

The Centre for International and Public Law
presents

International Law/Public Law Seminar

Australia's Racial Vilification Laws Found Wanting?

The 'Nigger Brown' Saga:

HREOC, The Federal Court, the High Court
and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Speaker: Ernst Willheim
Visitor, Law Program, RSSS

Date: Tuesday 5 August 2003
Time: 5.30 – 7pm
Place: Moot Court, 3rd Floor, Law School
Building 5, corner Fellows and East Roads, ANU
NOTE CHANGE FROM USUAL VENUE

A football stadium at the Toowoomba Athletic Oval (in South Western Queensland) carries a large sign, 'The E S "Nigger" Brown Stand'. The stand was named in 1960 to honour a local footballer whose given names were Edward Stanley Brown but who was widely known by the nickname 'Nigger'. Mr Brown was of Anglo-Saxon descent.

Stephen Hagan, an Aboriginal Australian, was offended by the presence of 'Nigger' on the sign and by repeated oral references to 'nigger', in public announcements relating to facilities at the Oval and in match commentaries.

Mr Hagan pursued a complaint before the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, the Federal Court and the High Court, and eventually took the matter to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Mr Willheim, who acted pro bono for Mr Hagan, will discuss a number of issues that arose during the case's progression from Toowoomba to Geneva and back again.

RSVP
cipl.rsvp@anu.edu.au headed '5 August Seminar'

Enquiries
Cathy Hutton, Centre for International and Public Law
Faculty of Law, ANU

Tel: (02) 6125 0454
Fax: (02) 6125 0150
email: cipl.law@anu.edu.au