

# www.ipaustralia.gov.au



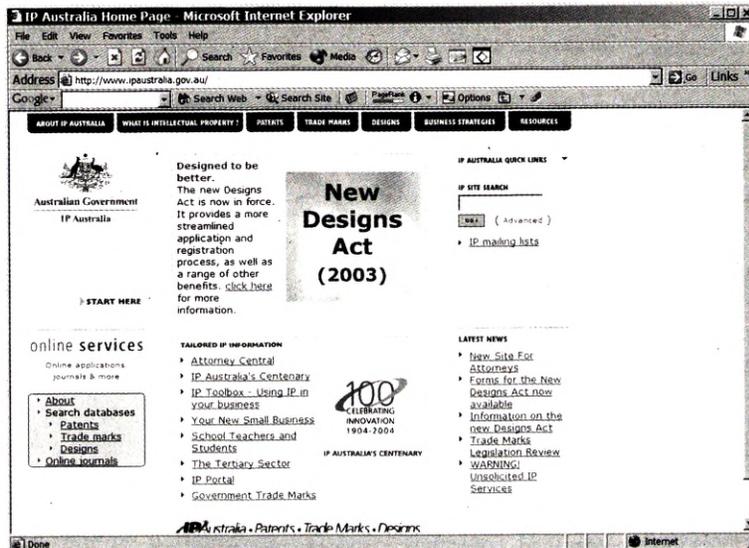
By Matthew Craven, Articled Clerk, Corrs Chambers Westgarth

IP Australia is the federal government body responsible for the regulation of patents, trade marks and designs and its website provides a comprehensive collection of information for both legal professionals and the general public.

The IP Australia website neatly divides the content of the website into the major areas of intellectual property (IP), and also includes useful links to the more obscure and less well known IP rights, such as plant breeder's rights and circuit layout rights.

While copyright is not administered by IP Australia (since there is no registration system for copyright in Australia), the site does provide a basic overview of this important area, along with links to other dedicated sites.

For those in the community, including lawyers, who have a very limited knowledge of IP, the IP Australia website provides a good introduction to this challenging area in easy to understand terms. The initial entry point provides the user with various options which are geared towards specific sections of the community, such as a portal for school teachers and students, tertiary institutions and small business. For those who are interested in a specific type of IP, the navigation bars at the top of the screen provide



useful drop down menus outlining specific topics to do with that particular form of IP. The drop down menus and the general format of the website are very user friendly, and the information is grouped into helpful descriptive categories.

There are a few sections on the website that are of particular interest to legal professionals. First, the website provides links to all the official forms that are required for registering each particular type of IP, together with introductory publications which outline the process and requirements for registration of a patent, trade mark or design. Second, the website

provides access to a variety of online databases which allow the user to search registered and pending patent, trade mark and design applications free of charge. This is an indispensable tool, and is one of the first ports of call when seeking registration, or upon receiving a threat of legal action for infringement. Finally, applications for both patents (except provisional patents) and trade marks can now be made online, although presumably only patent attorneys and IP lawyers would be game to use these facilities.

Other features of the IP Australia website include the search function which ranks results in order of relevance, a business strategies section which outlines important IP issues for large and small enterprises, and a resources section which provides useful links to IP professionals, legislation, official notices, manuals and current IP news. There is also a useful question and answer section for trade marks.

The IP Australia website is a useful starting point for legal professionals needing quick access to IP information, forms and publications, or to search for currently existing or pending IP rights. The ease of use and the breadth of both general and specific information available makes it an invaluable tool for both lawyers and the community in general. ■

## Quick Quiz

Compiled by Jarrod Corbett & Kirsty Harvison

(Answers on page 23)

1. The following is an extract from the transcript in *Joslyn v Berryman* [2003] HCA 34 (18 June 2003):  
**KIRBY J:**  
"A drunk" has all sorts of baggage with it.  
**HAYNE J:**  
Perhaps "\_\_\_\_\_ " is the more modern expression, Mr Jackson, or "well and truly \_\_\_\_\_".  
**MR JACKSON:**  
I am indebted to your Honour."  
What term did Justice Hayne prefer?
2. What does "AustLII" stand for?
3. Which High Court Justice wrote the satirical novel titled "The Missing Masterpiece: A Comedy in a State Art Gallery"?
4. In which year did the Federal Magistrates' Court of Australia conduct its first sitting?
5. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, there were 28,291 law graduates in Australia in 1996. How many were there in 2001 (to the nearest thousand)?
6. Who was the first Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia?
7. What does the latin phrase "en ventre sa mere" mean?
8. Which Commonwealth Act abolished all remaining constitutional provision for appeals from Australian courts to the Privy Council in London?
9. According to a recent survey by the Law Council of Australia Young Lawyers' Committee, what percentage of young lawyers indicated that they were considering leaving their current job in the next 12 months?
10. Name each of the current Justices of the High Court of Australia.