

## INTRODUCTION

### A TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR GEOFFREY LINDELL

**G**eoffrey Lindell's relationship with the University of Adelaide Law School extends over 40 years from when he first enrolled as a law student in 1960. It is thus fitting that the *Adelaide Law Review* can acknowledge the special contribution he has made, and continues to make, to Australian public law with the publication of these papers in his honour.

The papers for this special edition come from a Festschrift organised at the Faculty of Law at the University of Melbourne by the Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies in conjunction with the Australian Association of Constitutional Law. We thank the organisers of the conference, which was entitled 'Dead Hands or Living Tree (and Other Constitutional Conundrums)'. In particular we acknowledge the work of the Director of the Centre, Professor Cheryl Saunders.

Completing his Law degree in 1965 with first class honours, Geoffrey took out many of the significant prizes throughout his time as an undergraduate, including the Stow (and Scholar) 1961, 1963, 1964, R.W. Bennett, Justin Skipper, Roy Frisby, Thomas Gepp and Angus Parsons prizes. His Masters degree, also from Adelaide, and awarded in 1974, remains a classic examination of the justiciability of 'political questions' under the Australian and United States Constitutions. The thesis, like his other work in public law, investigates with a relentless thoroughness the interrelations of constitutional doctrine and wider policy considerations. As many scholars in the area can attest, Geoffrey's work combines a breadth and strength in legal analysis with a subtle appreciation of the working of public institutions.

The operational aspect of Geoffrey's law analysis no doubt was honed as a Legal Officer in the Attorney-General's Department in Canberra from 1965 until his full time appointment at the Australian National University in 1975. As a Senior Assistant Secretary in charge of Constitutional Review in the early 1970s Geoffrey was close at hand when major reform initiatives under the Whitlam Government were being considered.

Notwithstanding a successful career in the public service it is Geoffrey's role in the legal academy where he made his greatest impact, influencing countless students and colleagues. As an academic he held a Readership at the ANU before a move to the University of Melbourne where a chair soon followed. He has been a distinguished visitor to numerous Australian and overseas universities. As a senior

academic Geoffrey played a significant role in the management and development of the law faculties at the ANU and Melbourne.

As a scholar Geoffrey has authored some of the most enduring and insightful articles of his generation. His question of ‘Why is Australia’s Constitution Binding – The Reasons in 1900 and Now, and the Effect of Independence’ (1986) and his Lucinda Lecture ‘The Australian Constitution: Growth, Adaptation and Conflict – Reflections About Some Major Cases and Events’ (1999) are rich in their analysis of the state of Australian constitutional law. It is unfair to highlight these two and we should not distract from the wealth of his body of work, a list of which is included in this volume.

As an academic lawyer Geoffrey has advised governments on constitutional and administrative law matters. He has also appeared in a number of High Court cases. These include *Fencott v Muller* (1983) 152 CLR 570 and *McGinty v Western Australia* (1996) 186 CLR 140. Moreover, he has taken up the role of transmitting to the public the workings of Australia’s constitutional system with numerous media appearances.

Geoffrey returned to Adelaide in retirement in 2002. He is an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Adelaide and the ANU as well as a Professorial Fellow in Law at the University of Melbourne. His ongoing interest in legal education, parliamentary governance, public law and administration means that he continues to engage in academic dialogue and is sought out for advice by governments and instrumentalities.

This brief tribute to Geoffrey would not be complete without acknowledging the dedication that he has put into fostering a passion for the study of law in others. He has mentored, challenged and supported numerous students and colleagues. And he has done so in his own unassuming and gentle manner.

The Hon Justice TA Gray  
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