

EQUITY & TRUSTS IN AUSTRALIA

THIRD EDITION

Equity and Trusts in Australia offers an accessible introduction to the principles of Australian equity and trusts law for both undergraduate and Juris Doctor students, linking key doctrines to their wider relationship with the law. The text covers foundational topics of equity and trusts law, including the nature of equity, fiduciary relationships, the rights, powers and duties of trustees, and trust structures.

The third edition has been fully revised to include recent landmark decisions and a new chapter on termination and variation of trusts. Each chapter concludes with a guide to the online resources, which encourage students to extend their knowledge of the content through further reading, practice problems and discussion topics.

Written by a team of experienced authors, *Equity and Trusts in Australia* is an ideal text for students undertaking this area of study for the first time.

A Sourcebook on Equity and Trusts in Australia is also available and provides cases and primary legal materials to accompany Equity and Trusts in Australia.

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EQUITY & TRUSTS IN AUSTRALIA

THIRD EDITION

M W Bryan V J Vann S Barkehall Thomas





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CONTENTS

Preface	XVII
Acknowledgements	xviii
Table of cases	xix
Table of statutes	xliv
List of abbreviations	lii
PART A INTRODUCTION	1
Chapter 1 An overview of equity	2
What is equity?	3
Institutional equity	4
The emergence of institutional equity: medieval origins	4
Competition between common law and equity	6
Reform and the judicature legislation	7
The reception of equity in Australia	9
The place of a within the gooden law	10 12
The place of equity in the modern law	. –
A map of equity	12
Equitable remedies	12
Contract Property	14 15
Civil wrongs	16
Civil procedure	17
The maxims of equity	18
What's online?	20
PART B EQUITABLE REMEDIES	21
Chapter 2 An introduction to equitable remedies	22
Introduction	23
Personal and proprietary remedies Personal remedies	23 24

٧



	Proprietary remedies	24
	Comparing proprietary remedies and personal remedies	25
	The objectives of equitable remedies	25
	Coercion	26
	Compensation	26
	Disgorgement	26
	Restitution	26
	Nullification	27
	Reformation Vindication	27
		27
	What's online?	28
Chapter 3	Specific performance, injunctions and equitable damages	29
	Introduction	30
	Specific performance	30
	General considerations	30
	Prerequisites to award	33
	Bars to specific performance	35
	Injunctions	36
	The jurisdiction to award injunctions	37
	The criteria for the award of an injunction	38
	Interlocutory injunctions Mandatory and prohibitory injunctions	39 40
	Injunctions to restrain breach of contract: the correlation	40
	with specific performance	41
	Injunctions to restrain the commission of a tort	42
	Third party interests and the role of the public interest	44
	The exercise of discretion	45
	Plaintiff's remedy if specific performance or injunction are denied	46
	Equitable damages	47
	Are equitable damages available for equitable wrongs?	48
	The jurisdiction to award Lord Caims' Act damages	48
	How are equitable damages assessed?	49
	Damages in addition to injunction or specific performance	49
	Damages in substitution for injunction or specific performance	49
	What's online?	50
Chapter 4	Monetary remedies in equity	51
	Introduction	52
	Accounts of profits	52

vi Contents



	How are accounts of profits calculated? Allowances	53 57
	Equitable compensation Emergence of the jurisdiction to award equitable compensation	57 58
	How is equitable compensation calculated? Calculating equitable compensation for breach of trust Calculating equitable compensation for breach of fiduciary duty Common law adjustments to quantum	59 61 63 66
	What's online?	68
Chapter 5	Rescission, rectification and declarations	69
	Introduction	70
	When can a voidable transaction be rescinded?	70
	The aim of rescission	70
	Rescission at common law and in equity	71
	Total and partial rescission	72
	The election to rescind	73
	Restoring the parties to their pre-contractual position	74
	The proprietary consequences of rescission	75
	Bars to rescission and pecuniary restitution	76
	Rectification The elements of rectification Rectification and construction Effect of rectification	77 77 79 80
	Declaration Criteria for the award of a declaration Equitable bars to relief	80 81 82
	What's online?	82
Chapter 6	Bars to relief	83
	Introduction	84
	Laches	84
	Acquiescence	86
	Unclean hands	88
	Hardship	90
	Effect of order on third parties	91
	What's online?	92

Contents vii



PART C	EQUITY, CONTRACT AND PROPERTY	93
Chapter 7	Equity in contract law	94
	Introduction	95
	Estoppel and promise enforcement Common law estoppel Equitable (or promissory) estoppel	95 95 96
	Equity and voidable transactions	100
	Undue influence Actual undue influence Presumed undue influence Presumed relationships of influence Proven relationships of influence Rebutting the presumption of undue influence Undue influence and third parties	101 101 103 103 104 105
	Unconscientious conduct Special disability Knowledge of the disability Exploitation of special disability Statutory unconscionability	107 108 109 110 111
	The rule in Yerkey v Jones and the Garcia case 'Wife' 'Volunteer' 'Surety' 'Sufficient steps'	113 113 114 114 114
	Equity and substantive fairness: penalties and relief from forfeiture The penalties doctrine Equitable relief against forfeiture	115 115 118
	What's online?	121
Chapter 8	Equitable proprietary interests	122
	Introduction Proprietary estoppel	123 125
	The nature of equitable ownership	129
	Priority disputes and the doctrine of notice	129
	Equities and equitable interests	130
	What's online?	132

