

## Foreword

The Law Faculty at Victoria University of Wellington has had a close connection with Pacific law for many years. The involvement of the Faculty has taken many forms. There has been the contact with the numerous students from Pacific island jurisdictions who have done their training in Wellington, and Pacific issues have been the focus of staff and student research and a component of various courses. Contact with the Pacific systems themselves has taken the form both of general legal advice, and in the giving of specialist constitutional advice to developing states, and most recently, of involvement at a judicial level in the courts of appeal of some Pacific island jurisdictions.

The Pacific interest of the Faculty has been heightened in recent times by the move towards independence and self-government of most of the Pacific island communities, by the world-wide increase of attention to this field of law, and by the concern felt by the Pacific communities themselves at the confrontation of their traditional cultural values with Western European culture. Within the Faculty these factors have begun to be reflected in writing and research programmes, in greater Maori and Pacific island content in established courses and in the offering of two new courses — in 1983, the Pacific Legal Studies programme, and in 1984 the Maori Land Law Programme.

The main needs of Pacific law today and in the immediate future are for a good and accessible body of information on what the law of the various systems is and for finding ways and means for the people of those systems to service for themselves the pressing legal demands that the international commercial and legal communities make upon them. In many cases the full extent and meaning of the inherited western style of law is not known or if known is not seen as relevant or appropriate to local needs. When the content and style of the existing Western type law is known proper decisions about its continuance or rejection at a domestic level can be made and, when the necessary skills are available within the local communities, the hard policy decisions about the stance to be taken in the international world can also be taken. This Faculty is committed to assisting in the attainment of these informational and educational goals.

It is hoped that this issue of the Review, the first to be devoted to Maori and Pacific issues, may herald the publication of more on these matters of great local and regional concern.

Anthony H. Angelo

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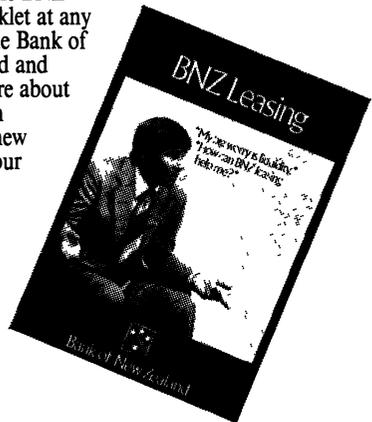
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