

FOR THE RECORD BOOKS IN BRIEF

The CLB is late out this year.

A major reason is the lack of material provided by subscribers and members of the Australian Communications Law Association (ACLA). Active participation is essential to the success of this publication.

Articles, case notes, comments, reviews, letters are urgently needed to cater for the diversity of interests that ACLA - and through it the CLB - represents (see back page).

The CLB has always had a major commitment to providing matters of record for easy, convenient reference:

- *The terms of reference of the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal inquiry into cable and subscription television services (1981) 1 CLB - 2;
- *List of names of those who made submissions to the Cable and STV inquiry (1981) 1 CLB - 5,6,8 and 1 CLB - 21;
- *Text of A.B.T. statements on the "Channel Ten-10 Advertising Log controversy" (1982) 2 CLB - 1,2,5;
- *Reorganisation of Department of Communications on 5.4.82 by Mr Ian Sinclair (1982) 2 CLB - 15;
- *Summary of Recommendations on Cable TV by A.B.T. (1982) 2 CLB - 17-23;
- *Collated recommendations of Davidson Committee of Inquiry into Telecommunications Services (1982) 2 CLB - 41-48 incl.

As a continuation of that commitment to be a "journal of record", the CLB now reproduces the policies of the (then) Federal Opposition on a range of communications issues - satellite services, the A.B.C., public broadcasting, Australia Post, Telecom, ethnic broadcasting - as gleaned from official speeches during the election campaign earlier this year (see 3 CLB - 2,3).

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THE VISUAL ARTIST AND THE LAW

By Shane Simpson (Law Book Co. Ltd.)

Compact, easy-to-read guide through the legal environment of visual artists (contracts of sale, agency, loan and lease; design copyright; defamation; obscenity; moral rights; insurance; taxes and duties) with clearly set-out specimen contracts for most artistic occasions (sale, consignment, gallery contracts, commission agreement, preliminary design for commissioned work).

Especially suitable for the quick reference needs of artists loathe to emerge from "garret isolation" but nagged by feelings of being "diddled" by middlemen.

ADVERTISING REGULATION

By Shenagh Barnes & Michael Blakeney

(Law Book Co. Ltd.)

The Communications Media rates its own chapter in this 600-pager.

Of particular interest are the sections on: Outdoor Advertising which, the authors say, "has become a means of circumventing the prohibition of particular types of advertising carried by the other media"; Celebrity Endorsements (including some U.S. decisions on disclosure of payments to endorsers, suggesting a similar rule should exist in Australia); Character Merchandising and liability arising from the imitation of rival advertising campaigns (including the possibility of copyright subsisting in a — sufficiently original — slogan).

The "Select Bibliography" runs to more than 200 items.

Also useful for the Communications Law-oriented are the Appendices with Australian Broadcasting Tribunal standards on Advertising and Television Programs, Trade Practices guidelines, various advertising codes of the Media Council of Australia, and guidelines and advertising rules of the Federation of Australian Commercial Television Stations.

letters

Dear Sir,

May I compliment you on your fine journal. My major interest is The Legal Aspects of Commercial Entertainment. However, it does seem to me that your journal is supremely dull.

I would suggest, first: the inclusion of a Letters column and, secondly, the arrangement of issues more on the lines of the now-defunct (UK) TWENTIETH CENTURY with writers of opposing views on a central theme (e.g. "Private Lives and Their Public Enemies").

I feel legal associations such as ... your own become moribund because insufficient attention is given to social matters i.e. (i) social aspects of our theme and (ii) having more parties and dinners for members.

But, in particular, it should qualitatively assess the impact of private monopoly ownership of (esp.) radio stations and the extent to which the quality of Australian radio has been affected by the concentration of power in the hands of a few - e.g. why there is no "good music" station in the A.C.T. or why Latin Jazz is never broadcast or why the media are mysteriously favourable to Country & Western music and the entertainment industry as a vehicle of government "self image" manipulation.

Simon Parry JR
Lyons, A.C.T.

Mr Parry's letter (reprinted in slightly abbreviated form) has given me the opportunity of starting a Letters column, as suggested, and of seeking more contributions generally, — Editor.