viii Contents



Chapter 9	Equitable assignments	133
	Introduction	134
	Property terminology	135
	Assignment of legal property	135
	Equity and legally ineffective assignments	136
	The relevance of consideration Gifts	136 137
	Non-assignable rights	140
	Future property	141
	Assignment of equitable property	143
	Statutory assignment	144
	Legal property that can only be assigned in equity	146
	Statutory formalities	146
	Summary	149
	What's online?	151
PART D	EQUITABLE OBLIGATIONS	153
Chapter 10	Fiduciary relationships and obligations	154
	Introduction	155
	Fiduciary relationships	155
	Recognised fiduciary relationships	155
	Outside the recognised relationships	157
	Concurrent contractual and fiduciary relationships	160
	Abuse of the fiduciary concept	164
	Scope of the fiduciary relationship	165
	Fiduciary obligations	166
	Authorisation and ratification	170
	Informed consent as a defence to an action for breach of fiduciary obligation	176
	What's online?	177
Chapter 11		178
Gliaptei Ti		
	Introduction	179
	Third party liability: the rule in Barnes v Addy	180
	Knowing receipt	181
	Remedies for knowing receipt Liability for knowing assistance	185
	Liability for knowing assistance Remedies for knowing assistance	186 190
	Homewies for knowing assistance	190

Contents ix



	Other forms of participatory liability	191
	Claims based on tracing	191
	Inducing a breach of trust	191
	Trusteeship de son tort	192
	What's online?	192
Chapter 12	Breach of confidence	193
	Introduction	194
	The equitable obligation of confidence	194
	Specificity	195
	Quality of confidentiality	195
	Circumstances importing an obligation of confidence	197
	Misuse of confidential information	198
	Does the plaintiff need to show a detriment will be suffered?	199
	Defences to breach of confidence	200
	Public interest	200
	Change of position	201
	Protection of private information	202
	English developments	202
	Australian developments	204
	Remedies for breach of confidence	205
	Injunctions	205
	Account of profits	206
	Compensatory remedies	206
	Miscellaneous orders	207
	What's online?	207
PART E	KPRESS TRUSTS	209
Chapter 13	The concept of the express trust	210
	Introduction	211
	Definition	211
	Some essential characteristics of the express trust	213
	The parties to a trust	214
	Different types of trust	215
	Trusts and powers	217
	Trusts and related concepts	219
	Trust and agency	219
	Trust and equitable charge	220
	Trust and condition	221

x Contents



	Trust and contract	221
	Trust and debt	222
	What's online?	223
Chapter 14	Certainty requirements in the law of trusts	224
	Introduction	225
	Certainty of intention to create a trust Objective or subjective intention?	225 226
	Sham trusts What intention has to be proved? Precatory trusts	227 228 229
	Intention to create an immediate trust Contract and trust: questions of certainty of intention The co-existence of contract and trust: the <i>Quistclose</i> trust	229 230 230
	Certainty of subject-matter	233
	Certainty of objects Powers and certainty Fixed trusts Trust power (discretionary trust)	235 236 237 237
	What's online?	242
Chapter 15	Creating an express trust	243
	Introduction	244
	Methods of creating a trust Self-declaration of trust Formalities for inter vivos trusts by declaration Trust created by transfer Formalities for inter vivos trusts by transfer	244 244 245 245 246
	Testamentary trusts	247
	The doctrine of incorporation by reference Secret trusts	248 248
	Incompletely constituted trusts Non-simultaneous declaration and vesting	250 250
	Trusts and public policy Trusts and bankruptcy Trusts and discrimination Trusts and perpetuity What's online?	251 252 254 254 256
	VVII ICC OT IIII ICC	200

Contents xi



Chapter 16	Trusts for charitable and non-charitable purposes	257
	Introduction	258
	A valid trust for a purpose	258
	Historical development of the charitable trust	259
	Trusts for the aged, impotent and poor Poverty Age and impotence	260 260 261
	Trusts for the advancement of education	262
	Trusts for the advancement of religion	262
	Trusts for other purposes beneficial to the community Political purposes Sporting and recreational purposes	263 264 266
	The 'public benefit' Benefit Public, or a section of the public	267 267 268
	Trusts for multiple purposes	269
	Administrative and cy-près schemes	269
	Trusts for non-charitable purposes	271
	Problems with purpose trusts The <i>Quistclose</i> trust Gifts to unincorporated associations	271 272 273
	What's online?	274
PART F PE	ERFORMING THE TRUST	275
Chapter 17	Trustees' duties and powers	276
	Introduction	277
	Sources of the trustee's duties and powers	278
	Duties on assumption of trusteeship Duty to adhere to the terms of the trust Duty to get in the trust assets	278 278 279
	Ongoing management duties Investment of trust funds Duty to keep assets separate Keeping and rendering accounts Duty to give information to beneficiaries Duties of performance Duty of care	280 280 280 280 281 285

