

POLICE CORRUPTION
DONALD CAMPBELL
(BARRY ROSE PUBLISHERS, London 2002)
ISBN 1-902681`-29-0

Book Review by Sally Ramage

I bought and read Police Corruption in 2002 but had no time to write this review before today. Donald Campbell has authored and co-authored other books, namely,

The Investigation of Fraud;
Police: The exercise of Power; and
International Maritime Fraud.

This has been an uncomfortable law book to review because one does not like to 'upset the apple-cart', but it needed to be written and to be reviewed. There are 20 Chapters in this 263-page book and it deals with corruption in the New South Wales Police, New York Police and London's Metropolitan Police.

The Met has been known for criminality ever since James Morton, Bent Coppers, (Little Brown and Company, London 1993), which analysed the UK police from the year 1901 to the year 1993.

Donald Campbell applies the UK's Betting Acts, Obscene Publications Act, Prevention of Corruption acts and the Public Disclosures Act, as well as the Police (Misconduct) Regulations 1999. However, it is a shame that Campbell did not acknowledge the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001, Part 12 of which deals with bribery and corruption. He could have included *R v Loosley* Attorney General's Reference No.3 of 2002, a case of corruption of police dealing with informers, which states at para.60:

'Controlled informers to undertake entrapment activities unsupervised carries great danger, not merely that they will try to improve their performances in court, but of oppression, extortion and corruption.'

Another case that could have been discussed in this book is *R v Dryden* [1995] All ER, about allegations of police corruption. *R v Bellman* [1989] is another example and in *Tsang Ping-nam v R* [1981] 1 WLR 1462. In *Tsang Ping-nam*, a police officer had made contradictory statements in the course of an investigation into corruption in the police force and at the trial of his police colleagues on charges of corruption. His statement implicated his colleagues but his evidence at the trial exonerated them. The police officer was charged with and convicted of an attempt to pervert the course of justice.

Chapter Eleven of the book is titled 'London's Rotten Apple' and largely deals with Sir Paul Condon's time as Metropolitan Police Commissioner for seven years until the year 2000. It discusses the Lawrence murder, a high profile case

of a young black boy murdered in an alleged racial attack. Under his leadership an Anti-corruption squad was formed in 1998, and some have alleged that the Metropolitan police at the time harboured some two hundred and fifty corrupt police officers. In this Chapter, Campbell states that the police have a Police (Misconduct) Regulations 1999, which Campbell states as saying:

‘Officers should support their colleagues in the execution of their lawful duties, and oppose any improper behaviour, reporting it where appropriate’.

Chapters Twelve to Eighteen of *Police Corruption* deal with New York’s police corruption and Chapter 19 is devoted to Australian Police Corruption. In the New York Police Department, bribery, especially among narcotics officers, was extremely high.. Campbell describes in Chapter 19, the dark side of the New York police even since 1914, when alcohol manufacturing was prohibited in the United States and police took bribes from bootleggers and criminal organisations. By 1970 New York police were so corrupt that the public insisted on government action and the Knapp Committee was set up to examine and report on police corruption. The Mollen Report in 1974 stated that such corruption went hand in hand with police brutality. Commissioner Mullen stated that whilst police corruption was usually about money or valuables, police brutality was an abuse of power “and the distinction between them could sometimes be unclear”. The Report stated that those police officers who were: ‘taking money will more typically be the ones that are giving beatings’ and analysed a sample of 234 corrupt police officers in New York.

In discussing Australian police corruption, Campbell cites just one Australian case, that being *The Queen v Rogerson [1992] 174 CLR 268 FC 92/021 (1992) 60 A (Crim) R.429*, a case of police corruption in a drugs crime prosecution.

Campbell’s book facilitates public awareness of police corruption. In New South Wales, police corruption was endemic, and led to the establishment of The Royal Commission into the New South Wales Police Service in 1994 to investigate the existence and extent of corruption. The Royal Commission’s 1997 six- volume final report stated that there was so much police corruption, that they recommended the establishment of a permanent Commission to investigate serious police misconduct.

The concluding Chapter of *Police Corruption*, Chapter 20, links the essential factors of police corruption found in New York, New South Wales and the London Metropolitan Police. Campbell states that there are similarities in the unlawful behaviour that is corruption in the Criminal Investigation Departments. He advocates the teaching of ethics to police recruits, and more effective supervision. Campbell opines: *‘any abuse of power which results in what most people would regard as unfairness, should be recognised as corrupt’.*