

network [ELN] will be Property Exchange Australia [PEXA] so I will refer to the ELN as PEXA)"

The overview has useful screen shots from the current draft of the web portal and a step by step discussion working through a typical transaction.

Listing the benefits claimed by Property Exchange Australia, Mr Rosier says "some of these benefits may be in to the category of 'spin' since PEXA has become a commercial product like any other". He summarises the practical benefits as time saving communication with banks by phone plus a settlement cost of \$40.00 - \$50.00. This is unconvincing justification for the millions of dollars already spent.

The brief history of electronic conveyancing only goes back to the turn of the millennium. Referring to the millions of dollars spent in Victoria to undertake very few transactions as "a heroic effort" is perhaps accurate if we are talking about tragic heroes but the description "not a great success" is more than kind.

The history lesson requires reference to several other acronyms. I presume the change of name from the Australian Registrars Electronic Conveyancing Steering Committee (ARECSC) to Australian Registrars National Electronic Conveyancing Council (ARNECC) was necessary when the former acronym received unfortunate phonetics, spoken as a single word.

Practitioners who have an interest in this area would be well rewarded by consideration of this book.

Many practitioners might be wise to apply a just in time philosophy and postpone consideration until the design and introduction of the National Electronic Conveyancing System is certain and about to be operational in Tasmania.

Intellectual Property Collection 2013  
Lexis Nexis  
pp 1467 \$98  
Reviewed by Nicholas Reaburn

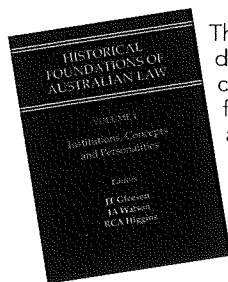
This book is one within the LexisNexis Legislation Series of collections of topic related legal resources.

This reference text contains the core body of statutory enactments

relating to intellectual property law together with international treaties and conventions. The legislation includes the Copyright Act 1968 (Cth), Designs Act 2003 (Cth), Patents Act 1990 (Cth), Trade Marks Act 1995 and other less well recognized intellectual property legislation. Amongst the treaties and conventions you will find the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and the Patent Co-operation Treaty. For those practicing in the cultural area, serving artists and musicians for example, this book is a source not only of the Copyright Act but also the Resale Royalty Right for Visual Artists Act 2009 (Cth) and the WIPO Performances and Phonographs Treaty. And for those advising participants in the business industries where Marks are in use, (such as franchising), the collection contains not only the Trademarks Act 1995 (Cth) but also the Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks. Or, for example, touching on the computer industry, not only is the Copyright Act 1968 to hand, but also the Circuit Layouts Act 1989 (Cth). Also in the Collection you will find less known sources of Law regarding agricultural endeavours such as the Plant Breeders Rights Act 1994 (Cth).

Generally I found this reference collection to be easy to use with a quick reference directory and would highly recommend it to practitioners involved in the provision of commercial advice.

Historical Foundations of Australian Law,  
Volume 1: Institutions, Concepts and  
Personalities.  
Gleeson, Watson & Higgins (eds)  
The Federation Press  
457 pp \$99  
Reviewed by Claire White



This book is ultimately designed to be a course work text for law students and is intended to provide readers with a grounding in Australian legal history. The editors of the book consider that, with growing pressure on university balance sheets, legal history as a subject

appears to "have been one of the first against the wall when the revolution came". The text's purpose is to provide a deeper understanding of how the modern Australian legal system has developed and to encourage readers to consider the underpinning legal and governmental structures that moulded that development.

The text contains an eclectic series of essays from a formidable list of contributors, addressing topics ranging from development of the English feudal law and early forms of writs, to the Roman common law, through to early statutes and the development of the courts of equity. These essays are followed by an analysis of the introduction of English law into Australia, Australian land law and discussion of the separation of powers and the doctrine of precedent. The text ends with essays outlining the contributions of notable historical legal figures, such as Justice Joseph Story and Sir Owen Dixon and an analysis of the key theories of jurisprudence.

Each essay is a stand-alone piece, but each follows on from the last in a general way to provide a broad brush discussion of the historical development of Australian law. The two essays looking at the contributions of Justice Joseph Story and Sir Owen Dixon, while interesting on their own, also provide a clever juxtaposition between the development of the American Constitution and our own, and the differing techniques of constitutional interpretation that arose as a result of the different governmental backgrounds in which the two constitutions were created.

The text also includes a chronology of the relevant legal developments that are referred to throughout the book and a glossary to explain terms like mesne lord, trover, mort d'ancestor and the standard smattering of Latin phrases. Even with this assistance this text is best read with a dictionary close at hand. This book packs a phenomenal volume of information into a small package and would be interesting to anyone wanting to broaden their knowledge of legal history.

The second volume in the series deals with the development of Commercial Common Law, including topics such as negligence, defamation, legal professional privilege and bankruptcy and insolvency law.

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