xii Contents



Duty to act impartially Duty to act personally Duty to consider exercise of powers Particular aspects of the trustee's fiduciary obligations Duties on the winding up of a trust	286 286 289 289 292
Trustees' powers	292
Exercise of power and review	293
Effect of improper exercise of discretion	298
What's online?	300
Investment of trust funds	301
Introduction	302
Sources of trustees' investment powers	302
The statutory model The power to invest	304 305
Investing prudently	305
Review of investments	307
Applying other duties of law and equity to investing Duty to act in best interests of beneficiaries Duty to invest in non-speculative investments Duty to act impartially between beneficiaries Duty to take advice	308 309 310 311 312
Matters to be considered by the trustee when investing	312
Exculpatory provisions	314
What's online?	316
Trustees' rights and liabilities	317
Introduction	318
Trustee's liabilities	318
Trustee's right of indemnity The status of the trustee's right of indemnity Calculating the value of the trustee's right of indemnity Can the trustee's right to indemnity out of trust assets be excluded by the trust instrument?	318 319 320 322
	323 324
Indemnification by the beneficiaries Creditor's rights to be subrogated to the trustee's	325
	Duty to act personally Duty to consider exercise of powers Particular aspects of the trustee's fiduciary obligations Duties on the winding up of a trust Trustees' powers Exercise of power and review Effect of improper exercise of discretion What's online? Investment of trust funds Introduction Sources of trustees' investment powers The statutory model The power to invest Investing prudently Review of investments Applying other duties of law and equity to investing Duty to act in best interests of beneficiaries Duty to invest in non-speculative investments Duty to act impartially between beneficiaries Duty to take advice Matters to be considered by the trustee when investing Exculpatory provisions What's online? Trustees' rights and liabilities Introduction Trustee's liabilities Trustee's right of indemnity The status of the trustee's right of indemnity Calculating the value of the trustee's right of indemnity Can the trustee's right to indemnity out of trust assets be excluded by the trust instrument? Liability of directors of trustee companies Third parties and the trustee's right of indemnity Indemnification by the beneficiaries

Contents xiii



	Trustee's right to impound beneficiary's interest	328
	Trustee's right of contribution from co-trustees	328
	Trustee's right to recover overpayment from a beneficiary Trustee's right to seek directions from the court	329 330
	What's online?	331
PART G B	REACH OF TRUST	333
Chapter 20	Breach of trust: defences and remedies	334
	Introduction	335
	Exculpation and defences	335
	Exculpation in the trust instrument	335
	Statutory exculpation Wilful default The general statutory defence	338 339 339
	Equitable defences Consent Acquiescence and release	342 342 342
	Remedies in the context of breach of trust	343
	Monetary remedies for breach of trust Unauthorised profits Prohibited breaches Negligence in performance Compensation for breach of the conflicts rule Statutory provisions	344 344 346 347 347
	Non-monetary remedies for breach of trust	348
	Standing to sue	350
	What's online?	351
Chapter 21	Tracing	352
	Introduction	353
	Tracing and claiming at common law and in equity	354
	A fiduciary requirement?	355
	The equitable tracing rules Mixing money in a bank account	356 356
	Defences to equitable tracing claims	364
	What's online?	366

xiv Contents



PART H	RESULTING AND CONSTRUCTIVE TRUSTS	367
Chapter 2	2 Resulting trusts	368
	Introduction	369
	Why does equity recognise resulting trusts?	371
	The presumption of advancement	372
	Application of the presumptions to family property	375
	Voluntary transfers of property	379
	Resulting trusts arising on failure of an express trust	379
	Resulting trusts arising in other cases of failure of basis: the <i>Quistclose</i> trust	381
	Resulting trusts and illegality	383
	What's online?	385
Chapter 2	3 Constructive trusts	386
	Introduction	387
	The constructive trust compared with other trusts Express trust Resulting trust	388 388 389
	Categories and principles Constructive trusts and unjust enrichment Constructive trusts and unconscionability	389 389 390
	The 'common intention' constructive trust and family property disputes	390
	The Baumgartner constructive trust Assessing contributions Equitable adjustments Is the Baumgartner constructive trust an institution	393 395 396
	or a remedy? The impact of family law legislation on constructive trusts	396 397
	The constructive trust as a remedy for proprietary estoppel	398
	Constructive trusts imposed for breach of fiduciary obligation	400
	The constructive trust imposed over stolen money and its proceeds	403
	The constructive trust as a restitutionary remedy for unjust enrichment Non-contractual transfers of property Contractual transfers of property	404 405 406

Contents xv



		The doctrine of mutual wills	407
		Constructive trusts imposed over property transferred under specifically enforceable contracts The principle of <i>Holroyd v Marshall</i> and assignments of future property	408 410
		What's online?	410
PART I	TE	RMINATING AND VARYING TRUSTS	411
Chapter 24		Termination and variation of trusts	412
		Introduction	413
		Termination of trusts The rule in Saunders v Vautier Critique of Saunders v Vautier	413 413 417
		Variation of trusts The expediency jurisdiction The Variation of Trusts Act jurisdictions Section 59C of the Trustee Act 1936 (SA) Critique What's online?	417 419 420 424 425
		What's Orimine?	
Index			426

xvi Contents



PREFACE

There are many books on equity and trusts. Ours has modest but important aims. It is unashamedly pedagogic, being designed for students enrolled in LLB and JD degrees taking semesterised and trimesterised equity and trusts units. It makes no attempt to be comprehensive but focuses only on those topics we regard as essential to a foundational understanding of equity and trusts, required for the purpose of obtaining professional qualification. The book is premised on the belief that equitable doctrine is a coherent body of doctrine which affords the student insights – for example, into the relationship between breaches of duty and remedies – that cannot be obtained from the study of other subjects in a law degree. Moreover, although legal study is not most students' idea of fun, the study of equity is intellectually interesting from a variety of perspectives. It is essential that students coming to the subject not be under the misconception that it is arcane or obscure.

