

Wardell and Wentworth's newspaper, *The Australian*, first appeared the following month, in October 1824.

Wentworth went on to have a significant role in public life. He was an early champion for trial by jury and self-government. He was one of the founders of Sydney University. He was not appointed silk – for that process did not come into play in New South Wales until later – but he was presented with a silk gown as a mark of his pre-eminence. He was in due course honoured by lending his name to a set of chambers in Phillip Street.

This is a meticulously researched and highly enjoyable book. Tink has skilfully introduced enough detail to bring the characters to life, but not so much as to slow the narrative down or make it hard work. He brings out Wentworth's dishevelled, boozy vigour: his shock of hair, his inward turning eye, his oratory. Wentworth's opening to a speech at a bar dinner in 1829 gives some flavour of the man:

Look at me, the father of the Australian

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Bar, yet here I stand with six bottles under my belt and none the worse.

Tink was himself a politician, and also a barrister, and one glimpses the life of a lawyer in the colony in his pages. He describes for example Wentworth spending weeknights at his chambers but galloping off alone on Friday nights to join his family at their isolated farm in Petersham.

Manning Clark's description of Wentworth as Australia's 'greatest native son' seems to have been a description of Wentworth's standing in the colony at the time – specifically, at about the time of Wentworth's marriage in 1829 – it does appear to have been intended as

some assessment of Wentworth's status in the light of history as it has unfolded to the present. Tink's balanced account of Wentworth's life does not suggest to the contrary. Indeed Tink does not shy away from the unattractive aspects of Wentworth's character. Tink observes that Wentworth could be 'intolerant, loud and self-serving'. Much worse than that, in 1845 Wentworth delivered an ugly speech in the Legislative Council against the proposition that Indigenous people should be entitled to give evidence in court cases, a speech which Tink describes as probably the most shameful to have been delivered in the 150 year history of the Legislative Council in New South Wales.

Reviewed by Jeremy Stoljar SC

Annotated Conveyancing and Real Property Legislation New South Wales

PW Young, A Cahill, G Newton | Butterworths | 2009

This is useful, 'take to court' addition to the library of anyone dealing with real property matters. It gives you, in a single volume, the full text of each of the *Conveyancing Act 1919* and *Real Property Act 1900* with cross-referenced commentary and case references extracted from the LexisNexis Butterworths looseleaf service, *Conveyancing Service New South Wales*, as well as the *Conveyancing (General) Regulation 2008*, *Conveyancing (Sale of Land) Regulation 2005* and *Real Property Regulation 2008*.

The Acts were originally annotated by the Hon Mr Justice Young, now updated by Messrs Cahill and Newton.

The previous, third edition (annotated by the Hon Mr Justice Young alone) was published in 2003, so this is a welcome update. In this edition, the location of the different acts and regulations is marked for ready reference with grey shaded 'tabs', which make quickly identifying the relevant section much easier than previously. It has an index and tables of cases and statutes.

The legislation is current to 1 March 2009, and so it has unfortunately not included the *Real Property Act and Conveyancing Legislation Amendment Act 2009* assented to on 13 May 2009, parts of which commenced on assent. This amending

act made some important changes with respect to matters including the amounts recoverable from the Torrens Assurance Fund by way of compensation and the identification of mortgagees, and expressly requires a mortgagee or chargee in exercising a power of sale to ensure that the land is sold for not less than its market value.

Reviewed by Carol Webster