

V.U.W.L.R. SILVER JUBILEE

On 1 October 1953 the first issue of the Victoria University College Law Review was published. The late Professor R. O. McGechan, the Dean of the Faculty at the time, was responsible for this important initiative.

The primary purpose of the Review was, he said, educational in the sense that its aim was to develop the capacity of students to expound the law clearly in print. Since it was seen at the time as being almost entirely intramural in character, its cyclostyled form was not inappropriate. Later, production was undertaken by the University multilith plant. In 1968 commercial printers were employed to print the Review and it then took on more of the shape and role it has today.

The Review has retained its basic, educational character. Student writing continues to make up the bulk of the material published; most of it is generated by the legal writing programme which forms part of the LL.B. (Honours) degree. That programme provides many students with their first opportunity to undertake sustained legal research and most of them with their first opportunity to have their work published. A further source of high quality student writing is the work submitted as research papers by LL.M. students. In some instances whole issues have been devoted to a group of research papers on the same topic. These include criminology, company law and, most recently, estate planning. The third major source continues to be the contributions of staff members.

While retaining its educational character, the Review has long moved from its intramural emphasis. As, we think, the founder anticipated, the Review's readership has extended far beyond the university. It has a large audience within the legal profession in New Zealand and abroad. We attempt, consistently with the educational purpose, to keep their interests in mind in the planning of the Review. These subscribers and exchange readers, along with the advertisers, provide major support for the Review. We are grateful for it. We trust that we will deserve and retain that support in the future.

There have been seven Deans of the Faculty of Law in the past twenty-five years. Four of the former holders of that office have contributed to this commemorative issue. To them also we are very grateful. Because of the Faculty's position in Wellington, the capital city and centre of government, it was thought appropriate to give this issue a public law theme.

The Faculty is proud of the Review, of its progress over the years, and of the tradition it is developing. We look forward to its continuing expansion and development. I trust that we shall all continue to bear in mind the rigour of the Ibsen aphorism quoted by Professor I. D. Campbell in his first contribution to the Review: To write is to go to war with oneself.

2 October 1978

K. J. Keith
Dean of the Faculty of Law

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