The opportunity has been taken in this edition to incorporate analysis of recent decisions including *Ancient Order of Foresters in Victoria Friendly Society Ltd v Lifeplan Australia Friendly Society Ltd* (2018) 265 CLR 1; *Smethurst v Commissioner of Police* (2020) 376 ALR 575; and *Caron v Jahani* (*No 2*) [2020] NSWCA 117. As the last named case illustrates, intermediate appeal courts remain an important source of equity jurisprudence, and numerous State decisions, both appellate and at primary judge level, are discussed in the text. Almost every chapter has required updating, and a new chapter has been added on terminating and varying trusts.

References are made throughout the text to *A Sourcebook on Equity and Trusts in Australia*, 3rd edition published by Cambridge University Press in 2022. This book is designed to be used either as a companion to the Sourcebook or as a freestanding text. The authors' policy on gender neutrality is to vary the pronouns 'she' and 'he', and the possessive adjectives 'his' and 'hers'.

Users of the previous edition, both lecturers and students, have provided us with feedback which has assisted us in the preparation of this edition. Lucy Russell and Emily Baxter at Cambridge University Press have been patient, generous and professional, and we are grateful to them and to their colleagues at Cambridge University Press who have helped to bring this edition to fruition. Needless to say, the authors are solely responsible for any errors in this edition, notwithstanding the invaluable support and assistance they have received.

We have endeavoured to state the law as of 1 December 2021.

M W Bryan V J Vann

S Barkehall Thomas

xvii



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xviii



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TABLE OF CASES

AB v CD and EF [2017] VSCA 338, 199, 201 Abbs v Abbs [2003] NSWSC 1202, 248 Acrow (Automation) Ltd v Rex Chainbelt Inc [1971] 3 All ER 1175, 46 Adamson v Hayes (1973) 130 CLR 276, 147 Adamson v Reid (1880) 6 LLR (E) 164, 302 A-G v Blake [2001] 1 AC 268, 52 A-G v Guardian Newspapers Ltd (No 2) [1990] 1 AC 109, 197-8 A-G v Observer Ltd [1990] 1 AC 109, 199 A-G (Hong Kong) v Reid [1994] 1 AC 324, 63, 402 A-G (NSW) v Cahill [1969] 1 NSWLR 85, 266 A-G (NSW) v Perpetual Trustee Co (1940) 63 CLR 209, 270 A-G (UK) v Heinemann Publishers Australia Pty Ltd (1987) 8 NSWLR 341, 205 A-G (UK) v Heinemann Publishers Australia Pty Ltd (1987) 10 NSWLR 86, 197 Agip (Africa) Ltd v Jackson [1991] Ch 547, 355 Agricultural Land Management Ltd v Jackson (No 2) (2014) 48 WAR 1, 60, 62, 65, 345, 346 Agripay Pty Ltd v Byrne [2011] 2 Qd R 501, 114 Agusta Pty Ltd v Provident Capital Ltd (2012) 16 BPR 30,397, 322 AH McDonald & Co Ltd v Wells (1931) 45 CLR 506, 76 AIB Group (UK) plc v Mark Redler & Co Solicitors [2015] AC 1503, 62, 64, 67, 345-6 Aid/Watch Inc v Commissioner of Taxation (Cth) (2010) 241 CLR 539, 264-6 Ainsworth v Criminal Justice Commission (1992) 175 CLR 564, 81 Air Jamaica Ltd v Charlton [1999] 1 WLR 1399, 370, 380 Alati v Kruger (1955) 94 CLR 216, 72, 74 Alesco Corporation Ltd v Te Maari [2015] NSWSC 469, 355, 363 Alexander v Cambridge Credit Corporation Ltd (1987) 9 NSWLR 310, 65 Allcard v Skinner (1887) 36 Ch D 145, 70, 103, 106, 130 Allen v Distillers Co (Biochemicals) Ltd [1974] QB 384, 424 Allen v Snyder [1977] 2 NSWLR 685, 376, 390–1 Alston v Cormack Foundation Pty Ltd (2018) 358 ALR 263, 273 AMEV-UDC Finance Ltd v Austin (1986) 162 CLR 170, 115 Ancient Order of Foresters in Victoria Friendly Society Ltd v Lifeplan Australia Friendly Society Ltd (2018) 265 CLR 1, 54-7, 60, 66, 156, 163, 166, 175, 187, 190 Anderson v McPherson (No 2) [2012] WASC 19, 369, 370, 373 Andrews v Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd (2012) 247 CLR 205, 116-17 Anning v Anning (1907) 4 CLR 1049, 138, 145 Antill v Mostyn [2010] NSWSC 587, 305 Anton Piller KG v Manufacturing Processes Ltd [1976] Ch 55, 36

xix



ANZ Executors and Trustees Ltd v Humes Ltd [1990] VR 615, 90 Aquatic Air Pty Ltd v Siewert (No 2) [2016] NSWSC 10, 40

Ardlethan Options Ltd v Easdown (1915) 20 CLR 285, 402

Arfaras v Vosnakis (2016) 18 BPR 35,819, 127

Aristoc Industries Pty Ltd v R A Wenham (Builders) Pty Ltd [1965] NSWR 581, 43

Armitage v Nurse [1998] Ch 241, 170, 336-8

Armstrong v Sheppard & Short Ltd [1959] 2 QB 384, 89

Arnott v Kiss [2014] NSWSC 1385, 416

Ashton v Pratt (2015) 88 NSWLR 287, 98

Asia Pacific International Pty Ltd v Dalrymple [2000] 2 Qd R 229, 108

Assets Co Ltd v Mere Roihi [1905] AC 176, 186

Associated Alloys Pty Ltd v ACN 001 452 106 Pty Ltd (in liq) (2000) 202 CLR 588, 220, 280

