

Victorian border. While he might have a fondness for *grolles* and Burgundian wine, this is the modest sanctuary Harry retreats to, whether in triumph or when he simply wants solace. It's here, even when a storm has deprived him of companionship and the usual comforts, that Harry can find peace:

Back on the verandah, Harry pulled a leech off his ankle and squashed it with a loose river stone from the

garden. He hung up his wet-weather gear and went inside to try the television, but the signal wasn't penetrating the downpour. Nor would the radio work. He put on his Magic Flute CD and looked for a suitable book to read, but could find nothing, so he lay on the sofa and listened to the Queen of the Night competing with the wind and the sound of the rain on his tin roof. The quince tree was banging its branches against the guttering.

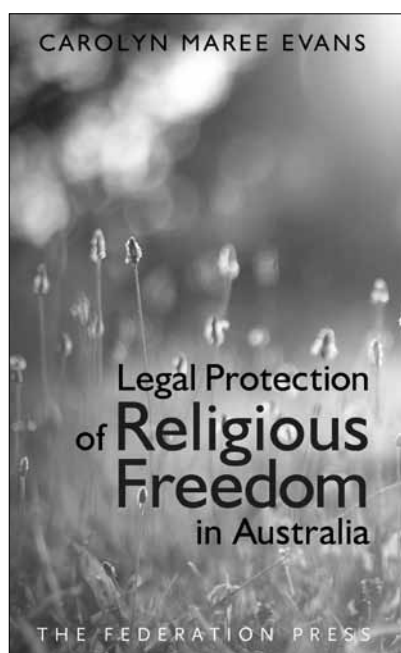
Harry Curry is a great character, and Littlemore's fiction deserves a wide audience. His next series of stories – *Harry Curry, Rats and Mice* – will be published in 2013.

Reviewed by Richard Beasley SC

Endnotes

1. The usual disclaimer about any resemblance to persons living or dead being purely coincidental does not appear to have been printed in *The Murder Book*, but no doubt applies.

Legal Protection of Religious Freedom in Australia



By Carolyn Maree Evans | Federation Press | 2012

Ms Evans book is therefore very important and it is important for the following reasons: the topic is obviously very topical; it contains recent case law, legislation and international issues; it is clearly written for lawyers with detailed attention to case law and legislation yet it is easy to read and written in a style that non lawyers would still find interesting; and it deals with a wide range of issues associated with the legal protection of religious freedom in Australia.

Some of the issues she deals with are: how the importance of religions has changed in Australia over the years; the relevance of International law to this topic generally and to case law in Australia; how the Constitution deals with the protection of religious freedom; specific case law and legislation (including cases dealing with the running of particular religious schools in certain communities, building religious temples and churches, teachers not getting employment in religious schools because of

their sexual orientation, and cases dealing with Jehovah Witnesses who refuse blood transfusions); how the anti discrimination laws deal with religious freedom; religious vilification laws and cases and how Australian courts deal with the concept of religious freedom eg can she wear her burqa or niqab when giving evidence in an Australian court?

Ms Evans writes at pages 21-22 that 'Demographic trends indicate that Australia is likely to become more religiously diverse over the next two decades....These trends will open up new possibilities for greater understanding and cultural richness, but will also require rethinking of some of the traditional relationships between the state, the legal system and religious groups....this book will hopefully increase understanding of some of the key debates around law and religion currently taking place in Australia.'

I found this book very topical and very interesting.

Reviewed by Caroline Dobraszczyk

I finished reading this book on the day NSW Police were gearing up to increase their patrol of the streets of Sydney's CBD, over the weekend, as a result of that horrific demonstration that none of us will forget, on a sunny Saturday afternoon. I, too, had my afternoon rudely interrupted by that demonstration – I was lunching and shopping – a demonstration in the name of religion.