

and if as a result other changes had escaped the authors' attention.

Overall *Consumer Protection Law* is a detailed and comprehensive book but not tediously so. I will in the future undoubtedly use it as a reference book and if I was teaching a topic to undergraduate students I would certainly use it as a text book. However, I would also want to supplement it with other more evaluative materials because while it argues at the outset that self-regulation is not effective, it then proceeds to

avoid evaluation of consumer protection law in Australia. In this way the authors display a surprising reluctance to consider the important questions about whether Australian law in this area is satisfactory, and about the ways it could be improved. In sum, more attention could have been paid to pondering the wood not just the trees. Law books should examine how our society can be better served by law.

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In the Same Boat: The Self Help Kit

The Collective of Self Help Groups; 3rd edn, 1998; 56 pp, \$8 plus \$2 postage.

This publication is designed as a resource for groups involved in self help and/or social change. It aims to provide basic information for groups to help them get started, keep going and even wind up if necessary. The different possible group structures are explained along with the various functions such groups can provide for their members and for the general public.

There is plenty of practical advice on how to set up a group and look after the day-to-day tasks such as: conducting meetings; obtaining and keeping track of the finances; and resolving conflict. Interaction between the group and outside world is covered with sections on handling enquiries, using the media, producing news sheets, liaising with professionals and using the internet.

For those groups eager to take their message out into the world, there is a section which covers strategies on how to run campaigns, demonstrations, petitions, boycotts and occupations. *In the Same Boat* also includes lists of relevant resources, publications and organisations' contacts.

On the whole, *In the Same Boat* provides lots of basic knowledge on how to run a self help or social action group as well as supplying leads for those requiring further information and some fun cartoons by Judy Horacek.

To obtain copies contact: COSHG, PO Box 251 Brunswick East, 3057 or tel 03 9349 2301, Wednesdays 2-4 p.m.

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