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THIS ISSUE INCLUDES CONTRIBUTIONS BY

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FOREWORD

Tony Angelo and Dean Knight***

This is the second issue of the New Zealand Journal of Public and International Law for 2015. Following our established pattern, this general issue includes a number of articles across a range of topics, complementing the more specific conference or topic oriented issue which appears as part one of the volume.

Nevertheless the articles in this issue have a theme, and that is a theme relating to rights at the broadest level. Two of the articles address rights for smaller or less fortunate groups in society and indicate ways in which the international community and New Zealand in particular can better assist those with disabilities. The third and more general of the articles concerns the rights of all members of the New Zealand community in relation to the operation of local authorities - a right that might, in a most general sense, be seen as one of good governance at a subnational level in institutions with close relationships with local communities.

Lida Ayoubi's article looks at copyright and access for the visually impaired to copyright protected material, in the context of the Marrakesh Treaty of 2013. The article demonstrates the compatibility of the Marrakesh Treaty provisions with the basic international copyright law instruments. She concludes with an appeal to the international community to adopt the Marrakesh Treaty and then to implement appropriate measures in the interests of the visually impaired.

The second article concerns New Zealand's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and, in particular, New Zealand's implementation of the Convention since it came into force in 2008. In this article, Sylvia Bell, Judy McGregor and Margaret Wilson argue that, despite good intentions, New Zealand's approach is not aligned with the Convention and indeed fails to honour its commitment to the disability community.

In the final article, Laura Hardcastle reviews the regimes allowing ministerial intervention in subnational institutions and argues in favour of greater democratic interplay in the exercise of ministerial powers. She proposes a set of principles which would inform the use of ministerial intervention powers, preferably before the exercise of the powers, or provide a basis upon which post-exercise judicial review may take place.

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