

EDITORIAL — KŌRERO TĪMATANGA

It is natural to experience a sense of trepidation when stepping up to the helm of a waka navigated so ably by those who toiled to build it. We, the newly minted Editors-in-Chief of the New Zealand Women’s Law Journal — Te Aho Kawe Kaupapa Ture a ngā Wāhine, were concerned that there would be little new content; it has surely all been said before; what new direction could we take?

We scoured the archives of the Feminist Law Bulletin, observed contemporary decisions of the judiciary and legislature, and received a multitude of submissions. We marvelled at the recurring themes. Yet even when territory feels familiar, there is nuance in each tide as it moves against shifting shores. In this edition, we wanted to trace the palimpsest of these tides and shorelines. To do so, we enlisted the help of those who navigated them before us: our tuākana. As a result, several sections of this edition are framed by an intergenerational conversation — tuakana–teina whakawhiti kōrero — which begin to map the contours that have shaped our journey thus far.

Each of the contributors to this edition of the Journal has taken a critical approach to legal thinking, whether that legal thinking is cutting edge, out-dated, or a response to complicated circumstances. And while some if it is not “new”, in the sense that iterations of similar issues have challenged wāhine rōia before us, it is in the iterations that nuances and differences are teased out, and in their accumulation that a body of knowledge and critique — a canon and a solidarity — is forged. We see this collection as adding to our understanding of what the law is, what it means, and how it affects us. We see it as shaping the island in our imagination; that place, just over the horizon, where we want the law to go.¹

We extend our deepest thanks to those who have worked hard for this edition of Journal to come to fruition: to the contributors for your courageous submissions, the reviewers for invaluable critique, our team of editors and

1 Joseph Williams “Can you see the island?” (October 2015) *Māori Law Review* 21.

marketing managers for hours and hours of brilliant work, and our publishing professionals for your patience and generosity. To our whānau and friends, mentors and models, colleagues and cheerleaders, thank you for your ongoing and generous support. And to our deputy editors and the trustees, kei te mihi nui: this edition stands on the shoulders of your outstanding mahi.

Through producing, reading, and discussing this Journal, we (māua) hope that we (tātou) contribute to a canon that is continually critiqued and refined to enable all wāhine rōia to flourish in the world of law. Iteratively and cumulatively; onward, to the island just over the horizon.

Josie Te Rata and Monique van Alphen Fyfe

Editors-in-Chief

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