

## Avert your gaze

London January 2001: A man created legal history as the first defendant to appear in court entirely naked.

Judge George Bathurst-Norman allowed Vincent Bethell, 28, to appear in the courtroom 'in the duff' but insisted he remain seated in the waist high dock.

According to the *Sydney Morning Herald* (12 January 2001) the defendant was excused having to stand when the judge entered the room "to spare the blushes of female jurors."

"For the first few days of the week-long hearing the judge ordered the court to be cleared everytime Mr Bethell was led in and out of the dock. He later dispensed with this at the request of Mr Bethell's lawyers but advised female jurors to avert their gaze when Mr Bethell was walking to and from the dock."

Mr Bethell was in court charged with causing a public nuisance. He had been arrested six times — five in London and once in Bristol.

He was cleared of his charges.

## The Hot 100

Ex-Darwin lawyer Alistair Wyvill has made it to the *Lawyers Weekly* Hot 100 — the only Australian to achieve the honour.

*The Lawyer* (26 January 2001) writes that "Barrister Alistair Wyvill is the sole lawyer from Down Under rubbing shoulders among the great and good of the legal profession in the UK and beyond.

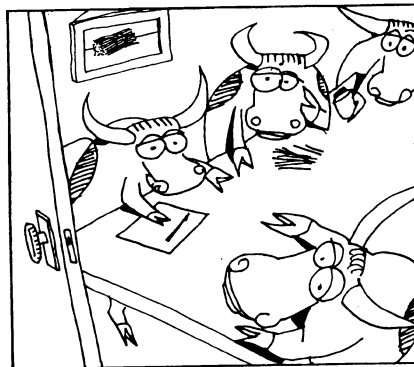
"Now happily installed in St Philips Chambers, Birmingham, Wyvill has already built a solid reputation in the three years he has been in England. He hopes his entry in the Hot 100 will be a further boost.

"It is not quite a knighthood, but it certainly will help me take more away from London commercial chambers," he says.

"There are fantastic opportunities for experienced commercial barristers outside London. The weather and traffic are, however, another matter..."

Wyvill has said he will put up with both but at least another five years, but hopes to return to his home country after that.

## The Muster Room



Plain... gobblegook!

Encouraging lawyers to use plain English is a recurring theme heartily endorsed by most editors of Law Society journals. It seems, however, that not all calls have been heeded.

According to the SMH's Column 8 (8 February 2001) a solicitor in the Supreme Court lift at Queens Square, Sydney, overheard two barristers discussing a matter.

"One asked the question. The reply (and probably another \$100 on the fee: 'I'm afraid that is not comprised within the categories currently at my disposal.' The 50cent translation: "I don't know".

# PEOPLE AND THE LAW

## Priestleys

Darwin firm Priestleys have moved. They are now located at:

First Floor, Frontier House  
21 Cavenagh Street  
Tel: 08 8941 5957  
Fax: 8941 5962

## Sue Oliver

Professor Sue Oliver been appointed to the International Legal Services Advisory Council. She began her three year term on the 17 member council on January 1 2001.

The advisory council provides advice to the Federal Attorney-General on the Australian legal sector's performance in the international arena.

## Gavin Coombs

Gavin Coombs is an Articled Clerk at Morgan Buckley in Darwin.

**Background:** Loxton to Adelaide to Darwin.

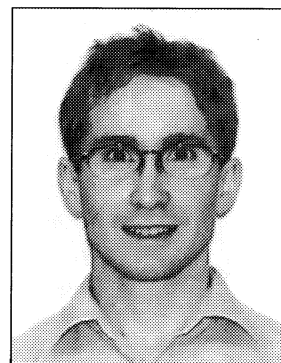
**Why did you want to go into law?** I wanted to be a cop but couldn't swim very well, so . .

**What do you see are the key issues facing Australia in the new century?** Statehood, Northern Territory and its development. . .

**Who would you chose to be Australia's first president?** Tim Fischer.

**What is your ideal sort of holiday?** Canoe Camping on the Murray.

**Where do you go for your regular hit of coffee?** Cafe Uno.



**Complete this sentence: I couldn't live without ...** Karen's phone call from HK every night.

**If you were given a \$50 voucher to spend what would you buy?** Socks and Jocks in 10 pks (I won't buy them any other time).

**Name your top three all time favourite films:** Uncle Buck (John Candy), Blade Runner, Aliens.