

euthanasia. Issues such as ending of life, voluntary euthanasia and quality of life are analysed along with state involvement in birth and death. Next, the state's involvement in health and welfare, particularly maintenance of public health and domestic violence, are covered.

The final three chapters include a discussion of human tissue transplants and reproductive technology, human rights and 'Decision making: law and ethics'. Donation of tissue by living and dead persons and reproductive technology issues are raised. A guideline regarding how to make decisions in the event of an ethical dilemma is proposed. The concise manner in which *Health Care and the Law* is written makes it a valuable starting point for students and health care practitioners interested in medical law issues.

*Revell Norquay\**

### **Law on the Internet**

**Cate Banks and Heather Douglas**

**Second Edition, The Federation Press, 2002, pp 168, \$38.50**

From its outset, *Law on the Internet* makes no attempt to comprehensively cover legal resources on the Internet – such a task is obviously impossible, overly onerous and actually unhelpful. This book instead seeks to provide readers with a small list of the most pertinent sites of inquiry for particular areas of legal interest, in addition to providing assistance with initial Internet usage and terminology.

The portion of the book which actually consists of significant author input is the opening chapters on Internet usage – concise, understandable explanations of often bypassed technological jargon and facts 'taken for granted' by those with Internet familiarity. For an ostensibly legal text, the definitions and assistance provided herein serve as a strong introduction to what the Internet is, its uses, its functions and its abilities.

Advice proffered on search engine usage is especially well explained and of assistance; the differing abilities of particular services are outlined, their alternatives in approach and evaluation of results explained. Such strong examination of these tools is perhaps more effective in encouraging Internet usage and research than the remainder of the text; as Internet proliferation ensures world wide web resources are ever-expanding, the ability for a user to find what it is

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they require, as opposed to trudging aimlessly through a list of defined areas, is crucial.

The fourth chapter on 'Leading Sites' contains reference to oft-used sites such as AustLII, LBC Online and SCALEplus. The cyclical nature of the Internet is revealed through subsequent chapters, when in outlining the attributes of further sites, it becomes obvious many sites refer back or link directly to these 'Leading Sites'. Between the content of these 'Leading Sites' and their lists of linked resources, a familiar Internet user's abilities will obviate the need for much of the subsequent resources listed in *Law on the Internet*; often these become relevant of their own accord as a user furthers their Internet searching, which is easiest and often commenced from such chapter four 'Leading Sites'.

Most sites referenced in *Law on the Internet* are given a concise description. Whilst in some instances these are of assistance, particularly in realising the limitations of many sites, many of the terms ('other resources', 'material', 'plethora') mean use of this book as a tool in determining *prior* to Internet use which sites may be of interest – which is its stated aim – is actually difficult given such vague terminology; the idea of the book in limiting aimless Internet meandering is defeated, as the reader has no firm grasp on what many of the sites offer beyond generalities.

Further chapters of this book collect Internet site references under subject headings – Intellectual Property, Administrative Law, Law Reform Organisations and the like – following the same formula throughout the remainder of the text. Sites listed are predominantly Australian, although the authors have added some international references where considered useful.

The site selections and groupings all seem well researched, with cross-referencing between chapters made where the Internet sites are of dual or multiple relevance. The organisational structure of *Law on the Internet* is perhaps its strongest virtue, showing not merely that the authors are listing Internet sites as grouped, but have invested time in researching the sites to determine their content and appeal. Responses have been received from site managers, included in the book, detailing the frequency of content updates – important in ensuring researchers not merely cover the same ground in their Internet searches.

Ultimately, *Law on the Internet* is best suited for Internet beginners or complete novices, a readership it seems written for and well-suited toward. Those with a firmer grasp of the Internet are likely to be well

familiar with many of the sites and usages listed and capable of finding those with which they are not.

*Chris Groves\**

## **Company Meetings: What You Need to Know**

**Greg Bateman**

**Butterworths, 2001, pp 362, \$83.00**

*Company Meetings: What You Need to Know* provides a plain English account of the law governing annual general meetings and directors' meetings for both small and large companies. Those wanting information in relation to management meetings, creditors' meetings, court ordered meetings of companies or meetings of members of a registered managed investment scheme, meetings of members of a strata title body corporate, or meetings of members of a statutory corporation will need to look elsewhere. With extensive experience in the practice of company and corporate law and advice to company secretaries and chairpersons, Greg Bateman has specifically confined the contents of the book to the law and relevant legal and practical issues that arise in relation to AGMs and directors' meetings. As such, the book is aimed at providing company secretaries, chairpersons, directors and, where appropriate, members, with a practical manual of the law in these areas, with additional practical guidance being offered through the provision of relevant samples or precedents.

The book is based on the law and information available as at 1 February 2001. Incorporated are the changes made to the now *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth)<sup>1</sup> in relation to company meetings by the *Company Law Review Act 1998* (Cth) and the *Corporate Law Economic Reform Program Act 1999* (Cth). Although publication of the book preceded the Parliamentary Joint Statutory Committee on Corporations and Securities, which reviewed some aspects of the *Company Law Review Act 1998*, and the Companies and Securities Advisory Committee's Final Report, *Shareholder Participation in the Modern Listed Company*, no significant changes have as yet been made in relation to company meetings. In the event of such changes being adopted, supplements for the book are available on the Butterworths website within a reasonable time of any such change to the law coming into force.<sup>2</sup> No such supplement has as yet (02/03) been placed on the Butterworths website.

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<sup>1</sup> Although the text refers to the Corporations Law.

<sup>2</sup> <[www.butterworths.com.au](http://www.butterworths.com.au)> and link to 'Online Update for Books'.