

of the new justice hall

disabled in wheelchairs, but downstairs in the stalls there is ample room and access to observe the performance.

I didn't get to the cells, so I don't know whether they're underneath or connected to the court by steps, or what, and I'm not about to run over a copper's foot to find out.

Security is tight and the Judges chambers well secured.

Their Honours can look in through the bullet or bomb proof windows from their marvellous verandahs but we cannot joint them on a constitutional around the patios unless, of course, we are fellow judges, which most of us are not.

The Robing Room concerns me a

little, not in terms of wheelchair access, but there is no separate facility for lady lawyers.

I trust the change rooms have locks, otherwise there are going to be many founded or unfounded assaults with male lawyers being punched-out all over the place by enraged lady lawyers.

There is definitely nothing so terrifying on the face of the planet.

I must comment on the Master's Chambers.

Our Master has a larger chamber than our dear Chief Justice.

I wonder if that is the result of practical planning so that we minions front the Master at a distance of thirty feet from behind what looks like a barri-

cade but which is, in fact, a desk.

Practitioners will note at once that in no court is there a court reporter or the interminable wires, re-winding tapes, and so on.

It is all done in a secret place.

Hearsay evidence, indeed.

I trust some failsafe devices are at hand with the onset of such technology.

I do not like familiar faces and sounds to disappear.

It is insecure. One will never know when one is being 'put on the air' and recorded.

Some practitioners may be confronted with their loose utterings unknowingly recorded and feel obliged to slink away to the South.



First jury verdict in new SC

At 8.03pm on Friday 11 October 1991 the first jury verdict in the new Supreme Court was handed down.

Claudio Mezzadri had been charged with grievous bodily harm (s181) and doing an unlawful dangerous act (s154).

The trial commenced before Justice Sir William Kearney on 7 October 1991 with Tom Wakefield (Queensland counsel) instructed by the Direc-

tor of Public Prosecutions prosecuting and Colin McDonald instructed by Anthony Porthouse of Cridlands defending.

The official reason for the transfer from the old courthouse to the new was that the Court Recording Service was moving.

We suspect that the jury may have been intimidated by the well attended wake.

The accused had the unhappy privilege of being the first person incarcerated in the holding cells pending the verdict.

He then enjoyed the honour of being the first person acquitted, a record that cannot be broken.

Congratulations to the local lawyers who did not want interstate counsel to achieve this auspicious start to life in the new Court.