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tive politics' and slot the movement against domestic violence into what is revealed as the changing face of Australian politics in the late 20th century. So, for example, you will find a detailed analysis of the Franklin River Campaign, an interesting account of the rise of the female public servant class, known as 'femocrats' and a dissection of the revolution in Nicaragua. All lead to a social movement against violence in the home.

Call for action and activities to establish crisis services, refuges and associated structures to assist women and children who are victims at the violent hands of husbands, male partners or male relations is a nationwide movement with nationwide responses. The authors explain: 'The movement against domestic violence has adopted grass roots strategies to a greater extent than the environment movement' (p.139). The book seeks to focus on how the movement achieved high profile and effect in Canberra. The successes and difficulties of the ACT experience are used to make and keep the movement moving forward through written recording and analysis.

The choice of factors analysed as having impinged on the development of the movement gives the book its twist. Positive factors are identified in chapters entitled 'The Women's Movement and Awareness of Domestic Violence' (Chapter 1), 'The Femocrats' (Chapter 3), 'The Crisis Service as an Organisational Hybrid' (Chapter 5) and 'Strategies for Social Change' (Chapter 10). More problematic impacts on the work for change are looked at in the chapters about delivering the service (Chapter 6) and the chapters on interaction between the crisis service established and the police and legal system (Chapters 7 and 8).

Working for Change seems framed to push (rather than persuade) for further change and keep up a momentum; what the authors write about is making a new system, now operational, begin the *real* work. Those falling behind the changes are challenged by the

chronicles of 'The Refuge Movement' (Chapter 2) and 'The Origins of the Domestic Violence Crisis Service' (Chapter 4) which provide cogent argument for supporting the experts in the field (the women working in the refuge movement, in particular) to continue with the backing of those institutions which could not of their own volition address the problem but which retain the power to call men to account.

Having called the challenge, the authors go on to put strong views (in the chapters on police and the legal system) to keep alive the debate as to the effectiveness of these powerful institutions. The authors argue against the preference for traditional notions of justice demonstrated primarily by police and legal bodies. The consequences of such views include the realities that a man who commits an offence of violence against his family can remain in 'his' home while women and children made homeless by the crime committed against them receive no protection or security and, in the working of that system, workers for the victims of violence are dismissed, despite their experience and the assistance they are able to provide in the field. The net result is identified as an attitude that the law relating to domestic violence is not 'real law'. The police reflect this attitude in the arrangement of the police force such that 'domestics' often do not receive any priority response.

To counter the attitude that domestic violence is not important or can be resolved without 'outside' intervention *Working for Change* confirms the call for making violence in the home a crime, like other violent behaviour, and a concern of the community at large. Chapter 9 argues that it is only by the systematic use of the criminal law that community attitudes to domestic violence will change.

After reading nine chapters, the question we are left with is a challenge too: can women go further and use the mechanism of the criminal law to achieve what is perceived to be good? In her foreword to the book, Jocelyne Scutt posed a warning by concluding

that *Working for Change* 'provides a strong and ever strengthening base for women of the future' (p.xviii).

The reader closes this book on a promise: work for change will not stop. The authors set a compelling example in commitment to the search for better understanding and expression of the domestic violence problem. Both authors are more than qualified to write about domestic violence having spent considerable time working for the changes already made. They have achieved a professional approach which is also very interesting to read, on a subject that is always heavy.

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SHAREHOLDERS' RIGHTS AND REMEDIES

by Peter Willcocks; Federation Press, Sydney, 1991, paperback \$40.00.

Despite the 'great leap forward' in the early 1980s in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland to provide for incorporating non-profit associations as in the other States and Territories, a significant number of community groups are incorporated or registered under the *Corporations Law*. In the ACT, for example, both the Welfare Rights and Legal Centre Limited and the Canberra Repertory Society are companies.

For a growing number of activists, a successful method of achieving their objectives is to become members/shareholders of major manufacturing and developer corporations and influence their activities and policies 'from within'.

For both groups, *Shareholders' Rights and Remedies* by Peter Willcocks will be most useful as it will be for those shareholders and their advisers who simply need to address the mechanisms available to meet

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intransigence, irregularity, impropriety or oppression in the way companies conduct their affairs.

