

Editorial

Te Mata Koi

As we approach the next millennium, and look at the future of the Auckland University Law Review, it seems appropriate to reflect on the history and tradition that we have enjoyed to date. Since its inception 32 years ago, the Law Review has established an identity and character which are important to remember as we move into the next century.

The Law Review was brought into existence in 1967. It was to be edited and published by students and to be comprised solely of student work. Its objective was to provide a forum for the displaying of some of the best student writing at the Law School. The Dean at that time, J. Northey, commented that “[l]egal education in Auckland has passed another milestone with the appearance of the Review”. The Law Review continues in this form and thus still provides an additional facet for law students’ education. We hope that the Law Review remains as such, because it is due to it being solely a student venture that it has been able to develop its unique character.

This character was alluded to in 1970 when the Editors refused to limit the Review to “articles of a specifically legal character”. This ethos has continued, with a constant emphasis on the airing of a variety of views, and whenever possible challenging norms and proposing reform. This “cutting edge” focus is now reflected in the Law Review’s Maori title “Te Mata Koi” - meaning “The Sharp Blade” - and is also present in the articles contained in this year’s edition.

The future offers challenges that differ from those the Review has faced in the past. The growth of electronic databases and the Internet as research tools, the changing financial circumstances for the Review and the more diverse pressures students face these days all combine to create a possible threat to the quality or even the existence of the Law Review. We feel, however, that what has driven the Law Review for so long remains: our passion for the gathering and sharing of knowledge. This is what will see the Review continue to perform its vital role into the next century.

We would like to thank all the participants of the Law Review for the work they have done in creating an edition that we are proud of. Our experience as Editors-in-Chief has been challenging but thoroughly enjoyable. We would like to end this century by thanking all of the editors who have preceded us for creating such a fantastic tradition which it has been extremely rewarding to be a part of.

Miranda Baker

Alexandra Nicholson

Auckland, September 1999