

modest. All of them purport not only to predict legal outcomes, but also to provide an account of how legal officials ought to reach those decisions. These theories, in other words, were both descriptive (and in that way 'scientific'), and normative or prescriptive.

Having registered that (quasi-obligatory and relatively minor) quibble, I believe that Margeret Davies' work has already earned her a solid and well-deserved place in Australian jurisprudence. Hers is a fresh, lively and imaginative voice whose range and scope is commendable. *Asking the Law Question* is a welcome addition to contemporary works in jurisprudence, and those of us who believe that 'asking the law question' is central to our work as scholars owe her a debt of gratitude and look forward to further works by a promising and provocative scholar. Even more welcome, I might add, is a lively, articulate and provocative feminist voice. While feminist scholarship within the Australian legal academy has been rich and varied for some years, elegant and disciplined feminist theoretical voices remain rare, here as elsewhere.

*Sandra Berns**

Dennis Rose, *Lewis Australian Bankruptcy Law*, 10th ed, Law Book Co, 1994, pp 350, \$45 (pbk), \$65 (hb).

This text, now in its tenth edition, is still the standard text for Personal Insolvency courses in Australia. The book is intended 'as an explanation of the principles of bankruptcy law, and as a guide to its details, for use by students, legal practitioners, trustees and other people concerned with bankruptcy, arrangements between insolvency debtors and their creditors, and related matters.' The monograph more than fulfils this aim. It contains a detailed analysis of the principles applicable to all areas of bankruptcy and Part X arrangements with further references to the statutory provisions, the decided cases and the other texts.

The book looks at the area of insolvency in chronological fashion beginning with an introduction to the purposes of the law of bankruptcy and the applicable legislation, both Federal and State. Chapter Two examines the history of bankruptcy and Chapter Three the administration; the author explaining the role of the courts, officials and trustees.

Chapters Four through Eight examine the way in which a person may become bankrupt. The principles applicable to debtor

* Associate Professor of Law, University of Tasmania.

and creditor petitions are outlined; with one chapter, Chapter Six, looking exclusively at the problems associated with bankruptcy notices. Importantly the author considers not only the legislative provisions and the cases on the area, but also the applicable statutory rules governing the presentation and the service of creditors' and debtors' petitions. The cases are not generally discussed in significant detail; rather the principle of the decision is given in the main text with a footnote reference to the case.

Chapter Nine examines the effect of going bankrupt with Chapter Ten considering the lodgement of the proofs of debt. The next three chapters outline procedures that occur upon going bankrupt, the meeting of creditors, the committee of inspection and the possibility of a composition or scheme of arrangement being proposed by the bankrupt.

The next seven chapters consider the important topic of the property available to creditors. Importantly an overview is given in Chapter Fourteen which provides the reader with an outline of what is to follow. In each of the chapters as with the rest of the book the reader is provided with a summary of the law together with a guide to the relevant decisions and statutory provisions.

Chapters Twenty-one and Twenty-two consider the recovery of property, Twenty-one dealing with recovery from 'controlled entities' with the later chapter looking at the topic more generally. Subsequent chapters deal with the management and sale of the estate, discharge and annulment of bankruptcy.

Separate treatment is given to second bankruptcies, deceased persons' estates in bankruptcy and offences and contempt of court. In Chapter Twenty-nine the author outlines the principles applicable to Part X arrangements.

Throughout the book liberal use is made of headings, sub-headings and lists to guide readers to the particular aspect that they wish to find. This book does fill that gap between the detailed looseleaf services on the area and the summary treatment provided to bankruptcy in most business law texts. Any text that is in its tenth edition has proved its popularity and worth, and the latest edition of *Lewis' Australian Bankruptcy Law* will only continue the impetus for further updates.

*Lynden Griggs**

* Lecturer in law, University of Tasmania.