

*Commercial Sales and Leases WIH.* A discussion paper on the Hire Purchase Act was released in early March 1986. Final report due late April 1986. It is not proposed to proceed further with this reference at this time.

*Sexual Offences WIH.* A discussion paper on the substantive law is due in June 1986. Report due at the end of 1986. A discussion paper on evidence and procedure is also due at the end of 1986, for final report by July 1987.

*Automatism (O'Connor's Case) WIH.* The final report is in the course of preparation, for release in May 1986.

*Homicide WIH.* A report on the mental element in homicide is in the course of preparation, for release in July 1986.

*Juries.* Background paper to be published shortly.

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

*Human Rights.* This inquiry has now been publicly launched and a discussion paper entitled 'A Bill of Rights for Victoria? Some Issues' has been released for information. Written submissions have been called for and public hearings will commence in mid-May. Two more discussion papers will be released shortly, both dealing with whether or not human rights are adequately protected in Victoria. The second discussion paper will deal with the right to life, electoral rights, the burden of proof and the right to peaceful assembly. The third discussion paper will deal with freedom of expression.

*Support Services for Victims of Crime.* This inquiry has also now been publicly launched. Written submissions have been requested by 30 May next and public hearings will be held in mid 1986.

*Burden of Proof.* The Committee reported on the burden of proof in criminal cases in November 1985 and is now awaiting the Attorney-General's response to that report before proceeding any further.

*Delays in Courts.* This inquiry is on hold at present, due to the launching of both human rights and the victims of crime. However, priority will still be given to delays in criminal courts from commission of alleged offence to time of trial.

*Australian Constitutional Convention.* The Committee has finalised its second report on the Convention and it will be presented to the Victorian Parliament shortly. It deals with the 1985 Brisbane Plenary Session, the current position of the Australian Constitutional Convention, an assessment of the Convention together with its future.

*Subordinate Legislation.* The Committee continues to review all subordinate legislation in Victoria. Since 1 July 1985 the Committee has had a greatly expanded role with the coming into operation of the *Subordinate Legislation Review and Revocation) Act* 1984.

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

*Local Courts.* Report being drafted.

*Administrative Decisions: Judicial Review.* Report submitted.

*Limitation and Notice of Actions.* Discussion Paper in preparation.

*Alteration of Ground Levels.* Report submitted.

*Justices Act.* Report being drafted.

*Privacy.* Report in preparation.

*Criminal Proceedings and Mental Disorder.* Discussion paper in preparation.

*Wills: Substantial Compliance.* Report submitted.

*Problem of Old Convictions.* Report being drafted.

## **obituary**

### **Senator Missen**

Alan Missen was a good friend of this Commission. His untimely death has been a matter of great sadness for all of us. His ability, integrity and courage appealed to everyone who knew him, whether or not they agreed with what he was saying at any particular time. We offer our most sincere sympathy to his widow, Mrs Mollie Missen.

## **personalia**

### **Professor James Crawford**

Professor James Crawford, a Member of the Australian Law Reform Commission, has been appointed Challis Professor of International Law at Sydney University. His appointment commenced on 1 February 1986. Prior to this appointment he was Professor of Law at the University of Adelaide. Professor Crawford was a full-time Member of the ALRC from January 1982 to December 1984. He is currently a part-time Member. During his appointment at the ALRC he has been Commissioner in Charge of the Divisions on Aboriginal Customary Law, Foreign State Immunity and Admiralty. The Report on Aboriginal Customary Law is now with the printer. The Foreign State Immunity Report was tabled in Parliament in October 1984 and an Act almost identical to the draft Bill in the Report, received the Royal Assent on 16 December 1985. The Report on Admiralty should be completed this year. Further details of Professor Crawford's career appear at [1983] *Reform* 135.

