

have succeeded in completing a work which furnishes students not merely with a comprehensive understanding of the principles of Australia taxation law, but also one which encourages readers to critically analyse our current system of taxation.

*Gino Dal Pont**

Keith Bryett, Emma Craswell, Arch Harrison and John Shaw, **An Introduction to Policing, Volume 1: Criminal Justice in Australia**, Butterworths, 1993, pp vi, 138, \$29 (pbk); Keith Bryett, Arch Harrison and John Shaw, **Volume 2: The Role and Functions of Police in Australia**, Butterworths, 1994, pp vi, 190, \$29 (pbk); Keith Bryett and Arch Harrison, **Volume 3: Policing in the Community**, Butterworths, 1993, pp iv, 170, \$29 (pbk); Keith Bryett and Arch Harrison, **Volume 4: Trends and Procedures in Policing**, Butterworths, 1994, pp vi, 106, \$29 (pbk).

In an earlier review,¹ I mentioned that lecturers in Griffith University's School of Justice Administration planned to produce textbooks on policing. The four volumes listed above are the products of their labours. The four volumes are meant to be self-contained. Each can be read on its own with profit. They are designed to make readers 'aware of the issues and to stimulate interest in future research'. Certainly anyone who reads these four volumes will be left in no doubt that policing in a modern liberal democracy is a very complex business indeed and that the issues raised in these books (accountability for example) provide ample ammunition for heated debate inside and outside the seminar room.

Volume 1 provides an introduction to the criminal justice system in Australia and assumes no knowledge on the reader's part. It is hardly the 'important landmark' described in the Foreword but does provide a convenient context in which to understand the role of the police. Section 1 looks at theoretical issues such as methods of social control; power, authority, and legitimacy; and the goals and standards of the system. Section 2 considers problems and limitations. Section 3 summarises the nature of difficult issues such as organised crime, white collar crime, environmental crime, drugs, and terrorism.

* Lecturer in Law, University of Tasmania.

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The final chapter describes possible reforms of the investigative, adjudicative, and the penal/correctional arms of the criminal justice system.

Volume 2 'introduces readers to the role and functions of police officers in a liberal democracy'. An important theme is that knowing the history of police forces is crucial in understanding the current role and future possibilities of policing in a particular country. We are given a potted history of English policing from its origins in the Middle Ages. The discussion of English policing from the nineteenth century cites some more recent work but tends not to use it effectively and relies too much on traditional police historians like Critchley. Two works that should not have been overlooked are WR Miller, *Cops and Bobbies: Police Authority in New York and London 1830-70* (1977) and C Emsley, *The English Police: A Political and Social History* (1991). These historical chapters are the most disappointing in the four volumes because the authors try to cover too much in a short space and some of their statements are dubious. The theme of the chapters on the history of policing in Australia is that 'policing is essentially the history of its dominance by, and subservience to, government'. Too true.

Other chapters in Volume 2 consider contemporary policing in Australia and the Federal model. In chapter 12 the internal administration of each Australian police force including Tasmania, is summarised, listing such features as the mission statement, corporate objectives, and the command structure, and providing some statistical information. Volume 2 ends by describing alternative models of policing found in France, the USA, and Japan. The authors conclude that the police 'mandate is not static. It is a complex meld of historical traits and culture, changes enforced by the evolutionary process, and community-led interests'.

Volume 3 is perhaps the best, tackling head-on in fourteen chapters 'aspects of the relationship between the police and the public'. A sociological description of Australia is followed by chapters on the police environment in relation to class, socialisation processes, culture, role diversity, and functional diversity. Training and remuneration 'appear to have reflected the working class status' of police officers, not their levels of responsibility, and largely explain why 'the role of police officer is not commonly regarded as prestigious'. When considering 'the complexity, diffusion and contradiction of police work', the authors interestingly quote Socrates, who asserted 'there are trades in which it is impossible for a man to be virtuous'. The complexities of 'cop culture' are covered very sensibly by distinguishing between an organisational culture and an individual culture. Other areas cogently treated are whether the police are a force or a service and the vexed question of occupational deviance.

Other issues given prominence in Volume 3 include how the social image of police is influenced by the media (more could have been said about shows like *The Bill* and *Phoenix*), politics, the policing of juveniles and minorities, and the handling of victims, including police-created victims. The discussion of political policing in late-nineteenth century England again omits an important reference - the best book written on the subject - Bernard Porter's *The Origins of the Vigilant State* (1987). The conclusion to this volume is that the relationship between the police and 'substantial numbers' of Australians has historically been 'poor'. In contemporary Australia 'the relationship remains in a state of flux as police strive to get their own house in order and create public confidence at the same time'. As in most liberal democracies since police forces were formed, the working classes and the non-white sections in particular are subjected to police discrimination and not surprisingly pay the police scant respect. In Australia, however, 'the complexity of many cultures, the range of criminal justice systems, and the difficulty of accurately surveying public opinion' make national generalisations either hazardous or of limited value.

Volume 4 examines aspects of 'contemporary police management and practice in Australia'. One key problem faced by police managers is the excessive power of Police Associations, with Australian police unions being amongst 'the most powerful' in the English-speaking world. Effective communication at every level within the police organisation is crucial and the authors devote a chapter to it and to different ways of evaluating police performance. Evaluation is 'an integral part of the accountability process'.

Contemporary practice is examined in four short chapters on the investigative function of police (initiating action, investigation, interview and apprehension, and prosecution). The authors warn police not to doctor the evidence, to be diligent, and to pay attention to detail. That such a warning is thought necessary is disturbing. Other areas of policing covered in Volume 4 are the dangers of patrolling and the use of firearms; the operational difficulties involved in policing special events (the visit of a foreign dignitary, and plane crash, or a siege); and inter-agency co-operation, which is growing and is an attempt 'to keep pace with changes in social practice'.

Perhaps the most interesting chapter of Volume 4 is on the 'mutually contradictory' roles played by police. One role is community-based policing, which as 'an open, consultative purpose'. The other is dealing with crime 'committed by dedicated criminals', the secretive world of the "'hard-nosed" specialist investigator'. The claim that the world of organised crime is 'a war zone' is chillingly supported by the March 1994 bombing of the Adelaide branch of the National Crime Authority. It is expecting too much of one police force

to take on both roles, which require different skills, not least in terms of knowledge and handling stress. The final chapter speculates on how the policing role will change in the future. If crime rates continue to rise (despite the spiralling allocation of resources), then a major reassessment of the need for police forces might well result in fundamental changes in the role of police in Australian society. Perhaps the result will be, as the authors seem consistently to advocate, the breakdown of State police forces and the emergence of one national police force, which will develop 'national strategies against crime _ without having to accommodate numerous, differing police agenda'. Whether a national police force will suite the philosophical ideals of the Republic of Australia I leave for others to judge.

*Stefan Petrow**

* Law Librarian, University of Tasmania.