



## Movement at the Station

Duncan McLean, formerly of Cridlands has now returned to that firm to practice after a stint in South Australia.

Michael Brugman has recently joined the team at CAALAS.

Michael comes to Alice Springs from the Victorian Bar where he has practised since 1989.

William O'Brien has set up practice at 31 Knuckey St, DARWIN and can be reached on 018 641 123.



## News Flash!!!

Word has it that the dynamic team at Cecil Black's has recently added a new solicitor to the stable. Brian McGowran, formerly practising in the wee town of Strathalbyn in South Australia has returned to the Territory.

Brian completed the GDLP program in South Australia in 1995, after graduating from the NTU, and worked as a general practitioner before ascending to the field of Family Law.

As a keen golfer (since NT school-boy days), former footballer (well, Strathalbyn Bs, anyway) and general all round fun guy, Brian can be contacted for a good time on 8981 0988



## Consumer Protection

The Federal Bureau of Consumer Affairs has produced a report entitled "Audit of Consumer Protection Laws: first report identifying inconsistencies, gaps and overlaps in Australian consumer protection legislation".

The report, resulting from stage one of the audit, examines two areas of concern: the definition of 'consumer' and unfair practices provisions.

The results of the public consultation process, which commences with the release of this report, will be used to develop proposals for legislative amendment.

Comment on the issues raised in the report should reach the Federal Bureau of Consumer Affairs by 16 May 1997.

The Law Society holds a copy of the report for those interested.

## Conveyancing — Adjusting Final Water Readings Views Sought

The following memorandum from the Australian Institute of Conveyancers has been distributed to conveyancing agents and solicitors:

*At a Special General Meeting held Wednesday 5 March 1997 a resolution was passed that all Licensed Conveyancing Agents would, from 1st April 1997, change the procedure involved in adjusting final water readings. From the 1st April 1997 the vendor's conveyancer will attend to a final water reading within 10 days from the date*

*of proposed settlement and calculate a pro-rata water reading to the date of completion. This figure will then be adjusted as a credit to the purchaser on the settlement statement.*

*This practice will do away with the need to retain funds in the trust account pending water readings and hopefully streamline a hitherto complicated and time consuming system of water usage adjustment.*

*Should your firm, when acting for a purchaser, wish to*

*arrange a final water reading on the date of completion it will be necessary for you to advise the vendor's conveyancers who will then retain fund in trust in the usual way."*

Members have expressed some concern about this resolution and it has been suggested that the Law Society canvas the views of practitioners with regard to the matters raised in this memorandum.

Please direct your views in writing to the Law Society by April 30th 1997.