Despite the title, much of this book applies to companies limited both by share and by guarantee, and thus 'member' could be substituted for 'shareholder' in the title without much change. There are some differences; for example, a non-shareholding member who complains of oppression (s.260 *Corporations Law*) could obviously not obtain some of the relief discussed, such as the purchase of his or her shares.

Although a comparatively slim volume (132 pages including index and 18 pages of Contents and Tables) this is a most useful source of detailed information about the options available to a complaining member/shareholder, combining clarity of expression with compendiousness of treatment.

The author deals with the rights and remedies one would immediately think of such as oppression suits (Chapter 4) and winding up (Chapter 5). But he also considers a much wider range: from control of management (Chapter 2), appointment and removal of directors (Chapter 3), receivership (Chapter 6), the derivative action (Chapter 7) and the personal action (Chapter 5), to other statutory remedies (Chapter 10). Important ancillary rights, such as the right to information (Chapter 9) and the enforcement of listing rule (Chapter 12) are also included.

For each right or remedy, the author details its relevance and availability, with a comprehensive use of examples and case law. The explanations are admirable; I think I now finally understand the rule in *Foss v Harbottle*.

The text is generally comprehensible for the intelligent lay reader who has some familiarity with the law, but is still detailed enough to be valuable to the practising lawyer and accountant or other adviser. The occasional 'thereof', 'in respect of' and 'it is submitted' betrays the author's profession, but this stilted language does not mar the exposition.

In short, if there is a remedy for a company member who has a complaint, it will be found here. The reader will be able to find and understand the general principles, whether his or her circumstances are likely to lead to the grant of the remedy and, in general, how that relief may be obtained.

The law as stated is up-to-date, but, of course, in this area it is continually being modified or extended, as activity by company members increases. We can expect more change in the near future as consumer rights, fortunately, gain greater ascendancy.

Thus, advances have already been made beyond the description in the book. For example, contrary to the suggestion on p.27, at least one judge has now suggested that past conduct may be sufficient to show oppression under s.260 of the *Corporation Law* (*Re Companies* (WA) *Code and Re Spargos Mining NL* (1990) 3 WAR 166). Incidentally, a useful summary of the law on this section (mostly consistent with the treatment here) is set out in *John J. Starr (Real Estate) Pty Ltd v Robert R. Andrew (A'Asia) Pty Ltd* 6 ACSR 63.

In the recently introduced concept of a right to information, New South Wales finally has a decided case on s.319 of the *Corporations Law*. It accepts the general view of the other States' courts as set out in the text, but slows the pace, only very cautiously opening the crack to members seeking access to a company's records: *Cescastle Pty Ltd v Renak Holdings Pty Ltd* 6 ACSR 115.

The book is well produced: clear type, good binding and clear footnotes — though the repetition of citations is a little boring, particularly as the Table of Cases includes the citations. (After the 36th repetition of the citation for *Foss v Harbottle*, thrice or more on the same page, on four pages, the reader knows it off by heart: 2 *Hare* 461. The more common and useful citation, 67 ER 189, is also quoted but inexplicably only four times!)

There are a few editing lapses: for example, on p.19 'Companies Law' appears for what is clearly 'Corporations Law'; at p.61 *Re Tivoli*

Freeholds Ltd is called *Re Tivoli Holdings Pty Ltd* and all members seem to be male, when gender-neutral language is not difficult to achieve.

An irritation to the lay reader is that, while the legal principles are mostly set out fully, there are a few lapses into 'case ellipsis', such as: 'The decision in *Pavrides v Jensen* appears to have been distinguished in *Daniels v Daniels*' (p.115), with neither decision explained or described. Mostly, however, the text is self-contained and the reader does not need access to an extensive law library to understand it.

Less common in legal publishing than it should be, this book has the virtue of some normative discussion by the author of whether the range of remedies is adequate (generally he says it is) and what reforms should be made. It also contains a useful but somewhat limited and, regrettably, unannotated bibliography.

All in all, this is a book I would recommend for the generalist as well as the specialist in a growing area of importance.

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