



# Preface

Law teaching at James Cook has moved through three distinct phases. The first stage was led by Marylyn Mayo, much loved law teacher at James Cook for a quarter of a century. It culminated in the establishment, on 1 January 1990, of a Department of Law within the Faculty of Arts. The second stage commenced with the appointment of Professor K.C.T. Sutton to the Chair of Law in August 1990. The Faculty of Law was established on 1 January 1993 and Professor Sutton was appointed inaugural Dean, retiring in August 1995.

In September 1995, I was privileged to be appointed Dean and Head of Department. We are now well into the third phase. This has involved a broadening of the curriculum and a sharper focus upon the art of teaching. We have sought new solutions in a world obsessed with the bottom line. Recent changes to the professional admission requirements in Queensland provided the catalyst for a revision of the undergraduate program. There is now a degree of choice in the undergraduate degree to rival many larger law schools. Several new subjects have been introduced: Criminology, Industrial Law, Marine and Coastal Management Law, Advanced Administrative Law, Restitution, and Jessup Moot. We have forged new links with the Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Participation, Research and Development (CATSPRD). We have opened some courses to non-law students — courses on criminal law and criminology, environmental law and marine resources law are available. We have developed effective joint degree programs that are vocationally sound and provide greater understanding of an increasingly complex society. We have upgraded the mooting program and teach practical legal skills in conjunction with the Community Legal Centre. We are seeking new forms of dialogue with our students, without whom our mission would be empty indeed. We have sought at every point to build upon the solid foundations established by Professor Sutton and Mrs Mayo over a very long period of time. Upon that solid foundation we seek to establish a distinctive modern law school, focused upon the special needs of the region.

The *James Cook University Law Review* is a symbol of the maturity and confidence of the Faculty of Law. I commend the Editorial Committee and the contributors for a splendid addition to legal scholarship.

**Professor Paul Fairall**

Dean and Head of Department

Faculty of Law

James Cook University of North Queensland