### **Ms Helen Gamble**

Ms Helen Gamble, a senior lecturer in law at the Aus-

tralian National University, has been appointed full-time Commissioner of the NSWLRC for a term of three years from 1 April 1986. Ms Gamble holds the degree of Master of Laws from ANU, and was admitted to the NSW Bar in 1970. Her teaching career has ranged over many subject areas; her fields of special expertise being family law, criminal law and property law. Apart from lecturing at ANU, the University of Nottingham, and UWIST, Cardiff, Ms Gamble has experience of practise in Canberra and in Wollongong. She is the author of *The Law Relating to Parents and Children* (the second edition of which will soon appear), and is the joint author with Jamison and Thwaites of *Social Work and the Law*. In addition to these works, she has published several articles, and has more publications in progress. Ms Gamble is a member of the editorial board of the *Criminal Law Journal* and is a reporter for the *Australian Criminal Reports*. She is by no means new to the world of law reform, having previously been appointed a consultant to the ALRC in its reference on Child Welfare. Ms Gamble has been a member of the Canberra Community Legal Service since its inception 5 years ago. As a Commissioner with the NSWLRC, Ms Gamble will take charge of the Community Law Reform Program.

### Miss Deirdre O'Connor

Miss Deirdre O'Connor, a former full-time member of NSWLRC, has been appointed Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal. During her time at the Commission, Miss O'Connor played a leading role in the work on Transport Accident Compensation and Conscientious Objection to Jury Service. In August 1985 she left the Commission to return to practise at the Bar. Miss O'Connor was a part-time member of NSWLRC from then until February 1986. Further details of Miss O'Connor's career appear at [1984] *Reform* 46, and [1985] *Reform* 174.

### The Hon FX Connor AO, QC

In this year's Australia Day Honours the President of the Australian Law Reform Commission, the Honourable FX Connor, was appointed Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO) for service to the law.

### Mr Ian Cunliffe

As we go to press Mr Ian Cunliffe's appointment as Secretary of the Constitutional Commission has just been announced. We offer Ian our warmest congratulations on his selection for this pivotal position. Ian has been Secretary and Director of Research of the Australian Law Reform Commission since 1981. In succeeding Mr George Brouwer he had a hard act to follow. He has, however, followed it with great credit to himself and with considerable benefit to the Commission. Because of his overall ability, his dedication and his complete lack of pretentiousness he is held in great esteem and affection by all with whom he has worked at the Commission. His departure emphasises the pilgrim nature of the Commission. Many people now have journeyed here

from afar, have shown great devotion and then, in the manner of pilgrims, have gone elsewhere. In consequence, we have an impressive list of distinguished alumni, of whom Ian Cunliffe is now the most recent.

### ALRC

On 10 April 1986 the Attorney-General announced the appointment of three new part-time Members of the Australian Law Reform Commission. They are Mr John Basten, Mr Peter Cashman and Mr Richard Fisher. Messrs Basten and Cashman have been appointed for twelve months to work on class, or representative, actions. Mr Basten is a Sydney barrister and Mr Cashman is the head of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre. Mr Fisher, a partner of the firm Dawson Waldron, is an expert in insolvency law and practice and has been appointed to the Commission for three years to work on the Reference on insolvency law. He will also assist on representative actions. Two recent appointments to the Australian Law Reform Commission are The Honourable Mr Justice Murray Wilcox and Professor Michael Pryles. Mr Justice Wilcox, a Federal Court Judge, has previously been both a full-time and a part-time Member of the Commission and acted as Chairman from September 1984 to May 1985. During his previous appointments Mr Justice Wilcox was Commissioner-in-charge of the References on Access to the Courts, Defamation and Lands Acquisition. Mr Justice Wilcox was a full-time Member of the Commission from July 1976 to December 1977 and a part-time Member from January 1978 to July 1979. He was, until recently, President of the Australian Conservation Foundation and was Foundation President of the Environmental Law Association of New South Wales. Professor Pryles, who was recently appointed Henry Bourne Higgins Professor of Law at Melbourne University, was a part-time Member of the Commission from June 1983 until December 1985. During this time he headed the Commission's Reference on Service and Execution of Process and his current appointment, which is for a period of 6 months from February 1986, will allow him to complete this Reference. Professor Pryles, who is a Barrister of the Victorian Supreme Court, has specialised in conflict of laws. Ms Heather Armstrong, who has worked in an academic position and in legal practice, was recently appointed a Law Reform Officer. She will be working on the Commission's Reference on Sentencing. Ms Ann Duffield, who has worked for a number of years in private practice and in an academic position was recently appointed a Research Officer to assist in the completion of the Report on Debt Recovery. Ms Mary Finn, a Principal Legal Officer from the Attorney-General's Department in Canberra, recently commenced a 4 month secondment with the Commission to assist in the completion of the Report on Matrimonial Property. Two Senior Law Reform Officers, Mr S Odgers and Ms D Shift and a Law Reform Officer, Ms K Boehringer have recently left the Commission. Mr Odgers and Ms Boehringer have been appointed to academic positions within the University of Sydney's Law School. Ms Shift is now a con-