Austin v Hornby (2011) 16 BPR 30,623, 397

Austotel Pty Ltd v Franklins Selfserve Pty Ltd (1989) 16 NSWLR 582, 98

Australasian Conference Association Ltd v Mainline Constructions Pty Ltd (1978) 141 CLR 335, 382

Australian Broadcasting Corporation v Lenab Game Meats Pty Ltd (2001) 208 CLR 199, 37, 86, 201, 204

Australian Broadcasting Corporation v O'Neill (2006) 227 CLR 57, 39, 40, 44

Australian Building Technical Solutions Pty Ltd v Boumelhem (2009) 2 ASTLR 336, 392, 394

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission v CG Berbatis Holdings Pty Ltd (2003) 214 CLR 51, 86

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission v Quantum Housing Group Pty Ltd (2021) 285 FCR 133, 112

Australian Conservation Foundation Inc v Commonwealth (1980) 146 CLR 493, 81

Australian Executor Trustees (SA) Ltd v Kerr (2021) 151 ACSR 204, 58

Australian Football League v The Age Co Ltd (2006) 15 VR 419, 195, 196, 201

Australian Prudential Regulation Authority v Kelaher (2019) 138 ACSR 459, 280, 286

Australian Securities and Investments Commission v Citigroup Global Markets Australia Pty Ltd (No 4) (2007) 160 FCR 35, 156, 160–1

Australian Securities and Investments Commission v Drake (No 2) (2016) 340 ALR 75, 304, 336

Australian Securities and Investments Commission v Kobelt (2019) 267 CLR 1, 107, 111, 112

Australian Securities and Investments Commission v Nelson (2003) 44 ACSR 719, 360

Australian Securities Commission v AS Nominees Ltd (1995) 62 FCR 504, 286, 348

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Australian Super Developments Pty Ltd v Marriner [2014] VSC 464, 191

Auzhair Supplies Pty Ltd v Gerace [2014] HCASL 231, 86

Avanes v Marshall (2007) 68 NSWLR 595, 283, 285

AXA Trustees Ltd v A-G (Vic) [2000] VSC 530, 304

Baburin v Baburin (No 2) [1991] 2 Qd R 240, 85 Bacon v Pianta (1966) 114 CLR 364, 273

xx Table of cases



More Information

Cambridge University Press & Assessment 978-1-009-23238-8 — Equity and Trusts in Australia 3rd Edition M. W. Bryan , V. J. Vann , S. Barkehall Thomas Frontmatter

Baden, Delvaux and Lecuit v Société Générale [1992] 4 All ER 161, 183

Babin v Hughes (1886) 31 Ch D 390, 329, 348

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Ballantyne v Raphael (1889) 15 VLR 538, 58

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Bank of New South Wales v Rogers (1941) 65 CLR 42, 106

Bank of New Zealand v New Zealand Guardian Trust Co Ltd [1999] 1 NZLR 664, 346

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Barbagallo v J & F Catelan Pty Ltd [1986] 1 Qd R 245, 47

Barclays Bank Ltd v Quistclose Investments Ltd [1970] AC 567, 223, 230-3, 382

Barclays Bank plc v Boulter [1999] 4 All ER 1002, 130

Barlow Clowes International Ltd v Vaughan [1992] 4 All ER 22, 359

Barlow Clowes International Ltd (in liq) v Eurotrust International Ltd [2006] 1 WLR 1476, 187, 189

Barnes v Addy (1874) LR 9 Ch App 244, 55, 180-1, 185, 186, 191, 353

Bartlett v Barclays Bank Trust Co Ltd [1980] Ch 515, 286, 305, 310, 315, 340

Bathurst City Council v PWC Properties Pty Ltd (1998) 195 CLR 566, 260, 388, 403

Baumgartner v Baumgartner (1987) 164 CLR 137, 186, 379, 388, 393, 395, 396

Baynard v Woolley (1855) 52 ER 729, 348

Beach Petroleum NL v Abbott Tout Russell Kennedy (1999) 48 NSWLR 1, 65, 163, 173

Beath v Kousal [2010] VSC 24, 288, 320

Beck v Henley (2014) 11 ASTLR 457, 415

Beecham Group Ltd v Bristol Laboratories Pty Ltd (1968) 118 CLR 618, 39, 44

Behman v Behman [2015] NSWSC 1787, 397

Belar Pty Ltd (in liq) v Mahaffey [2000] 1 Qd R 477, 319, 328

Bell Group Ltd (in liq) v Westpac Banking Corporation (No 9) (2008) 39 WAR 1, 173

Bendal Pty Ltd v Mirvac Project Pty Ltd (1991) 23 NSWLR 464, 42

Bester v Perpetual Trustee Co Ltd [1970] 3 NSWR 30, 105-6

Beswick v Beswick [1968] AC 58, 33, 35, 222, 229

Bianca Rinehart trading as trustee of the Hope Margaret Hancock Trust [2017] NSWSC 282, 331

Bijkerk Investments Pty Ltd v Bikic [2020] NSWSC 1336, 392

Birkett Investments Pty Ltd v Streatfield Investments Pty Ltd [2016] ACTSC 323, 163

