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SUBJECT MATTER

ACCIDENT COMPENSATION

Claim for compensation by process worker - worker sustained chronic pain syndrome - claimant sent a Return to Work plan - worker advised by doctor not to return to work - magistrate not in error in making an order for weekly payments: 38/06

CIVIL PROCEEDINGS

- **Agency** principal and agent alleged factoring arrangement failure to disclose any agency no evidence of relationship between contracting parties no agency: 06/06
- **Contract** agreements to purchase wine grapes for 10-yr period inconvenience of provisions agreed to by parties finding by magistrate that buyer bound by terms of agreement no error: 10/06
- Credit card debt assigned by bank to a debt collector debt sale agreement debts assigned specified in annexure not produced to court - magistrate not in error in finding that bank had assigned debts: 29/06
- **Defamation** drug testing station set up with media representatives present person tested positive test later test not positive no charges laid "publication" consideration of aspects of the law of defamation: 25/06
- **Insurance** motor vehicle damages claim for indemnity omission to disclose relevant information to insurer claim not fraudulent insured's claim upheld no error by magistrate: 01/06
- **Principal and agent** alleged factoring arrangement failure to disclose any agency no evidence of relationship between contracting parties no agency: 06/06
- **Proceeding struck out with right of reinstatement** first application to reinstate dismissed second application not an abuse of process matters to take into consideration when hearing second or subsequent application: 09/06
- **Tort** claim for damages against State of Victoria when police officers evicted the plaintiffs from their premises actionable duty of care does not exist claim dismissed: 39/06
- **Trade and commerce** sale of house and land property shown to inexperienced buyer representations made by seller when seller did not own property later sold to buyer at a substantial profit matter referred to Director of Consumer Affairs Magistrate not in error in finding seller had engaged in misleading or deceptive conduct: 28/06
- **Work and Labour done** alleged negligence in carrying out repairs to a boat engine duty of care breached contributory negligence magistrate in error in allowing counterclaim as equalling amount of claim: 08/06
- **Work and labour done** finding by magistrate that frayed timing belt not the cause of engine failure appeal dismissed magistrate in error in finding that there was no contractual relationship between mechanic and his company judge in error in awarding indemnity costs against unsuccessful party: 32/06

CRIMINAL LAW

- **Aggravated burglary** accused armed with offensive weapon namely a pocket knife magistrate correct in finding that pocket knife was not an offensive weapon in the circumstances: 27/06
- **Bail -** forfeiture of order that surety pay amount undertaken surety to be given notice before matter of forfeiture considered surety may contest or make submissions at hearing court to determine period in default of payment of undertaking: 13/06
- **Child leaving child care centre** exposed to potential harm child not properly supervised or protected company charged with offences company liable: 14/06
- **Cultivation of cannabis** plants weighing more than 30kgs commercial quantity "25.0kg or 100 plants" meaning of commercial quantity is either 25 kgs or 100 plants: 11/06
- **Evidence** admissibility of record of interview matters to be considered when objection taken to admission of record of interview: 12/06
- **Evidence** Company employee approached by management no caution given before interview magistrate not in error in excluding evidence of managers and police informant: 03/06
- Rape charge flight consciousness of guilt matters to take into account when deciding such issues: 21/06

EVIDENCE

- admissibility of record of interview matters to be considered when objection taken to admission of record of interview: 12/06
- Company employee approached by management interviewed no caution given before interview magistrate not in error in excluding evidence of managers and police informant: 03/06
- Rape charge flight consciousness of guilt matters to take into account when deciding such issues: 21/06
- "Without Prejudice" privilege letter containing request for payment by instalments marked "without prejudice" proceedings concluded letter not privileged from production in proceedings to pay debt by instalments: 19/06

INSURANCE

- Motor vehicle damage claim - omission by insured to disclose relevant information - whether omission induced false belief in insurer - claim not made fraudulently - insured's claim upheld: 01/06

SUBJECT MATTER

MOTOR TRAFFIC

- Drink/driving
 - **Accident occurred** refusal to undergo PBT belief by police officer that driver involved in an accident prosecution not required to prove belief beyond reasonable doubt magistrate correct in finding charge proved: 17/06
 - **Blood sample taken by doctor at hospital** when driver released did not have sample in his possession doctor required by regulations to give sample to driver magistrate found "evidence to the contrary" and dismissed charge magistrate in error: 35/06
 - **Blood sample taken by doctor** container of blood not given to police officer placed by doctor in blood safe at hospital sample later collected and taken for analysis magistrate not satisfied with integrity of sample charge dismissed no error strict compliance with statutory provisions required: 37/06
 - **Breath test** reference in certificate to "0.010 grams of alcohol in 210 litres of breath" reference in Act to "grams per 210 litres of exhaled air" difference immaterial: 04/06
 - **Breath test** evidence given by operator not familiar with regulations magistrate to properly consider the defence under s49(4) of *Road Safety Act* 1986 magistrate in error in dismissing charge: 15/06
 - **breath test** taken at road block no lights or signs indicating that a preliminary breath testing station had been set up magistrate not in error in finding charges proved: 40/06
 - **Breath test taken** driver notified of result given caution "No comment" to questions driver later convicted court took into account fact that driver had not raised defence at time court in error accused's silence after caution not to be used against accused: 30/06
 - **Brief of evidence procedure adopted** matter proceeded *ex parte* brief not tendered in evidence no proof that operator authorised or that PBT had been conducted using a prescribed device magistrate in error in finding charge proved: 16/06
 - **Refusal to undergo PBT** no evidence called that device used was a prescribed device magistrate in error in dismissing charge: 31/06
- Parking Infringement owner onus notice not complied with statutory declaration by company to effect
 that it was not the actual driver charge and summons issued corporation cannot be in charge of
 vehicle magistrate in error in dismissing charge: 07/06

