

from the immediacy and necessary subjectivity of a memoir. Chris describes how he always seemed at the bottom of the system:

I waited impatiently for promotion to a chapel stall further back from the centre aisle. I also waited impatiently to be moved from the top table, away from the scrutiny of the eating, watching priests. But I never seemed to finish my apprenticeship. That feeling of juniority remained all my life. As soon as my goal was claimed, more was expected. Another goal came into view. No sooner was I a senior at Springwood than I became a junior at Manly, then as a senior in the major seminary I became a junior member of the clergy, and later a junior member of the seminary staff, and later still, a junior solicitor when I was quite senior, then a junior barrister, and finally a junior judge. I always felt that I was at the bottom of the pile, to be seen, observed, assessed, but not heard. I never seemed to be able to demonstrate my loyalty to the satisfaction of others, always under suspicion, oozing rebellion, waiting to be chosen as part of the team.

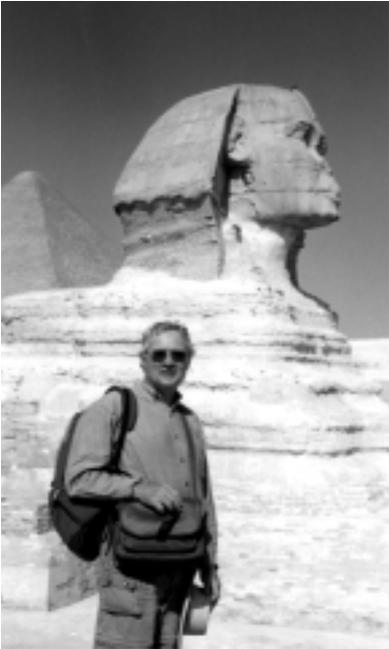
Chris's two sons, now 20 and 22, were amused by reading the book. Even after reading it, it seems to them to be a foreign world.

Chris found time to write the book over the last five years, in particular when he was on circuit with the Compensation Court some 12 weeks a year and during his holidays. As will be well-known, the Compensation Court travels to many places, including Newcastle, Wollongong, Albury, Broken Hill, Byron Bay, Tumut and Batemans Bay, and this provided some of the opportunities for the reflection and writing necessary to create the book.

Chris has further works in the pipeline, including a book which is intended to be published by the end of this year which will deal with his life as a student at the Manly Seminary between 1958 and 1962. Father Ted Kennedy of Redfern will be writing the foreword to that book.

Between 1963 and 1972 Chris was a young priest in a parish and completed his doctorate at Manly Seminary on Irenaeus, the third Bishop of Lyon in the second century AD. He taught at Springwood in the area of liturgy. Between 1972 and 1975 Chris studied liturgy in Paris and subsequently returned to teach at the Manly Seminary. He left the priesthood in 1976, after which he married and moved into a working life in the law.

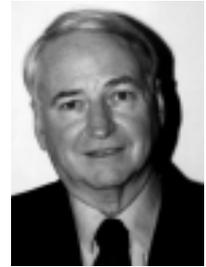
Cassocks in the Wilderness is published by Spectrum Publications, Melbourne.



What are they doing now?

This column is an occasional piece which will update readers on what some of our former barristers and judges are now doing.

Gerald Edward (Tony) Fitzgerald will be known to many from his time as a Federal Court judge (1981 – 1984), commissioner of Inquiry into Corruption in Queensland (1987 – 1989) and inaugural president of the Court of Appeal in Queensland (1991 – 1998). More recently, Tony has been a judge of the Court of Appeal in Sydney (1998 – 2001). However, Tony's time as a judge has now ended forever (he says). He describes his occupation now as 'mediator, arbitrator and dispute resolution consultant'.



As examples of some of the work Tony has done recently, apart from his work in the area of commercial disputes, he conducted a four-month study into issues of justice involving the Cape York Aboriginal communities, providing a report in November 2001. He has also acted as a mediator between the Queensland Police and individual and group demonstrators relating to the CHOGM conference held in Queensland.

Some of his other activities include his position as Chairperson of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales. One of the important forthcoming projects of the Foundation is a survey of the special access to justice needs of socially and economically disadvantaged people (whether indigenous, poor or disabled). He is also Chairperson of the Advisory Board for the Key Centre of Ethics, Justice and Governance established by Griffith University. One of their current projects is the Pathways Project. This concerns the impact of early childhood opportunities on later criminal behaviour.

Tony is also a member of the mediation and arbitration panels established by the body known as ADR Chambers International. This body is a cousin of the original ADR Chambers, which was established in Canada. The Canadian body consists of senior counsel and former judges who have combined to provide a one-stop shopping point for ADR services. Another cousin is ADR UK Limited which, as its web site proudly discloses, contains a large number of the former law lords and former lord justices of appeal as its members.

Bar News wishes Tony well in this next and varied stage of his distinguished legal career.



Observed on New Year's Day (2002), in the alpine shelter at Harris Saddle in the Southern Alps, Margo SC reading Odgers on Evidence (800 grams).