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CURRENT ISSUES – Editor: Mr Justice P W Young

Death of great Australian lawyer	407
The Fingleton case and the Rivkin case: Decent people sent to gaol	407
Judicial Conference of Australia: Colloquium	408
National Judicial College	408
Aboriginal justice in north west Australia	408
Victorian tort "reforms"	409
Judges' conferences	409
Judges suing for defamation	410
Blame the legal system	410
Queen's Birthday Honours List	410
The case of the headless whore	410
Rough justice	411
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	412
CONVEYANCING AND PROPERTY – Editor: Peter Butt	
Moving the Statute of Frauds to the digital age	416
Indefeasibility: A contributor's response	419
FAMILY LAW – Editor: Anthony Dickey QC	
Epitaph for marriage in Western Australia	421
OVERSEAS LAW – Editor: Ross Buckley	
The rule of law and economic vibrancy	424

PEOPLE IN THE LAW – Editor: Geoff Lindsay SC

Justice Mary Gaudron (Cth)	427
Bar Association elections (Qld)	428
Hon Justice P D McMurdo (Qld)	429
Hon Justice E M O'Reilly (Qld)	429
Appointment of Senior Counsel (Tas)	430

RECENT CASES – Editor: Mr Justice P W Young

Forfeiture rule and the Torrens system	431
Criminal law: Doctrine of officially induced error	431
Partnership: Whether dissolved by repudiation	432
Benefiting from one's own wrong	432
Credit bureaux	432
Options in wills: Is time of the essence?	432
Tracing	433
Torrens system exceptions from indefeasibility: Barnes v Addy situation - whether fraud	
or dishonesty needed	433
Mistaken appointment under power of appointment	434
Timely response to statutory demand: Graywinter revisited	434

ARTICLES

JUDICIAL CONSISTENCY AND ARTICLE 25 OF THE CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL SALE OF GOODS

Paul van Reesch

A fundamental concept of the Convention on the International Sale of Goods is the consistent interpretation of the Convention by courts regardless of jurisdictional considerations, such as local rules of interpretation. Indeed, this concept is fundamental to the successful operation of the majority of legal systems in place around the world. The aim of this article is to analyse whether a common thread exists in the implementation of Art 25 of the Convention by courts, particularly those resident in different jurisdictions. The determination of whether a common thread in the implementation of the Convention, and in particular Art 25, exists, is important for a multitude of reasons, but perhaps two stand out more than others: first, because of the inherently international character of the Convention; and secondly because the Convention provides its own rules of interpretation, perhaps in an attempt to offset the threat of differing approaches to the interpretation of law by courts in a multitude of jurisdictions.

CONSUMER PROTECTION: DEVELOPMENTS IN TRADE PRACTICES LAW IN AUSTRALIA 1999-2001

Wayne Guild

The Trade Practices Act was in its 25th year by 1998, and it could be expected that any refinement to the legislation would have been fully achieved and that case law would have reduced issues of legal controversy in the Act's interpretation. Instead, in the following three-year period there were at least four cases dealing with Pt IVA (unconscionability), 24 cases on Pts V and VI (consumer protection) and one major decision on Pt VA (manufacturers' liability), as well as the advent of Pts VB and XIAA (New Tax System Price Exploitation Code). The legislative insertions in the examined period have indeed been voluminous. This has been matched by the abundance of case decisions, many cases going on appeal, and the fact that varied areas of the Act were still being litigated. The has reviewed the abovementioned developments and proceeded to assess whether the finality of legislative change is likely, and whether case law decisions have propounded legal principles yielding certainty in this area. The author remains of the view that the deficiencies and highlights of the Act will continue well into the future. 446

The Australian Law Journal Reports

HIGH COURT REPORTS - Staff of Lawbook Co

DECISIONS RECEIVED IN APRIL/MAY 2003

Australian Competition & Consumer Commission v C G Berbatis Holdings Pty Ltd	
(<i>Trade and Commerce</i>) ([2003] HCA 18)	26
Fittock v The Queen (Constitutional Law (Cth)) ([2003] HCA 19)	51
Fox v Percy (Appeal and New Trial) ([2003] HCA 22)	39
Heron v The Queen (Criminal Law) ([2003] HCA 17)	98
Ng v The Queen (Constitutional Law (Cth)) ([2003] HCA 20)	57
Oates v Attorney-General (Cth) (Constitutional Law; Extradition) ([2003] HCA 21) 98	80
Trust Co of Australia Ltd v Commissioner of State Revenue (Stamp Duty (Qld)) ([2003]	
HCA 23)	19

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 - 7. Sheehy et al, n 6 at 221.

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