

## EDITORS' INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to present the second issue of the Waikato Law Review for 2011. This special issue draws together a number of articles which were developed from papers presented at the Justice in the Round: Perspectives from Custom and Culture, Rights and Dispute Resolution Conference held at Te Piringa – Faculty of Law in April 2011.

The conference theme was derived, in part, from aspects of the three founding goals of Te Piringa – Faculty of Law. These goals are the understanding of law in its contexts; developing bi-cultural legal understandings; and fostering professionalism in our students. In reflecting the Faculty's commitment to biculturalism, the conference was intended to foster achieving this goal in its own right, as well as reflecting New Zealand's unique identity in an increasingly multi-cultural society, with a bi-cultural foundation. In affirming the Faculty's commitment to law in context, the conference gathered a group of people already "working for justice", to consider "justice" and conceptions of justice in the institutional, ideological, and cultural contexts in which they are currently situated, and to consider how both the ideas and their realisation in fact, might be improved or redesigned. Our goal was to further a dialogue about what constitutes "justice in the round".<sup>1</sup>

While at first glance the Table of Contents may seem an eclectic mix, each paper presents its perspective on justice, reflecting on the past, present and possible futures.

The first two papers are derived from the plenary sessions of the conference. Margaret Wilson's paper "Mainstreaming Human Rights in Public Policy: An Account of the Role of Human Rights Amendment Act 2001" offers a unique insight into the recent legislative history and its relationship to policy. The second plenary paper is from Paul Chartrand, "Indigenous Peoples: Negotiating Constitutional Reconciliation and Legitimacy in Canada", which argues that the political action of the Indigenous peoples of Canada are important for law and political processes out of which constitutional and legal norms emerge.

The remaining papers draw on the themes of rights, policy and reform illustrated in the plenary papers albeit through different lenses. These papers explore the rights of indigenous people in Australia, Malaysia, Canada, the United States and here in Aotearoa. Policy is explored in a number of contexts including: charitable trusts, legal education, and domestic violence. Commentary on legal reforms explores both the criminal and civil arena from nineteenth-century Iran to twenty first century Aotearoa/New Zealand. It was also pleasing that a number of the papers are from post-graduate students as well as experienced academics and practitioners. I am sure that in this special issue there will be something of interest for all readers and hope you enjoy reading it.

I would like to express my thanks to all the contributors and reviewers without which this special edition would not be possible, especially in light of some of the tight deadlines. My thanks must also go to Gay Morgan and Robert Joseph for editorial assistance and support. I would also like to thank Diane Lowther for her timely and excellent copy editing, Amanda Colmer from A2Z Design for layout support, and Janine Pickering for her administrative support, institutional knowledge and keen eye.

Wayne Rumbles  
Guest Editor

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1 Brenda Midson "Conference Welcome" *Justice in the Round Conference Handbook* (University of Waikato, April 2011).