

## “When Jubal struck the corded shell . . .”

Nearly sixty years ago, at the remote hamlet of Collector, there was born Peter Aloysius McInerney. Today the unlettered shepherds of Collector, the companions of his youth, are erecting in honour of him, their greatest son, a large equestrian statue.

By the age of one, he was extraordinarily large: 6'6" and 24 stone. He developed an intense dislike of smaller shepherds, and small people in general.

It remains to this day. He regards them as not only stunted in growth but also as the possessors of mean, misshapen thoughts; and probably Sodomites as well. This explains the character of half the world in general and one floor of barristers in particular.

Discarding his smock and crook, he came to Sydney to be educated. This process did not take place at River-view.

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### Appointment to the Bench

## Mr Justice Burchett

On 3rd June 1985 James Charles Sholto Burchett QC was appointed a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia.

His Honour was born at Goodooga New South Wales in 1930, and was educated at Barker College and the University of Sydney, from which he graduated a Bachelor of Laws with honours.

He was admitted to practice as a solicitor in 1956 and to the Bar in 1959. He took silk in 1974.

His Honour developed a busy practice at the Bar which from time to time involved travel to various parts of the globe, a circumstance of which his Honour was not heard to complain.

His Honour was the author of two works on aspects of taxation law, a visiting fellow at Wolfson College Cambridge in 1976, and in 1980 lectured in China on criminal and arbitration law at the invitation of the Chinese Government.

His Honour was, at the time of his appointment, chairman of the Law Council's Legal Aid Advisory Committee.

— J.Hislop



After some years as associate to Sir John Clancy and Sir Cyril Walsh, he arrived at the Eighth Floor Selborne, where, for the delectation of his colleagues, he sang his native woodnotes wild. It was as the poet said:

*When Jubal struck the corded shell,  
His listening brethren stood around,  
And, wondering, on their faces fell,  
To worship the celestial sound.*

Timidity was as unknown to him as modesty is to his brother Mr Justice ———; and a sympathetic tolerance of an opposing point of view was equalled only by his passion for Chancery.

His success at Common Law was legendary. As Mr Herron, the President of the Law Society, said: “His success in this area did much to contribute to the chronic state of penury which afflicts all insurance companies”. His success at the criminal Bar was equally sensational.

He developed a marked aversion towards “equity poofers”.

He played sport, golfing at the Australian Club where he often did a birdie on the twelfth.

He was a spectator at Rugby matches where he treated referees as he treated his opponents in court, regarding them, to quote Mr Herron again, not only as suffering from abysmal ignorance, but also of insurmountable hearing deficiency.

In recent months his health has been the source of great consternation. He suddenly started eating lettuce leaves and stopped drinking whisky. He shrivelled sadly. He became nery, and jumped when approached.

He had a heart attack. He visited Dr Chang (and St Vincents ordered an elephant against the contingency of a transplant).

He failed his medical. He will try again. We pray for him.

At his swearing in, after congratulating himself on his good fortune at having been on the Eighth Floor Selborne, he wondered why he and his colleagues were referred to as the “Princess Margaret Set”. It was because people kept mistaking him for Lord Snowdon.