Birmingham v Renfrew (1937) 57 CLR 666, 407-8

Birtchnell v Equity Trustees Executors and Agency Co Ltd (1929) 42 CLR 384, 165

Bishopsgate Investment Management Ltd v Homan [1995] Ch 211, 363

Black v Black (1991) 15 Fam LR 109, 396

Black v S Freedman & Co (1910) 12 CLR 105, 212, 401, 404

Black Uhlans Inc v New South Wales Crime Commission (2002) 12 BPR 22,241, 88

Blathwayt v Baron Cawley [1976] AC 397, 254

Blenkinsop v Blenkinsop Nominees Pty Ltd as Trustee for the Blenkinsop Family Trust [2015] WASC 463, 349

Bloch v Bloch (1981) 180 CLR 390, 373, 377

Blomley v Ryan (1956) 99 CLR 362, 108

Bluescope Steel Ltd v Kelly (2007) 72 IPR 289, 53, 195, 206

Boardman v Phipps [1967] 2 AC 46, 53, 57, 172-6, 192, 340, 390, 401

Table of cases xxi



More Information

Boensch v Pascoe (2019) 268 CLR 593, 124, 129, 319

Bofinger v Kingsway Group Ltd (2009) 239 CLR 269, 17

Bogdanovic v Koteff (1988) 12 NSWLR 472, 186

Bolton v Curre [1895] 1 Ch 544, 328

Bonnard v Perryman [1891] 2 Ch 269, 43

Borgese v Cater & Blumer Pty Ltd (No 3) [2017] NSWSC 92, 195

Bosaid v Andry [1963] VR 465, 77, 79, 80

Boscawen v Bajwa [1996] 1 WLR 328, 363

Bowack v Saxton [2020] EWHC 1049, 246

Bowman v Secular Society Ltd [1917] AC 406, 264

Bradto Pty Ltd v Victoria (2006) 15 VR 65, 41

Brady v Stapleton (1952) 88 CLR 322, 357

Brandon v Robinson (1811) 34 ER 379, 251

Break Fast Investments Pty Ltd v PCH Melbourne Pty Ltd (2007) 20 VR 311, 50

Breakspear v Ackland [2009] Ch 32, 284

Breen v Williams (1996) 186 CLR 71, 156, 166-9, 197, 213

Breskvar v Wall (1971) 126 CLR 376, 136

Bridgewater v Leaby (1998) 194 CLR 457, 110

Bristol & West Building Society v Mothew [1998] Ch 1, 170

British American Tobacco Australia Ltd v Gordon [2007] NSWSC 230, 198

Brown v Brown (1993) 31 NSWLR 582, 374

Brown v Smitt (1924) 34 CLR 160, 74

Buckenara v Hawthorn Football Club [1988] VR 39, 33

Buffrey v Buffrey (2006) 12 BPR 23,619, 377, 378

 $\textit{Bunny Industries Ltd v FSW Enterprises Pty Ltd} \ [1982] \ Qd \ R \ 712, \ 409 \\$

Burke v Cory (1959) 19 DLR (2d) 252, 67

Burns v Leda Holdings Pty Ltd [1988] 1 Qd R 214, 329

Byrnes v Kendle (2011) 243 CLR 253, 86, 226-77, 305, 342

Caboche v Ramsay (1993) 119 ALR 215, 252

Cadbury Schweppes Inc v FBI Foods Ltd (1999) 167 DLR (4th) 577, 59, 196, 198, 206

Cadell v Palmer (1833) 6 ER 956, 255

Caffrey v Darby (1801) 31 ER 1159, 58, 279, 302

Calverley v Green (1984) 155 CLR 242, 372, 374, 376-7

Calvo v Sweeney [2009] NSWSC 719, 291

Campbell v Sherwill [1999] VSC 508, 258, 264

Cann v Cann (1884) 51 LT 770, 302

Canson Enterprises Ltd v Boughton & Co (1991) 85 DLR (4th) 129, 64-5, 67, 206

Carmody v Superannuation Complaints Tribunal [2020] FCA 291, 141

Carob Industries Pty Ltd (in liq) v Simto Pty Ltd (2000) 23 WAR 515, 145

Caron v Jahani (No 2) (2020) 102 NSWLR 537, 359-61

Carr v Council of the Law Society of New South Wales [2020] NSWCA 276, 358

Carson v Wood (2019) 138 ACSR 231, 398

Carter Holt Harvey Woodproducts Australia Pty Ltd v Commonwealth (2019) 268 CLR 524, 318, 319, 322, 323, 325, 416

Casborne v Scarfe (1737) 26 ER 377, 15

Cavendish Square Holding BV v Makdessi [2015] UKSC 67, 118

xxii Table of cases



Cavendish Square Holding BV v Makdessi [2016] AC 1172, 117, 118

CE Health & General Insurance Ltd v Pyramid Building Society (in liq) [1997] 2 VR 256, 81

Central London Property Trust Ltd v High Trees House Ltd [1947] 1 KB 130, 96

Cetojevic v Cetojevic [2007] NSWCA 33, 395

Chameleon Mining NL v Murchison Metals Ltd [2010] FCA 1129, 190

Chan v Cresdon Pty Ltd (1989) 168 CLR 242, 124

Chan v Valmorbida Custodians Pty Ltd [2020] VSC 590, 281-4

Chan v Zacharia (1984) 154 CLR 178, 162, 171, 175, 401

Chang v Registrar of Titles (1976) 137 CLR 177, 408, 409

Chang v Tjiong [2009] NSWSC 122, 229

Chapman v Chapman [1954] AC 429, 418, 420

Charles Marshall Pty Ltd v Grimsley (1956) 95 CLR 353, 374

Chartbrook Ltd v Persimmon Homes Ltd [2009] AC 1101, 78

Chase Manhattan Bank NA v Israel-British Bank (London) Ltd [1981] Ch 105, 12, 164, 405–7

