

Readers Digests predicts boom for litigation lawyers

Reader's Digest has come up with a new moto for Australia: *If anything goes wrong, sue*, following an exclusive survey in their April magazine which suggests Australia is becoming a more litigious society.

According to the survey, one quarter of Australians would sue a doctor who prescribes medication that interferes with a herbal remedy making them sick; even though the patient hasn't told the doctor about the remedy, they believe the doctor should have asked.

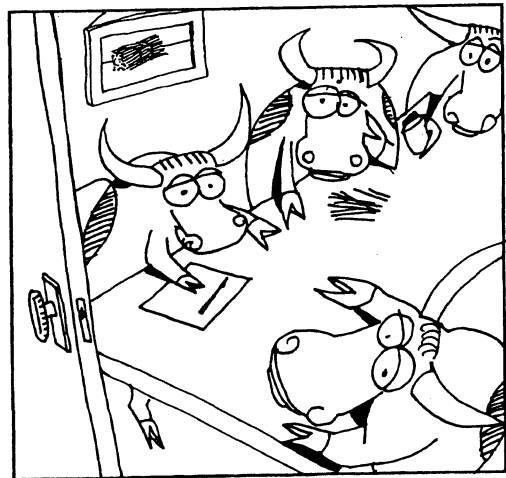
The Reader's Digest goes on to reveal such insights as:

- One in five Australians believe a supermarket customer who gets sick after eating food that was not refrigerated at home has the right to claim financial damages if the need for refrigeration wasn't stated on the label — even though the item was selected from the chilled section at the supermarket.

- One in seven believe that a bushwalker who injures himself by tripping over a tree root is entitled to compensation claiming the local council failed to provide warning signs about uneven surfaces.
- One in ten believe that if parents should sue if their young child wanders onto a neighbour's property where she picks and eats a poisonous plant making her sick.
- One in fourteen Australians believe a householder who injures himself on a do-it-yourself project after watching a television segment is entitled to financial compensation, claiming the oversimplified task.

These figures were gathered from a survey of 1003 Australians in January 2001, which also revealed that the ACT

The Muster Room



and Tasmania are more in favour of compensation and West Australia less so.

Want to win an Argument?

Thanks to Sydney Morning Herald's Column 8 (6 April 2001) we now know that Clayton Utz in Canberra harbours a senior associate who goes by the name of Mr Argument.

PEOPLE AND THE LAW

Diana Elliott

Diana Elliott is now practising at:

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Mr Ian Davis

Mr Ian Davis has been appointed as a full time member of the Australian Law Reform Commission for a term of three years commencing on 13 June 2001.

Michael Kakakios

Michael Kakakios has been appointed Administration Assistant at the Law Society Northern Territory.

The Society welcomes him to the office.

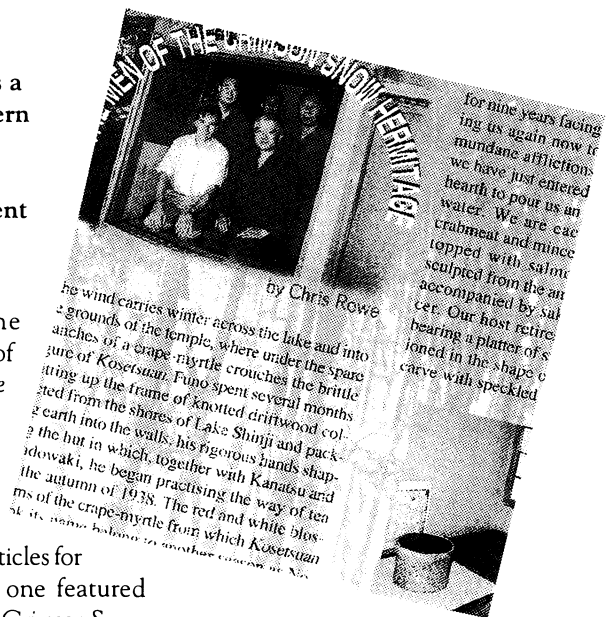
Chris Rowe

Chris Rowe worked as a lawyer with the Northern Territory Attorney General's Department before taking his present contract with the Japanese Government.

Based in Shimane prefecture in Japan, part of Chris' job is to edit *The Shimean* — a magazine for the international community in Shimane.

Chris Howe also writes articles for the magazine, like this one featured here titled *The men of the Crimson Snow Hermitage* which describe places, events and experiences around Shimane.

The *Shimean* is a publication of the International Affairs Division of



Shimane Prefecture and the Shimane International Centre.

The email address for the magazine is: kuribo@mocha.ocn.ne.jp