

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

In 1953, Professor Robert McGechan of Victoria University College launched the first of the New Zealand university law reviews. In an article in the first edition of the *Victoria University of Wellington Law Review*, Professor McGechan stressed the need to explore the political, economic and social background of legal decisions and to question whether they are good and sound decisions not only for their logic in law but in their justice and practical bearing on the lives of twentieth century New Zealanders.

Forty years later, the *Waikato Law Review* becomes the sixth New Zealand university law review to be published. Its goals closely reflect the approach advocated by Professor McGechan. Together, the articles in this first edition of the *Waikato Law Review* reveal the importance attached to examining the law in the context of its historical, social, economic and political background in New Zealand, with the use of critical, conceptual and empirical analyses.

The *Waikato Law Review* also cherishes the goal of biculturalism, which carries with it a commitment to advancing and encouraging the Maori dimension in the legal system. The Maori title of the *Review*, *taumauri*, means "to think with care and caution, to deliberate on matters constructively and analytically". This title both encapsulates and symbolises the values and goals of the *Review*.

The process of translating vision into reality requires much commitment and hard work, and this is no less true of the production of the first *Waikato Law Review*. I wish to record my thanks to the academic and administrative staff of the Waikato Law School who have worked towards the publication of the *Review*, especially those who have written for this first edition. I thank those who have willingly refereed articles submitted for publication, Mr Gerald Bailey for writing the foreword, and the New Zealand Law Foundation for its generous financial assistance for the first edition. Finally I thank you, the subscribers and readers of the *Review*, for your support: I trust that you will find in this and subsequent editions much to stimulate and inform.

Dr Peter Spiller,
Associate Professor of Law,
Editor, *Waikato Law Review*.