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Bias - alleged perceived bias - test to be applied in determining whether judicial officer is disqualified by reason of the appearance of bias - objective test: 20/06

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- **Amendment of pleadings** general rule that pleadings can be amended in order to determine the real question in dispute between parties: 23/06
- **Application under** *Confiscation Act* **1997** as a general rule notice must be given to any person who may have an interest in the property: 26, 34/06
- **Charge and summons** issued but not filed with Registrar within 7 days proceeding commenced later struck out magistrate in error in refusing an application for reinstatement: 24/06
- **Charge and summons** not issued within 7 days of signing charge-sheet no proceeding commenced charge struck out magistrate in error in refusing application for reinstatement: 24/06
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- **Forfeiture of bail** order that surety pay amount undertaken surety to be given notice before matter of forfeiture considered surety may contest or make submissions at hearing court to determine period in default of payment of undertaking: 13/06
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- **Proceeding struck out with right of reinstatement** first application to reinstate dismissed second application not an abuse of process matters to take into consideration when hearing second or subsequent application: 09/06

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- **Offences committed whilst on parole** sentence to be served cumulatively unless exceptional circumstances exist consideration of factors said to amount to "exceptional circumstances" totality principle: 22/06
- **Period spent in custody** period wasted may be generally taken into account as part of wide sentencing discretion: p27/06
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STATUTORY INTERPRETATION

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Publication of book - authored by police officer - containing confidential information - published by book publisher - court not in error in finding that author published confidential information: 36/06

Sex Offenders Registration - Act does not apply to all persons who commit sexual offences - where person was undergoing a wholly suspended sentence for a registrable offence before 1 October 2004 that person was not an existing controlled registrable offender: 18/06

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Arktos Pty Ltd v Idyllic Nominees Pty Ltd [2004] FCAFC 119 (10 May 2004), referred to: 28/06

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Bessell (1997) Tas SC, 29 August 1997, referred to: 03/06

Bogdanovski v Bogdanovski [1989] VR 897, referred to: 31/06

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Britton v The Royal Insurance Co (1866) 4 F and F 905, referred to: 01/06

Browne v Dunn (1893) 6 R 67, referred to: 35/06

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Chamberlain v R (No 2) (1984) 153 CLR 521, referred to: 12/06

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Cleary v Australian Co-Operative Foods Ltd (1999) 32 ACSR 701, referred to: 28/06

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DA Christie Pty Ltd v Baker [1996] 2 VR 582, considered: 09/06

Daniel Wong v Citibank Ltd [2004] NSWCA 396, referred to: 28/06

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Dey v Victorian Railways Commissioners (1949) 78 CLR 62, applied: 25, 39/06

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Entwills Pty Ltd v National and General Insurance Co Ltd (1991) 6 ANZ Ins Cases 61-059, referred to: 01/06

Field v Commissioner of Railways (NSW) (1957) 99 CLR 285, referred to: 18/06

Fire and All Risks Insurance Co v Powell [1966] VR 513, referred to: 01/06

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Gregory v Philip Morris (1988) 80 ALR 455, referred to: 18/06

Griffiths v Boral Resources (Qld) Pty Ltd [1988] FCAFC 149, referred to: 41/06

Gunns Ltd v Marr & Ors [2005] VSC 251, distinguished: 25/06

Guss v Magistrates' Court of Victoria [1998] 2 VR 113; MC22/97: not followed: 09/06

Haines v Roberts [1953] 1 All ER 344, referred to: 07/06

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Harrison v Mansfield [1953] VLR 399, applied: 15/06

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Hill v Chief Constable of West Yorkshire [1989] AC 53, applied: 39/06

Hornal v Neuberger Products Ltd [1957] 1 QB 247, referred to: 01/06

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Impagnatiello v Campbell MC27/03; (2003) 6 VR 416, referred to: 04/06

Ingram v Ingram (1938) 38 SR (NSW) 407, referred to: 13/06

In re Peters [1988] QB 871, referred to: 26/06

Intrac (Sales) Pty Ltd v Riverside Plumbing & Gas Fitting Pty Ltd (1997) ATPR 41-572, referred to: 28/06

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McDermott v The King (1948) 76 CLR 501, referred to: 12/06

McGee; xp McGee v McKeever [1995] 1 Qd R 623, followed: 01/05

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[Note: Words and phrases judicially considered are in inverted commas. Ed]

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