Cheese v Thomas [1994] 1 WLR 129, 106

Chen v Song [2005] ANZ Conv R 130, 111

Chichester Diocesan Fund v Simpson [1944] AC 341, 269, 279, 362

Chickabo Pty Ltd v Zphere Pty Ltd (2019) 57 VR 406, 191

Chief Commissioner of Stamp Duties (NSW) v Buckle (1998) 192 CLR 226, 216, 293, 319, 320, 323

Chillingworth v Chambers [1895] 1 Ch 685, 329

Church of England Property Trust v Imlay Shire Council [1971] 2 NSWLR 216, 261

Church of the New Faith v Commissioner for Pay-Roll Tax (Vic) (1983) 154 CLR 120, 263

Church Property Trustees, Diocese of Newcastle v Ebbeck (1960) 104 CLR 394, 251

Cisera v Cisera Holdings Pty Ltd (2018) 98 NSWLR 747, 419–20

Citibank NA v MBIA Assurance SA [2007] 1 All ER (Comm) 475, 287, 336

Claflin v Claflin, 20 NE 454 (1889), 417

Clarke v Dickinson (1858) 120 ER 463, 71

Clarke v Ebdon [2020] SASC 67, 425

Clayton's Case (1816) 35 ER 781, 354, 359, 363-4

Clementi v Rossi [2019] VSC 725, 396

Club Cape Schanck Resort Co Ltd v Cape Country Club Pty Ltd [2001] 3 VR 526, 78, 79

Cobcroft v Bruce (2013) 9 ASTLR 39, 221

Coco v AN Clark (Engineers) Ltd [1969] RPC 41, 194, 197, 199

Cohen v Cohen (1929) 42 CLR 91, 219

Combe v Combe [1951] 2 KB 215, 96

Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd v Amadio (1983) 151 CLR 447, 27, 101, 106, 108-110, 113

Commissioner for State Revenue v Rojoda Pty Ltd (2020) 268 CLR 281, 123

Commissioner of Stamp Duties (NSW) v Carlenka Pty Ltd (1995) 41 NSWLR 329, 77-8

Commissioner of Stamp Duties (Qld) v Jolliffe (1920) 28 CLR 178, 226

Commissioner of Stamp Duties (Qld) v Livingston [1965] AC 694, 129, 135, 144

Commissioner of Taxation v Bosanac (No 7) (2021) 390 ALR 74, 373, 377

Commissioner of Taxation v Bosanac (No 7) [2021] FCAFC 158, 373, 377

Commissioner of Taxation v Donoghue (2015) 237 FCR 316, 199

Commissioner of Taxation (Cth) v Bamford (2010) 240 CLR 481, 293, 311

Commissioners for Special Purposes of Income Tax v Pemsel [1891] AC 531, 260, 265

Table of cases xxiii



Commonwealth v John Fairfax & Sons Ltd (1980) 147 CLR 39, 200

Commonwealth v Scituate Savings Bank, 137 Mass 301 (1884), 98

Commonwealth v Verwayen (1990) 170 CLR 394, 95-7, 99-100, 128

Commonwealth Bank of Australia v Kojic (2016) 249 FCR 421, 110

Commonwealth Bank of Australia v Smith (1991) 42 FCR 390, 59, 67, 158-9, 223, 347

Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd v Amadio (1983) 151 CLR 447, 72

Community Housing Ltd v Clarence Valley Council (2015) 90 NSWLR 292, 261

Comptroller of Stamps (Vic) v Howard-Smith (1936) 54 CLR 614, 147, 148

Conlan v Connolly [2011] WASC 160, 363

Conlan v Registrar of Titles (2001) 24 WAR 299, 186, 365

Construction Technologies Australia Pty Ltd v Doueihi (2014) 17 BPR 33,457, 125

Consul Development Pty Ltd v DPC Estates Pty Ltd (1975) 132 CLR 373, 183, 185, 188-9

Cook v Deeks [1916] AC 554, 167

Cooper v Lees (2009) 3 ASTLR 558, 395

Co-operative Insurance Society Ltd v Argyll Stores (Holdings) Ltd [1998] AC 1, 31

Cope v Keene (1968) 118 CLR 1, 16

Corin v Patton (1990) 169 CLR 540, 18, 20, 124, 137-9, 246

Cornerstone Property & Development Pty Ltd v Suellen Properties Pty Ltd [2015] 1 Qd R 75, 187

Corrs Pavey Whiting & Byrne v Collector of Customs (Vic) (1987) 13 ALD 254, 200

Coulls v Bagot's Executor & Trustee Co Ltd (1967) 119 CLR 460, 222, 229

Coulthard v South Australia (1995) 63 SASR 531, 198

Coventry v Lawrence [2014] AC 822, 45

Cowan v Scargill [1985] Ch 270, 288, 309

Cowell v British American Tobacco Australian Services Ltd [2007] VSCA 301, 195

Cox v Archer (1964) 110 CLR 1, 416

CPT Custodian Pty Ltd v Commissioner of State Revenue (2005) 224 CLR 98, 416–17

Crabb v Arun District Council [1976] Ch 179, 126

Creak v James Moore & Sons Pty Ltd (1912) 15 CLR 426, 353

Crossman v Sheahan (2016) 115 ACSR 130, 336-8, 345

Crown Melbourne Ltd v Cosmopolitan Hotel (Vic) Pty Ltd (2016) 260 CLR 1, 97, 98, 100