sultant to a Ministerial Committee in the Department of Social Security.

## NSWLRC

There have been a number of changes at the New South Wales Law Reform Commission. The appointment has been announced of Ms Helen Gamble as a full-time Commissioner for a term of 3 years commencing on 1 April 1986. Further details of Ms Gamble's appointment are noted separately in this issue. The term of office of the Honourable Mr Justice Adrian Roden as part-time Commissioner has been extended until December 1987. Two former part-time Commissioners, the Honourable Mr Justice Andrew Rogers and the Honourable Mr Justice JRT Wood, have been appointed part-time Commissioners for a period of two years until December 1987. Ms Heather Armstrong, a legal officer who was working on the Community Law Reform program, resigned from the Commission in March to take up an appointment with the ALRC. Ms Laura Beacroft joined the Commission as a legal officer in March, and is working on the Community Law Reform Program. In addition to her law degree, Ms Beacroft holds honours degrees in microbiology and political philosophy. Dr John Carter, a senior lecturer in law at the University of Sydney, has been appointed as a consultant to assist the Commission in the completion of its reference on Sale of Goods. Mr Ian Collie is working on the Artificial Conception reference as a legal research consultant. Ms Janice Edmond spent part of her University vacation assisting the Commission to complete the report *The Jury in a Criminal Trial*. Ms Fiona Curtis, who holds degrees in commerce and law from the University of New South Wales, has been appointed an acting legal officer. Ms Curtis has been involved in research for the Artificial Conception reference since November 1984. Mr James Hirshman, who holds degrees in law and commerce from the University of New South Wales, has been appointed a legal officer. Prior to this appointment, Mr Hirshman had worked on the Community Law Reform Program as a legal research consultant. Ms Anna Nemanic has entered private practice upon the completion of her research consultancy with the Commission, during which time she assisted with research on the Criminal Procedure reference and the Community Law Reform Program. Mr Mark Robinson, a recent graduate of Macquarie University, has been appointed a legal officer and is now undertaking research for the reference on the Registration and Certification of Births and Deaths. Mr Robinson recently completed an honours thesis which analysed proposals for a national compensation scheme for personal injuries. Ms Ros Robertson, a legal officer with the Commission since February 1984, has left to take up her new appointment with the Overseas Telecommunications Commission. Ms Robertson contributed very substantially to the work of the Community Law Reform Program, particularly in relation to the recently tabled report on Garnishment. Since her resignation, Ms Robertson has generously continued to assist the NSWLRC with its work

on Contribution and in the preparation of an index for the Community Law Reform Program. Mr Kalinga Wijeyewardene, who was formerly State Counsel in the Attorney-General's Department of Sri Lanka, is assisting the research on the Sale of Goods reference as a legal research consultant. Mr Wijeyewardene has undertaken postgraduate studies in international business law, international trade law and European Economic Community law and is now conducting research for a doctoral thesis on international commercial arbitration. Ms Meredith Wilkie, who joined the Commission as a legal officer in July 1983, has been promoted to the position of senior legal officer. During her time at the Commission, Ms Wilkie has contributed substantially to the research on the Commission's references on Accident Compensation, Conscientious Objection to Jury Service, and, most recently, Criminal Procedure.

