalties set by the Police Offences Act 1935. WP due early 1984.
- *Jurisdiction and Procedure of the Courts of Request and General Sessions*. WP due December 1983.
- *Law Relating to Succession Rights on Intestacy*. WP available early 1984.

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- *Computer Misuse attracting Criminal Sanctions*. WP available early 1984.
- *Payment of Interest on Judgment Debts*. Mr JLR Davis has prepared WP it is in process of being printed. Noted that both Law Society and Bar Association have committees considering issues in this area, the Commission will acquaint them of its work to date.
- *Suretyship and Guarantee*. WP prepared not yet circulated.
- *Variation of Private Trusts*. WP due February 1984.
- *Occupiers' Liability*. WP due December 1983.
- *Contracts and the Disposition of Property by Infants*. WP due December 1983. Consultation with Consumer Affairs Council.
- *Private Rights of Access to Neighbouring Land*. Draft WP available near future.
- *Exclusion Clauses and Implied Obligations in Contracts for the Supply of Goods and Services*. Final report drafted, need for revision before it will be available.

Victorian Chief Justice's Committee (VCJC)

- See [1983] *Reform* 133.

Victorian Law Reform Commissioner (VLRC)

- *Intoxication and Criminal Responsibility*. Issues paper published in November 1983. This has been widely distributed as part of a large process of consultation. A public seminar on the subject will be held on 27 January 1984.
- *Law of Homicide*. Working paper on Definition and Punishment of Murder almost complete. To be published early 1984.
- *Corporate Crime*. WIH. DP being drafted.
- *Computer-related Crime*. New project initiated.

Victorian Legal and Constitutional Committee (VLCC)

- *Interpretation Bill*. The Committee has tabled its report, but copies are not yet available.
- *Delays in Hearing of Cases in Courts*. The Committee has continued to concentrate its attention on delays in the criminal courts from commission of alleged offence to time of trial. Preliminary report is presently being considered and will be tabled in March 1984.

Western Australian Law Reform Commission (WALRC)

- *Local Courts*. WP recently issued and comments being considered.
- *Judicial Review of Administrative Decisions*. Comments on WP have been considered and preparation final report commenced.

- *Resealing of Grants of Probate and of Letters of Administration (Uniformity)*. Report expected by mid 1984.
- *Trustees' Powers of Investment*. Report about to be issued.
- *Limitation of Actions*. Preliminary research on balance of reference being carried out.
- *Alteration of Ground Levels*. DP to be issued early 1984.
- *Justices Act*. WP on general procedures drafted expected early 1984.
- *Privacy*. Undertaken in cooperation with ALRC. Report in preparation and to be issued as soon as possible. See above p.2.
- *Joint Tenancies*. Research being carried out towards the production of a WP.
- *Companies Code: Prescribed Interest*. Research being carried out towards the production of WP.
- *Expunction of Criminal Records*. DP to be issued.

obituary

Professor John Northey

In early September 1983 Jack Northey, Dean of Law at Auckland University and a past Chairman of the New Zealand Public and Administrative Law Reform Commission (NZPALRC) died after a long illness. Professor Northey was born and educated in New Zealand and obtained a Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the University of Toronto in 1951. First appointed a Professor of Public Law in 1954 and Dean of the Faculty in 1965, Professor Northey was a guiding hand behind the establishment of the Legal Research Foundation of New Zealand. He chaired the NZPALRC for eight of the 16 years he was a member of it. Largely as a result of his contributions, the committee could boast, as the *NZ Herald* said on 10 September 1983, a 'prodigious output and achieved a standard of excellence for which it has been highly praised both in New Zealand and overseas'. Professor Northey is survived by his wife, three sons and two daughters and will be sadly missed, particularly in the law reform scene of Australasia.

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Senator the Hon Gareth Evans QC

On 1 November 1983 it was announced that the Federal Attorney-General, and past ALRC Commissioner, Senator Gareth Evans, had been appointed one of Her Majesty's Counsel for the State of Victoria. Senator Evans' name appeared at the head of the list of ten new QCs appointed in Victoria. In Victoria, the appointment is recommended by the Chief Justice, Sir John Young. The *Melbourne Age* of the same day commented that the appointment 'may seem quite at odds' with Senator Evans' iconoclasm and even suggested republicanism and 'cannot