

AVANT-PROPOS

Is this the last hurrah for the journal? Who knows? Or will it be like la belle au bois dormant?

The journal began in a modest way in 1994. Over the intervening years, there have been 25 issues in the regular series, 25 in the Hors Série collection, and 6 volumes in the Ex Professo series.

The first issue of the journal was totally in French; there were 9 articles and the bulk were on Pacific law matters. Volume 2 had 19 entries, both in English and in French, and was published in collaboration with VUWLR. Ten of those 19 entries related to Pacific law matters. The pattern established in volume 2 became the common pattern and, with volume 4, the material continued in English and French and half of the material related to the Pacific. Volume 7 was the first with the distinctive pattern of original artworks for the covers of the journal. The artwork on the covers has been a significant feature of the publications from an early date. Several major artists have contributed including Kijno, Alexis Nguyen-Thé, Dagmar Bergman, and DJC who has regularly contributed stunning works from fabric design or glasswork.

From volumes 1 to 16, the journal was the 'Revue Juridique Polynésienne'. The use of the current name began with volume 17. It has been a feature of the journal that it appeared both in hard form and freely available on the internet.

The journal has in its various guises been a major source of scholarship and information on matters of comparative law and of Pacific legal studies interest. Many authors have contributed. Many sponsors have assisted; there have been major collaborations with entities such as the Victoria University of Wellington Law Review and the New Zealand Association for Comparative Law.

The subject matter has been wide-ranging and in several languages. In addition to French and English there has been material in Tokelauan, Samoan, Te Reo Māori, Japanese and Spanish.

This volume is typical of the range and style of the journal. It is to be hoped that it will be an au revoir rather than an adieu and that, as occasion arises, the journal may revive Phoenix-like to provide a venue for important writing. In the meantime, to all those who have been involved with the journal, a sincere thank you.

A special thanks too to Sir Albert Palmer, the Chief Justice of Solomon Islands, for graciously agreeing to provide a Foreword to this celebratory volume. It is a celebration not just of the past of the journal or of the publication of *Legal Systems of the Pacific: Introducing Sixteen Gems* but also of the opportunity to honour the

memory of Professor Don Paterson who has been a mentor and inspiration for many of the contributors to these two volumes and also to generations of Pacific lawyers.

Bons voeux à tous.

Un avant-propos a, on le sait, comme fonction principale de captatio benevolentiae, à savoir capter et retenir l'attention et la bienveillance du lecteur.

L'histoire du Comparative Law Journal of the Pacific a été pendant plus de 25 années fluctuante mais toujours animée d'une volonté constamment révisée de promouvoir la connaissance de différents aspects pouvant intéresser les sciences sociales dans les Etats de la zone Pacifique.

S'il est vrai qu'il a été récemment envisagé un (court !) moment de mettre en sommeil la parution des volumes réguliers de la revue pour ne se consacrer qu'aux seules publications des numéros hors-série, le grand nombre de manuscrits de contributions reçus, nous permettent aujourd'hui de proposer à nos lecteurs, ce volume 26, le volume 27 étant d'ores et déjà en préparation. Le comité scientifique ne peut bien sûr que s'en réjouir et remercier vivement celles et ceux qui permettent d'assurer pour quelques temps encore notre aventure éditoriale.

Le comité scientifique de la revue a voulu que le volume 26 soit dédié à la mémoire du Professeur Don Patterson qui fut le mentor et l'inspiration de nombreux chercheurs et de plusieurs générations de juristes dans le Pacifique. Nombre de contributions dans ce volume, sont autant d'exemples de cette influence fondamentale.

Sir Albert Palmer, Président de la Cour Suprême des îles Salomon, qui a bien voulu nous faire l'honneur de rédiger l'avant-propos porte témoignage de l'exceptionnelle qualité de l'œuvre du Professeur Don Patterson et souligne combien la récente parution de l'ouvrage des Professeurs J Corrin et T Angelo *Legal Systems of the Pacific: Introducing Sixteen Gems* prolonge son œuvre scientifique.