

FOREWORD

The year 2001 has been notable for various events that have relevance to the profile of global environmental law. Three of these many events are noted.

First, the terrorist attack on the buildings and people in New York and Washington on 11 September 2001 underlined the vulnerability of all countries to acts of violent destruction and catastrophic consequences. The reaction of the USA and allies indicates the time is fast approaching whereby an international police force (or militia) will be utilized within or outside the United Nations organization to apprehend persons responsible, and to deter other acts of wanton destruction. Without doubt, the greatest risks to world survival are acts of civil conflict or war, and ensuing consequences for humanity and biodiversity.

The second event is more positive. The agreement of the majority of nations (other than the USA) in early November in Morocco to progress the UN Kyoto Protocol on global warming is a significant advance in mitigating the acknowledged harms of global warming. The consequences of drought conditions, and rapid climate change, may have dramatic effects on populations and international refugee movements.

Lastly, the untimely death of Sir Peter Blake in Brazil in December 2001 is a loss for the world environmental movement. Sir Peter expounded in every way and exemplified the principles of environmental conservation and sustainable management of resources.

A range of environmental concerns are reflected in the articles in this issue of the Journal. The article by Ulrich Klein on “Integrated Resource Management” provides a comprehensive overview of the legal position in New Zealand. The respective articles on energy efficiency, water scarcity, water management in New Zealand and South Africa, and trans-boundary movements of radioactive materials, reflect the global initiatives and solutions that are forthcoming to improve environmental conditions. On the domestic front, Janet Stephenson considers the issue of Maori expectations. The article by Kate Mitcalfe on mediation provides insights into the options for dispute resolution. The analysis by Su-Wuen Ong concerns the use of expert witnesses. The legislation note on the Nuclear-Test-Ban Act and Treaty is a reminder of the international response and concern for weapons of mass destruction.

The editor wishes to acknowledge the important contributions from the authors in advancing the knowledge base of environmental management. The editorial committee are thanked for assistance in the refereeing processes. Special appreciation is reserved for Anne Russell and Lea Whittingham for dedicated services in editing and perfecting the manuscripts. The support from the contributors of notices is much appreciated. Lastly, the support of the Faculty of Law of the University of Auckland is acknowledged.

Dr Kenneth Palmer
Faculty of Law
The University of Auckland