Crowther v Brophy [1992] 2 VR 97, 267

CSR Ltd v Cigna Insurance Australia Ltd (1997) 189 CLR 345, 37

Cud v Rutter (1719) 1 P Wms 570, 34

Curran v Western Australia (No 2) (2012) 226 A Crim R 374, 392

Currie v Currie (No 2) [2017] WASC 312, 128

Currie v Currie (No 2) [2019] WASCA 2, 126, 128

Currie v Hamilton [1984] 1 NSWLR 687, 375

Curro v Beyond Productions Pty Ltd (1993) 30 NSWLR 337, 33, 42

Curwen v Yan Yean Land Co (1891) 17 VLR 64, 58

Dalgety Wine Estates v Rizzon (1979) 141 CLR 552, 41

Dalrymple v Melville (1932) 32 SR (NSW) 596, 339, 340

Daly v Sydney Stock Exchange Ltd (1986) 160 CLR 371, 27, 73, 131, 158

David Securities Pty Ltd v Commonwealth Bank of Australia (1992) 175 CLR 353, 164, 184, 201

Davidson v Cameron (2016) 2 Qd R 340, 286

Dawson v Dawson [1945] VLR 113, 288

De Francesco v Barnum (1890) 45 Ch D 430, 32

xxiv Table of cases



Dealer Support Services Pty Ltd v Motor Trades Association Ltd (2014) 228 FCR 252, 163

Delaforce v Simpson-Cook (2010) 78 NSWLR 483, 125, 126

Demagogue Pty Ltd v Ramensky [1992] FCA 557, 35

Dent v Bennett (1839) 41 ER 105, 104

Dering v Earl of Winchelsea (1787) 29 ER 1184, 88

Deutsch v Trumble (2016) 52 VR 108, 282, 283

Dewar v Dewar [1975] 2 All ER 728, 222

DHJPM Pty Ltd v Blackthorn Resources Ltd (2011) 285 CLR 311, 98

Dillwyn v Llewelyn (1862) 45 ER 1285, 16, 125

Dimitrijevic v Dimitrijevic [2014] NSWSC 863, 392

Dingle v Turner [1972] AC 601, 268

Disctronics Ltd v Edmonds [2002] VSC 454, 91

DKLR Holding Co (No 2) Pty Ltd v Commissioner of Stamp Duties (NSW) (1982) 149 CLR 431, 129, 215, 217, 369

Doberty v Allman and Dowden (1878) 3 App Cas 709, 41

Dominica Social Security Board v Nature Island Investment Co Ltd [2008] UKPC 19, 311

Don King Productions Inc v Warren [2000] Ch 291, 141

Donis v Donis (2007) 19 VR 577, 59, 126

Donoghue v Stevenson [1932] AC 562, 7, 285

Double Bay Newspapers Pty Ltd v AW Holdings Pty Ltd (1996) 42 NSWLR 409, 132

Doueihi v Construction Technologies Australia Pty Ltd (2016) 92 NSWLR 247, 126

Dougan v Ley (1946) 71 CLR 142, 34, 39

Douglas v Hello! Ltd (No 3) [2003] 3 All ER 996, 196, 203

Doulton Potteries Ltd v Bronte [1971] 1 NSWLR 25, 404

Downing v Commissioner of Taxation (Cth) (1971) 125 CLR 185, 261

Doyle v Blake (1804) 2 Sch & Lef 231, 287

Duchess of Argyll v Duke of Argyll [1967] Ch 302, 46, 89, 195, 197

Duke of Queensberry v Shebbeare (1758) 28 ER 924, 194

Duke Unley Pty Ltd v Corporation of the City of Unley [2020] SASC 224, 382

Dundee General Hospitals Board of Management v Walker [1952] 1 All ER 896, 294

Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Co Ltd v New Garage & Motor Co Ltd [1915] AC 79, 117, 118

Duthie v Nixon (2015) 47 VR 355, 196

Dyer v Dyer (1788) 30 ER 42, 372

Earl of Chesterfield v Janssen (1751) 28 ER 82, 101

Earl of Oxford's Case (1615) 21 ER 485, 6-8

Eaves v Hickson (1861) 54 ER 840, 191

Edmonds v Donovan (2005) 12 VR 513, 162

EDPI Pty Ltd v Rapdocs Pty Ltd [2007] NSWSC 195, 89

Edwards v Crawford [2020] TASSC 20, 249

Egan v Willis (1998) 195 CLR 424, 81

Elders Pastoral Ltd v Bank of New Zealand [1989] 2 NZLR 180, 3

Elkofairi v Permanent Trustee Co Ltd (2002) 11 BPR 20,841, 70, 110, 114

Ellison v Sandini Pty Ltd (2018) 263 FCR 460, 234-5

Equuscorp Pty Ltd v Glengallan Investments Pty Ltd (2004) 218 CLR 471, 227

Equuscorp Pty Ltd v Haxton (2012) 246 CLR 498, 140, 381, 384

Erceg v Erceg (2017) 1 NZLR 320, 281, 283

Table of cases xxv