



A NEW JOURNAL IN AN OLD DISCIPLINE

THE Faculty of Law at the University of Adelaide is pleased to introduce the *Australian Journal of Legal History*, which will be published twice each year by the Adelaide Law Review Association. It is the first legal history journal to be published in Australia. The *Australian Journal of Legal History* is intended to provide scholars from all over the world with an interdisciplinary forum for the dissemination and debate of ideas relevant to the study of law and history and their roles within society. The journal will be particularly concerned with comparative legal history, and the legal history of the 'new world' and its relationship with the 'old'. The selection of articles in this first edition reflects this approach, canvassing topics ranging from early seventeenth-century English writing practice to the emergence of the New Left in Melbourne of the 1970s. The journal is introduced by Bruce Kercher's article surveying Australian attitudes toward law since the arrival of the First Fleet in Botany Bay.

This first issue is dedicated to Professor Emeritus Alex Cuthbert Castles, formerly of the Faculty of Law at the University of Adelaide. In 1994, Alex retired from his position as Bonython Professor of Law. He held that title since 1982, having been a professor in the Faculty since 1967 and associated with the Law School since 1958. He was one of the founders of the discipline of Australian legal history, it being previously thought of as nothing more than an extension of English legal history. His *Australian Legal History* is the standard work in the field, and the title of this introduction is adapted from a series of broadcasts he recorded for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, *New Law in An Old Land*. We are fortunate that, despite his retirement, he continues to be an active participant in Faculty research and one of the principal supporters of this journal. In addition to his current support, advice and enthusiasm, Alex Castles has made the Faculty of Law at the University of Adelaide a centre for the study of legal history. He has supervised the work of an incredible number of legal historians. The list of unpublished legal history theses held by the University of Adelaide, published on page 136, is testimony to his influence in the field. Everyone involved with the journal gives Alex a special vote of thanks for his good spirit and generosity.

Editor