

EDITORIAL



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Australia is developing many links with countries of the Indian Ocean region. There is a long history of migration from many of these countries to Australia; trade links and tourism are increasing as a result of government strategies since 1994 to boost Australia's economic ties in the region; and Australian tertiary institutions are establishing schools and campuses in South Africa and Asia to enhance their international standing.

An International Forum on the Indian Ocean Region (IFIOR) was held in Perth in 1995 and

the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) was established in 1997. The IOR-ARC has business and academic networks feeding into an inter-governmental process and meetings are conducted every two years. Members include Australia, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, India, Sri Lanka, Oman, Yemen, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Madagascar and Mauritius (1997), Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, Seychelles, Bangladesh and Iran (2000).

As Australia's engagement with these nations increases, so does the need to know and understand their laws. In this issue of *Australian Law Librarian* our aim has been to provide an introduction to legal information resources of the region, and also some cultural 'flavour' through personal anecdotes.

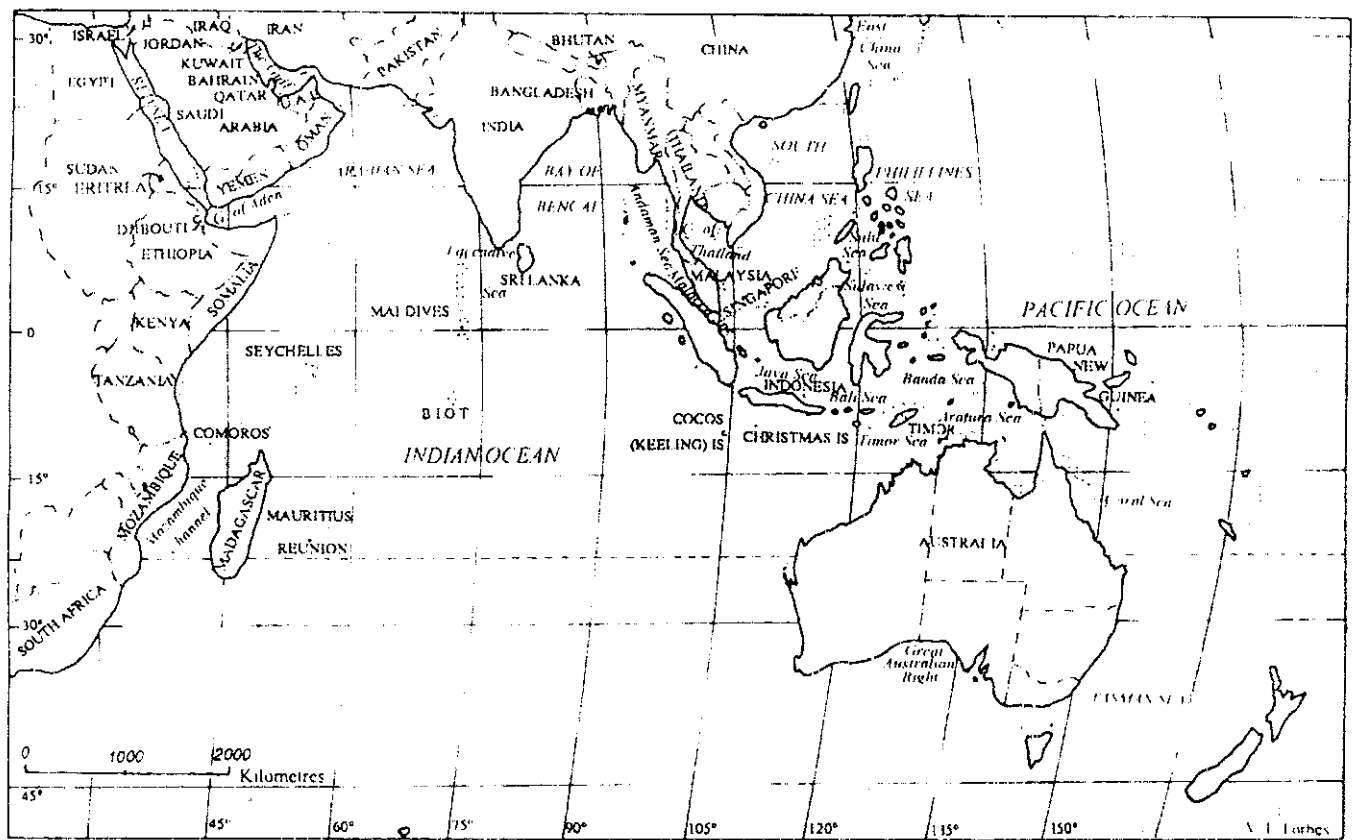
Dr Vivian Forbes is recognized internationally for his work on maritime boundaries, particularly in South East Asia. His article describes how international boundaries and territories are defined and some of the incongruities that arise. He provides several reference sources that will assist law librarians.

Lynne Lyon, and members of her staff at the

Ministry of Justice Library in Perth, Western Australia, have established libraries on Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Lynne describes some of their experiences – not unlike those of law librarians who have undertaken similar assignments in the islands of the Pacific Ocean.

Judge Nicholson of the Federal Court suggests how Australian law librarians can contribute to the programme of judicial training in Indonesia. A number of Australian legal bodies are involved in legal education in this region, affording the Australian Law Librarians' Group several avenues that could be explored.

From South Africa comes a paper in which **Phyllis Connerty** describes the Law Collection of the Don Africana Library. We also benefit from **Emma Yarrow's** experience in India. She provides a brief overview of the Indian legal system and information resources.



The Indian Ocean Region