

FOREWORD

Dr Jonathan Barrett

The articles published in this volume of the *Journal of the Australasian Law Academics Association* ('*JALAA*') were first presented as papers at the 2022 Australasian Law Academics Association Conference, hosted by Monash University at its Law Chambers, in the heart of Victoria's legal quarter. First, therefore, we acknowledge the people of the Kulin Nations on whose land Monash University's buildings are situated. For visitors to Australia's cultural capital, the vibrancy of Melbourne, where people and ideas from around the world come to mix and create, was a reminder of how Covid-19 had in some ways put humanity on hold. And yet, the articles published in this volume of *JALAA* indicate how the business of teaching law has not just muddled through the pandemic but has developed and been strengthened through innovation and reflective practice.

In what is becoming a *JALAA* tradition, this volume starts with a reflection from Emeritus Professor David Barker on his long and fascinating career in the law and in legal education. While the early years of David's teaching practice may appear distant from the rigorously peer-reviewed articles that discuss the application of the latest pedagogical technology in the classroom (or students' bedrooms) or how First Nations' practices of 'yarning' can be brought into the teaching of law outside the big cities, a golden thread abides in continuous investigation into the best ways to teach the law.

Editors are experiencing increasing difficulty in recruiting reviewers because management metrics may not sufficiently recognise this essential academic function. I would therefore like to express my particular gratitude to the reviewers, and to members of the ALAA Executive who either reviewed or recommended reviewers. As always, it was a pleasure to work with authors, who submitted articles of a high standard but were also open to the benefit of the constructive review of their peers. I would also like to thank Leylani Taylor for coordination and administrative support, and Barbara Graham, copy-editor and typesetter of this volume.

Dr Jonathan Barrett

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