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Editorial: Autumn 2003

Michael Weir
Bond University, Michael_Weir@bond.edu.au

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Editorial

The world is full of circumstances that raise significant legal issues. One area of dispute is how the law deals with property that is 'lost' and whether someone who 'finds' the property can ever claim the property as their own. Sometimes if you have found property that has been truly lost or you take steps to find the loser you might be entitled to the best right to that asset. Assistant Professor Winnie Ma in her article *Finders Keepers Losers Weepers* looks at this interesting but sometimes confusing area of law.

Associate Professor David Field deals with the vexed subject of assisted suicide. That was the topic dealt with in the 2002 Grand Final of the Bond University High Schools' Mooting Competition. This is an issue that arises when terminally ill patients decide to take their own initiative in regard to their future. Where do the people who might assist these efforts stand? This issue is explored in *Aiding suicide: a modern moral dilemma.*

In recent months some significant High Court cases have been delivered on native title. It is now clear that it will be increasingly difficult for native title claimants to make successful claims. The trend of authority makes more difficult the proof of a continuing connection between land and native title claimants. I deal with a couple of recent cases in *Next Chapter in the Story of Native Title.*

Ever wondered about the massive payouts to company executives while their company is doing badly? Assistant Professor John Lessing confronts this issue in *The Corporate Governance Debate* and explains why these situations arise and what might be a solution..

In the past year or so the issue of illegal immigrants became an important legal and political issue. Some prominent lawyers felt so strongly about the matter that they undertook pro-bona work on behalf of some refugees. The resultant costs order that the Commonwealth Government sought against those lawyers raises some important policy issues relevant to the role of lawyers in representing litigants who cannot afford to pay. Kay Lauchland deals with these issues in her article *Access to Justice: Lawyers' Costs When Acting Pro Bono in Public Interest Litigation.*

Ever thought about a career in the law? You don't have to be a barrister or a solicitor. We provide you with some interesting career options. The law school's Librarian John Barhij also provides you with some interesting internet sites to assist you in researching legal topics. This will be of interest to students and teachers alike. Remember to always acknowledge your source if you these sources for an assignment.

I hope this issue stimulates you and provides you with some interesting debates topics.

Email: legal_eagle@bond.edu.au
Associate Professor Michael Weir
Editor- In- Chief
School of Law
Bond University

Did You know

Carpenter had his measure

A carpenter had been subpoenaed as a witness to an assault. He was asked by the barrister what distance he was from the parties when the blow was made. The reply was 'Just ten feet five inches and a half'. 'Pray tell me,' said the counsel, 'how is it possible that you can be so exact about the distance?' 'Well to tell you the truth' replied the carpenter, 'I thought that perhaps some fool or other might ask me, so I measured it with my ruler.'

Advocacy Tip

The British author Somerset Maugham cites the advice a law professor gave to his students:

' If you have the facts on your side, hammer them into the jury. If you have the law on your side, hammer it into the judge.' 'And if you have neither?' asked one student. 'Then hammer on the table.' he replied.

Matrimonial Vows

A witness once said to Justice Symthe:

' You may believe me or not, but I have stated not a word that is false, for I have been wedded to truth from infancy.'

'Yes, sir,' said the judge dryly, 'but the question is how long have you been a widower?'

John Aye, Humour Among the Lawyers

Calendar of Events

The Law Experience

The Bond University School of Law each year conducts a seminar for high school students called The Law Experience. This year the theme is 'The Living Law.' The Law Experience is designed to allow high school students to experience university life and to be introduced to some interesting legal topics. This will help students to understand if they might enjoy attending law school. Lectures are provided by the faculty of Bond University School of Law and coincides with the Grand Final of the High Schools Mooting Competition.

Where: Law School Bond University
When: Saturday 26 July - Sunday 27 July 2003
Cost: $77
More Details: Contact Cherie Daye on 07/55952057 or on email cherie_daye@bond.edu.au

Second National Legal Studies Teachers Conference

Where: Law School Bond University
When: 28-30 August 2003
More Details: Contact Cherie Daye on 07/55952057 or on email cherie_daye@bond.edu.au