## SALRC

Mr Neville Rochow has joined the South Australian Law Reform Committee as Research Officer and replaced Mrs Mandy Lyons, who is on maternity leave. Mr Rochow graduated from the University of Adelaide with an Honours degree in Law. He was admitted to practise in South Australia in 1983. He is currently completing a thesis in the law of evidence for the degree of Masters of Laws. Since 1984, he has been a part-time tutor in Evidence at the Adelaide Law School. He is working, inter alia, on the reference on the South Australian Evidence Act. Mr Nicholas Iles joined the South Australian Law Reform Committee as a part-time researcher in January this year, replacing Mrs Dianne Gray. Mr Iles graduated with First Class Honours in Law from the University of Adelaide in 1983 and was admitted to practise in South Australia in 1984, working in private practise until his appointment in January. He is presently a part-time tutor in Law at the University of Adelaide.

## VLCC

Ms Deborah Bennett has been appointed a Research Officer with the Committee. Ms Bennett graduated from the University of Melbourne with a Bachelor of Laws degree and a Bachelor of Arts degree. Ms Bennett comes to the Committee from Arthur Robinson and Hedderwicks, solicitors. Mr Gavin Jackson has been appointed Assistant Secretary to the Committee. Mr Jackson is a Parliamentary Officer and holds a Bachelor of Economics degree with Honours.

## VLRC

Two recent appointments to the Victorian Law Reform Commission are Mr Philip Williams and Mr Peter Sallmann. Mr Williams, who has been appointed a part-time Commissioner, is a senior lecturer in Melbourne University's Economics Department and has held positions at Monash University and the Prices Commission in London. He has also held consultancies with the Trade Practices Commission, the Australian Broadcasting Commission and the Australia Council. He will pro-

vide expert assistance to the VLRC in its work on commercial sales and leases. Mr Peter Sallmann who has been appointed a full-time Commissioner, is a senior lecturer in the Legal Studies Department at La Trobe University and is a visiting lecturer in Criminology at the Victoria Police Detective Training School. He has written extensively on criminal law and sentencing and has edited the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology for the last five years. He is the Commissioner-in-charge of the Reference on Sexual Offences and the Reference on Homicide. The existing inaugural part-time members, Mr Justice Vincent, Mr Justice Gobbo, Mr Leigh Masel, Mr Tony Smith, Dr Linda Hancock and Ms Susan McCulloch have been re-appointed for another 12 months. Dr Clyde Croft was recently appointed Executive Director of the VLRC. He was formerly Assistant Secretary (Policy Co-ordination) of the Victorian Law Department. Ms Alison Champion, a researcher working on commercial sales and leases, has been appointed a legal officer in the Victorian Law Department.

## WALRC

Mr Robert Shenton French has been appointed a part-time member of the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia for a period of three years as from 18 January 1986. Mr French holds the degrees of BSC and LLB from the University of Western Australia. He was admitted as a legal practitioner in 1972, and practised as a barrister and solicitor until June 1983, when he became a member of the independent bar. Mr French was Chairman of the Aboriginal Legal Service between 1973 and 1975. He is currently an associate member of the Commonwealth Trade Practices Commission, a member of the WA Barristers Board, a member of the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia and Deputy Chairman of the Western Australia Town Planning Appeals Tribunal. He was recently appointed a member of the Committee established by the Attorney-General to propose amendments to the Criminal Code pursuant to the Murray Report of 1983. Mr French replaces Mr Daryl Williams QC, who was the part-time private practitioner member of the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia between 1982 and 1986. A note on Mr William's earlier career appears at [1982] *Reform* 76. Mr Williams was President of the Law Society of Western Australia in 1984 and is currently Treasurer of the Law Council of Australia. The Attorney General of Western Australia has re-appointed Mr CW Ogilvie and Mr HH Jackson as full-time members of the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia, Mr Ogilvie for a period of three years from 1 October 1985 and Mr Jackson for a period of 1 year as from 3 January 1986. Mr Ogilvie and Mr Jackson were the first full-time members of the Commission appointed when the Commission expanded from three to five members in 1979. Mr Ogilvie was formerly the Commission's Executive Officer and Director of Research. Notes on his earlier career appear at [1980] *Reform* 31 and [1982] *Reform* 154. A note on Mr Jackson's earlier career appears at [1982] *Reform*

154. Mr Jackson was President of the Law Society of Western Australia in 1985.