

## Royal Commissions Past

Mr John R Poole  
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The Hon Treasurer  
NSW Bar Association  
Selborne Chambers  
174 Phillip Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Honorary Treasurer,

Several points in this letter:-

First, for the records, will you kindly note my change of address as above?

Secondly, my apologies for delay in sending my annual subscription. Bankers' draft now enclosed - which is for \$45 being three years' subscription.

My reason for this is that I am now in my eighties, in this care and nursing home, with an increasingly unreliable memory. This caused me to overlook your subscription notice, which I am afraid I may do again. In the circumstances, after all these years, do you think this could now be deemed to be life membership? I should hate to lose my membership by default. I think, in fact, that the Association could be up on this! If not, I think I could only be marginally in hand, and it would relieve me of this anxiety.

I particularly value my membership, which was bound up with my representation (almost as a protagonist) of my client in the Studley-Ruxton Royal Commission of 1954



on the subject of police "bashing" of the client while in custody. It lasted for several months and was "hard pounding" against the then Attorney General and the Police Commissioner and their departments - or rather, by them against myself.

At its conclusion, the Bar Council (and also the Law Institute) came out with the unprecedented step of publicly criticising the late Justice Dovey's conduct of the Commission, and in support of myself, for which I was grateful, and which led to my transfer to the Bar from the Solicitors' branch.

This did not have quite the result we all expected at that time (the stream of clients dried up - see copy press extract enclosed) nor, of course, did that Royal Commission have any immediate effect on police affairs, but it was, I like to think, the pioneer of subsequent official enquiries, to culminate in the current Police Royal Commission under Justice Wood, which at last will be significant.

I am enclosing also press cuttings of the public statements by the Bar Council and Law Institute. There cannot be many members of today's Bar who actually remember these events of 40 years ago - indeed, the new Chief Executive doesn't look old enough (from her photograph) even to have been born then! The cuttings may be of interest.

But my Royal Commission was, in its way, part of New South Wales' history - certainly part of the Bar's history - and I just wonder whether the Bar library has a full enough record of it? I possess the full complete transcript of it, and I am not immortal, so I would be willing to donate it to the Library if this were felt to be welcome?

Meanwhile, from this distance in space and time,  
Yours sincerely, John R Poole

## Launch of the Australian Indigenous Law Reporter

International Business Communications (IBC) has announced a quarterly publication - the Australian Indigenous Law Reporter (AILR).

The AILR covers Australian and international developments in the law that relate to and affect indigenous peoples.

The AILR provides essential information for lawyers, legislators, policy makers, lobbyists and scholars, and anyone interested in indigenous and related issues.

In the first issue of Volume 1, the AILR reports on National Native Title Tribunal procedures, and the unreported decision of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission

on due and proper recognition of Aboriginal persons' cultural and spiritual beliefs, in respect of the Municipal Employees (WA) Award 1992.

Each issue contains material from the United Nations, including documents of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, and decisions of the UN Human Rights Committee.

Subscriptions are \$A85 per year or \$A150 for two years. For further information contact Wendy Landa, UNSW Faculty of Law. Telephone (02) 385 2850 Fax (02) 385 1175. Subscription enquiries to Jennie Hacker. Telephone (02) 221 6199 Fax (02) 221 5928. □