

FOREWORD

It is my pleasure to write the Foreword for this the 26th regular issue of this pioneering journal in the field of Pacific law. Based in French Polynesia, the journal has gone from strength to strength since its inception in 1994, with many special issues in addition to its regular annual issues. In particular it has always had a predominance of articles on matters of Pacific legal interest.

The present volume follows the pattern of those that have preceded it. It has a wide range of topics and authors, and most articles are on the Pacific and law. The prestigious jurist and long-time supporter of the journal, Sir David Baragwanath, leads the contributions with a piece in his specialty field of international mediation. That is followed by eight country specific studies from across the Pacific: Wiliame Gucake on Cook Islands' autonomy, Unaisi Narawa on some contemporary consequences of a dark period of Pacific colonial history, my colleague Vergil Narokobi on binding opinions under the Constitution of Papua New Guinea, Kari Young on human rights in Pitcairn, Hervé Lallemand-Moe on the application of UNDRIP in countries where the indigenous people are the majority group, Hinatea Paoletti on a special law for registration of title to land on Rurutu and Rimatara in French Polynesia, Beatrice Tabangcora on the 2020 constitutional amendments in Samoa, and Mele Tupou on the reality of the 2010 constitutional amendments in Tonga.

The three pieces that follow are more general but Pacific oriented. Jennifer Corrin adds another item to her catalogue of seminal contributions to Pacific legal studies (she is not only a lawyer before my courts but also the author of many basic texts on Pacific law), with an article on a developing Pacific jurisprudence. Tony Angelo, who I first met in the 1980s¹ when he was on assignment in the Attorney-General's Office in Honiara, writes with Janielee Avia on the persistence of custom; and Elisabeth Perham provides a review of the book "Introducing Legal Systems of the Pacific -Sixteen Gems" which I'm told will be launched at the same time as this issue of this journal is published.

The Covid-19 pandemic and global warming are both matters that concern and will continue to concern the peoples of the Pacific for a long time to come. Aspects of these problems are addressed in the journal by Morsen Mosses and Talitha Geparo (covid responses in Vanuatu), Sarina Theys (Pacific leadership on environmental matters), Sinahemana Hekau (a low carbon future for Niue), Janielee Avia (traditional knowledge and fighting climate change), and Philipp Semmelmayr with

1 I was then a law student trying to learn and grasp what I was getting myself into with the study of law.

a comparative study of the use of civil law remedies in climate change disputes. A closing set of papers deals primarily with language and literature: Emeritus Professor Sylvie André explores the representation of Tahitian Queens in European literature; John Jamieson, translator extraordinaire, addresses linguistic determinism in the context of Pākehā/Māori relations. On a different topic, Sarah Mead and Tony Angelo present the Seychelles Civil Code of 2020.

The collection ends, as it began, with another contributor of eminence who has been a long-term supporter of the journal: Xavier Cabannes provides a record of recent French Polynesian tax cases.

A truly inspiring and useful collection. As Professor Cabannes notes, when this issue of the journal was envisaged it was also thought that the journal, which had seen a period of inactivity because of the pandemic among other things, would be closed with this issue. This issue was primarily aimed at providing another publication venue for the contributors to the "Introducing Legal Systems of the Pacific" book. It has done that and much more, which is perhaps proof, if any were needed, that the journal should not end with this issue, but should live on. It is my hope that it may.

My congratulations to all who have contributed to this volume. Thank you and well done!

Importantly, and last but not least, I am especially pleased to be associated with this tribute to a great of Pacific law, the late Professor Don Paterson. May he rest in peace.

Best Wishes
Sir Albert R Palmer CBE
Chief Justice
High Court of Solomon Islands
Honiara, 2021